

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 533.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025.**

**NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS**

**533. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to continue hosting the National Startup Awards annually to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India; and
- (b) if so, the specific measures which will be implemented to enhance participation from diverse sectors and ensure representation of underrepresented groups, such as women-led startups?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): The Government launched the National Startup Awards (NSA) in 2020 under the Startup India initiative, to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact on a periodic basis. Four editions of the NSA have been concluded since the launch of the initiative viz. NSA 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- (b): Various measures are undertaken to encourage startups from diverse sectors and groups to apply across categories in the National Startup Awards. These measures include social media outreach, off-line and online advertisements, in-person workshops and outreach events across States and Union Territories (UTs), virtual capacity building workshops and webinars, promotion through websites of line Ministries/Departments and State Governments, and encouraging ecosystem stakeholders to spread awareness about the awards.

In the most recent edition of the NSA, startups were recognised across 20 different categories. Special categories for diverse and underrepresented groups have also been included in various editions of the NSA such as awards for women-led startups, startups from North East and Hilly States and UTs, and a campus-focused category to encourage student innovators.

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