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MINING & EXPLORATION

Automation can lift India's mining to new heights but here's what stops it

Technology has transformed many industries across the world and changed the way companies act. Mining is one such industry that is maturing over the last few decades on the back of an ever-increasing demand for mined resources on one side, and a need for sustainable mining on the other. The mining industry currently faces a unique set of challenges – improving production and reducing costs while protecting the health and safety of their workers, safeguarding fixed assets and environmental conservation. Miners often put their lives at risk, travelling deep underground in dangerous conditions to bring these precious elements to the surface.

The mining industry's contribution (excluding petroleum and natural gas) to India's GDP is only around 2-3% in 2018-19, a sharp contrast to India's true potential, being a geologically rich country. A significantly higher contribution to GDP will go a long way in achieving India's dream of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy, as evinced across economies like South Africa where mining contributed 7.5% to GDP, and Australia where it is 6.99% to GDP. Automation and Digitalisation are touted to be the most defining mining industry trends of the 21st century across the globe, aimed at enhancing productivity and addressing the challenges faced by the mining industry.

Innovations in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and the industrial internet of things (IoT) all have the potential to save the sector an estimated \$373 billion and hundreds of lives by 2025 by automating machinery operation, planning and scheduling, facilitating predictive maintenance, improving man, material and asset traceability, harnessing the power of real-time data and analytics, and providing visibility across the mine-to-market value chain. People, process, and technology are the drivers of change and the key to the transformation and future success of the mining industry.

One of the main hurdles while building an automated mine is community resistance. It is quite natural for mining laborers and the community around to resist automation in mining. The main fear continues to be that AI and robotics are associated with loss of jobs. The mining industry needs to take the community into confidence and assure them that automation ensures their safety and improves the standard of living of all stakeholders and is not as an attempt towards reducing manpower. This thought must take the front seat at the start of the mining automation process, and is a particularly critical step for resource-dependent economies like India. The Industry would also need to work with the community to generate employment opportunities, for example, along the supply chain related to the mine or in alternate fields.

Additionally, the mining industry is also burdened with a perception issue amongst both women and the younger generations as they make career choices. The mining industry can attract and retain the much needed diversified talent by adopting more technologically driven solutions and encourage innovation in everyday operations. Technology can also ensure a safe and comfortable environment to attract the interest of women to the industry, thereby ensuring that the mining industry is able to attract a well-rounded diverse workforce. The maximum investment in mining goes into finding the right spot. One has to dig, quite often, at many places before hitting the right spot where the ore exists. The use of fully automated machinery and artificial intelligence (AI) can be utilized to overcome this biggest hurdle — where to dig. Predictive analytics, pattern matching that can process geological data and map it will help analyse the humongous quantity of data in negligible time. While hitting the right spot to extract ore is just the beginning, AI sensors can also help identify the size of the rock, separate ore laden rock from the dirt thus reducing extraction downtime.

The future of mining will be characterised by, amongst other things, Integrated remote operation centres wherein everything from drill control to dispatch of trucks in a pit can be monitored and controlled

thousands of miles away from where the physical assets are located. Autonomous electric trucks and fully autonomous machines bring a high degree of safety and efficiency to the operations. Configurable Stockyard management systems can be used to digitalise the complete material handling chain, acting as a digital replica to the physical asset. Material flow can be modelled across conveyor belts and transportation equipment, with material properties and quality information, conveyed via automated data interfaces, to drive operational optimisation.

There is a critical need to transform the way mines operate in India, by creating a digitally-enabled environment that is safe, clean and sustainable, with a workforce carrying out exciting, stimulating tasks. The present and future mining workforce will need to embrace new technologies In order to meet the challenges of the mining industry and reap the rewards offered by a new generation of automation solutions. Automation is the answer to future proof mining operations in India by increasing productivity, promoting the more sustainable use of resources, while simultaneously lowering fixed costs.

(The Financial Express, New Delhi – 25 April, 2020)

GENERAL

On International Women's Day, PM Modi says women playing major role in building New India

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday offered his greetings to all the women of the country saying that they were playing an important role in building a 'New India'. "Your active participation and blessings are very important in creating a new culture of New India," PM Modi said at the National Women Livelihood Meet 2019 in Varanasi. He said the International Women's Day has created a new consciousness and enthusiasm about women empowerment all over the world. Advocating for his party, PM Modi said the BJP government is devoted solely to women empowerment. He said various empowerment schemes have been implemented for women at every stage of their life right from their birth. Women, be it from cities or villages, are being provided with opportunities for entrepreneurship, the PM said.

