

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022.**

**STARTUP INDIA INNOVATION WEEK**

**1289. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

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

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has organized the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week and if so, the details thereof along with the events organized and its outcome and achievement thereof;
- (b) the details of the programmes launched by the Government to promote startups across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the present status of Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme and Startup India Seed Fund Scheme since their launch and whether these schemes have been successful in promoting Startup India initiative;
- (d) the details of support provided to women-led startups in the country, State/UT-wise including Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to promote startup initiative in the country?

**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): The Government organized the first-ever **Startup India Innovation Week** from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022 as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with the theme of "Celebrating Innovation". The details of the events organized during Startup India Innovation Week 2022 and the outcomes & achievements are placed at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) & (e): The **Startup India initiative** was launched in 2016 with the objective of building a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. All initiatives are implemented across States, cities, towns and rural areas. Details of various programs undertaken under Startup India initiative since inception including those in the last three years are placed at **Annexure-II**.

**(c):** **The Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme (FFS)** aims to mobilize funds available for equity investment through multiplier effect for startups. With a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore spread over 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles, the FFS does not directly invest into startups. It invests into SEBI- registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), who in turn make investments into startups. The Scheme is operated and managed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). As on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, Rs. 6,495 crore has been committed by FFS to 80 AIFs. These AIFs have committed investments of Rs. 8,696 crore in 568 startups.

The Scheme has been successful in promoting startups by way of mobilizing capital and expanding AIF ecosystem in the country. It has played role of an anchor investor for majority of supported AIFs. It has also played a pivotal role in seeding domestic fund managers. Several beneficiary startups have reported exponential increase in valuation and number of them have even reported to have achieved unicorn status.

**The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. This enables the startups to graduate to a level where they are able to raise investments from angel investors or venture capitalists or seek loans from commercial banks or financial institutions. Rs. 945 crore has been sanctioned for period of 4 years starting from 2021-22. The funds are released to startups through approved incubators. The Scheme has been launched in April 2021. As on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, Rs. 250.75 crore has been approved as grant to 63 incubators under the Scheme.

**(d):** **Promoting women entrepreneurship** has been a key agenda for the Government. Out of the 62000+ DPIIT recognised startups, 46% of them have at-least one-woman director. As on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, a total of 31 startups from Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been recognized by DPIIT, out of which 13 startups have at least 1 woman director.

The steps taken under Startup India Initiative to promote women entrepreneurship across the country, which are also available for the women entrepreneurs of Andaman & Nicobar, are placed at **Annexure-III**.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2022.**

**Startup India Innovation Week**

1. The Government virtually organised the first ever 'Startup India Innovation Week' from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. The week commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.
2. The week's 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. Furthermore, to exchange knowledge on nurturing startup ecosystems; to develop entrepreneurial ecosystem capacities; to mobilise global and domestic capital for startup investments; to encourage and inspire the youth for innovation and entrepreneurship; to provide market access opportunities to startups; and to showcase high-quality, high-technology, and frugal innovations from India.
3. With participation of States/UTs and various departments of the Government of India, the week-long program addressed key aspects of the startup ecosystem through interactive sessions, workshops, and presentations based on themes such as Academia & Mentorship Support to Startups, Incubation and Acceleration Support to Startups, Market Access through Corporates & Government to Startups, and Funding & International Avenues to Go Global. In addition, based on the identified themes, there were various parallel activities such as Experience Booths, Pitching or Reverse Pitching Sessions, and Innovation Showcases.
4. Key events organised during Startup India Innovation Week are as under:
  - i. Hon'ble Prime Minister's interaction with startups
  - ii. Declaration of results of National Startup Awards 2021
  - iii. Launch of Startup Champions 2.0 show on Doordarshan
  - iv. Roundtable with Global Investors and domestic funds
  - v. Unveiling of National Rollout Strategy of Open Network for Digital Commerce Digital Strategy
  - vi. Plenary sessions in collaboration with various line ministries and departments.
  - vii. Launch of 'Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge' by Department of Fisheries
  - viii. Pitching sessions and corporate connect programs for startups from across the country.
5. **Key outcomes of Startup India Innovation Week:** Startup India Innovation Week celebrated the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship and saw encouraging participation from senior government representatives, distinguished speakers, enablers and startups. Some of the key outcomes are as under:
  - i. The Hon'ble Prime Minister during his interaction with startups, declared 16th January as "National Startup Day" to acknowledge, support and celebrate the

invaluable contribution of Indian entrepreneurs towards the growth of the country's economy.

