

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 443
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

ITI MODERNIZATION AND APPRENTICESHIP REFORM

443 SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) the current progress on digitalizing the curriculum and examination processes across all Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs);
- (b) how the Ministry is promoting Dual System of Training (DST) model to enhance industry exposure for ITI students;
- (c) whether any new sectors are to be included under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) for degree apprenticeships; and
- (d) how the Ministry is simplifying the administrative burden for MSMEs to hire apprentices under NAPS?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a). Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implements the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through a nationwide network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), offering in 169 NSQF Compliant courses, catering to the youth of the country. A wide range of digital learning resources including e-content, e-books, videos, and other materials is made available to trainees through the Bharat Skills portal and the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) platform.

The theory examinations under the All India Trade Test (AITT) for CTS are conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode to objectively assess the knowledge and competencies of ITI trainees. The complete examination lifecycle such as scheduling, hall ticket generation, evaluation, result declaration, and issuance of e-marksheets and e-certificates is seamlessly managed through the SIDH Portal.

For practical examinations, the State Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Committee (SSDEC) and the respective State/UT Directorates are empowered to prepare question papers and conduct assessments within ITIs. Practical exams are video-recorded, and marks are submitted online to ensure transparency and standardisation.

(b). The Dual System of Training (DST) is being actively promoted across Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to enhance industry exposure, practical learning, and employability of trainees. Under this model, institutional training is integrated with structured On-the-Job Training (OJT) in industry, and all trades under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) are being offered in DST mode. To further strengthen industry–institute collaboration, DGT has undertaken the following initiatives:

- i. All new affiliations granted in the third shift of ITIs are permitted exclusively in DST mode, encouraging wider adoption of the model and stronger linkages with industry.

ii. Weightage has been assigned in the Data-Driven Grading mechanism for enrolment under DST, incentivizing ITIs to increase the proportion of trainees opting for the DST model.

(c). The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) is a flagship scheme of Government of India for on-the-job training and skilling of Indian youth. The scheme is operated as per the Apprentices Act, 1961 and the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time. It is administered by the Government of India through four regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/BoPT) located at Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai and Kolkata.

The objective of the scheme to enhance the employability of fresh graduates, diploma holders, and students of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) by providing them industry-relevant skills. Ministry of Education has launched Apprenticeships in Emerging Sectors like AI under NATS leading to an increase in the number of potential beneficiaries.

(d). National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) aims to promote apprenticeship training across the country. Initially, launched in August 2016, the scheme is presently being implemented in its second phase (NAPS-2). Under NAPS-2, the Government provides partial stipend support of up to 25% of the minimum prescribed stipend, subject to a ceiling of ₹1,500 per apprentice per month. The stipend is transferred directly to apprentices through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism.

As per the Apprentices Act, 1961 and the relevant Rules, establishments—including MSMEs—are required to undertake certain administrative activities for engaging apprentices. These include:

- (i) registration on the apprenticeship portal,
- (ii) selection of suitable apprenticeship courses,
- (iii) mobilization and selection of candidates,
- (iv) issuance of apprenticeship contracts through the portal,
- (v) provision of basic and on-the-job training,
- (vi) processing of stipend payments
- (vii) uploading attendance and assessment details, and
- (viii) uploading syllabus for Optional Trades, where applicable.

To ease the above administrative burden, the Ministry has empanelled Third Party Aggregators (TPAs). Establishments, including MSMEs, may avail their services for smoother implementation of apprenticeship training.
