

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2897**  
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

**Vocational and Skilled based curriculum**

2897 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to align higher education curricula with industry requirements, considering that over 50 per cent of graduates are underemployed in low-skill jobs, as highlighted in the Economic Survey 2024-25;
- (b) the initiatives to enhance vocational and skill-based training programs, given that 44 per cent of postgraduates are working in roles that do not require their qualifications; and
- (c) the measures to improve employability among graduates from low and middle-income backgrounds, as nearly 46 per cent of the workforce earns less than ₹1 lakh annually due to skill mismatches?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was launched by the Government of India with an aim to transform and improve the quality of education in the country. NEP 2020 aims to provide a standard of education that is inclusive, equitable, and of high quality, empowering learners for the future and contributing to national development. To support this vision, the Ministry of Education has launched various initiatives to enhance learners' skills nationwide.

With the objective of improving employability and forming robust industry-academia linkage, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed Guidelines for Higher Education institutions to offer Apprenticeship/Internship Embedded Degree Programmes.

To ensure exposure of industry to technical education students, the All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has made internship a mandatory component of model curriculum approved by AICTE. AICTE has developed guidelines for implementation of apprenticeship embedded Degree/Diploma programmes. These programs have apprenticeship component embedded therein

to make the students industry ready and to enhance potential employment. Several steps taken by AICTE to facilitate Industry-Academia connect include:

- Model Curriculum has been developed in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Space Technology, Electronic Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology), Robotics and Artificial Intelligence etc. Due representation of Industry stakeholders is ensured in the curriculum revision committees.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.
- Industry Academia Mobility framework launched by AICTE to facilitate connect between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating collaboration between academia and industry.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Madras and eminent Industry Partners have launched SWAYAM Plus platform on 27th February 2024, expanding its offerings to identify and include courses aligned with industry needs and to enhance learners' employability. The platform provides high-quality learning and certification programs from the leading industry and academia to the students/ learners which can help them in reskilling and upskilling and making them employment ready. 63 MoUs with the leading industries partners have been signed. As on 14th March 2025, more than 372 Courses are available on the platform and more than 1.74 lakhs learners have enrolled on this platform for their Skill enhancement.

Ministry of Education provides apprenticeship through “National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)”, which is a flagship scheme of Government of India, for on-the-job training and skilling of Indian youth. It is implemented by the Ministry of Education through four regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/BoPT) located at Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai and Kolkata. Under the Scheme apprenticeship and training is provided to fresh graduates, diploma holders and degree apprentices. During the last 5 financial years over 8.72 Lakh apprentices were benefitted under NATS through a total financial assistance of Rs 1298 crore for stipend. During 2024-25 the scheme has benefitted 4.98 lakh students/learners as on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025. Ministry of Education has released 750 Cr as stipend in current financial year.

As informed by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the “Prime Minister’s Internship Scheme”, has been launched in the year 2024 to create a skilled, empowered and knowledgeable workforce. This ambitious initiative implemented through an online portal aims to provide internship opportunities to students/youth allowing them to immerse themselves in diverse business environments and explore a variety of professions. The internship provides opportunity for students/youth to gain real-world experience while benefiting from financial support and comprehensive training.

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 under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Sikhshan 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 including rural areas. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and equipped with industry relevant skills.

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