

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4311  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010  
SHORTAGE OF PATENT EXAMINERS  
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the large number of patent applications are lying pending in various Patent Offices due to shortages of examiners/heavy workload/Patent Offices in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to enhance the expeditious examination of pending patent applications;
- (c) whether the Indian patent examiners handles more number of application in India as compared to European and US patent offices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith any incentive scheme has been introduced for such examiners?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Requests for examination of 85,745 patent applications is pending at various Patent Offices as on 31st October 2010. To enhance expeditious examination, the Government has created 414 posts at various levels including 200 new posts of Examiners of Patents and Designs and 51 posts of Controllers in the Patent Offices. Filling up of all these posts is under process.

Additionally, part of 'prior art search' work, which is the first stage of examination of patent applications, has been outsourced to the Unit for Research & Development of Information Products (URDIP) under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). This will enable the Patent Office to speed up examination of patent applications.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. In European Patent Office (EPO) and United States Patents and Trademarks Office(USPTO), Patent Examiners are examining approximately 30 and 65 applications per year respectively whereas an Indian Patent Examiner examines about 120 new patent applications per year depending upon the subject and complexity of invention. The European Union and US Patent Examiners completely process the patent applications, whereas in India the application is first processed by the Examiners and then by the Controller. No incentive scheme has been introduced so far for these Examiners.