

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2377**  
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

2377. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new women entrepreneurs in the manufacturing or the high-value sectors;
- (b) the reasons for low number of women entrepreneurs in such sectors; and
- (c) the measures taken or assistance provided by the Government to increase women entrepreneurs in these fields?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) to (c) Under the Government of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/colleges/institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and industry ready skills.

I. The details of the various initiatives/programmes undertaken by Ministries/Departments of the Government for development of Women Entrepreneurs across the country are as under

(i) **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** – In order to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups across the country, the Government has launched the Startup India initiative on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The Government maintains data specific to recognised startups with at least one-woman Director. As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognized as 'startups' under Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). As on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, a total of 1,14,902 entities have been recognised as startups, of which, 54,569 startups have at least one-woman Director. The details of the sector-wise number of recognised startups with at least one-woman Director as on 31.10.2023 is placed at **Annexure-I**.

The Government is implementing various schemes/programmes to promote women entrepreneurship in both, rural and urban areas which is placed at **Annexure-II**.

(ii) **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for assisting entrepreneurs across the country in setting up of new units in the non-farm sector. It aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth at their doorstep. Under PMEGP, General Category beneficiaries can avail Margin Money subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Transgenders, Ex-servicemen,

Differently Able, beneficiaries belonging to Northeastern Region, Aspirational District, Hill and Border areas, etc., the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban area. The maximum cost of project is Rs.50 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs.20 lakh in the service sector. Also, own contribution for beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories which includes Women is 5% of project cost as compared to 10% for General Category beneficiaries. The details of women-owned units assisted under PMEGP across the country during last 3 years and current year are as under:

<b>Years</b>	<b>Margin Money disbursed (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>	<b>Units assisted</b>	<b>Estimated employment generated</b>
2020-21	88674	27285	218280
2021-22	124451	39156	313248
2022-23	117572	32626	261008
2023-24 (as on 12.12.2023)	101695	21594	172752

(iii) **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** - Under SAMRIDH scheme, MeitY has a dedicated women led accelerators named Zone Startups supporting the cohort of 5 women led startups. Further, under the Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) Scheme of MeitY, financial assistance is provided to Institutions of Higher Learning to strengthen their Technology Incubation Centres for enabling young entrepreneurs to create technology startup companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them. Under the scheme, 34 entrepreneurs are women.

**II. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** through National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati has been working for the empowerment, upliftment and development of women entrepreneurs across the country. MSDE has taken various initiatives towards promotion of women entrepreneurship across the Country. The details of the various initiatives taken by MSDE are as under:

**(i) Strengthening Entrepreneurial Climate through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring and Handholding sanctioned under SANKALP Scheme**

NIESBUD is implementing the project for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem to different sections of the society including marginalized population with the support of SANKALP Programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). A total of 13987 women beneficiaries have been covered in the project through capacity building interventions.

**(ii) Organising Workshops in Artisan Melas And Haats**

NIESBUD is implementing a project supported by the MSDE for organising workshops for capacity building and providing entrepreneurial knowledge to the artisans during the Melas and Haats. A total of 342 women beneficiaries have been covered in the project.

**(iii) Creating Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**

NIESBUD is implementing a project for Creating Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSS). A total of 1105 women JSS Trainers have been trained in the project through Trainers Training Programme on Employability, Entrepreneurship and Life Skills. Further, a total of 3666 women JSS Trainees have been trained in the project through Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

**(iv) Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program**

NIESBUD has implemented a Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program in 10 States sponsored by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship which aims at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the target groups through Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Mentoring and Handholding support. A total of 3089 women participants have been trained in the project.

**(v) Pilot Project on Entrepreneurship Development in Holy Cities**

NIESBUD has implemented the pilot project on Entrepreneurship Development in Holy Cities at Varanasi, Haridwar and Pandharpur. The primary objectives of the project was to catalyse the entrepreneurial activities of the temple town through resumption of existing livelihood activities and by supporting existing enterprise to scale up and to tap the potential entrepreneurs, mentoring them to identify, set up enterprises and management of the enterprises. A total number of 5719 female participants have been trained through the project in three project locations.

