



**TWENTIETH REPORT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**(2025-26)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THEIR  
SIXTH REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON 'DEMANDS FOR  
GRANTS (2025-26)' OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT &  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 27.03.2026*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 27.03.2026*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**March, 2026/ Chaitra, 1948 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT (2025-26)**

**Shri Basavaraj Bommai – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

- 2 Shri Mani A.
- 3 Shri G. M. Harish Balayogi
- 4 Shri Aashtikar Patil Nagesh Bapurao
- 5 Shri Partha Bhowmick
- 6 Shri Yogender Chandolia
- 7 Shri Ram Prasad Chaudhary
- 8 Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
- 9 Shri G. Lakshminarayana
- 10 Shri Asit Kumar Mal
- 11 Shri Kali Charan Munda
- 12 Shri Rudra Narayan Pany
- 13 Shri Kartick Chandra Paul
- 14 Shri Tanuj Punia
- 15 Shri Pradeep Purohit
- 16 Shri Mukesh Rajput
- 17 Shri Raja Ram Singh
- 18 Shri Adhikari Soumendu
- 19 Shri V. K. Sreekandan
- 20 Shri Manoj Tigga
- 21 Shri Chavan Ravindra Vasantrya

**RAJYA SABHA**

- 22 Shri Ritabrata Banerjee
- 23 Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia
- 24 Shri Rajendra Gehlot
- 25 Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain
- 26 Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba
- 27 Dr. Kalpana Saini
- 28 Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
- 29 Shri Abdul Wahab
- 30 Shri Rajinder Gupta
- 31 Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Mukesh Kumar Sharma - Joint Secretary
2. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunglut - Director
3. Shri S. Lalengzau Ngaihte - Deputy Secretary

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development (2025-26) having been authorized by the Committee, present on their behalf this Twentieth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28 March 2025. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship furnished their replies on 10 July 2025 indicating Action Taken on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report. Subsequently, the Ministry furnished Revised Action Taken replies on few of the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report on 6 January 2026. The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Report at their sitting held on 24 March 2026.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) is given at Appendix-II.

4. For ease of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

**New Delhi;**  
**24 March 2026**  
**3 Chaitra 1948 (Saka)**

**BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**  
**CHAIRPERSON,**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR,**  
**TEXTILES AND SKILL**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

## **CHAPTER- I REPORT**

This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) relating to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. It contained 44 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

(i)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – <b>Rec. Para Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43 and 44</b>	<b>Chapter II Total:38 Percentage:86.362</b>
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply – <b>Rec. Para Nos. 23 and 38</b>	<b>Chapter III Total:2 Percentage:4.546</b>
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration – <b>Rec. Para Nos. 27 and 32</b>	<b>Chapter IV Total:02 Percentage: 4.546</b>
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature – <b>Rec. Para Nos. 40 and 42</b>	<b>Chapter V Total:02 Percentage:4.546</b>

**3. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes in respect of Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken reply in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter V of this Report, for which interim reply has been given by the Government, be furnished to them at the earliest.**

**4. The Committee will now deal with some of their earlier Observations/Recommendations which either require reiteration or merit further comments.**

## **I. Review of Monitoring Guidelines**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5)**

5. The Committee had noted that as on 16.02.2025, the number of candidates enrolled, trained, assessed and certified were 31.52 lakh, 24.49 lakh, 16.13 lakh and 14.91 lakh respectively. Thus, 78% of enrolled candidates were trained, 66% of trained candidates were assessed and 92% of assessed candidates were certified. The Committee had observed that many candidates, who completed training were not found eligible for assessment due to shortage of attendance. The Committee were apprised that in order to streamline and improve the assessment and certification process, the Steering Committee has on 12.06.2024, *inter alia*, approved relaxation in the Assessment Eligibility criteria from 70% day and 50% QP Hours AEBAS attendance (current provision) to overall 50% of QP Hours. Further, the Training Provider/Training Centre cannot start new batches in a job role until assessments of previous batches in the same job role are completed. The Committee while appreciating the measures taken by the Ministry expected that the decision will increase percentage of candidates assessed *vis-a-vis* trained thereby resulting in consequent increase in the number of candidates certified and had desired that efforts be made to ensure that all trained candidates are assessed so as to have consequential increase in the number of certified candidates.

Further, it is the considered opinion of the Committee that the procedure adopted for assessment of Certified Candidates has to be reviewed and the private training providers and other agencies involved, if any, that do not perform to commendable extent should be blacklisted and debarred from being an implementing agency of the scheme. The Committee were of the firm view that more transparent, simplified and robust assessment system should be put in place to look after the implementation of the scheme. The Committee have liked to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

The Committee had further desired that the existing infrastructure available with education ecosystem including Higher Education Institutes, ITIs, Engineering and Technical Institutes, Skill Universities, etc. need to be effectively utilized for running Skill India Centres (SICs). The Committee, had therefore, impressed upon the Ministry to strengthen their monitoring and coordination mechanism to achieve the desired objectives.

6. In their Action taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The decision for considering 50% attendance to be eligible for appearing in the assessments has resulted in an increased percentage of candidates assessed *vis-a-vis* trained thereby resulting in consequent increase in the number of candidates certified. Comparatively, till 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 4,70,483 candidates were assessed out of 9,04,423 trained candidates (52%), resulting in certification of 4,36,381 candidates. Post the decision of the Steering Committee on 12.06.2024 and till 31.03.2025, 12,62,831 candidates were assessed out of 16,69,637 trained candidates (75.63%), resulting in certification of 11,55,771

candidates. This shows an increase in the number of candidates eligible for assessment.

Further, MSDE has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on streamlining the assessment and certification process. All the processes have been defined with timelines and non-compliances will lead to penalty on the defaulting entity, be it Awarding Body or the Project Implementation Agency (PIA). Further, one of the key features of PMKVY 4.0 is expanding the delivery network for skill development through cross utilization of resources by setting Skill India Centres (SICs) in Institutes of National Importance (INIs), Colleges, Universities, Technical Institutions, etc. enabling better utilization of available permanent infrastructure across the country. Monitoring guidelines for the scheme are under process of revision and once issued will certainly lead to better outcome. The scheme will be implemented in FY 2025-26 with proper planning for a better qualitative outcome”.

7. When further asked to furnish a comprehensive reply, the Ministry in their revised Action Taken Note, submitted as under:-

“The decision for considering 50% attendance to be eligible for appearing in the assessments has resulted in increased percentage of candidates assessed vis-a-vis trained, as given below:

Timeline	Trained	Assessed	% Assessed (of Trained)	Certified
Till 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	9,04,423	4,70,483	52.02%	4,36,381
Post decision of relaxation in Attendance	16,69,637	12,62,831	75.64%	11,55,771

Further, MSDE has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on streamlining the assessment and certification process. All the processes have been defined with timelines and non-compliances will lead to penalty on the defaulting entity, be it Awarding Body or the Project Implementation Agency (PIA).

As far as utilization of existing infrastructure available with education ecosystem is concerned, in the current FY, training is being imparted with multiple Institutes of National Importance (INIs) / Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) such as NID Assam, IIT Mandi, IIIT Vadodara, IIT Jammu, MNNIT Allahabad, IIT Kanpur, etc. ensuring optimal utilisation of their laboratories, workshops, and classrooms for delivering quality training.

To enhance scalability, quality assurance, and monitoring, the MSDE has established the “Kaushal Samiksha Kendra” (KSK) for independent oversight. The KSK facilitates both virtual and physical inspections of Skill India Centres (SICs). Between September 2024 and October 2025, MSDE carried out virtual monitoring of 3,695 training Centres across India. These inspections evaluated centre infrastructure, candidate attendance, trainer presence, and other key parameters. In addition, regular physical inspections through the PMKVY State and District Coordinators are being carried out to identify the gaps and improve the training quality. Physical inspections were carried out in 2,393 centres. A snapshot of action

taken by the Ministry for monitoring and quality assurance is given below:

- Upon reviewing inspection reports and cross-verifying attendance data with batch schedules and AEBAS records, 383 Skill India Centres were found to be non-compliant.
- Disciplinary action such as centre suspension, stoppage of payments, issuance of Show Cause Notices, Accreditation & Affiliation cancellations, and filing of FIRs has been initiated against these non-compliant centres.
- FIR filing has been directed in 167 high-penalty cases, with D.O. letters issued by MSDE to the respective State DGPs for lodging FIRs. As of date, FIRs have been lodged against 41 Skill India Centres and necessary action is being taken in rest of the cases.
- Based on the physical inspection report, 178 training partner/training centres which have been found to be non-compliant with the scheme's guidelines have been blacklisted, and recovery of payments has been initiated.
- An Inter-Ministerial Appeals Committee (IMAC) comprising of representative from MSDE, NCVET, NSDC, DGT, MNRE, M/o Rural Development, M/o Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & M/o Tourism have been constituted to review the appeals received from the blacklisted entities.
- As of 12th December 2025, a total of 78 appeals have been received by MSDE or through NSDC, of which 33 cases have been reviewed by the IMAC.

Recently, MSDE has also revised the monitoring guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of the training and adherence to scheme guidelines. The revised guidelines provide a comprehensive monitoring framework with clear KPIs and automated alerts, along with revised penalty matrix.”.

**8. Pursuant to the Committee’s recommendation in their earlier report regarding review of the procedure adopted for assessment of certified candidates and strengthening of the monitoring and coordination mechanism under PMKVY 4.0, the Ministry, in their revised Action Taken Note, have stated that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has recently been issued to streamline the assessment and certification process. The SOP defines all processes with clear timelines and non-compliances would lead to penalty on the defaulting entity, be it Awarding Body or the Project Implementation Agency (PIA). The Ministry have further stated that the monitoring guidelines to strengthen monitoring of the training and adherence to scheme guidelines, has also been revised and now provides for a comprehensive**

**monitoring framework with clear Key Performance Index (KPI) and automated alerts. The Committee emphasize the need for ensuring full compliance of the SOP by the Awarding Body and PIA and urge the Ministry for strict monitoring over its implementation to bring about considerable improvements in the number of candidates assessed and certified. The details regarding penalty imposed on the Awarding Body and PIA should also be apprised. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that the Time Based Penalty Matrix under the revised monitoring guidelines should transition from simple fixed fines to an escalation model that rewards rapid remediation and penalizes systemic negligence to ensure better qualitative outcomes and achievement of the desired objectives under the Scheme.**

## **II. Monitoring Mechanism for Skill Training**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 10)**

9. To monitor the effectiveness of the skill training provided under PMKVY, the Ministry have launched SIDH. The steps taken to ensure quality standards across all Training Centres including PMKKs, *inter alia*, include SIDH registration, e-KYC compliance, mandatory AEBAS, virtual verification of operational training centres using a mobile app, feedback from candidates, physical visits and inspection of Training Centre, virtual monitoring through audio and video calls by a Kaushal Samiksha Kendra set up by MSDE.

The Committee had been apprised that during the last three years, a total of 637 Physical Inspections (PIs) have been undertaken and key deficiencies noticed *inter alia* include non-conduct of training during visits, PMKKs closed on working days, non-compliance with equipment guidelines, candidates not available during visits, batch merging, low attendance (below 50%), mismatches between physical attendance and AEBAS records, and in some cases, PMKKs not being found at the registered address on SIDH. The Ministry had informed that in order to avoid recurrence of such discrepancies, in addition to penal action like suspension, financial penalties and batch cancellation of non-compliant Centres, workshops are also conducted to orient PMKKs on quality delivery of training, retention of candidates post mobilization, maintenance of attendance etc. The Committee had urged the Ministry to maintain the momentum for putting in place a more invigorated monitoring mechanism so as to ensure the attainment of the objectives. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry take proactive measures and impress upon the State Government, Industries and various stakeholders to support PMKKs wherever these have been established.

10. In their Action taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

It is informed that; as on 30.04.2025; 5,768 Skill India Centres (SICs) have been physically inspected / visited by NSDC for monitoring during the ongoing training in these Centres under PMKVY 4.0. Further, a mechanism has been put in place in the Ministry to conduct virtual inspection of the SICs. As on 30.04.2025, 1,986 SICs have been inspected virtually by the Ministry. Based on the analysis of these SICs, actions have been initiated against the 188 SICs, out of which First Information Report (FIR) has been recommended against 138 SICs. Monitoring guidelines under the scheme are under process of revision and once issued, will certainly lead to better outcome. Also, the Ministry is actively engaging with the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) of the States / UTs and formalizing their role in the monitoring of the skilling under the PMKVY 4.0”.

11. When further asked to furnish a comprehensive reply, the Ministry in their revised Action Taken Note, stated as follows:-

“For robust monitoring under the PMKVY 4.0, multiple changes have been made which are as follows:

- Live attendance dashboard has been developed on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) to provide insights into scheme level outputs and outcomes mapped with candidate lifecycle, training centre performance, and assessment outcomes, supporting data-driven decision-making.
- Face Authentication and geo tagged attendance has been mandated for candidates, trainers and assessors under PMKVY 4.0.
- Capturing Candidate Feedback during the Training Lifecycle through Central Communication Layer (CCL) developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for remedial actions.
- QR-coded digital certificates to ensure authenticity, facilitating instant verification and boosting employer confidence.
- All stakeholders, including trainers and candidates, must register via e-KYC and Aadhaar authentication, ensuring secure, paperless onboarding and accurate data capture.
- A structured online application form to be hosted on SIDH for shortlisting PIAs/TPs based on filtration criteria and priority sectors for allocation of targets to private organizations.

- Further, the committed liabilities under PMKVY 4.0 will be disbursed to the Training Providers (TPs) upon successful verification of batch attendance.

To enhance scalability, quality assurance, and monitoring, the MSDE has established the “Kaushal Samiksha Kendra” (KSK) for independent oversight. The KSK facilitates both virtual and physical inspections of Skill India Centres (SICs). Between September 2024 and October 2025, MSDE carried out virtual monitoring of 3,695 training Centres across India. These inspections evaluated centre infrastructure, candidate attendance, trainer presence, and other key parameters. In addition, regular physical inspections through the PMKVY State and District Coordinators are being carried out to identify the gaps and improve the training quality. Physical inspections were carried out in 2,393 centres. A snapshot of action taken by the Ministry for monitoring and quality assurance is given below:

- Upon reviewing inspection reports and cross-verifying attendance data with batch schedules and AEBAS records, 383 Skill India Centres were found to be non-compliant.
- Disciplinary action such as centre suspension, stoppage of payments, issuance of Show Cause Notices, Accreditation & Affiliation cancellations, and filing of FIRs has been initiated against these non-compliant centres.
- FIR filing has been directed in 167 high-penalty cases, with D.O. letters issued by MSDE to the respective State DGPs for lodging FIRs. As of date, FIRs have been lodged against 41 Skill India Centres and necessary action is being taken in rest of the cases.
- Based on the physical inspection report, 178 training partner/training centres which have been found to be non-compliant with the scheme's guidelines have been blacklisted, and recovery of payments has been initiated.
- An Inter-Ministerial Appeals Committee (IMAC) comprising of representative from MSDE, NCVET, NSDC, DGT, MNRE, M/o Rural Development, M/o Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & M/o Tourism have been constituted to review the appeals received from the blacklisted entities.
- As of 12th December 2025, a total of 78 appeals have been received by MSDE or through NSDC, of which 33 cases have been reviewed by the IMAC.

Recently, MSDE has also revised the monitoring guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of the training and adherence to scheme guidelines. The revised guidelines provide a comprehensive monitoring framework with clear KPIs and automated alerts, along with revised penalty matrix.

So far as PMKKs are concerned, the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3rd meeting held on 05.12.2025, decided to conduct an independent assessment of PMKKs regarding their functioning, performance and future roadmap.”

**12. The Committee, in their earlier recommendation, had urged the Ministry to put in place a more invigorated monitoring mechanism to achieve the desired objectives under PMKVY 4.0. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry take proactive measures to impress upon the State Governments, industries and various stakeholders to support the Prime Minister Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs). In their revised Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have highlighted multiple changes effected towards robust monitoring under PMKVY 4.0 which include establishment of Kaushal Samiksha Kendra (KSK) for independent oversight and facilitates both virtual and physical inspections of Skill India Centres. The Committee emphasize the need for improved monitoring, quality assurance, accountability and evidence-driven governance across Skill India Centres nationwide, and desire that the Ministry should strengthen these kendras in terms of number, resource allocation and infrastructure.**

**In respect of PMKKs established to create benchmark institutions for high-quality, demand-driven vocational training, the Ministry have stated that the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3rd meeting held on 05 December 2025, decided to conduct an independent assessment of these kendras regarding their functioning, performance and future roadmap. The Committee welcome this decision as it marks a critical shift toward evidence-based governance and long-term sustainability, and urge the Ministry to ensure that independent assessment of PMKKs is conducted within a specified timeframe. The agency identified for the purpose, scope and objectives of the assessment, methodology being adopted, timing and resource**

**management, etc. should be apprised to the Committee. The Committee also desire that the progress in this regard should be closely monitored and efforts made for early completion of the assessment so that future roadmap for PMKKs including support to be given by State Governments, industries and various stakeholders can be worked out.**

### **III. Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas**

#### **Recommendation (Para No.25)**

13. The Committee, while appreciating that to promote apprenticeship, the Ministry had organized Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas (PMNAMs) at 190 locations/districts, since 2022-23 in the North Eastern Region (NER), pointed out that not even a single establishment participated in the PMNAM organised in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and had desired that while organising PMNAMs particularly in NER, it needed to be ensured that the registered establishments do participate in such Melas.

14. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“The economy of the North Eastern Region (NER) is predominantly agrarian, with over 70% of its population engaged in agricultural activities as their primary source of livelihood. The secondary and tertiary sectors exhibit limited diversification, encompassing areas such as tourism, handicrafts, textiles, and information technology, among others. Furthermore, factors like labour employment gap, geographical constraints, and infrastructural challenges, has resulted in a paucity of establishments within the region. Consequently, the limited number of establishments in the NER has translated into lower participation in the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM).

To address these issues, MSDE is initiating a pilot scheme in the NER under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme-2 (NAPS-2). Under this initiative, an additional incentive of upto ₹1500 is provided for apprentices who are domiciled in the NER and undertake apprenticeships within the NER (excluding the domiciled State) or outside the region. This measure is intended to attract youths to undertake apprenticeship outside their own State. Within the total financial outlay, a budget of ₹3 Crore has been allocated for awareness and advocacy activities, aimed at mobilizing youths and establishments to participation in NAPS-2 across the NER.”

**15. In their earlier report, the Committee had pointed out that not even a single establishment participated in the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas (PMNAMs) organized in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and had desired that participation of the registered**

establishments needed to be ensured while organizing PMNAMs, particularly in NER. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that the limited number of establishments in the NER has translated into lower participation in the PMNAM. It has further been stated that to address these issues, MSDE is initiating a pilot scheme in NER under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)-2 under which additional incentive of upto ₹1500 is provided for apprentices who are domiciled in the NER and undertake apprenticeships within the NER (excluding the domiciled State) or outside the region. The Committee desire to know the actual number of registered establishments in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland as well as in the remaining North Eastern States, the rate of participation of such establishments in the PMNAMs and the reasons for non-participation of all the registered establishments. In respect of the pilot scheme under NAPS -2, the Committee emphasize the need for wide publicity through all the available medium and advocacy activities regarding the scheme, and urge the Ministry to evolve a strategy for activating the implementing agencies and leveraging the State media channels, local newspapers, and community radio to ensure that the benefits of the scheme is disseminated to all the potential beneficiaries.

#### **IV. Periodic Review of Measures in Identified Vulnerable Pockets**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 27)**

16. The Committee had noted that out of 25.38 lakh apprentices engaged w.e.f. 2022-23 upto 18.02.2025, 11.37 lakh candidates (44%) belonged to SC, ST and OBC [2.97 lakh SCs, 1.12 lakh STs, and 7.28 lakh OBCs]. The Committee had been apprised that although there is no target allocation based on social category, the Ministry *vide* letter dated 28.01.2025 have requested all State Commissioners/Directors dealing with Skilling/Apprenticeship Training and State Skill Development Missions to further sensitize the identified vulnerable pockets about all PMNAM events. The Committee while appreciating the steps taken by the Ministry had emphasised that periodic review of such measures be undertaken so as to ensure that social category candidates are not deprived of the benefits of the Scheme.

17. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“Under NAPS-2 from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 (as on 30.04.2025), 27.44 lakh apprentices engaged, 17.84 lakh candidates (56.08%)

belonged to SC, ST and OBC [4.71 lakh SCs, 1.78 lakh STs, and 11.34 lakh OBCs].

**Review of Measure:** As per the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, Section 5: Reservation of Training Places - The training places for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes in designated trades shall be reserved by the employer according to the prescribed norms followed in the respective State or Union Territory. In addition, 8.6% and 16.6% of the fund is being allocated for the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste category, respectively.”

**18. The Committee had emphasized that periodic review of the measures to sensitize the identified vulnerable pockets about PMNAM events be undertaken to ensure that social category candidates are not deprived of the benefits of the Scheme. The Action Taken Reply of the Ministry indicates the number of SC, ST and OBC apprentices engaged from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 along with the measures in place regarding reservation of training places for these categories by the employer and the percentage of funds being allocated for SC and ST category. The Committee, however, find that the Ministry have not provided information regarding periodic review of sensitization efforts about PMNAM events, as desired by them. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to act upon their recommendation in right earnest and launch targeted awareness campaigns for these vulnerable categories by utilising national, regional and local media, at the earliest. The quarterly progress under the Scheme should be reviewed regularly and the details and outcome communicated to the Committee promptly.**

#### **V. PM – JANMAN Scheme**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 30)**

19. The Committee had noted that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through its autonomous institutes, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) is undertaking the skill development training component of PM JANMAN Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) with the support of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It is aimed at targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 15 States.

Under this project, a total of 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are to be set up by TRIFED and a total of 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries are to be trained during 2024-25 & 2025-26. As on 19.02.2025, 174 VDVKS have been

established and 326 VDVks are yet to be set up. The responsibility of NIESBUD and IIE is to implement the skilling component of the Project while setting up of VDVks lies with TRIFED. From the target of 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries to be trained, 39,576 beneficiaries have been covered through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP). Out of the total trained under EAP, 31,547 beneficiaries have been trained through Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) of which 20,492 beneficiaries, have been further trained through Value Added Skill Training (VAT). The training programmes are ongoing and the Ministry had assured that the rest of the beneficiaries are expected to be trained before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. The Committee had expected the Ministry to make concerted efforts and honour their commitment to cover beneficiaries who are yet to be trained. The Committee had also desired that the remaining 326 VDVks be set up by TRIFED in the larger interest of the intended beneficiaries.

20. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing the capacity building Component of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Project for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) through the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (IIE).

MSDE has signed MoU with Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) under MoTA wherein the responsibility of MSDE is to implement the capacity building component of the project, while setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks) lies with TRIFED.

Under this project, a total of 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks) are to be established covering 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries during the FY 2024-2025 and 2025-26. As on 30.06.2025, 251 VDVks have been set up covering 34,991 participants through Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure that the Capacity Building programmes are completed once the toolkits have been setup by TRIFED in the VDVks. The Ministry is undertaking all efforts to ensure that the remaining target are completed by March, 2026”.

21. When further asked to furnish a comprehensive reply, the Ministry in their revised Action Taken Note, have stated as under:-

“The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing the capacity building Component of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Project for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) through the National

Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (IIE).

MSDE has signed MoU with Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) under MoTA wherein the responsibility of MSDE is to implement the capacity building training in 500 VDVks, while setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks) lies with TRIFED.

Under this project, a total of 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks) are to be established covering 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries during the FY 2024-2025 and 2025-26. As on 30.11.2025, 488 VDVks have been set up covering 38,383 participants through Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure that the Capacity Building programmes are completed once the toolkits have been set up by TRIFED in the remaining 12 VDVks. The Ministry is undertaking all efforts to ensure that the remaining target are completed by March, 2026.

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.”

**22. The Committee note that under the PM-JANMAN Project, MSDE is responsible for implementing the capacity building component while setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks) lies with TRIFED. Out of the target of setting up 500 VDVks covering 42,000 beneficiaries belonging to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) during FYs 2024-2025 and 2025-26, a total of 488 VDVks have been set up and 38,383 participants have been trained through Entrepreneurship Development Programme as on 30 November 2025. The Ministry have also stated that all efforts are being taken to ensure that the remaining target is completed by March, 2026. The Committee understand that achievement of the target under the training component hinges upon establishment of the remaining VDVks and setting up of the toolkits in the VDVks, and urge the Ministry to impress upon TRIFED/Ministry of Tribal Affairs to establish the remaining VDVks at the earliest. In addition to providing training to the PVTGs through Entrepreneurship Development Programme, the Committee desire that training through Value Added Skill Training may also be provided for the greater benefits of the PVTGs.**

## **VI. Bank Guarantee for Empanelled Vendors**

### **Recommendation (Para No.32)**

23. The Committee had been apprised that the target group to be covered under the programme are either the existing vendors or the new entrepreneurs who have the capacity to become empanelled vendors by submitting bank guarantee of Rs. 2.50 Lakh as per the guidelines framed by the MNRE. In the considered opinion of the Committee, the bank guarantee of Rs. 2.50 Lakh may stand a stumbling block for many especially the vendors in the rural areas. The Committee, had therefore, desired the Ministry to take up the matter regarding review of the guidelines with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy so as to reduce the amount of Bank guarantee.

24. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

NIESBUD under the MSDE in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the flagship initiative, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The programme aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, empower entrepreneurs, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by fostering and mentoring budding and existing entrepreneurs in the field of solar entrepreneurship.

NIESBUD received the sanction from the MNRE in the month of September 2024. The Project has been sanctioned for implementation across two financial years F.Y. 2024 - 25 and 2025 - 26 with a target to train 50,000 participants.

As on 31.05.2025, the Institute has imparted training to 13,210 participants under the project.

The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate awareness and mobilisation for the programme with continuous follow-ups with MNRE, State Governments and concerned Departments. All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March 2026.”

**25. Considering that the Bank Guarantee of Rs. 2.50 Lakh required for becoming empanelled vendors under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana may stand as a stumbling block for many, especially the vendors in the rural areas, the Committee had recommended that the matter regarding review of the guidelines be taken up with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) with a view to reducing the required Bank guarantee. The reply of the Ministry has found no mention of the steps**

**taken in this regard. The Committee are of the considered view that reduction in the amount of the Bank guarantee would ensure wider participation, promote solar entrepreneurship and create sustainable livelihood opportunities under the scheme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to act on their recommendation in right earnest, as the current bank guarantee requirement disproportionately burdens small and new entrants, hinder wider participation and is likely to slow down the growth of decentralized solar power, especially in rural areas. The efforts made and progress achieved in this regard may be furnished to the Committee promptly.**

## **VII. SWAVALAMBINI Project**

### **Recommendation (Para Nos. 35 and 36)**

26. The Committee had noted that the Project 'Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme' is specifically targeted at female students of colleges and universities. NIESBUD, Noida and the IIE, Guwahati, will be the Implementing Agency (IA) of the Project 'Swavalambini' of MSDE in collaboration with NITI Aayog. The initiative will focus on empowering female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) by providing them with essential skills, mentorship, and access to resources necessary for starting and scaling successful businesses. The Project will focus on comprehensive entrepreneurship training/ capacity-building combining theory-based training with practical exposure through experiential learning.

The Committee had further noted that the Project will be implemented in Banaras Hindu University and Chaudhary Charan Singh University (North Zone-Uttar Pradesh); University of Hyderabad, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, (South Zone-Telangana); Kiang Nangba Government College, Jowai, Ri- Bhoi College, Ri Bhoi and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong (North East Zone-Meghalaya); Government Champai College, Lunglei Government College and Mizoram University (North East Zone-Mizoram); and Gauhati University, Handique College and Dispur College (North East Zone-Assam). The target of the Project is to train 1200 female students under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (NIESBUD - 600, IIE - 600), out of which, 600 will be further selected for the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NIESBUD-300, IIE - 300).

The Committee had been apprised that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog and Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) as knowledge partner, have recently launched the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme on 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in North Eastern States of India *viz.* Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam. The Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to take necessary steps to ensure that the Project is launched/implemented in the already selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) of the remaining two States *viz.* Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.

The Committee had been apprised that the programme will be implemented in four phases and will include Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) of 5 days for selected faculty members from colleges, Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) of 2 days for 1,200 students, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) of 40 hours for selected 600 students, followed by 6 months of mentoring and handholding support to ensure sustained guidance and business development assistance. The Committee had desired that it would be in the fitness of things if the feedback is also obtained from trained faculty and students selected as well as trained after every phase of the Project so as to have an objective assessment of shortcomings as well as improvement in future training programmes.

27. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry in collaboration with NITI Aayog and its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is implementing the project SWAVALAMBINI through its autonomous Institutes NIESBUD and IIE. The project comprises of Faculty Development Programme, training of 1200 female students under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme and out of which, 600 will be selected for undergoing Entrepreneurship Development Programme. As on 30.06.2025, following activities have been undertaken:

- (a) Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) have been organized for **591** students.
- (b) Faculty Development Programme for 43 faculty of HEIs have been completed.

Further the following activities are being planned:

- (a) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for 600 female students selected from EAP.
- (b) Shortlisting of the selected students from EDP for Award to Reward (initiative of NITI Aayog for hand-holding, mentoring support and setting up of new enterprise)

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026”.

28. When asked to furnish a comprehensive reply, the Ministry in their revised Action Taken Note, have submitted as follows:-

“The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog

as knowledge partner, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme in February, 2025 in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana as a pilot project. The Ministry is implementing the programme through its Autonomous Institutes, namely, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

The Swavalambini project introduces a structured, multi-stage training approach to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation. The Project aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among female students, equipping them with awareness of available support mechanisms, schemes, resources and networks essential for pursuing entrepreneurship as a career.

The target group for the Swavalambini Project includes 1200 female students from Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and Universities who will undergo introductory programme on entrepreneurial awareness through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP). Out of these, 600 students selected from EAP participants will undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) offering intensive entrepreneurship development training covering crucial business aspects such as skilling, access to finance, market linkages, compliance and legal support, business services and networking opportunities. This will be followed by 21 weeks of mentorship and handholding support to help participants translate their ideas into sustainable enterprises.

MSDE will oversee the execution, supervision, and monitoring of the programme, while NITI Aayog will organize workshops, provide mentoring support, facilitate seed funding, and recognize successful entrepreneurs through the Award To Reward (ATR) initiative.

During the mentoring and handholding support, industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs will guide the participants by providing mentorship and hands-on support. Successful entrepreneurs will be invited to share their experiences, highlighting the challenges they overcame and the strategies they used to establish their businesses.

To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs/Universities shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative will equip educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions.

The overall programme-wise details of women participants trained in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana under the pilot project is as under:

Name of the Programme	Total Target	Total Trained
Faculty Development Programme (FDP)	75	82
Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)	1200	1,110
Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)	600	302

The State-wise details pertaining Uttar Pradesh and Telangana and its programme-wise details of number of women participants trained as on 10.11.2025 under the pilot project is as under:

State	Name of the Programme (Total trained)		
	FDP	EAP	EDP
Uttar Pradesh	38	491	254
Telangana	17	150	48
<b>Total</b>	55	641	302

Further the following activities are being planned:

- (c) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for 600 female students selected from EAP.
- (d) Shortlisting of the selected students from EDP for Award to Reward (initiative of NITI Aayog for hand-holding, mentoring support and setting up of new enterprise)

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.”

**29. While noting that MSDE, in collaboration with NITI Aayog and Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), have launched the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme on 07 February 2025 in the North Eastern States of India viz. Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to take necessary steps to ensure that the Project is launched/implemented in the already selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. The Committee had also desired that feedback be obtained from trained faculty and students selected as well as trained after every phase of the Project. In their revised Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have provided the details of number of women trained under each programme in respect of Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, however, no mention has been made regarding**

**feedback from trained faculty and students under the Project. The Committee emphasize the need for obtaining feedbacks for an objective assessment of shortcomings and bringing about improvements in future training programmes under the Project and urge the Ministry to act upon this aspect of their recommendation in right earnest.**

#### **VIII. Establishment of SIICs**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 43)**

30. The Committee had been apprised during evidence on 19.11.2024, that it is proposed to set up 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs) to promote skill based International mobility. The Committee had now been apprised that while two SIICs have been established at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha), the work relating to setting up of additional 5 SIICs at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (Assam); NSTI, Bengaluru (Karnataka); NSTI, Ludhiana (Punjab); NSTI, Hyderabad (Telangana) and NSTI, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), is in advanced stage. The Committee had desired that appropriate steps be taken on priority to ensure that the remaining Skill India International Centres are set up and made operational in a time bound manner so as to facilitate international workforce mobility opportunities for Indians and achieve the objective of making India the skill capital of the world. The Committee had liked to be apprised of progress made in this regard.

31. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have stated as follows:-

“The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is in the process of establishing 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs), beginning with 7 centres as pilot projects in government-run institutions. At present, two SIICs—located in Varanasi and Bhubaneswar—are operational, and five more at Guwahati, Bengaluru, Ludhiana, Hyderabad, and Kanpur have been approved by the Project Steering Committee chaired by Secretary, MSDE. The establishment of new centres is targeted by 31/05/2025, while Center at Guwahati is likely to be operationalized by 15/06/2025. Given that SIICs involve skilled migration, their operations are governed by the Emigration Act, 1983, which mandates that recruitment for overseas employment be done through MEA-approved Recruitment Agents (RAs). Since NSDC does not hold an RA license and its application for the same was rejected by MEA, MSDE has decided to empanel RAs through an Expression of Interest process, guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are being finalized in consultation with MEA. These SOPs will define roles, responsibilities of various stakeholders, and financial arrangements. As part of a phased approach to address regulatory and logistical challenges, MSDE is prioritizing the operationalization of the 7 pilot SIICs. Once SOPs are finalized, the remaining 23 centres will be established in a time-bound and standardized manner.”

