SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

(a) the percentage of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) businesses owned by women in the country;
(b) the challenges being faced by women-led enterprises in the market place;
(c) the steps taken to improve women’s education and skill levels, access to critical resources such as credit, marketing and distribution networks and the technical and managerial knowledge; and
(d) the policy initiatives to help women-owned MSMEs in capacity training programmes?

ANSWER

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

(a): As on 06.08.2023, as per Udyam Registration Portal, the percentage of women owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises registered since inception (01.07.2020) to 06.08.2023 in all India was 19.5%.

(b) to (d): Ministry of MSME has launched “SAMARTH 2.0” on 08.03.2023 to support women-owned MSMEs. Under SAMARTH, the following benefits are available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs:
   i. 20% Seats in free Skill Development Programmes organized by the Ministry of MSME has been allocated for Women.
   ii. 20% of MSME Business Delegations sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by Ministry has been dedicated to women owned MSMEs.
   iii. 20% Discount on annual processing fee on NSIC’s Commercial Schemes.
   iv. Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to support women owned MSMEs in the country, which includes:
   i. Ministry of MSME implements Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) to motivate youth, representing different sections of the society including women, to consider self-employment or entrepreneurship as one of the career options. The scheme mandates 40% participation from weaker sections of the society including women and no fee will be charged for participation.
   ii. To encourage entrepreneurship among women, Ministry of MSME implements ‘Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojana’ under Coir Vikas Yojana, which is an exclusive training program aimed at skill development of women artisans engaged in the Coir sector.
iii. The Ministry also implements Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and rural/urban unemployed youth. Under the scheme, women are provided higher subsidy (up to 35%) vis-a-vis non-special category (up to 25%).

iv. To support Women Entrepreneurs under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro & Small Enterprises, two provisions have been introduced for women entrepreneurs’ w.e.f. 01.12.2022. These are:
   a. 10% concession in annual Guarantee fees; and
   b. 10 % additional Guarantee coverage of up to 85%, as against the 75 % for other entrepreneurs.

v. To benefit women entrepreneurs, the Public Procurement Policy was amended in 2018 mandating Central Ministries/Departments/ Undertakings to procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women entrepreneurs.

vi. Participation of women entrepreneurs in trade fairs under Procurement & Marketing Support Scheme is subsidized 100% vis-a-vis 80% for other entrepreneurs.

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