DIGITAL SKILLING

2673.   SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a)   the details of measures being taken to enhance Digital Skilling in the country;

(b)   the progress made in this respect;

(c)   the measures being taken under the Bharatskills as a Central Digital Repository for skills which provide National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) curriculum, course material, videos, question banks and mock tests for students and trainers of ITIs/NSTIs in 06 languages; and

(d)   the proposed measures to be taken to enhance digital skills in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): Under the Government of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up- skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country. The Government introduced the online skill training in both short term and long term during COVID 19 pandemic period to restore the skilling activities. In the post pandemic period also Government increased the pace to provide digital skilling to ensure easier access to skilling for the youth and also to address the requirements of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

The details of initiatives taken by MSDE to promote digital and online skill training are as under:

(i)   MSDE has launched Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), a mobile-first digital platform, in September, 2023 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 components 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 & job opportunities based on preferences and aspirations, Learning Management System for digital skilling, Portable Verified Credentials, etc. It aims to serve as India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for skill development, education, employment and entrepreneurship landscape.

(ii)   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.

(iii)   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, for courses offered under CTS, which are NSQF aligned. 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.

(iv)   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.

(v)   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).

(vi) Under PMKVY all job-roles have been specially aligned with industry requirement. There are new age/future skills job-roles including digital courses like Drone Technician, Drone Operator, Telecom Rigger - 5G and Legacy Networks, AI - Machine Learning Engineer, which are specially designed for upcoming market demand and industry requirements.

(vii) Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 29 new age /future skills courses under Craftsmen Training Scheme in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) to provide digital training in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Mechatronics, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Semiconductor, etc.

(viii) In the years 2014 to 2016, two Schemes titled "National Digital Literacy Mission" (NDLM) and "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (DISHA) were implemented by the Government with a target to train 52.50 lakh candidates in digital literacy across the country. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were certified.

(ix) In 2017, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched by the Government of India to promote digital literacy in rural India, with the aim to reach 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide. As against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country as on March 31, 2024.

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