

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

NATIONAL SKILL QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

Posted On: 07 AUG 2024 2:02PM by PIB Delhi

Government of India launched the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) in December 2013 and was rationalized and notified in June, 2023. NSQF is an outcome and competency-based framework which organizes qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills, aptitude, and responsibility levels defined in terms of learning outcomes which the learner must acquire through formal, non-formal or informal learning which may comprise of academics, vocational education, training & skilling and experiential learning including relevant experience and proficiency/ professional levels acquired, subject to assessment. The NSQF is segregated from Level 1 to 8, and each level represents a different level of skills, complexity, knowledge, responsibility and autonomy. Key features of NSQF are as under:

- i. Provide for integrating and creditizing vocational education, training and skill learning in various dimensions of academics, skilling and experiential learning including relevant experience and proficiency/ professional levels acquired, subject to assessment;
- ii. Clearly prescribe the desired competency levels in terms of knowledge, skills, aptitude, responsibility and learning outcomes expected after undergoing the course/ qualification while assigning a pre-defined NSQF/ NCrF level;
- iii. Facilitate assigning of credit levels across vocational education/ skilling including that in school and higher education, based on the cumulative numbers of hours/ years of learning;
- iv. Establish academic equivalence between vocational & general education while enabling mobility within & between them;
- v. Enable multi-disciplinarity, multiple entry-multiple exit (ME-ME) and progression pathways within and between school education, higher education, technical education, vocational education, training & skilling, and the job markets;
- vi. Provide flexibility for students/ learners to choose their learning trajectories and career choices, including option for mid-way course correction
- vii. Recognize learning through close partnership with industry and employers through internships apprenticeships and on the job training across all sectors;
- viii. Provide for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) through a credible assessment process;
- ix. NSQF enables and promotes lifelong learning and skill development.

Under the Govt of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/colleges/institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Sikhshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society, including youth, across the country. The brief of these schemes is as under:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): PMKVY Scheme is for imparting skill development training through Short-Term Training (STT) and up-skilling and re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country including rural areas.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme: The main target of the JSS is to impart vocational skills to the non-literates, neo-literates and the persons having rudimentary level of education and school dropouts upto 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years, with due age relaxation in case of “Divyangjan” and other deserving cases. Priority is given to Women, SC, ST, OBC and Minorities in the rural areas and urban low-income areas.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS): This Scheme is for promoting apprenticeship training and increasing the engagement of apprentices by providing financial support for payment of stipend to apprentices. Training consists of Basic Training and On-the-Job Training / Practical Training at workplace in the industry.

Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS): This scheme is for providing long-term training through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country. The ITIs offer a range of vocational/skill training courses covering a large number of economic sectors with an objective to provide skilled workforce to the industry as well as self-employment of youth.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Initiatives taken by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote a supportive entrepreneurship ecosystem

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The Government of India has taken up various initiatives to create a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem through entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has been working for promoting entrepreneurship development amongst women, marginalized communities, and individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds in the country through its Autonomous Institutes, namely, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE). MSDE has taken up various initiatives in fostering a supportive entrepreneurship ecosystem comprising of interventions to build entrepreneurial mindset and capabilities and to help and grow enterprises.

As per the National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy 2015, the entrepreneurship policy framework has been developed to create an enabling ecosystem of culture, finance, expertise, infrastructure, skills and business friendly regulations.

The Ministry has given special focus to the inclusion of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), minorities, differently-abled, across the country including rural areas, LWE areas, vibrant villages, North Eastern India and border areas in entrepreneurship programs. These groups are prioritized for delivery of entrepreneurship awareness and development programmes. Special initiatives have been taken up to build entrepreneurial capacity for women.

Special efforts are made to enroll incubators and mentors, catering to these groups in the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) and Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programmes (ESDP) across the country.

The Government, through various EDP and ESDP programmes has enhanced the skills of participants through interventions such as Digital Marketing, Financial/Credit and Market Linkages and Industry connect.

For providing mentorship support, a national network of mentors from the field of industry, successful entrepreneurs, experts from the banking and financial institutions etc have been created. These mentors provide guidance and handholding support to budding entrepreneurs.

Startup India aims to build a strong and diverse startup ecosystem which includes various stakeholders. With a dedicated motive to fuel business, innovation, and economic growth, Startup India has facilitated beneficial bridges and long-term associations between startups, governments, and corporate which have helped nurture the expansion and development of startups. This includes enabling collaborations and engagements with corporates specifically with respect to organizing

events, acceleration programs, innovation challenges, hackathons, and workshops on an ongoing basis for stakeholders to discover, connect and engage with each other. All collaborations are evaluated and undertaken depending upon the requirements of the ecosystem and the scope and effectiveness of the collaboration, keeping in view the larger objective of enabling greater outreach, visibility, market linkages, knowledge sharing, and co-creation amongst all stakeholders of India's startup ecosystem.

