

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3001**  
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE PANDEMIC**

3001. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that training centres were closed during the 2020 and 2021 lockdown, if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is planning to provide any relief/assistance to such centres, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to compensate students enrolled in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) courses disrupted by the lockdown, if so, the State-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

**(a) to (c):** Due to nationwide intermittent lockdown caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, skill training ecosystem (short- and long-term) faced many challenges including the disruption in classroom and onsite trainings. With the imposition of lockdown restrictions to contain the spread of the pandemic, the skill trainings were halted and permitted to resume from time to time, subject to State/UT-specific directives and local guidelines for the lockdown and public health safety. The suspension and resumption of training activities were governed by the prevailing guidelines in each State/UT.

Training activities were resumed in a phased manner in accordance with the guidelines and directives, and necessary operational flexibilities were provided under the scheme to facilitate the continuation of training and minimise disruption to the skilling ecosystem.

Further, in order to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, MSDE took various initiatives like online /blended skill training through Bharat Skill portal and the then operating eSkill India portal, customized Crash Courses for COVID Warriors, Special programme for training of reverse migrants, etc.

The Common Norms Committee (CNC) for Skill Development Schemes allowed 1.5% of the average training cost per trainee for 3 months, or 1.5% of the hourly base cost rate (as applicable as per category of trade undergoing the training) as COVID Allowance.

\*\*\*\*\*