"The Deendayal Upadhyay National Rural Livelihood Mission is being run by the government to provide self-employment opportunities in villages. Under this, millions of women are running an important force to overcome poverty in India," PM Modi said. Lauding the BJP rule, he said, "Five years ago, the self-help groups received a loan of Rs 23,000 crore across the country, but now the amount has gone up to Rs 44,000 crore". He said over 31 lakh women were trained in the cooperative sector in 2018 and more than 9 lakh women were given skill development in agricultural, science centres and other areas.

He further said his government has taken the decision to raise the duration of maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. Our government has changed the rules so that women can work securely during night shifts, the PM said, adding that nurseries for children have been set up in offices for working mothers. PM also said his government has decided to give permanent commission to women in some sectors of armed forces.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the ambitious 'Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Vistarikaran-Saundarayakaran Yojana' (Kashi Vishwanath Temple Extension and Beautification Plan) in Varanasi that would be rolled out in four phases. He kick-started the proposed project by putting five bricks with the name of the temple inscribed on it in the presence of Governor Ram Naik, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and state Bharatiya Janata Party chief Mahendra Nath Pandey.

(TheStatesman.com – 8 March, 2020)

812 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras allocated in 707 districts across the country: RK Singh, State Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

State Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, RK Singh said 812 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras have been allocated in 707 districts across the country as on January 17, 2020. "Out of allocated PMKKs, 723 PMKKs have been established," the minister said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship promotes establishment of model and aspirational skill centres known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in every district in the country for imparting skill training in the districts.

For establishment of PMKK, capital expenditure up to 75% of the project investment as well as operational support is provided through the implementing agency, the National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC). Under guidelines of PMKVY 2016-20, there are provisions for involvement/consultation of public representatives including MLAs/MPs for skill activities such as kaushal melas, rozgar melas, RPL's camp inauguration, etc. (The Economic Times, New Delhi – 13 March, 2020)

Odisha asks Centre to remove 30% cap on use of DMF for coronavirus fight

The Odisha government has asked the Centre to remove the 30% cap on the use of District Mineral Fund (DMF) to fight Covid-19 in each affected district. The move indicates the willingness of the state, which has the largest DMF corpus among all states (with unutilised balance of Rs 7,000 crore), to use this resource rather liberally to provide succour to people impacted by the pandemic. The use of DMF doesn't entail any budgetary outgo, and so, is fiscally more prudent.

Under the Centre's Rs 1.7-lakh-crore package announced on March 26 to fight Covid-19, the Centre suggested that part of the DMF funds be made available for the purpose. At a time when funds have dried up for states due to a big decline in growth in tax receipts and inadequate central transfers, DMF has unused funds worth Rs 23,500 crore across the country. A good part of this pool could be drawn down for building healthcare facilities and purchasing equipment such as ventilators.

A circular issued by the mines ministry on March 28 stated that expenditure related to Covid-19 should not exceed 30% of the balance fund available with each DMF. It also said the purchase of medical equipment and creation of infrastructure could happen subject to the condition that there should be at least one Covid-19 positive patient in such districts.

"With migration from cities to rural areas happening in a big way, the threat of coronavirus spreading in rural areas is very high. The purpose of allowing the use of DMF funds will be defeated if districts are not prepared in advance by creating requisite health infrastructure and equipment," a senior Odisha government official told FE.

Since the district-level fund was created in 2015 by amending the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, under which miners are required to pay 30% of the royalty amount for leases granted before 2015 and 10% for leases granted after that, DMF has collected a total of Rs 35,930 crore till January 2020. From this corpus, the DMF has cumulatively utilised Rs 12,415 crore for various welfare programmes in mining-affected districts across the country. The DMF corpus is utilised under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) under which at least 60% will be used for high priority areas like drinking water supply; environment preservation and pollution control measures; healthcare; education; etc.

Odisha has the highest DMF cumulative corpus of over Rs 9,500 crore, followed by Jharkhand at Rs 5,180 crore and Chhattisgarh at Rs 4,980 crore till January 2020. Since its district DMFs have utilised Rs 2,600 crore, Odisha now has around Rs 7,000-crore balance. However, since the districts have also tied up another Rs 3,700 crore for various ongoing projects, the untied funds available are only Rs 3,200 crore.

If the 30% norm is applied, the state DMFs can utilise only Rs 1,000 crore subject to one active coronavirus case. Of the eight mineral-rich districts in the state, only one district qualifies for use of its 30% corpus, limiting scope for preparatory action by other district authorities.

