

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*83**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024**

**STARTUP COMPANIES**

\*83. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that TamilNadu State has been awarded the “Best Performer” award in the State’s startup ranking and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of other States on the number of startup companies registered in 2022, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any startup fund for promoting the marginalized communities including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
(SHRI NARAYAN RANE)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*83 FOR 08.02.2024 REGARDING STARTUP COMPANIES.**

(a): The Government under the Startup India initiative launched the States' Startup Ranking Framework (SRF) to categorise States and Union Territories (UTs) on the basis of policy measures being taken by them to promote their startup ecosystems. So far, four such exercises have been undertaken by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). In the most recent edition i.e., SRF 2022 the participating States and UTs have been grouped in five categories viz. Best Performer, Top Performer, Leader, Aspiring Leader, and Emerging Ecosystems. As per the results declared for SRF 2022, the State of Tamil Nadu has been categorized as a "Best Performer".

(b): 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). Since the launch of the Startup India initiative in 2016, DPIIT has recognized 1,17,254 entities as startups as on 31st December 2023. The State/UT-wise number of DPIIT recognised startups in 2022 are placed as Annexure-I.

(c)&(d): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes intended for financial assistance to Scheduled Caste (VCF-SC) Entrepreneurs under which up-to 75% of the project cost are funded for startups. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment also implements Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under VCF-SC which is being implemented by IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd. through which financial assistance up-to Rs. 30 lakh is provided over a period of three years. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved Venture Capital Fund (VCF) for Scheduled Tribes with a corpus of Rs. 50 Crore under which up-to 75% of the project cost are funded for startups. The details of various programs undertaken by the Government to promote startups under the Startup India initiative across the country are placed as Annexure-II.

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State/UT-wise number of recognised startups for the year 2022 are as under:

S. No	States/ UTs	NOs in 2022	Cumulative
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9	52
2.	Andhra Pradesh	382	1,846
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	33
4.	Assam	282	1,087
5.	Bihar	517	2,237
6.	Chandigarh	81	404
7.	Chhattisgarh	233	1,213
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	12	48
9.	Delhi	2,548	12,500
10.	Goa	104	439
11.	Gujarat	2,262	9,267
12.	Haryana	1,327	6,196
13.	Himachal Pradesh	117	405
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	167	677
15.	Jharkhand	232	1,083
16.	Karnataka	2,546	12,651
17.	Kerala	1,070	4,962
18.	Ladakh	4	9
19.	Lakshadweep	0	3
20.	Madhya Pradesh	891	3,731
21.	Maharashtra	4,763	21,063
22.	Manipur	31	112
23.	Meghalaya	10	41
24.	Mizoram	6	24
25.	Nagaland	7	47
26.	Odisha	442	2,081
27.	Puducherry	29	126
28.	Punjab	294	1,282
29.	Rajasthan	986	4,132
30.	Sikkim	2	10
31.	Tamil Nadu	1,791	7,559
32.	Telangana	1,370	6,090
33.	Tripura	25	84
34.	Uttar Pradesh	2,554	10,970
35.	Uttarakhand	236	958
36.	West Bengal	991	3,832
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,330</b>	<b>1,17,254</b>

**The details of various programs undertaken by the Government under the Startup India initiative to promote startups are as under:**

1. **Startup India Action Plan:** An Action Plan for Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2016. The Action Plan comprises of 19 action items spanning across areas such as “Simplification and handholding”, “Funding support and incentives” and “Industry-academia partnership and incubation”. The Action Plan laid the foundation of Government support, schemes and incentives envisaged to create a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country.
2. **Startup India: The Way Ahead:** Startup India: The Way Ahead at 5 years celebration of Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2021 which includes actionable plans for promotion of ease of doing business for startups, greater role of technology in executing various reforms, building capacities of stakeholders and enabling a digital Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
3. **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):** Easy availability of capital is essential for entrepreneurs at the early stages of growth of an enterprise. The capital required at this stage often presents a make-or-break situation for startups with good business ideas. The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. Rs. 945 crore has been sanctioned under the SISFS Scheme for period of 4 years starting from 2021-22.
4. **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme:** The Government has established FFS with corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups. DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. The total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore is envisaged to be provided over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles based on progress of the scheme and availability of funds. It has not only made capital available for startups at early stage, seed stage and growth stage but also played a catalytic role in terms of facilitating raising of domestic capital, reducing dependence on foreign capital and encouraging home grown and new venture capital funds.
5. **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS):** The Government has established the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups for providing credit guarantees to loans extended to DPIIT recognized startups by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Venture Debt Funds (VDFs) under SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds. CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz. DPIIT recognised startups.
6. **Regulatory Reforms:** Over 55 regulatory reforms have been undertaken by the Government since 2016 to enhance ease of doing business, ease of raising capital and reduce compliance burden for the startup ecosystem.
7. **Ease of Procurement:** To enable ease of procurement, Central Ministries/ Departments are directed to relax conditions of prior turnover and prior experience in public procurement for all DPIIT recognised startups subject to meeting quality and technical specifications. Further, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) also facilitates and promotes procurement of products and services by the Government from startups.
8. **Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws:** Startups are allowed to self-certify their compliance under 9 Labour and 3 Environment laws for a period of 3 to 5 years from the date of incorporation.
9. **Income Tax Exemption for 3 years:** Startups incorporated on or after 1st April 2016 can apply for income tax exemption. The recognized startups that are granted an Inter-Ministerial Board Certificate are exempted from income-tax for a period of 3 consecutive years out of 10 years since incorporation.

