

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3161**  
ANSWERED ON 20/08/2025

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECO-SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY**

3161 SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government maintains any data regarding the number of entrepreneurs propped up in the country during the last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the schemes implemented by Government to encourage budding entrepreneurs, especially women;
- (c) whether Government maintains any data regarding the sector-wise entrepreneurship in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) what are the different credit-lines offered by Government for entrepreneurs in the rural areas;
- (e) the number of Government-backed entrepreneur enterprises turned into Unicorns in the country; and
- (f) what are the exercises conducted by Government to boost entrepreneurship skills among college students?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) does not maintain a consolidated dataset of entrepreneurship across the country over the last five years. However, MSDE through its Autonomous Institutions, i.e, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati has taken various initiatives to promote and encourage budding entrepreneurs, including women, across various sectors in the country. The details of the initiatives taken during the last five years are at **Annexure-I**.

Further, Various Ministries/Departments of Government have taken various initiatives to promote and encourage budding entrepreneurs, including women, across different sectors of the country. The details of some of the initiatives taken by other Ministries/Departments of the Government are at **Annexure-II**.

Furthermore, Various Ministries and Departments of the Government have undertaken several initiatives to provide credit lines and financial assistance to entrepreneurs across the country, including in rural areas. Details of some of these initiatives are provided in **Annexure-III**.

(f) The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog as knowledge partner, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme in February, 2025 in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana as a pilot project. The Ministry is implementing the programme through its Autonomous Institutes, namely, National Institute

for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

The programme aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among female students through Entrepreneurship Awareness Training (EAP) for 1,200 students and out of these, Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for 600 students. To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs/Universities shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative will equip educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions. Furthermore, Swavalambini aims to recognise and reward successful women entrepreneurs emerging from the programme through the Award to Rewards Initiative of Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI AAYOG. The programme will leverage workshops, seed funding, and structured mentoring to support the growth of women-led enterprises.

The programme-wise details of participants trained under the pilot project as on 15.07.2025 is as under:

<b>Name of the Programme</b>	<b>Total Target</b>	<b>Total Trained</b>
Faculty Development Programme (FDP)	75	43
Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)	1200	996
Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)	600	139

Further, Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) promotes innovation and entrepreneurship across educational institutions. By fostering an environment that encourages creativity and entrepreneurship, the Cell facilitates the development of sustainable commercial models. Through initiatives such as the Smart India Hackathon (SIH), Institution's Innovation Councils (IIC), KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness), Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp and AICTE MoE Investor Network and Innovation Centres, it strives to integrate innovation into the core of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The Innovation Cell collaborates with various ministries and government departments, ensuring that these innovations contribute to societal progress while also addressing real-world challenges which leads to culture of innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship in the country. In all MIC initiatives, Higher Education Institutions work with the national ecosystem to create an enabling environment for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In addition, AICTE has initiated the following scheme to motivate students towards promoting entrepreneurship and professional education:

**AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF):** The AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF) scheme aims to support the student's innovative projects focused on validating Proof of Concepts (PoC) for ground breaking technologies and offers financial assistance to the students for essential resources, including raw materials, equipment, software, and testing tools ensuring that students have the necessary resources to scale their lab-based research and innovations into market-ready products/solutions.

**ANNEXURES REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) TO (f) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3161 ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025 REGARDING “ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECO-SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY”**

**ANNEXURE-I**

Details of the various initiatives taken by MSDE to promote and encourage budding entrepreneurs, including women, across various sectors in the country are as under:

