

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 03RD DECEMBER, 2024.**

WOMEN-LED STARTUPS IN INDIA

1347. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) the details of number of women-led startups and the sectors these startups engaged in registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) during the last five years State/UT-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of women-led startups founded by individuals from SC, ST, and OBC categories, and the funding support provided to these startups, State/UT-wise particularly, Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the details of steps taken to strengthen the ecosystem for women-led startups and promote their growth and sustainability; and
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the challenges faced by women-led startups in accessing finance, technology, and market opportunities; if so, the details thereof and the measures being considered to address these challenges?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a): The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, startups and encouraging investments in startup ecosystem of the country launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016.

As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognized as 'startups' under the Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). As on 31st October 2024, a total of 1,52,139 entities have been recognised as startups, of which, 73,151 startups have at least one-woman director.

The State/UT-wise details number of entities recognised as startups with at least one-woman director, including for the State of Tamil Nadu, in the last five years, viz. 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are placed as **Annexure-I**.

Industry-wise details of entities recognised as startups with at least one-woman director in the last five years viz. 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are placed as **Annexure-II**.

(b): Under the Startup India initiative, the Government is implementing three flagship Schemes, namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) to support startups across categories and sectors at various stages of their business cycle. The data maintained under the Startup India initiative is inclusive.

FFS has been established to catalyze venture capital investments and is operationalized by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which provides capital to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) which in turn invest in startups. AIFs supported under FFS are required to invest at least 2 times of the amount committed under FFS in startups. As on 31st October 2024, supported AIFs have invested Rs 3,107.11 crore in 149 women-led startups. The State/UT-wise amount of investments in women-led startups by selected AIFs is placed as **Annexure-III**.

SISFS provides financial assistance to seed stage startups through incubators. SISFS is implemented from 1st April 2021. As on 31st October 2024, supported incubators under the Scheme have approved funds of Rs 227.12 crore to 1,278 women-led startups. The State/UT-wise list of funds approved to women-led startups by selected incubators is placed as **Annexure-IV**.

CGSS is implemented for enabling collateral free loans to startups through eligible financial institutions [Member Institutes (MIs)]. CGSS is operationalized by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) Limited and has been operationalized from 1st April 2023. As on 31st October 2024, 18 loans amounting to Rs 24.6 crore have been guaranteed to women-led startup borrowers under CGSS. The State/UT-wise details of the same are placed as **Annexure-V**.

(c) & (d): To strengthen the ecosystem for women-led startups, the Government is implementing certain specific schemes/programmes under the Startup India initiative which are facilitating women-led startups to access finance, technology, and market opportunities. The details of such Government initiatives are placed as **Annexure VI**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.

Details of State/UT-wise number of entities recognised as startups with at least one-woman director in the last five years viz. 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are as under:

States/UTs	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	2	5	5	3
Andhra Pradesh	92	102	136	173	294
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	3	5	8
Assam	30	52	83	122	168
Bihar	59	113	183	256	384
Chandigarh	21	27	38	36	64
Chhattisgarh	69	54	82	91	148
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	3	4	7	6
Delhi	671	835	1,197	1,282	1,610
Goa	22	27	40	49	40
Gujarat	313	364	799	942	1,432
Haryana	359	373	531	675	893
Himachal Pradesh	14	12	23	56	65
Jammu and Kashmir	12	23	40	71	82
Jharkhand	37	85	88	108	172
Karnataka	806	753	1,063	1,243	1,502
Kerala	267	248	397	431	533
Ladakh	0	1	0	1	3
Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	150	173	263	420	623
Maharashtra	1,110	1,302	1,938	2,412	2,916
Manipur	1	5	21	13	7
Meghalaya	5	0	5	5	6
Mizoram	0	1	1	3	6
Nagaland	1	3	5	3	12
Odisha	90	125	196	230	329
Puducherry	6	3	7	12	21
Punjab	54	72	125	147	226
Rajasthan	190	205	301	459	690
Sikkim	0	1	0	2	1
Tamil Nadu	317	379	592	920	1,334
Telangana	306	391	520	721	917
Tripura	4	10	4	13	8
Uttar Pradesh	449	663	1,065	1,304	1,784
Uttarakhand	57	53	77	121	125
West Bengal	158	198	360	528	621
Grand Total	5,675	6,659	10,192	12,866	17,033

ANNEXURE-II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.**

Details for industry-wise number of entities recognised as startups with at least one-woman director in the past five years viz. 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are as under:

Industry	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Advertising	46	43	57	54	143
Aeronautics Aerospace & Defence	39	46	86	139	174
Agriculture	233	300	536	723	1103
AI	153	129	152	147	234
Airport Operations	0	1	4	2	7
Analytics	55	49	83	64	79
Animation	7	4	6	14	17
AR VR (Augmented + Virtual Reality)	37	24	34	47	43
Architecture Interior Design	42	53	58	82	122
Art & Photography	22	25	33	48	78
Automotive	81	96	199	302	374
Biotechnology	0	4	55	63	88
Chemicals	34	56	129	144	202
Computer Vision	18	20	22	16	23
Construction	164	256	412	631	1011
Dating Matrimonial	8	5	3	12	6
Design	50	50	53	64	91
Education	382	443	672	866	935
Enterprise Software	133	102	130	173	254
Events	22	31	39	41	77
Fashion	86	99	149	221	418
Finance Technology	203	185	273	359	464
Food & Beverages	287	326	549	754	1085
Green Technology	187	162	175	238	334
Healthcare & Lifesciences	573	684	1018	1388	1762
House-Hold Services	41	46	57	86	156
Human Resources	116	156	209	372	467
Indic Language Startups	0	7	32	44	72
Internet of Things	135	99	118	108	108
IT Services	810	882	1087	1357	1802
Logistics	0	6	75	75	118
Marketing	128	187	179	218	306
Media & Entertainment	106	99	130	168	245
Nanotechnology	14	10	12	21	19
Non- Renewable Energy	19	190	349	151	157
Other Specialty Retailers	39	63	51	74	158
Others	0	28	493	589	112
Passenger Experience	0	0	1	1	3
Pets & Animals	16	16	28	47	61

