

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) has been implementing Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NULM) to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skill wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P) is one of the components of the Mission. The EST&P component is designed to provide skills to the unskilled urban poor as well as to upgrade their existing skills. The programme will provide for skill training of the urban poor to enable them setting up self-employment ventures and for salaried jobs in the private sector. During last financial year 7 States (Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Telangana) implemented EST&P component (partially) through National Skill Development Council (NSDC) affiliated training partners. More than fifty nine thousand urban poor across these 7 States were imparted Skill Training *via* NSDC affiliated training partners.

(b) Yes, Sir. States/UTs may empanel private Skill Training Providers (STPs) through a bidding process. States/UTs may also directly enter into an agreement with Government Institutes such as Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), Polytechnic Colleges, Technical Universities, etc. with details of modalities for mobilization, training, certification, bank linkage, mandatory placement/self-employment setting up and tracking of the successful candidate.

Measures taken by NSDC to enhance soft skills

1071. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that candidates for employment significantly lack soft skills and this worsens their chances of being hired;

(b) what are the measures taken by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and other associated skill development institutes to curb this gap;

(c) whether they have proven to be effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Soft Skills add to the prospects of a person in getting employment. The Government has notified Common Norms applicable to all Central skill development schemes/programmes

w.e.f April, 2016 which *inter-alia* provide soft skills (which would include computer literacy, language and workplace inter personal skills relevant for the sector/trade) to be integral part of skill training process and suitably integrated into the course module. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched revised Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in July, 2016 to train one crore person in four years (2016-2020) which is being implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). All the courses under PMKVY (2016-2020) include entrepreneurship and Soft Skills as part of the training being imparted which will help the trainees in getting employment after completion of the training.

Employment to persons with disabilities

1072. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is focusing on generating or providing employment to persons with disabilities; and

(b) if so, whether schemes are being implemented for skill development and vocational training of persons with disabilities and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) The National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities has been launched on 21st March 2015. In order to implement National Action Plan, a panel of Training Partners has been drawn up comprising 202 organizations, including 14 Government Organizations and 188 Voluntary Organizations. Apart from these Empanelled Training Partners, Skilling of Persons with Disabilities is also being done through the seven National Institutes under the Department and the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities). The details of Empanelled Training Partners, State-wise are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of empanelled training partners

| Sl. No. | State/UT | No. of Empanelled Training Partners |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 9 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3 |