

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2025

**PROMOTING OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION**

1660. SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government through its various autonomous institutions to promote entrepreneurship in technical and professional education;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised towards promotion of entrepreneurship through Central Government Schemes during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of specific efforts undertaken by the Government to promote entrepreneurship in the State of Kerala?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through its autonomous institutions, i.e, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati has taken various initiatives to promote entrepreneurship in technical and professional education.

NIESBUD and Directorate General of Training (DGT) under MSDE have signed an MoU on 8th February, 2018 and further extended on 20th October, 2021 for sustained development of entrepreneurial skills and education aimed at enhancement of self-employment opportunities for trainees of ITIs on pan India basis. Under this MoU, for enhancement of entrepreneurial skills of trainers of ITIs, 5 days Training (Residential) / online Programme for “Trainer’s Training Programme on Employability, Entrepreneurship and Life Skills” are conducted by NIESBUD.

The Ministry in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme on 07.02.2025 in the North Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram and on 01.03.2025 in Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. The Swavalambini Project aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among female students, equipping them with awareness of available support mechanisms, schemes, resources and networks essential for pursuing entrepreneurship as a career. The target group for the Swavalambini Project includes 1200 female students from Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and Universities for entrepreneurship awareness programme. Out of these, 600 students will undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) offering intensive 40-hour training covering crucial business aspects such as training and skilling, access to finance, market linkages, compliance and legal support, business services, and networking opportunities. This will be followed by six months of mentorship and handholding support to help

participants translate their ideas into sustainable prospects. To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative equips educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions. Furthermore, Swavalambini aims to recognise and reward successful women entrepreneurs emerging from the programme through the Award to Rewards Initiative of Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI AAYOG. The programme will leverage workshops, seed funding, and structured mentoring to support the growth of women-led enterprises.

Further, IIE in collaboration with North Eastern Council (NEC) is establishing, developing and managing Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Incubation Centers (ICs) in North East Region's Educational Institutions. The key features of the Project include establishing, developing and managing 30 EDCs and four ICs in eight states of NER, identifying and training 600 mentors from 30 target districts, identifying and training 3600 youth from 30 target districts, incubating 100 business ideas in four ICs, supporting 900 business ideas in 30 EDCs through convergence and Seed fund for top 50 incubates in four ICs.

In addition, the Government has taken various initiatives to promote entrepreneurship in technical and professional education. Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) promotes innovation and entrepreneurship across educational institutions. By fostering an environment that encourages creativity and entrepreneurship, the Cell facilitates the development of sustainable commercial models. Through initiatives such as the Smart India Hackathon (SIH), Institution's Innovation Councils (IIC), KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness), Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp and AICTE MoE Investor Network and Indovation Centres, it strives to integrate innovation into the core of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The Innovation Cell collaborates with various ministries and government departments, ensuring that these innovations contribute to societal progress while also addressing real-world challenges which leads to culture of innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship in the country. In all MIC initiatives, Higher Education Institutions work with the national ecosystem to create an enabling environment for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, AICTE has initiated the following scheme to motivate students towards promoting entrepreneurship and professional education:

AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF): The AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF) scheme aims to support the student's innovative projects focused on validating Proof of Concepts (PoC) for ground breaking technologies and offers financial assistance to the students for essential resources, including raw materials, equipment, software, and testing tools ensuring that students have the necessary resources to scale their lab-based research and innovations into market-ready products/solutions.

(b) and (c) The details of the initiatives taken by MSDE through its Autonomous Institutions, i.e National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, to promote entrepreneurship during the last five years across the Country including the State of Kerala and the details of funds is at **Annexure-I**.

Further, the other Ministries/Departments of Government has taken various initiatives to promote entrepreneurship across the Country including the State of Kerala. The details of the few of the initiatives taken by other Ministries/Departments of the Government to promote entrepreneurship including the details of funds in the last five years are at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURES REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660 ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING “PROMOTING OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION”

Details of the various initiatives taken by MSDE to promote entrepreneurship during the last five years across the Country including the State of Kerala and the details of funds are as under:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya MahaAbhiyan (PM JANMAN)** - MSDE through its Autonomous Institutes, NIESBUD and IIE is implementing the skilling and entrepreneurship component of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (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 VDVVs are to be set up. NIESBUD has conducted training of 37,642 participants across the country with a total fund of Rs. 23.47 crore allocated as a special project under PMKVY . NIESBUD has conducted training of 425 participants under the project during FY 2024-25 in the State of Kerala.

