Creating a Function

A standalone function is created using the **CREATE FUNCTION** statement. The simplified syntax for the **CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE** statement is as follows −

CREATE [OR REPLACE] FUNCTION function\_name

[(parameter\_name [IN | OUT | IN OUT] type [, ...])]

RETURN return\_datatype

{IS | AS}

BEGIN

< function\_body >

END [function\_name];

CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION totalCustomers

RETURN number IS

total number(2) := 0;

BEGIN

SELECT count(\*) into total

FROM customers;

RETURN total;

END;

/

## Calling a Function

DECLARE

c number(2);

BEGIN

c := totalCustomers();

dbms\_output.put\_line('Total no. of Customers: ' || c);

END;

/

When the above code is executed at the SQL prompt, it produces the following result −

Total no. of Customers: 6

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.