The details of the various initiatives taken by MSDE to promote a supportive entrepreneurship ecosystem are at **Annexure-I**. Further, in addition to these initiatives, various Ministries/Departments of Government of India have taken several initiatives to promote entrepreneurship in the country. The details are at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure – I

Some of the key initiatives taken up by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for creating a more inclusive Entrepreneurship ecosystem

- 1. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) - MSDE** through its autonomous institutes - NIESBUD and IIE is implementing the skilling and entrepreneurship component of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN), a scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for upliftment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The project is being undertaken as a Special Project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The project is being implemented with support of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in 18 States and one Union Territory across the country.
- 2. Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop Owners - MSDE**, in collaboration with Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has undertaken a project of Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop (FPS) Owners. The programme will cover 3000 FPS owners at PAN India level in its first phase. The first batch of Capacity Building was conducted from 27th May to 31st May 2024. The project is being undertaken as a Special Project under PMKVY. The programme has been designed by NIESBUD in collaboration with Department of Food and Public Distribution to enable the FPS owners to run their businesses in consonance with the contemporary practices being adopted by Retail Entrepreneurs. The programme aims to equip the participants with in-depth knowledge of various facets of entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy, and government support ecosystem.
- 3. Strengthening Entrepreneurial Climate through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring and Handholding under SANKALP Scheme - MSDE** through NIESBUD and IIE has been working for the empowerment, upliftment and development of entrepreneurs including Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) across the country. The project is implemented for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem of different marginalized sections of the society.
- 4. Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) - MSDE** through NIESBUD is creating Entrepreneurial Climate through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs). The project had different components as Training of Trainers Programmes for 2000 trainers of JSS and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes to impart training among 4000 JSS Trainees which was undertaken during

the Financial Year 2022-23. The project was aimed at creating, fostering and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the various target groups through Capacity Building, Incubation Support, Mentoring and Handholding.

5. Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana on Pilot Basis for PM Svanidhi Beneficiaries - MSDE has collaborated with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to train PM-SVANidhi beneficiaries through pilot project- Rastriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana. The project is being implemented by NIESBUD and IIE. The project which had commenced from February 2024, has an outlay to train 2050 beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi and includes one week of classroom program and 21 weeks of mentoring and hand-holding support.

6. Entrepreneurship Development among Jail Inmates - NIESBUD is implementing a project for “Promoting Entrepreneurship Development among Jail Inmates; which includes value added skill up gradation, product innovation & development; and Strengthening of Livelihood Business Incubation Centre at Jails. With the support of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the spirit of entrepreneurship was promoted among the Jail Inmates through Capacity Building, Mentoring, Handholding and Incubation Support.

7. STRIVE Project - Under the Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project of MSDE, NIESBUD and IIE conducted Entrepreneurship Awareness, Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Mentoring, and Handholding of trainees (and future trainers) in Industrial Training Institute (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institute (NSTIs) across India. Both the institutes have conducted Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) for 96241 beneficiaries as of May 2024. They have also provided mentoring and handholding support after the completion of the EDP to support trainees for the establishment of their enterprises. Additionally, the Institutes continue to extend handholding support to the beneficiaries for a period of one year.

Annexure-II

Details of initiatives taken up by various Ministries/Department of the Government of India for promoting Entrepreneurship

1. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry - The Government with intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and encouraging investments launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016. As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognized as ‘startups’ under the Startup India initiative by the DPIIT. DPIIT has recognized 1,40,803 entities as startups as on 30th June 2024. For attaining specific objectives, various programs are implemented by the Government under the Startup India initiative. All the steps undertaken by the Government under the initiative are inclusive and are implemented across age-groups, States/Union Territories (UTs), cities, towns, and rural areas. The recognized startups have reported to have created over 15.5 lakh direct jobs. There are recognized startups from every State and UT of the country. The details of various programs undertaken by the Government to promote startups across the country are as under:

- i. **Startup India Action Plan:** An Action Plan for Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2016. The Action Plan comprises of 19 action items spanning across areas such as

“Simplification and handholding”, “Funding support and incentives” and “Industry-academia partnership and incubation”. The Action Plan laid the foundation of Government support, schemes and incentives envisaged to create a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country.

- ii. **Startup India: The Way Ahead:** Startup India: The Way Ahead at 5 years celebration of Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2021 which includes actionable plans for promotion of ease of doing business for startups, greater role of technology in executing various reforms, building capacities of stakeholders and enabling a digital Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- iii. **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):** Easy availability of capital is essential for entrepreneurs at the early stages of growth of an enterprise. The capital required at this stage often presents a make-or-break situation for startups with good business ideas. The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. Rs. 945 crore has been sanctioned under the SISFS Scheme for period of 4 years starting from 2021-22.
- iv. **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme:** The Government has established FFS with corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups. DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. The total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore is envisaged to be provided over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles based on progress of the scheme and availability of funds. It has not only made capital available for startups at early stage, seed stage and growth stage but also played a catalytic role in terms of facilitating raising of domestic capital, reducing dependence on foreign capital and encouraging home grown and new venture capital funds.
- v. **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS):** The Government has established the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups for providing credit guarantees to loans extended to DPIIT recognized startups by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Venture Debt Funds (VDFs) under SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds. CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz. DPIIT recognised startups.
- vi. **Regulatory Reforms:** Over 55 regulatory reforms have been undertaken by the Government since 2016 to enhance ease of doing business, ease of raising capital and reduce compliance burden for the startup ecosystem.
- vii. **Ease of Procurement:** To enable ease of procurement, Central Ministries/ Departments are directed to relax conditions of prior turnover and prior experience in public procurement for all DPIIT recognised startups subject to meeting quality and technical specifications. Further, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) also facilitates and promotes procurement of products and services by the Government from startups.
- viii. **Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws:** Startups are allowed to self-certify their compliance under 9 Labour and 3 Environment laws for a period of 3 to 5 years from the date of incorporation.
- ix. **Income Tax Exemption for 3 years:** Startups incorporated on or after 1st April 2016 can apply for income tax exemption. The recognized startups that are granted an Inter-Ministerial Board Certificate are exempted from income-tax for a period of 3 consecutive years out of 10 years since incorporation.