- (i) **Strengthening Entrepreneurial Climate through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring, and Handholding under SANKALP Scheme** – MSDE through NIESBUD implemented a project for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem of different marginalized sections of the society and women with the support of the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme of MSDE, since December 2022. The project aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the various target groups through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring and Handholding. Under the project, 62825 beneficiaries have imparted training from FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, including 43799 women and 21,629 enterprises have been established.
- (ii) **Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)** - NIESBUD has implemented a project for creating entrepreneurial climate through the Training of Trainers (ToTs) and the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) from October 2022 to September 2023. The project aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the various target groups through Capacity Building, Mentoring and Handholding. Under the project, 5,739 beneficiaries have been trained, including 4,968 women and 1463 enterprises have been established.
- (iii) **Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program** - NIESBUD implemented a Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program in 10 States supported by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship which aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the target groups through Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Mentoring and Handholding support. During the FY 2022-23, 5,000 beneficiaries have been trained, including 3089 women and 1917 enterprises have been established.
- (iv) **STRIVE Scheme – Establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Cell** - Under the Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project of MSDE, IIE has implemented awareness and sensitization programme in the NSTI/ITIs in North East Region (NER). Under the scheme IIE shall establish Entrepreneurship Development Cell in NSTIs and ITIs in the Northeastern region and organize Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP), Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP), Faculty Development Programmes (FDP), along with mentoring and handholding. A total number of 1361 enterprises have been started under the project during FY 2023-24.
- (v) **Comprehensive Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training Program for Tribal Artisans and Micro Level Entrepreneurs in NER under SANKALP scheme** - IIE has implemented Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training Program for Tribal Artisans and Micro Level Entrepreneurs in NER under SANKALP scheme. The program focused on crucial aspects of capacity building, including product diversification, technology utilization, and effective business activities, packaging and branding strategies. The program was implemented from January 2024 to October, 2024. A total number of 1,000 enterprises have been started under the project.
- (vi) **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** - MSDE through its autonomous institutes, namely NIESBUD and IIE has been implementing the skilling and

entrepreneurship component of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM JANMAN) – a scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for upliftment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), since March 2024. The skilling programme is being undertaken as a special project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The project is being implemented with support of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in 18 States across the country under which a total of 500 VDVks are to be set up. As on 29.07.2025, total of 37,161 beneficiaries have been trained under Entrepreneurship Development Program out of which 31,560 were women.

(vii) **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** - Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarshh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) – a scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs wherein MSDE has been assigned two specific interventions:

- Establishing Skilling Centres in 30 tribal districts and
- Providing training for capacity building and business development of 1000 VDVks and tribal groups.

NIESBUD and IIE is implementing trainings of the VDVks in line with the implementation of PM-JANMAN. The target for FY 2024-25 is to provide training in 50 VDVks as per the list shared by TRIFED. 15 VDVks are in North Eastern Region and remaining 35 VDVks are in rest of the country. As on 30.06.2025, a total of 30 participants, including 15 female participants, have been trained out of the targeted 100 under the Master Trainer of Trainers (ToT) program.

(viii) **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme** - NIESBUD under MSDE in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the flagship initiative, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. This programme aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, empower entrepreneurs, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by fostering and mentoring budding and existing entrepreneurs in the field of solar entrepreneurship. A total number of 15,589 beneficiaries have been imparted training under the project.

(ix) **Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)** - Under the Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) of MSDE, NIESBUD has conducted awareness and sensitization programmes at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) between October 2023 to May 2024. These activities were followed by the selection of prospective entrepreneurs to undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). The Institute has successfully conducted EDP training for the target groups and is providing mentoring and handholding support to help trainees establish their enterprises. NIESBUD has conducted training of 77430 beneficiaries, including 21,872 women

(x) **Establish, Develop and Manage EDC and Incubation Centers (IC) in North East Region's Educational Institution** - Under this Project, IIE shall Establish, Develop and Manage Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDC) and Incubation Centers (ICs) in North East Region's Educational Institutions. The key features of the project includes establishing, developing and managing 30 EDCs and 4 ICs in 8 states of NER, identifying and training 600 mentors from 30 target districts, identifying and training 3600 youth from 30 target districts, incubating 100 business ideas in 4 ICs, supporting 900 business ideas in 30 EDCs through convergence and Seed fund for top 50 incubates in 4 ICs.