**(vi) Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati** has established incubation centres dedicated to nurturing and supporting women-led startups. The centers provide a conducive environment for ideation, innovation, and early-stage development. They offer resources such as shared office spaces, access to technology, and networking opportunities, fostering a collaborative ecosystem that propels women entrepreneurs towards success. Additionally, financial linkages are being provided to women entrepreneurs to alleviate initial capital constraints. The following projects/ programmes are being undertaken by IIE for promotion of entrepreneurship among women:

- a. The Institute has undertaken various programmes under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) formerly known as Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), that benefits women to be financially independent. Women have been motivated to learn various trades offered through the PMVDY scheme and start their own entrepreneurial journey thereby improving the livelihood of these women from different tribal communities. Under the PMVDY scheme, a fund of Rs. 2,40,000 as working capital is provided to every cluster, with the help of which the beneficiaries can purchase raw materials and other necessary items required to start a business on their own. Also additional supporting funds are allocated and distributed per cluster to facilitate renovation, increase storage space to ensure maintenance of mandatory compliances and for electricity power connections.
- b. Cluster development projects undertaken to regenerate traditional artisanal activity: In the North East Region, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is actively leading the regeneration and revitalization efforts for women-led clusters through the implementation of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). SFURTI is designed to breathe new life into traditional industries by offering crucial support, including financial assistance, capacity building, design development, product development support, capacity building, market linkage supports and technological upgrades. IIE Guwahati has been implementing 61 Projects of cluster development under SFURTI in various states of Northeastern Region, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Uttarakhand. The key focus is in Northeastern Region and women beneficiaries who have taken one step out of their households to form collectives to create enterprise opportunities. Out of these 61 clusters, 30 clusters are primarily women-led, cutting across various sectors like Handloom traditional textile, dress making, bamboo craft and other crafts, food processing, toy making. Through the 61 clusters 30,054 beneficiaries were benefited. Out of these 30,054 beneficiaries of SFURTI Programme implemented by IIE, 17,759 beneficiaries are women which is approximately 59 percent.
- c. Technological interventions have enabled women artisans to increase their skills and productivity to make contemporary products out of traditional skills and designs. Some women-led clusters developed by IIE have also been able to export products directly from Nagaland, enabling them earn better income and livelihoods. Such enterprising efforts are driven by women-led SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles) which run and manage the enterprise activities. They have also developed their own brand and distinct identity with the support provided by the Government.

**(vii) Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (WEE)** project was supported by 'Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit' (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in partnership with the MSDE to improve the framework conditions for women-led enterprises in India. WEE project was launched by the MSDE in 2018, initially for duration of 3 years (2018-2021) which was further extended for one year to July, 2022. The project aimed to pilot incubation and acceleration programmes for women micro entrepreneurs, enabling them to start new businesses and scale up existing enterprises in the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Eight North Eastern States of the Country. Under the title of 'Her & Now', the WEE project had carried out a film and media campaign to share the stories of successful Women Entrepreneurs and to foster a positive mindset change on gender roles and norms in the society. Over 908 Women Entrepreneurs were supported under the project under both incubation and acceleration support programmes.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2377 REGARDING 'WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023.**

The details of the sector-wise number of recognised startups with at least one-woman Director as on 31.10.2023 are as under:

