

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019**

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE COUNTRY

2236. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state :

- (a) the factors responsible for there being very few women entrepreneurs;
- (b) the steps being taken to better this situation; and
- (c) the future plans to extend aid to women entrepreneurs in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
(SHRI R.K. SINGH)**

(a) to (c): The key challenges for women entrepreneurs in India include access to funding, availability of market, family constraints, lack of confidence in business skills, gender bias etc. In order to address the problems in development of women entrepreneurship, different Ministries / Departments of Government of India have been implementing a number of schemes viz; Start-up India by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) including Udyam Sakhi Portal by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) etc.

Start-up India aims to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Start-ups in the country under which 10% of the total corpus of Fund of Funds amounting to Rs 1000 crore, has been reserved for women led start-ups. MSME has launched a portal namely "Udyam Sakhi" for encouraging women entrepreneurs and to aid, counsel, assist and protect their interests. Udyam Sakhi network is a platform for emerging Women Entrepreneurs of India to get support, to understand current scenario of industries and to get guidance in various aspects of entrepreneurship. It helps Indian women to start, build and grow businesses and creating business models revolving around low-cost products and services to resolve social inequities. Similarly, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), is a major credit-linked subsidy scheme to promote and set up micro, small and medium enterprises and to generate employment in rural and urban areas of the country. The maximum cost of the project under PMEGP scheme is Rs.25.00 lakhs for manufacturing sector units and Rs.10.00 lakhs for units under service sector. Under the scheme the women entrepreneurs are provided 25% and 35% subsidies for the project set up in urban and rural areas respectively. For women beneficiaries, own contribution is only 5% of the project cost while for general category it is 10%. All the entrepreneurs including women are eligible for 2 weeks Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) after the sanction of their projects from banks for financial assistance to setup their unit.

Further, to encourage women entrepreneurship within the Country, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is running a pilot project named 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women' in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Germany. The project pilots incubation and acceleration programmes for micro women entrepreneurs to start new businesses and scale up existing enterprises in Assam, Rajasthan and Telangana. The project has the target to pilot the incubation programme with 250 women and the acceleration programme with 100 women.
