

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1080
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

UNIFIED SKILL INDIA DIGITAL PLATFORM

1080 SHRI RAVI CHANDRA VADDIRAJU:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government initiative towards the digital ecosystem for skilling will be further expanded with the launch of a unified Skill India Digital platform for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made along with the funds sanctioned/spent till now, with special references to the state of Telangana?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The government has taken a major step towards digital ecosystem for skilling through the launch of Skill India Digital Hub Platform in September 2023. Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) is a digital platform to synergize India's skill development, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape. Its primary objective is to provide a comprehensive and accessible platform for skill enhancement, offering industry-relevant skill courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support. SIDH is a digital expansion of skilling opportunities and integrated platform that have digital job exchange between stakeholders. SIDH is at the intersection of two of the most important initiatives of the Government- Skill India & Digital India. Built on Mobile-First approach, SIDH caters diverse needs of a citizen for skill development such as discovery of courses, schemes, apprenticeships, and job opportunities based on preferences and aspirations, Learning Management System for digital skilling, Portable Verified Credentials, etc. It aims to serve India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for skill development, education, employment and entrepreneurship landscape of India.

As on June, 2024, around 88 Lakh candidates have been registered, 9.59 Lakh mobile app have been downloaded and 7.63 Lakh candidates have been enrolled for online courses on SIDH which has 752 online courses, leading to 7.37 lakh minutes of digital content readily available and accessible for learners. The SIDH platform offers courses and apprenticeships opportunities to the learners. The platform is envisioned to integrate with MSME and facilitate access to entrepreneurship schemes to the learners and job seekers.

Further following initiatives are also taken by MSDE to promote digital and online skill training:

- i. Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE implemented the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project with the objective of improving the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through ITIs and apprenticeships. Under the project digital content in blended mode was developed for 14 trades in two phases. Further, for immersive learning environment among ITIs, a Virtual Reality (VR) project was conducted as a pilot in 05 ITIs for 04 trades namely electrician, fitter, Mechanic Motor Vehicle and Welder. This includes procurement of hardware and software relevant to imparting trainings under VR mode.
- ii. The Bharatskills portal launched to support digital skill development, provides access to a range of educational materials, including e-books, question banks, and e-learning videos, available in 12 regional languages. Presently, the portal hosts approximately 553 e-books, 337 question banks, 190 study material videos, and 6201 e-learning videos, available in 12 regional languages, ensuring broad and inclusive access to skill training.
- iii. The DGT has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with leading IT tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Microsoft. These partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics (BDA), Blockchain, Cloud Computing, and more. This training is available through the Bharatskills portal (<https://bharatskills.gov.in>), a central repository that supports around 23.7 lakh trainees by offering courses designed to make them industry-ready.
- iv. Additionally, the DGT, in collaboration with IBM under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), offers a 2-year Advanced Diploma (Vocational) program in IT, Networking, and Cloud Computing across 15 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

The total fund sanctioned for SIDH till date is Rs. 167.0 Crores. No specific amount is sanctioned for the State of Telangana in respect of Skill India Digital.
