

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 441
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR SKILL UPGRADATION OF STUDENTS

441. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any integrated program for skill upgradation of students pursuing higher education along with their course curriculum, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what is the plan of Government for revaluation and up-gradation of skills of candidates working in traditional work in their States; and
- (c) whether Government has prepared any special scheme for skill enhancement for emerging and future industries in the country, specially in the State of Punjab?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) Under the Govt of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through 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 (it is), to all the sections of the society across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready & industry ready skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has given a special emphasis on vocational education and skill development. Curricular education of skilling with mainstream education is one of the important features of the NEP. Accordingly, the 4-year Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes, notified by the University Grants Commission has the following provisions to integrate vocational education with general education:

- i. Practices in vocational or professional fields are added to the foundation or introductory courses.
- ii. A minimum of 12 credits allotted to the 'Minor' stream relating to Vocational Education and Training has been provided. Besides, provisions for skills Enhancement Courses to impart practical skills, hands-on training, soft skills, etc., are made to enhance the employability of students.
- iii. A key aspect of the new Undergraduate programme is induction into actual work situations. All students will also undergo internships / Apprenticeships in a firm, industry, or organization or Training in labs with faculty and researchers in their own or other HEIs/research institutions during the summer term, as per the new framework.

- iv. In addition, students who exit at the end of 1st year, 2nd year can complete one vocational course of 4 credits during the summer vacation and enhance their employment opportunities.
- v. The Curricular components of Undergraduate programmes also include Courses in cutting-edge areas that are fast gaining prominence, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3-D machining, big data analysis, machine learning, drone technologies, and Deep learning with important applications to health, environment, and sustainable living to enhance the employability of the youth.

Further, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has set up Skill Hubs in the educational institutions. Skill Hubs in Government and Private Schools, Colleges, Universities (including Skill Universities) and other Higher Education Institutions aim to utilize the permanent infrastructure and other resources available at these educational institutions to cater to local demand for skilling.

(b) Skill development in traditional area is covered under the skill development programmes of MSDE as well as other Ministries. More specifically, the Government has launched PM Vishwakarma Scheme which is envisaged to provide end to end holistic support to artisans and crafts people in scaling up of their conventional products and services. The objectives of the scheme are as follows:-

- i. To enable the recognition of artisans and craftspeople as Vishwakarma, making them eligible to avail all the benefits under the Scheme.
- ii. To provide skill upgradation to hone their skills and make relevant and suitable training opportunities available to them.
- iii. To provide support for better and modern tools to enhance their capability, productivity, and quality of products and services.
- iv. To provide the beneficiaries easy accesses to collateral free credit and reduce the cost of credit by providing interest subvention.
- v. To provide incentives for digital transactions to encourage digital empowerment of Vishwakarmas.
- vi. To provide a platform for brand promotion and market linkages to help them access new opportunities for growth.

(c) With the objective to identify skill development needs of different sectors and to meet the skilled manpower requirement of the industry, 36 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), led by industry leaders in the respective sectors, have been set up by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Courses under skill development programmes are updated on periodic intervals with inputs from SSCs. Under PMKVY 4.0, future ready job-roles addressing the requirement of industry 4.0, emerging sectors like Drone, AI, Robotics, Mechatronics etc., have been prioritized for implementation across the country, including Punjab.
