

Cabinet approves skill upgrade programmes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 27

HIMACHAL Pradesh Cabinet approved an ambitious skill upgradation programmes, aimed at specific training to unskilled and skilled manpower in the specialised fields of agro-based industry, light-engineering, hydro-electric, hospitality, construction, pharma sectors initially in selected 17 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the public private partnership.

The programmes will be for short durations between three to six months done by the Indian Institute of Skill Upgradation (IISD) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in view of the projected technical skill gap of 4.5 lakh by year 2017.

The certification of the courses would be done jointly by the Board of Technical Education, Himachal Pradesh, CII and IISD to ensure recognition and employment in the related industries. Fee structure would will be determined by the state government. On full operation this programme would produce an additional 12,000 to 15,000 skilled manpower annually.

The Cabinet also decided to introduce health insurance scheme award (Swasthya Bima Yojna Puruskar) under National Health Insurance Scheme to reward 137 gram panchayats, which have achieved target of 100 per cent issuance of smart health cards in their respective panchayats.

Ghoshal gram panchayat in Lahaul valley achieved 100 percent target, and will get a cash award of Rs 50,000; Yur Nath panchayat, which achieved 96.77 per cent target to get Rs 25,000 and Demul panchayat to get Rs 10,000. Rajpura and Kolka panchayats of Chamba to get Rs 37,500 each while Bhatiyam gram panchayat to get Rs 10,000 as cash prize. Remaining 131 gram panchayats of 10 districts will also get cash prize of Rs 10,000 each.

The meeting decided to bring 102 addi-

Other decisions

- Sanctioned 155 posts of ayurvedic medical officers to be filled up on contract basis with enhanced upper age limit from 45 to 52 years.
 - Approved connecting Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration with all the developmental blocks in the state with video conferencing facility
 - Sanctioned community health centre at Shri Naina Devi temple for devotees to the prominent shrine
 - Approved adoption of Sister Nivedita Government Nursing College, Shimla, for the Nursing College being run in Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla
- vised project cost to Rs 510 crore. The project period has also been extended by three years.

HIMACHAL SENDS RS 1 CR TO LEH FOR RELIEF WORK

Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Friday adopted an unanimous resolution to donate Rs 101 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund towards the Ladakh Relief Fund. All Cabinet ministers have decided to donate Rs 11,000 each towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of the State.

During the meeting Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal appeal to MLAs, government employees, employees of PSUs, industrialists, business establishments, trade and commerce organisa-