

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1257  
ANSWERED ON - 27/07/2022**

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION SCHEMES FOR SC AND ST**

1257. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of schemes that promoted entrepreneurship and innovation amongst Schedule Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs);
- (b) the details and total number of SCs and STs who have availed these scheme as on date;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to organise Social Innovation Hub to facilitate business ventures and Start-ups by SC and ST community;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government to promote entrepreneurship and innovation amongst SC and ST communities?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a) to (f) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in order to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes and to provide concessional finance to them has started "Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC)" in FY 2014-15. Further, this Ministry in order to boost entrepreneurship and innovation among the SC students / youth (including SC women youths) has launched "Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" under VCF-SC on 30th September 2020. These schemes are operational and applicable throughout the country.

VCF-SC: The present corpus of VCF-SC fund is Rs.683.18 Crore with Rs.609.22 Crore Contributed by Govt. of India and Rs.73.96 Crore contributed by IFCI Ltd. Its objective is investments in projects/units ensuring asset creation out of the funds deployed.

ASIIM under VCF-SC: Youth identified by Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Atal incubation Centers, Science and Technology Parks of India (STPI) being promoted by Department of Science and Technology and other incubation centers supported by Government of India.

Under VCF-SC and ASIIM schemes the beneficiaries are only companies owned by SC entrepreneurs. The number of the Companies owned by SC entrepreneurs sanctioned and disbursed financial assistance under the VCF-SC and ASIIM schemes are at **Annexure**.

To make the SC entrepreneurs aware of the VCF-SC and ASIIM funds, efforts are made regularly by way of publicity in media through advertisements as well as by holding various conferences/meets and webinars. These efforts are being done continuously to invite more applications and improve awareness. On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022, a national level competition namely “Dr.Ambedkar Young Entrepreneurs League (AYE League)” was convened to select SC young entrepreneurs for providing equity support of up to Rs.30 lakh over a period of three years under ‘Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)’ initiative under VCF-SC. In this event, about 1042 numbers of applications were received under AYE League and about 1463 number of nominations were received under Dr. Ambedkar Business Excellence (ABE) felicitation. There were 67 winners under AYE League and 20 winners under ABE felicitation in 9 different categories. The event was attended by nearly 1,000 stakeholders from different parts of the country. In this event, a mentorship portal [www.aye-mentor.in](http://www.aye-mentor.in) was also launched for providing mentorship support to young SC entrepreneurs.

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## Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (f) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1257 for 27.07.2022

The details of Beneficiaries who have availed VCF-SC and ASIIM scheme as on 20.07.2022)

### VCF-SC Cumulative including ASIIM

- Present Corpus of VCF-SC– Rs.683.18 Crore
- Total Sanction – Rs.430.10 Crore
- Total No. of Sanctioned Cases – 166 Companies
- Total Disbursements – Rs.309.82 Crore
- No. of Disbursed Cases – 122 Companies

### VCF-SC

- Total Sanction – Rs.415.10 Crore
- No. of Sanctioned Cases – 116 Companies
- Total Disbursements – Rs.307.846 Crore
- No. of Disbursed Cases – 96 Companies

### ASIIM

- Total Sanction – Rs.15.00 Cr.
- No. of Sanctioned Cases – 50 Companies
- Total Disbursement – Rs.1.97 Crore
- No. of Disbursed Cases – 26 Companies

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