- x. **Faster Exit for Startups:** The Government has notified Startups as 'fast track firms' enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies.
- xi. **Exemption for the Purpose Of Clause (VII)(b) of Sub-section (2) of Section 56 of the Act (2019):** A DPIIT recognized startup is eligible for exemption from the provisions of section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act.
- xii. **Support for Intellectual Property Protection:** Startups are eligible for fast-tracked patent application examination and disposal. The Government launched Start-ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) which facilitates the startups to file applications for patents, designs and trademarks through registered facilitators in appropriate IP offices by paying only the statutory fees. Facilitators under this Scheme are responsible for providing general advisory on different IPRs, and information on protecting and promoting IPRs in other countries. The Government bears the entire fees of the facilitators for any number of patents, trademark or designs, and startups only bear the cost of the statutory fees payable. Startups are provided with an 80% rebate in filing of patents and 50% rebate in filling of trademark vis-a-vis other companies.
- xiii. **Startup India Hub:** The Government launched a Startup India Online Hub on 19th June 2017 which is one of its kind online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other. The Online Hub hosts Startups, Investors, Funds, Mentors, Academic Institutions, Incubators, Accelerators, Corporates, Government Bodies and more.
- xiv. **International Market Access to Indian Startups:** One of the key objectives under the Startup India initiative is to help connect Indian startup ecosystem to global startup ecosystems through various engagement models. This has been done through international Government to Government partnerships, participation in international forums and hosting of global events. Startup India has launched bridges with around 20 countries that provides a soft-landing platform for startups from the partner nations and aid in promoting cross collaboration.
 - xv. **Startup India Showcase:** Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country chosen through various programs for startups exhibited in a form of virtual profiles. The startups showcased on the platform have distinctly emerged as the best in their fields. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, EnterpriseTech, Social Impact, HealthTech, EdTech, among others. These startups are solving critical problems and have shown exceptional innovation in their respective sectors. Ecosystem stakeholders have nurtured and supported these startups, thereby validating their presence on this platform.
- xvi. **National Startup Advisory Council:** The Government in January 2020 notified constitution of the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. Besides the ex-officio members, the council has a number of non-official members, representing various stakeholders from the startup ecosystem.
 - xvii. **National Startup Awards (NSA):** National Startup Awards is an initiative to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact. Handholding support is provided to all the finalists across various tracks viz. Investor Connect, Mentorship, Corporate Connect,

Government Connect, International Market Access, Regulatory Support, Startup Champions on Doordarshan and Startup India Showcase, etc.

- xviii. **States' Startup Ranking Framework (SRF):** States' Startup Ranking Framework is a unique initiative to harness strength of competitive federalism and create a flourishing startup ecosystem in the country. The major objectives of the ranking exercise are facilitating states to identify, learn and replace good practices, highlighting the policy intervention by states for promoting startup ecosystem and fostering competitiveness among states.
- xix. **Startup Champions on Doordarshan:** Startup Champions program on Doordarshan is a one-hour weekly program covering stories of award winning/ nationally recognised startups. It is telecasted in both Hindi and English across Doordarshan network channels.
 - xx. **Startup India Innovation Week:** The Government organises Startup India Innovation week around the National Startup Day i.e., 16th January, with the primary goal was to bring together the country's key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks, policymakers, and other national/international stakeholders to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation.
- xxi. **ASCEND:** Under ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Caliber & Entrepreneurial Drive), sensitization workshops on startups and entrepreneurship were conducted for all eight North Eastern States with the objective to capacitate and augment knowledge on key aspects of entrepreneurship and continue efforts towards creating a robust startup ecosystem in these States.
 - xxii. **The Startup India Investor Connect Portal** has been co-developed under the Startup India Initiative with SIDBI, serving as an intermediary platform that links startups and investors in order to help entrepreneurs from various industries, functions, stages, regions, and backgrounds in mobilizing capital. The portal has been built with the aim to enable in particular; early-stage startups located anywhere in the country to showcase themselves to leading investors/ venture capital funds.
 - xxiii. **National Mentorship Portal (MAARG):** In order to facilitate accessibility to mentorship for startups in every part of the country, the Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth (MAARG) program has been developed and launched under the Startup India Initiative.
- 2. **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) -** Ministry of MSME, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for assisting entrepreneurs in setting up of new enterprises in the non-farm sector. It aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth at their doorstep. PMEGP being a Central Sector Scheme assists General Category beneficiaries with Margin Money (MM) subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically Handicapped, Transgenders, beneficiaries belonging to Northeastern Region, Hill and Border areas, and Aspirational Districts, the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The maximum cost of project is Rs. 50 lakhs in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 lakhs in the service sector. Also, own contribution of beneficiaries under Special Category including women is 05% and 10% for General Category beneficiaries. Since 2018-19, existing PMEGP/REGP/MUDRA enterprises are also supported

