

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1242
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2026

ACADEMIA GAP IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT

1242 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any innovative skill development and training programs to cater the industry needs matching and keeping pace with scientific advancements in various industries, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has allocated funds to States/UTs for imparting specialized and advanced skill training to students from poor and marginalized communities and make them company-ready and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government or FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM and NASSCOM have done any studies on the industry-academia gap and if so, the effective steps taken by Government to bridge the industry-academia gap?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) : Under the Government of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) 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 and equipped with industry relevant skills.

PMVKY: Under PMKVY 4.0 training is being imparted in future skills and emerging technologies to align the workforce with evolving industry requirements, in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Drone Technology, Green Hydrogen, Electric Vehicles, Semiconductor Technology, Robotics, AR/VR and 5G Networks, thereby equipping youth with industry-relevant skills and enhancing employability in high-growth sectors.

JSS: JSSs offer training in 83 NSQF-compliant job roles across 24 sectors including around 28 new-age roles at NSQF Levels 2–4. The job roles are selected by the JSSs based on local demand and livelihood opportunities to ensure regionally relevant training and improved employability.

NAPS: Under NAPS, Apprenticeship training in an establishment is categorized into Designated Trades and Optional Trades. At present, apprenticeship training is offered in more than 750 optional trades spanning diverse industry sectors. Further, there are 266 designated trades in which establishments can conduct apprenticeship training, including in emerging sectors such as Electronics, Green jobs, Logistics. The scheme encourages enrolment of apprentices in MSMEs across the country.

CTS: Under CTS, training in 32 new age courses, including Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Robotics and climate-friendly technology for skilling and upskilling of youth of the country is provided through a network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

Under the PMKVY, skill training is provided to all sections of society, with special emphasis on women, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), and other marginalized communities. The Scheme promotes inclusive participation through targeted interventions and provides support such as boarding and lodging, transportation assistance, assistive devices for PwDs, and accidental insurance. Further, under the JSS Scheme, non-formal, doorstep skill training is provided to non-literates, persons with rudimentary education, and school dropouts up to Class XII, with priority accorded to women, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), minorities, and other disadvantaged groups to promote self- and wage-employment.

State/UT wise funds released under major schemes of MSDE including those for specialized and advanced skill training, during financial year 2025-26 across the country are given at **Annexure**. PMKVY 4.0 is a demand-driven scheme and there is no provision of fund allocation to States/ UTs. Under PMKVY 4.0, funds are released to the implementing agencies to cover training costs on the basis of pre-approved parameters. Under JSS scheme also, funds are released to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) directly. Under NAPS, stipend support up to Rs. 1500/- per month is released to apprentices through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Day to day administration as well as financial control in respect of CTS scheme implemented through ITIs lies with the respective State Government/UT Administration.

To identify the skill development needs of respective sectors as well as to determine skill competency standards, 36 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) have been set-up which are led by industry leaders in the respective sectors. Skill Gap studies are conducted by Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) from time to time, which guide the interventions of the Government aimed at preparing the workforce as per the industry needs. Details of the skill gap studies in areas like AI, green energy, semi-conductors and logistics are as under:

SSC concerned	Skill Gap Study
NASSCOM (IT-ITeS SSC)	Talent Demand & Supply Report: AI & Big Data Analytics
Skill Council for Green Jobs	Skill Gap Report for Solar PV, Thermal, Wind & Small Hydro
Electronics Sector Skills Council of India	The Skill Requirement & Job Potential in Indian Electronics Industry
Logistics Sector Skill Council	Skill Gap and Manpower Demand Report

In order to ensure the alignment of skill training programmes with the industry requirements and future job demands, some of the industry-led skill development initiatives being implemented by the Government include:

- i. PMKVY 4.0, focuses on demand-driven skilling, including upskilling and reskilling in emerging sectors. Special focus has been given to future skills such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Robotics, Cloud Computing, Internet of Things (IoT), and green technologies to prepare youth for emerging job roles. This wide sectoral coverage reflects the Government's effort to align skilling programmes with industry demand in the country and enhance employment opportunities across traditional as well as future-ready sectors.
- ii. PMKVY promotes on-the-job training to strengthen the connection between classroom learning and workplace requirements. Industry experts are actively involved in curriculum development, ensuring alignment with current market demands. Rojgar Melas, career counselling sessions, etc., are organized to directly link industries with skilled candidates.
- iii. To enhance industry participation in skill development programs, the Ministry has prioritized industry-aligned training, apprenticeship-linked skilling initiatives, and partnerships with local industries.