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Number of DPIIT Recognised startups with at least one-woman director</b>
IT Services	6,300
Healthcare & Life sciences	5,654
Education	3,545
Food & Beverages	3,075
Agriculture	2,936
Professional & Commercial Services	2,881
Construction	2,414
Technology Hardware	1,648
Finance Technology	1,552
Renewable Energy	1,376
Human Resources	1,329
Retail	1,223
Others	1,196
Green Technology	1,177
Marketing	1,088
Automotive	1,071
Textiles & Apparel	1,015
Fashion	1,003
AI	864
Enterprise Software	864
Travel & Tourism	812
Media & Entertainment	805
Non- Renewable Energy	799
Transportation & Storage	717
Internet of Things	698
Security Solutions	575
Chemicals	566
Telecommunication & Networking	523
Aeronautics Aerospace & Defence	497
Real Estate	460
Waste Management	421
House-Hold Services	407
Social Impact	402
Other Specialty Retailers	400
Analytics	363
Advertising	357
Architecture Interior Design	355
Design	352
Social Network	298
Logistics	264
Sports	243
Art & Photography	228
Robotics	225
Events	217
AR VR (Augmented + Virtual Reality)	211
Biotechnology	198
Safety	181
Pets & Animals	176

Toys and Games	163
Indic Language Startups	145
Computer Vision	109
Nanotechnology	84
Animation	56
Dating Matrimonial	33
Airport Operations	12
Passenger Experience	5
Not Specified	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54,569</b>

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2377 REGARDING 'WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023.**

- (i) To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, 10% of the fund (Rs 1000 crore) in the Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by SIDBI is reserved for women led startups. Under said scheme, as on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 11 women-led AIFs have been supported under FFS and approximately Rs. 2,000 crores have been invested in around 110 women-led startups.
- (ii) Women Capacity Development Programme (WING) is a unique Capacity Development Program for women-led startups, to identify and support both aspiring and established women entrepreneurs in their startup journeys. The workshops are open to variety of business sectors including Tech, Construction, Product, Machine, Food, Agriculture, Education, etc. The workshops served as a platform for emerging women entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss the key challenges facing women entrepreneurs. WING workshops have created a conducive environment to share best practices and experiences in overcoming challenges and to gain insights learned from the business models adopted in the Indian context. A total of 24 workshops were conducted across 9 States, benefiting more than 1,300 women entrepreneurs.
- (iii) Virtual Incubation Program for Women Entrepreneurs were conducted in collaboration with Zone Startups to support 20 women-led tech startups with pro-bono acceleration support for 3 months.
- (iv) Startup India Hub: A webpage dedicated to women entrepreneurs has been designed on the Startup India portal. The page includes various policy measures for women entrepreneurs by both Central and State Governments.
- (v) ASCEND Startup Workshop Series and Women for Startups Workshops: The Government organized a series of startup workshops - ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive), for the entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and students from North-eastern region. In addition, the workshops are being conducted with a specific focus on women entrepreneurs across the north-eastern states. The workshops were organized during the month of November 2022 and December 2022 in Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The workshops witnessed participation of over 11,000 ecosystem stakeholders such as government officials, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, academic institutions, etc.
- (vi) Super Stree Podcast: With a vision to inspire a greater number of women across all regions in India to become entrepreneurs, the Super Stree video podcast series has been launched on women in the Indian Startup Ecosystem. More than 8 podcasts have been released to spread awareness related to innovations from women and to further strengthen women entrepreneurship in the country.
- (vii) Through its various awareness programmes and capacity building programmes organized by the Government, and through print media and social media platforms, the Government also creates awareness about the existing schemes which support micro, small and medium entrepreneurs, including women entrepreneurs.
- (viii) The States' Startup Ranking on support to startup ecosystems is primarily an exercise to identify good practices across all the Indian states. The evaluation includes a specific provision to gauge the formulation and implementation of policies and special incentives to promote women-led startups in each state. The particular action point has witnessed active engagement and thereon reporting of measures undertaken by participating States and UTs.
- (ix) To identify the depth, quality and spread of innovation, inclusivity and diversity, and entrepreneurship in country, the Government instituted the National Startup Awards ('NSA'). The winners of NSA have emerged from Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Mysuru, Bhopal, Gurugram, Kochi, Lucknow, Margao, etc. All four editions of the NSA (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) have featured a special category and award for women-led startups. NSA recognizes and promotes startups across 20 sectors and special categories