

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

106. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the challenges faced in effectively rolling out the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in rural and underserved areas, and the steps being taken to address these challenges;
- (b) the rationale behind restricting eligibility to individuals pursuing professions inherited through the family or traditional Guru-Shishya systems, excluding skilled artisans who have independently acquired expertise;
- (c) the measures being considered to ensure equitable access to the scheme for all artisans and craftsmen, irrespective of their family background; and
- (d) whether Government has held consultations with stakeholders, including non-hereditary artisans, to assess the broader impact of this scheme on inclusivity?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a): The PM Vishwakarma Scheme which was launched on 17.09.2023 to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople of 18 trades who work with their hands and tools, has been rolled out successfully across the country. To ensure effective implementation, including in rural and underserved areas, beneficiaries apply online through the Common Service Centres (CSCs) available across rural and urban areas. The verification process is completely online. More than 2.28 lakh Gram Pradhans have been onboarded onto the PM Vishwakarma Portal to conduct Level 1 verification under the Scheme.

(b): The Scheme supports artisans and craftspeople from 18 trades who have not been included in similar Government of India or State Government schemes over the past 5 years. Through the Scheme, those artisans and craftspeople who have learnt skills or crafts through the guru-shishya Pramapara can benefit. The Scheme contributes to preserve the cultural practices and generational skills being passed down traditionally.

(c): In order to ensure equitable access to the scheme for all artisans and craftsmen, irrespective of their family background, various nationwide outreach activities are conducted. Outreach Programmes, trade fairs and State-level exhibitions are organised to spread awareness about the benefits of the Scheme.

(d): The contours of the Scheme were finalized based on extensive consultations held with stakeholders, including artisans, craftspeople, Central Government Ministries and Departments, State/UT Governments, MSMEs, Industry Associations, NGOs, Banks, etc.
