

More projects approved for skill development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will have 18 projects funded by it by the end of March 2011 that will train totally about 1.9 lakh people in the first year, according to the Chairman of the Corporation M.V. Subbiah.

Speaking at a session on “Skill Development in India – Opportunities and Challenges”, organised here on Wednesday by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the NSDC, he said that it had funded five projects so far and approved 13. The NSDC conducted a skill gap analysis in 20 sectors. Between 2008 and 2022, about 240 million people should be skilled in these sectors.

Even in areas such as domestic help there was huge scope for training. This could be made into a business opportunity.

The NSDC signed a proposal on Tuesday to support initiatives to train domestic help in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Skill training of candidates was a business opportunity for entrepreneurs.

Workforce should be productive enough to compete. Their skills should be developed. “Money is not the issue, people are going to be issue,” he said. Companies should look at strengthening the master craftsmen. They could look at starting training centres with the retired craftsmen. The NSDC was discussing with two major companies for such an initiative.

It was important to increase the training levels at primary and higher education and vocational training. “We need to skill large number of people in short duration.” The private sector would be able to make a change and the NSDC would be catalyst. The Central Government proposed to introduce vocational training at school level from classes IX to XII.

The demographic dividend was an opportunity for the country. China and India together accounted for one-fifth of the world population.

Pointing out the example of the Thanjavur temple, he said a large number of people were skilled for the project. In 1750, the share of India in the world manufacturing output was 24.5 per cent. However, India was importing several goods now.

Dilip Chenoy, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of NSDC said it was important to address the existing skill gap. Best projects for skill development should be sustainable business models. If it was to train in generic skills, scale of the project was important.

Even smaller numbers were accepted if it was for specialised skills. The industry should approve the curriculum and standards and 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the candidates should get placement after the training.