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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 350
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

The National Credit Framework for Academic and Vocational Integration

350 # **Shri Madan Rathore:**

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

(a) the nationwide-roadmap and budgetary-allocation for the phased implementation of National Credit Framework (NCrF), including the status of guidelines issued to State-Boards and higher education institutions for mandatory adoption from 2025–26;
(b) what systems have been put in place to allow students to smoothly shift their credits between general and vocational-courses, and what progress has been made in linking vocational-credits with National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF); and
(c) the steps taken to ensure secure digital recording of all credits in students' DigiLocker accounts, and what additional technological safeguards are being implemented to guarantee the authenticity and seamless-verification of these credits by all stakeholders in the education ecosystem?

ANSWER

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

(a) The National Education Policy 2020 emphasises integrating general education and skill education to enable increased mobility and flexibility in education. The NCrF is an enabling framework that lays down basic principles of creditisation of learning from various dimensions, such as academic, skill, and experiential learning. It is a single meta-framework to seamlessly integrate the credits earned through school education, higher education and skill education.

State Boards are being encouraged to become Awarding and Assessing bodies. CBSE has conducted multiple regional sensitization workshops, and has issued Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for NCrF implementation in schools. AICTE has released SOPs for operationalization of National Credit Framework for its implementation in higher education and vocational training. All AICTE Approved Institutions adopt NCrF & National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF) to allow mobility from vocational courses to main stream courses and vice versa. Admission through lateral entry in 2nd year of B.Tech Programme is allowed to candidates having 3-year D. Voc in appropriate field as per eligibility norms prescribed by AICTE. Norms for admission criteria as per NCrF have been incorporated in AICTE Approval Process Handbook.

(b) The NCrF provides the vision and guidelines, with the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) providing the mechanism to make the credit transfer and mobility a reality. The ABC facilitates the accumulation, storage, and transfer of these credits between institutions. Every student is being assigned unique digital Identity APAAR-ID for smooth mobility.

NIOS supports credit mobility through transfer-of-credit mechanisms from recognized boards and selected skill programmes under institutional arrangements with DGT. NIOS provides credit transfer facilities from recognized boards and skill institutions and is aligning skill courses as per National Skills Qualification framework (NSQF) guidelines, with qualifications developed at NSQF Level 3 to 4.5 to facilitate progression to higher education.

AICTE incorporates NCrF principles supporting multiple entry-exit options to promote flexibility and accessibility in technical education.

One of the key recommendations of the NEP 2020 is the formulation of the NHEQF. The NHEQF has been published in May 2023 to describe higher education qualifications leading to degree/diploma/certificate in terms of learning outcomes. It provides an integrated national framework for recognizing and accrediting qualifications offered by different types of institutions engaged in higher education, including skill education and training, and technical/professional education in India.

(c) To ensure secure and authenticated recording of credits, NCrF has been integrated with digital infrastructure including the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), National Academic Depository (NAD) and DigiLocker. Credits uploaded by authorized institutions are digitally signed, stored in tamper-proof format and linked to the learner through APAAR-ID authentication.

Secure verification is facilitated through controlled APIs on API-Setu, eliminating the need for physical documentation. The system incorporates detailed audit logs, institution-onboarding verification protocols, periodic cyber-security audits, adherence to data-protection standards, and end-to-end encryption of credit data during issuance, storage and retrieval.

NIOS records marksheets and certificates in DigiLocker / NAD in digitally-signed, timestamped format with QR-based verification and Aadhaar/KYC-based identity validation.

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