Till 31.05.2025, IIE has provided training to 632 faculty members and trained 912 participants through EDP training out of which 600 are women.

## Annexure-II

Details of the initiatives taken by other Ministries/Departments of the Government to promote and encourage budding entrepreneurs, including women, across various sectors in the country are as under:

**1. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** - Ministry of MSME, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for assisting entrepreneurs in setting up of new micro enterprises in the non-farm sector. It aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth at their doorstep.

PMEGP being a Central Sector Scheme assists General Category beneficiaries with Margin Money (MM) subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically Handicapped, Transgenders, beneficiaries belonging to Northeastern Region, Hill and Border areas, and Aspirational Districts, the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. Under PMEGP, the maximum cost of project is Rs. 50 lakh for manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 lakh for service sector. Own contribution of beneficiaries under Special Category is 05% and 10% for General Category beneficiaries.

The PMEGP performance during the last five years is as under:

<b>FY</b>	<b>No. of micro enterprises Assisted</b>	<b>MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr)</b>	<b>Estimated Employment Generated</b>
2020-21	74415	2188.802	595320
2021-22	103219	2977.659	825752
2022-23	85167	2722.175	681336
2023-24	89118	3093.877	712944
2024-25	59708	2202	477664

Under PMEGP, women beneficiaries are considered under Special Category and eligible for higher margin money subsidy and lower own contribution to the project cost. The PMEGP performance of women beneficiaries during the last five years is as under:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>No. of Units set up by women entrepreneurs</b>	<b>Margin Money Subsidy (Rs. Cr)</b>	<b>Estimated Employment Generated</b>
2020-21	27,285	886.74	2,18,280
2021-22	39,158	1,244.51	3,13,264
2022-23	32,626	1,175.72	2,61,008
2023-24	36,806	1,414.07	2,94,448
2024-25	23,434	972.42	1,87,472

The Sector-wise PMEGP performance during the last five years is as under:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>			<b>Services</b>		
	<b>No. of micro enterprises Assisted</b>	<b>Estimated Employment Generated</b>	<b>MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr)</b>	<b>No. of Units Assisted</b>	<b>Estimated Employment Generated</b>	<b>MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr)</b>
2020-21	44,676	3,57,408	1,646.12	29,739	2,37,912	542.48
2021-22	57,723	4,61,784	2,087.81	45,496	3,63,968	889.58
2022-23	44,544	3,56,352	1,884.86	40,623	3,24,984	837.30
2023-24	39,261	3,14,088	2,008.47	49,857	3,98,856	1,085.40
2024-25	23,305	1,86,440	1,287.45	36,403	2,91,224	914.55

The PMEGP performance in rural areas during the last five years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of micro enterprises Assisted	MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr)	Estimated Employment Generated
2020-21	60,682	1,914.46	4,85,456
2021-22	84,696	2,585.86	6,77,568
2022-23	68,470	2,323.48	5,47,760
2023-24	68,939	2,546.19	5,51,512
2024-25	48,077	1,875.36	3,84,616

2. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry** - The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and encouraging investments launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016. As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognized as 'startups' under the Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). As of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, a total of 1,80,683 entities have been recognised as startups under Startup India initiative out of which 87,285 have at least one-woman director/partner.

Further, the Government is implementing specific initiatives/programmes under the Startup India initiative to promote women entrepreneurship across the country. The details of such initiatives are as under:

