

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

3530. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pre-grant opposition provisions in the Indian Patent Act is operational;
- (b) if so, how many pre-grant opposition applications have been filed under Section 25 of Indian Patents Act from 1 January, 2005 to 31 March, 2010;
- (c) how many of these pre-grant opposition applications have been allowed by the Patent Office; and
- (d) how many of these pre-grant opposition applications are still pending with Patent Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The number of applications for pre-grant opposition filed in the Indian Patent Office under section 25 (1) of the Patents Act, 1970 during the period from 1st January, 2005 to 31st March, 2010 is 554. The number of applications disposed off during the same period is 145. As on 31st March, 2010, 409 applications for pre-grant opposition are pending in the Indian Patent Office.

### Pending applications in patent offices

3531. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are about 70000 patent applications in the pipeline for process and examination as per the Controller General of Patent Design and Trade Marks and Geographical Indications Registry;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there are inadequate number of officers to grant patent under the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Act and examine patent applications; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to place sufficient number of examiners in the patent offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. About 73,000 requests for examination of patent applications are pending with the Indian Patent Office. In order to address shortage of

Examiners of Patents and Designs in the Patent Office, the Government has created 200 posts of Examiners under the 11th Five Year Plan scheme for Modernization and Strengthening of Intellectual Property Offices. The Government has initiated recruitment for these posts along with 57 other vacant posts.

**Achieving bilateral trade target**

3532. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is confident of achieving bilateral trade target of \$60 billion this year with some countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the current status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 envisages an annual growth of 15% with an annual export target of US\$ 200 billion by March, 2011. To meet the targets the major thrust areas of strategy spelt out in Policy comprise a mix of policy measures including fiscal incentives, institutional changes, procedural rationalization, enhanced market access across the world and diversification of export markets.

**Job losses due to decline in exports**

3533. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the exports between April to November, 2009 was 14.7 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year;
- (b) whether as per the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) study, 7.5 lakh net job losses may occur in the current financial year in the export sector alone; and
- (c) if so, how Government is planning to address both these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India's merchandise exports during April to November, 2009 was US\$ 108.85 billion, registering a decline of 18.89 % over the same period in previous year.