

VIABILITY GAP FUNDING FOR PRIVATE SKILL TRAINING PROVIDERS: HARISH RAWAT

NEW DELHI, February 17, 2010: The Government proposes to create training infrastructure in far flung areas of the country by setting up 1500 ITIs, and 5000 Skill Development Centres (SDCs) in PPP mode, in unserved blocks, so that training facilities are available at the doorstep of the youth in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country, Mr. Harish Rawat, Minister of State for Labour & Employment, said here today.

Inaugurating the FICCI-ITC Network Roundtable on Leveraging ITCs, Mr. Rawat said that “the Government would provide viability gap funding to private skill training providers, who would manage the institutes for 20-30 years.”

The Minister said that the Government was considering increasing the ambit of apprenticeship training to cover a large number of undertakings. Earlier, only the formal sector apprentices were able to get certification of their skills from the Government. Now the informal apprentices can also get their skills certified under the Modular Employable Skills (MES) scheme, he said.

“Skill development holds the key to promote employability, competitiveness and economic growth and I would like to point out that the contribution of large industrial houses requires much closer scrutiny,” he said.

Mr. Rawat said that the Government was engaged in finding solutions to the challenges faced by India like skill gaps between the skills provided by vocational training institutions and the skills demanded by the industry. Quality and relevance were also important issues that needed to be tackled on an urgent footing, he said.

Mr. Sharda Prasad, Director General, DGE&T, underlined the need for a national forum where ITCs could participate and bring to the fore the problems faced by them. He stressed the need for improving infrastructure, the quality of trainers and benchmarking training standards with the best practices prevalent globally.

FICCI's vision on skill development was spelt out by Mr. Neti Srinivasan, Executive Committee Member – FICCI Skill Development Forum. The problems and challenges faced by ITCs were articulated by representatives from Don Bosco, Skills for Progress (SKIP), Town Schools Education Initiatives, International Computer Institute and other ITCs.
MEDIA DIVISION

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Taresh

Media

Tel

9899115719

23753119 (Fax)

:

23736307

Relations

&

23357392

Arora

Officer

(Direct)

(Mobile)