

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1179
ANSWERED ON 28/07/2025

SWAVALAMBINI WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

†1179. SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SMT. HIMADRI SINGH:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SMT. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI RADHESHYAM RATHIYA:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:
SMT. MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR:
SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA:
SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:
SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:
SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:
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DR. HEMANG JOSHI:
SHRI GODAM NAGESH:
MS KANGNA RANAUT:
SMT. KAMLESH JANGDE:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:
SHRI MADHAVANENI RAGHUNANDAN RAO:
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) the number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and students targeted under the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme in the country, State/UT-wise, including Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh particularly in Mandi and Maharashtra, particularly in tribal dominated areas like Palghar district and Jalgaon Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) the manner in which this Faculty Development Programme (FDP) is expected to contribute to the long-term sustainability of women entrepreneurship mentoring in HEIs and plan/roadmap to expand this programme to more regions, institutions aspirational districts, rural belts and urban/underserved areas in future;
- (c) the details regarding the provisions for private sector participation, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership collaboration with industries, Internship and vocational modules under the said programme;

- (d) whether the Government proposes to include HEIs located in North East Delhi under this programme on priority basis, given the need to promote women entrepreneurship, skilling and innovation in the region and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure the participation of all States/UTs in this scheme along with the ratio of financial contribution shared between the Centre and States/UTs; and
- (f) whether this scheme is helping to bridge the regional disparities and improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (f) The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog as knowledge partner, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme in February, 2025 in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana as a pilot project. The Ministry is implementing the programme through its Autonomous Institutes, namely, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

The Swavalambini project introduces a structured, multi-stage training approach to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation. The 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 who will undergo introductory programme on entrepreneurial awareness through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP). Out of these, 600 students selected from EAP participants will undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) offering intensive entrepreneurship development training covering crucial business aspects such as skilling, access to finance, market linkages, compliance and legal support, business services and networking opportunities. This will be followed by 21 weeks of mentorship and handholding support to help participants translate their ideas into sustainable enterprises.

MSDE will oversee the execution, supervision, and monitoring of the programme, while NITI Aayog will organize workshops, provide mentoring support, facilitate seed funding, and recognize successful entrepreneurs through the Award To Reward (ATR) initiative.

During the mentoring and handholding support, industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs will guide the participants by providing mentorship and hands-on support. Successful entrepreneurs will be invited to share their experiences, highlighting the challenges they overcame and the strategies they used to establish their businesses.

To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs/Universities shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative will equip educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions.

The programme-wise details of participants trained under the pilot project is as under:

Name of the Programme	Total Target	Total Trained
Faculty Development Programme (FDP)	75	43
Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)	1200	996
Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)	600	139

The State-wise and programme-wise details of number of participants trained as on 15.07.2025 under the pilot project is as under:

State	Name of the Programme (Total trained)		
	FDP	EAP	EDP
Assam	9	-*	-*
Meghalaya	8	161	-*
Mizoram	10	244	-*
Uttar Pradesh	13	441	139
Telangana	3	150	-*
Total	43	996	139

*FDP,EAP and EDP are scheduled to commence from August,2025.

Based on the outcomes of the pilot Swavalambini programme, the Ministry will assess the feasibility of scaling up the Swavalambini Programme to a wider network of HEIs across more States/UTs with the objective of embedding entrepreneurial knowledge in higher education, thereby, empowering young women to become job creators and contribute meaningfully to India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
