"SCALING UP AI SKILLING FOR WOMEN"

1242.   DR. BHAGWAT KARAD:

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

(a)   the estimated number of women who are expected to benefit from the 'AI Career for Women' initiative, aimed at building future-ready digital skills;

(b)   whether the Ministry has plan to expand the initiative beyond the currently selected six States, with the objective of ensuring broader national inclusion and addressing the under representation of women in AI and technology sectors; and

(c)   if so, the details of proposed expansion, including targeted States, implementation timeline, collaborating partners, if any, and how the initiative aligns with India's broader goals under the Digital India and Skill India Mission?

ANSWER

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

 (SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a)   AI Careers for Women is an in-depth training program that offers 320 hours of training for 20,000 young women and girls in rural undergraduate colleges over the duration of two years. The program was launched in April, 2025 and the curriculum is being developed for the same. The process of setting up of 08 centers of excellence in Hub colleges in four states is also underway as on July 15, 2025. Trainings would commence in August, 2025 and during the first year (till June, 2026), training and enabling economic opportunities for 8000 girls would be the focus of the program.

(b & c)   Currently the program has been envisaged for 2 years to setup 30 hub centers and 150 spoke centers and after this pilot deployment and based on the learnings and outcomes, the program would be considered for an expansion to provide training to more girls in additional states. The details of the expansion plan would be based on the success of the pilot. Following objectives align **with the Digital India & Skill India Mission:**

i)   To deliver a holistic learning experience on AI skills for girl students in higher education, that equips participants with both technical and professional skills.
ii)   To ensure that the trainees are well-rounded and prepared for the demands of modern industries.
iii)   To focus on three key components in alignment with Digital India & Skill India Mission that includes Practical Learning, On-the-job Training, and employability skills development.

*****