

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021.**

STARTUP INDIA SCHEME

1393. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) the salient features of the Startup India Scheme;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this scheme within Assam so far;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted workshops under this scheme within Assam to encourage women entrepreneurship;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, District-wise; and
- (f) the details of the response of these workshops?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री सोम प्रकाश)

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

- (a): Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. Salient features of the Startup India Initiative are at **Annexure-I**.
- (b): There is no direct fund allocation from DPIIT to States/UTs under Startup India initiative. However, Government of India has established a Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores, 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 crores is envisaged to be provided over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles based on progress of the scheme and availability of funds. The details of Startups received investment under FFS in the State of Assam are at **Annexure –II**.
- (c): The achievements under Startup India initiative are at **Annexure-III**.
- (d) to (f): The details of steps taken under Startup India Initiative along with the workshops conducted all over India including Assam to encourage women entrepreneurship are at **Annexure IV**.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO THE LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393 FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2021**

Salient features of Startup India Initiative

1. Under the Startup India Action Plan, startups that meet the definition as prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19.02.2019 are eligible to apply for recognition under the program. The Startups have to provide support documents, at the time of application. Eligibility Criteria for Startup Recognition are as under:-
 - i. The Startup should be incorporated as a private limited company or registered as a partnership firm or a limited liability partnership.
 - ii. Turnover should be less than INR 100 Crores in any of the previous financial years.
 - iii. An entity shall be considered as a startup up to 10 years from the date of its incorporation.
 - iv. The Startup should be working towards innovation/ improvement of existing products, services and processes and should have the potential to generate employment/ create wealth. An entity formed by splitting up or reconstruction of an existing business shall not be considered a "Startup".

2. Startups can apply and get recognized by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and avail the benefits mentioned below:-
 - i. Fast tracking and rebate on applications for Intellectual Property: The patent application of startups is fast-tracked for examination and disposal. Facilitators are responsible for providing general advisory on different IPRs, and information on protecting and promoting IPRs in other countries. Central 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.
 - ii. Access to Rs. 10,000 Crore Fund of Funds: To provide equity funding support for development and growth of innovation driven enterprises, the government has set aside a corpus fund of INR 10,000 Cr managed by SIDBI. The fund is in the nature of Fund of Funds, which means that the government participates in the capital of SEBI registered Venture Funds, who invest twice the amount in startups. The flow of funds is Government > SIDBI > Venture Capitals > Startups.
 - iii. Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws: Startups are allowed to self-certify their compliance under 6 Labour and 3 Environment laws for a period of 3 to 5 years from the date of incorporation.
 - iv. Income Tax Exemption for 3 years: Startups incorporated on or after 1st April 2016 can apply for income tax exemption. The recognised 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.

- v. Exemption for the Purpose Of Clause-(Viib) of Subsection-(2) of Section 56 of the Act: A DPIIT recognized startup is eligible for exemption from the provisions of section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act.
- vi. Government Public Procurement eligibility: Government of India has authorised its ministries, departments and public sector undertakings to relax norms in all public procurements. Startups are entitled to avail exemption on prior turnover, prior experience and earnest money deposit. DPIIT recognised startups can now get listed as sellers on the Government of India's largest e-procurement portal - Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- vii. Faster Exit for Startups: Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified Startups as 'fast track firms' enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies

ANNEXURE-II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393 FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2021****Details of Investment in Startups for the State of Assam**

Name of the Fund	Name of the Company	Investment (MSME / Startup) Rs. in Crore	City
North East Venture Fund (NEVF)	ERC Eye Care (P) Ltd.	1.50	Jorhat
North East Venture Fund (NEVF)	Izake Design and Consultancy Private Limited	0.25	Guwahati Kamrup
North East Venture Fund (NEVF)	North East Flavours India (P) Ltd.	0.70	Guwahati Kamrup
North East Venture Fund (NEVF)	Symbiotic Foods (P) Ltd.	0.38	Tezpur Sonitpur
Total fund		2.83	

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393 FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2021

Details of achievements under Startup India Initiative

1) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) benefits:

- I. Startups are eligible for 80% rebate in patent filing fees and 50% on trademark filing fees. Additionally, Startups are also provided the facility of expedited examination of patent applications to reduce the time taken in granting patents.
- II. 510 patent facilitators and 392 trademark facilitators have been empanelled, as of November 2020, under this scheme to provide free-of-charge services to Startups.
- III. As of November 2020,
 - i. 5020 patent applications have been filed.
 - ii. Expedited examination for patent applications filed by Startups – 1170; of these 459 Patents granted.
 - iii. Total number of Trademark applications filed - 12,264.

