

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY & PROMOTION**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3801.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018.**

**PROMOTION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

**3801. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government is intending to bring any structural reforms aiming at supporting and promoting women entrepreneurs in both private and public sectors in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any recommendations from industry associations or women entrepreneurs in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is further intending to create awareness and bring visibility to the existing initiatives and leverage from all existing schemes aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री सी.आर. चौधरी)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY)**

- (a): In order to promote women entrepreneurs, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India is supporting initiatives to strengthen the ecosystem for women entrepreneurs particularly in technology domain. These women entrepreneur specific programs include identifying and awarding, providing knowledge and skills, mentoring and networking, incubation and acceleration support, international exposure etc. to women entrepreneurs. These programs are implemented as a collaborative program with few not-for-profit incubators including FITT -IIT Delhi, NSRCEL- IIM Bangalore and Zone Startup, Bombay Stock Exchange, Mumbai and women specific organizations i.e. AnitaB.Org and WEE Foundation etc.

Further, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched a flagship scheme called Pradhan Mantri Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (PM-YUVA) on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 to impart entrepreneurship education and training to over 10 lakh students throughout the country. Although not a gender specific scheme, the scheme with an outlay of Rs. 450

crore for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22 is expected to have 30% students as women. Main objectives of the scheme are to create a favorable ecosystem for entrepreneurship development through education and training, advocacy, easy access to various components of entrepreneurship ecosystem including mentor network, credit, incubator and accelerator, information platform, research etc.

Department of Biotechnology is supporting women under Biotechnology Based Programme for Societal Development. The main objective of the programme is to promote the use of biotechnological processes and tools for benefit of the women population. The programme aims to create platform for self-employment and livelihood generation among the target population by diffusion of proven and field-tested technologies through demonstration, training and extension activities. The broad focused areas supported are agriculture and allied sectors, health, nutrition & sanitation, value addition and post-harvest management, agripreneurship development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources.

Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is also facilitating women empowerment and entrepreneurship through various activities which are provided at Annexure-I.

- (b):** No specific recommendations have been received from industry associations or women entrepreneurs in this regard.
- (c):** Government has taken several steps to create awareness and bring visibility to the existing initiatives and leverage all existing schemes aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs. Under the Startup India initiative, an online platform, Startup India online hub has been launched to solve the problem of information asymmetry and lack of access to knowledge. The platform aggregates and provides information on Government schemes with details on the relevant industry, incentive, eligibility criteria, applications process etc.

Further, NITI Aayog, Government of India in partnership with the Government of the United States of America hosted the 8th Annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad, India in November, 2017. The Summit brought together entrepreneurs, investors, educators and officials and presented a platform to, discuss barriers that women entrepreneurs face while starting and scaling their businesses in India. CEO, NITI Aayog announced setting up of Women Entrepreneurship Cell (WEC), in NITI Aayog to promote and support established as well as aspiring women entrepreneurs in India. In view of above, a Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) has been formed and officially launched on 08.03.2018 in NITI Aayog. It has been decided that Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) will work in collaboration with public as well as private sector organizations and help to bring them on a single platform by listing their women focused entrepreneurship development schemes and programmes, so that women entrepreneurs can derive benefits from such existing schemes and use networking and partner connect to increase the effectiveness of the existing initiatives in the entrepreneurial space.

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## ANNEXURE-I

### ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3801 FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2018

#### Activities from BIRAC to support women entrepreneurs

Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) supports following activities for facilitating women empowerment and entrepreneurship:

- BIRAC runs programs focused on women empowerment such as SPARSH and various other programs under the Grand Challenges India
- BIRAC has supported more than 120 women entrepreneurs across its various schemes (BIG, SBIRI, BIPP, PACE etc.)
- Additional high skilled women workforce of the tune of 150-200 has been created as part of employment generated under BIRAC supported projects.
- BIRAC has also supported the Women Biotech Park at Chennai, which provides incubation space and mentoring (business, IP, legal) specifically to women students/scientists/entrepreneurs. The Biotech Park also organizes workshops for creating awareness amongst women.
- BIRAC recently announced a woman focused entrepreneurship award called ***WInER Award (Women In Entrepreneurial Research)***, managed by TiE-Delhi on behalf of BIRAC. Under this award program, 15 women entrepreneurs have been awarded with INR 5 lakhs each along with other benefits including an opportunity to go through an intensive accelerator programme at Golden Jubilee Women Biotech Park, Chennai.
- BIRAC has also provided several showcasing opportunities to women entrepreneurs at national level conferences.

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