

Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of School Education and Literacy

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1102
ANSWERED ON 02/12/2024

Education for Employment Opportunities in Small Towns

†1102. Dr. Lata Wankhede:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce employment-oriented and vocational courses as well as to expand skill development programmes in small towns;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to introduce new courses of skill development in schools and colleges of small towns to generate employment opportunities to the local youth in their areas;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide career counselling services to make students aware of employment opportunities and to help them to choose the right career in their areas; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open skill development and grooming centres in small towns and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Government has adopted several steps to make school education more job-oriented and to increase the employable skill set of students. Under the Vocational Education component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Samagra Shiksha', financial assistance is given to States for offering National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant vocational courses to the students from classes 9th to 12th in the schools covered under the scheme to develop knowledge and practical skills required for gainful employment. At the Secondary level i.e., Class IX and X, skill modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At Sr. Secondary level, i.e., Class XI and XII, skill courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject. So far 138 Job Roles (JRs) / Skill subjects have been approved for implementation in States/UTs as per the Skill Gap Analysis. Employability Skill modules including Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills, and Green

Skills are included in the curriculum of JRs. Assistance for setting up Vocational or Skill labs in schools and DIETS, with state-of-the-art facilities, is also provided. The existing scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been revamped and various new interventions relating to Vocational Education like internships, bagless days, exposure to vocational education at the Upper Primary level etc. are being supported. The guidelines for 10 bagless days for students was launched on the 4th Anniversary of NEP 2020.

In coordination with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) is implementing PMKVY 4.0 in the school education sector. Further, the Department of School Education and Literacy in partnership with industry is enhancing the knowledge and exposure of students in emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality.

The 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.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises on the significance of counselling in schools as a key component of the educational framework. The policy advocates a holistic approach to career guidance, considering the individual needs, interests, and strengths of each student. NEP 2020 also promotes the use of technology and online resources to enhance career guidance services. DoSEL has launched Career Guide book for School Students on the 4th Anniversary celebration of NEP 2020. This Career Guide Book consists of 500 career cards in 21 domains. Each career card contains work profile, essential Personal Traits, Course fee, Scholarships, Loan prospects, Entry Pathway, Details about course providing Institutions (Govt./Private/Online course) and example of pioneers in the field. A copy of this book is available at <https://dsel.education.gov.in/careers/index.html>

Career counselling at Secondary and Senior Secondary schools is considered of utmost importance which enables students to know the various career opportunities available as per their choice, need and strength. The revamped scheme of Samagra Shiksha provides for provisioning of one Academic Resource Person for career counselling at each Block/ULB in the Block Resource Centre (BRC). DoSEL has also finalised the Guidelines for Provisioning of Academic Resource Person for career counselling in the BRCs under Samagra Shiksha which are available at https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/guidelines_brc_1707.pdf.
