

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 1143
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ODISHA

1143. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Women-Led Programme aims to address the challenges faced by women in entrepreneurship through crucial skills, knowledge and networking opportunities, particularly in Odisha;
- (b) the details of number of programmes that aims to empower women in Odisha, including rural and tribal areas such as Keonjhar;
- (c) the details of efforts undertaken by the Government to collaborate with private and public sector entities to empower women entrepreneurs in Odisha; and
- (d) the details of specific initiatives or partnerships that have been launched in the said State?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) The Government of India recognizes the importance of offering crucial skills, knowledge and networking opportunities to women entrepreneurs to address the challenges faced by them in overcoming societal, economic and structural barriers, lack of access to business opportunities and training. The Government has taken various initiatives to build entrepreneurial mindsets and capabilities among women, support the growth of women-led enterprises, and provide mentoring and handholding support to address the challenges faced by them in entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through its autonomous organizations, namely National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) has taken various initiatives to promote entrepreneurship development amongst all sections of the society, including women across the country, including the state of Odisha. The details of such initiatives undertaken by the Ministry are placed at **Annexure I**.

Further, there are various schemes/ programmes being implemented by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India with the objective of promoting entrepreneurs, including female entrepreneurs. The details of some of the key initiatives implemented by other Ministries/ Departments in the state of Odisha are at **Annexure II**.

MSDE has collaborated with both private and public sector to empower women entrepreneurship by providing incubation support, network of mentors, industry connect, credit and market linkages. NIESBUD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meta to support the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem. The aim of the MoU is to provide aspiring and current small business owners, including women, with the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources to thrive in today's dynamic market environment. The partnership will help in training budding and existing entrepreneurs in digital marketing skills in seven regional languages. During Financial Year 2024-25, a total number of 191 participants have been imparted training through this initiative in Odisha

NIESBUD, in collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), organized Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) with the goal of promoting entrepreneurship as a viable livelihood option among unemployed youths, school dropouts, and students, including women. The project is sponsored by HUL under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The project aims to encourage self-employment and foster entrepreneurship across India. During Financial Years 2023-24 and 2024-25, a total of 5272 participants have been trained in Odisha through the EAPs, of which 3532 are women.

ANNEXURES REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1143 ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING “WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ODISHA”

The details of various initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for women entrepreneurs in Odisha are as under:

1. Strengthening Entrepreneurial Climate through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring, and Handholding under SANKALP Scheme – MSDE through its autonomous institute, NIESBUD implemented a project for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem of different marginalized sections of the society and women under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme since December 2022. The scheme aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the various target groups through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring and Handholding. SANKALP has been implemented in three phases. Under SANKALP 1, a total of 23825 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Years 2022-23 to 2024-25, out of which 13861 are women, including 2029 women beneficiaries in Odisha. Under SANKALP 2, a total of 23841 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2022-23 to 2024-25, out of which 18270 are women, including 919 women beneficiaries in Odisha. Under SANKALP 3, a total of 4274 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2024-25, out of which 2970 are women, including 315 women beneficiaries in Odisha. In Odisha, SANKALP is being implemented in the districts of Gajapati, Dhenkanal, Kendujhar (Keonjhar), Rayagada, Mayurbhanja, Bargarh (Baragarh), Malkangiri, Khordha, Koraput, Sundergarh, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Bhubaneswar, Balangir, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Baleswar, Kandhamal and Nuapada.

2. Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) - Under the Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) of MSDE, NIESBUD has conducted awareness and sensitization programmes at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) between October 2023 to May 2024. These activities were followed by the selection of prospective entrepreneurs to undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). The Institute has successfully conducted EDP training for the target groups and is providing mentoring and handholding support to help trainees establish their enterprises. A total of 45339 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Years 2023-24 to 2024-25, out of which 12437 are women, which includes 680 women beneficiaries in Odisha. In Odisha, trainings under the initiative were conducted in the districts of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kendujhar (Keonjhar) and Sundergarh.

3. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) - MSDE through its autonomous institute, NIESBUD has been implementing the skilling and entrepreneurship component of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) – a scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for upliftment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), since March 2024. The project is being implemented with support of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in 18 States across the country under which a total of 500 VDVKs are to be set up. A total of 39576 beneficiaries have been trained under the project till January 2025, out of which 31732 are women, including 3410 women beneficiaries in Odisha. In Odisha, the initiative is being implemented in the districts of Angul, Kendujhar (Keonjhar), Gajapati, Kendujhar (Keonjhar), Malkangiri, Mayurbhanja, Nuapada and Sundergarh.

4. Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana on Pilot Basis for PM SVANidhi Beneficiaries - MSDE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), launched the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana (RUVV) on a pilot basis in February 2024 for PM SVANidhi beneficiaries, with NIESBUD as one of the implementing partners. Through the project, entrepreneurship training was provided to 1744 PM-SVANidhi beneficiaries across 10 cities, with more than 40% participation from women. The program included one week of classroom training followed by 21 weeks of mentoring and hand-holding support. A total of 1744 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Year 2023-24, out of which 1205 are women, including 92 women beneficiaries in Sambalpur district of Odisha.

5. Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) - NIESBUD has implemented a project for creating entrepreneurial climate through the Training of Trainers (ToTs) and the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) from October 2022 to September 2023. The project aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among various target groups through Capacity Building, Mentoring and Handholding. A

total of 5739 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Years 2022-23 to 2023-24, out of which 4771 are women, including 564 women beneficiaries in Bhadrak, Boudh (Baudh), Cuttack, Debagarh (Deogarh), Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghapur, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Khordha, Koraput, Nuapada, Puri and Bhubaneswar districts of Odisha.

6. Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) - NIESBUD implemented a Pilot Project for Entrepreneurship Development Program in 10 States supported by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, from January 2020 to March 2023, which aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the target groups through Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Mentoring and Handholding support. A total of 5000 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Years 2019-20 to 2022-23, out of which 3089 are women, including 418 women beneficiaries in Balangir, Baleshwar, Bargarh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Kandhamal and Nabarangpur districts of Odisha.

7. Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship Development for Women Self Help Groups - NIESBUD implemented a project on Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship Development for Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) in Odisha, supported by Odisha Skill Development Authority from March 2022 to July 2022, for capacity building and to enable them to access the market through e-commerce platforms. The project has been piloted in 10 Aspirational districts of Odisha namely Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Nuapada and Koraput. A total number of 1993 WSHG members have been imparted training in Odisha under the project during Financial Years 2021-22 to 2022-23.

8. Pilot Project on Entrepreneurship Development in the Holy City - MSDE implemented a Pilot Project on Entrepreneurship Promotion and Mentoring of Micro and Small Businesses in six temple towns, namely Bodh Gaya, Haridwar, Kollur, Pandharpur, Puri, and Varanasi from December 2021 to July 2023. IIE implemented the project in three Holy Cities i.e. Bodh Gaya, Kollur and Puri. A total of 1318 women participants have benefited in the Puri district of Odisha through the project during Financial Years 2021-22 to 2022-23.

The details of various initiatives being implemented by other Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for women entrepreneurs across country, including the state of Odisha are as under:

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) - The Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its two agencies namely Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC) has contributed significantly in promoting economic activities being undertaken by the tribal communities and has impacted in turn their economic development. NSTFDC is implementing Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) which is an exclusive scheme for economic development of Scheduled Tribes Women, including the Scheduled Tribes Women in Odisha. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides loan up to 90% for projects costing up to ₹2.00 lakh at highly concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum.

Livelihood Incubation Centre at Rourkela (Odisha) for Tribal Livelihood is a collaborative project having participation of three organizations namely National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Rourkela Steel Plant (Steel Authority of India) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC). It is a specific initiative aimed at training and fostering entrepreneurship within the tribal communities of Odisha.

2. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing an incubation ecosystem in the country. Five Knowledge Partners (KPs) and twenty-four RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) provide training and incubate Startups for implementation of this programme.

Under this programme, for idea/pre-seed stage, a selected Start-up shall be eligible for maximum financial assistance of Rupees Five Lakh in one installment. For seed stage, a selected Start-up shall be eligible for maximum financial assistance of Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh in two installments of 50% and 50% based on the recommendation given by the Selection and Investment Committee (SIC). Each KP can select a maximum 20-25 Start-ups and each R-ABI can select a maximum 10-12 start-ups in each category of pre seed and seed stage in a financial year.

Trainings, technical and financial assistance is provided to Startups to launch their products, services, business platforms, etc. into the market and facilitate them to scale up their products and operations to attain business viability. More than 5000 Agri-Startups have been trained by KPs and R-ABIs under this programme during FY 2019-20 to 2024-25.

Under the "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme of PM-RKVY during 2019-20 to 2024-25, financial assistance of Rs. 124.96 crore has been released to 1749 Agri-Startups including 448 women entrepreneurs/Startups through various KPs and R-ABIs. In the State of Odisha, 62 Startups have been supported under the programme. In Odisha, National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has been appointed as R-ABI for the implementation of the programme.

3. Ministry of Women and Child Development - Government of India implements 'Mission Shakti' – an integrated women empowerment programme as umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women. The Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" and "Samarthya".