2) Easing Public Procurement

- I. The requirement of prior turnover and prior experience has been relaxed to encourage startups to participate in tenders. Further, startups have been exempted from the requirement of earnest money deposit.
- II. 'GeM Startup Runway' has been launched for startups to sell products and services to Government. As of 4th January 2021, 7,929 DPIIT recognized startups have registered on Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- III. As of 4th January 2021, 53,226 orders from public entities have been placed to startups with the value of orders worth Rs. 2,279 crores.
- IV. Additionally, Startups can now register and participate in all public orders on Central Public Procurement Portal and get exemptions on prior experience, prior turnover and earnest money deposit requirements.
- V. GeM has relaxed the requirement of approved Trademark certificate for DPIIT Recognized Startups . An application for trademark will be sufficient.

3) Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws

- I. Startups recognised under Startup India initiative can self-certify their compliance against the 6 labour laws and 3 environmental laws.
- II. 27 states and UTs have implemented the process of self- certification to startups under 6 labour laws. 9 States (Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Delhi) have integrated their portals with Shram Suvidha Portal.

Overall, 169 DPIIT recognized Startups have availed the benefits of self-certification.

4) Tax Exemption to Startups for 3 years

- I. The provisions of section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act provide for a deduction of an amount equal to 100% of the profits and gains derived from an eligible business by an eligible start-up for 3 consecutive assessment years out of 7 years, at the option of the assessee, subject to certain conditions. The Finance Act, 2020 provides for an amendment to section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act so as to provide that the deduction under the said section 80-IAC shall be available to an eligible start-up for a period of 3 consecutive assessment years out of 10 years beginning from the year in which it is incorporated. This amendment will take effect from 1st April 2021 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2021-22 and subsequent assessment years.
- II. To avail these benefits, a Startup must get a Certificate of Eligibility from the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB). 329 startups have been granted income tax exemptions till December 2020.

5) Tax Exemption on Investments above Fair Market Value

- I. DPIIT recognized startups are exempt from tax under Section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act when such a Startup receives any consideration for issue of shares which exceeds the Fair Market Value of such shares. The startup has to file a duly signed declaration in Form 2 to DPIIT {as per notification G.S.R. 127 (E)} to claim the exemption from the provisions of Section 56(2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act. As of 3rd February 2021, with regard to declarations received from entities, furnished in Form 2, intimation regarding receipt of declaration in Form 2 has been mailed in the cases of 3612 entities.

6) Faster Exit for Startups

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified Startups as “Fast track firms” enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies.

7) Fund of Funds for Startups

- I. Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with a total corpus of Rs 10,000 crore was established with contribution spread over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycle based on progress of implementation. Startup Fund of Funds is operational and is managed by SIDBI.

II. As on date, an amount Rs.1461.29 crore stands released to SIDBI, out of which Rs.500crore was released in 2015-16; Rs.100 crore was released in 2016-17; Rs.431.30 crore released in 2019-20 and Rs.429.99 crore was released in 2020-21.

III. As of 31st January 2021, SIDBI has committed Rs. 4376.95 crore to 62 SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). These funds have raised a corpus fund of Rs. 31,598 crore and Rs. 5089.55 crore have been invested into 391 startups.

8) 39 regulatory reforms have been undertaken since January 2016 for enabling small businesses or Startups across the country.

9) National Startup Awards

I. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conceived the National Startup Awards 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. The measure of success was not only financial gains for investors, but also contribution to social good. The first edition of the Awards invited applications across 12 sectors, which were further sub-classified into a total of 35 categories. These 12 sectors were Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry 4.0, Space, Security, Tourism, categories and Urban Services. In addition to these categories, those startups were recognised that are creating an impact in rural areas, are women-led, or founded in an academic campus.

II. The applications for the 'National Startup Awards 2020' were hosted on the Startup India portal – www.startupindia.gov.in – through which a total of 1,641 applications were received from Startups across 23 States and 4 Union Territories. 41 ecosystem enablers (incubators and accelerators) also participated in the Awards.

