

RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE ECONOMIC TIMES ON 22/09/2018

This is with reference to article published by Economic Times titled “**Congress alleges scam in Skill India mission, seeks probe**”) citing an article published by Indian National Congress (INC) on its website titled “**Skill India: Skimming the future off India’s youth**”. **These articles are based on a story carried out by India today last week.**

Link to Economic Times Article: (<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/congress-alleges-scam-in-skill-india-mission-seeks-probe/articleshow/65908663.cms>)

Link to INC Article: (<https://www.inc.in/en/in-focus/skill-india-skimming-the-future-off-indias-youth>).

The key issues highlighted in the article relate to:

1. The Alleged Low placement performance under PMKVY

Placement Performance PMKVY: One of the key points highlighted in the article relates to placement performance under PMKVY. The article suggests that 48 lakhs candidate have been reported as trained under PMKVY however only 7.06 lakhs have been provided with employment i.e. just 14.7 percent. Since the As compared to the above, the actual numbers as reported by MSDE in response to Parliamentary Questions during 2018 Monsoon Session of Parliament are as below:

Number of Candidates Trained under PMKVY (in Lacs)				
Scheme Component	STT	RPL**	Special Projects	Total
PMKVY 1 (2015-2016)*	18.04	1.81	-	19.85
PMKVY 2 (2016-2020) CSCM	22.01	7.82	0.51	30.34
PMKVY 2 (2016-2020) CSSM	0.29			0.29
Total	40.34	9.63	0.51	50.48

*PMKVY 1 (2015-16) was a reward based schemes and placement tracking was not a part of the scheme.

** Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process of recognising prior skills of candidates which would have acquired through an informal setup or on the Job, by gaining qualifications in a formal setup. **RPL trainings are not linked to placements.**

As the scheme provides a 90-day window for any Training Provider to provide job to a certified candidates, 11.8 Lac candidates have been certified as on 10th Apr 2018 under Short Term Training component of PMKVY (2016-2020) out of which 7.06 lac candidates are reported placed as on 10th Jul 2018 (cut-off date for data reported during 2018 Monsoon Session of Parliament) which is more than 59% vis-à-vis 14.7% as reported in articles in subject. Further, the above figure of 50.48 lacs trained candidates include 9.63 lacs candidate trained under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) track which targets individuals with prior experience and mainly focuses on the individuals engaged in unorganised sectors. Further, the figure also contains 18.04 lakh candidates trained under PMKVY 1 which was a non-placement linked scheme. And the placement data for which were not included in the reply to the parliament question.

2. Few specific cases where trainees have faced issues.

It is observed that **the cases of candidates highlighted in the article are a part of the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) of Ministry of textile and not a part of PMKVY Scheme.** Specific Instanced highlighted regarding PMKVY trainings and the placements have been clarified below.

Integrated Skill Development Scheme, Ministry of Textiles

Specific instances highlighted in the article like the case of Ramanuj & Tara Chandra have been addressed and FIR bearing No. 0048 dated 21.09.2018 under IPC-1860, Section 420/34 against Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Education Research, Pune & Modern Education Society, Sonipat (Implementing Agencies of ISDS Scheme of Ministry of Textiles) have been registered at Police Station, South Avenue. A thorough investigation/action has also been requested to the SHO, Police Station, South Avenue. Moreover, funds to be released to these Implementing Agencies have been withheld and financial penalties have also been imposed on these agencies. The details of these can also be found in **Annexure-I and Annexure-II of Annexure B of this document.**

Further details on the above is presented in two parts, **first PMKVY of Ministry of Skill Development (Annexure-A)** and **second on status report of Integrated Skill Development Scheme of Ministry of Textiles (Annexure-B).**

Status of Skill Development in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Annexure-A)

The Standard Training Assessment and Reward (STAR) scheme was implemented by NSDC and was operational between August 2013 and September 2014. STAR was a reward based scheme with an average outlay of Rs 10,000/- per candidate. Despite being a reward scheme for candidates, reward money was routed to the training partners account through auto debit system which was creating ambiguity. After formation of the new Ministry, the outcome of STAR scheme was evaluated and it was found that due to absence of an effective monitoring system, lack of employment linkages, lack of model qualifications and curriculum etc, there was very little tangible outcome of the scheme.

Following these learnings, a new scheme was initiated i.e. PMKVY 1 again as a reward based scheme addressing many of the shortcomings of STAR scheme. As a result of this the pilot and its internal evaluation PMKVY 1 (2015-16) was transitioned to PMKVY 2 (2016-20), a grant based scheme. The detailed evolution is as below:

PMKVY Evolution

PMKVY was launched as a pilot in 2015, as a reward-based scheme providing entire cost of training as reward to successful candidates. The scheme was designed as a skill certification and reward scheme with an aim to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youth to take up skill training and become employable for sustainable livelihood. Under the scheme, monetary reward was provided to successfully trained candidates. During its pilot phase, PMKVY trained over 19 Lakh candidates in 375 job roles. Owing to its successful first year of implementation, the Union Cabinet has approved the Scheme for another four years (2016-2020) to impart skilling to 1 Crore youth of the country with an outlay of Rs.12,000 crores.