**32. Having been informed of the proposal to set up 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs), establishment of 2 SIICs at Varanasi and Bhubaneswar and ongoing process of setting up an additional 5 SIICs at Guwahati, Bengaluru, Ludhiana, Hyderabad and Kanpur, the Committee had desired that the remaining Skill India International Centres should be set up and made operational in a time bound manner. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that operationalization of the 7 pilot SIICs is being prioritized and once the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for empanelling Recruitment Agencies are finalized in consultation with MEA, the remaining 23 centres will be established in a time-bound and standardized manner. The Committee trust that all the pilot SIICs have been operationalized by now and desire to be apprised of the status in this regard. In respect of the remaining 23 SIIC centres, the Committee urge the Ministry to maintain close coordination with MEA for early finalization of the SOPs so that these SIICs are set up for facilitating international workforce mobility, without delay. The progress made towards establishment and operationalization of these SIICs may be communicated to the Committee at periodic intervals.**

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **(Recommendation Para.No. 1)**

The Committee note that the BE for 2024-25 was Rs.4520.00 crore whereas the revised estimate for the year was reduced to Rs. 3300.83 crore, out of which the Ministry were able to spend only Rs. 2226.13 crore (as on 18.02.2025) which is 49.25% of BE and 67.44% of RE. For the shortfall in utilisation of funds, the Ministry attributed factors like delay in approval of Skill India Programme (SIP) and the National Scheme for ITIs Upgradation. The Ministry also stated that during the remaining period of 2024-25, around Rs. 598 crore is expected to be released in SIP alone and around Rs. 180 crore in SANKALP scheme apart from other expenditure. The Committee have been apprised that at present, approval of the Cabinet is awaited for the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation.

The Committee observed that there was persistent increase in the BE during the last three years *viz.* 17.28% in 2023-24, 28.50% in 2024-25 and 34.95% in 2025-26. However, since 2022-23, every year BE was reduced at RE stage, which was also not fully utilised. In response, the Ministry have stated that over the past three years, the variations in BE, RE, and Expenditure within the Ministry have primarily been due to the non-approval of its major Scheme *viz.* 'Skill India Programme', which comprises 60-65% of its total budget for which the Department of Economic Affairs was requested from time to time for fund releases.

The Committee further note that the BE for SIP during 2024-25 is Rs.2685.64 crore which was reduced to Rs.2318.00 crore at RE stage. The actual expenditure as on 03.03.2025 is Rs.1719.57 crore (PMKVY 4.0-Rs.1271.10 crore against RE of Rs.1538 crore; JSS-Rs.72.62 crore against RE of Rs.180 crore and PM-NAPS Rs.375.85 crore against RE of Rs.600 crore) which is 64% of the BE and 74% of RE of the scheme. The Ministry have stated that approximately Rs.350 crore of committed liabilities remain under the scheme, which are likely to accumulate upto Rs. 880 crore by 31.03.2025, based on ongoing training batches. The Ministry have assured that by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, the expenditure on the SIP is expected to reach Rs.2305.00 crore against the RE of Rs.2318.00 crore.

The Committee have been apprised that following the Cabinet's approval of the SIP on 07.02.2025, the Ministry have released additional funds under the Scheme. Consequently, as on 03.03.2025, the overall expenditure of the Ministry has reached Rs. 2,257.27 crore surpassing last year's total, and by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, the actual utilization is expected to cross Rs.3000 crore out of RE of Rs. 3300.83 crore, however, the RE of Rs. 294 crore for National Scheme for ITIs Upgradation is likely to remain unutilized as the Scheme is yet to be approved.

The Committee are of the considered opinion that when fund flow has now been stabilized under Skill India Programme, the Ministry should make all concerted efforts to expedite the process of implementation of already

sanctioned projects in the current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25 and in the ensuing year also so that the huge quantum of funds viz Rs. 2700 crore allocated for SIP during 2025-26 are utilized judiciously. The Committee also expect the Ministry to make concerted efforts and honour their commitment for optimal utilization of the 2024-25 RE allocation under SIP.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Against the BE of ₹ 4520.00 Cr and RE of ₹ 3300.83 Cr, the actual expenditure of this Ministry in FY 2024-25; after obtaining the Cabinet approval for the Skill India Programme; was ₹ 2935.99 Cr (89% of RE). For the Skill India Programme against the BE of ₹ 2685.64 Cr and RE of ₹ 2318.00 Cr; the expenditure was ₹ 2252.20 Cr (97% of RE). Thus, the overall expenditure as well as the expenditure in the Skill India Programme has shown a marked improvement over the previous year.

With the Cabinet's approval of two major Schemes, namely the 'Skill India Programme' and the 'National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and Establishment of Five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling', the primary obstacle causing low expenditure has been addressed. Consequently, the Ministry anticipates an improvement in expenditure in the FY 2025-26.

(Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship O.M. No.H-11013/7/2025-ICT dated 07.07.2025)

### **(Recommendation Para 2)**

The Committee note that the Ministry have requested the Ministry of Finance to exempt it from the prescribed ceilings of expenditure of 33% in the last Quarter and 15% in the last month. In response, the Department of Economic Affairs have advised the Ministry to first utilize the available ceiling for fourth quarter of QEP and then re-submit the proposal. The Committee trust that the Ministry, after utilizing the amount as per QEP 4, have taken up the matter with Department of Economic Affairs and hope that necessary approval has been accorded for utilization of funds.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry, adhering to the advice given by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), utilized the available expenditure ceiling for the fourth quarter under the QEP framework before re-submitting its request for relaxation of prescribed expenditure limits in the final quarter and month. Upon re-evaluation, the DEA vide their OM No. 14(12)-B(PD)/2023 dt 19.03.2025 approved the request, thereby enabling the Ministry to expend funds in accordance with actual operational requirements.

(Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship O.M. No. H-11013/7/2025-ICT dated 07.07.2025)

### **(Recommendation Para 3)**

The Committee also observe that the percentage of expenditure exclusively for the Schemes related to Skill Development was 37.33%; 51.92% and 43.27% of BE and 58.86; 68.65% and 59.25% of RE during 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto 03.03.2025) respectively. Observing that on an average around 40% of RE for various Skill Development Schemes was not utilized during the last three years and considering the fact that the SIP which comprises 60-65% of the total budget of the Ministry has now been approved, the Committee want the Ministry to ensure that the allocation for various Schemes for Skill Development is utilized to the maximum extent possible.

Taking into account the less than appreciable fund utilisation record of the Ministry, the Committee observe that the commitments for better/full utilisation for the last few years have not been fulfilled. This raises a question mark on the commitment given to the Committee for better/full utilisation this year as well. Accordingly, the Committee recommend that during 2025-26, utilisation of funds has to be effectively monitored State-wise on a quarterly basis and reported to the Committee. In the absence of such a regular monitoring mechanism of expenditure on various Central Schemes by the States the Committee apprehend that the targets set under different schemes of the Ministry shall remain underachieved.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Committee's observation has been noted for compliance. The major reason for the inability of the Ministry to ensure full expenditure against allocation, was the non-approval of its flagship programs. Now that the schemes have received approval, all scheme divisions have been instructed to follow their Quarterly Expenditure Plan. The status will be reviewed during regular expenditure review meetings, and any bottlenecks identified will be addressed.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

MSDE has 2 Centrally Sponsored Scheme which are co-funded by Central and State Governments and 1 Central Sector Scheme which is fully funded by the Central Government.

#### **1. Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

##### **A. PM-SETU**

- i) PM SETU accounts for almost 50% of the total budget of the Ministry. This scheme received Cabinet approval on 7 May 2025. The scheme aims to upgrade 1,000 ITIs in a Hub-and-Spoke model through industry-led Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). Industry partners are to be selected through a competitive EOI/RFP process.
- ii) Since Cabinet approval, following activities have been undertaken for formulation/finalisation of the scheme:-
  - Co-financing of the Central funding from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank has been tied up. Negotiations with the Multilateral Development Banks have been completed.
  - Extensive consultations have been held with States/UTs and industry, as ITIs fall under the administrative control of State Governments.

- The National Steering Committee has been constituted and has approved the scheme guidelines.
  - Standard implementation templates have been issued to the States/UTs.
  - The Programme Management Unit and Independent Verification Agency are put in place, and guidelines for release of State PMU funds have been notified.
  - 11 States/UTs have notified their State Steering Committees. States have started initiating EOIs/RFPs for selection of industry partners. MSDE will be releasing funds on receipt of proposals from States.
- iii) As per Cabinet approval, an initial pilot rollout of 25 Hub-and-Spoke ITI clusters are approved for the current year. Accordingly, the Revised Estimates were scaled down. With preparatory actions completed, the Ministry is proceeding towards phased rollout of the scheme. The Ministry expects utilisation of the Revised Estimates as State proposals are in the pipeline. Utilisation is expected to improve substantially in the next financial year when full scale roll out is taken up.

**B. Another Centrally Sponsored Scheme is Strengthening of Infrastructure for Institutional Training (SIIT).** This scheme is going to be discontinued from the sunset date i.e. 31.03.2026. As per demand from State Governments, budget in this Scheme has been revised and reduced from Rs.49.90 cr to Rs.11.00 crore in Revised Estimates which would be positively fully utilized.

## **2. Central Sector Scheme**

Skill India Program, SIP is an umbrella Scheme having three components viz., Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana(PMKVY), Jan Sikhshan Sansthan(JSS) and National Apprentice Promotion Scheme(NAPS).

- i) In PMKVY 4.0, for FY 2025-26, the B.E was ₹1,915 crore. However, the booking of funds has been only ₹268.12 crore due to some implementation issues that needed corrective action. Accordingly, RE has been reduced to ₹1,100 crore. Ministry would be able to utilize maximum funds by the end of this F.Y. with the following activities in pipeline:-
- Committed liabilities of around ₹460 crore for skill training - Verification of attendance and assessment data undertaken by NeGD, MeitY is in progress to ensure financial compliance. On the basis verification, funds would be released.
  - In FY 2025-26, the MSDE has allocated fresh training targets worth ₹450 crore under PMKVY 4.0 so far. Further allocation is also going on.
- ii) MSDE has been able to utilize funds upto 70% of proposed RE in JSS and NAPS components. Looking to the target for engaging 13 Lakh apprentices under NAPS in the FY 2025-26, the Ministry has proposed increase in budgetary allotment for NAPS from Rs.600 cr. to Rs.715 cr. in Revised Estimates.

The Ministry has been rigorously tracking the expenditure on regular basis. Expenditure Review Meeting under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, MSDE is being held on regular basis with Divisional Heads implementing schemes, wherein, continuous progress in implementation of the Scheme including expenditure review is deliberated thoroughly constant improvement in the implementation of the Scheme and prudent utilization of funds.

### **(Recommendation Para 4)**

The Committee note that MSDE is implementing its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), since 2015, for imparting skill development training through Short-Term Training (STT) and up-skilling and

re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country. Since its inception, three iterations of PMKVY have been successfully implemented, with the current phase, PMKVY 4.0, underway.

The Committee note that the physical target for trainees under PMKVY 4.0 in FY 2024-25 is 45 lakh, whereas the achievement as on 03.03.2025 is 19.17 lakh and shortfall is 25.83 lakh. To maximize the achievement of physical target under PMKVY 4.0, the Ministry have stated that they are taking proactive convergence efforts to ensure synergy and improved the outcomes and actively collaborating with State Governments and Industries to maximize the impact of PMKVY 4.0. The Committee hope that with the approval of Skill India Programme on 07.02.2025, there will be improvement in the physical target during the remaining part of the current fiscal.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

As on 31.03.2025, during FY 2024-25, 20.34 lakh candidates have been trained against the set target of 45 lakh candidates, resulting in shortfall of 24.66 lakh candidates. The shortfall is on account of the staggered approval received for the implementation of the scheme prior to the Cabinet approval on 07.02.2025.

After the Cabinet approval of SIP, MSDE is actively pursuing with the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) of the States / UTs for the State Action Plan and various industries for allocation of targets under the PMKVY 4.0 in FY 2025-26. MSDE is making all the efforts to align target allocation with key sectors identified under the Government's Viksit Bharat initiative—such as automotive and auto components (including EVs and clean energy), electronics, medical devices, chemicals, drones, defence, aerospace, leather and footwear, furniture, food processing, and toys. MSDE is also aligning skilling priorities with national missions like the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) and PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Additionally, it is engaging premier institutions including IITs, IIMs, IIITs, and NITs to onboard them under the scheme.

The Ministry is working closely with Central Ministries and Departments—such as Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and their affiliated institutes like Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), etc. to implement skill development programs through convergence.

The strategy is to prioritize skilling in new-age sectors such as Semiconductors, Green Hydrogen, Cybersecurity, Telecom, Automotive, IT & Electronics, etc., while also addressing state-specific priorities such as tourism, textiles, food processing, marine industries, and construction, etc.

## REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

During FY 2024-25, 20.34 lakh candidates were trained under PMKVY 4.0. The details of training target vis-à-vis achievement is given under:

Component	Target	Trained	Shortfall
STT	18,00,000	17,29,767 (96.10%)	70,233
RPL	27,00,000	3,04,919 (11.29%)	23,95,081
Total	<b>45,00,000</b>	<b>20,34,686 (45.22%)</b>	<b>24,65,314</b>

It may be noted that the majority of shortfall is under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training category. As PMKVY 4.0 is a demand driven scheme and training is imparted based on the proposals received from various stakeholders such as industries/ industry associations/ State Government/ TPs, etc. Since the proposals received by the Ministry predominantly focused on Short-Term Training (STT), a shortfall was observed in the RPL training category.

Further, in FY 2025–26, MSDE is actively engaging with Central Ministries/Departments, Institutes of National Importance, and institutes under Central Ministries to implement skilling to address national priorities such as Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, etc. The focus is on new-age sectors such as Semiconductors, Green Hydrogen, Cybersecurity, Telecom, Automotive, and IT & Electronics, along with state-specific sectors. MSDE is also coordinating with State Skill Development Missions and industries for target allocation under PMKVY 4.0.

### (Recommendation Para 5)

The Ministry have informed that as on 16.02.2025, the number of candidates enrolled, trained, assessed and certified were 31.52 lakh, 24.49 lakh, 16.13 lakh and 14.91 lakh respectively. Thus, 78% of enrolled candidates were trained, 66% of trained candidates were assessed and 92% of assessed candidates were certified. The Committee observe that many candidates, who completed training were not found eligible for assessment due to shortage of attendance. The Committee were apprised that in order to streamline and improve the assessment and certification process, the Steering Committee has on 12.06.2024, *inter alia*, approved relaxation in the Assessment Eligibility criteria from 70% day and 50% QP Hours AEBAS attendance (current provision) to overall 50% of QP Hours. Further, the Training Provider/Training Centre cannot start new batches in a job role until assessments of previous batches in the same job role are completed. The Committee while appreciating the measures taken by the Ministry expect that the decision will increase percentage of candidates assessed vis-a-vis trained thereby resulting in consequent increase in the number of candidates certified and desire that efforts be made to ensure that all trained candidates are assessed so as to have consequential increase in the number of certified candidates.

Further, it is the considered opinion of the Committee that the procedure adopted for assessment of Certified Candidates has to be reviewed and the private training providers and other agencies involved, if any, that do not perform to commendable extent should be blacklisted and debarred from being an implementing agency of the scheme. The Committee are of the firm

view that more transparent, simplified and robust assessment system should be put in place to look after the implementation of the scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

The Committee further desire that the existing infrastructure available with education ecosystem including Higher Education Institutes, ITIs, Engineering and Technical Institutes, Skill Universities, etc. need to be effectively utilized for running Skill India Centres (SICs). The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to strengthen their monitoring and coordination mechanism to achieve the desired objectives.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The decision for considering 50% attendance to be eligible for appearing in the assessments has resulted in an increased percentage of candidates assessed vis-a-vis trained thereby resulting in consequent increase in the number of candidates certified. Comparatively, till 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 4,70,483 candidates were assessed out of 9,04,423 trained candidates (52%), resulting in certification of 4,36,381 candidates. Post the decision of the Steering Committee on 12.06.2024 and till 31.03.2025, 12,62,831 candidates were assessed out of 16,69,637 trained candidates (75.63%), resulting in certification of 11,55,771 candidates. This shows an increase in the number of candidates eligible for assessment.

Further, MSDE has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on streamlining the assessment and certification process. All the processes have been defined with timelines and non-compliances will lead to penalty on the defaulting entity, be it Awarding Body or the Project Implementation Agency (PIA). Further, one of the key features of PMKVY 4.0 is expanding the delivery network for skill development through cross utilization of resources by setting Skill India Centres (SICs) in Institutes of National Importance (INIs), Colleges, Universities, Technical Institutions, etc. enabling better utilization of available permanent infrastructure across the country. Monitoring guidelines for the scheme are under process of revision and once issued will certainly lead to better outcome. The scheme will be implemented in FY 2025-26 with proper planning for a better qualitative outcome.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The decision for considering 50% attendance to be eligible for appearing in the assessments has resulted in increased percentage of candidates assessed vis-a-vis trained, as given below:

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Trained</b>	<b>Assessed</b>	<b>% Assessed (of Trained)</b>	<b>Certified</b>
Till 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	9,04,423	4,70,483	52.02%	4,36,381
Post decision of relaxation in Attendance	16,69,637	12,62,831	75.64%	11,55,771

Further, MSDE has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on streamlining the assessment and certification process. All the processes have been defined with timelines and non-compliances will lead to penalty on the defaulting entity, be it Awarding Body or the Project Implementation Agency (PIA).