The state was of the view that the 30% cap should be removed and also the condition of one Covid-19 positive case to invoke the DMF funds use, giving freedom to district authorities to use the corpus as the situation demands. Due to the extant norms, Odisha has so far used only Rs 10 crore to convert two existing hospitals into Covid-19 ready hospitals with ventilators, one in Keonjhar and another in Sundergarh district.

(The Financial Express, New Delhi – 8 April, 2020)

Govt ends Coal India's monopoly in coal mining; raises defence FDI limit to 74%

In its fourth tranche of stimulus, the government on Saturday, 16th May, 2020 announced a slew of reforms to bring in investments in India.

Among them is the commercialisation of coal. This would mean the monopoly of Coal India will be over. Nearly 50 coal blocks will be offered immediately, the FM said. This will be done via a revenue sharing mechanism instead of the regime of fixed rupee per tonnes. Any party could bid for coal blocks and sell in the open market, the FM said. This is against the earlier norm where only captive consumers with end-use ownership could bid.

There would be no eligibility of condition and there will only be upfront payment with a ceiling.

The FM allocated over Rs 50,000 crore for creating evacuation infrastructure for coal.

Sitharaman made announcements for eight sectors in total including coal, minerals, defence production, airspace management, airports, space, atomic energy and power distribution companies in union territories.

"Indigenisation of imported spares, corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board and listing of the same in the stock exchange are indeed bold structural reform measures," said VK Vijayakumar- Chief Investment Strategist of Geojit Financial Services.

"Raising the FDI limit in defence manufacturing will help in technology transfer and will be a major boost for domestic manufacturing. Auctioning of six more airports and privatisation of Discoms in UTs are welcome. In brief, liberalisation in fast forward mode," he said.

In case of mining, the FM removed the distinction between captive and non-captive mines. This will allow transfer of mining leases and sale of surplus unused minerals. There would be rationalisation of stamp duty payable at the time of awarding of mining leases, she said.

A joint auction of co-dependent raw materials in the mining sector will take place. A total of 500 mining blocks will be offered through an open and transparent auction process, she said. Sitharaman also introduced a joint auction of bauxite and coal mineral blocks. The move is seen as cutting electricity costs for the aluminium industry.

In a boost to defence production, the FDI limit in defence manufacturing under automatic route has been increased to 74 percent from 49 percent.

The government will notify a list of weapons and platforms for ban on imports with year-wise timelines. The government announced plans to indigenisation of imported spares. There would now be a separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement.

"For us, this is a dream come true," said Baba Kalyani, MD of Bharat Forge. This will create new industry, new employment, new technology and capabilities" Kalyani told ET NOW.

For the aviation sector, the FM announced efficient airspace management for civil aviation. Noting that only 60 percent of the Indian airspace is freely available, the government has decided to ease the restrictions on utilisation of Indian air space so that civilian flying becomes more efficient. The move is seen to benefit about Rs 1,000 crore per year for the aviation sector due to reduction in fuel use and time.

AAI has already awarded three airports out of six for operation and maintenance on PPP basis in Round I. Now, the government has identified six more airports for the Round 2. For this, the bid process will be commenced immediately, the FM said.

The additional investment by private players in 12 airports in the two rounds is expected at Rs 13,000 crore. Another six airports will be put out for the third round of bidding. The FM meanwhile, also announced the privatisation of power utilities in union territories. It would reduce cross subsidies, the FM said.

(The Economic Times, New Delhi – 16 May, 2020)

RSLDC to launch 40 courses for migrant labourers

The Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Corporation (RSLDC) is introducing around 40 new courses for migrant labourers to prepare them for the job market in the state.

These courses were listed based on local industry requirements and to fill the vacuum created by the departure of migrant workers. The duration of these courses is from one month to three months and they are free for all migrants. Neeraj K Pawan, secretary labour, employment and skill, said that they have finalised courses for the inbound migrants which will provide a much-needed workforce to the deserted industries and manufacturing units in the state.

