

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 128  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.11.2021

DIGITIZING AND AUTOMATING THE MSME SECTOR

128. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to digitize and automate the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector and assist international trade digitization of local enterprises;
- (b) whether Government has considered setting up large number of business incubators in educational institutions to facilitate innovation; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address concerns of lack of understanding of technology, high cost of adoption, data privacy and digital fraud to protect the interests of MSMEs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
(SHRI NARAYAN RANE)

(a): The Standing Finance Committee has approved the MSME Champions Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 273.24 Cr. As part of this Scheme a 'Digital MSME' component has been included for digital empowerment of MSMEs in the country. In addition to this, there are several Technology Centres under the Ministry are also assisting on technological and automation interventions along with training support. In regard to international trade digitization of local enterprises, the Standing Finance Committee has approved the International Cooperation Scheme comprising of First Time Exporters and Global Marketing Intelligence System with a total outlay of Rs. 90 Cr.

(b): Yes Sir, the Ministry is operating two schemes for setting up business incubators in educational institutes to facilitate innovation. These are "Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Incubators Scheme" and ASPIRE (A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship) Scheme.

(c): The Government is taking necessary steps through the Digital MSME Scheme, with the following objectives:

- I. To empower & enable MSMEs to harness IT as a medium of communication to revamp access to the markets to update their managerial and technical knowledge through online content—both static and dynamic.
- II. To give them software interventions, evolving their internal efficiencies by way of intense ICT intake and automating procedure for cost reduction, imparting digital literacy and capacity enhancement for information access, processing, collaboration and dissemination.
- III. To offer to the MSMEs a safe and sound bouquet of customized digital solutions which have been designed keeping in mind the diverse requirements of the eco-system, saving them from the travails of indiscreet and indiscriminate adoption of technology.

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