As far as utilization of existing infrastructure available with education ecosystem is concerned, in the current FY, training is being imparted with multiple Institutes of National Importance (INIs) / Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) such as NID Assam, IIT Mandi, IIIT Vadodara, IIT Jammu, MNNIT Allahabad, IIT Kanpur, etc. ensuring optimal utilisation of their laboratories, workshops, and classrooms for delivering quality training.

To enhance scalability, quality assurance, and monitoring, the MSDE has established the “Kaushal Samiksha Kendra” (KSK) for independent oversight. The KSK facilitates both virtual and physical inspections of Skill India Centres (SICs). Between September 2024 and October 2025, MSDE carried out virtual monitoring of 3,695 training Centres across India. These inspections evaluated centre infrastructure, candidate attendance, trainer presence, and other key parameters. In addition, regular physical inspections through the PMKVY State and District Coordinators are being carried out to identify the gaps and improve the training quality. Physical inspections were carried out in 2,393 centres. A snapshot of action taken by the Ministry for monitoring and quality assurance is given below:

- Upon reviewing inspection reports and cross-verifying attendance data with batch schedules and AEBAS records, 383 Skill India Centres were found to be non-compliant.
- Disciplinary action such as centre suspension, stoppage of payments, issuance of Show Cause Notices, Accreditation & Affiliation cancellations, and filing of FIRs has been initiated against these non-compliant centres.
- FIR filing has been directed in 167 high-penalty cases, with D.O. letters issued by MSDE to the respective State DGPs for lodging FIRs. As of date, FIRs have been lodged against 41 Skill India Centres and necessary action is being taken in rest of the cases.
- Based on the physical inspection report, 178 training partner/training centres which have been found to be non-compliant with the scheme's guidelines have been blacklisted, and recovery of payments has been initiated.
- An Inter-Ministerial Appeals Committee (IMAC) comprising of representative from MSDE, NCVET, NSDC, DGT, MNRE, M/o Rural Development, M/o Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & M/o Tourism have been constituted to review the appeals received from the blacklisted entities.
- As of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025, a total of 78 appeals have been received by MSDE or through NSDC, of which 33 cases have been reviewed by the IMAC.

Recently, MSDE has also revised the monitoring guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of the training and adherence to scheme guidelines. The revised guidelines provide a comprehensive monitoring framework with clear KPIs and automated alerts, along with revised penalty matrix.

### **(Recommendation Para 6)**

The Committee note that as on 09.01.2025, more than 1.60 crore candidates have been trained under the PMKVY. Out of them, 23.28 lakh candidates have been trained under PMKVY 4.0, under which placement has been delinked. The Committee were apprised that 24.37 lakh candidates were reported placed prior to implementation of PMKVY 4.0 and the reported placed figure has been calculated based on the certified candidates under STT and Special Projects of PMKVY 1.0, PMKVY 2.0 and PMKVY 3.0 i.e. 56.88 lakh

candidates. With regard to the reasons for non-placement of the remaining 32.51 lakh candidates, the Ministry clarified that placements were tracked in STT component in the first three versions of the scheme which is PMKVY 1.0, PMKVY 2.0 and PMKVY 3.0. During these phases, there were various challenges affecting placements, like - candidates declining job offers for pursuing higher studies, family obligations, wage expectations, and health issues; under PMKVY 3.0 Customized Crash Course Program for COVID Warriors and Skill Hub Initiatives did not focus on placements; COVID-19 Pandemic created significant challenges for training providers and candidates, affecting the ability to secure or maintain jobs; reporting placement under PMKVY 1.0 was not mandatory; and difficulty in tracking and collection of placement documents for uploading on SIDH Portal by Project Implementing Agencies.

The Committee were also apprised that the certified candidates are tracked for one year after the certification and physical targets have been allocated to projects focusing on Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD), captive placement, etc. In addition, placement has been prioritized in various special projects allocated including Industries, Industry Associations, Institutes run by Central Ministries/Departments/State Government agencies, etc. The Committee note with concern that although physical, financial and performance targets for PMKVY 4.0 had been fixed by the Ministry no such target has been stipulated for the number of placements to be made or number of estimated employability of the youths under the Scheme.

Observing that although placement has been delinked under PMKVY 4.0, the Committee are of the firm opinion that the placement statistics is the real barometer for measuring the success of the Scheme and needless to say that the Ministry should make concerted efforts with stakeholders to ensure uploading of placement details of the certified candidate on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal so as to have database of employment generated under the Scheme. The Committee also feel that the focus of the Ministry should equally be concentrated on the skill enhancement of the candidates and generation of employment/placement for the trained/certified youths for which concerted efforts are warranted to achieve the objective of quality skill development training for enabling and empowering the youths to earn better livelihood. The Committee resolutely felt that the final figures of certification is the benchmark of the success and effectiveness of the implementation of the Scheme. Hence, the clearly spelling out the number of employment generated through the Scheme is important. The Committee also observe that there is a critical need to improve the ratio between training and employment generated under the Scheme.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

Post Cabinet approval of SIP and on the lines of aforesaid recommendation of the Esteemed Committee, MSDE has initiated the process of capturing the placement details, available with the Training Providers, of the certified candidates under PMKVY 4.0 on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal.

Further, the proposed strategy for the FY 2025-26 for allocation of training targets under PMKVY 4.0 will be outcome oriented, be it placement, internship, apprenticeship, or self-employment. The same will be reported on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Further, through SIDH, the trained candidates will be able to access employment opportunities, apprenticeship, and other facilities including loans for entrepreneurship.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Under PMKVY 4.0 which is under implementation since FY 2022-23, the placements have been de-linked and the focus is to empower our trained candidates to choose their varied career path and they are suitably oriented for the same through On-Job Training (OJT) embedded industry relevant skill courses. On-Job-Training (OJT) has been made an inherent component of the PMKVY and has been integrated within the short-term skilling programs to ensure trainees gain real-world exposure and industry experience. The Ministry ensures identification and mapping of OJT partners at the proposal stage itself. The Training Providers (TPs) are required to declare the start and end date for the OJT on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) portal. The establishments offering OJT give a certificate at the end of OJT indicating the duration and attendance of the candidate. The same is also uploaded on SIDH either by the establishment / TP.

Further, on the lines of recommendation of the Esteemed Committee, MSDE has initiated the process of capturing the placement details, available with the TPs, under PMKVY 4.0 on SIDH portal. As on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, placement of 1.89 lakh candidates has been reported by 284 number of TPs, out of the total 6,957 TPs that have imparted skilling under PMKVY 4.0. Moreover, through SIDH, the trained candidates will be able to access to employment opportunities, apprenticeship, and other facilities including loans for entrepreneurship.

Also, based on feedback from various stakeholders, MSDE is actively considering to make placement an integral component in the upcoming version of the PMKVY i.e., PMKVY 5.0.

### **(Recommendation Para 7)**

The Committee are concerned to note that under PMKVY 4.0, during the last three years, there is persistent shortfall in enrolment *viz.* 33.72 lakh in 2022-23, 32.67 lakh in 2023-24 and 49.49 lakh in 2024-25 (upto 09.01.2025). The physical target for 2025-26 is 30 lakh certification as recommended by EFC in 2022 and as on 16.02.2025, only 14.91 lakh candidates have been certified since 2022-23. According to the Ministry, the staggered approvals for release of funds have impacted full-fledged roll out of the Scheme, leading to intermittent momentum across FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25. Further, in the absence of Cabinet approval, the Scheme was operating with staggered fund releases from the Department of Expenditure, leading to slow implementation and achievement of target and low expenditure. The Ministry have assured that since the Scheme has now been approved, the Ministry expect uninterrupted flow of funds, ensuring maximum utilization of funds and achievement of target in FY 2025-26.

The Committee, while agreeing with the Ministry on the impact of enrollment due to staggered fund releases from Department of Expenditure, leading to slow achievement of target and appreciating the efforts made by the Ministry

to pursue for approval of the Scheme, expect and encourage the Ministry to perform better in 2025-26 and honour the assurance given by them for optimal utilization of the funds and achievement of physical targets in FY 2025-26.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

Skill India Programme (SIP) comprising of PMKVY 4.0, PM-NAPS and JSS has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 07.02.2025 with an outlay of ₹8,800 crore for the period FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26. For the FY 2024-25, the expenditure under PMKVY 4.0 amounted to ₹1,538.00 crore, fully utilizing the Revised Estimate (RE) of ₹1,538 crore, representing 100% utilization of funds. The scheme will be implemented in FY 2025-26 with proper planning for better qualitative outcome and optimal utilization of the allocated funds.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

During the FY 2024-25, a total of 9,87,880 candidates were enrolled under PMKVY 4.0. Further, the Ministry utilized the entire Revised Estimate (RE) of ₹1,538 crore under PMKVY 4.0 in the said FY reflecting 100% fund utilization.

For FY 2025-26, the Revised Estimate for PMKVY 4.0 is ₹1,100.00 crore. The Ministry has already utilized ₹268.12 Crore, and training targets have been approved worth ₹450 Crore with further allocation underway. Additionally, there is liabilities of around ₹460 Crore to be paid to training providers, for which verification of attendance and assessment data is in progress in association with National e-Governance Division, under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) to ensure quality and financial compliance.

MSDE is also planning to host a structured online application form on SIDH to receive training proposals from industries/ industry associations/ SMEs based on certain filtration criteria such as organizational experience, financials, legal status, infrastructure ownership, trainer availability, geography, sectors, job roles, OJT partnerships, and placement commitments.

### **(Recommendation Para 8)**

The Committee note that National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has been entrusted to conduct the concurrent evaluation of PMKVY 4.0 and an agreement was signed between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and NCAER on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Committee have been apprised that NCAER was supposed to submit the final report within a period of fourteen months, however, due to the shortage of funds, the study was eventually interrupted and could not be completed on time. The Committee have also been apprised that with the approval of the Skill India Programme, the Ministry are expecting uninterrupted flow of funds, and, as a consequence thereof, the concurrent evaluation study is likely to be completed by the end of 2025. The Committee trust that the exercise will be completed in the prescribed period.

## **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

NCAER was engaged by NSDC through an RFP process for conducting Concurrent Impact Assessment of PMKVY 4.0. However, in the absence of substantial training due to lack of funds pending Cabinet approval, and unavailability of critical mass to justify the expenditure, the concurrent assessment of PMKVY 4.0 has lost its relevance.

The PMKVY 4.0 Scheme as a component of Skill India Programme (SIP) has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 07.02.2025 with a sunset dated of 31.03.2026. Further, Department of Expenditure, vide its O.M. No. 66(59)/PFC-II/2018 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, has advised that for continuation of a Scheme beyond 2025-26, an appropriate evaluation is to be necessarily carried out for outcome review. Considering these, the MSDE is in the process of finalizing an agency to have 3<sup>rd</sup> Party impact assessment of SIP, including PMKVY 4.0. This evaluation will also play a vital role in designing the successor Scheme.

## **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

NCAER was engaged by NSDC through an RFP process for conducting Concurrent Impact Assessment of PMKVY 4.0. Since the PMKVY 4.0 was implemented in phases till FY 2024-25, the concurrent assessment of PMKVY 4.0 was cancelled with the approval of Secretary, MSDE.

Further, considering the sunset of PMKVY 4.0 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, Department of Expenditure, vide O.M. dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025, advised that for continuation of the Scheme beyond 2025-26, an appropriate evaluation is to be necessarily carried out for outcome review. Considering this, the MSDE has commissioned a Third-party impact evaluation of PMKVY 4.0 by Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM). AJNIFM has submitted its report on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### **(Recommendation Para 9)**

The Committee note that to encourage potential employers to recruit candidates emerging from Training Centres (TCs), the Ministry have taken various measures like Regular Industry Consultations, Implementing the Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD) Model, Target allocation to Industry, Priority to projects offering captive placements, etc. In addition, the Ministry also encourage Training Centres (TCs) to train under RTD model, facilitate placements, mobilize candidates for job melas and impart employability skills training. The Committee exhort the Ministry to intensify their efforts in supporting and hand holding the various stakeholders and other industries so that the placement/self-employment of the trained/certified candidates is enhanced to a greater extent.

## **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

MSDE is actively working with all the concerned stakeholders, such as, Awarding Bodies, Industries, Educational Institutes, etc. and providing them necessary handholding support for improving the outcomes under the scheme. The proposed strategy for allocation of targets under PMKVY 4.0 in FY 2025-26 will be outcome oriented, be it placement, internship, apprenticeship, or self-employment and the same will be captured through Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) also.

## **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

MSDE is actively working with all the concerned stakeholders such as Awarding Bodies, Industries, Educational Institutes, etc. and providing them with necessary handholding support for improving the outcomes under the scheme. Under PMKVY 4.0, the placements have been de-linked and the focus is to empower our trained candidates to choose their varied career path and they are suitably oriented for the same through On-Job-Training (OJT) embedded industry relevant skill courses. OJT has been made an inherent component of the PMKVY and has been integrated within the short-term skilling programs to ensure trainees gain real-world exposure and industry experience. MSDE is thoroughly examining the proposals with all the details such as training centres, trainers, job roles, Letters of Intent (LoIs) from industries for conducting OJT, etc.

MSDE is actively engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), Central Ministries/Departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs/CPSUs), Institutes of National Importance (INIs), State Government departments and the private sector to strengthen PMKVY 4.0 implementation, and has signed multiple MoUs with them such as Air India Sats Airport Services Pvt. Ltd., CMR Green Technologies Ltd., IIT Patna, etc. Further, under the aegis of the Ministry, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKKs), Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and Training Providers (TPs) have organized 1,500+ Rozgar Melas / Kaushal Mahotsavs, wherein out of 7.80+ lakh registered candidates, 2.90+ lakh have been shortlisted for appointment. Additionally, over 120 industries have participated in the regular industry consultations to assess workforce needs, promote industry-led skilling, utilize existing infrastructure, etc.

Further, based on feedback from various stakeholders, MSDE is considering to make placement an integral component of the upcoming version of the PMKVY i.e. PMKVY 5.0.

### **(Recommendation Para 10)**

To monitor the effectiveness of the skill training provided under PMKVY, the Ministry have launched SIDH. The steps taken to ensure quality standards across all Training Centres including PMKKs, *inter alia*, include SIDH registration, e-KYC compliance, mandatory AEBAS, virtual verification of operational training centres using a mobile app, feedback from candidates,

physical visits and inspection of Training Centre, virtual monitoring through audio and video calls by a Kaushal Samiksha Kendra set up by MSDE.

The Committee have been apprised that during the last three years, a total of 637 Physical Inspections (PIs) have been undertaken and key deficiencies noticed *inter alia* include non-conduct of training during visits, PMKKs closed on working days, non-compliance with equipment guidelines, candidates not available during visits, batch merging, low attendance (below 50%), mismatches between physical attendance and AEBAS records, and in some cases, PMKKs not being found at the registered address on SIDH. The Ministry have informed that in order to avoid recurrence of such discrepancies, in addition to penal action like suspension, financial penalties and batch cancellation of non-compliant Centres, workshops are also conducted to orient PMKKs on quality delivery of training, retention of candidates post mobilization, maintenance of attendance etc. The Committee urge the Ministry to maintain the momentum for putting in place a more invigorated monitoring mechanism so as to ensure the attainment of the objectives. The Committee recommend that the Ministry take proactive measures and impress upon the State Government, Industries and various stakeholders to support PMKKs wherever these have been established.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

It is informed that; as on 30.04.2025; 5,768 Skill India Centres (SICs) have been physically inspected / visited by NSDC for monitoring during the ongoing training in these Centres under PMKVY 4.0. Further, a mechanism has been put in place in the Ministry to conduct virtual inspection of the SICs. As on 30.04.2025, 1,986 SICs have been inspected virtually by the Ministry. Based on the analysis of these SICs, actions have been initiated against the 188 SICs, out of which First Information Report (FIR) has been recommended against 138 SICs. Monitoring guidelines under the scheme are under process of revision and once issued, will certainly lead to better outcome. Also, the Ministry is actively engaging with the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) of the States / UTs and formalizing their role in the monitoring of the skilling under the PMKVY 4.0.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

For robust monitoring under the PMKVY 4.0, multiple changes have been made which are as follows:

- Live attendance dashboard has been developed on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) to provide insights into scheme level outputs and outcomes mapped with candidate lifecycle, training centre performance, and assessment outcomes, supporting data-driven decision-making.
- Face Authentication and geo tagged attendance has been mandated for candidates, trainers and assessors under PMKVY 4.0.

- Capturing Candidate Feedback during the Training Lifecycle through Central Communication Layer (CCL) developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for remedial actions.
- QR-coded digital certificates to ensure authenticity, facilitating instant verification and boosting employer confidence.
- All stakeholders, including trainers and candidates, must register via e-KYC and Aadhaar authentication, ensuring secure, paperless onboarding and accurate data capture.
- A structured online application form to be hosted on SIDH for shortlisting PIAs/TPs based on filtration criteria and priority sectors for allocation of targets to private organizations.
- Further, the committed liabilities under PMKVY 4.0 will be disbursed to the Training Providers (TPs) upon successful verification of batch attendance.

