

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO *298
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

EXPANSION OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN RURAL AREAS

*298. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government to expand and enhance the reach of skill development programmes, particularly in rural and underserved areas to ensure that the youth are equipped with employable skills;
- (b) the manner in which the Government ensures that the skills imparted through various schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) are aligned with current industry requirements and technological advancements; and
- (c) the details of measures being taken by the Government to encourage more industries to participate in apprenticeship programmes along with the manner in which the Government is facilitating the integration of vocational training into the mainstream education system to promote long-term career opportunities?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *298 ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024 REGARDING 'EXPANSION OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN RURAL AREAS'

(a): 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 / institutes under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Sikhshan 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 rural areas. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and equipped with industry relevant skills. To expand the reach of skill development programmes, there has been a substantial increase in the number of training centres during the last ten years, as can be seen in the table below :

	Pre-2014	2024-25 *
ITIs (Govt and Pvt)	9,776	15,012
JSSs (NGOs)	234	289
Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)	20	36
PMKVY Centres	--	14,271
NAPS Establishments	6,755 **	48,769

* As on 31.10.2024 ** Figures are for FY 2018-19

Further, the Directorate General of Training (DGT) implemented 'Skill Development in 48 Districts Affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE)' scheme for supporting establishment of 48 ITIs and 'Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in North Eastern States' scheme for Upgradation of 22 existing ITIs. Under PMKVY, the Government has expanded skill development programs to rural and underserved areas through Skill Hubs. Kaushal Mahotsavs and outreach campaigns ensure widespread awareness and enrolment.

Special provisions have also been made for the training of candidates in the Special Areas like North Eastern States, Hilly States, Districts affected by Left Wing Extremist, etc under the Common Cost Norms for schemes of the Government for skill development.

Accessibility to skill training to the youth including the ones from rural and underserved areas has been substantially facilitated through Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), which is a digital public infrastructure to provide a comprehensive and accessible platform for skill enhancement, offering industry-relevant skill courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support.

(b): To ensure the skills imparted through various scheme of MSDE are aligned with the current industry requirements and technological advancements, the following specific steps have been taken:

(i) Since 2020, National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has approved 4387 new qualifications as per the industry requirements and archived 4419 qualifications which are not relevant.

(ii) 36 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), led by industry leaders in the respective sectors, have been set up by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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 twelve countries to align the skilling efforts as per the global requirements.

(v) Under PMKVY, approx 200 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.

(vi) General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 29 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.

(vii) 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.

(viii) 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.

(ix) 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.

(c): MSDE is implementing National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) for promoting apprenticeship training and increasing the engagement of apprentices by providing financial support for payment of stipend to apprentices. Under NAPS, the following measures have been taken to encourage more industries in the apprenticeship programmes:

(i) Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) is a monthly event of MSDE, organized every month 2nd Monday in 1/3rd districts of each State. Apprenticeship mela serves as a platform between candidates and establishments with respect to apprenticeship opportunity.

(ii) Workshops, seminars, webinars, etc. with the stakeholders to encourage candidates, establishments, industry associations/chambers of commerce, industry clusters with a special focus on participation from Ministry of MSMEs), academic institutions, Skill India training partners, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), ITIs, JSSs, etc.

(iii) MSDE has requested other central ministries/departments to encourage autonomous institutions/ establishments falling under their purview to start engaging apprentices.

(iv) MSDE has initiated engagement with various Industry Associations and Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) for apprenticeship promotion.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has recommended integration of vocational education into mainstream education in all educational institutions. For integration of vocational education into mainstream education, the following initiatives *inter-alai* have been taken:

(i) Under the vocational education component of Samagra Shiksha scheme, National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant vocational courses are offered to the students from class 9th to 12th in eligible schools. At the Secondary level (Class 9 and 10), vocational modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At the Senior

Secondary level (Class 11 and 12), vocational courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject.

(ii) Employability Skills consisting of communication skills, self-management skills, information and communication technology skills, entrepreneurship skills and green skills have been made mandatory part of the vocational courses.

(iii) National Curriculum Framework for School Education, developed in pursuance of National Education Policy 2020, has laid down the objectives of approaches to Vocational Education. One of the objectives is that vocational capacities, knowledge, and relevant values will be developed for all students, and this will create the possibility of them joining the workforce after school if they choose to.

(iv) PMKVY 4.0 is also being implemented through schools under Skill Hubs initiative, in co-operation with the Department of School Education and Literacy. Skill Hubs Initiative provides blended learning opportunities, creating pathways for long-term career development.

(v) University Grants Commission (UGC) has facilitated Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to offer skill-based programmes as per the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