- ii. Witnessed the participation of over 1,50,000 delegates.
- iii. The week hosted over 110 speakers through 59 key sessions.
- iv. Delivered targeted sessions, broadly focusing on innovation and sustainability, on leading startup practices at higher educational institutes and on propelling the Indian incubator landscape. Furthermore, workshops across a range of topics were undertaken, including on funding avenues in the Indian startup ecosystem, support being provided by banks to startups, as well as on leveraging expansion strategies for an innovatively connected world.
- v. Officials from State Governments shared replicable good practices in market access, incubation and funding.
- vi. More than 700 startups showcased their innovations at the exhibition. Startups at the exhibition ranged from a variety of sectors, including Agriculture to Aerospace, Drones to Cyber Security.
- vii. 250 startups were given an opportunity to present their pitches to an esteemed panel of more than 90 investors at the pitching sessions.
- viii. 75 Problem Statements from 11 corporates have been made open for startups during this event to engage and contribute with innovative solutions.
- ix. A Global Venture Capital roundtable was also conducted with the aim to mobilize domestic and global capital for Indian startups. The roundtable saw active participation from 75 key industry leads and investors from Indian and Global ecosystems representing USD 30 billion Assets Under Management (AUM). The roundtable discussion covered topics like Indian Innovations for the Globe, Impact Investing, Sustainable Development Goals, Digital India, Vision Bharat for India at 100 Years of Independence; few other Global and Domestic Investors shared their valuable remarks on the theme of this VC Roundtable.
- x. The results of the National Startup Awards 2021 were declared.
- xi. Various initiatives were unveiled at Startup India Innovation Week with a mission to drive further innovation, including: ONDC National Rollout Strategy; Amrit Grand Challenge – Jan Care; Fisheries Grand Challenge; Startup Champions 2.0 and Digilocker enabled certificate verification platform.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2022.**

**Programs Launched under Startup India initiative**

The details of various programs undertaken by the Government to promote startups across the country under Startup India initiative since inception, including those in the last three years are as under:

1. **Startup India Action Plan (2016)**: An Action Plan for Startup India was unveiled on 16<sup>th</sup> 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. **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme (2016)**: 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 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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.
3. **Regulatory Reforms (2016)**: 49 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.
4. **Ease of Procurement (2016)**: To enable ease of procurement, Central Ministries/ Departments are directed to relax conditions of prior turnover and prior experience in public procurement for all Startups subject to meeting quality and technical specifications. Further, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Startup Runway; a dedicated corner for startups to sell products & services directly to the Government.
5. **Support for Intellectual Property Protection (2016)**: 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.

6. **Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws (2016)**: 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.
7. **Income Tax Exemption for 3 years (2016)**: 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.
8. **International Market Access to Indian Startups (2017)**: 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 over 13 countries (Brazil, Sweden, Russia, Portugal, UK, Finland, Netherlands, Singapore, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Croatia) that provides a soft-landing platform for startups from the partner nations and aid in promoting cross collaboration.
9. **Faster Exit for Startups (2017)**: 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.
10. **Startup India Hub (2017)**: The Government launched a Startup India Online Hub on 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
11. **States' Startup Ranking Framework (2018)**: States' Startup Ranking Framework is a first-of-its-kind 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 to create best Startup ecosystem. Two rounds of State ranking exercise have been conducted till date with far-reaching impact across the startup ecosystem of the country.
12. **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.
13. **National Startup Awards (2019)**: 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 9 key

tracks viz. Investor Connect, Mentorship, Corporate Connect, Govt. Connect, International Market Access, Regulatory Support, Benefits under Startup India initiative, Startup Champions on Doordarshan and Startup India Showcase.

14. **Startup India Showcase (2020)**: 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.
15. **National Startup Advisory Council (2020)**: 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.
16. **Startup India: The Way Ahead (2021)**: Startup India: The Way Ahead at 5 years celebration of Startup India was unveiled on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.
17. **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) (2021)**: 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.
18. **Startup Champions on Doordarshan (2021)**: Startup Champions program on Doordarshan was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It is telecasted in both Hindi and English across Doordarshan network channels. It is a one-hour weekly program covering stories of award winning/ nationally recognised startups. The startups which have been part of this program have reported exponential increase in their overall visibility, demand for their products and even investor interest.
19. **Startup India Innovation Week (2022)**: The Government organises Startup India Innovation week around the National Startup Day i.e. 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2022.**

**Encouraging Women Entrepreneurship under Startup India Initiative**

1. 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.
2. Following steps have been taken under Startup India Initiative to promote women entrepreneurship all over India, benefits of which are also available for the women entrepreneurs in Andaman & Nicobar:-
  - i. 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.
  - 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, benefitting 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. 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.