To enhance scalability, quality assurance, and monitoring, the MSDE has established the “Kaushal Samiksha Kendra” (KSK) for independent oversight. The KSK facilitates both virtual and physical inspections of Skill India Centres (SICs). Between September 2024 and October 2025, MSDE carried out virtual monitoring of 3,695 training Centres across India. These inspections evaluated centre infrastructure, candidate attendance, trainer presence, and other key parameters. In addition, regular physical inspections through the PMKVY State and District Coordinators are being carried out to identify the gaps and improve the training quality. Physical inspections were carried out in 2,393 centres. A snapshot of action taken by the Ministry for monitoring and quality assurance is given below:

- Upon reviewing inspection reports and cross-verifying attendance data with batch schedules and AEBAS records, 383 Skill India Centres were found to be non-compliant.
- Disciplinary action such as centre suspension, stoppage of payments, issuance of Show Cause Notices, Accreditation & Affiliation cancellations, and filing of FIRs has been initiated against these non-compliant centres.
- FIR filing has been directed in 167 high-penalty cases, with D.O. letters issued by MSDE to the respective State DGPs for lodging FIRs. As of date, FIRs have been lodged against 41 Skill India Centres and necessary action is being taken in rest of the cases.
- Based on the physical inspection report, 178 training partner/training centres which have been found to be non-compliant with the scheme's guidelines have been blacklisted, and recovery of payments has been initiated.
- An Inter-Ministerial Appeals Committee (IMAC) comprising of representative from MSDE, NCVET, NSDC, DGT, MNRE, M/o Rural Development, M/o Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & M/o Tourism have been constituted to review the appeals received from the blacklisted entities.
- As of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025, a total of 78 appeals have been received by MSDE or through NSDC, of which 33 cases have been reviewed by the IMAC.

Recently, MSDE has also revised the monitoring guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of the training and adherence to scheme guidelines. The revised guidelines provide a comprehensive monitoring framework with clear KPIs and automated alerts, along with revised penalty matrix.

So far as PMKKs are concerned, the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 05.12.2025, decided to conduct an independent assessment of PMKKs regarding their functioning, performance and future roadmap.

### **(Recommendation Para 11)**

The Committee note that to ensure the trained candidates get employment as per their qualifications under PMKVY 4.0, the focus of the training is to empower the trained candidates to choose their varied career path and also give opportunity through various IT tools like SIDH. The Ministry have submitted that the job roles are aligned with the National Skill Qualification Committee Framework (NSQF) approved by National Skill Qualification Committee (NSQC) under NCVET. The Committee further note that identification of job roles require collaborative process that incorporates inputs from various stakeholders and MANDATORY On-the-Job Training (OJT) component in STT training to ensure practical learning and industry exposure. The Committee have been apprised that the scheme also focuses on emerging skills like Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine Learning (ML), AR/VR, 3D printing, and green economy sectors to cater to future industry needs. Considering the fact that the objective of the Scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youths to take up skill training and become employable to sustainable livelihood, the Committee urge upon the Ministry to intensify the various measures put in place so as to ensure that maximum number of candidates get employment and sustainable livelihood after successful completion of the training.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

MSDE is actively working with the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), the skilling regulator, for improving the job roles and their content and curriculum. More than 5,500 outdated job roles have been archived from the skilling ecosystem. Under PMKVY 4.0, to keep pace with evolving industry demands and advent of new age technology, 400+ new courses on AI, 5G technology, Cyber security, Green Hydrogen, Drone Technology, have been introduced, focusing on emerging technologies and future skills. The number of skilled workforce under futuristic job roles is expected to increase considering the marked demand and requirement. Also, the introduction of On-the-Job Training (OJT) in the job roles under the PMKVY 4.0 will ensure that candidates gain real-world exposure and industry experience. Further, the proposed strategy for allocation of targets under PMKVY 4.0 in FY 2025-26 will be outcome oriented, be it placement, internship, apprenticeship, or self-employment and the same will be captured through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). All these efforts have been made to enhance the employment / placement opportunities for the candidates enabling them to a sustainable livelihood.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The limited awareness among community members about training opportunities, job role relevance, and long-term benefits of skilling are a few challenges that have been noted while implementing PMKVY by engaging the community. To overcome this, an enhanced IEC (Information, Education, Communication) activity, such as posters, banners, hoardings,

publishing articles, and newsletters in social media, etc. are being undertaken under PMKVY 4.0.

Mobilization is a critical component of proposals submitted by States, PSUs, and other implementing partners under PMKVY 4.0, as it lays the foundation for reaching the right beneficiaries. During the proposal stage, Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) are required to clearly identify and map specific target cohorts such as farmers, gig workers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), youth, women, other marginalized groups, etc. relevant to the local ecosystem. This early-stage identification ensures that mobilization efforts are focused, need-based, and aligned with the socio-economic profile of the region. Also, the Executive Committee for PMKVY 4.0, while approving the training targets, requests all the PIAs to share the mobilization strategy including advertisements and other publicity activities with the Ministry/NSDC.

Rozgar Melas / Kaushal Mahotsav are organized by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKKs), Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), and Training Providers (TPs) under the aegis of the MSDE for providing employment opportunities to the candidates along with spreading awareness about the scheme. Around 1,500+ Rozgar Melas / Kaushal Mahotsavs have been organized so far across the country, wherein out of 7.80+ lakh registered candidates, 2.90+ lakh have been shortlisted for appointment.

Under PMKVY 4.0, to make the candidates more employable, the Scheme is focusing on imparting training as per evolving industry demands. To address the requirement of industry 4.0, 600+ new-age and futuristic courses on AI, 5G technology, Cyber security, Green Hydrogen, Drone Technology, have been introduced, focusing on emerging technologies and future skills. As on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, more than 5.61 lakh candidates have been enrolled in such job roles under PMKVY 4.0. Further, more than 5,500 outdated job roles have been archived from the skilling ecosystem by NCVET.

### **(Recommendation Para 12)**

The Committee note that to enhance private sector involvement in skill development and employment under PMKVY 4.0, emphasis has been laid on cross utilization of infrastructure available in different institutions including private entities such as private educational institutions (like AICTE affiliated colleges, UGC approved colleges/institutes, private schools), Industries, Industry Associations, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), Jan ShikshanSansthan (JSSs), Trusts/Societies, etc. The Committee have been apprised that target has been allocated to such reputed private sector institutions to impart quality skill trainings through their A&A complied Training Centres. The Committee desire the Ministry to take recourse to proactive measures and explore areas where participation of private sector in imparting training and providing employment to certified trained candidates fructify to a considerable extent.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

MSDE is actively and consistently engaging with various stakeholders such as State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), different Central Ministries / Departments, prominent industries like Adani Foundation, JK Cement,

Honda India Foundation, etc. to strengthen the implementation of PMKVY 4.0. This collaborative effort focuses not only on imparting high-quality skill training, but also on facilitating employment / placement opportunities for the trained candidates. The same is an ongoing and regular process being undertaken by MSDE to collaborate with the private sector.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

MSDE is actively and consistently engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), Central Ministries/Departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs/CPSUs), Institutes of National Importance (INIs), State Government departments, and private sector to strengthen the implementation of PMKVY 4.0. This collaborative approach aims not only to deliver high-quality skill training but also to facilitate employment and placement opportunities for certified candidates. To achieve this objective, MSDE has signed multiple MoUs with industry partners, INIs, and State Government entities. The details of these MoUs are as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>MoU signed with</b>	<b>Type of Institutions</b>
1	Air India Sats Airport Services Private Ltd	Industry/ Pvt. sector
2	Confederation of Indian Textile Industries (CITI)	Industry/ Pvt. sector
3	CMR Green Technologies Ltd	Industry/ Pvt. sector
4	North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)	Govt. Institution
5	North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)	Govt. Institution
6	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Co-Operation (NERAMAC)	Govt. Institution
7	Simplex Infrastructure Ltd	Industry/ Pvt. sector
8	Flipkart Internet Private Ltd	Industry/ Pvt. sector
9	Swiggy Ltd	Industry/ Pvt. sector
10	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna	INI
11	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad	INI
12	Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Una	INI
13	National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala	INI
14	Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat	INI
15	IGNOU	Govt. Institution

Further, the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, approved the allocation of training targets to private sector (Industry/ Industry associations/ SMEs) for imparting quality skill training and facilitating employment/placement opportunities for trained candidates. A structured online application form to be hosted on Skill India digital Hub (SIDH) for shortlisting PIAs/TPs based on filtration criteria and priority sectors for allocation of targets to private organizations. This is an ongoing and regular process undertaken by MSDE to ensure robust collaboration with the private sector for skill development and employment generation.

### **(Recommendation Para 13)**

The Committee note that the design principles of PMKVY 4.0 provide for creation of a national pool of trainers and assessors to ensure their availability and efficient implementation of training and faster assessment and it has

been envisaged to create a pool of 1 lakh Trainers/Assessors at national level. The engagement of a trainer is subject to mutual agreement between trainer and training provider, whereas, the assessors are aligned and deployed by the Assessment Agency upon receiving batch information from Awarding Bodies to conduct assessment of the trained candidates. The Committee have been apprised that 1,44,555 trainers and 75,829 assessors have been trained during the last three years i.e. since 2022-23. The Committee appreciate that while target for creation of pool of trainers has exceeded the envisaged target of 1 lakh trainers, however, nearly 24,000 Assessors are yet to be trained. The Committee call upon the Ministry to take urgent steps so as to ensure that the target to have 1 lakh Assessors is timely achieved.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry through NSDC, the implementing agency of the scheme, is actively working to expedite the conduct of Training of Trainers (ToT) and Training of Assessors (ToA) programs, with a strong focus on capacity building to enhance the quality of training and assessments. Furthermore, MSDE is in constant touch with Awarding Bodies to increase the number of Trainers and Assessors, thereby improving the quality and reach of skill development initiatives across the country.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

A national pool of 56,000+ Trainers and 13,000+ Assessors, having certificates with valid time period, has been developed under the PMKVY 4.0 for the skilling ecosystem. The same is an ongoing and dynamic process as the validity of the Training of Trainer (ToT) and Training of Assessor (ToA) certificate remains for two (2) years. Further, the number of Awarding Bodies (ABs) and Assessment Agencies (AAs) has expanded to 152 and 68 respectively, strengthening the skilling ecosystem by ensuring wider coverage, improved assessment quality, and enhanced industry responsiveness. Also, integrated proposals for imparting skilling to candidates as well as ToT have also been approved under PMKVY 4.0. For example, the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) is implementing a skilling proposal under PMKVY 4.0 for veterans, while also providing them training to become trainers. Further, the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, approved to provide funding for conducting ToT for all Government Organizations whose projects have been approved. This step will ensure onboarding of new trainers and expansion of pool of trainers under the Scheme.

### **(Recommendation Para 14)**

The Committee note that as on 16.02.2025, more than 95,000 candidates have been trained/oriented through special projects of PMKVY 4.0, in various sectors including agriculture, handicraft and other traditional sectors. As per the data furnished by the Ministry, the number of candidates enrolled, trained, assessed and certified are 1,70,442; 95,413; 54,226; and 50,267 respectively in 34 sectors including traditional sectors. While appreciating the efforts being made by the Ministry to impart sector-specific skill training, the Committee want that emphasis be laid to provide training in the remaining sectors so that adequate skilled manpower is available to cater to specific

needs of the Industry. The Committee further want that necessary impetus be given towards implementing the policy for active participation of industry in framing the training programmes so as to effectively capture the changing requirement and realities of employment.

The Committee also strongly feel that there has to be total Coordination and integration with Industry so that the skills required as per the demands of the Industry are identified and imparting practical training and experience in these trades/skill shall be given impetus. Such a measure can help in mitigating the skill gaps and deficiencies felt by the Industry.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry has taken several initiatives to enhance industry engagement under PMKVY 4.0 to ensure training courses align with industry demand, emerging trends, and sector-specific needs. MSDE is actively engaging with the industries for onboarding them under PMKVY 4.0 for implementation of skilling as well as empaneling them as Awarding Bodies (ABs) under NCVET so that the pool of ABs increases in the skilling ecosystem. All the industry led Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) have been mandated to actively coordinate with industries to assess regional and sectoral demands, identify skill gaps, and define relevant job roles. Further, with aim to strengthen this engagement, the Ministry has conducted regular industry consultations, implemented special projects directly through industries, and supported sector-specific skilling initiatives in areas such as manufacturing, toy making, footwear, and industrial clusters in collaboration with relevant Central Ministries/Departments. So far, industry consultations have been held with over 120 industry participants to assess workforce needs, promote industry-led skilling, utilize existing infrastructure, etc.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry takes note of the recommendation of the Esteemed Committee to impart training in the sectors wherein there is requirement of skilled manpower to cater the specific needs of the Industry.

The Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, approved the allocation of training targets to private sector (Industry/ Industry associations/ SMEs) for imparting quality skill training and facilitating employment/placement opportunities for trained candidates. A structured online application form to be hosted on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for shortlisting PIAs/TPs based on filtration criteria and priority sectors for allocation of targets to private organizations. This is an ongoing and regular process undertaken by MSDE to ensure robust collaboration with the industry for skill development and employment generation.

Further, the Ministry has taken several initiatives to enhance industry engagement under PMKVY 4.0 to ensure training courses align with industry demand, emerging trends, and sector-specific needs. MSDE is actively engaging with the industries for onboarding them under PMKVY 4.0 for implementation of skilling as well as empaneling them as Awarding

Bodies (ABs) under NCVET such that the pool of ABs increases in the skilling ecosystem. All the industry led Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) have been mandated to actively coordinate with industries to assess regional and sectoral demands, identify skill gaps, and define relevant job roles. Further, with aim to strengthen this engagement, the Ministry has conducted regular industry consultations, implemented special projects directly through industries, and supported sector-specific skilling initiatives in areas such as manufacturing, toy making, footwear, and industrial clusters in collaboration with relevant Central Ministries/Departments. So far, more than 13 industry consultations have been held with over 120 industries such as Larsen and Toubro, Flipkart, Swiggy, CREDAI, Amazon Web Services, Zomato, Transworld, Power Grid, TCS, Wipro, IBM, Red Hat, Barclays, Zydus, Adani Agri Fresh Ltd, Hero Moto Corp, Toyota, Maruti Suzuki, GMR, Bosch, Sony Ericsson, Jindal Steel Power, Arcelor Mittal, Nippon, Leela Hotels, Taj Hotels, Marriott Hotels, HDFC Bank, Tata Electronics, etc. to assess workforce needs, promote industry-led skilling, utilize existing infrastructure, etc.

### **(Recommendation Para 15)**

The Committee note that training under PMKVY 4.0 has also been aligned to the requirements of new-age and futuristic job roles such as AI - Data Engineer, Telecom Technician - IoT Devices/Systems, Drone Manufacturing and Assembly Technician, Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing), Kisan Drone Operator, Application Developer - Web & Mobile, etc. As on 16.02.2025, the number of candidates enrolled, trained, assessed and certified is 5,16,730; 3,28,501; 2,46,790 and 2,23,578 respectively. Keeping in view the requirements of the industry and the potential of the new age courses for providing employment in emerging fields, the Committee feel that the Ministry need to take urgent and effective steps to address the challenges posed and promote the courses of new-age and futuristic job roles. The Committee also urge the Ministry to take measures to increase awareness about the courses through all possible modes, including print and electronic media, social media, on-line advertising, outreach programmes etc. and further strengthen the job prospects for trained candidates who pursue the new courses by working in tandem with employers to create adequate opportunities in the new and emerging sectors.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

Under PMKVY 4.0, to keep pace with evolving industry demands and advent of new age technology, 400+ new courses on AI, 5G technology, Cyber security, Green Hydrogen, Drone Technology, have been introduced, focusing on emerging technologies and future skills. The number of skilled workforce under futuristic job roles is expected to increase considering the marked demand and requirement. MSDE, in consultation with various stakeholders, including Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, NCVET, NSDC, Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), and industry partners; is actively working to promote skilling in new-age and Futuristic courses across the country. These consultations focus on identifying emerging skills and technologies in demand, funding support, developing relevant course content, ensuring availability of appropriate training infrastructure, and building trainer capacity through Training of Trainers (ToT) programs. Institutions such as

AICTE-affiliated colleges, Skill Universities, State bodies, SSCs, and others are being encouraged and engaged to deliver skilling programs aligned with both sectoral and regional requirements. Under PMKVY 4.0, as on 31.03.2025, more than 4 Lakh candidates have been trained in the New Age skills.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

On several occasions, industries and other TPs showed their resistance to implement skilling in new-age and futuristic job roles due to lower payouts. To encourage the adoption of courses in these emerging areas and considering the higher cost for new laboratory equipment for delivering such courses, the Steering Committee for PMKVY 4.0, in its 2nd meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, approved the highest cost of ₹49 per hour for skilling in new-age and futuristic skills under PMKVY 4.0. Also, the Ministry is in the process to revise the Common Norms.