PMKVY was preceded by National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme, known as STAR (Standard Training Assessment and Reward), which was formally unveiled in August 2013. The Scheme was the largest voucher-based skill development program in the country that allowed a candidate to get trained on industry recognized occupational standards based on their individual choices. On successfully completing a 30-days training program conducted by identified training providers, undergoing assessment conducted by an independent assessment agency and successful certification, the candidate was eligible to receive an average monetary reward of Rs 10,000, using which they can repay the training provider towards the course fee.

Enhanced focus on Quality and Placement under PMKVY (2016-2020)

PMKVY (2016-2020) is a grant based scheme, providing free of cost skill development training and skill certification in over 252 job roles to increase the employability of the youth. The scheme was launched on 2nd October 2016 with the following objectives:

- Provide fresh skill development training to school dropouts, college dropouts and unemployed youth through short term courses
- Recognise the skill available of the current work force through skill certification
- Engage States in the implementation of the scheme leading to capacity development of the states
- Improved quality of training infrastructure along with alignment of training with the needs of the industry
- Encourage standardization in the certification process and initiate a process of creating a registry of skills

Some of the salient features introduced in the scheme to improve quality in training and to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency include the following:

- One stop web based solution for Center Accreditation, Affiliation and Continuous Monitoring through SMART portal
- The centres for which applications are submitted on this portal are being inspected by third party independent agency
- Rigorous & continuous monitoring of training centre infrastructure through robust monitoring framework
- Accreditation Standards Grading Metrics has been developed to benchmark the Training Centres (TCs) across the country
- Trainers have to mandatorily undergo the 'Train the Trainer' program of the concerned Sector Skill Councils
- TCs are evaluated for their ongoing performance related to Monitoring Standards such as placements, branding, infrastructure etc.
- Standard Trainee handbook and Induction Kits are being provided to trainees. Availability of content through online skilling content marketplace and eBook reader app for availability of content in vernacular languages
- Aadhaar Based Biometric attendance has been mandated for Trainees, Trainers and Assessors
- The entire workflow ranging from enrolment of candidates to disbursement of tranche based payments to training providers and certification is managed through Skill Development Management System (SDMS).
- To enhance Industry participation in skill training, Training Centres (TCs) are being incentivized for providing placement to trained candidates.
- Increased focus on Soft skills, Entrepreneurship, Financial and Digital Literacy
- All the data pertaining to the scheme from training center details to candidate training lifecycle can be accessed by any citizen through the PMKVY official website.

Monitoring under PMKVY (2016-2020)

Training Delivery under PMKVY (2016-2020) is being monitored through various channels including Call Validation, Out Bound Dialing and Surprise Centre visits. All the centres which are found to have any discrepancies are referred to Monitoring Committee which deliberates on the cases being presented and takes suitable action as per approved Penalty Grid. More than 250 centres under PMKVY (2016-2020) have been suspended for noncompliance, the list of which is published on PMKVY official website.

The above articles refer to a couple of candidates, however, further case details are not provided. As the article relates these candidates to ISDS scheme of Ministry of Textile, the same has been forwarded by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to Ministry of Textile. In case further details are made available related to related to cases under PMKVY, our Ministry will investigate such cases and will take suitable action.

Status Report on Skill Development in Ministry of Textiles (Annexure-B)

The Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) was introduced by Ministry of Textiles as a pilot scheme on October 2010. ISDS main phase was approved by CCEA on 23rd August 2013 for the 12th plan period up-to 2016-17. The scheme ended on 30.11.2017. Under ISDS, year-wise physical achievement is as follows:-

Year	Trained (in persons)	Placed (in persons)
2010-11	1,479	1,070
2011-12	34,432	21,259
2012-13	84,224	53,610
2013-14	1,35,847	91,184
2014-15	1,30,193	83,549
2015-16	2,17,682	1,85,178
2016-17	4,01,611	3,25,878
2017-18	1,09,077	81,354
Total	11,14,545	8,43,082

2. In ISDS, following **measures were taken** for effective implementation of the scheme:
- A web based centralized Management Information System was operationalized for implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
 - Bio-metric attendance system was introduced.
 - Random physical verification of the live training centre through field offices of O/o Textiles Commissioner, Mumbai and calling verification by Project Management Unit were done for effective monitoring.
 - Penalties on the basis of physical verification by the Office of Textile Commissioner were imposed on Implementing Agencies as per penalty matrix wherever any irregularity was observed.
 - 10% Payment of each Implementing agency has been withheld subject to third party evaluation carried out by the PWC.