"The courses have been chosen from the pool of existing courses while considering the requirements of industry," said Pawan. Basic courses from plumbing to electrician to semi-skill courses in security, textile, telecom, accounts and those related to the computers. The format of these courses will be dual, online and on the field. The theoretical part will be done through online even via mobile phones. For field training, the government is working out on modalities to make sure that training is provided with the bare minimum resources. Those trained migrants will be provided jobs or employment opportunity by the state through the newly announced online labour exchange platform for migrant workers returning into the state.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 22 May, 2020)

GLEANINGS FROM

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Skill development ministry to take steps to increase women participation: Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey

The skills development ministry will ensure enhanced participation of women in the next phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said on 4th March, 2020. The Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said his department is organising programmes on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8. "We will give priority to women in the next PMKVY," he told reporters here. He added that the new schemes and programmes to be framed by the ministry will also focus on increasing participation of women. The government is planning to launch third phase of its flagship PMKVY in the next financial year. The scheme, launched in 2015, was revamped in 2016 to impart skills to one crore people by 2020.

(Business Standard, New Delhi – 4 March, 2020)

Will provide relevant training to youth returning to native places: Mahendra Nath Pandey

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India Mahendra Nath Pandey said that his ministry has come up with many new ideas amid the Corona Virus challenge and has even worked on implementing them.

Speaking at the third session of E-Agenda Aaj Tak, Skill Development Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said that ever since the coronavirus challenge has emerged, the ministry has done a lot in terms of bringing in new ideas and training people in the Industrial Training Institutes (ITI).

The minister also said that women across villages in India have so far made more than 21 lakh masks and face covers, which have been distributed among people all over the country. He added that this was possible only due to the training under the Ministry of Skill Development.

On being asked about the challenge of unemployment that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought with itself, Mahendra Nath Pandey said that the skill development ministry is coordinating with the all the district administrations in getting in touch with the youths who are returning to their native places and is set to provide them relevant training.

"All district administrations have a record of all the people returning to their hometowns on their fingertips and this is how we trace them. We have linked all this data with the Industrial Training Institutes and so that relevant training can be provided to such people," Pandey said.

He also said that, while economic sectors will have to bear the brunt of the lockdown, demands in the health and agriculture sector will see an increase, and the skill development ministry will train people, especially youths, in these sectors.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 11 May, 2020)

NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Upskill Yourself for Free, 400 courses to choose from NSDC's eSkill India portal

Over the past few weeks, the world has seen a paradigm shift in the working and learning styles of people at large. Undoubtedly, the outbreak of COVID-19 is the major accelerator that has led to a mega shift in digital teaching and learning approach.

Amid the lockdown, National Skill Development Corporation's (NSDC) is encouraging skill seekers to acquire new skills and utilize their time effectively. NSDC's eLearning aggregator portal - eSkill India portal offers more than 400 courses curated from various knowledge providers. In the recent weeks, eSkillIndia has partnered with EnglishScore, SAS India, Saylor Academy (USA) and UpGrad, thereby providing skill seekers with varied online skilling opportunities.

The eSkill India portal pivots the online skilling initiatives in collaboration with global leaders in eLearning domain and thus enabling access to a wide range of skill courses for users. With strategic knowledge partnerships, the portal leverages technology in continuing the skilling momentum and enables skill seekers accelerate their learning through methods like virtual learning and remote classroom.

Commenting on the digital and eLearning initiatives, Dr. Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, National Skill Development Corporation said, "These are unprecedented times and digital learning initiatives are playing a critical role in keeping learners connected and in maintaining continuity. There are a plethora of online resources and platforms that skill seekers and professionals can use to equip themselves with new-age skills in the current scenario. We have several collaborations with leading knowledge providers to facilitate self-learning by providing access to high-quality online learning resources."

NSDC's alliance with English Score, an English language assessment app by British Council, aims to provide global standard of English proficiency to the Indian youth. The collaboration brings not just free app access to the Indian youth, but also enables free certification for 1 lac candidates.

Through its partnership with Saylor Academy, a non-profit headquartered in Washington DC, NSDC opens another gateway to prime quality and global-level skilling opportunities from leading research and academic universities. This facilitates eSkill India to provide high-standard skilling opportunities to Indian youth, with course-credits that are guaranteed by some of the leading universities like Bellevue, Bethel, Brandan, Catholic, Colorado, Southern New Hampshire, Thomas Edison, Maryland etc. The programs are known for their high-quality content and free certification.

eSkillIndia has also partnered with SAS®, the analytics powerhouse, to offer a range of courses on data analytics, machine learning, predictive modeling, statistical business analytics that are useful across all industries like IT, Retail, Pharma, Banking and Finance, Retail, Manufacturing, etc. These new solutions for online education could bring much needed innovation and the user can easily control their career trajectory by gaining comprehensive analytical and research skills that are in great demand in the competitive marketplace. The partnership with Wadhwani Foundation, a philanthropic organization, will bring specific skilling and entrepreneurship enhancement initiatives through the portal. Work-from-home employees and Corporates can also use their time to enroll and access the wide catalogue of Business / Professional courses and certifications. The users can also enroll in the next-gen analytics courses to discover insights from your data and make more intelligent decisions to drive relevant change.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 12 April, 2020)

