

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 213
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2025

APPRENTICES ENGAGED UNDER NAPS

213. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
SMT.BHARTI PARDHI:

Will the MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of apprentices engaged in various sectors under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) at present;
- (b) the target set for the next financial year along with the strategy devised to achieve it especially in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) the manner in which the Government is promoting more Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and small enterprises to include apprentices under NAPS to benefit both the parties;
- (d) whether any special incentive or simplified process is available for them; and
- (e) 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) The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, is a flagship initiative aimed at promoting apprenticeship training across the country. Initially launched in August 2016, the scheme is currently being continued under its second phase, NAPS-2. Under NAPS-2, the Government shares partial stipend support, limited to 25% of the minimum prescribed stipend payable to apprentices, subject to a maximum of ₹1,500 per apprentice per month during the training period. The stipend support is disbursed directly to the apprentices' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. As of now, a total of 8.52 lakh apprentices are undergoing training under the scheme across various sectors throughout India. The scheme is one of the three key components of the composite Central Sector Scheme of "Skill India Programme".

(c) Under the scheme, from FY 2018–19 to FY 2025–26 (as on 30th June 2025), a total of 16,91,618 apprentices accounting for 41.45% of overall engagements have been onboarded by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This demonstrates the substantial and growing participation of MSMEs under the scheme.

(d) & (e) The Ministry is committed to enhancing apprenticeship engagement within Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and industrial clusters. To support this objective, the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela, held on the second Monday of every month in 1/3rd of the districts of each State/U.T., serves as a vital platform for all types of establishments—including MSMEs—to onboard apprentices. Given that MSMEs are often geographically concentrated in clusters, they fall under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961. Accordingly, States have been requested to actively promote awareness about apprenticeship opportunities within MSMEs and clusters under their purview. To facilitate this effort, a list of 106 clusters covered under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) of the Ministry of MSME—each having an operational Cluster Facilitation Centre (CFC) - has been shared with the States for targeted outreach and engagement.
