

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3048
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

SYMPOSIUM ON START-UP ECOSYSTEM

3048. Shri Bhojraj Nag:
Smt. Sandhya Ray:
Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara:
Smt. Himadri Singh:
Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky:
Shri Basavaraj Bommai:
Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar:
Shri Rodmal Nagar:
Shri Godam Nagesh:
Ms Kangna Ranaut:
Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi:
Shri Mukesh Rajput:
Shri Naba Charan Majhi:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the symposium organised on development of Startup Ecosystem for Scheduled Tribes (STs);
- (b) the total amount and structure of the newly formed Venture Capital Fund for ST entrepreneurs and its allocation;
- (c) the names of the institutions consulted to prepare strategies to promote entrepreneurship at the tribal level;
- (d) the key recommendations of the symposium including steps proposed to strengthen supply chains, ensure grassroots-level training and enhance access to public markets for tribal startups;
- (e) the details of the plan to develop a startup ecosystem in TSP areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana;
- (f) the details and the names of the schemes through which the Government has extended benefits in the said States during the last five years, district-wise;
- (g) the details of the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes benefitted under startup schemes in the said States, district-wise;
- (h) whether the Government proposes to conduct such events or incubation drives in ST-dominated blocks of the Dewas–Shajapur Constituency and if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the measures being taken to ensure access to funding, training and digital infrastructure for ST entrepreneurs in this region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (i) The Ministry had launched the scheme of ‘Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes’ (VCF-ST) on 10th February, 2024 with a corpus of Rs. 50 crore to promote entrepreneurship among STs across the country including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana. The fund is floated as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Category-II under Securities and

Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as debt oriented. The scheme is implemented through IFCI VCF Ltd. So far, an amount of Rs. 8.41 crores have been sanctioned to two tribal companies – one in Telangana (Rs. 5.00 crores) and one in Chhattisgarh (Rs. 3.41 crores).

Under the scheme, IFCI VCF Ltd. organized a Symposium on 28th January, 2025 wherein major Venture Capitalists and Impact Investors were invited to deliberate on actionable strategies aimed at uplifting tribal entrepreneurs, catalyzing investments in tribal-led startups and fostering inclusive growth. The participants included representatives from Indian Angel Network, Info Edge, IVCA, Aavishkaar Capital, GrowthCap Ventures, Villgro, SKI Capital, IFCI Venture and former officials of SIDBI. The key recommendations from the symposium included building quality tribal enterprises, targeted capacity-building programs at village level, identify specific industries with high potential for tribal empowerment and innovation, such as agriculture, handicrafts, and sustainable development and promote Fund of Funds (FOF) models to channel investments into innovative and impactful sectors.
