

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1190
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

PROMOTION OF IT BASED STARTUPS

1190 SHRI K.K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any package to promote and encourage IT based startups operating from non-industrial / non-commercial premises is under consideration?
- (b) if so, the detail thereof?
- (c) whether waiver of the norm that the IT startups should be based on commercial places to qualify for Government support, is under consideration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

- (a) and (b): Government has no specific package/ scheme under consideration to promote IT based startups operating from non-industrial / non-commercial premises. However, a number of schemes/ programmes are being implemented by the Government to promote technology startups which include IT based startups. Details are placed at **Annexure-I**.
- (c) and (d): No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration regarding waiver of the norm that IT startups should be based on commercial places to qualify for Government support.

Annexure-I

Technology Incubation Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated “Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0)” Scheme in year 2019 to promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), IoT, Block-chain, Robotics etc. in seven pre-identified areas of societal relevance with handholding of approximately 2000 tech start-ups over a period of five years. The scheme aims to promote incubation activities through 51 incubators using a three-tiered approach at institutes of higher learning and at premier R&D organizations, pan India.

Scheme for Accelerating Start-ups Around post-COVID Technology (SASACT): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched SASACT (Scheme for Accelerating Start-ups Around post-COVID Technology) programme to support electronics hardware/ ICT based tech entrepreneurial initiatives of startups for developing or re-purposing technologies, tools, systems, solutions to respond to the post COVID-19 scenario emerging in the near horizon. Under the programme, eligible startups are being supported to augment and deploy into the market select technology products/ solutions in a span of 11 months. The SASACT programme are being executed by four Implementing Agencies (IAs) pan India for maximum coverage viz. ‘Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology (Start up Incubation and Innovation Centre SIIC), IIT Kanpur’; ‘Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay’; ‘Coimbatore Innovation and Business Incubator (Forge Accelerator), Coimbatore’ and ‘KIIT Technology Business Incubator, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar’ through Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

Domain Specific Centres of Excellence (CoEs): Domain specific Centres of Excellence (CoEs) has been approved by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and established by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) pan India with the participation of MeitY, STPI, State Government, Industry partnership, VCs partnership as seed funding. In this series, 16 such domain specific CoEs have been established as on date.

Accelerator Programmes: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved cohort based 3 Accelerator Programmes during March-April 2020 viz. (i) Startup to Scaleup Accelerator by The GAIN, Bangalore, (ii) Scaleup Programme by Thub Foundation, Hyderabad and (iii) Bharat Virtual Accelerator (BVA) by The FinTech Meetup (TFM) over a duration of 1 year. The startup accelerator programmes aims to support and scaling up the start-ups emerging from the start up promotional programmes/scheme and helping them to attain success by cohort-based programs that include seed investments, connections, mentorship, educational components to accelerate growth etc.

Atal New India Challenges: Under Atal New India Challenges, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) provides grant-in-aid support up to INR 1 crore for creation / commercialization of prototypes relating to challenge areas of national importance.

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) Prayas:

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) is an umbrella programme conceived and developed by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups. The programme would work in line with the national priorities and goals and its focus would be to build an innovation driven entrepreneurial ecosystem with an objective of socioeconomic development through wealth and job creation. NIDHI-Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring technology entrepreneurs (PRAYAS) is specifically to support young innovators turn their ideas into PoC.
