

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1942
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

Vocational and skill education in schools and colleges

1942 **Shri Raghav Chadha:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the lack of industry-linked vocational and skill-based education in schools and higher education institutions;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to integrate vocational training with formal education under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020; and
- (c) whether there is coordination with the Ministry of Skill Development to enhance employability through school and college curricula?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Accordingly, both the Government of India and the State Governments are responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to subject matter of Education.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends integration of skill education programmes into mainstream education in all education institutions in a phased manner. Focus areas for skill education are chosen based on skill gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities.

From the middle stages, NEP 2020 envisages the development of multiple 'prevocational' capacities through play and other age-appropriate activities. In the Middle Stage, students are to be exposed to a wide range of forms of work, so that by the Secondary Stage they can acquire specific capacities and skills in vocations of their choice, progress towards gainful employment, and contribute productively to the economy.

The Government of India provides financial assistance to States and UTs for exposure to skill education in Grades VI to VIII and for the introduction of NSQF-aligned skill courses in Grades IX to XII. This support covers introduction of skill education in schools; capacity building of vocational teachers/skill trainers; development of competency-based curricula and teaching-learning materials; creation of systems for monitoring and evaluation; and implementation of innovative projects in skill education. The main aims of this support are to: integrate skill education with general academic education in all schools; enhance the

employability and entrepreneurial abilities of students and provide them structured exposure to the world of work; and generate awareness among students about diverse career options so that they can make informed choices in line with their aptitude, competence and aspirations.

In pursuance of NEP 2020, the Ministry of Education is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in partnership with all States and Union Territories. Under the Skill Education component of the scheme, so far 138 National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)-aligned Job Roles have been approved for class IX to XII, which have been developed in consultation with industry and relevant Sector Skill Councils and are approved by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). At the Secondary level (Classes IX and X), skill courses are offered as an additional subject, while at the Senior Secondary level (Classes XI and XII), skill courses are offered as compulsory (elective) subject. State Education Boards are being encouraged to become Awarding and Assessing Bodies under NCVET so that they are able to design the skill courses as per local needs and award the certificates to the learners.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Madras and industry partners, have launched the SWAYAM Plus platform in February 2024. The platform offers learning and certification programmes developed jointly with academic and industry experts to support reskilling and upskilling of learners. At present, over 480 Courses across 16 sectors are available on the platform.

The Ministry of Education also implements the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) to impart on-the-job training and enhance the employability of youth.

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) collaborates with industry to design industry-oriented model curricula and skill-based courses, and to promote start-ups and entrepreneurship among students. AICTE has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with various leading industries and organisations to facilitate internships, skilling, and upskilling of students and faculty members, including hands-on training in Industry 4.0 technologies.

The AICTE coordinates with the MSDE and other relevant organisations to align curricula with industry requirements. This coordination includes the integration of skill-based programmes, mandatory internships, vocational degree programmes such as Bachelor of Vocation courses, and collaboration with Sector Skill Councils and industry partners. These measures are aimed at aligning educational outcomes with workforce requirements and enhancing employability through formal education pathways.

Employability Skill module has been included as a part of Job Roles/SWAYAM courses in the curriculum which includes Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills, and Green Skills.

The Ministry of Education has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which is being run by the MSDE since 2015 to create an industry ready workforce and enhance the employability skills. The scheme targets schools/college drop outs, out-of-school children and unemployed youths in the age group of 15-45.
