

UIDAI-like body soon for skill development

PMO pushes proposal for establishment this year; to infuse ₹40,000 cr in the authority initially

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The government is likely to set up a National Skills Development Authority, on the lines of the Unique Identification Authority of India. Initially, about ₹40,000 crore is said to be pumped into the body, to be set up by the end of this year.

It is aimed to, by funding various projects, impart skills to about 30 million people over the next five years, over a third of the total skill development target of 80 million people by 2018 (there is also a government target of skills to 500 mn people by 2022).

"The Prime Minister's Office and the Planning Commission are considering setting (it) up. An understanding has been reached to introduce it this year," said an official. He said the contours, including deployment of funds, were being worked out.

This is to be more than an advisory body, unlike the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development (NCS), mainly concerned with vision setting and core strategy. The council may be subsumed into this authority. Besides allocating funds, it is proposed to enable it to evaluate and implement projects. As the umbrella body for skill development, it would involve the private sector, for skill development

and absorbing those trained.

The authority will aim at Sector Skill Councils in various sectors — automobiles, retail, security services, food processing, etc — to bring together all stakeholders on one platform.

Five years earlier, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had announced plans to set up 50,000 skill development centres. So far, none has been.

India's workforce is the second largest in the world after China. Only two per cent of the total workforce has undergone skill training, says a report by industry chamber FICCI. Another study, by The Boston Consulting Group for the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, estimated that by 2020 the world would have a shortage of 47 million working people but India would have a surplus of 56 million.

NCS, an advisory body, was set up in 2008 with some cabinet ministers, experts in the area, representatives from the Planning Commission, the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the last-named body was set up to promote private sector action for skill development. NSDC has a mandate of imparting skills to 150 mn people in 10 years. Concerns have been expressed about the ambitious target of the ₹2,500

WORKING HARD

Current status of ministry-wise targets for skill development

Ministry/ Department/ Organisation	Target* for 2012-13
Labour & Employment	2,500,000
Micro, Small & Medium Enterp.	600,000
Agriculture	1,000,000
Rural Development	500,000
Higher Education	220,000
Women & Child Development	150,000
Housing & Urban Poverty Allev.	1,000,000
Tourism	54,000
Social Justice & Empowerment	40,000
Textiles	250,000
Heavy Industries	20,000
Department of IT	4,40,000
National Skill Development Corp.	4,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	30,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	3,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	11,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	100,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	5,000
Total	7,323,000

*The number of people the government aims to cover

Source: NSDC



crore public-private partnership.

To expedite large-scale skill development, the Council organised a workshop on July 13 with government officials from Uttar Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Odisha. These states account for 80 per cent of the national

skilling target. States which had achieved significant progress in specific initiatives shared best practices, based on their experiences that could be replicated in other states.