

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 695.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05TH DECEMBER, 2025.**

STATUS OF PATENT APPLICATIONS

695. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of patent applications filed, examined, and approved during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the current pendency and average time taken to grant a patent;
- (c) whether Government has increased examiner strength or adopted digital systems to reduce delays; and
- (d) the steps taken to support startups, MSMEs, and educational institutions in securing patents, including fee reductions and fast-track examination?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a) to (d):** To strengthen the patent ecosystem in the country, the Government has introduced multiple initiatives, especially targeting startups, small entities, and educational institutes. Major steps in this regard are listed hereunder:-
- i. 80% Fee Reduction in Patents for Startups, MSMEs, and Educational Institutions.
 - ii. Provision of Expedited Examination of Patent application has been introduced for Startups, MSMEs, Female Applicants, and Government Institutions/ Departments/ PSUs, applicants electing India an authority for international applications, etc. under Rule 24C of the Patents Rules, 2003 (as amended).
 - iii. The Government also launched a mission, namely, National IP Awareness Mission (NIPAM), to create awareness among students and faculty in IPRs through the Office of the CGPDTM. With over 9,500 awareness programmes across all 28 States and 8 UTs, the Office has created awareness among 25 lakh students and faculty.
 - iv. Start-Ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) scheme was launched in 2016 to provide *pro bono* facilitation to Indian startups for the filing and processing of patent, trademark, and design applications. Recently, its scope has been expanded to benefit Indian innovators & creators and educational institutions, using TISC (Technology and Innovation Support Center) services. Additionally, it now covers the filing of international patent applications filed in India (Receiving Office (RO/IN), International Bureau, WIPO (RO/IB), electing India as the International Search Authority (ISA).

As a result, the number of patent applications being filed annually have nearly doubled over the last 5 years. The number of applications filed, examined & granted in the last five years are as below:

FY	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Filed	58503	66441	82808	92163	110372
Examined	73153	66541	49951	18421	15723
Granted	28385	30057	34126	103050	33504

Given the significant increase in patent filing, technical manpower (Examiners & Controllers) has been increased consistently in the Patent office, rising by 43% in the last five years i.e. from **858** in 2020-21 to **1,233** in 2024-25.

Presently there are a total of 2,21,016 applications pending for disposal, where request for examination has been filed by the applicant. This pendency is largely on account of increased filing and lack of examiners in the office. To address this, 553 new examiners have been recruited, amongst whom more than 450 have already joined office. The time taken to grant a patent varies depending on the field and type of invention and when a request for its examination is received by the applicant. On an average it takes 4.5 years in final disposal from the filing of the application.

The Patent Office has also adopted an end-to-end digital processing system to reduce delays and make the entire workflow faster and more transparent. The e-filing and e-processing platforms now allow applications to be filed, examined, and acted upon online, with real-time tracking and secure e- authentication. Automated emails and SMS alerts help applicants respond on time, while system-driven allotment of applications to Examiners, based on technical expertise across 14 subject areas, ensures quicker and more efficient examination. Virtual hearings and electronic communication have further reduced time lost in physical interactions. The redesigned IP Office portal, offering real-time data and login-free search features, also supports faster and easier access to information. Last year AI assisted tools such as IP Saarthi, an AI based chat bot was launched to resolve queries and grievances of applicants. Together, these digital initiatives have significantly strengthened the IP Office's capacity to deliver time-bound and transparent services.
