

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1716**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025**

**INCLUSION AND SUPPORT OF SC-ST ENTREPRENEURS  
UNDER MSME SCHEMES**

1716. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries provided financial or infrastructural assistance under various MSME schemes till date;
- (b) the total number of SC-ST candidates who have received skill development or entrepreneurship training under Ministry-led programmes till date;
- (c) whether the Ministry has undertaken any targeted outreach or awareness campaigns to promote MSME schemes among SC-ST entrepreneurs, particularly in rural or tribal areas; and
- (d) if so, the details of such initiatives, including timeline, regions covered, and outcomes achieved?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) and (b): Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements various schemes which include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), PM Vishwakarma (PMV), Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme scheme and Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP), National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme, MSME Champions Scheme, etc.

The detail of Ministry – led schemes/programmes and number of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries provided financial or infrastructural assistance and skilling is as under:

I. **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme(PMEGP):** PMEGP is a credit linked subsidy programme. Under this programme, for beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas for setting up of new enterprises in the non-firm sector. The maximum cost of project is Rs. 50 lakhs in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 lakhs in the service sector. The number of SC and ST beneficiaries assisted under PMEGP since inception 2008-09 to 2025-26 (as on 29.07.2025) are as under:

Category	Number of projects	Margin Money Subsidy (Rs. in lakh)	Number of Employment Generated (estimated)
Scheduled Caste	119999	263841.82	1012274
Scheduled Tribe	88586	173190.07	689788

II. **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises:** The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Industries Development Bank of India jointly instituted Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) in the year 2000, to provide credit guarantee for the loans extended by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) without collateral security and third-party guarantee. CGTMSE implements the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) for MSEs. The details of guarantees approved in respect of SC and ST beneficiaries till 29.07.2025 are as under:

Category	Number of Guarantees approved	Amount of Guarantees approved (Rs. in crore)
Scheduled Caste	594565	19439.60
Scheduled Tribe	203439	9025.26

III. **PM Vishwakarma Scheme:** This scheme was launched on 17.09.2023 to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople of 18 traditional trades who work with their hands and tools to make them a successful entrepreneur. It is a Central Sector Scheme; hence, State-wise funds are not allocated. The scheme components include recognition through PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card, Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Credit Support, Incentive for Digital Transactions, and Marketing Support.

The number of artisans and craftspeople belonging to SC and ST category successfully registered after three stage verifications across the country up to 31.07.2025 is as under:

Indicators	All India beneficiaries	Scheduled Castes beneficiaries	Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries
Number of Successful Registrations	29.98 lakh	5.8 lakh	2.5 lakh
Number of Basic Skill Training imparted	22.6 lakh	4.3 lakh	1.7 lakh

IV. **National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme:** The National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) scheme seeks to promote entrepreneurship amongst the SCs/STs and to facilitate fulfilment of the mandated 4% procurement from SC/ST Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) under the Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises. To achieve this objective, several steps have been taken up, such as subsidy upto Rs. 25 lakh through Special Credit Linked Capital subsidy on institutional finance for procurement of plant & machinery and equipment; skilling and capacity building programs; market linkages through Special Market Assistance Scheme; and to enhance competitiveness, testing charges, membership fee of Export Promotion Councils and Government promoted e-commerce portals are provided. The total beneficiaries from SC and ST communities benefitted are 113759 and 31441, respectively since its inception in FY 2015-16 upto June 2025.

**V. Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) Scheme:** The objective of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) Scheme is to motivate young men and women representing different sections of the society including SC/ST, women, physically handicapped, Ex-servicemen, Agniveer and BPL persons to consider self-employment or entrepreneurship to promote new enterprises, build capacity of existing MSMEs and inculcate entrepreneurial culture in the country. The number of candidates belonging to SC and ST communities trained under this scheme from FY2020-21 to FY2024-25 are as under:

Year	Number SC candidates	Number of ST candidates
2020-21	1070	613
2021-22	5169	9215
2022-23	40747	45888
2023-24	69468	82602
2024-25	95629	121867

(c) and (d): To spread awareness of the schemes and programmes, the Ministry through its field offices/organisations is organising conclaves, vendor development programmes, entrepreneurship awareness programmes, awareness camps and workshops at various locations in the country. Further, social media platforms are also used to create publicity and wider dissemination, particularly focusing on the intended audience. Success stories and Scheme guidelines are shared in regional languages for greater awareness. Under NSSH scheme, 758 Special Vendor Development Programme, 700 Awareness Campaigns and 59 Mega Events/conclave have been conducted.

\*\*\*\*\*