

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3712
ANSWERED ON 25.03.2026

Reform of engineering education and graduate employability

3712 **Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade:**

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the growing mismatch between the large annual output of engineering graduates and limited demand in core economic sectors, resulting in low employability and under-utilisation of skilled youth;
- (b) whether studies and data from AICTE and industry bodies on poor quality, outdated curricula, faculty shortages and closure of sub-standard engineering institutions have been assessed;
- (c) whether Government proposes time-bound reforms under NEP, 2020 to rationalise intake, upgrade curriculum and faculty quality and strengthen industry-academia linkages; and
- (d) whether targeted measures are being implemented to improve employability, reduce student distress and align engineering education with national development priorities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): Government of India launched National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with an aim for holistic development of students. NEP aims to transform and enhance the quality of education across the country with an objective to establish an education system that is inclusive, equitable, and of high quality, empowering learners to meet future challenges and contribute to national development.

To enhance employability of the students and achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, the National Credit Framework (NCrF) has been issued enabling integration of Skill Education into academia. It also enables credit accumulation through diversified domains such as Skill Enhancement Courses, Value Addition Courses, Ability Enhancement Courses alongwith Internships and Projects. The NCrF also has a provision for the accumulation of a maximum of 50% of the total credit required through skill-based courses. These provisions have enabled Higher Educational Institutions to provide relevant knowledge to the students, making them industry ready.

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020 and ensure availability of industry relevant knowledge to students of technical education, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken several steps including:

- Model Curriculum has been issued in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Space Technology, Electronic Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology), Robotics & Artificial Intelligence etc. Due representation of Industry stakeholders is ensured in the curriculum revision committees.

- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.
- Issued model internship guidelines for technical courses. Internship is mandatory component of Model Curriculum issued by AICTE for different courses. These guidelines provide internship in full-time or part-time.
- AICTE has developed guidelines for implementation of apprenticeship embedded Degree/Diploma programmes in the AICTE approved institutions from the AY 2024-25.
- Industry Academia Mobility framework has been launched by AICTE to facilitate connect between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating collaboration between academia and industry.
- In order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, over 16,000 Institution Innovation Councils (IICs) have been established across the country, engaging more than 1 lakh faculty members and 1.5 lakh students in innovation and entrepreneurial activities.
- Since 2017-18, theme based annual hackathons are organised to crowdsource ideas from students of HEIs to generate innovative problem solutions. It develops innovation, problem solving and entrepreneurship among the students.
- For capacity building of the faculty, AICTE has launched several training programs and faculty development initiatives through AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy covering topics like AI ethics, Deep Learning, and AI in Industry 4.0.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Madras and eminent Industry Partners, have launched the SWAYAM Plus platform on 27th February 2024. The platform offers high-quality learning and certification programs in partnership with leading industry and academic experts to students/ learners, helping them reskill, upskill, and become employment-ready. These courses also include domains such as media, communication, and soft skills, aimed at enhancing non-technical competencies to improve employability. The Ministry of Education and IIT Madras have signed more than 85 MoUs with the leading industry partners. As of 1st March 2026, more than 500 Courses in 17 different sectors are available on the platform, and more than 5.24 lakh learners have enrolled for their Skill augmentation.

The Ministry of Education also implements the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) to impart on-the-job training and enhance the employability of youth. In the last 5 financial years (FY 2020–21 to 2024–25), the NATS scheme has engaged 12.94 lakh apprentices. For FY 2025-26, over 5 lakh apprentices have been engaged.
