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4.	India-Afghanistan	6th March, 2003	13th May, 2003
5.	India-MERCOSUR	25th January, 2004	1st June, 2009
6.	India-Chile	8th March, 2006	11th September, 2007. The agreement has been expanded on 6th September, 2016 and came into force w.e.f. 16th May, 2017.

Progress made under 'Startup India' programme

†2082. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made under 'Startup India' programme since its inception;

(b) whether the existing funding mechanism is adequate or Government proposes to improve it; and

(c) the efforts made by Government for adoption of uniform approach by the State Governments to give required thrust to Startup schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of the progress made under 'Startup India' initiative since its inception are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Government has taken number of steps to improve the existing funding mechanism. A 'Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)' has been established under the Startup India initiative to provide funding support for Startups. Under the FFS, a total amount of ₹ 600 crore has been released to SIDBI. Further, ₹ 1050.7 crore has been committed by SIDBI to 24 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and ₹ 122.86 crore has been disbursed to 17 AIFs, who in turn have invested ₹ 517.92 crore in 109 Startups.

(c) As per the Startup India Action Plan launched in January, 2016, Startup India Hub was envisioned to work in a hub and spoke model and collaborate with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central and State Governments. Since the launch of Startup India initiative, many State Governments have reached out to Startup India Hub for support in promoting the State Startup initiative.

Further, in order to incentivize States to build their respective Startup ecosystem, the Startup ranking framework was launched on 6 February, 2018. The framework shall evaluate efforts made by States across 7 areas of intervention which include Startup policy and implementation, incubation support, seed funding support, venture funding support, simplified regulations, ease of public procurement and awareness and outreach considered important for growth of Startups. This exercise will trigger a healthy competition among the States and motivate them to provide robust ecosystem support to Startups.

Statement

Achievements under the Startup India initiative

Simplification and Handholding

1. Compliance Regime based on Self-Certification

- List of 36 industries in "white" category has been published on CPCB's website. CPCB has exempted such industries from all the applicable self-certifications under 3 Environment related Acts listed in the Startup India Action Plan.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has issued advisory to States to allow Startups to self-certify compliance with the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992 of Apprenticeship Act, 1961.
- Startups have been allowed to self-certify compliance in respect of 6 Labour laws; 26 States have confirmed compliance to the advisory issued on 12.01.2016 and new advisory issued on 6.4.2017 by Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE).

2. Rolling out of Mobile App and Portal

- Startup India portal has been developed to provide access to the following:–
 - Startup recognition - 7837 Startups have been recognised till 6th March 2018.
 - Advertising space for Startups.
 - Learning and development module – over 1,97,000 registrations achieved.

- The portal acts as a one stop solution for all queries related to the Startup India initiative.
- Startup India mobile app has been developed to provide on the go services and information to users.

3. Startup India Hub

- 84,000+ queries have been handled by the Startup India Hub.
- 460+ Startups have been mentored for incubation and funding support.
- 30,000+ registrations have been achieved on the Hub as of February, 2018.

4. Legal Support and Fast-tracking Patent Examination at Lower Costs

- 423 facilitators for Patent and Design and 596 facilitators for Trademark applications have been empanelled to assist Startups in filing of patents and trademarks.
- 768 applications have received rebate of up to 80% on patent fees and have also received legal assistance.
- Patent filing has been made faster for Startups and accordingly 126 Startups have been facilitated.
- Trademark facilitation has been extended to 858 Startups as of January, 2018.

5. Relaxed Norms of Public Procurement for Startups

- Relaxed norms for public procurement for micro, small and other enterprises have been provisioned in the Procurement Policy by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- All Central Ministries/Departments/Department of Public Enterprises/ Central Public Sector Undertakings have been authorised to relax conditions of prior experience and prior turnover with respect to MSEs in all public procurements subject to meeting quality and technical specifications.
- Further, Rule 173(i) has been incorporated in GFR, 2017 which provides for relaxation of conditions of prior turnover and prior experience for Startups.
- Rule 170(i) of GFR 2017 has been amended on 25th July, 2017 allowing all Startups as recognized by DIPP exemption from submission of Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security in public procurement tenders.