10. **Faster Exit for Startups:** The Government has notified Startups as ‘fast track firms’ enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies.
11. **Exemption for the Purpose Of Clause (VII)(b) of Sub-section (2) of Section 56 of the Act (2019):** A DPIIT recognized startup is eligible for exemption from the provisions of section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act.
12. **Support for Intellectual Property Protection:** Startups are eligible for fast-tracked patent application examination and disposal. The Government launched Start-ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) which facilitates the startups to file applications for patents, designs and trademarks through registered facilitators in appropriate IP offices by paying only the statutory fees. Facilitators under this Scheme are responsible for providing general advisory on different IPRs, and information on protecting and promoting IPRs in other countries. The Government bears the entire fees of the facilitators for any number of patents, trademark or designs, and startups only bear the cost of the statutory fees payable. Startups are provided with an 80% rebate in filing of patents and 50% rebate in filling of trademark vis-a-vis other companies.
13. **Startup India Hub:** The Government launched a Startup India Online Hub on 19th June 2017 which is one of its kind online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other. The Online Hub hosts Startups, Investors, Funds, Mentors, Academic Institutions, Incubators, Accelerators, Corporates, Government Bodies and more.
14. **International Market Access to Indian Startups:** One of the key objectives under the Startup India initiative is to help connect Indian startup ecosystem to global startup ecosystems through various engagement models. This has been done through international Government to Government partnerships, participation in international forums and hosting of global events. Startup India has launched bridges with around 20 countries that provides a soft-landing platform for startups from the partner nations and aid in promoting cross collaboration.
15. **Startup India Showcase:** Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country chosen through various programs for startups exhibited in a form of virtual profiles. The startups showcased on the platform have distinctly emerged as the best in their fields. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, EnterpriseTech, Social Impact, HealthTech, EdTech, among others. These startups are solving critical problems and have shown exceptional innovation in their respective sectors. Ecosystem stakeholders have nurtured and supported these startups, thereby validating their presence on this platform.
16. **National Startup Advisory Council:** The Government in January 2020 notified constitution of the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. Besides the ex-officio members, the council has a number of non-official members, representing various stakeholders from the startup ecosystem.
17. **National Startup Awards (NSA):** National Startup Awards is an initiative to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact. Handholding support is provided to all the finalists across various tracks viz. Investor Connect, Mentorship, Corporate Connect, Government Connect, International Market Access, Regulatory Support, Startup Champions on Doordarshan and Startup India Showcase, etc.

18. **States' Startup Ranking Framework (SRF):** States' Startup Ranking Framework is a unique initiative to harness strength of competitive federalism and create a flourishing startup ecosystem in the country. The major objectives of the ranking exercise are facilitating states to identify, learn and replace good practices, highlighting the policy intervention by states for promoting startup ecosystem and fostering competitiveness among states.
19. **Startup Champions on Doordarshan:** Startup Champions program on Doordarshan is a one-hour weekly program covering stories of award winning/ nationally recognised startups. It is telecasted in both Hindi and English across Doordarshan network channels.
20. **Startup India Innovation Week:** The Government organises Startup India Innovation week around the National Startup Day i.e., 16th January, with the primary goal was to bring together the country's key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks, policymakers, and other national/international stakeholders to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation.
21. **ASCEND:** Under ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Caliber & Entrepreneurial Drive), sensitization workshops on startups and entrepreneurship were conducted for all eight North Eastern States with the objective to capacitate and augment knowledge on key aspects of entrepreneurship and continue efforts towards creating a robust startup ecosystem in these States.
22. **The Startup India Investor Connect Portal** has been co-developed under the Startup India Initiative with SIDBI, serving as an intermediary platform that links startups and investors in order to help entrepreneurs from various industries, functions, stages, regions, and backgrounds in mobilizing capital. The portal has been built with the aim to enable in particular; early-stage startups located anywhere in the country to showcase themselves to leading investors/ venture capital funds.
23. **National Mentorship Portal (MAARG):** In order to facilitate accessibility to mentorship for startups in every part of the country, the Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth (MAARG) program has been developed and launched under the Startup India Initiative.