NSDC collaborates with The/Nudge Foundation to drive dialogues on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at Charcha 2020

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in partnership with The/Nudge Foundation, and supported by the deAsra Foundation and G.A.M.E. India to co-organise the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship event at #charcha2020 scheduled from May 14th to May 16th, 2020. The virtual event aims to act as a platform towards enabling constructive conversations on ways to overcome the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak on the skill development and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India. With 24 power-packed sessions being led by 50+ eminent speakers and panelists over three days, #charcha2020 will facilitate important discussions around critical pieces of governance, policy, interventions and actions required to resolve the pressing challenges faced by the skill development sector as a consequence of the global pandemic.

The skill development and entrepreneurship event commenced yesterday with a plenary session on 'Convergent India to a better post-COVID world', with Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog and Mr. Amit Chandra, Managing Director, Bain Capital Private Equity. This was followed by the opening address by Mr. Praveen Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Today, Dr. Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, NSDC delivers a keynote address on 'Governance and policies to create an environment for accelerated recovery'. Over the course of three-days, multiple sessions will be organised on various topics including the future of jobs and methodologies of skilling in the emerging new normal along with inspirational stories of success through skill empowerment.

In his opening address, Mr. Praveen Kumar said, "The current pandemic environment solicits rethinking and redesigning of strategies and practices to plan skilling and livelihood of workforce for self-sustainability. The government has proactively made every effort, and continues to do so, to improve sentiment and set the stage for the youngsters of India to reach their full potential and contribute the most to the country as a whole."

He further said, "I believe that a productive discussion with industry partners, thought leaders, policymakers and understanding their constraints, and learning from their experience will help us bridge the gap and implement new, improved models for skills provision to create new capabilities in context of the new post COVID environment."

On the opening day, the discussions covered subjects like skilling for the future, the role of upskilling, reskilling and alternate skilling, evolution of the funding landscape, sectoral challenges and opportunities in times of crisis and compassionate economy for sustainable development. The day-2 covers topics such as the evolving role of foundations in India's development journey, opportunities in skilling economy, governance and policies to create an environment for accelerated recovery, innovation and digital transformation in the skilling sector, need for a collaborative for mass entrepreneurship and non-profits response to COVID-19 crisis. Day-3, marked for entrepreneurship, will deliberate upon subjects like Indian economy's recovery through inclusive growth, increasing the competitiveness of the middle of the pyramid enterprises and the role of technology in entrepreneurship.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Manish Kumar said, "The Charcha 2020 platform aims at collaboratively brainstorming on adaptive programs and strategies for skill development and entrepreneurship, given the challenges imposed by ongoing pandemic."

Sharing his thoughts on Charcha 2020, Atul Satija, Founder, The/Nudge Foundation said, "The ramifications of the outbreak of the global pandemic has impacted India's development sector significantly.

Charcha 2020 is in line with our vision to enable necessary interventions needed to reimagine the design of the social development sector and boost the infrastructure needed to solve for India's most pressing problems. The platform aims at bringing together thought leaders to enable engaging conversations on the need to put together a strategic framework in response to the pandemic and build resilience against future shocks of this nature."

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 15 May, 2020)

SKILLS IN PARLIAMENT

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3200 answered on 20.03.2020

Skill development schemes in Karnataka

3200. Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister Skill Development and Entrepreneurship be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the skill development schemes taken up and implemented in Karnataka during the last two years;
- (b) the details of the names of the trusts/ agencies engaged in the implementation of the aforesaid schemes;
- (c) the total number of Skill Development Centres going to be opened in Karnataka; and
- (d) the funds allocated by the Central Government to Karnataka for the schemes?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Shri R. K. Singh)

- (a) Under Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing its flagship demand driven scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 for short duration skill development training (Short-Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)) across the country including State of Karnataka.
- **(b)** In the State of Karnataka, PMKVY (2016-20) is being implemented by National Skill Development Corporation and State Skill Development Mission through empanelled training providers.
- (c) PMKVY does not mandate the establishment of training centres. Under the scheme, training is being imparted through empanelled training centres.
- (d) Under Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM) component of PMKVY 2016-20, funds amounting to Rs. 21.44 Cr. have been released to State of Karnataka.

