

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2066
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A STARTUP ECOSYSTEM FOR STs

2066 Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:

Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:

Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Symposium on Developing a Startup Ecosystem for Scheduled Tribes (STs);
- (b) the size and structure of the new Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes, and allocation thereof;
- (c) the institutions which were consulted to design strategies for grassroots tribal entrepreneurship; and
- (d) the key recommendations from the symposium, including steps on supply-chain strengthening, grassroots training and public market access for tribal startup?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (d): The Ministry launched the scheme of 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes' (VCF-ST) on 10th February, 2024 with a corpus of Rs. 50 crore to promote entrepreneurship among STs. The fund is floated as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Category-II under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as debt oriented. The scheme is being implemented through IFCI VCF Ltd.

Under the scheme, IFCI VCF Ltd. organized a Symposium on 28th January, 2025 wherein major Venture Capitalists and Impact Investors were invited to deliberate on actionable strategies aimed at uplifting tribal entrepreneurs, catalyzing investments in tribal-led startups and fostering inclusive growth. The participants included representatives from Indian Angel Network, Info Edge, IVCA, Aavishkaar Capital, GrowthCap Ventures, Villgro, SKI Capital, IFCI Venture and former officials of SIDBI. The key recommendations from the symposium included building quality tribal enterprises, targeted capacity-building programs at village level, identify specific industries with high potential for tribal empowerment and innovation, such as agriculture, handicrafts, and sustainable development and promote Fund of Funds (FOF) models to channel investments into innovative and impactful sectors.