- (i) To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, 10% of the fund in the Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is reserved for women-led startups.
- (ii) Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) led by women are eligible to be considered for a higher level of management fee (0.1% per annum). The same benefit is also extended to AIFs which are focused on women led startups.
- (iii) Under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), for availing the guarantee cover, the Member Institution pays Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF) of 2% per annum (p.a.) of the disbursement/outstanding amount. For units from the North East region as well as those of women entrepreneurs, the Member Institution pays a standard rate of 1.5% p.a. of the disbursement/outstanding amount.
- (iv) Women Capacity Development Programme (WING) is a unique Capacity Development Program for women-led startups, to identify and support both aspiring and established women entrepreneurs in their startup journeys. The workshops are open to variety of business sectors including Tech, Construction, Product, Machine, Food, Agriculture, Education, etc. The workshops serve as a platform for emerging women entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss the key challenges facing women entrepreneurs. WING workshops create a conducive environment to share best practices and experiences in overcoming challenges and to gain insights learned from the business models adopted in the Indian context.
- (v) Startup India Hub: A webpage dedicated to women entrepreneurs has been designed on the Startup India portal. The page includes various policy measures for women entrepreneurs by both Central and State Governments.
- (vi) ASCEND Startup Workshop Series and Women for Startups Workshops: The Government organized a series of startup workshops - ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive), for the entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and students from North-eastern region. In addition, the workshops are conducted with a specific focus on women entrepreneurs across the northeastern states. The workshops have witnessed participation from ecosystem stakeholders such as government officials, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, academic institutions, etc.

**3. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** - Under the umbrella scheme of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Rural Skills Division is implementing Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) in the field of skill development for rural poor youth including women for their gainful employment with a view to eradicate poverty in the country.

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) is a Bank lead - Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) funded training institutions established by the Sponsoring Banks in their Districts, to provide training for skill and entrepreneurship development. MoRD extends financial support for the construction of RSETI building and also bears the cost of training the 'rural poor' candidates. Any unemployed youth in the age group of 18-50 years having an aptitude to take up self-employment or wage employment can undergo training at RSETI. Some of the trained candidates may also seek regular salaried jobs / wage employment.

These programs aim to empower women by providing market-relevant skills. After training, RSETIs also help women access bank loans to start micro-enterprises. The details of women candidates trained and settled under the scheme during the last 3 years and current year till June 2025 is as under:

FY	Women Trained	Women Settled
2022-23	3,31,898	2,72,977
2023-24	3,60,318	2,90,392
2024-25	5,05,450	3,91,786
2025-26 (up to 30.06.2025)	96,536	53,247

**4. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** - Innovation & IPR Division of MeitY has undertaken few initiatives and measures to promote a technology-led startups and innovation ecosystem in the country in electronics and ICT domains. Some of the major initiatives have been elucidated here:

- **Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme:** MeitY has initiated TIDE 2.0 Scheme in the year 2019 with an aim to promote tech-based entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators. The scheme had provisions to support 51 incubators in institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organizations pan India to support approximately 2000 tech start-ups. Under TIDE 2.0 scheme a total of 1650+ startups including women-led startups are supported till now.
- **Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS) Scheme:** MeitY has launched GENESIS Scheme with the aim to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities across India. The scheme envisages scaling up about 1,600 technology startups through 65 Implementing Agencies to nurture and grow technology startups with an outlay of Rs. 490 Crore over period of five years. Under GENESIS scheme a total of 250+ startups including women-led startups are supported till now.

**5. Ministry of Women and Child Development** - Government of India implements 'Mission Shakti' - an integrated women empowerment programme as umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women. The Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" and "Samarthya."

SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women is a component of Samarthya Sub scheme under Umbrella Mission Shakti. It aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women both at the central (NHEW), State/ UT level (SHEW) and district level (DHEW). It started on 1st April 2022 under the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) known as SANKALP: HEW (Supportive Action for Nurturing and Knowledge-Based Advancement, Last-Mile Delivery and Potential Realization of Women : Hub for Empowerment of Women), set up at National, State and District levels for empowerment of women with aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at Central, State/ UT and district levels with the mandate to create an environment in which women realize their full potential to address gaps in state action for women and for promoting inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence through strengthening the processes that promote holistic empowerment of women by creating an environment conducive to social change by improving access and utilization of government schemes.

