

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1287**  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

**SKILL GAPS IN KEY SECTORS**

1287. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has evaluated the current skill gaps in key sectors of the economy;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to upgrade training infrastructure and improve industry-linked skill development; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand entrepreneurship support for youth from rural and economically weaker regions, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): District Skill Committees (DSCs), established across all States/UTs are mandated with formulating District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs) to support decentralized, grassroots-level skill planning by identifying local employment opportunities, skilling demand, and available training infrastructure. Government skill programmes are then designed to bridge these identified skill gaps across sectors. The Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), led by industry experts, regularly conduct skill gap studies to assess sector-wise skill needs and set competency standards, which guide government interventions to align the workforce with industry requirements. Additionally, the SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion)-supported National Skill Gap Study by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) provides a standardized, data-driven framework to assess skill gaps across seven high-growth sectors. It helps MSDE align skilling initiatives with industry demand and future workforce needs.

Further, in order to meet skilling requirement for future workforce, improve the quality of skilling, to align the training programs to market needs and improve the employability of trainees, following specific steps have been taken by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE):

- i. The training programs offered under the schemes of MSDE are developed in collaboration with industries, keeping in view market demands.
- ii. Future ready job-roles addressing the requirement of Industry 4.0, emerging sectors like Drone, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Mechatronics, etc., have been prioritized under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0. Also, Under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) in ITIs, new age courses have been developed to meet the demand of futuristic job roles in emerging technologies.
- iii. The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has been set up as an overarching regulator establishing regulations and standards to ensure quality in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) space. The Awarding Bodies recognized by NCVET are required to develop the qualifications as per the industry demand and obtain industry validations.
- iv. Directorate General of Training (DGT) is strengthening industry-linked training for ITI students through the Flexi MoU Scheme and Dual System of Training, and by partnering with leading tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Future Skill Rights Network, AWS, and

Microsoft under CSR initiatives to enhance industry exposure and relevant skill development.

- v. Courses aligned to National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) also have components of On Job Training (OJT) and employability skills.
- vi. Under NAPS, apprenticeship training and increasing engagement with industrial establishments for undertaking apprenticeship programs is promoted.
- vii. Trainings of Trainers through National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Institutes of Training of Trainers (IToTs).
- viii. Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal has been established as a Digital Public Infrastructure for skilling, employment, and entrepreneurship ecosystems.
- ix. The Cabinet has also approved The Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability through Upgraded ITIs (PM SETU) scheme with a focus on upgradation of 1,000 ITIs through a Hub (200)–Spoke (800) model.

(c): The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through its autonomous institutions—NIESBUD and IIE—has undertaken several targeted initiatives to promote entrepreneurship among tribal communities, women, rural youth, and other disadvantaged groups. These programmes focus on capacity building, enterprise creation, market linkage, and ecosystem strengthening across the country. The key schemes and progress achieved are as under:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** – Under this scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, MSDE is facilitating skilling training under Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) for upliftment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). As on 26.11.2025, a total of 488 VDVKs have been operationalized and a total of 38,386 beneficiaries have been trained under EDP of this scheme.
2. **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** – Under this scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, MSDE is establishing skilling centres in 30 tribal districts and providing training for capacity building and business development of 1000 VDVKs and tribal groups. As on 01.12.2025, 100 Master Trainer of Trainers (ToT) and 840 beneficiaries have been trained under EDP of this scheme.
3. **Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme:** MSDE, in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog, launched this scheme in February 2025 in five States to promote women's entrepreneurship. As on 15.11.2025, 302 women trained under EDP and 82 under Faculty Development Programme (FDP).
4. **Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Scheme (PM SGMBY Scheme)** – The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is organizing EDP on rooftop solar entrepreneurship under this flagship scheme. Since inception (July 2024) and till 25.11.2025, 20,439 beneficiaries have been trained under EDP of this scheme.
5. **Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop Owners** – MSDE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has undertaken a Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop (FPS) Owners. As on 25.11.2025, 315 FPS owners have been trained.
6. **Establish, Develop and Manage Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Incubation Centers (ICs) in North East Region's Educational Institutions** - Under this project, IIE established, developed and is managing 30 EDCs and 4 ICs in North East Region's Educational Institutions in collaboration with North East Council (NEC). As on 25.11.2025, 30 fully functional EDCs have been established across 8 NE states; 60 EDC staff, 582 mentors, and 943 participants have been trained, and 150 entrepreneurs selected for incubation. Four bootcamps with 116 attendees have been conducted, and a six-month online incubation programme is underway, strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem and startup readiness in the North East.

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