

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME FOR SC-ST ENTREPRENEURS

897. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR;

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

- (a) the total number of SC/ST entrepreneurs who have benefited from the Business Accelerator Programme (BAP) under the National SC-ST Hub scheme since its inception across different States;
- (b) the specific sectors and geographical regions where the structured mentorship and targeted business interventions under BAP have shown the most quantifiable business growth;
- (c) whether any measures has been taken to scale up the BAP for SC-ST entrepreneurs in the topographically challenging districts of the State of Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, efforts taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 Enterprise (MSE) under the Public Procurement Policy of the Government. To achieve this objective, several steps have been taken up, such as subsidy for procurement of plant & machinery/equipment; skilling and capacity building programme; market linkage; and support for enhancing competitiveness through various interventions.

Under capacity building programme, various skill and entrepreneurship development training programmes are conducted for SC/ST entrepreneurs through various Government / Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous Institutions to bridge the existing skill gap, increase managerial capabilities of the SC/ST entrepreneurs. Since inception, more than 54,000 SC/ST candidates have been trained through the various capacity building training programmes including 625 candidates under Business Accelerator Programme (BAP). State/UT-wise details are enclosed at **Annexure**.

The participants under the BAP represented diverse sectors from across the country, including the manufacturing of electrical equipment, furniture, rubber and plastic products, fabricated metal products, food processing, housekeeping, renewable energy, waste management, etc. The programme offers comprehensive capacity building through structured learning, expand their business and explore procurement opportunities.

The programme is conducted through National Institute Ranking Framework ranked Management Institutes across the country. In Himachal Pradesh, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sirmaur has conducted BAP in FY 2025-26. For larger participation of SC/ST candidates under NSSH Scheme, Entrepreneur Awareness & Vendor Development Programmes are conducted at district level including topographically challenging districts.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 897 for answer on 27.07.2026.

STATE/UT-WISE NUMBER OF SC/ST CANDIDATES UNDER BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME.

S. No.	State/UT	Number of candidate
1	Andhra Pradesh	12
2	Assam	07
3	Bihar	10
4	Chandigarh	01
5	Chhattisgarh	41
6	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	01
7	Delhi	12
8	Goa	01
9	Gujarat	54
10	Haryana	07
11	Himachal Pradesh	04
12	Jammu & Kashmir	02
13	Jharkhand	42
14	Karnataka	18
15	Kerala	01
16	Ladakh	02
17	Madhya Pradesh	14
18	Maharashtra	121
19	Manipur	04
20	Meghalaya	22
21	Mizoram	28
22	Nagaland	10
23	Odisha	52
24	Puducherry	01
25	Punjab	09
26	Rajasthan	14
27	Sikkim	06
28	Tamil Nadu	28
29	Telangana	29
30	Tripura	01
31	Uttar Pradesh	41
32	Uttarakhand	18
33	West Bengal	12
Grand Total		625