

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *82
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR YOUTH

*82. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is mulling the inclusion of Japanese language training for youth as part of a multi-pronged skill development effort to generate employment opportunities and if so, the details thereof including the present status thereon;
- (b) whether citing a substantial shortage of workers in Japan's rapidly growing economy, the Government is planning to have extensive training on the Japanese language for skilled people; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken in this regard including the results yielded till now?

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 THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *82 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR YOUTH".

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, The Government of India is undertaking various efforts to include Japanese language training as part of its multi-pronged skill development strategy for the employment opportunities for youth.

Government of India has put special importance on Japanese language education as one of the most efficient ways to strengthen economic ties and people to people exchanges between India and Japan. As a consequence, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of Japanese Language Education in India was signed in 2017, and renewed in 2023, between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, with the objectives of (i) training teachers who in turn can train more people, including workforce and (ii) start new Japanese language courses in different parts of the country. A total of 850 teachers have been trained under the MoC for a duration up to 360 hours so far by the Japan Foundation, which is the implementation agency under the MoC.

As per estimates available with MEA, there are more than 300 private-run Japanese language training institutes in India. As part of its outreach to pace up the Japanese language training efforts, MEA has connected with over 30 universities and institutes and have facilitated in (i) channelizing or finding Japanese language volunteer teachers of JICA and/or teachers trained under above mentioned MoC;(ii) providing guidance to the institutes in building curriculum and selection/use of textbooks; (iii) guiding the teachers in teaching methodology; and (iv) connecting CSR support of Japanese companies in promotion of Japanese language in 18 institutes.

The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Technical Intern Trainee Program (TITP) was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) of India and the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in 2017 for the mobility of Indian interns to Japan. Under the MoC, Japanese language training, along with training in Japanese lifestyle, culture, etiquettes and relevant domain is provided to candidates for internship in Japan for a period of 3-5 years.

Further, the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for Specified Skill Workers (SSW) was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and Immigration Service Agency of Japan in 2021 for the employment of Indian skilled workers in Japan. Japanese language training is a core component of both TITP and SSW for internship and employment, likewise.