10) Awards for Winners

I. Startups

- INR 5 to the winning startup in each of the 38 Categories
- Opportunity to pitch in front of relevant line-ministry/ department/ corporates to all finalist startups (that qualified to Phase 4 of evaluation)

- Priority for participation in national and international events to all finalist startups

II. Ecosystem Enablers

- INR 15 Lakh to one winning incubator and one accelerator each
- III. The Results of the National Startup Awards 2020 were released by Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, on 6th of October 2020 at the National Media Centre, New Delhi. The virtual felicitation ceremony was held in the august presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Som Parkash.
- IV. Handholding Support: DPIIT has now embarked on a new journey with all of the 192 NSA finalists (including the winners), handholding them reach their next stage of growth. As committed during NSA felicitation ceremony, DPIIT is supporting the startups across 8 key tracks viz. Investor Connect, Mentorship, Corporate Connect, Government Connect, International Market Access, Regulatory Support, Benefits under Startup India initiative, and Startup India Showcase.

11) Startup India Showcase

Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country chosen through various DPIIT and Startup India programs exhibited in a form of virtual profiles. The startups showcased on the platform have distinctly emerged as the best in their fields. These innovations have been handpicked by experts and have gone through multiple rounds of screening and evaluation. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, Enterprise Tech, 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.

12) Startup India Yatra

DPIIT has also made efforts to engage with the Startup ecosystem through extensive outreach via bootcamps, social media, print and digital platforms. The Startup India Yatra is an initiative that travels to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India to search for entrepreneurial talent and help develop Startup ecosystem. Day long bootcamps were conducted which included awareness workshops, idea validation and pitching sessions. Startup Yatra has been conducted across 23 States in 236 districts impacting 78346 aspiring entrepreneurs. A total of 1,424 incubation offers have been given to the startups as a result of this initiative.

13) Recognition

There has been an increase in the number of DPIIT recognized startups in the recent years. The increasing trend can be seen from the below breakup

Calendar Year	Recognized Startups
2016	504
2017	5420
2018	8946
2019	11683
2020	14778
2021*	1402

(*data till 27th January 2021)

14) Startup India Portal

- I. Startup India provides free resources to startups to help them scale faster, better, and stronger. The portal acts as one stop platform for the stakeholders of startup ecosystem with aspiring entrepreneurs, startups, corporates, accelerators, incubators, government departments having profile on the platform.
- II. 4,49,978 users have registered on the website, as on 31stDecember 2020.
- III. More than 446 Innovation Hunts and programs have been hosted on the Startup India portal by various government departments and corporates.

15) Learning & Development Program

- I. To guide budding entrepreneurs through the journey of their startup venture, a free 4-week program is offered on the key areas of starting up by more than 40 top founders of India. Upon completion of the course, an acknowledgement certificate for the learnings in the program is also provided.
- II. The Learning and Development course has been accessed by 2,80,000 users.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (d) to (f) TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393 FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2021

Encouraging Women Entrepreneurship under Startup India Initiative

Women-owned business enterprises are playing a prominent role in the society inspiring others and generating more employment opportunities in the country. To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, interactions of such women entrepreneurs with venture funds supported by SIDBI and lending institutions including banks are being organized by inviting applications on the 'Startup India Hub' and inviting selected women entrepreneurs, after a process of screening by experts, to interact with these institutions for both equity/debt funding. Specific and suitable entrepreneurship development programmes for women led startups throughout the country are being designed by ascertaining the training/skilling needs of the target groups. To meet the advisory needs of the startups led by women, legal, tax, financial and other service providers are being sought to get them connected with each other through the Startup India Hub. The following steps have been taken under Startup India Initiative to promote women entrepreneurship all over India which are also available for the women entrepreneurs in the State of Assam:-

1. 10% of the fund (Rs 1000 crore) in the Fund of Funds operated by SIDBI has been reserved for women led startups, which will have a multiplier effect as Rs 1000 crore would mean overall corpus of Rs 7000 crore. All the AIFs where SIDBI takes equity have been mandated to contribute 20% in businesses which are women led, women influenced and women employment or women consumption centric.
2. 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, benefitting more than 1,300 women entrepreneurs.
3. 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.
4. A webpage dedicated to women entrepreneurs has been designed on the Startup India portal. The page mentions in a collated format all the incentives for women entrepreneurs as per the State Startup Policies and has new blogs.
5. A Capacity Development Workshop was conducted for aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs on 27th and 28th February 2020 at Assam Startup, The Nest, Guwahati. The workshop focused on educating entrepreneurs on the

basics of financial management for startup, legal compliances related to startups, IP protection and marketing strategies. 45 participants attended the session in Guwahati. 25 participants were connected with incubation and legal partner for further mentorship support.