(Rajya Sabha, New Delhi – 20 March, 2020)

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3584 answered on 16.03.2020

Skill Development Centres in West Bengal

3584. Shri Raju Bista:

Will the Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Skill Development Centres established in West Bengal with Central assistance so far;
- **(b)** the number of Skill Development Centres established in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur;
- (c) the details of funds allocated for Skill Development programs in these three districts and State of West Bengal from Central funds;
- (d) whether any review of the skill development programmes have been carried out in above three districts and if so, its details including the number of youth benefited under this programme; and
- (e) the details of employment/placements post training?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Shri R. K. Singh)

- (a) to (c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has taken initiatives to establish Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) as benchmark, model and aspirational centre in every district of the country. For establishment of PMKK, Ministry supports the private training providers by the concessional loan funding upto 75 percentage of the project investment. Under this framework, 43 PMKKs have been established in the districts including Darjeeling and North Dinajpur of the West Bengal. PMKK in the district of Kalimpong has been allocated to Training Provider, Power to Empower Skills Private Limited. The loan amounting to Rs. 20.21 crore has been released towards establishment of PMKKs in West Bengal including these three districts.
- (d) and (e) The skill development training in established PMKKs of West Bengal is being imparted through flagship scheme of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, PMKVY 2016-20. This programme is monitored through multi-layer robust mechanism which includes call validation, surprise visit, concurrent monitoring training centre through digital platform 'SMART', candidates monitoring through 'SDMS' etc. Under PMKVY 2016-20, 2.96 lakh and 1.57 lakh candidates have been trained and certified, respectively, in short term training in State of West Bengal. Out of these certified candidates, 0.85 candidates have been placed. Also, 1 lakh candidates have been oriented under Recognition of Prior Learning component of the scheme.

(Lok Sabha, New Delhi – 16 March, 2020)

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4796 answered on 23.03.2020 Skill Development of Girl Students

4796. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer:

Will the Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has/proposes to have any exclusive scheme for the skill development of girl students; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with funds allocated and utilised, State and district-wise?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Shri R. K. Singh)

(a)& (b) The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship does not have any exclusive scheme for the skill development of only girl students. However, the Ministry has undertaken several initiatives to achieve women empowerment through skill development. The National Skill Development Policy focuses on inclusive skill development, with the objective of increased women participation for better economic productivity. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 2.0) 2016-20 launched by the Ministry envisages to train one crore people including women under Short Term Training (STT), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Special Project (SP) over four years (2016-2020) with an outlay of Rs. 12,000 crore. UnderPMKVY 2.0 scheme, as on 17.01.2020, 31.29 lakhs women candidates have been trained. Long term training is imparted to candidates including women under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through a network of 15,697 Industrial Training Institutes across the country. Under thisscheme, 6.23 lakhs women candidates have been trained during the last five years (2014-18). Moreover, there are 19 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) imparting skill training exclusively for women.

(Lok Sabha, New Delhi – 23 March, 2020)

एस.सी.एम.एस के कार्य-कलाप

सशक्तिकरण-स्थानीय युवा

एम.ओ.आई.एल लिमिटेड ने अपने सी.एस.आर पहल के हिस्से के तौर पर नागपुर, भंडारा और बालाघाट जिलों के युवाओं हेतु कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम के आयोजन हेतु स्किल काउंसिल फॉर माइनिंग सेक्टर के साथ ''सशक्तिकरण—स्थानीय युवा'' सहभागिता की।

पहले चरण में, दो समाचापत्रों में विज्ञापन प्रकाशित करवाकर संग्रहण की शुरूआत की गई और 67 उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन प्राप्त हुए। दिनांक 02 मार्च, 2020 को सेंट्रल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग, लोनरारा, नागपुर में उनके दस्तावेज की जांच की गई और साक्षात्कार लिए गए। चयन प्रक्रिया के बाद, 29 उम्मीदवारों का चयन किया गया और 05 मार्च, 2020 से उनकी कक्षाएं प्रारंभ हुई। छात्र तकनीकी और स्फॉट स्किल की कक्षाओं में शामिल हुए जो सुबह 9.30 से शाम 4.30 तक आयोजित की जाती है।

