

inside and outside classroom activities and processes. The key activities include mentoring of schools by Institutions of Higher Education; formation of Mathematics and Science Clubs; participation of children in Science Congress, etc. to encourage and nurture schools to be incubators of Innovation.

(c) Department of Science and Technology has been supporting establishment of Technology Business Incubators (TBI) and Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEP) and several among them have matured and developed competence to become state-of-art Incubators. TBI/STEPs are key mechanisms for supporting and nurturing knowledge based start-ups into successful enterprises. Supporting Technology Business Incubators primarily in and around academic and technical institutions has helped in incubating potential technology innovations for venture creation and delivering market oriented products. DST also extends Seed Support System (SSS) to provide Seed Fund to start-ups, through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs). SSS provides the much needed early stage financial assistance to deserving technology start-ups under incubation. The fund enables some of the innovative ideas/technologies under incubation to graduate to a level where they can take their products to markets.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established Biotech parks/incubators through the support of State Governments to promote technological innovation in the field of Biotechnology. These Biotech Parks/incubators are aimed at promoting Biotech industries. Students from School get benefited by visiting these parks by observing the Biotechnology lab techniques and industrial production of various market oriented Biotech products etc. In addition, Innovation research grant is provided for product development through different schemes of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Not-for-Profit' company undertaking of DBT to young entrepreneurs, startups and small and medium enterprises. These are 'Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG)', 'Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)' and Bio-Incubator Support (BIS).

Department of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing the scheme 'Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)' to nurture start-ups in Information Technology Communication and Electronics domain through strengthening of incubation centres at the Institutions of higher learning.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

2186. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has awarded funds under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana as on 1st December, 2015;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is monitoring progress being made under the above mentioned scheme (PMKVY) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the PMKVY integrates the Industrial Training or ITIs across the country in its skill certification and training programme and aims to further improve/develop the ITIs if yes, details thereof and progress made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) As an effort to align skill development initiatives with the incremental human resource requirement, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana has been introduced by the Government on 15th July, 2015. The scheme has a target to cover 24 lakh persons with training of 14 lakh fresh entrants and certification of 10 lakh persons under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). There is a budget provision of Rs. 1000 crore for the current financial year 2015-16. National Skill Development Corporation, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) entity, is the implementing agency of the scheme. As on 30th November, 2015, 5.32 lakh candidates have been enrolled under the scheme for 328 job roles developed by 28 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) across the country.

Further, to integrate PMKVY with industrial training, steps have been taken and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have been invited to start skill development training under the scheme. Private ITIs have come forward and PMKVY training has been started in some of these institutes.

Regular monitoring is done by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the progress made by NSDC in implementation of skill development training under the scheme.

Loan for skill development

2187. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the process for getting loan for skill development, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether soft loan is proposed to be disbursed through a digital voucher directly to a qualified students' bank account; and