based on past good performances with 2nd loan for upgradation and expansion. Under 2nd Loan, maximum project cost admissible for Margin Money (MM) subsidy under Manufacturing sector is Rs. 1.00 crore and for Service sector is Rs. 25 Lakhs. Eligible subsidy on 2nd loan for all categories is 15% of project cost (20% for NER & Hill States).

3. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) - Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) programme supports the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their family members to set-up small enterprises in the non-farm sector. SVEP develops an eco-system for enterprise development in rural areas, with SHG households, which includes Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) (a dedicated fund for providing loans to entrepreneurs) and Cadre of Community Resource Persons-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) for providing Business Support Services. Under SVEP, the project cost for one block is Rs 6.50 Crore (inclusive of Government of India and State Share) out of which Government of India (GoI) share is 90% for North Eastern Region (NER) and Hilly states while it is 60% for the remaining States.

4. Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Department of Science and Technology (DST), implements an umbrella program NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) launched in 2016, which has various components to support innovation and entrepreneurship in academic setups. NIDHI facilitates setting up of incubation centers throughout the country, which provide handholding support to youth to become budding entrepreneurs and innovators. NIDHI support is also extended for proof of concept (PoC), prototyping, capacity building and early-stage seed fund which help in launching of new startups.

5. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) – MoSJ&E launched the Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, in the financial Year 2020-21, for providing skill trainings to marginalized persons belonging to SCs, OBCs, EWSs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers of 18 to 45 years of age. The main objective of PM-DAKSH Yojana is to enhance the skills of target groups and makes them employable either in wage-employment or self-employment leading to promote entrepreneurship. Under Entrepreneurial Development Programmes (EDP), one of three sub-categories under PM-DAKSH scheme, target groups who are having an entrepreneurial bent of mind are being trained.

Senior-care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) component of AVYAY-CS scheme is implemented to promote out-of-the-box and innovative solutions for the commonly faced problems, innovative start-ups are identified and encouraged for developing products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly. The selected start-ups/Start-up ideas are provided equity support of up to Rs. 1 Crore per project while ensuring that the total Government equity in the start-up does not exceed 49%. The initiative is implemented through IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited (Investment Manager).

6. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** - Ministry is implementing the scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)' through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which envisions to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and to facilitate livelihood opportunities by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, Agri / Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) / Non-farm produce. Under the scheme, financial support of INR 15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Governments for setting up of each Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which are the centres of value addition activities of MFPs/Non-MFPs.

TRIFED provides backward & forward linkages to tribal artisans / suppliers for marketing of tribal products of various categories like metal craft, textile, jewellery, painting, cane & bamboo, terracotta & pottery, organic & natural food products etc. through online and offline platforms. In addition, TRIFED also organizes and participates in festivals, melas etc. to provide platforms to the tribal artisans to showcase their products and connect them to the potential buyers giving thereby an opportunity to enhance their entrepreneurship activities.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, provides credit linkage by extending concessional loans to the eligible Scheduled Tribe persons for undertaking income generation activities/ self-employment thereby instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship. The prominent schemes of NSTFDC are given as under:

- a. **Term Loan Scheme:** NSTFDC provides Term Loan for viable projects costing upto ₹50.00 lakh per unit. Under the scheme, financial assistance is extended upto 90% of the cost of the project and the balance is met by way of subsidy/ promoter contribution/ margin money.
- b. **Adivasi MahilaSashaktikaranYojana (AMSY):** This is an exclusive scheme for economic development of Scheduled Tribes Women. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides loan upto 90% for projects costing upto ₹2.00 lakh at highly concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum.
- c. **Micro Credit Scheme for Self Help Groups (MCF):** This is an exclusive scheme for Self Help Groups for meeting small loan requirement of ST members. Under the scheme, the Corporation provides loans upto ₹50,000/- per member and maximum ₹5 Lakh per Self Help Group (SHG).
- d. **Adivasi ShikshaRinnYojana (ASRY):** This is an education loan scheme to enable the ST students to meet expenditure for pursuing technical and professional education including Ph.D. in India. Under this scheme, the Corporation provides financial assistance upto ₹10.00 lakh per eligible family at concessional rate of interest of 6% per annum.

7. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** - Start-ups, Innovation & IPR Division under MeitY has undertaken various initiatives and measures to promote a technology-led startups and innovation ecosystem in the country including women, marginalized communities, and individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. This proactive approach builds from established best practices designed to strengthen and encourage

the overall tech startup development infrastructure by overcoming persistent bottlenecks to work grounds up seamlessly. Some of the major initiatives have been elucidated here:

- **TIDE 2.0 Scheme: Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme** was initiated in the year 2019 to promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc. The scheme aims to provide comprehensive support to tech-startups in seven thematic areas of National concern by leveraging emerging technologies. The supported thematic areas are Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Financial inclusion (including digital payments), Infrastructure and Transportation and Environment and Clean Tech. The Scheme is being implemented through 51 incubators through a three tiered structure with an overarching objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organisations. The scheme is envisaged to provide incubation support to approximately 2000 tech start-ups over a period of five years. The total outlay of the scheme is of Rs. 264.62 Crore over a period of five years.
- **Domain specific Centres of Excellence:** MeitY has envisaged and operationalised Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in diverse areas of national interest for driving self-sufficiency and creating capabilities to capture new and emerging technology areas. These domain specific CoEs are act as enablers and aid in making India an innovation hub in emerging through democratisation of innovation and realisation of prototypes.

8. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) - MOFPI is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) that is designed to address the challenges faced by the micro enterprises and to tap the potential of groups and cooperatives in supporting the upgradation and formalization of these enterprises. The Scheme has a Capacity Building component, which envisages providing 24 Hours/ 3 Days, Food Processing EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Programme) Training for, all applicants viz individuals and Groups (SHGs/ FPOs/ Cooperatives) recommended for availing credit linked grant by District Level Committee (DLC) and 8 hours/1 day training to SHG beneficiaries of Seed Capital under PMFME scheme engaged in micro food processing.

9. Department of Financial Services - Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched on 08.04.2015 to extend collateral free credit up to Rs.10 lakh by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). Any individual, who is otherwise eligible to take a loan and has a business plan for small business enterprise can avail loan under the Scheme for income generating activities in the manufacturing, trading, service sectors including activities allied to agriculture across three loan categories, viz. Shishu (loans up to Rs. 50,000/-), Kishor (loans above Rs. 50,000/- and up to Rs. 5 lakh) and Tarun (loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh).

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

‘Skill India Digital Hub’ facilitates digital access to skill development, integrating the skilling ecosystem, enhancing employability and entrepreneurship

SKILL INDIA DIGITAL INITIATIVE

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The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) is a comprehensive digital platform designed to synergize and transform the skills, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape in India. It represents the aspirations of millions of Indians seeking better opportunities by providing access to industry-relevant skill courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support. As the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Skilling, Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship, SIDH serves as a comprehensive information gateway for government initiatives in these domains, making it a go-to hub for citizens pursuing career advancement and lifelong learning. The primary objectives of SIDH include facilitating digital access to skill development, integrating the skilling ecosystem, enhancing employability and entrepreneurship, promoting lifelong learning, serving as an information gateway, and leveraging data-driven decision-making.

SIDH is designed to promote the adoption of DPI in the country. SIDH is one of the most important DPI for India’s skill development, education, employment and entrepreneurship landscape as it provides a foundational digital ecosystem that supports and integrates various public and private stakeholders. It serves as a scalable and interoperable infrastructure that facilitates access, delivery, and management of resources. SIDH plays a crucial role in preparing the Indian workforce for Industry 4.0 by offering futuristic courses on Big Data, Machine Learning and Analytics, etc. provided by its digital learning partners. Industry 4.0 course such as Python with Advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI), Artificial Intelligence Foundation, Generative AI, Build Classical Machine Learning Models with Supervised Learning, Data Analytics Essentials, Analytics Data in a Relational Data Warehouse, Cyber security Essentials, Introduction to Data Science, Kisan Drone Operator, EV Service Technician, Bio-waste Management, along with other certification courses, are being offered on the platform .

SIDH offers numerous benefits to citizens, including access to high-quality, industry-aligned training programs and resources, available anytime and anywhere, through the digital platform. SIDH provides recognized certifications to enhance credibility and employability, connects job seekers with employers and job opportunities, and promotes continuous learning and upskilling. It aims to bridge the skill gap across different regions and communities, ensuring inclusive growth and equitable access to opportunities. Furthermore, SIDH supports aspiring entrepreneurs by providing resources, training, and support to help them start and grow their businesses successfully, thereby contributing to overall economic and social development.

SIDH is the unified platform for the Indian skilling ecosystem. Individuals can explore and enroll in skill programmes/ courses offered by central government, state government, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and private partners. SIDH is also integrated with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development's (NIESBUD') UdhyaKart to list products of NIESBUD's trained entrepreneurs and empower small businesses.

SIDH offers multiple skill courses in partnership with industry stakeholders and educational institutions. Industry stakeholders include Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Cisco, Coca Cola, GUVI, HCL Technologies, IG Drones, Microsoft, NSDC, Quest Alliance, Tech Mahindra. Educational Institutions / Ed-tech partners include Ajinorah, DeakingCo., IGNOU, Tutorials Point, Manupatra Edutech, Upgrad. These collaborations help enhance the effectiveness of SIDH courses and ensures an increase in the adoption.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

SB/

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Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Initiatives to promote skill development training through use of Information Technology

INTERNET TRAINING FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

Posted On: 07 AUG 2024 2:06PM by PIB Delhi

The Government has taken various initiatives to promote skill development training through the use of information technology across all sections of the society including small and local entrepreneurs to make them use the internet effectively for their businesses. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is taking various initiatives in this direction through its Autonomous Institutes i.e National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE).

