

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5960**  
ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

**SKILLED LABOUR FORCE**

5960. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether there is a definition for “Skilled Labour Force” as per the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of persons falling under the category of skilled labour force and its proportion in comparison to the total workforce;
- (c) whether the Government has any information regarding the role of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in enhancing skill development and employability in the country, State/UT-wise and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any scheme has been approved by the Government to enhance employability, particularly in Rajasthan and 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): Under the Government of India’s 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 / institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country, including the state of Rajasthan. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future-ready and equipped with industry-relevant skills.

As per Chapter 1, para 2(p) of the Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2025, published vide notification No. GSR 936 (E) dated 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2025, “skilled occupation” means an occupation which involves skill and competence in its performance through experience on the job or through training as an apprentice in a technical or vocational institute.

Further, as per the latest official estimates of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (PLFS) 2023-24, 4.1 per cent of the person of age 15-59 years have received formal vocational/technical training, while another 30.6 per cent received training through informal sources.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), established by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India on 31.07.2008, is a not-for-profit public limited company operating under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). It was conceived as a unique model through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) and is currently under the aegis of the MSDE. NSDC works with the private sector to promote an industry

responsive skilling eco-system and also serves, as required, as an implementation arm across various schemes of the Government of India to further the mandate and vision of the Government of creating a globally competitive skilled workforce.

Some additional initiatives of the Government to promote wage and self-employment include:

- i. To enhance the overall quality and relevance of vocational training in the country, Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM SETU) scheme inter-alia aims to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs (200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs) in a Hub and Spoke model, wherein upgradation includes smart classrooms, modern labs, digital content, and new courses aligned to industry needs. Also, it aims to augment capacity of five NSTIs located in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana, including setting-up sector-specific National Centres of Excellence for skilling, with focus on advanced training of trainers with global partnership.
- ii. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implements Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) and Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs) through its autonomous institutions viz. the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment ventures. Also, MSDE in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog, launched 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).
- iii. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) across the country. This is a demand driven & Central Sector Scheme. The proposals under the scheme are received from the State/UT Governments to address the common needs of existing cluster in their States/UTs. Under MSE-CDP Scheme, the proposal for setting up of Common Facility Centers (CFC) in Rice Mill Cluster, Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh was approved at a total project cost of Rs. 15.00 crore with Gol grant of Rs. 12.0 crore during financial year 2021-22.
- iv. The incubation centres for supporting start-up /new enterprises are being supported by various initiatives/schemes like Agri-Business Incubation Centres by Mo Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Next Generation Incubation scheme of Mo Electronics & IT, Atal Incubation Centres of NITI Aayog, Biotechnology Incubation Centres of D/o Biotechnology, PM Formulation of Micro Food Enterprises of Mo Food Processing Industries, etc.
- v. Further, the Government is also implementing employment generation schemes/programmes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deen Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NULM), PM Vikshit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, PM Vishwakarma, and others.

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