- iv. National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has approved 10209 qualifications as per the industry requirements, including 2975 valid and active qualifications.
- v. 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.
- vi. Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of skill development and vocational education and training with fourteen countries to align the skilling efforts as per the global requirements.
- vii. Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 32 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 5G Network Technician, Artificial Intelligence Programming assistant, Cyber Security Assistant, Drone Technician, etc.
- viii. DGT is implementing the Flexi MoU Scheme and Dual System of Training (DST), which are meant to provide training to ITI students in an industrial environment as per their requirements.
- ix. DGT has signed MoUs 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.
- x. Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) established at Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, aims to cultivate an industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0, equipped with cutting-edge technology and hands-on training.
- xi. 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.
- xii. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) supports seamless transition from education to work; ensuring apprentices gain industry-specific skills through real-world exposure. Under NAPS, stipend support up to Rs 1500/- per month is released to beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- xiii. Government has launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of Rs.60,000 crore. The scheme envisages the upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs across the country in a hub-and-spoke model comprising 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs. PM-SETU focuses on improving employability outcomes through industry-led governance, and indirectly supports self-employment and entrepreneurship by enabling learners (including early-stage enterprises and first-time entrepreneurs) to acquire industry-relevant skills, gain exposure to real work environments, and access career guidance, placement support, and self-employment support through strengthened institutional systems and industry linkages.
- xiv. 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 the SIDH portal for connecting with potential employers. Through Skill India Digital Hub, candidates can have access to jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 1242 ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026.

State/UT- Wise funds released under major schemes of MSDE including specialized and advanced skill training, during financial year 2025-26

(In crores)				
S. N.	State/UT	PMKVY	JSS	NAPS
1.	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	-	0.57	0.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	17.02	3.00	21.97
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.05	-	0.37
4.	Assam	17.84	3.12	10.31
5.	Bihar	7.21	10.84	26.74
6.	Chandigarh	-	0.5	0.41
7.	Chhattisgarh	5.88	7.44	4.45
8.	Delhi	1.58	1.5	12.19
9.	Goa	-	0.48	1.51
10.	Gujarat	0.97	4.27	29.24
11.	Haryana	6.82	1.00	10.64
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5.57	5.74	4.65
13.	Jammu And Kashmir	3.49	0.63	1.02
14.	Jharkhand	1.02	6.29	14.17
15.	Karnataka	3.73	5.95	35.08
16.	Kerala	2.67	4.57	10.64
17.	Ladakh	-	0.38	0.01
18.	Lakshadweep	-	0.5	0.01
19.	Madhya Pradesh	26.98	14.83	23.98
20.	Maharashtra	6.05	10.57	121.5
21.	Manipur	19.81	2.00	1.56
22.	Meghalaya	1.24	0.51	1.00
23.	Mizoram	3.97	0.4	0.67
24.	Nagaland	1.43	0.71	0.58
25.	Odisha	3.04	15.21	15.94
26.	Puducherry	-	-	1.4
27.	Punjab	8.88	0.99	5.33
28.	Rajasthan	34.92	4.47	13.22
29.	Sikkim	0.09	-	0.43
30.	Tamil Nadu	4.96	4.52	64.47
31.	Telangana	4.27	3.08	10.21
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	-	1.05	0.72
33.	Tripura	1.83	1.00	0.96
34.	Uttar Pradesh	64.90	24.11	86.59
35.	Uttarakhand	2.26	4.05	10.51
36.	West Bengal	9.80	3.99	24.76
