

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2036
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEA GARDEN YOUTH IN ASSAM

2036 SHRI TERASH GOWALLA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish dedicated skill development centres in tea garden areas of Assam;
- (b) the number of youth trained and employed under central skill schemes in Assam during the last three years;
- (c) whether industry-specific training in food processing, logistics, tourism and renewable energy is proposed; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve employment opportunities for tea garden youth?

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 including the state of Assam. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and equipped with industry relevant skills including in areas like food processing, logistics, tourism and renewable energy.

The schemes of MSDE are demand driven and training centres under these schemes are set up or engaged on need basis. Details of the number of training centres set-up or engaged under the schemes of MSDE in Assam as on 30.06.2026 are as under:

PMKVY 4.0 Centres (STT+SP)*	JSS centers	NAPS Establishments	ITIs	
			Govt.	Pvt.
864	06	1,049	31	16

* Short-term Training (STT) and Special Projects (SP) up to 30.06.2026

Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) has established a Regional Centre in Guwahati, which facilitates skill development initiatives in various agriculture domains, including Tea Plantation.

Details of the candidates trained under the major skill development schemes of the MSDE in Assam during the last three years (2023-24 to 2025-26) are as under:

Sectors	PMKVY	NAPS	JSS	CTS
Overall	1,19,274	24,003	30,597	15,306
Food Processing	6,034	2,761	3,640	-
Logistics	803	1,587	-	-
Tourism	10,018	1,290	20	7
Renewable Energy	296	1,371	-	131

Under the Department of Commerce, Tea Board is implementing the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme. As part of the components ‘Welfare and Capacity Building Measures, Research & Development, and Farm Field Schools’, Tea Board conducts capacity-building and skill development programmes for small tea growers through various field-level activities. These programmes are aimed at enhancing the technical knowledge, skills, and overall capacity of the target beneficiaries to adopt improved tea cultivation practices. Tea Board conducted 430 capacity-building programmes in the State of Assam, benefiting 12,790 small tea growers from 2023–24 to 2026–27 (up to 30.06.2026).

(d) Under the ‘Welfare and Capacity Building Measures’ and ‘Research & Development’ components of the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TD&PS), under Tea Board, the following initiatives are taken to promote skill development and enhance employment opportunities for youth from tea garden areas:

- Tea Board provides training and advisory services to bought leaf tea manufacturers and their representatives on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to enhance the quality and marketability of made tea.
- Capacity-building programmes include training on scientific post-harvest handling of green tea leaves, quality improvement measures, and safe and judicious use of pesticide formulations, thereby promoting sustainable tea production practices.
- To strengthen the livelihood and economic self-reliance of the small tea-growing community, financial assistance is provided to Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).
- Financial support is extended for the procurement of farm machinery, enabling mechanization and improved productivity in tea cultivation.
- Assistance is also provided for the establishment of tea nurseries, ensuring the availability of quality planting materials.
- Support is available for setting up mini tea factories and other value-added units, facilitating local processing, value addition, and enhanced income generation for the tea-growing community.

Further, to ensure that the skills imparted are aligned with the industry requirements and thereby improving the employment opportunities, MSDE has inter-alia taken the following specific steps across the country:

- National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has been set up as an overarching regulator establishing regulations and standards to ensure quality in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) space. NCVET recognises the industry bodies as the Awarding Bodies (ABs) and/or Assessment Agencies (AAs).
- The Awarding Bodies are expected to develop the qualifications as per the industry demand and map them with the identified occupations as per the National Classification of Occupations, 2015 and obtain industry validations. NCVET has approved 10209 qualifications as per the industry requirements, out of which 2975 qualifications are valid and active, and 7234 qualifications are archived.
- Directorate General of Training (DGT) is implementing Flexi MoU Scheme and Dual System of Training (DST) in collaboration with industries to provide training to ITI students in real industrial environment.
- DGT has signed MoU with IT Tech companies like IBM, Microsoft, Autodesk, AWS, Shell, etc. to ensure industry linkages for the institutes at the state and regional levels. These

partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies.

- 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.
- DGT has introduced new age /future skills courses under CTS to provide training in emerging areas such as 5G Network, AI Programming , Cyber Security, Drone Technology , Internet of Things, etc.
- 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. Through Skill India Digital Hub, candidates can have access to skill training, jobs and apprenticeship opportunities. The details of the trained candidates are available on SIDH portal for connecting with potential employers.
- Two (02) Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) have been established at Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, with an aim to align industry-ready workforce to emerging economic opportunities.
- 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.
- Rozgar Melas and PM National Apprenticeship Melas have been organized by the Ministry to facilitate the placements opportunities to the certified candidates across the country.