National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meta on 4th September, 2023 to support the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem. The aim of the MoU is to provide aspiring and current small business owners with the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources to thrive in today's dynamic market environment and to train budding and existing entrepreneurs in digital marketing skills by Meta platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram in seven regional languages. Further, NIESBUD organizes Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP), for different target groups who wish to become self-reliant and start their nano and micro enterprises. The module of Digital Literacy and Digital Marketing is incorporated in the curriculum of EDPs. The details of beneficiaries imparted training on Digital Literacy under different projects is at **Annexure-I**.

Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, an Autonomous Institute under the administrative control of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has conducted various skill development programs to help small or local entrepreneurs to use the internet effectively for their businesses, such as online transactions, online selling and purchasing of goods. IIE has conducted various Entrepreneurship Development Training programmes under the aegis of Central Government Departments as well as State Government Departments under various schemes like Digi-Bunai skill training programmes sponsored by the Digital India Corporation, Entrepreneurship Development Training under PM-DAKSH Scheme sponsored by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project sponsored by Directorate General of Training (MSDE). IIE has developed a series of course curriculum focusing on various topics of entrepreneurship development along with digital literacy, so that small or local entrepreneurs are able to use digital marketing platforms, internet, digital transaction platforms for making their growth of their business.

Further, in order to promote skilling in emerging technologies and integrate them with the existing vocational training framework, IT-ITeS Sector Skill Council has developed 54 NSQF (National Skills Qualification Framework) aligned job roles in areas like Artificial Intelligence, Big

Data Analytics, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, Robotic Process Automation, Block Chain and Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality. Also, Directorate General of Training (DGT) under MSDE has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with big companies like IBM, CISCO, Quest Alliance, and Microsoft for short term training courses in new age technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Course content of these programs are available online on Bharat Skills Portal.

The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous Scientific Society under the administrative control of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), through its own centres and associated training partners is implementing various skill development and capacity building projects/schemes funded by MeitY wherein the beneficiaries includes small or local entrepreneurs. The details of such projects /schemes are at **Annexure-II**.

Further, MeitY implemented the project titled “Skill Development of Youth in Digital Technologies in Tier-II and Tier-III Cities in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand” for skill-oriented training in different IT and ITES-related technologies to the youth in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand with the purpose of improving their employability and entrepreneurial capabilities for training in Digital marketing, Animation, Designing, Editing, etc. So far, 800 candidates were trained in digital (Marketing/Advertising Sales/ Traffic) in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The details of the project are at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure-I

(i) The State-wise number of trainees imparted training under the project during 2021-24 under the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness of Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Programme.

Sl No.	State	Number of trainee
1.	Andhra Pradesh	515
2.	Bihar	2504
3.	Chhattisgarh	1012
4.	Goa	335
5.	Gujarat	509
6.	Haryana	1000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	509
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	548

9.	Jharkhand	2000
10.	Karnataka	500
11.	Kerala	201
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1944
13.	Maharashtra	1616
14.	Odisha	1635
15.	Punjab	1024
16.	Rajasthan	1239
17.	Tamil Nadu	516
18.	Telangana	928
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2653
20.	Uttarakhand	1875
21.	West Bengal	900
		23963

(ii) The State-wise number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) trainees imparted Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training during 2022-23.

SI No.	State	Number of trainee
1	Bihar	457
2	Chandigarh	35
3	Chhattisgarh	398

4	Haryana	128
5	Himachal Pradesh	348
6	Jharkhand	723
7	Madhya Pradesh	31
8	Maharashtra	547
9	Odisha	505
10	Punjab	70
11	Uttar Pradesh	593
12	Uttarakhand	237
Total		4072

(iii) The State-wise number of National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI)/ Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) trainees imparted training under Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project during 2022-24 (till May 2024) is as under:

SI No.	State	Number of trainee
1.	Bihar	2111
2.	Chandigarh	126
3.	Chhattisgarh	2899
4.	Delhi	711
5.	Goa	252
6.	Gujarat	4252
7.	Haryana	781

8.	Himachal Pradesh	709
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	562
10.	Jharkhand	1909
11.	Karnataka	1013
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1965
13.	Maharashtra	1390
14.	Odisha	709
15.	Punjab	324
16.	Rajasthan	1099
17.	Telangana	1245
18.	Uttar Pradesh	6106
19.	Uttarakhand	433
20.	West Bengal	418
	Total	29014

