

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 791
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.07.2025

MSMEs IN AKOLA

791. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific support being provided by the Government to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Akola district in Maharashtra to boost exports, particularly in the cotton industry considering that Akola is the largest cotton-growing district;
- (b) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote e-commerce exports among MSMEs in Akola; and
- (c) the number of MSMEs in Akola that have benefitted from these export promotion initiatives and the plans to expand these initiatives to support more MSMEs in the region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is implementing a scheme namely, “International Cooperation Scheme” which aims for capacity building of MSMEs for entering export market by facilitating and supporting their participation in international exhibitions, fairs, conferences, seminar and buyer-seller meets abroad as well as reimbursement of various costs involved in export of goods and services throughout the country including Akola. The scheme has following components:

Market Development Assistance (MDA): Under this component financial assistance is provided for participation of MSMEs as exhibitors in delegations led by Industry/Government Associations in international exhibitions, trade fairs and buyer-seller meet in foreign countries.

Capacity Building of First Time Exporters (CBFTE): It offers reimbursements to micro and small exporters, with an IEC Code/Registration under 3 years, for expenses related to Registration-cum-Membership Certification (RCMC) charges/fee paid to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), export insurance premiums paid to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd (ECGC), and testing and quality certification for exports.

The details of MSMEs of Maharashtra supported during last two years under International Cooperation Scheme are given below:-

Financial Year	Number of MSMEs provided assistance	Amount released (in rupees)
2023-24	122	4,72,15,131
2024-25	65	2,13,11,721

Furthermore, 65 Export Facilitation Centers (EFCs) have been established across the country including 05 EFCs in Maharashtra, in various field offices of the Ministry of MSME such as DFOs/Tool Rooms/Testing Centres with the aim to provide requisite mentoring and handholding to MSMEs in exporting their products and services.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has initiated the pilot launch of E-Commerce Export Hubs to assist MSMEs and traditional artisans across the country in expanding their exports through e-commerce. These hubs aim to streamline regulatory and logistics processes by providing end-to-end support for cross-border e-commerce exports, including faster clearance and simplified returns management.
