

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2026
SKILL DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES**

2335. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest unemployment rate among youth (15-29 years) as per Periodic Labour Force Survey;**
- (b) the placement rates achieved under major skill development programmes in 2025; and**
- (c) the plans to align skilling initiatives with emerging sectors like AI and green jobs?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (c): The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18.

As per the latest Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24 in the country. Further, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years has increased from 31.4% to 41.7% during the same period.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is a priority of the Government. Accordingly, Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes in the country. The details of various employment generation schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Government is also implementing Skill India Mission (SIM) to deliver skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ schools/ colleges /institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready, equipped with industry relevant skills. Under Skill India Mission (SIM), PMKVY scheme, introduced in 2015–16, has trained and certified over 1.64 crore candidates (up to 31 October 2025).

Government is implementing Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme named as the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. The scheme with an outlay of Rs 99,446 Crore aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years.

As per the NASSCOM report “Advancing India’s AI skills” published on August 2024, the AI talent in India is expected to grow from 6 lakh – 6.5 lakh professionals to more than 12.50 lakh professionals by the year 2027 at a 15 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may result in job creation in various streams like data science, data curation, etc. So far, 8.65 lakh candidates have enrolled/trained in various courses including 3.20 lakh candidates in AI/Big Data Analytics technologies.

Further, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the "National AI Portal" (<https://indiaai.gov.in/>), which serves as a comprehensive repository of AI-related initiatives, academic research, startups, policy developments, and thought leadership articles. The portal also hosts webinars and online sessions covering topics such as ethical AI, technological advancements, and industry trends.

MeitY has initiated 'FutureSkills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence. Under this programme so far, 18.56 Lakh+ candidates have signed-up on the Future Skills PRIME Portal, out of which, 3.37 Lakhs+ candidates have completed their course.

Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Short-Term Training (STT) with embedded On-the-Job Training (OJT) and up-skilling and re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to equip youth with industry-relevant skills and also train them in emerging and new-age job roles.

In addition, under the Scheme of Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence implemented by MeitY in partnership with NASSCOM, Startups are supported for developing AI based tools and applications that are of use for manufacturing companies. Several such solutions have been deployed by companies in manufacturing sector. Besides, National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has implemented 'YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI'- A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme provides a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aur Nyaay.

Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, is running the National Career Service (NCS) Portal which is a one-stop solution for providing career related services including information on jobs from private and government sectors, information on online & offline job fairs, job search & matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, skill/training programmes etc. through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in].
