

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 598
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

LOW EMPLOYABILITY OF INDIAN GRADUATES

598 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that a significant proportion of Indian graduates continue to face low employability, with evidence pointing to gaps in non-technical, behavioural and job-ready skills;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to address the mismatch between formal education, vocational training and industry-required employability skills, including reforms in curricula, expansion of apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities and strengthening of soft- skills development;
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering a comprehensive review or reset of the Skill India Mission to improve alignment with evolving labour-market needs and reduce graduate underemployment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): As per the latest estimates of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the National Sample Survey Office, the unemployment rate on usual status for person of age 15-59 years in rural areas has decreased from 5.7 per cent in 2017-18 to 2.8 per cent in 2023-24.

In order to improve the employability of youth of the country, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under Skill India Mission (SIM), delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready & industry ready skills.

To align the training programs as per the market needs, catering to the need for skill training in new age skills like AI, IoT and Robotics, etc, and thereby improving the employability of trainees, MSDE has taken the following specific steps:

- (i) 36 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), led by industry leaders in the respective sectors, have been set up which are mandated to identify the skill development needs of respective sectors as well as to determine skill competency standards. NSDC, under the market-led program, provides support to training providers that collaborate and align skill courses with industry demand.
- (ii) DGT is implementing Flexi MoU Scheme and Dual System of Training (DST) which are meant to provide training to ITI students in industrial environment as per their requirements.
- (iii) Under PMKVY, the new age/future skills job-roles have been specially aligned with Industry 4.0 requirements in areas like AI/ML, Robotics, Mechatronics, Drone Technology, etc. for upcoming market demand and industry requirements.

- (iv) Director General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 31 new age/future skills courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) under CTS to provide training in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Mechatronics, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Semiconductor, etc.
- (v) DGT has signed MoU with IT Tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Future Skill Rights Network, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft to ensure industry linkages for the institutes at the state and regional levels under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies.
- (vi) Indian Institutes of Skills (IIS) established at Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, provide training to create industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0, equipped with cutting-edge technology and hands-on training.
- (vii) National Skill Development Corporation under the aegis of MSDE has partnered with a number of international organizations such as AWS, Microsoft, Intel, Redhat, Pearson VUE, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Cisco Networking Academy for providing digital courses.
- (viii) Further, Rozgar Melas and Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas (PMNAMs) have been organized to facilitate the placements and apprenticeship opportunities to the certified candidates.
- (ix) MSDE has launched Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) a unified platform that integrates skilling, education, employment, and entrepreneurship ecosystems to provide a life-long array of services targeting a wide range of stakeholders. The details of the trained candidates are available on SIDH portal for connecting with potential employers. Through Skill India Digital Hub, candidates can have access to jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

Further, to develop behavioural, job-ready soft skills in the learners, NCVET developed a comprehensive national framework for Employability, Soft, and Life Skills aligned with the National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). Nine modules, fifty sub-modules, and four progressive levels are created, supported by high-quality digital and instructor-led content. Every learner across schools, colleges, and vocational centres can graduate with 21st-century competencies, communication, reasoning, digital fluency, values, and workplace readiness.
