

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 2681
ANSWERED ON 17/03/2025

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTH-EASTERN STATES' STUDENTS

2681. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:

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

- (a) whether the manner in which the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Programme will ensure that female students from North-Eastern States have equal access to resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities;
- (b) the details of the role that industry leaders, successful entrepreneurs, and other key stakeholders play in guiding the women entrepreneurs participating in said programme; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the faculty development component of the programme is effective in training educators to mentor students in entrepreneurship?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The government is implementing various initiatives for skill and entrepreneurship development amongst various sections of the society, including women, in the North-Eastern States of India. One such initiative is the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme launched for female students by the Ministry in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog as knowledge partner on 7th February, 2025 in the selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of North Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

The programme introduces a structured, multi-stage training approach to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation. The program includes different components such as Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for training faculty members from the selected HEIs; introductory programme to create entrepreneurial awareness among 1200 female students through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs), followed by Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) to 600 students selected from EAP participants. This will be followed by 21 weeks of Mentoring and Handholding support.

The Ministry will oversee the execution, supervision, and monitoring of the programme, while NITI Aayog will organize workshops, provide mentoring support, facilitate seed funding, and recognize successful entrepreneurs through the Award To Reward (ATR) initiative.

During the mentoring and handholding support, industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs will guide the participants by providing mentorship and hands-on support. Successful entrepreneurs will be invited to share their experiences, highlighting the challenges they overcame and the strategies they used to establish their businesses.

To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative will equip educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions.

Further, the Ministry, through its autonomous institute, i.e., Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, has taken the following initiatives to promote entrepreneurship among female students from North-Eastern States:

1. Establish, Develop and Manage Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Incubation Centers (ICs) in North East Region's Educational Institutions - Under this Project, IIE is establishing, developing and managing 30 Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and 04 Incubation Centers (ICs) in North East Region's Educational Institutions in collaboration with North East Council (NEC). The programme includes Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP), Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) and Faculty Development Program (FDP). Under the project, 4077 candidates have attended the EAP and 912 candidates trained under EDP, out of which 322 are women and 632 mentors were trained under FDP, out of which 278 are women.

2. Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) Project Under the Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project of MSDE, IIE conducted awareness and sensitization programmes at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in North-Eastern States. These activities were followed by the selection of prospective entrepreneurs to undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). The Institute has successfully conducted EDP training for the target groups and provided mentoring and handholding support to help trainees establish their enterprises.

This initiative effectively fostered an entrepreneurial ecosystem within technical training institutions, enhancing the capacity of both students and faculty. IIE certified 11,000 candidates in EAPs and 8,332 in EDPs. Furthermore, 80 faculty members from 94 ITIs and 2 NSTIs in the NER received specialized training through Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs). 2733 female students of ITIs /NSTIs have been successfully trained and certified under this project.

In addition, the Ministry is implementing various schemes for skill development of all sections of society throughout the country, including women in North-Eastern States. The details of the schemes are at **Annexure-I**.

Further, under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, the Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) and Incubation Centre (IC) of Tripura University organized various programmes like Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) for students. One out of the three EAP programmes was dedicated to all women participants. All the participants were offered equal access to available resources in the centre along with mentorship opportunities. During the programme, industry experts both from the Government and private institutions, along with successful entrepreneurs from the region were invited to highlight the nuances of entrepreneurship to the participants. A 5-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was conducted at the EDC, where faculty members across colleges and Higher Education Institutions of Tripura participated. The faculty members were briefed about entrepreneurship to further sensitize female students in their respective institutions. Further, all the selected ideas will receive equal initial financial support from North Eastern Council (NEC) during incubation phase.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2681 ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025 REGARDING “SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTH-EASTERN STATES’ STUDENTS”

The details of various schemes of MSDE for skill development of all the sections of society throughout the country, including women in North-Eastern States are as under:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): Under PMKVY skill development training is imparted through Short-Term Training (STT) and Up-skilling and Re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country. Under PMKVY 4.0, special initiatives have been introduced to enhance female participation in skill development and entrepreneurship in North-Eastern States. As on 31.12.2024, a total of 8,20,039 female have been trained/ oriented in North-Eastern States, 6,06,274 have been Certified, 87,656 have been reported placed and 12,982 have been reported self-employed.

Industry leaders play a critical role in mentorship, training, and employment linkages under PMKVY 4.0. Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) develop industry-relevant curricula, while public-private partnerships (PPPs) with NASSCOM, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises offer internships and entrepreneurial guidance.

PMKVY 4.0 also focuses on faculty capacity building through National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and Institutes of Eminence. Trainers undergo Training of Trainers (ToT) certification to ensure alignment with evolving entrepreneurial skills which are embedded in the employability skill module.

2. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme provides skill training in a non-formal mode at the doorsteps of the beneficiary through registered Societies (NGOs) with 100% grant from the Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to increase the household income by promoting self/wage employment through skill development training. The scheme is aimed at non-literates, neo-literates, and individuals with rudimentary education, as well as school dropouts up to class 12th, particularly in remote tribal and hilly areas in the age group of 15-45 years, with age relaxation for Divyangjan and other deserving cases, especially women. The priority groups for the scheme are women, SCs, STs, OBCs, and minorities, with a special emphasis on tribal communities in the rural and hilly areas of the North-Eastern States. During the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2024-25 (till February 2025), a total of 1,35,195 beneficiaries have been trained under the scheme in North-Eastern States, out of which 99,388 are female beneficiaries.

3. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) launched in August 2016 aims to promote apprenticeship training throughout the country. The scheme was extended to continue as NAPS-2 from 2022-23 and promotes apprenticeship training, by providing partial stipend support to the apprentices engaged under the Apprentices Act, 1961 and the Rules thereunder. Under, NAPS-2, the stipend support by Government of India (GoI) is paid through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank account of apprentices. Apprenticeship training is open to all categories of candidates including Women from North Eastern States. During the Financial Years 2018-19 to 2024-25 (till February 2025), a total of 47,395 apprentices have been engaged under the scheme in North-Eastern States, out of which 18,658 are women.

4. Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS): Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), implements the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through a network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for the youth of the country, including women.

In ITIs, craftsmen training is provided in 168 NSQF aligned trades. The training courses have been designed to impart basic skills and knowledge in the trades so as to prepare trainee for employment as a semiskilled worker. At present, there are 14,612 ITIs established in the country, out of which 91 are Government ITIs in North-Eastern States and 19 are private ITIs in North-Eastern States. A total of 11,274 women trainees enrolled in ITIs under CTS in North-Eastern States from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Further, DGT has implemented Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure (ESDI) scheme in North-Eastern States. The scheme envisages to enhance the existing infrastructure of skill development in North Eastern States. The scheme is aimed for upgradation of 22 ITIs by introducing three new trades per ITI with 100% Central funding, establishment of 34 new ITIs in 8 North Eastern States with 90% Central and 10% State funding, and supplementing infrastructure deficiencies in 28 ITIs by constructing new hostel, boundary wall and supplementing old and obsolete tools and equipment with 100% Central funding.
