

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2914.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20TH DECEMBER, 2024.**

STRENGTHENING STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

2914. Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch a digital platform aimed at strengthening country's startup ecosystem;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the key features of Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative;
- (c) whether India is one of the world's most dynamic Startup hubs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

(a) & (b): The Government launched Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) digital platform under the Startup India initiative for streamlining and enhancing collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.

The key features of BHASKAR are as follows:

- i. Serves as a one-stop database with details on all ecosystem stakeholders under one roof across different categories such as investors, incubators, academia, Government bodies, mentors, and industry bodies amongst others.
- ii. Consolidates categories of entrepreneurs across various segments.
- iii. Enables peer-to-peer interaction and collaborative engagements.
- iv. Generates unique personalized identification for each stakeholder category.
- v. Leverages the existing capabilities of the Startup India portal.
- vi. Boosts and enables communication and coordination between different stakeholders.

(c) & (d): The Government with an intent to build a strong and dynamic ecosystem for nurturing innovation, startups and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016.

Under Startup India initiative, the Government constantly undertakes various efforts for the development and growth of startup ecosystem across sectors. The flagship Schemes namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) support startups at various stages of their business cycle. The Government also implements periodic exercises and programs

including States' Startup Ranking, National Startup Awards, and Innovation Week which play an important role in the holistic development of the startup ecosystem. Government also encourages and support ecosystem led initiatives as Startup Mahakumbh which serve as a vibrant platform for stakeholders to network and collaborate. Initiatives to improve market access and enable public procurement support startups in growing and scaling up their businesses have also been undertaken. Digital platforms such as the Startup India portal and BHASKAR enable easy access to resources and startup ecosystem collaboration. These measures are complemented by regulatory reforms and other ecosystem development events and programs.

Sustained efforts by the Government under the Startup India initiative have led to an increase in the number of DPIIT recognised startups from around 500 in 2016 to 1,52,139 as on 31st October 2024. Since the launch of Startup India initiative in 2016, the recognised startups have reportedly created over 16.6 lakh direct jobs.

All the steps undertaken by the Government under Startup India initiative are inclusive and are implemented across States/Union Territories (UTs) and across sectors. DPIIT recognized startups are present in each State and Union Territory (UT) and spread across more than 55 industries. Further, over 47% of the recognized startups have at least one woman director.
