

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1284
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

1284. SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:
(a) whether any steps have been taken to foster women entrepreneurs given that the number of women-owned enterprises amount to just twenty per cent of the total enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce mentorship programmes for women entrepreneurs in collaboration with other successful women entrepreneurs considering that lack of mentorship from the business community is one of the main challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to expand women's participation in traditionally male-dominated sectors considering that most women-owned businesses in the country operate in low-revenue sectors or "women-friendly" sectors such as beauty and apparel, while men control more profitable sectors like manufacturing, construction, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA)

(a) & (b): The Government of India has taken various steps to foster entrepreneurship among women. The Ministry of MSME implements the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), through which women entrepreneurs are provided higher subsidy for starting their own micro-enterprises. Through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs, (CGTMSE), the Government of India provides guarantees in respect of credit facilities extended by eligible lending agencies to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). Guarantee fee for women owned enterprises is less than the normal fee. Under the Public Procurement Policy, as amended in 2018, all Central Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Enterprises are mandated to procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women-owned Micro & Small Enterprises. Apart from the above, schemes of other Ministries, like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and Stand Up India, etc., help women set up their own enterprises.

(c): The Government of India implements various programmes that mentor women entrepreneurs. The Ministry of MSME's scheme "A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)" was launched in 2015 with an objective of setting up a network of Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) to create new jobs and reduce unemployment, promote entrepreneurship and innovation in agro rural sector. While LBI focuses on imparting training and handholding support to local youth for job creation through creation of micro enterprises and wage employment, TBI assists agro rural Startups in developing and commercializing new technologies through incubation support by providing necessary infrastructure such as office space, access to mentors and finance, value added services like IPR, market linkages, etc.

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) facilitates last mile dissemination of all information required by an existing or prospective entrepreneur, including Government and Non- Government initiatives. WEP aims at address the information asymmetry and helps nurture women entrepreneurship.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of the Government of India, has successfully nurtured innovation among the youth of the country through Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centers and Atal Community Innovation Centers. Since its inception, close to 800 women-led startups have been incubated.

(d) & (e): Through the Atal Innovation Mission, the Government nurtures the innovation spirit in women to innovate in not just the conventional sectors, but also in high tech sectors such as Life Sciences, Automotive and Aerospace, Energy and other relevant sectors. The Atal Innovation Mission has also published 75 best innovations of women, ranging from deep-tech startups to SDG based solutions.
