

2.23. Technical Education

Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront in Technical Education and was the first state to start degree level engineering courses in the country. There has been phenomenal growth in the field of technical education during the previous Plan periods. Tamil Nadu stands first in terms of producing the maximum number of engineering graduates every year with the total number of 251 engineering and 242 polytechnic colleges. With a view to ensure better and effective monitoring of the Engineering colleges, 3 Technical universities have been started at Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli and in addition to Anna University, Chennai. The availability of technical labour force in the state attracts more investment in manufacturing, IT and other sectors and creates employment opportunities. In Tamil Nadu, the average number of persons studying engineering courses is 162 per one lakh population against 50 at the national level.

Objectives

The objectives envisaged during the Annual Plan are to improve the quality of technical education by providing world class teaching facilities and fully trained faculty members, upgrading libraries, laboratories workshops etc., provide infrastructure facilities like additional class rooms, laboratories, hostels, etc., obtain Autonomous Status and accreditation for important courses in Engineering and Polytechnic Colleges, facilitate institution-industry linkage and encourage research in emerging areas like nanotechnology, bio-informatics, robotics, medical electronics, etc.

Strategy

The strategies to be adopted for achieving the objectives of the Plan are through i) Modernisation of laboratories and workshops, ii) Development of teaching faculty, iii) Improvement of curricula, iv) Creation of centres of excellence, v) Development of communication skills and vi) Networking of institutions.

Programmes

Infrastructure Development Schemes

Due to increase of intake capacity in the existing branches and newly started courses in engineering and polytechnic colleges, it is proposed to provide additional infrastructure facilities such as class rooms, drawing halls, workshops, laboratories, digital libraries, seminar halls with state of art facilities and hostels for students.

It is also proposed to undertake other infrastructure development of the engineering and polytechnic colleges such as land development, development of inner roads in institutions, improvement of water and drainage facilities, improvement of recreational facilities, such as indoor stadium, outdoor playing fields etc. During 2007-08, a sum of Rs.311.72 lakh has been spent for the construction and Rs.539.17 lakh under TEQIP.

Schemes for Quality Improvement

It is proposed to modernize the laboratories and libraries in the colleges. With the objective of improving the quality of education and promoting academic independence, it is proposed to obtain autonomy for the Engineering and Polytechnic Colleges and accreditation for the undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the Colleges and hence the schemes for upgradation of facilities in the institutions will be taken up to obtain such accreditation and autonomous status.

Capital Programmes for Anna University

It is proposed to construct new buildings and provide infrastructure at Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli Anna Universities and also infrastructure development for Anna University Chennai, during the Plan period.

Plan Outlay for 2008-09

The total outlay for the Eleventh Plan for Technical Education is Rs. 241.60 crore. An outlay of Rs. 28.98 crore is approved during the Annual Plan 2008-09.

