

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2197  
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

**SCHEMES TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION AMONGST SC**

2197. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH

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;
- (b) the details of and the total number of SCs 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 community;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to promote entrepreneurship and innovation amongst SC communities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) The Government has introduced various Schemes to promote entrepreneurship and innovation amongst Scheduled Castes. The Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC), with a corpus of ₹750 crore, provides concessional finance ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 crore at a 4% coupon rate. This fund is managed by IFCI Venture Capital Ltd. Additionally, the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM), supports SC students, researchers, and entrepreneurs in Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) and Atal Incubation Centers (AICs). Under ASIIM, ₹30 lakh equity funding is provided over three years to help start-ups in sectors such as agriculture technology, IT, environment, waste management, and green energy. As of now, 245 SC-owned companies have been sanctioned financial assistance of ₹588.4 crore under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes, including ASIIM.

(c) to (e) Currently, the Government has no plans to establish a Social Innovation Hub to facilitate business ventures and startups for the SC community. However, it continues to promote entrepreneurship and innovation through existing initiatives such as ASIIM and VCF-SC. Additionally, steps have been taken to simplify access to credit through PM SURAJ—a digital interface for all financial inclusion Schemes of the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and providing mentorship support and market linkages to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem for Scheduled Castes and other marginalized communities.

\*\*\*\*\*