Professional & Commercial Services	257	399	633	617	877
Real Estate	49	42	52	116	172
Renewable Energy	154	161	242	297	449
Retail	145	181	190	291	348
Robotics	39	25	37	44	61
Safety	18	28	43	43	40
Security Solutions	55	76	123	138	181
Social Impact	49	41	83	80	113
Social Network	67	31	58	57	58
Sports	26	45	35	61	67
Technology Hardware	168	245	296	354	541
Telecommunication & Networking	58	85	90	108	151
Textiles & Apparel	79	109	184	253	356
Toys and Games	0	1	40	52	75
Transportation & Storage	105	120	120	135	182
Travel & Tourism	119	81	119	158	276
Waste Management	1	7	99	159	178
Grand Total	5,675	6,659	10,192	12,866	17,033

ANNEXURE-III**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.**

State/UT-wise details of investments made by selected AIFs under FFS to startups led by women, including for the State of Tamil Nadu, as on 31st October 2024 are as under:

State/UT	Number of women-led startups	Amount of Investments by selected AIFs (in Rs crore)
Karnataka	40	1,051.38
Maharashtra	37	731.02
Delhi	29	446.48
Gujarat	11	227.31
Haryana	7	171.10
Tamil Nadu	5	32.34
Kerala	4	233.71
Telangana	3	5.23
Uttar Pradesh	3	54.09
Rajasthan	2	90.50
Punjab	2	3.50
Assam	2	0.65
Manipur	1	1.65
Madhya Pradesh	1	0.35
Nagaland	1	26.98
Meghalaya	1	30.82
Total	149	3,107.11

ANNEXURE-IV

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.

The State/UT-wise details of funding support provided to women-led startups by selected incubators under SISFS, including for the State of Tamil Nadu, as on 31st October 2024 are as under:

State/UT	No. of women-led startups selected	Funds Approved by selected incubators (in Rs. Crore)
Maharashtra	244	43.17
Karnataka	175	35.71
Tamil Nadu	128	21.86
Uttar Pradesh	98	17.64
Delhi	90	16.82
Gujarat	86	15.48
Telangana	75	16.38
Haryana	60	9.13
Madhya Pradesh	54	7.78
Rajasthan	44	7.56
Odisha	34	4.25
Bihar	21	3.93
Kerala	21	4.22
Andhra Pradesh	20	4.53
West Bengal	19	2.81
Punjab	19	2.42
Assam	16	1.63
Himachal Pradesh	11	1.44
Nagaland	11	2.08
Goa	9	1.20
Uttarakhand	7	1.50
Jammu and Kashmir	7	1.55
Jharkhand	7	1.35
Chhattisgarh	7	0.76
Chandigarh	6	0.80
Meghalaya	2	0.24
Puducherry	2	0.36
Mizoram	2	0.25
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0.04
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.20
Sikkim	1	0.05
Grand Total	1,278	227.12

ANNEXURE-V**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.**

The State/UT-wise details of amount of loans guaranteed to women-led startup borrowers under CGSS, including for the State of Tamil Nadu, as on 31st October 2024 are as under:

State/UT	Number of loans guaranteed	Total Amount of loans guaranteed (in Rs. crore)
Bihar	1	0.28
Delhi	3	4.70
Haryana	4	11.64
Karnataka	3	5.38
Kerala	1	0.50
Maharashtra	1	0.65
Rajasthan	1	0.50
Tamil Nadu	3	0.65
Telangana	1	0.30
Total	18	24.6

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1347 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2024.

Programs Implemented to strengthen the ecosystem for women-led startups and ensure their sustainability:

1. To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, 10% of the fund in the Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is reserved for women-led startups.
2. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) led by women are eligible to be considered for a higher level of management fee (0.1% p.a.). The same benefit is also extended to AIFs which are focused on women led startups.
3. 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 serve as a platform for emerging women entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss the key challenges facing women entrepreneurs. WING workshops create 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.
4. A Virtual Incubation Program for Women Entrepreneurs was conducted in collaboration with Zone Startups to support women-led tech startups with pro-bono acceleration support.
5. 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.
6. 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 conducted with a specific focus on women entrepreneurs across the north-eastern states. The workshops have witnessed participation from ecosystem stakeholders such as government officials, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, academic institutions, etc.
7. 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. The podcast

spreads awareness related to innovations from women and to further strengthen women entrepreneurship in the country.

8. Through 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.
9. Women For Startups: State Workshops for Women Entrepreneurs were held across States to build the capacity of aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs. The workshops focused on government scheme awareness, mock pitching, and finance-related training.
10. President's Interaction with Women Entrepreneurs: On 18th January 2024, as part of the "The President with the People" initiative, 25 women entrepreneurs had the opportunity to interact with the Hon'ble President of India. The interaction highlighted the role of women-led startups in driving innovation, creating jobs, and contributing to India's growing startup ecosystem. The Hon'ble President acknowledged their efforts in turning ideas into ventures and emphasized the importance of their success in inspiring future generations.
11. 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.
12. To identify the depth, quality and spread of innovation, inclusivity and diversity, and entrepreneurship in country, the Government instituted the National Startup Awards (NSA). NSA recognizes and promotes startups across 20 sectors and special categories. All four editions of the NSA (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) have featured a special category and award for women-led startups.