उपरोक्त क्षेत्रों में कार्यक्रम की पहुंच को बढ़ाने के लिए दूसरा संग्रहण अभियान चलाया गया। संग्रहण दल ने एम.ओ.आई.एल अधिकारियों के साथ एम.ओ.आई.एल खादानों के नजदीक बसे गांवों में विस्तृत संग्रहण अभियान चलाया। इस कार्यक्रम को स्थानीय लोगों से जबरदस्त सहयोग मिला। इसके परिणामस्वरूप, 15 मार्च, 2020 को अगला संग्रहण अभियान चलाया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में रूचि दर्शाने वाले 228 उम्मीदवारों में से 204 उम्मीदवार प्रशिक्षण केंद्र में साक्षात्कार हेतु उपस्थित हुए। एम.ओ.आई.एल, एस.सी.एम.एस और आई.आई.एस.डी के संयुक्त दल ले उन आवेदनों की जांच की और 92 उम्मीदवारों का चयन किया।

भारत में विद्यमान वैश्विक नोवल कोरोनावायरस महामारी पर सरकारी दिशा—निर्देशों के कारण वर्तमान में प्रशिक्षण रूका हुआ है और केंद्र को बंद रखा गया है। स्थल पर कौशल प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमें के आयोजन हेतु सरकार और एम.ओ.आई.एल अधिकारियों की तरफ से आदेश मिलने पर प्रशिक्षण पुनः प्रारंभ किया जाएगा।



एम.ओ.आई.एल संग्रहण अभियान एवं प्रशिक्षण की झलकियां

क्यू.आर.सी की 9वीं बैठक

वैश्विक नोवल कोरोनावायरस महामारी को ध्यान में रखते हुए, एन.एस.डी.सी मानक एवं गुणवत्ता टीम ने क्यू.आर.सी की बैठक ऑनलाइन करने का निर्णय लिया। दिनांक 27 मार्च, 2020, शुक्रवार को माइक्रोसॉफ्ट टीम्स का उपयोग कर ऑनलाइन माध्यम से क्यू.आर.सी की नौवीं बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें खासतौर पर बड़ी संख्या में उन क्यू.पी—एन.ओ.एस को महत्व दिया गया जो या तो पुराने होते जा रहे हैं या फिर उभरते कौशल विकास जरूरतों और एस.आई.पी में समानांतर परिवर्तन को ध्यान में रखते हुए संशोधित किए जा रहे हैं।

स्किल काउंसिल फॉर माइनिंग स्क्टर ने इस क्यू.आर.सी में भाग लिया। श्री रविंद्र सिंह, सी.ओ.ओ—एस.सी.एम.एस ने एस.सी.एम.एस मानक टीम के साथ नए व्यावसायिक मानचित्र और बुल्डोजर चालक के संशोधित योग्यता पैक के साथ इसके मॉडल पाठ्यक्रम को प्रस्तुत किया।

SCMS IN ACTION

Sashaktikaran- Sthaniya Yuva

MOIL Limited, as part of their CSR initiative "Sashaktikaran- Sthaniya Yuva" have partnered with Skill Council for Mining Sector for rolling out a skill development program for the youth of Nagpur, Bhandara and Balaghat districts.

In the first phase, mobilization was initiated with publishing the advertisement in two newspapers and received applications from 67 candidates. Their document verification and interviews were conducted at Central India Institute of Engineering, Lonara Nagpur on 2nd March, 2020. Post selection process, 29 candidates were shortlisted and their classes started on 5th March, 2020. The students are engaged in technical and soft skill classes which is held from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Another mobilization drive was done to widen the program reach in the above areas. The mobilization team conducted extensive mobilization drives in the villages close to MOIL mines along with the MOIL officers. The program received an overwhelming response from the local population. As a result, the next mobilization drive was conducted on 15th March, 2020. Out of the 228 candidates showing intrest in the program 204 were present for the interview at the training centre. The joint team of MOIL, SCMS and IISD reviewviewed the aplications and selected 92 candidates.

Currently the training is on hold and Center kept closed on account of government guidelines on global novel coronavirus pandemic prevailing in India. The training will be reinititated on receving the go ahead from the Government and MOIL Authorities for conducting skill training programs in the location.



Glimpses of MOIL Mobilisation Drive and Training

9th Meeting of the QRC

In light of the global novel coronavirus pandemic, the NSDC Standards and Quality Team decided to shift the meeting of the QRC Committe online. The Ninth Meeting of the QRC was organized on Friday, March 27, 2020 via Online using Microsoft Teams. This was especially important given the large number of QP-NOS that are lapsing, or being revised keeping in mind the evolving skill development needs; and the parallel transition to SIP.

