

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The increase in the number of patent examiners by 248 will help in clearing the backlog of pending patent applications as these examiners are together expected to examine about 30,000 more applications per year.

**Development of SIZs to improve trade balance**

939. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has advised Government to develop Special Industrial Zones (SIZs) with complete good connectivity and infrastructure to cater to domestic demand and improve trade balance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to implement the proposal to boost the manufacturing section and generate more employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Import of edible oil**

940. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 lakh tonnes of edible oil is likely to be imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) During the current Financial Year (April 2011 to July 2011), 25,45,875 Ton of edible oil has been imported.

**Cut in export prices of onions**

941. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: