

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 926
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Innovative Courses in the Colleges through Industrial and Sectoral Linkages

926. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:
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Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a disconnect between University education and the jobs market resulting in the non-availability of suitable candidates for certain jobs in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to start innovative courses in the colleges through industrial and sectoral linkages?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform and improve the quality of education in the country and to provide a standard of education that is inclusive, equitable, and of high quality, empowering learners for the future and contributing to national development. NEP 2020 also promotes research and innovations by Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) by setting up start-up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research.

To enhance employability of the students and achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the National Credit Framework (NCrF), enabling integration of Skill Education into academia. It also enables credit accumulation through diversified domains such as Skill Enhancement Courses, Value Addition Courses, Ability Enhancement Courses alongwith Internships and Projects. The NCrF also has a provision for the accumulation of a maximum of 50% of the total credit required through skill-based courses. These provisions have enabled Higher Educational Institutions to provide multi-disciplinary knowledge to the students, making them industry ready.

Further, UGC has formulated guidelines for the introduction of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes to be offered by Higher Education Institutions to provide practical exposure during the course of study expected with the aim to enhanced competencies of the graduates and the employment thereof.

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020 and ensure availability of industry relevant knowledge to students All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken several steps including:

- Model Curriculum in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Space Technology, Electronic Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology), Robotics and Artificial Intelligence etc. Due representation of Industry stakeholders is ensured in the curriculum revision committees.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.
- Issued model internship guidelines for technical courses. Internship is mandatory component of Model Curriculum issued by AICTE for different courses. These guidelines provide internship in full-time or part-time. Internship
- Industry Academia Mobility framework launched by AICTE to facilitate connect between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating collaboration between academia and industry. Additionally, it provides for frameworks for industry-academia partnership, encouraging mutually beneficial engagements that enrich both parties.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Madras and eminent Industry Partners have launched SWAYAM Plus platform on 27th February 2024, expanding its offerings to identify and include courses aligned with industry needs and to enhance learners' employability. The platform provides high-quality learning and certification programs from the leading industry and academia to the students/ learners which can help them in reskilling and upskilling and making them employment ready. Ministry of Education and IIT Madras has signed more than 55 MoUs with the leading industries partners. As on 22nd November, 2024, more than 320 Courses are available on the platform and more than 1.27 lakhs learners have enrolled for their Skill augmentation.
