

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2025.**

**CHALLENGES FACED BY SMALL BUSINESSES**

**322. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the challenges faced by small businesses, exporters and start-ups due to global economic slowdown, inflation and rising logistics costs; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the policy measures introduced to support trade, boost manufacturing and promote ease of doing business and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a) & (b):** To strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been implementing various schemes/programmes and initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), MSME Champions Scheme, International Cooperation Scheme, Procurement and Marketing Support Scheme (PMS), Udyam Registration Portal and Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS), to name the major ones.

To support small businesses, fee rebates of at least 80% for filing and processing of patent applications and maintenance of patents have been given to Startups, small entities (MSMEs) and educational institutes. Facility of expedited examination has also been given to startups, small entities (MSMEs). Further, in order to fast-track examination of patent application, electronic submission of documents by patent agents has been made mandatory and timelines have been streamlined.

Further, the Government, with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, startups and encouraging private investments in startup ecosystem of the country launched Startup India initiative on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Over 1.75 lakh startups have been recognised by DPIIT so far. Under the Startup India initiative, the Government is implementing three flagship Schemes, namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) to support startups at various stages of their business cycle.

Similarly, Government has also introduced several policy measures to support trade, boost manufacturing, and promote ease of doing business. The 'Make in India' initiative has been launched to make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation. Presently, 'Make in India' focuses on 27 sectors including 15 manufacturing sectors, implemented across various Ministries and Departments and State

Governments. Further, keeping in view India's vision of becoming 'Aatmanirbhar' and to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and exports, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have been launched for 14 key sectors with an outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore. The Government has also approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with total project cost of ₹28,602 crore (incl. land cost) to facilitate manufacturing investments into the country. The other major initiatives include Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms, National Logistics Policy to address logistics cost, PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for integrated planning of multi-modal infrastructure, GIS enabled Land Bank, Project Monitoring Group to remove bottlenecks in setting up of major infrastructure projects, setting up of industrial parks, policy measures to boost domestic manufacturing through public procurement orders, Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) and Quality Control Orders (QCOs). The Boilers Act 1923 has been re-enacted as the Boilers Act, 2025 (12 of 2025), wherein redundant /obsolete provisions have been omitted and certain substantive enabling provisions have been made for the rules and regulations, which is expected to benefit industries reliant on boiler system. A combination of fiscal and monetary policy tools have been used by the government and central bank to keep inflation in check.

To enhance ease of doing business, several initiatives have been introduced which mainly focus on Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB), Decriminalization and National Single Window System (NSWS). The Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) focuses on reduction in compliance burden and incentivises state government to lessen burden of compliance. The National Single Window System (NSWS) has been launched as a one-stop digital platform for facilitating Government to Business (G2B) approvals and investor-related clearances for industry. Also, the Government of India is determined to create an investment friendly ecosystem that strongly supports domestic as well as foreign investments.

To enhance ease of doing business, the Government, through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, has decriminalized 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/ Departments. Building on this reform, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced the Jan Vishwas 2.0 initiative, under which DPIIT has undertaken an analysis of criminal provisions (including both major and minor offences) across Acts under 39 Ministries/Departments.

To boost trade and exports, the Government has launched the New Foreign Trade Policy (2023) and implemented the Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit. Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters. Further, Districts as Export Hubs initiative has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.

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