To increase awareness about the courses, training opportunities, job role relevance, and long-term benefits of skilling, an enhanced IEC (Information, Education, Communication) activity, such as posters, banners, hoardings, publishing articles, and newsletters in social media, etc. are being undertaken under PMKVY 4.0. MSDE also urged PIAs to share all the relevant information related to advertisement and social media activities undertaken by them under PMKVY 4.0.

Under PMKVY 4.0, the placements have been de-linked and the focus is to empower our trained candidates to choose their varied career path and they are suitably oriented for the same through On-Job-Training (OJT) embedded industry relevant skill courses. OJT has been made an inherent component of the PMKVY and has been integrated within the short-term skilling programs to ensure trainees gain real-world exposure and industry experience. At the proposal stage itself, MSDE ensures all the relevant details such as training centres, trainers, job roles, Letters of Intent (LoIs) from industries for conducting OJT, etc.

Further, based on feedback from various stakeholders, MSDE is considering to make placement an integral component of the upcoming version of the PMKVY i.e., PMKVY 5.0.

### **(Recommendation Para 16)**

The Committee have also been apprised that although there is no State component under PMKVY 4.0, the Ministry are moving forward for increasing State engagement for implementation under PMKVY 4.0 to understand the district demands holistically and subsequent actions will be taken on the basis of responses received from Districts accordingly. The Committee take cognizance of the Ministry's efforts and are of the considered view that the steps taken by the Ministry are in right direction and should be persisted with so as to achieve the desired objectives.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

MSDE is actively pursuing with the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) of the States / UTs for the State Action Plan for allocation of targets under the PMKVY 4.0 in FY 2025-26. As on 12.12.2025, under the Scheme, 1.12 lakh targets have been allocated to 12 States / UTs. These allocations are based on demand of the SSDM and as per requirement of local demand, District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs), skill gap studies, etc.

Further, MSDE is actively engaging with SSDMs of States and UTs, formalizing their role in monitoring skilling activities under PMKVY 4.0. Multiple efforts have been undertaken to strengthen this engagement, including regular correspondence, consultation and review meetings, etc.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has noted for compliance.

MSDE is actively engaging with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) of States and UTs, formalizing their role in monitoring skilling activities under PMKVY 4.0. Multiple efforts have been undertaken to strengthen this engagement, including regular correspondence, consultation meetings, allocation of special projects, and review meetings. Further, States have been requested to involve reputed State Government institutions, adopt new-age courses and aspirational job roles with clear career progression under PMKVY 4.0, and avoid oversubscribed, low-demand, or redundant roles.

### **(Recommendation Para 17)**

The Committee appreciate that since 2021-22, 96% to 98% of physical targets set were achieved and during 2024-25, out of target of 5.20 lakh beneficiaries, 4,58,562 beneficiaries have been covered as on 19.02.2025 and, as informed by the Ministry, with the release of second instalment of Grant-in-Aid following approval of the Scheme (which is one of the three components of Skill India Programme) by Cabinet on 07.02.2025, 5 lakh beneficiaries are expected to be covered by 31.03.2025 *viz.* 96% target will be achieved during 2024-25. The Committee expect the Ministry to make concerted efforts and honour their commitment for optimal achievement of the physical target for the year 2024-25. The financial progress of the Scheme is, however, slow as, out of RE of Rs. 180 crore, only Rs. 72.62 crore has been utilized up to 03.03.2025 and approximately 60% amount is yet to be spent. The Committee expect that with the approval of Skill India Programme on 07.02.2025, the Ministry will be able to utilize considerable amount of the unspent balance.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry sincerely acknowledges the Committee's appreciation of the physical progress under the JSS Scheme and remains committed to achieving the projected target of 5 lakh beneficiaries for the FY 2025-26. With the Cabinet approval of the Skill India Programme on 07.02.2025 and subsequent release of the second instalment of Grant-in-Aid, JSSs across the country have been mobilized to accelerate implementation. The temporary slowdown in financial progress was primarily due to the hold in fund disbursement pending Cabinet approval. However, efforts are now underway to ensure optimal fund utilization by the end of the financial year through active coordination with JSSs.

Regarding coverage of priority groups and annual targets, the Ministry acknowledges the Committee's observation about the decline in training

numbers in FY 2023-24, which was due to the absence of additional targets provided in the previous year FY 2022-23. For FY 2024-25, the delayed scheme roll-out on the Skill India Digital Hub and fund flow constraints impacted early-stage implementation. Despite this, efforts are being intensified to ensure full achievement of the current year's targets. The suggestion to allocate additional targets to good-performing JSSs in FY 2025-26 is well taken and shall be duly considered to enhance outreach to intended beneficiaries. Additionally, the Ministry reaffirms its vision to expand the JSS network across all districts, particularly in Aspirational and LWE-affected regions, and will explore phased expansion along with encouraging local skill-based training in alignment with regional market demands.

### **(Recommendation Para 18)**

The Committee note that the priority groups under JSS Scheme are Women, SC, ST, OBCs and minorities in rural areas and urban low-income areas. The Committee have been apprised that from FY 2021-22 to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, 15,84,032 women beneficiaries; 4,74,490 Scheduled Castes (SCs) beneficiaries; 2,63,358 Scheduled Tribes (STs) beneficiaries; 7,27,117 Other Backward Classes (OBCs) beneficiaries and 1,92,873 beneficiaries belonging to Minority Groups have been trained. The Committee, however note during FY 2023-24, there is decrease in training figure across all categories *viz.*, Women, SC, ST, OBC, Minority and in the Financial Year 2022-23, apart from the regular annual training target of 1800 per JSS, an additional target of 900 per JSSs was also provided to good performing JSSs which led to increase in overall training figures across different categories (Women, SC, ST, OBC, Minority). In FY 2023-24, an Annual Training Target of 1800 beneficiaries per JSS was provided and no additional training target was provided, which shows a downfall of training figures across different categories (Women, SC, ST, OBC, Minority) from FY 2022-23 to FY 2023-24.

The Committee have been apprised that in the Financial Year 2024-25, due to migration of the JSS scheme on Skill India Digital Hub (a digital portal for entire skilling programme under MSDE), the training under JSS Scheme was initiated from June 2024 onwards. Further, in view of the pending Cabinet Approval for the Skill India Programme (of which JSS scheme is one of the three key component) which was accorded by Cabinet on 07.02.2025, the funds couldn't be disbursed after release of first installment till the Cabinet Approval, which has also impacted the overall training numbers including women, SC, ST, OBC and minorities in FY 2024-25. The Ministry have assured that the target projected for the year 2024-25, is expected to be achieved. The Committee desire that as done during 2022-23 additional target may be provided to good performer JSS during 2025-26 in the larger interest of intended beneficiaries.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Reply given on Recommendation Para 17 may be referred.

### **(Recommendation Para 19)**

The Committee note that at present, 289 Jan ShikshanSansthans are functional in 283 different districts across the country. Out of them, 65 JSSs are currently functional in Aspirational Districts and 40 JSSs in LWE-affected districts. The vision of the Ministry is to set up one JSS in each district of the country in a phased manner. However, at present no proposal for setting up of new JSSs is under consideration.Considering the fact that the target beneficiaries of the scheme are non-literates, neo-literates and persons having rudimentary level of education (70%), school dropouts up to class 12th (20%),and graduates (10%) in the age group of 15-45 years, the Committee desire that the network of JSSs be expanded to more districts especially in the remaining Aspirational Districts. The Committee also urge the Ministry to issue appropriate guidelines to the JSSs to identify the local traditional skills/arts and provide training to candidates as per the local market demand.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Reply given on Recommendation Para 17 may be referred.

### **(Recommendation Para 20)**

The Committee note that National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme-2 (NAPS-2) aims to promote apprenticeship training in the country by providing partial stipend support to the apprentices engaged under the Apprentice Act, 1961 and Rules made thereunder, which is limited to 25% of the stipend paid subject to a maximum of Rs.1500 per month per apprentice, which was revised six years back *viz.* in 2019. The Committee have been apprised that one of the reasons for declining apprenticeship engagement in the age group of 26-30 years is that the apprenticeship stipends which are typically lower than the regular salaries may not be sufficient. The Committee have also been apprised that the proposal for revision of minimum stipend rates is under consideration of the Government, which is proposed to be taken up during the 38<sup>th</sup> CAC (Central Apprentices Council) meeting, which is yet to be scheduled.The Committee desire that the matter relating to upward revision of stipend be accorded priority and the same be increased keeping in view the inflation and other relevant factors.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The 38<sup>th</sup>CAC (Central Apprentices Council) meeting was held on 26.05.2025. The Central Apprentices Council has agreed for a significant hike in monthly stipends for apprentices, increasing the range from Rs.5000-Rs.9000/- to Rs.6,800-Rs.12,300/-. This increase has factored inflation and is based on the difference in Consumer Price Index during the previous revision i.e. November 2019 and November 2024.

### **(Recommendation Para 21)**

The Committee note that NAPS – New Version has a financial outlay of Rs. 1942 crore for a period of four years from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 with physical target of 46 lakh apprentices over the Scheme period. The Committee further note that as on 18.02.2025, the total expenditure under the NAPS stands at Rs. 1350.11 crore (69.52%) against the total outlay of Rs. 1942 crore and the physical achievement is 25.38 lakh. Thus, the remaining physical target stands at 20.62 lakh.

The Committee further note that the Budget Estimates under NAPS for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 512.24 crore, which has been increased to Rs. 600.00 crore at RE stage *viz.* there is increase of Rs. 87.76 crore, however, the actual expenditure as on 18.02.2025 is Rs. 381.79 crore (64% approx.) leaving an unspent balance of Rs. 218.21 crore. The Committee have been apprised that the fund release under the Scheme has been restored post Cabinet approval for Skill India Programme on 07.02.2025 and all pending DBT payment will be taken care. In addition, steps for payment of stipend of Rs.200 crore are being taken and, accordingly, the estimated expenditure will reach Rs. 582 crore by 31.03.2025.The Committee appreciate that despite approval of the Scheme being accorded in February, 2025, the Ministry will be able to incur expenditure almost equal to enhanced RE of Rs. 600 crore in 2024-25. The Committee desire that the momentum be continued unabated so as to fully utilize Rs. 600 crore allocated during 2025-26 also.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

NAPS-02 has a financial outlay of Rs. 1942 crore for a period of four years from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 with a physical target of 46 lakh apprentices over the Scheme period. As on 31.03.2025, the total actual expenditure under the NAPS stands at Rs. 1554.55 crore (80.05%) against the total outlay of Rs. 1942 crore and the total expenditure during the FY 2024-25 is Rs.586.23 Crore. During the current Financial Year 2025-26 expenditure of Rs.146.70 Cr. (upto 30.04.2025) has already been incurred under NAPS.

### **(Recommendation Para 22)**

The Committee, however, find that against the physical target of 12 lakh intended apprentices during 2024-25, as on 28.02.2025, 9 lakh apprentices have been engaged and 3 lakh beneficiaries are yet to be engaged. According to the Ministry, around one lakh apprentices are getting added every month. Consequently, there will still be shortfall of 2 lakh beneficiaries, as such, the Ministry may not be able to achieve the physical target set for 2024-25. The Committee desire that the efforts be made to cover the remaining 20.62 lakh beneficiaries by 2025-26, being the culmination year of the Scheme.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Under NAPS, a total of 9.86 lakh apprentices were engaged during the FY 2024-25(as on 31.03. 2025). The physical achievement is **28.19** lakh from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 (as on 31.03. 2025). Thus, the remaining physical

target stands at **17.81 lakh**. Efforts are being made to cover the remaining 17.81 lakh apprentices till FY 2025-26.

#### **(Recommendation Para 24)**

The Committee note that while there is persistent increase in BE for NER during the last three years i.e. from Rs. 291.32 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 332.15 crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 431.31 crore (as on 15.01.2025) in 2024-25, the actual expenditure of the Ministry for the region has decreased during the corresponding period *viz.* from 22.83% to 22.42% to 18.26% respectively, i.e., more than 75% funds were not utilised every year. The Committee further note that during 2024-25, as on 18.02.2025, of the total allocation of Rs. 431.31 crore (9.54% of Ministry's BE) the Ministry's NER expenditure is Rs. 144.12 crore and, as stated by the Ministry, it is estimated to reach Rs.170 crore by the end of the current fiscal, which is significantly higher than previous year (Rs. 74.50 crore in 2023-24 and Rs. 66.52 crore in 2022-23). The Committee, however, find that Rs. 261.31 crore shall still remain unutilized by 31.03.2025. Considering the fact that Skill India Programme has now been approved by the Cabinet, the Committee expect that allocation of Rs. 509.85 crore for NER will be fully utilized during 2025-26.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

In FY. 2024-25, against the BE of ₹ 431.31 Cr and RE of ₹ 219.52 Cr, the expenditure in the NER component was ₹ 195.23 Cr (88.93 % of RE), which was significantly higher than previous years. However, the Ministry acknowledges that the lower than mandated expenditure in the NER is an issue of concern. Apart from taking steps to improve regular expenditure in NER, the Ministry has sincerely deliberated upon the issue and in order to address the issue, has made a special intervention by launching a pilot project on 20.05.2025 namely "Pilot initiative for special intervention for promotion of Apprenticeship in North Eastern Region (NER)" by doubling the stipend support from GoI to apprentices domiciled in NER and migrating either within or outside NER for apprenticeship opportunities. This project will be implemented on a pilot mode during FY 2025-26 with a total financial outlay of ₹ 43.94 Cr. The initiative will directly benefit more than 26,000 NER. Based on the success of the pilot project, decision on further continuation of the intervention will be considered.

#### **(Recommendation Para 25)**

The Committee, while appreciating that to promote apprenticeship, the Ministry have organized Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas (PMNAMs) at 190 locations/districts, since 2022-23 in the North Eastern Region (NER), wish to point out that not even a single establishment participated in the PMNAM organised in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and desire that while organising PMNAMs particularly in NER, it needs to be ensured that the registered establishments do participate in such Melas.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The economy of the North Eastern Region (NER) is predominantly agrarian, with over 70% of its population engaged in agricultural activities as their primary source of livelihood. The secondary and tertiary sectors exhibit limited diversification, encompassing areas such as tourism, handicrafts, textiles, and information technology, among others. Furthermore, factors like labour employment gap, geographical constraints, and infrastructural challenges, has resulted in a paucity of establishments within the region. Consequently, the limited number of establishments in the NER has translated into lower participation in the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM).

To address these issues, MSDE is initiating a pilot scheme in the NER under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme-2 (NAPS-2). Under this initiative, an additional incentive of upto ₹1500 is provided for apprentices who are domiciled in the NER and undertake apprenticeships within the NER (excluding the domiciled State) or outside the region. This measure is intended to attract youths to undertake apprenticeship outside their own State. Within the total financial outlay, a budget of ₹3 Crore has been allocated for awareness and advocacy activities, aimed at mobilizing youths and establishments to participation in NAPS-2 across the NER.

### (Recommendation Para 26)

The Committee note that during 2024-25, out of 9,00,616 apprentices engaged as on 28.02.2025, 6,95,808 are men and 2,04,808 are women. As stated by the Ministry, the difference in apprentice engagement when compared to FY 2023-24 has exceeded by 7,910 (4% increase than FY 2023-24) in case of women apprentices and in case of men, it is 39,596 (5.4% lesser than FY 2023-24). The Committee have been apprised that it is expected that achievement during the current FY will not be less when compared to FY 2023-24. The Committee have also been apprised that to increase women participation in apprentices, the Ministry propose to organize PMNAM with a focus on mobilization from women centric Institutions (Women's College and Vocational Training Centres) as well as development and promotion of apprenticeship in Sectors with high growth potential and traditionally higher female participation such as healthcare, IT/ITES, and retail. Observing that apprentice engagement is dynamic and keeps on progressing throughout the year, the Committee desire that in addition to the measures being taken by the Ministry, the other innovative measures also need to be taken so as to increase women participation in apprentices so that women have access to relevant and in-demand skills.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

In FY 2024-25 (as on 31.03. 2025) out of 9,85,653 apprentices engaged, 7,60,998 are men and 2,24,647 are women. As stated by the Ministry, the difference in apprentice engagement when compared to FY 2023-24 has exceeded by 27,688 (14.06% increase than FY 2023-24) in case of women apprentices and in case of men, it is 25,183 (3.42% increase than FY 2023-

24). The observation of the committee has been noted for due diligence and the Ministry will take all out efforts that would be contributing to more woman apprentice participation.

