

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929**  
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHEMES**

†929. SMT. DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI: SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:  
SHRI BHUMARE SANDIPANRAO ASARAM:

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

- (a) the number of women benefited from entrepreneurship schemes in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) of Maharashtra during the last five years;
- (b) the special programmes being implemented by the Government in the said States/UTs targeting women entrepreneurs; and
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating introduction of additional support measures to help women start small scale businesses in rural and tribal areas?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) Government of India 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 for entrepreneurship development among women.

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 Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) of Maharashtra. The details of few such initiatives undertaken during the last five years are 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 Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) of Maharashtra are at **Annexure-II**.

**ANNEXURES REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929 ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING “WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHEMES”**

The details of various initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for women entrepreneurs during the last five years are as under:

1. **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 23825 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Years 2022-23 to 2024-25, out of which 13861 are women, including 2166 women beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh. 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 1819 women beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh. Under SANKALP 3, a total of 4274 beneficiaries have been trained during Financial Year 2024-25, out of which 2970 are women, including 755 women beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh.
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 4773 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during F.Y. 2024-25 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, including 1195 women.
3. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** - MSDE through its autonomous institute, NIESBUD 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. A total of 4851 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during 2024-25 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, including 3587 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 (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 180 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during F.Y. 2023-24 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, including 137 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 the various target groups through Capacity Building, Mentoring and Handholding. A total of 630 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during F.Y. 2022-23 to 2023-24 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, including 545 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 700 beneficiaries have been trained under the project during F.Y. 2023-24 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, including 477 women.

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

**1. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry** - The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and encouraging investments 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, 1,57,706 entities have been recognized as startups by DPIIT, out of which, 75,935 entities have self-reported to have at least one-woman director/partner. Out of the 75,935 entities recognised as startups by DPIIT which have self-reported to have at least one-woman director/partner, 34 are from Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2,396 are from Madhya Pradesh and 13,947 are from Maharashtra.

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% per annum (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.

**2. Ministry of Science and Technology** is launching and implementing the Innovation based Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Programme Central Sector scheme. The scheme is not a centrally sponsored scheme as such the proposal are not received and sanctioned State-wise and District-wise under the scheme. The scheme encourages the Women's participants to take entrepreneurship as a career from all over the country including from the State of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The training programmes successfully organized for Women participants in the area of Innovation based Science & Technology Entrepreneurship for the State of Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra in last five years are as under:

Sl.No	State	Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP)				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Madhya Pradesh	9	364	-	87	125
2.	Maharashtra	-	168	-	58	210

**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 is functional in 35 States/UTs. As on date, total 35 State SANKALP: HEWs and 742 District SANKALP: HEWs are functional.

**4. Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** – Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing various schemes and programmes for the farmers and agripreneurs, including women agripreneurs. The Government of India 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 Agri-Clinic and Agribusiness Centers Scheme (AC & ABC) is under implementation since April, 2002. The Scheme aims at creating gainful self-employment opportunities to unemployed agricultural graduates, agricultural diploma holders, and intermediate in agriculture apart from science graduates with post-graduation in agriculture related courses for supporting agriculture development and supplementing the efforts of public extension with the support of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and NABARD.

**5. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** was implementing the “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)” from February 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. The mission aimed to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, in order to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the urban poor including women. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed by only women.

The women employment generated in the State of Madhya Pradesh during last 5 years including current year (till 27.01.2025) under DAY-NULM is as under:

- No. of Skilled Candidates Placed - 47,013
- No. of SHGs members formed - 3,94,592
- No. of Beneficiaries assisted for setting up individual/ Group Micro Enterprises - 17,174
- No. of SHGs women member disbursed loans under Bank linkage Programme- 1,35,039

The women employment generated in the State of Maharashtra during last 5 years including current year (till 27.01.2025) under DAY-NULM is as under:

- No. of Skilled Candidates Placed - 41,451
- No. of SHGs members formed - 5,87,514
- No. of Beneficiaries assisted for setting up individual/ Group Micro Enterprises- 16,226
- No. of SHGs women member disbursed loans under Bank linkage Programme- 4,42,056
- A total 305 women benefited skill training under DAY-NULM in Sambhajinagar during last five years

**6. 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. The training module covers 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. 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:

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

The total number of women benefited from the Nai Roshni scheme in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last five years i.e. 2019-20 to 2023-24, is as under:

SI. No.	Name of State	Total Beneficiaries in last five years (2019-20 to 2023-24)
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
2	Madhya Pradesh	3,875
3	Maharashtra	675

**7. 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, 717 women SHG Beneficiaries got benefitted from seed capital in the State of Madhya Pradesh and 962 women SHG Beneficiaries from Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad).

**8. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** – The Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) Scheme is a Central Sector continuing scheme, which was up scaled in November 2019. The objective of the programme is to motivate young person representing different sections of the society including SC/ST women, physically handicapped, Ex-servicemen, and Below Poverty Line (BPL) 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:

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

The details of women beneficiaries trained under the ESDP scheme during the last five years is as under:

SI No.	Financial Year	No. of Women Beneficiaries
1.	2020-21	13705
2.	2021-22	25371
3.	2022-23	121058
4.	2023-24	201706
5.	2024-25 (Till 03.02.2025)	173277
<b>Total</b>		<b>535117</b>

The details of women beneficiaries trained under the ESDP scheme in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), Maharashtra during the last five years is as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	No. of women beneficiaries		
		Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Madhya Pradesh	(Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) Maharashtra)
1.	2020-21	117	479	60
2.	2021-22	172	884	31
3.	2022-23	295	22001	248
4.	2023-24	320	22636	472
5.	2024-25 (Till 03.02.2025)	346	32999	910
<b>Total</b>		<b>1250</b>	<b>78999</b>	<b>1721</b>

9. **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. 7,086 are women beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh and 1,261 are women beneficiaries in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

10. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:-** The Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) and Backward Class (VCF-BC) women launched by the Government and implemented through IFCI Venture Capital Limited, promotes entrepreneurship by providing concessional finance at the coupon rates of 3.75% and 5.75% respectively. "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" under VCF-SC promotes young women researchers and students with their innovation by extending financial support of Rs. 30 lakh under the scheme. Under these schemes, 5 women beneficiaries have been covered in Aurangabad, Maharashtra during the last five years.

Further, with a view to promote innovation amongst SC women Students/ Researchers and those working in Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) etc. , SC youths are identified with start-up ideas through the TBIs in various higher educational institutions. They are funded maximum of Rs. 30 lakh in 3 years as equity funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures. Successful ventures further qualifies for venture funding of up to Rs. 15 Crore from the VCF-SC so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.

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