

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4046.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2026.**

STARTUP RECOGNITION

4046. DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has expanded the scope and eligibility criteria for recognition of startups under the Startup India initiative and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of start-ups recognised before and after the said expansion in the country, State/UT-wise including in Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the expanded recognition for startups and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that start-ups in smaller cities and non-metro regions are able to fully benefited from the revised recognition framework?

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): The Government has expanded the scope and eligibility criteria for recognition of startups under the Startup India initiative through notification G.S.R. 108(E) dated 4 February 2026 to better reflect the evolving scale and diversity of India's startup ecosystem. The key revisions are as follows:
- i. **Increase in turnover ceiling:** The annual turnover ceiling upto which a startup can remain recognised as a 'startup' has been increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore, enabling scaling enterprises to continue availing benefits under the Startup India initiative.
 - ii. **Introduction of a 'Deep Tech Startup' category:** A separate category has been introduced for startups working on advanced and emerging technologies with extended eligibility parameters:
 - a. Age limit: Up to 20 years from the date of incorporation or registration.
 - b. Turnover ceiling: Up to Rs. 300 crore, recognising the longer gestation periods and capital intensity associated with deep technology ventures.
 - iii. **Expansion of eligible entity types:** Multi-State Cooperative Societies registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and Cooperative Societies registered under State/UT Cooperative Societies Acts are now eligible for startup recognition, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed criteria.

The gazette notification can be accessed at:
<https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2026/269843.pdf>

These revisions were formulated following consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem and relevant Ministries/Departments to better support innovation-driven enterprises and sectors requiring longer technology development cycles.

- (b) & (c):** The number of entities recognised as startups under the Startup India initiative has increased from approximately 500 in 2016 to 2,12,283 as on 31 January 2026. The State/Union Territory-wise number of entities recognised as startups, including those from the State of Punjab, as on 3 February 2026 (prior to the revised framework) and from 4 February 2026 to 28 February 2026 (after the revised framework) is placed at **Annexure-I**.

The revised recognition framework was formulated after consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem as well as with relevant Ministries and Departments. While the revised framework has been notified recently, the expansion of eligibility parameters will enable a wider set of innovation-driven enterprises, including deep technology ventures and eligible cooperative institutions, to be eligible for startup recognition and access the benefits available under the Startup India initiative.

- (d):** Startup recognition under the Startup India initiative is processed through a digital application system available on the Startup India portal and the National Single Window System (NSWS), enabling entrepreneurs across the country, including those in smaller cities and non-metro regions, to apply online. The recognition process is based on self-certification with simplified documentation, and guidance material, such as recognition handbooks and tutorials, are available on the portal to assist applicants in navigating the process.

In addition, the Government undertakes outreach, awareness and ecosystem development initiatives across States and Union Territories in collaboration with State startup nodal agencies, incubators and other ecosystem stakeholders to promote startup recognition and support innovators in emerging startup hubs. Capacity-building workshops and stakeholder consultations are organised across regions to strengthen local startup ecosystems and facilitate participation from smaller cities.

Further, national initiatives such as the States' Startup Ranking Framework, National Startup Awards, Startup Mahakumbh, ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Caliber & Entrepreneurial Drive) sensitisation workshops in the North Eastern region, and Startup India Innovation Week provide platforms for entrepreneurs from across the country to engage with investors, incubators and policymakers, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and encouraging startup participation from non-metro and emerging innovation clusters.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4046 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2026.

The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise number of entities recognized as startups in the country is placed below:

State/UT	No. of entities recognized as startups as on 3rd February 2026	No. of entities recognized as startups from 4th February 2026 till 28th February 2026
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	93	3
Andhra Pradesh	4015	122
Arunachal Pradesh	88	3
Assam	2070	48
Bihar	4757	153
Chandigarh	670	12
Chhattisgarh	2306	62
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	90	1
Delhi	20318	352
Goa	785	13
Gujarat	18234	459
Haryana	11033	281
Himachal Pradesh	783	18
Jammu and Kashmir	1452	35
Jharkhand	2000	59
Karnataka	21647	428
Kerala	8278	173
Ladakh	25	0
Lakshadweep	3	0
Madhya Pradesh	7090	208
Maharashtra	36861	816
Manipur	258	6
Meghalaya	92	2
Mizoram	64	1
Nagaland	116	3
Odisha	3686	75
Puducherry	226	8
Punjab	2372	50
Rajasthan	7714	192
Sikkim	18	2
Tamil Nadu	14124	293
Telangana	11780	346
Tripura	201	8
Uttar Pradesh	20782	593
Uttarakhand	1744	51
West Bengal	6965	161
Total	212740	5037