Annexure-II

S. No.	State	Implementing NIELIT Centres	Project Name	Remarks
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1.	Arunachal Pradesh Assam Manipur Meghalaya Mizoram Nagaland Sikkim Tripura	Itanagar Guwahati Imphal Shillong Aizawl Kohima Gangtok Agartala	Capacity Building in IECT including training in Digital Skill sets and Current Industry Demanding Technologies for various sections of society in the NE States	25 Startups have been set up/supported as envisaged in the target
2.	Sikkim	Gangtok	ICT intervention in Travel & Tourism (T&T) Industry Through Capacity Building in New Age Digital Technologies	184 youths/stakeholders have been trained as on 30.06.2024
3.	Nagaland	Kohima	Digital Intervention of Handloom and Handicraft Sector for Livelihood enhancement of artisans of NE States	5640 candidates have been trained as on 31.07.2024

Annexure-III

S No.	State	Implementing Agency	Project Name	Remarks
1	Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	Banaras Hindu University	Skill Development of Youth in Digital Technologies in Tier-II and Tier-III Cities in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	So far, 800 candidates were trained in digital (Marketing/Advertising Sales/ Traffic) in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

SB/

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Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Government of India has taken various initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship across the country

Posted On: 07 AUG 2024 2:03PM by PIB Delhi

The Government of India has taken various initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship across the country. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati has been working for the empowerment, upliftment and development of women entrepreneurs across the country. The following programmes are being implemented by National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

NIESBUD has implemented the project for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem across different sections of society including marginalized populations with the support of the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) during 2021-24 in which 32,262 women (67% of total beneficiaries) participated.

Training-of-Trainers and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) and Trainers Training Programme on Employability, Entrepreneurship and Life Skills in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) was implemented by NIESBUD during 2022-23 in which a total of 3883 women (78% of total beneficiaries) participated.

NIESBUD has conducted EDP training for the students of the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) / Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and is providing mentoring and handholding support after the completion of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme for the establishment of the enterprises of the trainees under Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE). 22239 women (28% of total participants) have participated in the programme during 2023-24 (till May 2024).

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) – NIESBUD and IIE are implementing the capacity building and entrepreneurship component of the PM-JANMAN Scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Institutes are implementing the scheme in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. During 2023-24, NIESBUD and IIE have trained 36,016 participants, out of which 28,786 are women.

Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana (RUVV) on Pilot Basis for Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANIDHI) Beneficiaries – NIESBUD and IIE are implementing the project in collaboration with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). During 2023-24 (till May 2024), NIESBUD and IIE have trained 2729 participants out of which 904 are women.

The schemes of various other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for encouraging entrepreneurship among women are at **Annexure-I**.

The Government of India has introduced various special incubation hubs for enterprises started by women. The details of various such incubation hubs are at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

A. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is implementing various programmes to promote Women Entrepreneurship as per details given below:

- i. To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, 10% of the fund in the Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is reserved for women-led startups.
- ii. Startup India Hub: A webpage dedicated to women entrepreneurs has been designed on the Startup India portal. The page includes various policy measures for women entrepreneurs by both Central and State Governments.
- iii. Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP): The Government launched WEP in 2018 as an aggregator platform with the aim to overcome information asymmetry in the women entrepreneurial ecosystem. By showcasing all existing initiatives and providing domain knowledge it works towards empowering both prospective and present women entrepreneurs.
- iv. To identify the depth, quality and spread of innovation, inclusivity and diversity, and entrepreneurship in country, the Government instituted the National Startup Awards (NSA). NSA recognizes and promotes startups across 20 sectors and special categories. All four editions of the NSA (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) have featured a special category and award for women-led startups.

B. Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology - Department of Science and Technology (DST) has supported Women Entrepreneurship Development Program (WEDP), which is mandated for creating entrepreneurship skill within women and is conducted through institutions/organizations throughout the country. DST has supported establishment of startup incubation centres in academic setups focused for women entrepreneurs.

C. Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development - Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) programme supports the Self-Help Group (SHG) and their family members to set-up small enterprises in the non-farm sector.

D. National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM-T), Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) - Under MoFPI, Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme launched in 2020 is providing training as well as financial assistance to women apart from general public. This scheme provides Credit-Linked Subsidy for individual & Group women entrepreneurs. SHG members can receive seed capital of ₹40,000 per member for working capital and the purchase of small tools. The scheme provides a 50% financial grant for branding and marketing support to groups of FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives, or a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of micro food processing enterprises.

E. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) - National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, operates an exclusive scheme for the empowerment of Scheduled Tribes Women titled Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY). Under the scheme, Scheduled Tribe women can undertake

any income generation activity. Loans up to 90% for projects costing up to ₹2 lakh are provided at a concessional rate of interest of 4% p.a. The unit cost under Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) has been enhanced from ₹0.50 lakh to ₹1.00 lakh and now to ₹2.00 lakh per unit.

F. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements various schemes that address the need for credit, technology, market development, capacity building etc. of the MSMEs. Women Entrepreneurs are encouraged to avail the benefits of these schemes through various fora. A few of the schemes, having greater focus on women, are detailed below:

(i) Public Procurement Policy: The Government of India, through the Public Procurement Policy, has mandated that all Central Ministries/ Departments/Public Sector Enterprises will procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women-owned Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). The current procurement from women owned MSEs stands at 1.26 percent (from nearly 15,000 women entrepreneurs), which has seen an improvement from 0.3% in 2019-20.

