

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3233.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026.**

**EXPANSION OF SCOPE FOR STARTUP RECOGNITION**

**3233. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:**

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

- (a) whether Government has expanded the scope and eligibility criteria for recognition of Start-ups under the Startup India initiative;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such expansion;
- (c) the number of Start-ups recognised before and after the said expansion, State/UT-wise, particularly in Punjab;
- (d) whether any assessment has been conducted regarding the impact of the expanded recognition framework, if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the specific measures taken to ensure that Start-ups in smaller cities and non-metro regions effectively get benefit from the revised framework?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b):** The Government has expanded the scope and eligibility criteria for recognition of startups under the Startup India initiative through notification G.S.R. 108(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to better reflect the evolving scale and diversity of India's startup ecosystem. The key revisions are as follows:
- i. **Increase in turnover ceiling:** The annual turnover ceiling upto which a startup can remain recognised as a 'startup' has been increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore, enabling scaling enterprises to continue availing benefits under the Startup India initiative.
  - ii. **Introduction of a 'Deep Tech Startup' category:** A separate category has been introduced for startups working on advanced and emerging technologies with extended eligibility parameters:
    - (a) Age limit: Up to 20 years from the date of incorporation or registration.
    - (b) Turnover ceiling: Up to Rs. 300 crore, recognising the longer gestation periods and capital intensity associated with deep technology ventures.
  - iii. **Expansion of eligible entity types:** Multi-State Cooperative Societies registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and Cooperative Societies registered under State/UT Cooperative Societies Acts are now eligible for startup recognition, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed criteria.

The gazette notification can be accessed at: <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2026/269843pdf>

These revisions were formulated following consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem and relevant Ministries/Departments to better support innovation-driven enterprises and sectors requiring longer technology development cycles.

- (c) & (d):** The number of entities recognised as startups under the Startup India initiative has increased from approximately 500 in 2016 to 2,12,283 as on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The State/Union Territory-wise number of entities recognised as startups, including those from the State of Punjab, as on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 (prior to the revised framework) and from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (after the revised framework) is placed at **Annexure-I**.

The revised recognition framework was formulated after consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem as well as with relevant Ministries and Departments. While the revised framework has been notified recently, the expansion of eligibility parameters will enable a wider set of innovation-driven enterprises, including deep technology ventures and eligible cooperative institutions, to be eligible for startup recognition and access the benefits available under the Startup India initiative.

- (e):** Startup recognition under the Startup India initiative is processed through a digital application system available on the Startup India portal and the National Single Window System (NSWS), enabling entrepreneurs across the country, including those in smaller cities and non-metro regions, to apply online. The recognition process is based on self-certification with simplified documentation, and guidance material, such as recognition handbooks and tutorials, are available on the portal to assist applicants in navigating the process.

In addition, the Government undertakes outreach, awareness and ecosystem development initiatives across States and Union Territories in collaboration with State startup nodal agencies, incubators and other ecosystem stakeholders to promote startup recognition and support innovators in emerging startup hubs. Capacity-building workshops and stakeholder consultations are organised across regions to strengthen local startup ecosystems and facilitate participation from smaller cities.

Further, national initiatives such as the States' Startup Ranking Framework, National Startup Awards, Startup Mahakumbh, ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Caliber & Entrepreneurial Drive) sensitisation workshops in the North Eastern region, and Startup India Innovation Week provide platforms for entrepreneurs from across the country to engage with investors, incubators and policymakers, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and encouraging startup participation from non-metro and emerging innovation clusters.

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**ANNEXURE-I****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3233 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2026.**

The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise number of entities recognized as startups in the country is placed below:

<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of entities recognized as startups as on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>No. of entities recognized as startups from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 till 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	93	3
Andhra Pradesh	4015	122
Arunachal Pradesh	88	3
Assam	2070	48
Bihar	4757	153
Chandigarh	670	12
Chhattisgarh	2306	62
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	90	1
Delhi	20318	352
Goa	785	13
Gujarat	18234	459
Haryana	11033	281
Himachal Pradesh	783	18
Jammu and Kashmir	1452	35
Jharkhand	2000	59
Karnataka	21647	428
Kerala	8278	173
Ladakh	25	0
Lakshadweep	3	0
Madhya Pradesh	7090	208
Maharashtra	36861	816
Manipur	258	6
Meghalaya	92	2
Mizoram	64	1
Nagaland	116	3
Odisha	3686	75
Puducherry	226	8
Punjab	2372	50
Rajasthan	7714	192
Sikkim	18	2
Tamil Nadu	14124	293
Telangana	11780	346
Tripura	201	8
Uttar Pradesh	20782	593
Uttarakhand	1744	51
West Bengal	6965	161
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,12,740</b>	<b>5,037</b>

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