

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1512
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2024

STARTUP UNDER SAMRIDH

1512. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has successfully launched the second cohort of Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH) to further support and accelerate Indian startups and if so, the key objectives and details of this initiative;
- (b) the details to foster innovation and development among startups in the field of electronics and IT since its start under the said scheme;
- (c) the number of startups that have benefited from the said scheme in the State of West Bengal so far;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote startups from tier 2 and tier 3 cities like Siliguri, Darjeeling and Kalimpong; and
- (e) whether the Government further plans to expand such startup initiative in other sectors to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) and (b): The Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH) programme was launched in August 2021 for a period of three years (further extended for one year) to accelerate around 300 Startups through existing and upcoming Accelerators. At present, under the SAMRIDH programme, 175 startups have been selected and accelerated through 22 selected accelerators spread across 12 states of India, in the focused areas of Health-tech, Ed-tech, Agri-tech, Consumer-tech, Fin-tech, Software as a Service (SaaS), and sustainability. The government has launched the second cohort of SAMRIDH to support 125 startups through potential accelerators.

(c): Under the first cohort of SAMRIDH scheme, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, IIM Calcutta was selected as one of the SAMRIDH Accelerator. The allocated cohort size of startups to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park is of 10 Startups.

(d) and (e): The Government of India is making continuous efforts to promote IT industry in smaller cities and towns and has initiated multiple schemes and programmes for growth of IT industry in this regard. Today India is recognized as IT Hub worldwide.

The Software Technology Park (STP) is the one of the most important schemes in this effort. Under this scheme, Software Technology Parks have been established in 65 cities across India with 57 centres in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities like Durgapur, Haldia, Kharagpur, Siliguri etc. The STP centres provide incubator facility which help entrepreneurs to convert their innovative ideas into startups. The incubator facility provides opportunity of meeting with investors like Venture Capitalists (VCs), mentors from IITs/NITs/Industry and networking opportunity with IT professionals etc.

Further, MeitY has initiated the 'Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS)' Scheme with the aim to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities across India. The scheme envisages scaling up about 1,600 technology startups, to discover, nurture and grow technology startups with an outlay of Rs. 490 Crore over period of five years. Under GENESIS, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER),Nadia, West Bengal has been selected as one of the Implementing Agency.
