

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2924**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**†2924 SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:
MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:**

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

- (a) the salient features of the Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start Ups by Women Project;
- (b) the details and number of women entrepreneurs created/promoted by the said Project since 2020;
- (c) whether the Government has set targets and achieved them under the Project since it was launched;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under the said Project in Rajasthan;
- (f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the outreach of this Project among women in the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)**

(a) 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women' (WEE) project is being implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) - to improve the framework conditions for women-led enterprises in India.

The project aims 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 8 North Eastern States of the country.

Under the title of 'Her&Now', the project envisages a film and media campaign to tell the stories of successful women entrepreneurs and to foster a positive mindset change on gender roles and norms in society.

(b) A total of 725 women entrepreneurs have been supported under the project under both incubation and acceleration support programmes. Region-wise details of number of women entrepreneurs covered under the incubation and acceleration support programmes in the project, are as under:

Region	Total number of beneficiaries per state
NER – 8 states	233
Rajasthan (9 districts)	105
Telangana (26 districts)	109
Maharashtra (3 districts)	120
Uttar Pradesh (4 districts)	158
Total	725

(c) & (d) The project targets to support 315 aspiring women entrepreneurs, from the selected states, to turn their ideas into a business in the seven-month incubation programme. During the six-month acceleration programme, 130 women with existing businesses were targeted to support to grow their enterprises. A total of 725 women entrepreneurs have been supported under the project.

(e) The project budget is 5.9 million Euro. This budget covers all activities by the project during its duration i.e. from August, 2018 to January, 2023.

(f) The WEE project has initiated a number of partnerships to improve the ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in India and thereby to increase the outreach of the project. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with the following organisations to jointly promote women entrepreneurship through policy development, research, and other means: NITI Aayog - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM); Management, Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council and Empower Foundation; Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University; Investment Development Authority of Nagaland; North East Small Finance Bank.
