

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 1829**  
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2025

**TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

1829. Dr. AMAR SINGH

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

- a) whether the Government is aware of the need to focus on training programmes for women entrepreneurs on business management;
- b) if so, whether the Government is planning for dynamic aspects such as cash flow and inventory, marketing focusing on customer retention, creating resilience mechanisms (insurance, savings, Government schemes, diversification, etc.), measuring the social impact of the enterprises, and hands-on technical and leadership training; and
- c) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The Government recognizes the importance of providing entrepreneurship development training for women to enhance their business acumen and management skills. The government has introduced various Entrepreneurship Development Programmes addressing key dynamic aspects, including cash flow management, marketing strategies, resilience-building mechanisms (such as insurance, savings, government schemes, and diversification), and hands-on technical and leadership training. These initiatives include interventions to build entrepreneurial mindsets and capabilities among women, support the growth of women-led enterprises, and provide mentoring and handholding support for entrepreneurship development amongst women.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing several initiatives to equip women entrepreneurs with essential knowledge in business management, financial literacy, and leadership development. These initiatives are executed through its autonomous organizations, namely, the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE). The details of such initiatives are at **Annexure-I**.

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

**ANNEXURES REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1829 ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING “TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS”**

The details of various initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for women entrepreneurs 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 23,825 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Years 2022-23 to 2024-25, out of which 13,861 are women. Under SANKALP 2, a total of 23,841 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2022-23 to 2024-25, out of which 18,270 are women. Under SANKALP 3, a total of 4274 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2024-25 (till January 2025), out of which 2,970 are women.

**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 45,339 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Years 2023-24 to 2024-25 (till January 2025), out of which 12,437 are women.

**3. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** - MSDE through its autonomous institutes, namely NIESBUD and IIE has been 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 VDVKs are to be set up. A total of 39,576 beneficiaries have been trained under the project till date, out of which 32,961 are women.

**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 (RUVVP) on a pilot basis in February 2024 for PM SVANidhi beneficiaries, with NIESBUD and IIE as the implementing partners. Under the mentoring program, field visit to business houses, traditional farming/ food processing/ handloom/ handicraft and interaction with successful entrepreneurs, bank officials, government departments/ agencies were also made accessible to the street vendors. Through the project, entrepreneurship training is to be provided to 2,050 PM-SVANidhi beneficiaries across 10 cities. A total of 1744 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during Financial Year 2023-24, out of which 1205 are women.

**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 support. 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.

**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.

**7. Swavalambini:** MSDE 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 Ministry will implement the programme through its autonomous institutes namely, NIESBUD and IIE.

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 600 selected students, the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) offers an 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.

**8. 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. IIE has trained 10,000 women under the program.

**9. Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY):** Under the PMVDY, a total of 2083 training programs were conducted across various districts of Assam, specifically focusing on empowering tribal women. A total of 44,606 women beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme since 2019, which aimed to enhance the skills and livelihoods of tribal women by providing them with training in various traditional and modern trades. The training programs conducted by IIE included a variety of skill-building activities in trades such as handloom weaving, tailoring, candle-making, water hyacinth products, soap-making, and agarbatti-making along with entrepreneurial skills. This initiative is designed to uplift tribal women, promoting self-reliance and economic independence by strengthening their vocational capabilities.

**The details of various initiatives being implemented by other Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for women entrepreneurs across country are as under:**

**1. Ministry of Textiles:** 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 03.03.2025, a total of 3,73,210 beneficiaries have been trained (passed) including 3,38,676 women.

**2. 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 4.35 lakh beneficiaries have been trained under the scheme. The Training modules 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 following three sub-components:

- A. Leadership and Basic Entrepreneurship Development;
- B. Entrepreneurship Development;
- C. Business Mentors/Business Correspondents (Biz Sakhis/ Udyami Mitra).

**3. 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 women.

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).

In order to foster innovations among the Women led startups in the technology sector in the country, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been supporting various activities under National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) by providing them entrepreneurial capacity building, access to incubation facilities, mentorship, and early-stage funding support. These initiatives empower and encourage women to convert their innovative ideas into successful business ventures. Financial support is provided, in terms of early-stage seed funding, through NIDHI-Seed Support Program (NIDHI-SSP) to incubated startups, including women led startups.

DST has supported setting up of Technology Business Incubators in women's universities, viz. Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), Delhi and Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV), Tirupati for incubating primarily women led startups. DST has also supported setting up of NIDHI-Inclusive Technology Business Incubators (iTBI) to strengthen entrepreneurial inclusiveness in terms of gender, caste and geographies. Under this, an iTBI has been setup in Delhi Technological University (DTU), Delhi to support startups preferably women led startups.

**4. Department of Financial Services:** Stand-Up India (SUI) Scheme launched on 05.04.2016 is ongoing till March 2025. The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at

least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector including activities allied to agriculture.

Apart from linking prospective borrowers with banks for loans, the online portal provides guidance to prospective SC, ST and Women entrepreneurs in their endeavour to set up business enterprises, starting from training to filling up of loan applications as per bank requirements.

Through a network of more than 8000 Hand Holding Agencies, this portal facilitates step by step guidance for connecting prospective borrowers to various agencies with specific expertise viz Skilling Centres, Mentorship support, Entrepreneurship Development Program Centres, District Industries Centre, together with addresses and contact number.

The Scheme is being implemented across the country and has facilitated over 2.59 lakh loans to SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs across the country and a total of 2.15 lakh (83%) loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs since inception of the Scheme till 27.01.2025.

**5. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJ&E):** DoSJ&E launched the Pradhan Mantri - Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PMDAKSH) Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, in the financial year 2020-21, for providing skill training to marginalized persons belonging to SCs, OBCs, EWSs, DNTs, Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers having age from 18 to 45 years through empanelled training institutes in all job roles exhibiting on SIDH Portal and covered under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana(PMKVY). The Scheme is being implemented for both men and women from the target group. The main objective of PM-DAKSH Yojana is to enhance skills of target groups and makes them employable either in wage-employment or self-employment. Under the Scheme, there is Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) designed for the youth of the target group having entrepreneurial bent of mind.

**6. 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) have contributed significantly in promoting economic activities being undertaken by the tribal communities and have 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. 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.

**7. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) -** Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), funded by 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. These RSETIs impart training in 64 MoRD and National Council for Vocational Education and Training (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.

**8. Ministry of Women and Child Development** - Government of India implements 'Mission Shakti' – an integrated women empowerment programme as an 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 the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at Central, State/ UT and district levels and 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 is functional in 35 States/UTs.

**9. 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. From the recognized startups, a total of 75,935 entities self-reported to have at least one-woman director/ partner.

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.

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