

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:540  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR BPL YOUTH  
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**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide skill development and training for unskilled Below Poverty Line (BPL) youth in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the programme; and
- (c) the likely timeframe for implementation of the said programme?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b) Central Government has operationalised Skill Development Initiative (SDI) Scheme since May 2007 with an objective to provide training and employment to school leavers, existing workers especially in informal sector including those under Below Poverty Line to improve their employability. Existing skills of the persons can also be tested and certified under the scheme. Testing/assessment of the competencies are done by independent empanelled assessing bodies. Training under the SDI scheme is provided by various Vocational Training Providers (VTPs) under Central Government, State Governments, Public and Private sector industrial establishments. 1,413 demand driven short term course modules in 72 sectors have been developed in close consultation with industry, training providers and trade experts. The implementation of the scheme is being done through web portal. Salient Features of the scheme are :

# Demand Driven short term training courses based on Modular Employable Skills (MES) are decided in consultation with industry. MES is the minimum skills set which is sufficient for gainful employment.

# Optimum utilization of existing infrastructure to make training cost effective.

# Flexible delivery mechanism (part- time, weekends, full time, on site / offsite) to suit needs of various target groups.

# Different levels of programmes (foundation level as well as skill up gradation) to meet demands of various target groups.

# Courses are also available for persons having completed 5th Standard or have functional literacy and numeracy skills.

# Testing and Certification of skills acquired informally.

# Testing of skills of trainees by independent assessing bodies, which are not involved in training delivery, to ensure that it is done impartially.

# The essence of the scheme is in the certification that is nationally and internationally recognized.

(c) The SDI scheme has been under implementation since 2007.