

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3916
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT VIA DIGITAL SKILLS

3916. SHRI ANOOPPRADHAN VALMIKI:	SHRI DULU MAHATO:
SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:	SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT:
SMT. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:	SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:	SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:
SHRI ALOK SHARMA:	SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:
SMT. HIMADRI SINGH:	SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:	SHRI NALIN SOREN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand existing programmes or launch new initiatives to ensure wider participation and digital empowerment of women across all regions of the country, particularly in rural and deprived areas, State/UT-wise including Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand, particularly Dumka;
- (b) the manner in which the said initiatives are likely to enable women to pursue careers in artificial intelligence sector and their potential contribution to digital inclusivity;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any specific States or areas for focused implementation in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Government of India is taking proactive steps to improve employability of the youth of the nation, including women across all regions of the country including Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand, through skill development. Under the 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 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 including women, across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and equipped with industry relevant skills.

To encourage participation of women in skill development programs, special provisions have been made for meeting expenditure on conveyance and boarding & lodging as well as enhanced post placement support. Further, PMKVY 4.0 prioritizes and provides special focus to projects that emphasize women as primary beneficiaries. Training programs in sectors like Electronics, Retail, Healthcare, Beauty & Wellness, Handicrafts and Apparel are structured to attract higher participation from women. Skill Hubs and Special Projects actively encourage women's enrolment. Projects are designed to align with local skill demands, creating opportunities for rural women to participate and benefit from skill development schemes. This inclusive approach ensures significant representation and benefit for women in skill training programs across the country. Also, in NAPS Scheme, the introduction of trades in services sector (Optional Trade) has led to the significant improvement in the women participation in apprenticeship. The percentage of women apprentices has observed an increase from 22.79% in 2024-25 to 25.80% in 2025-26.

Under JSS Scheme; the focus is being given to women and other vulnerable sections. Women constitute more than 80% of beneficiaries under JSS. Also, there are 19 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) and more than 300 ITIs exclusively for women. Government of India approved 30% reservation of seats for women candidates in all ITIs (Govt. & Private) in all courses and these seats could be filled based on the general reservation policy of each respective State/UTs.

MSDE in collaboration with MoWCD has launched a joint initiative named NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls. NAVYA is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16-18 years with a minimum qualification of class 10, with vocational training mainly in non traditional job-roles. Further, MSDE in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme in February 2025 in the North Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and also in Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. The programme aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among female students through Entrepreneurship Awareness Training (EAP) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati are the implementing agencies for the program.

To promote new age future skills including digital skills, artificial intelligence, MSDE has undertaken the following initiatives:

- (i) Under PMKVY 4.0, the dedicated job roles under "Future Skills" category has been introduced with an aim of preparing youth for opportunities in new and emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Digital Marketing. Under AI- related job roles, a total of 19,398 women have been trained from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 (as on 30th June 2025).
- (ii) Apprenticeship training is imparted under 266 designated trade and over 750 Optional trades including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics. Under AI related trades, a total of 670 women apprentices have been engaged under NAPS-2 from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 (as on 30th June 2025).
- (iii) Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 31 new age/future skills courses under CTS in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) to provide digital training in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Mechatronics, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Semiconductor, etc. The total women enrolment in new age courses in ITIs under CTS from academic sessions 2019-20 to 2024-25 is 8,463.
- (iv) With a view to adopt the best practices in the digital skill training, DGT has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with leading IT tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Microsoft. These partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics (BDA), Block chain, Cloud Computing, etc.
- (v) Directorate General of Training (DGT) under MSDE has introduced one course 'Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant (AIPA)' to impart AI-based skill training through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs). Also, a micro-credential course "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)" of 7.5-hour has been developed for all CTS trainees in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), in collaboration with industry and academic experts.
- (vi) MSDE has launched the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), a unified digital platform aimed at enhancing skill development in youths across the country by providing access to industry-relevant courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support. It offers a diverse selection of AI and Machine Learning (ML) courses—ranging from introductory programs like *Fundamentals of Azure AI Speech* and *Machine Learning* to advanced modules such as *Google Cloud Generative AI* and *AI Strategy to Create Business Value in Healthcare*—designed to support learners at all proficiency levels and prepare them to thrive in the fast-changing technology landscape.
- (vii) MDE has also collaborated with Microsoft, HCL Tech and Nascocom (with SkillUp), in implementation of a programme on Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR).