**provisions for secrecy of certain inventions - Patent office and power of Controller**

Under patent law, there are provisions for maintaining the secrecy of certain inventions. These provisions aim to protect inventions that are of strategic importance to national security or where their premature disclosure may be detrimental to the public interest. The Patent Office and the Controller of Patents have powers and responsibilities related to the secrecy of such inventions. Let's explore these provisions in more detail:

1. Secrecy Provisions:

* Section 35 of the Indian Patents Act, 1970: This section empowers the Central Government to make an order declaring that an invention related to defense or atomic energy is to be kept secret. This means that the invention will not be published or made available to the public during the patent application process.
* Section 20(1) of the Indian Patents Act, 1970: This section allows the Controller of Patents to impose restrictions on the publication or communication of an invention if it is deemed necessary in the interest of national security.

1. Patent Office and Power of the Controller:

* The Patent Office: The Patent Office is responsible for receiving and processing patent applications. It operates under the administrative control of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks.
* Controller of Patents: The Controller of Patents, appointed by the Central Government, is responsible for the grant and administration of patents in India. The Controller has various powers and functions, including the power to impose restrictions on the publication or communication of inventions.

1. Secrecy Directions and Proceedings:

* Secrecy Directions: The Central Government or the Controller of Patents may issue directions to keep an invention secret and restrict its publication or communication. These directions are typically issued when an invention is considered to have implications for national security or public interest.
* Secrecy Proceedings: If an application relates to an invention subject to secrecy provisions, the patent application will be examined and processed under specific procedures to ensure its confidentiality. These proceedings may involve additional security measures, restricted access to information, and communication only with authorized individuals.

It is important to note that while an invention may be kept secret during the patent application process, the patent applicant still enjoys the rights and benefits under the patent system, including the right to exclusive use and commercial exploitation of the invention once the secrecy provisions are lifted.

The provisions for secrecy of certain inventions and the powers of the Patent Office and the Controller of Patents play a vital role in protecting inventions of national security importance and safeguarding the public interest. These provisions help strike a balance between the protection of sensitive knowledge and the promotion of innovation and technology transfer.