### **(Recommendation Para 28)**

The Committee note that there is persistent increase in candidates dropped out during the last three years. During 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, 2.34 lakh, 2.37 lakh and 2.89 lakh candidates respectively had dropped out from their apprentices training. The reasons for such drop out *inter-alia* included relocation challenges from place of living to establishment location at new location; factory/industry/establishment environment; cost of living; environmental conditions; health, etc. In addition, attractive alternative options also lead to dropout in apprenticeship training. The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry have taken measures like organisation of Workshops/awareness programmes to sensitize various stakeholders and Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) to facilitate as a platform to disseminate information on apprenticeship training. The Ministry have also informed that besides revision of minimum stipend rates, efforts will also be made for a supportive workplace culture by establishments and States/ UTs will also be sensitized to make use of PMNAM/ workshops/ awareness programme to disseminate information for assisting interested persons to take informed decisions before joining the apprenticeship training. Observing that increase in drop out of apprentices is a matter of serious concern, the Committee recommend that the challenges faced by apprentices need to be addressed with utmost sincerity and desire that the action proposed to be taken by the Ministry needs to be taken to logical conclusion so as to minimize dropout of apprentices.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Under NAPS-2 FY2022-23, FY2023-24, and FY2024-25, 2.34 lakh, 3.38 lakh and 3.49 lakh candidates respectively had dropped out from their apprentices training. The observation of the Committee has been noted for due diligence and the Ministry will monitor dropouts and identify factors that are contributing to the same and guidance through counselling will be explored.

### **(Recommendation Para 29)**

Announced in budget 2024-25, the National Scheme for Upgradation of ITIs aims to enhance the quality and outcomes of skilling across India by upgrading 1,000 ITIs in a hub-and-spoke arrangement over five years. The BE for 2024-25 is Rs. 3000.00 crore, which has been reduced to Rs.294 crore as the Scheme is yet to be approved by the Cabinet. For 2025-26, against the demand of Rs.5010 crore, the Ministry of Finance agreed for an allocation of Rs.3000.00 crore.

The Committee have been apprised that the Scheme has been recommended by the EFC in its meetings held on 09.01.2025 and 13.01.2025, the draft Cabinet Note has received the approval of Finance Minister on 19.02.2025 and the MSDE is in the process of obtaining approval of Cabinet Note. The Committee have also been apprised that since the approval of the Scheme is

yet to be obtained, the funds could not be released in the FY 2024-25. The Ministry have also stated that it is expected that the Scheme would receive approval in the current FY and the exact amount of release under the scheme will depend upon the time available in this FY after the Cabinet approval. Meanwhile, pending the Cabinet approval, the Ministry have been permitted to spend only Rs. 10 crore on the preparatory activities of the scheme.

The Committee have also been apprised that a wide range of stakeholder consultation involving industries, State/UT governments, and inter-ministerial consultation has been undertaken. In addition, Workshops for Technical Knowledge Exchange with four countries (China, Germany, Singapore, and South Korea) to arrive at the design of the scheme have also been conducted. The Scheme is proposed to be launched in March 2025.

The Committee further note that the ITIs will be identified by State Governments in consultation with the industries, as per the guidelines issued by MSDE and the Ministry is in the process of preparing the scheme guidelines. The Committee have been apprised that building on the initiative announced in previous budget, five National Centres of Excellence for skilling will be set up with global expertise and partnerships to equip our youth with the skills required for “Make for India, Make for the World” manufacturing. A suitable mechanism for setting up of five National Centres of Excellence for skilling is under process in the Ministry, and, as informed by the representative of the Ministry during evidence, the Ministry propose to align the Scheme with National Scheme for ITI upgradation.

The Committee, while appreciating the efforts being made to prepare detailed guidelines, aligning the Scheme with the Scheme of setting up of five National Centres of Excellence for skilling as announced in Budget 2025-26 and pursuing for necessary approval of the Scheme, expect that the necessary approval will be accorded soon and the Ministry will be able to utilise the reduced RE during March 2025 and also budget estimates of Rs. 3000 crore in 2025-26.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Cabinet in its meeting held on 07.05.2025, has approved the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and Setting Up of Five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling. In continuation of this, the Ministry is in the process of preparing detailed scheme guidelines and is planning to undertake stakeholder consultations shortly to finalize the implementation framework. The active participation of State Governments and industry partners is being ensured, as they are integral to the success of the Scheme. The Ministry is committed to expediting the rollout of the Scheme and taking all necessary steps to ensure effective and timely utilization of the Budget Estimates of ₹3,000 crore allocated for the financial year 2025–26.

### **(Recommendation Para 30)**

The Committee note that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through its autonomous institutes, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) is undertaking the skill development training component of PM JANMAN Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) with the support of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It is aimed at targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 15 States.

Under this project, a total of 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are to be set up by TRIFED and a total of 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries are to be trained during 2024-25 & 2025-26. As on 19.02.2025, 174 VDVKs have been established and 326 VDVKs are yet to be set up. The responsibility of NIESBUD and IIE is to implement the skilling component of the Project while setting up of VDVKs lies with TRIFED. From the target of 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries to be trained, 39,576 beneficiaries have been covered through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP). Out of the total trained under EAP, 31,547 beneficiaries have been trained through Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) of which 20,492 beneficiaries, have been further trained through Value Added Skill Training (VAT). The training programmes are ongoing and the Ministry have assured that the rest of the beneficiaries are expected to be trained before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. The Committee expect the Ministry to make concerted efforts and honour their commitment to cover beneficiaries who are yet to be trained. The Committee also desire that the remaining 326 VDVKs be set up by TRIFED in the larger interest of the intended beneficiaries.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing the capacity building Component of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Project for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) through the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (IIE).

MSDE has signed MoU with Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) under MoTA wherein the responsibility of MSDE is to implement the capacity building component of the project, while setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) lies with TRIFED.

Under this project, a total of 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are to be established covering 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries during the FY 2024-2025 and 2025-26. As on 30.06.2025, 251 VDVKs have been set up covering 34,991 participants through Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure that the Capacity Building programmes are completed once the toolkits have been setup by TRIFED in the VDVVs. The Ministry is undertaking all efforts to ensure that the remaining target are completed by March, 2026.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing the capacity building Component of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Project for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) through the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (IIE).

MSDE has signed MoU with Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) under MoTA wherein the responsibility of MSDE is to implement the capacity building training in 500 VDVVs, while setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVVs) lies with TRIFED.

Under this project, a total of **500** Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVVs) are to be established covering 42,000 PVTG beneficiaries during the FY 2024-2025 and 2025-26. As on 30.11.2025, **488** VDVVs have been set up covering **38,383** participants through Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure that the Capacity Building programmes are completed once the toolkits have been setup by TRIFED in the remaining 12 VDVVs. The Ministry is undertaking all efforts to ensure that the remaining target are completed by March, 2026.

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.

### **(Recommendation Para 31)**

The Committee note that the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) are organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Ministry are implementing the programme through their autonomous institute, NIESBUD which has received the sanction from the MNRE in the month of September, 2024 for implementing the programme during F.Y. 2024 - 25 and F.Y. 2025 – 26 with a total target of 50,000.

The Committee further note that as on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, the Institute has imparted training to 6,900 participants under the project viz., only 14% beneficiaries have been covered and the remaining 86% are to be covered by 31.03.2026. The Committee impress upon the Ministry to intensify the efforts and cover the remaining beneficiaries by the target date.

## **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

NIESBUD under the MSDE in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the flagship initiative, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The programme aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, empower entrepreneurs, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by fostering and mentoring budding and existing entrepreneurs in the field of solar entrepreneurship.

NIESBUD received the sanction from the MNRE in the month of September 2024. The Project has been sanctioned for implementation across two financial years F.Y. 2024 - 25 and 2025 – 26 with a target to train 50,000 participants.

As on 31.05.2025, the Institute has imparted training to 13,210 participants under the project.

The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate awareness and mobilisation for the programme with continuous follow-ups with MNRE, State Governments and concerned Departments. All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

## **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the flagship initiative, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The programme aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, empower entrepreneurs, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by fostering and mentoring budding and existing entrepreneurs in the field of solar entrepreneurship.

NIESBUD received the sanction from the MNRE in the month of September 2024. The Project has been sanctioned for implementation across two financial years F.Y. 2024 - 25 and 2025 – 26 with a target to train 50,000 participants.

As on 10.11.2025, the Institute has imparted training to 21,231 beneficiaries under the project

The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate awareness and mobilisation for the programme with continuous follow-ups with MNRE, State Governments and concerned Departments. All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.

### **(Recommendation Para 33)**

The Committee note that the Ministry through their autonomous Institute *viz.* NIESBUD are organising Sensitization and Capacity Building Workshop for Women Entrepreneurs sponsored by Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (MSSIDC) under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The Committee further note that the Capacity Building workshops organised by NIESBUD under the initiative aims to support 10,000 women-led MSMEs across Maharashtra by providing them with essential knowledge on key aspects such as entrepreneurial ecosystems, regulatory compliance, government schemes, digital marketing, e-commerce, financial literacy, and legal compliance for scaling their businesses.

The Committee have been apprised that the project has been sanctioned to NIESBUD in the month of September 2024 for implementing the programme in F.Y. - 2024-25 and F.Y. 2025-26. During the first phase, NIESBUD has to impart training to 3,000 participants by 31 March, 2025 and as on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, the Institute has imparted training to 2,207 participants. The Committee have also been apprised that the Institute has mobilised the participants for the remaining target and is organising the programmes in different districts of Maharashtra, as such, the allocated target will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Ministry have also stated that in the second phase, the Institute is required to train 7,000 participants by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The Committee find that while 30% target will be achieved by 31.03.2025, the remaining 70% beneficiaries will be required to be covered in 2025-26. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Ministry to draw a road map for achieving the target within the stipulated time.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The observation of the Committee has been noted for the compliance.

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (MSSIDC) is implementing Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. Under this program capacity building workshops for women entrepreneurs are being conducted across Maharashtra. This initiative aims to support women-led MSMEs by providing essential knowledge on entrepreneurial ecosystems, regulatory compliance, government schemes, digital marketing, e-commerce, financial literacy, and legal compliance

The Institute has prepared a roadmap to achieve the remaining target under the Sensitization and Capacity Building Workshop for Women Entrepreneurs programme by 31 March 2026.

As on 17.12.2025, NIESBUD has imparted training to 6,449 women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra. To cover the remaining beneficiaries, the Institute proposes to organise the workshops as per the following schedule:

S.No.	Month	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
1	December 2025	10	500
2	January 2026	25	1250
3	February 2026	25	1250
4	March 2026	10	551
	<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3551</b>

The Institute is actively mobilising participants across different districts of Maharashtra. During December 2025, the workshops are going to be organised in the districts of Nagpur, Akola, Pune, Wardha, Aurangabad, Latur, and Dhule. Participants have been mobilised for these workshops.

With the above roadmap and ongoing mobilisation efforts, the institute would achieve the remaining target under the RAMP programme by 31 March 2026.

The observation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.

#### **(Recommendation Para 34)**

The Committee note that the Ministry in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have undertaken a Capacity Building Programme for Fair Price Shop (FPS) Owners. The project is aimed to enable the FPS owners to run their businesses in consonance with the contemporary practices being adopted by Retail Entrepreneurs. The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry, through their autonomous Institute *viz.* NIESBUD is responsible for training and capacity building, while the nomination of participants is provided by DFPD in consultation with the respective State Food Distribution Departments. The total target under the project is to train 3000 FPS owners by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026 and, out of them, the number of beneficiaries trained till 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 is 318 and further training of 300 more beneficiaries is planned to be completed by 31.03.2025.

The Committee, thus, find that while 20% target will be achieved by 31.03.2025, the remaining 80% beneficiaries will be required to be covered in 2025-26. The Committee call upon the Ministry to coordinate with DFPD and achieve the target as stipulated above.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has noted for compliance.

The Ministry through its Autonomous institute NIESBUD is implementing the project in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The project is aimed to enable the 3000 FPS owners to run their businesses in consonance with the contemporary practices being adopted by Retail Entrepreneurs. As on 30.06.2025, training has been imparted to 315 FPS owners under the initiative. The nomination of participants is coordinated by DFPD in consultation with the respective State Food Distribution Departments. The training programme is organized upon receipt of nominations from DFPD.

MSDE has been regularly following up with DFPD and communicating the requirement for participant nominations to facilitate the timely implementation of the programme.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is implementing the project. The project is being funded as a special project under PMKVY 4.0. The project is aimed to enable the 3000 FPS owners to run their businesses in consonance with the contemporary practices being adopted by Retail Entrepreneurs. As on 30.06.2025, training has been imparted to 315 FPS owners under the initiative. The target has been revised and the program will now be implemented through E-learning model in order to ensure wider outreach.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution, vide its letter No. D.O. No. 6(5)/2024-PD-I (E-386722) dated 26th August 2025, requested National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) to develop e-learning modules in into 12 vernacular languages based on the capacity building curriculum delivered earlier as a five-day residential training programme for FPS dealers. These modules are to be hosted on an LMS platform to ensure wider outreach, particularly as the response from states for the existing residential courses has been limited.

MSDE, in coordination with DFPD, has initiated the process to outline the modalities for the development of the e-learning modules

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has noted for further compliance.

### **(Recommendation Para 35)**

The Committee note that the Project 'Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme' is specifically targeted at female students of colleges and universities. NIESBUD, Noida and the IIE, Guwahati, will be the Implementing Agency (IA) of the Project 'Swavalambini' of MSDE in collaboration with NITI Aayog. The initiative will focus on empowering female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) by providing them with essential skills, mentorship, and access to resources necessary for starting and scaling successful businesses. The Project will focus on comprehensive entrepreneurship training/ capacity-building combining theory-based training with practical exposure through experiential learning.

The Committee further note that the Project will be implemented in Banaras Hindu University and Chaudhary Charan Singh University (North Zone-Uttar Pradesh); University of Hyderabad, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, (South Zone-Telangana); Kiang Nangba

Government College, Jowai, Ri- Bhoi College, Ri Bhoi and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong (North East Zone-Meghalaya); Government Champai College, Lunglei Government College and Mizoram University (North East Zone-Mizoram); and Gauhati University, Handique College and Dispur College (North East Zone-Assam). The target of the Project is to train 1200 female students under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (NIESBUD - 600, IIE - 600), out of which, 600 will be further selected for the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NIESBUD-300, IIE - 300).

The Committee were apprised that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog and Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) as knowledge partner, have recently launched the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme on 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in North Eastern States of India *viz.* Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam. The Committee impress upon the Ministry to take necessary steps to ensure that the Project is launched/implemented in the already selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) of the remaining two States *viz.* Uttar Pradesh and Telengana.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry in collaboration with NITI Aayog and its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is implementing the project SWAVALAMBINI through its autonomous Institutes NIESBUD and IIE. The project comprises of Faculty Development Programme, training of 1200 female students under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme and out of which, 600 will be selected for undergoing Entrepreneurship Development Programme. As on 30.06.2025, following activities have been undertaken:

- (c) Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) have been organized for **591** students.
- (d) Faculty Development Programme for 43 faculty of HEIs have been completed.

Further the following activities are being planned:

- (e) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for 600 female students selected from EAP.
- (f) Shortlisting of the selected students from EDP for Award to Reward (initiative of NITI Aayog for hand-holding, mentoring support and setting up of new enterprise)

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog as knowledge partner, launched the Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme in February, 2025 in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana as a pilot project. The Ministry is implementing the programme through its

Autonomous Institutes, namely, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

The Swavalambini project introduces a structured, multi-stage training approach to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation. The Project aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among female students, equipping them with awareness of available support mechanisms, schemes, resources and networks essential for pursuing entrepreneurship as a career.

The target group for the Swavalambini Project includes 1200 female students from Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and Universities who will undergo introductory programme on entrepreneurial awareness through Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP). Out of these, 600 students selected from EAP participants will undergo the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) offering intensive entrepreneurship development training covering crucial business aspects such as skilling, access to finance, market linkages, compliance and legal support, business services and networking opportunities. This will be followed by 21 weeks of mentorship and handholding support to help participants translate their ideas into sustainable enterprises.

MSDE will oversee the execution, supervision, and monitoring of the programme, while NITI Aayog will organize workshops, provide mentoring support, facilitate seed funding, and recognize successful entrepreneurs through the Award To Reward (ATR) initiative.

During the mentoring and handholding support, industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs will guide the participants by providing mentorship and hands-on support. Successful entrepreneurs will be invited to share their experiences, highlighting the challenges they overcame and the strategies they used to establish their businesses.

To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs/Universities shall undergo a five-day training session. This initiative will equip educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions.

The overall programme-wise details of women participants trained in six Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana under the pilot project is as under:

<b>Name of the Programme</b>	<b>Total Target</b>	<b>Total Trained</b>
Faculty Development Programme (FDP)	75	82
Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)	1200	1,110
Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)	600	302

The State-wise details pertaining Uttar Pradesh and Telangana and its programme-wise details of number of women participants trained as on 10.11.2025 under the pilot project is as under:

<b>State</b>	<b>Name of the Programme (Total trained)</b>		
	<b>FDP</b>	<b>EAP</b>	<b>EDP</b>
Uttar Pradesh	38	491	254
Telangana	17	150	48
<b>Total</b>	55	641	302

Further the following activities are being planned:

- (a) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for 600 female students selected from EAP.
- (b) Shortlisting of the selected students from EDP for Award to Reward (initiative of NITI Aayog for hand-holding, mentoring support and setting up of new enterprise)

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further compliance.