2. **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 the various target groups through Capacity Building, Mentoring and Handholding. NIESBUD has conducted training of 2,633 participants through the Training of Trainers (ToTs) and the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) with a total allocated fund of Rs. 1.78 crore. NIESBUD has conducted training of 69 Trainers during the FY 2022-23 in the State of Kerala.

3. **Strengthening Entrepreneurial Climate through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring, and Handholding under SANKALP Scheme** – MSDE through NIESBUD implemented a project for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem of different marginalized sections of the society and women with the support of the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme of MSDE, since December 2022. The project 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 23,825 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Years 2022-23 to 2024-25 with a total allocated fund of Rs. 19.84 crore. Under SANKALP 2, a total of 24,000 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2022-23 to 2024-25 with a total allocated fund of Rs. 20.90 crore. Under SANKALP 3, a total of 15,000 beneficiaries have been trained during FY 2024-25, with a total allocated fund of Rs. 10.77 crore.

4. **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. NIESBUD has conducted training of 77,430 participants across the country with a total allocated fund of Rs. 16.83 crore.

5. Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop Owners - NIESBUD, in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has undertaken a Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop (FPS) Owners. The project is being undertaken as Special Project under PMKVY to enable the FPS owners to run their businesses in consonance with the contemporary practices being adopted by Retail Entrepreneurs. The programme aims to equip the participants with in-depth knowledge of various facets of entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy, and government support ecosystem. NIESBUD has conducted training of 315 participants across the country with a total allocated fund of Rs. 1.67 crore as a special project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) during FY 2024-25.

6. Comprehensive Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training Program for Tribal Artisans and Micro Level Entrepreneurs in NER under SANKALP scheme - IIE has implemented Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training Program for Tribal Artisans and Micro Level Entrepreneurs in NER under SANKALP scheme. The program focusses on crucial aspects of capacity building, including product diversification, technology utilization, and effective business activities, packaging and branding strategies. The program was implemented from January 2024 to October, 2024 with the total sanctioned amount of Rs. 14.23 crore. IIE has trained 10,000 participants under the program.

7. Establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Cell in ITI and NSTI of NER under STRIVE Scheme - Under the STRIVE scheme, IIE has established entrepreneurship development cells across National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the Northeastern Region (NER). IIE has conducted Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs), Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) and Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) followed by mentoring and handholding. IIE has trained 11,000 candidates through EAP and 8,332 through EDP. Further, 80 faculties from 94 ITIs and 2 NSTIs have received specialized training through FDPs. The project was implemented from March 2024 to December, 2024 with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 7,88,80,928.

Details of the various initiatives taken by other Ministries/Departments of the Government to promote entrepreneurship including the details of funds allocated and utilized in the last five years are as under:

1. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** – MeitY has undertaken few initiatives and measures to promote a technology-led startups and innovation ecosystem in the country including the State of Kerala. Some of the major initiatives are as under:

(i) **Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0 Scheme)** - MeitY has initiated 'Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0)' Scheme in the year 2019 with an aim to promote tech-based entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to 51 incubators with an outlay of Rs. 264.62 crore over a period of 5 years. Till now, a total of Rs. 206.88 crore has been released to 51 TIDE 2.0 centres. Under TIDE 2.0 Scheme, one incubation centre namely 'Maker Village-Kochi at IIITM-Kerala' is functioning as TIDE 2.0 centre in Kerala.

(ii) **GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups)**: MeitY has launched 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 through 65 Implementing Agencies with an outlay of Rs. 490 crore over period of five years. As on date, Rs. 10.80 crore has been released under the scheme. Under the scheme, four Centre namely (i) Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship, (ii) Maker Village Kochi, (iii) Technology Business Incubator NIT Calicut (TBI NITC) and (iv) Amrita Technology Business Incubator, Kollam are selected for supporting startups to promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation in State of Kerala.

