GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1401
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2025

IMPACT OF SEED INITIATIVES

1401 DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) a detailed breakdown of data suggesting the specific reach of Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED) projects across various disadvantaged communities, particularly identifying the scope and nature of benefits realised by each community in the current and the last three years, year-wise and region-wise;

(b) the findings, if any, on region-wise assessments conducted to gauge qualitative and quantitative impact of SEED initiatives on the most and least effective regions;

(c) whether any mechanisms are in place to collect real-time feedback from these communities; and

(d) if so, how this feedback has shaped project implementation and outreach strategies?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Department of Science and Technology (DST), through its Science for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) Division, supports grant-in-aid projects to provide science & technology (S&T)-based, action-oriented and location-specific solutions aimed at the socio-economic development of disadvantaged communities—primarily Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Women, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Divyangjan and the elderly. Through its various pan-India schemes and programmes, such as the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Strengthening, Upscaling & Nurturing Innovations for Livelihood (SUNIL), Science & Technology for Women (STW), and Technology Interventions for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE), around 214 projects have been supported during the current year and the last three years (i.e., 2021–22 to 2023–24) to improve the quality of life and livelihood of these communities. The details of projects supported to benefit various disadvantaged communities, scope identified and nature of benefits realised by each community is as under-

Type of community	F.Y.	No. of projects supported	Scope and areas of projects supported	Nature of benefits to community
SC	2025-2026	33	Agriculture & allied sectors such as Sericulture, Fishery, backyard poultry, polymer composite mulch, post-harvest processing, horticulture, value added products with small skin (fish); Health & nutrition, Occupational hazards; Clean energy; Handicraft etc.	Livelihood Diversification; Increased household income; Enhanced agriculture productivity; Greater employment opportunities; Environmental impact; Community empowerment; Energy access & services; Skill development & capacity building; Access to financial institutions etc.
	2024-2025	02		
	2023-2024	18		
	2022-2023	14		

Type of community	F.Y.	No. of projects supported	Scope and areas of projects supported	Nature of benefits to community
ST (Tribes)	**2025-2026**	**26**	Piggery, bamboo craft, NTFP value addition, IoT in agriculture, Apiary, fish dryer, digital literacy, health awareness, malnutrition, Oil extraction, RWH, handicraft, Integrated farming model, Ethnic food items, Sericulture, Composting and Kitchen Gardening, Tuber crop, pottery, goatery, jaggery, herbal plant cultivation, post-harvest interventions	Access to Clean Energy; Access to Improved Nutrition; Access to financial institutions; Livelihood Diversification; Increased household income; Enhanced agriculture productivity; Environmental impact; Community empowerment; Skill development & capacity building etc.
	2024-2025	**13**		
	2023-2024	**25**		
	2022-2023	**12**		
PVTG	**2025-2026**	**07**	Inland fisheries, Agriculture, composite brick manufacturing	Skill development & capacity building; Increased agriculture productivity; Enhanced employment opportunities etc.
	2024-2025	**03**		
EWS	**2024-2025**	**01**	Food and agriculture; Renewable energy; Reducing Health and occupational hazards; Land Resources utilisation; Poultry farming; Crafts & Rural Industries such as bamboo crafts, pottery, handloom and handicrafts, textile-based interventions etc.	Access to clean and sustainable energy; Environmental improvement; Climate control and resilience building; Improved livelihood systems; Income generation by use of value-added and by-products; Enhanced market access; Skill development & capacity building; Enhanced productivity etc.
	2023-2024	**07**		
Women	**2024-2025**	**19**	Health issues related to life cycle of women; Nutrition & sanitation; Organic farming; Poultry; Processing of value-added food products; Agriculture & allied sectors such as Horticulture, Medicinal aromatic plants, S&T based drudgery reduction tools; Textile; Advanced technologies like AI, 3D Printing, etc.	Reduced drudgery; Improved access to Health care facilities; Diversified livelihood options; Adopted customized products; Improved access to technology centres; Improved quality of life & empowerment; Skill development & capacity building of women etc.
	2023-2024	**02**		

Type of community	F.Y.	No. of projects supported	Scope and areas of projects supported	Nature of benefits to community
Disabled & Elderly	**2025-2026**	**18**	Geriatric/Elderly sector and the disability areas such as Visual, Locomotor, Intellectual, Hearing, Speech, Multiple etc.	Autonomy and Improvement in the quality of life to PwDs and Elderly in different built environments, transport systems, Information and Communication Technology. Improved mobility & Self-care etc.
	2024-2025	**10**		
	2023-2024	**01**		
	2022-2023	**03**		

(b) to (d): The projects supported under various schemes & programme of SEED division are monitored regularly through mechanisms such as Annual Performance Review, Group Monitoring Workshops and field visits, to assess the qualitative and quantitative progress and outcomes through S&T interventions across targeted geographical regions. The SEED division follows a robust monitoring and evaluation strategy to integrate real-time feedback from diverse stakeholders, including Expert Committees, Implementing Institutions, Principal Investigators and communities through field-visit monitoring, brainstorming sessions, focused group discussions, digital platforms and community level interactions etc.

These inputs facilitate mid-course corrections and lead to measurable improvements in project outcomes such as Customization and localization of technologies based on regional needs; Re-design and replication of successful interventions; Modified technology delivery models and scaling strategies; Improved beneficiary targeting and selection processes; Enhanced training and skill development modules tailored to community capabilities; Strengthened outreach planning and greater social impact etc.

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