

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 489.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 06th DECEMBER, 2023.**

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS UNDER STARTUP INDIA CAMPAIGN

489. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has any programmes or policies to promote women entrepreneurship in both rural and urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the major achievements of these programmes since their inception;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed a target for women entrepreneurs under startup India campaign in the country, especially in Jharkhand; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम प्रकाश)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI SOM PARKASH)**

- (a) & (b):** The Government is implementing various schemes/programmes to promote women entrepreneurship in both, rural and urban areas. The details of the same along with major achievements are placed at **Annexure-I**.
- (c):** Does not arise.
- (d) & (e):** In order to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups across the country, the Government launched the Startup India initiative on 16th 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 31st 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. Specifically, for the State of Jharkhand, there are a total of 1,066 DPIIT recognised startups, out of which 501 startups have atleast one-woman director.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 489 FOR ANSWER ON 06.12.2023.

Programs Implemented to promote Women Entrepreneurship

- 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 30th 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. Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP): The Government launched WEP in 2018 as an aggregator platform with the aim to overcome information asymmetry in the women entrepreneurial ecosystem. By showcasing all existing initiatives and providing domain knowledge it works towards empowering both prospective and present women entrepreneurs.
- vii. SuperStree Podcast: With a vision to inspire a greater number of women across all regions in India to become entrepreneurs, the SuperStree 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.

- viii. 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.
- ix. 5 out of the 75 Bioincubation centres of BIRAC (under BioNEST& EYUVA schemes) are dedicated centres for women entrepreneurs that provide incubation space and mentoring (business, IP, legal) specifically to women students/scientists/entrepreneurs as well as support women Self Help Groups (SHGs). Over 200 women led projects have been supported under various BIRAC schemes.
- x. BIRAC's WInER Award fellowship (Women In Entrepreneurial Research), in partnership with TiE-Delhi NCR. Under this award programme, women entrepreneurs working on ideas that impact large sections of the society are awarded Rs. 5 lakhs each along with other benefits including mentoring, handholding, an opportunity to go through an intensive accelerator programme. 60 women founders have been awarded over four editions of the fellowship.
- xi. Under SAMRIDH scheme MeitY has a dedicated women led accelerators named Zone Startups supporting the cohort of 5 women led startups.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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.
- xiv. 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
- xv. Ministry of MSME has taken several steps to support women owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country to increase women's participation. The details of the programs implemented in this direction are as under:
 - a) Special drives for registration of women owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration Portal have been undertaken during 2022-23 and more than 2 lakh women owned MSMEs have registered on the portal during the special drives.
 - b) Various fiscal incentives are provided to women entrepreneurs under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises.

c) To encourage entrepreneurship among women, the Ministry also implements a number of programs such as:

- '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.
- The Ministry also implements Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a 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-à-vis non special category (up to 25%)
- Participation of women entrepreneurs in trade fairs under Procurement & Marketing Support Scheme is subsidized 100% vis-a-vis 80% for other entrepreneurs.
