

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2023
DRASTIC SHIFT IN TECHNOLOGY

4234. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government is aware of the drastic shift in technology happening in all level of economy that making the larger population of the workforce unfit for employment;**
- b) if so, the details thereof, along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to train the workforce especially those coming from marginalized socio-economic and regional backgrounds to fit into the technological shift by adopting Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning;**
- c) if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- d) the details of steps taken to improve the skills of working age groups in North Chennai constituency during the last three years?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (d): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of next year. As per the data available in latest Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above has increased to 52.9% during 2021-22 from 46.8% during 2017-18.

The Government considers Artificial Intelligence (AI) to be kinetic enabler for the growth of our digital economy, investments and jobs. To expand AI ecosystem and connect the AI opportunities to the youth, including persons from marginalized socio-economic and regional backgrounds, the Government has taken various initiatives in the country as under:

- i) The Government has initiated 'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme' with the objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI and Emerging Technologies.**
- ii) MeitY has initiated 'Future Skills PRIME'a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence.**
- iii) With the objective to empower the youth to become AI ready as well as increase the skilled AI youth, Government along with Industry partner has initiated'Responsible AI for Youth' programme to promote AI awareness among Government school children, who had limited or no access to the latest technologies and resources.**
- iv) The Government has also launched National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). Under this Mission, Department of Science & Technology (DST) has created a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, which aims to provide the state of the art training and capacity building for the creation of next-generation scientists, engineers, technicians, and technocrats in the field of Artificial Intelligence.**

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill training through a comprehensive network of skill development centres/institutes under various schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal VikasYojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), across the country. Under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), the module of Artificial Intelligence is covered under a course of Internet of Things- Smart Healthcare (IoT-Smart Healthcare) of duration 1 year.At present, there are total 14,953 ITIs established in the country, out of which 501 are in Tamil Nadu.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement linked skill development program for rural poor youth under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) since September, 2014. Rural Youth in the age group of 15-35 years are covered under this scheme. In Tamil Nadu, more than 12 thousands candidates were trained during 2022-23 (upto Feb, 2023).

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) provide training for Skill and Entrepreneurship Development. Any unemployed youth in the age group of 18-45 years, having an aptitude to take up self-employment or wage employment and having some basic knowledge in the related field can undergo training at RSETI. In Tamil Nadu, more than 24 thousands candidates were trained during 2022-23 (upto Feb, 2023).

National Career Service portal of this Ministry offer its registered jobseekers a free, self-paced Online Training Programme on “Career Skills”, which will enhance the employability of the jobseekers. During the last three years, 292 jobseekers have been certified in Chennai under the said programme.

All these initiatives are expected to improve the skill and collectively generate employment in the medium to long term through multiplier-effects.