Skill Council for Mining Sector participated in this QRC. Mr. Ravindra Singh, COO-SCMS along with SCMS standard team presented the new Occupational Map and revised qualification pack of Bulldozer Operator alone with its model curriculum.

Online Assessment and Proctoring for Short-Term Training

A webinar was organized by the National Skill Development Corporation on 'Online Assessment and Proctoring for short-term skill training' on 13th May, 2020. This session was aimed towards sharing the current solutions/ platforms for conducting online assessments along with available proctoring solutions, which could be useful multiple stakeholders including SSCs, training partners and others. The key objective of the webinar was Understanding online assessment and various aspects of online/remote proctoring, Applicability and advantages of online proctoring tools, Various tools for online proctoring – existing and un-explored & Proctoring demonstration. Mr. Deepak Mishra, Training & Assessment Quality and Research-SCMS & Ms. Silky Sharma, Head-Assessment & Certification-SCMS participated in this webinar.

Webinar on Indian Mining & Metals Industry

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) organized a webinar on "Indian Mining & Metal Industry: Post Covid19 and Early Revival" on May 14, 2020 over Video Conferencing. The main objective of the webinar was to highlight the challenges that the industry is facing during Covid19 and the resultant lockdown. It is also identify the strategies needed for an early revival of the industry post lockdown to make a significant contribution to the Indian GDP. The industry stalwarts & the economists have highlighted the Indian mining and metals industry post Covid19. Mr. Ravindra Singh, COO-SCMS participated in this webinar.

Webinar on Skill India Portal

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organized a webinar on "Skill India Portal" on 15th May, 2020. In the session, the Skill India Portal (SIP) team build SSCs capacity regarding the issues which were raised by various SSCs and have been resolved by the SIP team. The list of issues which was taken up by the SIP team are mentioned below:

- a) Linking of AA
- b) Extension of validity of the AA
- c) Resolution of the concern of automatic delinking of AA
- d) Process of chairman signature change

Ms. Silky Sharma, Head-Assessment & Certification-SCMS participated in this webinar.

SPECIAL FEATURE

VOICE FROM THE INDUSTRY

CSR Activity

Mosaic Workskills Pvt. Ltd is a privately funded venture based out of Indore and is the proud partner for imparting training in the Mining Sector. In the 12 years of our journey, we have touched more than 2 lakhs lives and delivered 100000+ jobs in more than 20 sectors. Continuing its promise to bring hope in many more lives, Mosaic uninterruptedly is working towards creating many more opportunities for the youth of this country. We are a proud partner to Government of India projects such as PMKVY, YUVA, SCMS, JSDMS, MSSDS and more.

Today the entire world is going through a crisis. We are well aware of the ongoing Global Pandemic COVID-19 that is currently spreading in our country. It has become the worst enemy in decades for the human race. The pandemic has impacted more than 30000 lives and has brought the entire country to a standstill. The human race is draining out financially and emotionally. Regardless of how complex the situation is, Mosaic has committed to the well-being of the people of this country. Upon getting a contract from the Collector of Indore (MP) for manufacturing Protective Masks, Mosaic has made and delivered 5000 masks at no cost, to the concerned authorities following the COVID-19 and social distancing norms laid down by the government of India. Our endeavours are but to not limited to this. We have also contributed Rs 251000 to PM CARES fund through NSDC which has reached to the people who require basic necessities at this point of time.

Our society has a mix of different sects of people and during this global outbreak the daily wage earners are the ones adversely affected. In order to ensure that they are not deprived of food for living, we have donated Rs 21000 for food packet distribution to Seva Bharti. Additionally, for the well-being of our frontline health workers, we have donated PPE Kits to administrative authorities through CII and have facilitated in making shoe covers as a PPE Component. This outbreak has caused sufferings not only to the human race. Likewise, our contribution is not just confided to people of this country. We have many animals who take

shelter on streets, gardens and many such public places. To make sure that not even a single soul stays without bread, Mosaic has donated Rs 30000 to CII Foundation, Bhaskar Foundation and Animal feeders to feed street dogs.

Driven by its virtue of people first, Mosaic has always strived to strike a balance between work and its presence whenever required for humanity. We all request you to stay safe and stay home in this pivotal time as "One step not taken outside the house, will help protect you, your family and society at large."



Distribution of food Packets



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Mask Distribution to Administration



Session on Social Distancing



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- Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS) for PAN India assessments
- Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) for PAN India assessments
- Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) for PAN India assessments
- Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI) for PAN India assessments
- Management & Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council (MEPSC) for PAN India assessments
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