'Samarthya' sub-scheme, has a component i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) known as SANKALP: HEW (Supportive Action for Nurturing and Knowledge-Based Advancement, Last-Mile Delivery and Potential Realization of Women : Hub for Empowerment of Women), set up at National, State and District levels for empowerment of women with aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at Central, State/ UT and district levels with the mandate to create an environment in which women realize their full potential to address gaps in state action for women and for promoting inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence through strengthening the processes that promote holistic empowerment of women by creating an environment conducive to social change by improving access and utilization of government schemes.

The support under the HEW is for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including facilitating access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.”

SANKALP: HEW is being implemented in all States/UTs except the State of West Bengal and functional in 35 States/UTs. As on date, total 35 State SANKALP HEWs and 742 District SANKALP: HEWs are functional.

4. Department of Science and Technology

4.1 National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) - In order to foster innovations in the country, the Department of Science & Technology has been supporting various activities under National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) by providing them training in entrepreneurship skills, access to incubation facilities, mentorship, and tailored funding mechanisms. These initiatives empower and encourage innovators and startups, including the women led startups to convert their ideas into a successful business model. Financial support is provided through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) for Mentorship, incubation support including lab access and timely availability early-stage funding through NIDHI Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) program; NIDHI-Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Startups (PRAYAS); NIDHI-Accelerator and NIDHI-Seed Support Program (NIDHI-SSP) to incubated startups. In order to strengthen innovation and startup incubation ecosystem in Tier II and Tier III cities, a new program named NIDHI-Inclusive Technology Business Incubators (iTBI) program was launched by DST to support startup incubation centres in academic setups in tier II and tier III cities. The iTBI program has helped in increasing entrepreneurial inclusiveness in terms of geographies, gender and persons with special abilities.

4.2 Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP) - Ministry of Science of Technology implements ‘Innovation based Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Programme’ which focuses on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) training for participants and encourages participants to take entrepreneurship as a career from all over the country including the women from the rural and tribal area of State of Odisha. Under the scheme, Science and Technology based Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) training programmes are implemented by the Institute of higher learning, Incubators, S&T park and Non-Governmental Organization etc; for the participants including the specific programme on Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP). From Financial Years 2019-20 to 2022-23, a total of 327 women have been trained under WEDP in Odisha.

4.3 Science and Technology for Women (STW) programme - STW aims to improve the weakest link of the predominant livelihood system of women in an area and promote social entrepreneurship based on the strongest link of the livelihood system through interventions of Science, Technology and Innovations. The Women Technology Parks (WTP) act as resource centers under the STW programme and provide necessary support to women from a single platform for their training and capacity building in various technologies, for increasing health and nutrition level in women through development of value-added food, herbal medicines, diet supplements, etc. Efforts are being made that women in rural and peri-urban areas receive training on live technology models demonstrated in WTPs for skill development and capacity building as per the requirement of S&T based interventions, using area specific resources, with goal of achieving self-reliance locally for economic re-growth.

5. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) - The Government launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016 with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, startups and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country. As on 31st December 2024, 1,57,706 entities have been recognized as startups by DPIIT, out of which 2769 are from the Odisha. From the recognized startups, a total of 75,935 entities self-reported to have at least one-woman director/ partner, out of which 1386 are woman led startups from the state of Odisha.

Further, the Government is implementing specific initiatives/programmes under the Startup India initiative to promote women entrepreneurship across the country. The details of such initiatives are as under:

- i. 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.
- ii. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) led by women are eligible to be considered for a higher level of management fee (0.1% per annum). The same benefit is also extended to AIFs which are focused on women led startups.
- iii. Under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), for availing the guarantee cover, the Member Institution pays Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF) of 2% p.a. of the disbursement/outstanding amount. For units from the North East region as well as those of women entrepreneurs, the Member Institution pays a standard rate of 1.5% p.a. of the disbursement/outstanding amount.
- iv. 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.
- v. A Virtual Incubation Program for Women Entrepreneurs was conducted to support women-led tech startups with pro-bono acceleration support.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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 northeastern states. The workshops have witnessed participation from ecosystem stakeholders such as government officials, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, academic institutions, etc.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. Pitch Forward is an initiative to provide women entrepreneurs, especially from non-metros, a platform to connect with marquee investors. It offers startups across various stages and sectors the opportunity to pitch directly to venture capital funds.

6. Ministry of Minority Affairs – The Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented “Nai Roshni”, a Leadership Development programme for Minority Women, which was launched in 2012-13 with an objective to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. Since inception, about 6,375 beneficiaries have been trained under the scheme in the State of Odisha. The training module cover areas related to programmes for Women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and

Behavioural changes. The scheme was implemented through Programme Implementing Agencies/ Non-Governmental Organizations.

