

State to introduce skill upgradation plan

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The government today decided to introduce skill upgradation programmes aimed at providing specific training to unskilled and skilled manpower in the specialised fields.

A proposal to start programmes in the fields related to agro-based industry, light engineering, hydropower, hospitality, construction, pharma sectors and other need-based sectors was cleared by the state Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister PK Dhumal.

Initially the Indian Institute of Skill Upgradation (IISD) in conjunction with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will introduce the programme in selected 17 industrial training institutes (ITIs) of the state for three to six

CABINET DECISIONS

- Extension of watershed development project to 102 villages
- Health insurance scheme for 137 gram panchayats
- Community health centre at Shri Naina Devi
- Nod for filling 165 posts of ayurvedic medical officers

months under private-public partnership (PPP) mode.

The objective of the programme is to bridge the projected technical-skill gap of 4.5 lakh by 2017. The state board of technical education, CII and IISD will do certification of the courses jointly to ensure recognition and employment in the related industries. The state government will determine fee structure. On full operation, the programme will produce an additional 12,000 to 15,000 skilled manpower annually.

It decided to extend the ongoing mid-himalayan

watershed development project to 102 additional gram panchayats in Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur, Una, Kullu, Chamba, Solan and Sirmour districts. With this the total number of beneficiary gram panchayats has increased to 704 and the cost of project has also been revised to Rs 510 crore. The duration of the project has been extended by three years.

The Cabinet also decided to introduce health insurance scheme award under the National Health Insurance Scheme to reward 137 gram panchayats, which have

achieved the target by issuing almost cent per cent health smart cards.

It sanctioned a community health centre at Shri Naina Devi and gave nod for filling 155 posts of ayurvedic medical officers on contract basis and also enhanced the upper age limit for recruitment from 45 to 52 years. It approved a proposal to connect the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration with all development blocks in the state with video-conferencing facility.

It decided to name the newly setup nursing college at the Indira Gandhi Medical College as Sister Nivedita Government Nursing College and approved fresh recruitment and promotion rules for the post of joint controller (weights and measures) in the Food and Civil Supplies Department.