

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 132**

ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

**PERFORMANCE OF NSTEDB**

132. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has achieved the objective for which National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) was set up and if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made since its inception;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made on the performance of NSTEDB in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the details of training programmes conducted during the last three years by the Board under various programmes;
- (d) whether some outside agencies have been engaged for conducting training programmes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria adopted for engaging such agencies?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF  
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) was setup in Department of Science & Technology (DST) in year 1982. The objectives of setting up of National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) are mentioned below:

- (i). To act as a policy advisory body to the Government in matters relating to Science & Technology (S&T) Entrepreneurship Development.

(ii). To provide guidance in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of schemes/programmes related to Innovation and Entrepreneurship promotion in Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

(iii). To guide in generating new programmes/schemes for promotion of Innovation and S&T entrepreneurship.

Since inception, NSTEDB has made pioneering efforts to foster the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the country. NSTEDB is one of the first government agencies to promote institutional mechanisms to support technology based entrepreneurship in the country through speed, scale and skills. Under its National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) umbrella program, NSTEDB has aligned its programs with 'Startup India' initiative.

NSTEDB has enabled Innovation Ecosystem Policy Frameworks like: Service Tax exemption to both incubators and incubates (year 2007), Permission to hold equity in incubatees by DST recognized incubators (year 2007), CSR Funding for incubators (year 2014). NSTEDB has pioneered Innovative Partnership Models leveraging the strengths of diverse stakeholders by programs in PPP mode for scouting & supporting innovation. NSTEDB was first to initiate startup accelerator programs (year 2016) through TBIs to accelerate growth-stage companies at the post incubation stage.

NSTEDB pioneered initiating NIDHI Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EiR) fellowship to support aspiring entrepreneurs. So far more than 8000 startups are under incubation across network of 160 incubators. More than 460 startups have been supported so far under seed support program. Through the EiR programme, 410 EiRs have been supported. Under PRAYAS program more than 1100 PRAYASEEs have been supported of which 680 were startups.

According to a study conducted during 2014-2019 through Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, on NSTEDB, DST programs, the constant innovative approach adopted by the DST team and other stakeholders in successfully navigating the pitfalls in startup journey are noteworthy.

(b) Yes Sir. The Government has made assessments on the performance of the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) which was set up in 1982 in the Department of Science & Technology (DST). The details of the assessments carried out on the performance of NSTEDB are given below.

The first assessment on working of NSTEDB was carried out by an Evaluation Committee, chaired by Shri T. N. Seshan. The committee submitted its report in 1988, which emphasized the continuation of an exclusive Board (NSTEDB) to promote entrepreneurship among the Science and Technology persons in the country and also concluded that NSTEDB should be located in the DST.

The second assessment on NSTEDB performance and its impact on Entrepreneurship development, Employment generation and Technology Transfer was carried out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research in 1998. The key outcome of the study was that Social cost benefit analysis of the NSTEDB programs revealed a high social yield (social IRR).

The evaluation of NSTEDB performance and its achievement during the XI Plan was carried out in 2013 by a committee chaired by Prof. S. K. Joshi. The committee recommended NSTEDB to Expand the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) network substantially in the country.

The recent assessment, specifically for the period 2014-19, was carried out by Indian Syndicate Bank Entrepreneurship Research & Training Centre, Institute of Technology, Kanpur. The outcomes, in form of impact report was published in 2020. As per the report, the constant innovative approach adopted by the DST team and other stakeholders in successfully navigating the pitfalls in startup journey are noteworthy. During the period of assessment, NSTEDB programs have shown accelerated pace of interventions.

The programs of NSTEDB, DST on S&T based entrepreneurship have also been recently approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee in March 2018 and July 2021. Periodically, the independent third party evaluation of the major programs are also carried out. On recommendation of third party evaluation, emphasis on women entrepreneurship programs and virtual incubation to increase the outreach of incubators have been incorporated by NSTEDB, DST.

(c) NSTEDB has supported conduct of following 3 modules of training programs during the last 3 years:

- Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP): 4 weeks program to motivate and encourage potential women entrepreneurs,
- Technology based Entrepreneurship Development Programme (TEDP): 6 weeks program for potential entrepreneurs having S&T background to promote technology led/R & D based enterprises,
- Faculty Development Programme (FDP): a 2 weeks program to train faculty/resource persons for teaching and training entrepreneurship.

The programs in 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been organized in online mode. The year-wise details of the people registered and successfully trained in the area of Innovation based Science & Technology Entrepreneurship through above modules of training programs during the last three years:

Sr. No	Name of Training Programme	F.Y 2019-20	F.Y 2020-21	F.Y 2021-22	Total
1.	WEDP	2322	1539	2322	6183
2.	TEDP	3484	1716	2054	7254
3.	FEDP	3000	1175	1325	5500
	Total	8806	4430	5701	18937

(d) & (e) Yes Sir. The Science & Technology Entrepreneurship development training programs are conducted by different agencies which include academic and technical institutes, not-for-profit entities, Innovation and Incubation Centres, Management Institutes, Entrepreneurship Development Institutes, Technical Consultancy Organisations etc. The Training program proposals are received against 'Call for Proposals' only. The selection is done on the basis of following Criteria:

- Experience and expertise in conducting such training programmes
- In-house capacity and capabilities of the institution/organization
- Resources available for conducting training programmes
- Commitment of the organisation/institution
- Track record of conducting similar activities in the past.

DST has constituted Expert Advisory Committee on Training & Capacity Building for Entrepreneurship, Startups & Incubation Development (EAC on TCB). The committee considers the proposals from different organisations for conducting training programs and selects the training programme conducting agencies.

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