6. Faster Exit for Startups

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board has been constituted.
- MCA has notified the relevant Sections 55 to 58 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 pertaining to the Fast Track process on 16.6.2017 and also notified that the process shall apply to Startup (other than the partnership firm) as defined by DIPP. For Startups, Insolvency Resolution process to be completed within 90 days as against 180 days for other entities.

Funding Support and Incentives

7. Providing Funding Support through Fund of Funds (FFS) with a Corpus of ₹ 10,000 crore

- Fund of Funds for Startups of ₹ 10,000 crore shall be released over two Finance Commission cycles, that is, by the year 2025.
- ₹ 500 crore has been released to SIDBI in FY 16 and ₹ 100 crore in FY 17.
- Total commitments under FFS stand at ₹ 1050.7 crore to 24 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) while drawdown by AIFs is ₹ 122.86 crore.
- 109 Startups have received funding under FFS with catalysed investment of ₹ 517.92 crore.

8. Tax Exemption on Capital Gains

- Section 54 EE has been introduced under the Finance Act, 2016 which provides for exemption of capital gain arising out of transfer of long term capital asset (not exceeding ₹ 50 lakh in a financial year) invested in a fund notified by Central Government.
- Section 54 GB of Income-tax Act, 1961 has been amended to provide exemption from tax on capital gains arising out of sale of residential house or a residential plot of land if the amount of net consideration is invested in equity shares of an eligible Startup for utilizing the same to purchase specified asset.

9. Tax Exemption to Startups for 3 years

- Provision has been made for Startups (Companies and LLPs) to avail income tax exemption for 3 years in a block of 7 years, if they are incorporated between 1st April, 2016 and 31st March, 2019.

- 87 Startups have been approved for availing tax benefits.
10. Tax Exemption on Investments above Fair Market Value
- Removal of Angel Tax.
 - Tax exemption on investment above Fair Market Value has been introduced on 14th June, 2016.

Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation

11. Launch of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- 941 schools selected for establishing tinkering labs and ₹ 12 lakh each has been disbursed to 374 tinkering labs.
12. Harnessing Private Sector Expertise for Incubator Setup
- 6 existing Incubators have been sanctioned scale-up grant of ₹ 2.5 crore each by NITI Aayog.
 - 13 New Incubators approved for funding support by NITI Aayog.
13. Building Innovation Centres at National Institutes
- 15 Startup Centres have been approved for joint set up by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
 - Amount of ₹ 37.50 lakh (₹ 3.75 lakh each for 10 Startup Centres) has been released as 1st instalment of the grant for 10 Startup Centres by MHRD.
 - 11 TBIs (Technology Business Incubators) have been approved and ₹ 42 crore have been sanctioned and ₹ 17 crore disbursed to TBIs.
14. Setting up of 7 New Research Parks modelled on the Research Park Setup at IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur at a cost of ₹ 100 crore is under construction and ₹ 74.83 crore released to IIT Kharagpur.
 - IIT Bombay at a cost of ₹ 100 crore is under construction and ₹ 34 crore released to IIT Bombay.
 - The Bombay Park at IIT Gandhinagar has been sanctioned by DST at a total cost of ₹ 90 crore and the Department has already disbursed instalment of ₹ 40 crore.

- 5 more Research Parks at IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad and IISc to be supported by MHRD approved with a budget of ₹ 375 crore for a period of 3 years.

15. Promoting Startups in the Biotechnology Sectors

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has sanctioned ₹ 1 crore under Biotech Equity fund to be given to each bio-incubator. The initiative has already helped 3 bio-incubators that have been selected as recipients of the above mentioned Equity Fund.
- 30 bio-incubators have been supported through funding support with ₹ 185 crore sanctioned and ₹ 119 crore disbursed. The impact has been multi-fold as a total of 290 start-ups have received benefits from these bio-incubators under various programmes like Biotechnology Ignition Grant, IIPME, Sparsh, Grand Challenges, BioNEST, etc.
- In respect of Bengaluru-Boston Biotech Gateway to India: 4 entrepreneurs have joined and 1 is joining the Harvard University, USA to share ideas and receive mentorship.

16. Launching of Innovation Focused Programs for Students

- (a) Innovation Core program with an outreach to 10 lakh innovations from 5 lakh schools.
- 4 regional workshops organized and revamped MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) approved.
 - Over 1 lakh INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) Awardees competed at District and State level.
 - 588 were selected to participate in the 6th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition, Delhi.
 - Top 60 projects were showcased at the Annual Festival of Innovations in RashtrapatiBhavan from 4th-10th March, 2017.
- (b) NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovation)-Grand challenge program.
- 19 new TBIs established.
 - 9 TBIs supported for Seed Support System (SSS).

- 10 NIDHI-PRAYAS (PRomoting and Accelerating Young and ASpiring technology entrepreneurs) and 10 NIDHI-EIR (Entrepreneurs-in- Residence) sanctioned.
 - 6 new Centres of Excellence (CoEs) have been recommended to receive funds for CoEs in FY 2017-18.
- (c) Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)
- ₹ 475 crore for 2016-18 has been earmarked for 3 years.
 - ₹ 75 crore has been disbursed for research proposals from IITs under 6 domain
 - 92 projects have been recommended for approval.

17. Other incentives

- External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) guidelines for Startups: Startups can borrow up to \$3 million or equivalent per financial year, either in rupees, or any convertible foreign currency or a combination of both, for a minimum average maturity period of three years.
- Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCI) are now allowed to invest in Startups irrespective of any sector without Reserve Bank of India's approval.
- SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2014 have been amended to permit FPIs to invest in unlisted Non-Convertible debentures and securitised debt instruments.
- The SEBI Board has approved five key amendments to SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 with respect to 'Angel Funds':—
 - The upper limit for number of angel investors in a scheme has been increased from forty nine to two hundred.
 - Angel Funds will be allowed to invest in start-ups incorporated within five years, which was earlier 3 years.
 - The requirement of minimum investment amount by an Angel Fund in any venture capital undertaking has been reduced from ₹ 50 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh.
 - The lock-in requirements of investment made by Angel Funds in a venture capital undertaking has been reduced from three years to one year.

- Angel Funds are allowed to invest in overseas venture capital undertakings upto 25% of their investible corpus in line with other AIFs.

Mismatch in trade of agri-products

2083. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) reasons for mismatch between exports and imports of agricultural products from the country since 2013-14 to last financial year;
- (b) reasons for consistent reduction in exports and steep increase in imports during above period;
- (c) the details of each of the factors responsible for spurt in imports and reduction in exports;
- (d) the details of agricultural commodities that are normally exported and fluctuation of each of such product in the international market during the above period, month-wise and commodity-wise; and
- (e) what innovative methods are being adopted by Commodity Boards such as APEDA, MPEDA, Tobacco Board, Spices Board, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Details of export and import of agricultural products during the period from 2013-14 to 2016-17 are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (*See* below). The export of agricultural products, while declining during 2014-15 and 2015-16; has shown an increase in 2016-17. The imports of agricultural products, on the other hand, has consistently increased over the period.

Import and export of agricultural products depend on several factors such as international and domestic demand and supply situation, international and domestic prices, concerns of food security, diplomatic and humanitarian considerations etc.

The primary reasons for decline in exports of agricultural commodities are: low commodity prices in the international market; shrinking of global demand; high domestic prices, as compared to the international prices, which has made our exports uncompetitive; unfavourable currency rate movements as compared to the competing countries etc.

Edible oils and pulses, which are in short supply in India, account for the bulk of India's import of agricultural products. Import of these commodities as well as some