The support under the HEW is for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including facilitating access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/Gram Panchayats level across the country."

SANKALP: HEW is being implemented in all States/UTs except the State of West Bengal and functional in 35 States/UTs. As on date, total 35 State SANKALP: HEWs 742 District SANKALP: HEWs are functional.



Details of the initiatives taken by Ministries/Departments of Government wherein credit-lines and financial assistance is being provided to the entrepreneurs are as under:

1. **Department of Financial Services (DFS) - Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** was launched on 08.04.2015 to extend collateral free credit up to Rs.20 lakh by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). Any individual, who is otherwise eligible to take a loan and has a business plan for small business enterprise can avail loan under the Scheme for income generating activities in the manufacturing, trading, service sectors including activities allied to agriculture across four loan categories, viz. Shishu (loans upto Rs. 50,000/-), Kishor (loans above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 5 lakh), Tarun (loans above Rs. 5 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakh) and Tarun Plus (loans above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 20 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category w.e.f. 24.10.2024). A total of 28.82 crore loans including 19.12 crore loans to Women entrepreneurs have been extended during last five years under PMMY

**Stand-Up India (SUI) Scheme** was launched on 05.04.2016. The objective of the Scheme was to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one Woman borrower per Bank branch for setting up greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector, including activities allied to agriculture. The Stand Up India scheme has facilitated over 2.75 lakh loans to SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs across the country since inception of the Scheme as on 31.03.2025. A total of 1,59,316 loans including 1,12,457 loans to Women entrepreneurs have been extended during last five years under Stand Up India Scheme. The Scheme was valid/operational till March 2025.

2. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry** - The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and encouraging investments launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016. As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognized as 'startups' under the Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Under Startup India initiative, the Government is implementing flagship Schemes, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) to provide funding opportunities and support startups at various stages of their business cycle. FFS has been established to catalyze venture capital investments and is operationalized by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which provides capital to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) which in turn invest in startups. AIFs supported under the Scheme have invested Rs. 23,679 crore in 1,282 startups as on 30th June 2025.

SISFS provides financial assistance to seed stage startups through incubators. The incubators supported under the Scheme have selected 2,942 startups for a total approved funding of Rs. 522.42 crore as on 30th June 2025.

CGSS is implemented for enabling collateral free loans to startups through eligible financial institutions. CGSS is operationalized by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) Limited and has been operationalized from 1st April 2023. As on 30th June 2025, 289 loans amounting to Rs. 667.85 crore have been guaranteed for startup borrowers.

3. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E)** – MoSJ&E, through its targeted initiatives - namely the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) including the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM), and the Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC) has extended financial and incubation support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities by providing concessional finance to them. Further, Senior-care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) is an initiative of MoSJ&E aimed at fostering innovation in elderly welfare, the scheme supports eligible startups that develop products, services, and solutions tailored to the needs of senior citizens by providing equity support of upto Rs.1 Cr.

Under VCF-SC and VCF-BC schemes concessional finance is provided to the eligible beneficiaries at 4% and 6% coupon rates and for women at extra concessional coupon rates i.e. 3.75% and 5.75% respectively. The objective of the schemes is to promote women entrepreneurship in India among the Scheduled Castes and backward classes women by providing concessional finance to them. Further, MoSJ&E has launched an initiative viz. Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM scheme) as sub scheme of VCF-SC on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to promote young researchers and students, including women, with their innovation for financial support of Rs. 30 lakh under the scheme.

The details of beneficiaries supported under these schemes during last five years are as under:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Launch Year</b>	<b>Entrepreneurs/Startups Supported (2019-20 to 2024-25)</b>
VCF-SC (including ASIIM)	2014-15	119
VCF-BC	2019-20	101
SAGE	2021	5*

\*A total of 24 startup proposals have been received under the SAGE scheme, with equity support provided to 5 startups, resulting in the launch of 5 innovative products or services

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