2. **Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW)** – DA&FW is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 onwards with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing an incubation ecosystem in the country. The total Budget Estimates allocated under the Agri-entrepreneurship programme and fund released from 2018-19 to 2024-25 are as under:

(Rs. In crore)		
Year	Allocation	Fund released (Upto 28.02.2025)
2018-19	238.00	39.90
2019-20	123.70	15.27
2020-21	119.40	48.00
2021-22	102.85	31.60
2022-23	132.34	35.50
2023-24	106.05	62.28
2024-25	133.52	43.54
Total	955.86	276.09

DA&FW has appointed five Knowledge Partners (KPs) and twenty-four RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country for implementation assistance and incubation of startups under this programme. Under this programme, for idea/pre-seed stage, a selected start-up shall be eligible for a maximum financial assistance of Rs. five lakh in one instalment. For seed stage, a selected start-up shall be eligible for a maximum financial assistance of Rs. Twenty five lakh in two instalment 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.

So far, 1749 Agri-Startups have been supported with technical and financial assistance under this programme during FY 2019-20 to 2024-25 (as on date). The funding support of Rs. Rs. 124.96 crore grants-in-aid have been released in installments for funding to these 1749 agri-Startups to the respective KPs & R-ABIs by DA&FW. Start-ups are taking projects in various field of agriculture and allied sectors

3. **Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** - Ministry of MSME, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for assisting entrepreneurs in setting up of new enterprises in the non-farm sector. It aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth at their doorstep. PMEGP being a Central Sector Scheme assists General Category beneficiaries with Margin Money (MM) subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically Handicapped, Transgenders, beneficiaries belonging to Northeastern Region, Hill and Border areas, and Aspirational Districts, the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The maximum cost of project is Rs. 50 lakhs in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 lakhs in the service sector. Own contribution of beneficiaries under Special Category is 05% and 10% for General Category beneficiaries. Since 2018-19, existing PMEGP /MUDRA enterprises are also supported based on past good performances with 2nd loan for upgradation and expansion. Under 2nd Loan, maximum project cost admissible for Margin Money (MM) subsidy under Manufacturing sector is Rs. 1.00 crore and for Service sector is Rs. 25 Lakhs. Eligible subsidy on 2nd loan for all categories is 15% of project cost (20% for NER & Hill States).

The performance of PMEGP throughout the country in terms of number of applications received, number of units assisted, margin money (MM) subsidy disbursed and estimated employment generated during the last five years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of Units Assisted	MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr.)	Estimated Employment Generated
2019-20	66,653	1,950.82	5,33,224
2020-21	74,415	2,188.80	5,95,320
2021-22	1,03,219	2,977.65	8,25,752
2022-23	85,167	2,722.17	6,81,336
2023-24	89,118	3,093.87	7,12,944

The performance of PMEGP in the State of Kerala in terms of number of applications received, number of units assisted, margin money (MM) subsidy disbursed and estimated employment generated during the last five years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of Units Assisted	MM Subsidy (Rs. Cr.)	Estimated Employment Generated
2019-20	2,438	53.22	19,504
2020-21	2,389	52.25	19,112

2021-22	2,789	68.58	22,312
2022-23	3,129	73.29	25,032
2023-24	3,389	78.81	27,112

4. **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** – In order to foster innovation among the startups in the country, Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched an umbrella program 'NIDHI' (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing innovations) in 2016. The NIDHI program has been helpful in creating state-of-the art infrastructure for incubating startups in technology sectors through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Centres of Excellence (CoE) and Inclusive Technology Business Incubators (iTBI) in academic setups to extend incubation, mentoring and training support to innovative startups in various technology domains. The details of funds allocated and utilized towards promotion of entrepreneurship under NIDHI scheme is as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Financial year	Funds allocated	Funds utilized
2020-21	230	116
2021-22	215	173
2022-23	180	151
2023-24	160	118
2024-25	122	115*

*upto 15th January 2025

Further, the following Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) have been established in the state of Kerala during the last five years:

Sno.	Name of TBI	Schemes implemented
1	SCTIMST-TIMed	TBI & PRAYAS Centre
2	TBI- NIT Calicut	TBI & PRAYAS Centre
3	Amrita Technology Business Incubator	TBI & PRAYAS Centre
4	CET TBI	TBI
5	Startups Valley	TBI
6	Technopark Technology Business Incubator (Kerala Startup Mission)	TBI & PRAYAS Centre
7	Indian Telecom Innovation Hub - Technology Business Incubator (Startup Village)	TBI
8	IIMK LIVE (Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship)	TBI
9	IITMK – Maker Village	PRAYAS Centre