Nai Roshni Scheme has now been converged as a component into an integrated scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)', which has three sub-components namely Leadership and Basic Entrepreneurship Development, Entrepreneurship Development and Business Mentors/ Business Correspondents (Biz Sakhis/Udyami Mitra).

7. Ministry of Rural Development - Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and led by banks, provide skill and entrepreneurship training to rural youth, including women, to promote self-employment and reduce poverty. The program targets unemployed youth aged 18-45 with basic knowledge in relevant fields, equipping them for self-employment or wage employment. While many graduates pursue entrepreneurship, some may also seek for wage employment.

MoRD finances the construction of RSETI buildings and covers training costs for the rural poor. Free skill based residential training programs are being conducted at 605 RSETIs across the country including 30 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in the state of Odisha. These RSETIs impart training in 64 MoRD and NCVET approved courses, free of cost, to the rural unemployed youth. Nearly 70 % of the total trainees in RSETIs comprise of rural women. There are nine exclusive women centric training programmes in RSETIs through which women can develop skill and entrepreneurship.

Skill development program through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) also enables a trainee to take Bank credit and start his/her own Micro-enterprise. Some of such trainees may also seek regular salaried jobs. The details of trained and settled candidates in Odisha State for last three financial years and current financial year as on 31.12.2024 are provided below:

FY	Total		Women (Out of Total)	
	Trained	Settled	Trained	Settled
2021-22	16049	13978	14788	13088
2022-23	20766	17486	18611	16317
2023-24	22056	19544	20046	18288
2024-25 (up to 31.12.2024)	21656	16211	19266	15057

The details of trained and settled candidates in Keonjhar District, Odisha State for past three financial year and current financial year as on 31.12.2024 is provided below:

FY	Total		Women (Out of Total)	
	Trained	Settled	Trained	Settled
2021-22	456	331	358	234
2022-23	758	552	672	516
2023-24	795	584	717	538
2024-25 (up to 31.12.2024)	796	565	740	519

8. Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with the aim to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector. The scheme has a special focus on supporting Groups engaged in Agri-food processing such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain. SHG members can receive seed capital of ₹40,000 per member for working capital and the purchase of small tools. The scheme also provides a 50% financial grant for branding and marketing support to groups of FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives, or a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of micro food processing enterprises. Under the PMFME Scheme, 301 SHG beneficiaries got benefitted from seed capital in the State of Odisha and the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T),

an autonomous institute under MoFPI, provided hands-on training to 34 women entrepreneurs from Odisha in various domains.

9. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) - The Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) Scheme of M/o MSME is a Central Sector scheme, which was up scaled in November 2019. The objective of the programme is to motivate young persons representing different sections of the society including SC/ST women, Persons with Disabilities(PwD), ex-servicemen, and Below Poverty Line persons to consider self-employment or entrepreneurship as one of the career options. The ultimate objective is to promote new enterprises, build capacity of existing MSMEs and inculcate entrepreneurial culture in the country. New ESDP guideline, which was approved on 25.3.2022, has five components namely:

- i. **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)**
- ii. **Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Programme (ESDP)**
- iii. **Advance ESDP** - This component is newly added and is to be conducted by premier Institutes like IITs/IIMs/ ICAR/BARC/Agricultural Universities of State /Central Governments.
- iv. **Management Development Programme (MDP)**
- v. **Advance MDP**- It is newly added in the new guidelines approved for the 15th Finance Commission which includes programme to be conducted by premier institutes like that of Advance ESDP component.

From Financial Years 2022-23 to 2024-25 (till 07.02.2025), a total of 22,273 women beneficiaries have been trained in the State of Odisha, including 574 in Keonjhar district of Odisha.

10. Ministry of Textiles is implementing Samarth (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) with the objective to provide demand driven, placement-oriented skilling programmes to supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving in organized sector. Samarth is implemented on demand driven basis across the country and preference is given to marginalized social groups such as women, SC/ ST etc. under the scheme. As on 07.02.2025, 3,59,037 beneficiaries have been trained (passed) and of these 3,16,275 are women.

11. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) implements a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) Scheme for Scheduled Caste (VCF-SC) and Backward Classes (VCF-BC). These Schemes have been launched with the objective of promoting entrepreneurship amongst the said communities through concessional finance. At present a coupon rate of 4% is charged under VCF-SC and 6% under VCF-BC. To promote women entrepreneurs, a further rebate of 0.25% percent is provided. Further, to promote young researchers, including women, "Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" under VCF-SC is being implemented since 30th September 2020. These schemes are operational and applicable throughout the country including the state of Odisha.