3. Status of Modern Education Society and MAEER under ISDS

(a) India Today News channel in their TV telecast dated 20th September, 2018 reported fraud by the 2 implementing agencies under the Ministry of Textiles, Integrated Skill Development Scheme. In the report, the names of the beneficiaries highlighted are namely, Shri Tarachandra, Shri Ramanuj and Ms. Aneeta, who have not undergone training under the scheme but received the certificate. These persons were conned by the middlemen using the centres flagship programme. Two other natives of Chaukin Purava village in Banda, Uttar Pradesh were also taken for a ride by conmen in the name of Skill India. The details of the 2 agencies are:-

- Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Education Research, Pune
Address- Paud Road, Kothrud, Pune- 411038, India
Tel- 91-20-30273400/30273459, Mob- 9422359927
- Modern Education Society, Sonipat
Address-H No. 241, Street No. 1, Gopalpur Road,
Kharkhoda, Sonipat-131401
Mob No. 9868152493

(b) The details of the training target, achievements and penalty imposed in respect of these two agencies with fund release position is at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**.

(c) As per record of the Ministry, it was observed that certificates of having trained under the scheme have been given to the beneficiary (QR code enabled online generated certificate). Prime Facie it was found that fraud have been committed by the above mentioned 2 agencies. Accordingly, as per direction of the competent authority a request was given on 21.09.2018 to SHO, Police Station, South Avenue for lodging an FIR against above 2 agencies and conduct a thorough investigation/action.

(d) Police Station, South Avenue has filed an FIR bearing No. 0048 dated 21.09.2018 under IPC-1860, Section 420/34 against above two implementing Agency of ISDS Scheme of Ministry of Textiles.

4. Provisions under Samarth Scheme for better monitoring and management

A new scheme "Samarth" for skill development in textile sector has been introduced by Ministry of Textile, for which empanelment of Implementing Partners and target allocation is under progress. In this scheme, following measures have been taken to overcome the shortcoming of the earlier scheme:-

- (i) 100% physical verification of Training Centres before allocation of training target.
- (ii) Aadhaar Enabled Biometric attendance System (AEBAS) with minimum 80% attendance for assessment
- (iii) CCTV recording of entire training programme and assessment process; to be kept for a minimum period of the one year.
- (iv) 70% mandatory placement within 3 months of completion of training and placed trainees to be retained for 3 months.
- (v) Mandatory wage employment of 70% for organized sector; for traditional sector, Minimum 50% to be wage employment with balance (of 70%) in self-employment.
- (vi) Post Placement tracking for one year.
- (vii) Dedicated Cal centre (Helpline- 1800-258-7150):- Call centre has been operationalized under the new scheme to address the queries/ grievances of different stakeholders.
- (viii) Mobile App for different stakeholders for ease of monitoring and implementation and also to prevent misrepresentation of facts by the physical verification agency/officer at ground level.
- (ix) Preference to be given to marginalized social group and 115 aspirational districts.
- (x) Public grievance redressal mechanism:- any grievance can be submitted through three modes – Call Centre, Mobile App or Scheme website. Grievance Redressal Officer (GRO) under Ministry of Textiles will ensure timely redressal of the grievances.

Annexure-I

1. Agency Name: **Modern Education Society**
2. Training Target and achievement under ISDS as per MIS:

S.No.	Sanction date	Target	Trained	Placed	Eligible Project Cost
Main phase	24.02.2016	1500	1499	1114	Rs.14990000/-
Additional	29.05.2017	500	500	352	Rs. 5000000/-
Total		2000	1999	1466	Rs. 19990000/-

3. Details of funds released/penalty imposed:-

S. No	Particular	Details of 1500 target	Details of 500 Target
1	Eligible Project cost based on the achievement	Rs.149,90,000/-	Rs.50,00,000/-
		Rs. 199,90,000/-	
2	Penalty imposed based on unsatisfactory OTxC report and calling verification	Rs.14,99,000/-	Rs.23,40,000/-
		Rs. 38,39,000/-	
3.	Amount withheld subject to third party verification carried out by the PWC		Rs. 6,98,235
	Total funds released	Rs. 134,91,000/-	Rs. 16,16,663/-
		Rs. 151,07,663/-	

Annexure-II

1. Agency Name: **Maharashtra Academy of Engineering Education and Research (MAEER)**

1. Training Target and achievement under ISDS as per MIS:

S.No.	Sanction date	Target	Trained	Placed	Eligible Project Cost
Main Phase	14.12.2015	1500	1500	1074	Rs. 150,00,000/-

2. Details of funds released/penalty imposed:-

S. No	Particular	Details of 1500 target
1	Eligible Project cost based on the achievement	Rs.150,00,000/-
2	Penalty imposed based on unsatisfactory OTxC report and calling verification	Rs.5,00,000/-
3.	Amount withheld subject to third party verification carried out by the PWC	Rs. 14,94,739/-
	Total funds released	Rs. 129,52,665-