(ii) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme: This flagship programme is a credit-linked subsidy programme for aspiring micro entrepreneurs to start their own enterprises in rural and urban areas. Women applicants are provided a higher subsidy than the general applicants. General category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25 % of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled caste/scheduled tribe /women the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. Aspiring women entrepreneurs have been increasingly benefiting from this programme. During the last eight years more than 1.83 lakh women availed assistance under this scheme, and turned micro entrepreneurs.

(iii) Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises: The Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGMSE) was launched by the Government of India to make available collateral-free credit to the micro and small enterprises for loans up to a limit of Rs. 500 lakh (w.e.f. 01.04.2023) to MSEs with a guarantee coverage up to 85% for loans to women, as against the normal rate of 75%. Both the existing and the new enterprises are eligible to be covered under the scheme

(iv) ZED Certification: MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme of Ministry of MSME, all Women owned manufacturing MSMEs registered in Udyam Portal are eligible for 100% (free) subsidy on cost of ZED certification w.e.f. 11th November, 2023.

(v) Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY): Mahila Coir Yojana is a sub-component of the Coir Vikas Yojana. MCY is a 100% women oriented and intensive two-month training programme which aims to provide training to rural women engaged in the coir sector, on sophisticated machinery/advanced technology in order to upscale their living standards and thereby attain self-sustainable employment. Under this programme, the women beneficiaries are given skill training in coir spinning. They are provided stipend during the training. The trainees are encouraged to apply for a loan under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) thereafter, for starting their own micro coir enterprises. During the last five years, more than 11,000 women artisans engaged in the coir industry were trained.

(vi) Capacity building through training programmes in the areas of entrepreneurship development, management development, market development, skill development, etc. are provided through the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development programmes. During the last three years, around 3 lakh

women were provided trainings through Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) training centres, Tool Rooms, Technology/Extension centres situated across the country. The Ministry aims to train the maximum number of women.

(vii) Under the SFURTI scheme, 80 clusters with women majority (i.e, with over 50% representation) have been approved under SFURTI scheme since July 2019

(viii) Yashasvini Campaigns for support and development of women entrepreneurs - During the year 2024-25, the Ministry has launched a series of “Yashasvini” mass campaigns for providing support and development of women entrepreneurs. These mass campaigns will be held in collaboration with other Ministries/Departments like Ministries of Rural Development, Housing and Urban Affairs, Tribal Affairs, NITI Aayog, State Governments, Women Industry Associations etc. The campaigns will be organized in Tier 2 and 3 cities in the country. The focus will be on formalization of informal women owned micro enterprises, providing handholding support for registration on Udyam portals, GeM, GST, PAN, etc. The details of schemes implemented by the Ministry and other organizations for access to credit, market, technology, capacity building, mentorship, etc. will be provided. Banks, SIDBI, CGTMSE and CPSEs etc. will be invited to install kiosks for hand holding support. The Yashasvini campaigns will be followed by capacity building programmes and mentorship programmes, wherein training in digital literacy, financial literacy, enterprise management, e-commerce, exports etc. will be provided. The first campaign was organized in Jaipur on 19th July 2024, in which more than 650 women entrepreneurs from the informal micro enterprises and Self Help Groups participated

(ix) MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (MSME TEAM): The Ministry has launched a new sub-scheme called MSME TEAM Initiative to provide financial assistance/subsidy to micro and small enterprises to on-board on to the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), for catalogue making, account management, logistic support and packaging. Around 2.5 lakh women are envisaged to be benefited during the next three years.

(x) Samarth Initiative: In March 2022, the Ministry announced “Samarth Initiative” under which, every year, the following will be aimed:

(a) 20% seats in free Skill Development Programs organized under various skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for women. More than 7500 women will benefit

(b) 20% of business delegations sent to domestic and international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by the Ministry will be dedicated to women-owned MSMEs

(c) Ministry to provide 20% discount on annual processing fee on NSIC’s commercial schemes

(d) Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration.

The Ministry has successfully achieved the targets in FY 22-23 and FY 23-24.

Annexure-II

1. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry:** Incubation hubs for Women Entrepreneurship through DPIIT are as given below:

(i) A Virtual Incubation Program for Women Entrepreneurs was conducted in collaboration with Zone Startups to support women-led tech startups with pro-bono acceleration support.

(ii) Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), under BioNEST and EYUVA schemes, has set up dedicated **Bio-incubation centres for women entrepreneurs** that provide incubation space and mentoring (business, Intellectual Property, legal) specifically to women students/scientists/entrepreneurs as well as support women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

2. Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development - The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission, under its non-farm livelihoods vertical is implementing Incubation sub-scheme. The incubation scheme aims to support 150 high growth potential enterprises in a State that has potential for employment creation. There are five States that are implementing the incubation sub-scheme – Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal.

3. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY): Under the **Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) Scheme of MeitY**, financial assistance is provided to Institutions of Higher Learning to strengthen their **Technology Incubation Centres** for enabling young entrepreneurs to create technology startup companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them.

4. Under the MSME Innovative (Incubation) Scheme, a subcomponent of MSME Champion Scheme, innovators are supported and guided in developing their ideas into viable business propositions that can directly benefit society and be successfully marketed.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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