

New Central scheme targets skilling of one crore people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the decks for a Rs. 12,000-crore plan to train 60 lakh youths and certify 40 lakh informally skilled workers over the next four years with a revamped version of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which includes a mechanism to revive the traditional Guru-Shishya approach to train youth with the help of local craftsmen and trade practitioners.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had proposed to scale up the flagship skilling scheme in this year's Budget and skill one crore youths over the next three years, but the Cabinet has granted another year for achieving the scheme's target with a deadline of March 2020.

"The Cabinet has taken a decision to skill 1 crore people in the coming four years at a cost of Rs. 12,000 crore. What is important is — 60

It includes a plan to revive Guru-Shishya approach with the help of craftsmen and trade practitioners

lakh new youths would be trained, while 40 lakh would be non-formally trained people who will now be formally recognised," Union Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said after the Cabinet meeting.

Effective training

Minister of State of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy said the new version of the PMKVY would strengthen the system and make trainings more effective with robust monitoring of outcomes.

"We completed close to 20 lakh trainings in 2015-16 under the PMKVY and overall, did 1.04 crore trainings in the year," he said, seeking industry's support in the endeavor

and urging the youth to reap maximum benefit from the scheme.

Role of MPs

As per the approved plan, training centres will be categorised on the basis of their infrastructure and past performance and third party agencies will be deployed to validate their training efforts and placement records. Members of Parliament will also be roped in to mobilise youth for training, monitor the scheme in their constituencies and post-training placement of trainees.

For youths from the Kashmir Valley, the Leh region, the north-eastern States and Left-wing extremism-affected districts, residential programmes will be promoted.

Training partners under the scheme will be required to ensure valid Aadhaar numbers of trainees at the time of enrolment and subsequently track attendance through students' biometrics.