

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5070.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2026.**

SKILLING UNDER PROJECT UNNATI

**5070. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:
SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) the details regarding the measures undertaken by the Government to provide skill development opportunities under Project UNNATI Andhra Pradesh, with special focus on rural, backward, and underdeveloped regions;
- (b) the details regarding the scheme-wise and year-wise details of funds allocated, sanctioned, and released under Project UNNATI and other skilling programmes in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;
- (c) the details regarding the steps taken to ensure equitable access to such programmes for youth from diverse socio-economic backgrounds in Andhra Pradesh, including those belonging to Scheduled Castes, OBCs, minorities, and other marginalised communities; and
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any steps to raise awareness regarding the benefits of project UNNATI, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

(a) to (c): Project "UNNATI" is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Government of India in December 2019. It aims to enhance the livelihoods of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers by providing a skill for either self-employment or wage employment. Under this initiative, one adult member (aged 18–45 years) from each household that has completed 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA since FY 2018–19 was eligible for training. As per UNNATI Guidelines it is clearly mentioned that para 5 of Schedule-I of MGNREGA, 2005, the process for selecting individuals for training from such households (as mentioned in para 5 of these guidelines) shall be prioritized as under:

- i. Scheduled Castes
- ii. Scheduled Tribes
- iii. Nomadic tribes
- iv. Denotified tribes
- v. Other families below the poverty line

- vi. Women-headed households
- vii. Physically handicapped headed households
- viii. Beneficiaries of land reform
- ix. The beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna- Gramin
- x. Beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and Other traditional Forest and Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), and after exhausting the eligible beneficiaries under the above categories, on lands of the small or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief project, 2008 subject to the condition that such households shall have a job card with at least one-member willing to work on the project undertaken on their land or homestead.

The selected household was to be prioritized on the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) deprivation criteria. All the States/UTs were requested to follow the Guidelines of Project UNNATI for selecting the candidates and provide them skilling under Project UNNATI.

In last five years, an amount of ₹ 7.64 Crores was released by Government of India to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the financial year 2020–2021 under Project UNNATI. An amount of ₹ 1108.24 Crores (60% - Government of India share – ₹ 664.94 Crores and 40% State Government share – ₹ 443.30 Crores) was allocated under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in last five years.

- (d):** The project UNNATI is implemented in convergence with training programs of Rural Skills Division, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU- GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), and therefore States/UTs follow the awareness and branding strategies of these programmes. The Programme Officers are responsible to identify and select the eligible MGNREGA workers for skilling under Project UNNATI. The Gram Rojgar Sewaks visit eligible workers at the grassroots level to inform them about the scheme's features, benefits, and eligibility criteria.