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 36)**

**The Committee have been apprised that the programme will be implemented in four phases and will include Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) of 5 days for selected faculty members from colleges, Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) of 2 days for 1,200 students, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) of 40 hours for selected 600 students, followed by 6 months of mentoring and handholding support to ensure sustained guidance and business development assistance. The Committee desire that it would be in the fitness of things if the feedback is also obtained from trained faculty and students selected as well as trained after every phase of the Project so as to have an objective assessment of shortcomings as well as improvement in future training programmes.**

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry in collaboration with NITI Aayog and its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is implementing the project SWAVALAMBINI through its autonomous Institutes NIESBUD and IIE. The project comprises of Faculty Development Programme, training of 1200 female students under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme and out of which, 600 will be selected for undergoing Entrepreneurship Development Programme. As on 30.06.2025, following activities have been undertaken:

- (e) Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) have been organized for **591** students.
- (f) Faculty Development Programme for 43 faculty of HEIs have been completed.

Further the following activities are being planned:

- (g) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for 600 female students selected from EAP.

- (h) Shortlisting of the selected students from EDP for Award to Reward (initiative of NITI Aayog for hand-holding, mentoring support and setting up of new enterprise)

All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March, 2026.

**(Recommendation Para 37)**

The Committee have also been apprised that over the past ten years, both NIESBUD and IIE have collectively trained 12,33,699 candidates through various programs and interventions, demonstrating their significant contribution to the entrepreneurial ecosystem and notably, 7,06,617 (57.27%) of these trainees have been women. The Committee appreciate the contribution made by both NIESBUD and IIE and their commitment to promoting women's entrepreneurship and inclusive economic growth and desire both organizations to maintain momentum so as to ensure attainment of the objectives of the Project.

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry remains committed to promoting inclusive growth and will continue to maintain the momentum to achieve the objectives of the project in alignment with the larger vision of empowering entrepreneurs, particularly women, across the country.

**(Recommendation Para 39)**

The Ministry have further stated that the concerned State Governments and Regional Directorates of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will work together to identify suitable training centers to initiate training in the remaining 43 districts. The Committee desire the Ministry to strengthen their coordination and monitoring mechanism so as to ensure identification and operationalisation of Training Centres in 43 districts on urgent basis so that the deserving artisans peddle their products and services into domestic and global value chains.

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Out of 43 districts that were yet to be covered, training has already been initiated in 39 of these districts. In the remaining 4 districts, training could not be initiated due to low number of verified candidates, which is insufficient to create training batches.

### **(Recommendation Para 41)**

The Committee note that Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka are the major tea growing States. However, there is no job role exclusively related to Tea Plantation Workers under PMKVY 4.0. Considering the fact that tea plantations contribute significantly to employment and overall economic growth, the Committee recommend the Ministry to explore job role related skill training for Tea Plantation Workers under PMKVY 4.0 and set up JSSs in the remaining districts of these States so as to improve the income generation and livelihood of Tea Plantation Workers of the country.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

As regards PMKVY, the Observation/recommendation of the Committee has noted for compliance.

PMKVY is a demand-driven scheme wherein targets are allocated to eligible Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) based on proposals submitted in line with the scheme guidelines. Under PMKVY 2.0 and PMKVY 3.0, over 46,000 candidates from states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and West Bengal were upskilled in the "Tea Plantation Worker" job role through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) component of the scheme. Currently, under PMKVY 4.0, no proposal for training in the "Tea Plantation Worker" job role has been received so far. However, MSDE will actively consider such demand driven proposals under PMKVY 4.0.

As regards JSS, the Ministry acknowledges the Committee's valuable recommendation regarding skill training for Tea Plantation Workers under PMKVY 4.0. Recognizing the sector's contribution to employment and the economy, the Ministry will explore the development of customized job roles aligned with the needs of tea plantation workers in consultation with relevant Sector Skill Councils.

The suggestion to set up Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) in the remaining districts of major tea-growing states like Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka is well taken. The Ministry will assess the feasibility of phased expansion of JSSs in these regions to enhance access to livelihood-oriented skill training for plantation workers. In addition, the Ministry would further consider incorporating job roles specifically related to tea plantations and encourage skill development initiatives tailored to this sector in the Jan Shikshan Sansthan's presently active in the afore-said states.

### **REVISED REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

PMKVY is a demand-driven scheme wherein targets are allocated to eligible Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) based on proposals submitted in line with the scheme guidelines. Under PMKVY 2.0 and PMKVY 3.0, over 46,000 candidates from states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and West Bengal were upskilled in the "Tea Plantation Worker" job role through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) component of the scheme. Currently, under PMKVY 4.0, no proposal for training in the "Tea Plantation Worker" job role has been received so far. However, MSDE will actively consider such demand driven proposals under PMKVY 4.0.

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### **(Recommendation Para 43)**

The Committee were apprised during evidence on 19.11.2024, that it is proposed to set up 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs) to promote skill based International mobility. The Committee have now been apprised that while two SIICs have been established at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha), the work relating to setting up of additional 5 SIICs at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (Assam); NSTI, Bengaluru (Karnataka); NSTI, Ludhiana (Punjab); NSTI, Hyderabad (Telangana) and NSTI, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), is in advanced stage. The Committee desire that appropriate steps be taken on priority to ensure that the remaining Skill India International Centres are set up and made operational in a time bound manner so as to facilitate international workforce mobility opportunities for Indians and achieve the objective of making India the skill capital of the world. The Committee would like to be apprised of progress made in this regard.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is in the process of establishing 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs), beginning with 7 centres as pilot projects in government-run institutions. At present, two SIICs—located in Varanasi and Bhubaneswar—are operational, and five more at Guwahati, Bengaluru, Ludhiana, Hyderabad, and Kanpur have been approved by the Project Steering Committee chaired by Secretary, MSDE. The establishment of new centres is targeted by 31/05/2025, while Center at Guwahati is likely to be operationalized by 15/06/2025. Given that SIICs involve skilled migration, their operations are governed by the Emigration Act, 1983, which mandates that recruitment for overseas employment be done through MEA-approved Recruitment Agents (RAs). Since NSDC does not hold an RA license and its application for the same was rejected by MEA, MSDE has decided to empanel RAs through an Expression of Interest process, guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are being finalized in consultation with MEA. These SOPs will define roles, responsibilities of various stakeholders, and financial arrangements. As part of a phased approach to address regulatory and logistical challenges, MSDE is prioritizing the operationalization of the 7 pilot SIICs. Once SOPs are finalized, the remaining 23 centres will be established in a time-bound and standardized manner.

#### **(Recommendation Para 44)**

The Committee trust that the Ministry have taken appropriate action on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Third Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry, which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 16.12.2024.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The observations and recommendations of the Committee as outlined in the Third Report on the Demands for Grants (2024–25) of the Ministry, have been appropriately acted upon in respect of all the schemes of the Ministry, namely, PMKVY, NAPS, SANKALP etc. Further, it is stated that the SANKALP scheme has been closed on 31.03.2025 and closure processes are being pursued. The Ministry remains committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in letter and spirit and ensure greater transparency, efficiency in its functioning.

## CHAPTER-III

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

#### **(Recommendation Para 23)**

The Committee note that as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, 21259 establishments have engaged 8,22,196 apprentices and out of them, 6,643 (0.81%) have been engaged by 408 establishments located in North-Eastern Region (NER) States. The Committee, thus find that the NER offers significantly lesser apprenticeship opportunities compared to the rest of the country. Therefore, considering the inherent issues of the States of the North Eastern Region, the Ministry is contemplating a Pilot project exclusively for NER to promote apprenticeship for which a Concept Note is in the draft stage. The Committee feel that implementation of the NAPS is marred with shortfall in North Eastern Region. The Committee would, therefore, like to impress upon the Ministry to take up the Concept Note for pilot project on NER on priority basis so to undertake capacity building of the apprenticeship ecosystem for the people of the NER.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Under NAPS in FY 2024-25 (as on 31.03. 2025) 23,386 establishments have been engaged 9,85,653 apprentices and out of them, 7,446 (0.76%) have been engaged by 352 establishments located in North-Eastern Region (NER) States. The Pilot initiative for special intervention for promotion of apprenticeship in NER of Rs.43.94 Cr. for the FY 2025-26 has been approved by the competent authority and the Pilot Scheme has already been launched by Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on 20.05.2025 in Mizoram. Under this initiative, an additional incentive of upto ₹1500 is provided for apprentices who are domiciled in the NER and undertake apprenticeships within the NER (excluding the domiciled State) or outside the region. This measure is intended to attract youths to undertake apprenticeship outside their own State. Within the total financial outlay, a budget of ₹3 Crore has been allocated for awareness and advocacy activities, aimed at mobilizing youths and establishments to participation in NAPS-2 across the NER.

#### **(Recommendation Para 38)**

The Committee note that PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, which aims at upskilling the Vishwakarma's with the knowledge of modern tools and techniques coupled with credit support for expanding their business. The Scheme is being implemented by three Ministries i.e., Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and MSDE is the nodal ministry for implementation of Skilling Component of the Scheme. A

total of 18 trades are covered under the Scheme to promote onboarding of training centres under the scheme.

The Committee note that as on 15.02.2025, PMV id is available in 679 districts, however, training has been initiated in 636 districts, the training is yet to be initiated in 43 districts. Further, 26,96,358 PMV ID are available and as on 15.02.2025, 18,99,385 candidates have been trained and assessed against the target of 16 lakh candidates for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Committee observe that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana is currently available in 34 out of 36 States/ Union Territories except Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Ministry have stated that the State Monitoring Committee and District Implementation Committees have not yet been constituted by these two States. The Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter with the two State Governments without any further delay and resolve the issue so that products and services of artisans of the two States also have their benevolent share in domestic and global value chains. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The PM Vishwakarma Yojana is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) as the Nodal Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (M/o SDE), and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. As per the Scheme Guidelines, the responsibility for registration of beneficiaries and integration with the various components of the scheme rests with M/oMSME. Further, coordination with State Governments, for the formation and operationalisation of State Monitoring Committee and District Implementation Committees is under the jurisdiction of M/o MSME.

The M/o SDE is entrusted with the implementation of the Skilling component of the Scheme. Once the data of the beneficiaries for these 2 states i.e. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is received from M/o MSME, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will immediately initiate training and assessment of the beneficiaries in these states

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION**

#### **(Recommendation Para 27)**

The Committee note that out of 25.38 lakh apprentices engaged w.e.f. 2022-23 upto 18.02.2025, 11.37 lakh candidates (44%) belonged to SC, ST and OBC [2.97 lakh SCs, 1.12 lakh STs, and 7.28 lakh OBCs]. The Committee have been apprised that although there is no target allocation based on social category, the Ministry *vide* letter dated 28.01.2025 have requested all State Commissioners/Directors dealing with Skilling/ Apprenticeship Training and State Skill Development Missions to further sensitize the identified vulnerable pockets about all PMNAM events. The Committee while appreciating the steps taken by the Ministry emphasise that periodic review of such measures be undertaken so as to ensure that social category candidates are not deprived of the benefits of the Scheme.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Under NAPS-2 from FY2022-23 to FY2025-26 (as on 30.04.2025), 27.44 lakh apprentices engaged, 17.84 lakh candidates (56.08%) belonged to SC, ST and OBC [4.71 lakh SCs, 1.78 lakh STs, and 11.34 lakh OBCs].

**Review of Measure:** As per the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, Section 5: Reservation of Training Places - The training places for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes in designated trades shall be reserved by the employer according to the prescribed norms followed in the respective State or Union Territory. In addition, 8.6% and 16.6% of the fund is being allocated for the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste category, respectively.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**Please refer to Para No.18 of Chapter-I of the report.**

### **(Recommendation Para 32)**

**The Committee have been apprised that the target group to be covered under the programme are either the existing vendors or the new entrepreneurs who have the capacity to become empanelled vendors by submitting bank guarantee of Rs. 2.50 Lakh as per the guidelines framed by the MNRE. In the considered opinion of the Committee, the bank guarantee of Rs. 2.50 Lakh may stand a stumbling block for many especially the vendors in the rural areas. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take up the matter regarding review of the guidelines with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy so as to reduce the amount of Bank guarantee.**

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

“The Observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

NIESBUD under the MSDE in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on Solar Entrepreneurship under the flagship initiative, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The programme aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, empower entrepreneurs, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by fostering and mentoring budding and existing entrepreneurs in the field of solar entrepreneurship.

NIESBUD received the sanction from the MNRE in the month of September 2024. The Project has been sanctioned for implementation across two financial years F.Y. 2024 - 25 and 2025 – 26 with a target to train 50,000 participants.

As on 31.05.2025, the Institute has imparted training to 13,210 participants under the project.

The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate awareness and mobilisation for the programme with continuous follow-ups with MNRE, State Governments and concerned Departments. All efforts are being made to ensure that the target is completed by March 2026.”

### **Comments of the Committee**

**Please refer to Para No.25 of Chapter-I of the report.**

## CHAPTER-V

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

#### **(Recommendation Para 40)**

The Committee note that the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) was conceived to support National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) in achieving its full potential. The Scheme was conceptualized to operationalize Skill India Mission by setting in motion the sub-Missions proposed under the NSDM. It is a US \$ 250 million (Rs.1,650 crore) World Bank Loan assisted Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the MSDE. The Scheme was made effective on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 with an initial implementation period till March, 2023, which has been extended till March, 2025. The Committee further note that the World Bank has reviewed the project deliverables during Implementation Completion Mission (ICM) in March 2024 and submitted an Implementation Status and Results Report, in which they have rated the project's performance as 'Satisfactory'.

The Committee have been apprised that the targets set for all the four Project Development Objectives (PDOs) under the Scheme have been achieved. The Committee have also been apprised that the targets for all the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) have been achieved except for DLI7, which is under verification by the Independent Verification Agency and is expected to be completed by March 2025. The Committee exhort the Ministry to make sincere efforts and ensure that verification of the remaining Disbursement Linked Indicator *viz.* DL17 is completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. Further, as informed by the Ministry, at present, there is no proposal to extend the Scheme beyond March, 2025 or introduce any other Scheme on similar lines. The Committee, therefore, recommend that an impact assessment of the Scheme be undertaken during 2025-26 and completed in a time bound manner.

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

With respect to the verification of DLI 7, the Committee is apprised that the targets towards DLI 7 have been achieved and duly verified by the Independent Verification Agency of SANKALP within the timeline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Further, the Committee is apprised that Impact Assessment of SANKALP scheme is being conducted by NITI Aayog as a part of 'Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Package 4 - Urban Transformation & Skill Development'. The evaluation is presently under progress.

### **(Recommendation Para 42)**

The Committee note that the 'Review of National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship' Project was assigned to BCG India, which has submitted the draft National Policy Document in December 2024 and the same is being reviewed in consultation with key stakeholders. The Committee call upon the Ministry to strengthen their coordination mechanism, analyse the views/suggestions of key stakeholders and complete the review exercise in a time bound manner so as to *interalia* enhance skill development ecosystem and foster lifelong learning to improve employability and meet the evolving needs of the economy.

### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Committee is apprised that the exercise of review and revision of the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship involved wide stakeholders' consultations with Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs Governments, Industries/Industry Associations, Sector Skill Councils, and Experts. Taking into consideration the suggestions and feedback received during these consultations, a final draft of the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2025 has been prepared and put up on the MyGov portal for the comments/views from the general public, by 30.06.2025. Also, the key stakeholders (Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs Governments, Industry/Industry Associations, Sector Skill Councils, etc.) have also been requested to provide their comprehensive views/comments on the draft national policy, by 30.06.2025.

**New Delhi;**  
**24 March 2026**  
**3 Chaitra 1948 (Saka)**

**BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR,**  
**TEXTILES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT  
(2025-26)**

**Minutes of the Ninth Sitting of the Committee**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 24 March, 2026 from 1500 hrs. to 1615 hrs. in Samanvay 5, Parliament House, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Basavaraj Bommai- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri G. M. Harish Balayogi
3. Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
4. Shri G. Lakshminarayana
5. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany
6. Shri Tanuj Punia
7. Shri Pradeep Purohit
8. Shri Raja Ram Singh
9. Shri Chavan Ravindra Vasantryao

**RAJYA SABHA**

10. Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia
11. Shri Rajendra Gehlot
12. Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain
13. Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba
14. Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi

## **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                           |   |                  |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Mukesh Kumar Sharma  | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Ms. K. Muanniang Tunglut  | - | Director         |
| 3. | Ms. Mili Dinesh           | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri S. Lalengzau Ngaihte | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Ms. Shilpa Kant           | - | Under Secretary  |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee, convened for consideration and adoption of the following Reports on:

(i) Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Labour & Employment;

(ii) Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles; and

(iii) Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

3. Giving an overview of the important Observations/Recommendations contained in the Draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/ suggestions of the Members.

4. The Committee, then, took up the Draft Reports one by one for consideration and after some discussions, the draft Reports were adopted by the Committee with some modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Draft Reports and present them to Parliament.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTH REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

		<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>I.</b>	Total number of Recommendations	<b>44</b>	
<b>II.</b>	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – <b>Rec. Para Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11, 12,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43 and 44</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>86.362%</b>
<b>III.</b>	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government’s reply – <b>Rec. Para Nos.23 and 38</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>4.546%</b>
<b>IV</b>	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration – <b>Rec. Para Nos. 27 and 32</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>4.546%</b>
<b>V</b>	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature - <b>Rec. Para Nos. 40 and 42</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>4.546%</b>
			<b>100%</b>