

7.8. Labour Welfare and Employment Services

Maintaining a harmonious relationship between labour and management is necessary in order to achieve the objective of growth and prosperity for both the employers and the workers. It is maintained by the State through Labour and Employment Department by strict enforcement of Labour Laws and social security legislations for protection of the rights and welfare of workers. Separate Welfare Boards have been formed to implement welfare programmes for the workers in the unorganised sector. Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board, on the other hand, implements various welfare schemes for workers in the organised sector and their dependents. A variety of social security schemes are implemented for the workmen in the organized and unorganized sector. The Inspectorate of Factories does the registration of factories coming under the Factories Act, 1948. The Inspectorate of Factories has been carrying out health, safety training and development functions of the workers and perform regulatory functions.

Under the Employment and Training sector, the Government is supporting the educated unemployed with financial assistance and promoting employment opportunities by upgrading skill based education.

The vocational training system provides training for developing the skills of those entering the labour force. The Craftsmen Training Scheme plays its role in shaping the Craftsmen through the Government Industrial Training Institutes and Basic Training Centres and augments technical manpower and creates better opportunities for self employment by providing them employable Industrial Training in 39 Engineering and 17 Non – Engineering trades and 11 sectors under Centre of Excellence ranging from six months to three years. Besides, the ITIs and ITCs, there are Industrial schools and Industrial Centres functioning in the State.

Objectives

The objectives of the State in respect of Labour and Employment sector are to promote the welfare of labour both in organised and unorganized sectors with particular emphasis on the unorganised sectors.

Programmes

Grants to Labour Welfare Boards for Unorganized Labour

It is proposed to extend more benefits to unorganised workers. Grants to Welfare Boards for Unorganised Labour for meeting the expenditure on payment of pension, welfare schemes and administration of 11 boards are being provided. An expenditure of Rs.3559.40 lakh was expected to be incurred during 2008-09 and an outlay of Rs.5025.90 lakh is proposed for the Annual Plan 2009-10.

Payment of relief to the unemployed youth

Unemployment Assistance Scheme is being implemented to the unemployed youth of the State, who remain on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges for over five years. Unemployment Assistance is granted at the rate of Rs.150/-, Rs.200/- and Rs. 300/- per month in the case of SSLC, Higher Secondary passed candidates and for Graduates/ Post-graduates for a continuous period of three years or till they complete the age of 45 years in the case of Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe and 40 years in the case of others subject to certain conditions that they remain on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges for over five years. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme as on 31.08.2008 is 3.29 lakh and 1.05 lakh for general and SC/ ST category respectively.

The anticipated expenditure for 2008-09 is Rs.4542.02 lakh and Rs.2055.99 lakh for general and SC/ ST category. The proposed outlay for this scheme is Rs.4079.81 lakh and Rs.1845.80 lakh during 2009-10 for general and SC/ST category respectively.

Distress Relief and Accident Relief Schemes

In order to alleviate the sufferings of the families of the workers died or injured due to accidents, a sum of Rs.360 lakh is earmarked for the Eleventh Plan under Accident Relief Scheme. The Distress Relief scheme is proposed in the Annual Plan 2009-10 with an outlay of Rs.3178.40 lakh, of which, Rs.625.11 lakh is provided under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and a sum of Rs.84 lakh is proposed for Accident Relief Scheme during the Annual Plan 2009-10.

Modernisation of Government ITIs

For taking up of improvement measures in the existing ITIs, a sum of Rs.1395 lakh is approved during the Eleventh Plan, of which a sum of Rs.175.41 lakh has been proposed for the year 2009-10.

Modular Employable Skill

The Government of India proposed the modular employable skill scheme to meet the huge demand for skilled manpower in various important sectors, by giving training utilizing the existing infrastructure in Government ITIs. A sum of Rs.560 lakh for general category and Rs.240 lakh under Scheduled Caste Plan for SC/ST during 2009-10 is proposed for the Modular Employable Skill scheme.

Starting of New ITI at Nagalapuram

There are 13 high schools around Nagalapuram in Tuticorin District. The nearest Government Industrial Training Institute is at Virudhunagar, which is 40 km away from Nagalapuram. The private ITI is also 15 km away. Hence a new Government ITI was started at Nagalapuram with the trade of electrician, fitter and welder for a total cost of Rs.121.47 lakh during 2008-09. Out of which, a sum of Rs.74.07 lakh is expected to be spent during 2008-09 and a sum of Rs.15.48 lakh is proposed for 2009-10.

Upgradation of ITIs as Centre of Excellence

Under the scheme of upgradation of ITIs into Centre of Excellence, main thrust is given to provide appropriate infrastructure, equipment, updated syllabi and introduction of new trades during the Eleventh Plan period. This scheme will cater to the skill requirement of the industries in the particular areas by organizing

multi skilled courses on modular pattern. The expenditure is shared between Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. In Tamil Nadu, so far, 16 Government ITIs have been upgraded into Centres of Excellence. A sum of Rs.372.45 lakh is expected to be spent during 2008-09 and an outlay of Rs.15.29 lakh is proposed in 2009-10 for Centre of Excellence.

Rashtria Swasthya Bima Yojana

The Centrally Sponsored shared scheme Rastria Swasthya Bima Yojana to benefit the workers in the unorganised sector belonging to the below poverty line (BPL) categories and their families is being implemented now. Government of India will contribute 75% of premium and the state will contribute 25% of their share. To implement the scheme on pilot basis, the state Government allotted a sum of Rs.523.54 lakh in the Budget Estimate 2008-09. The expenditure expected is Rs.233.71 lakh and the proposed outlay for 2009-10 is Rs.572.65 lakh. The scheme will be implemented in Kanchepuram and Tirunelveli District.

Plan Outlay for 2009-10

A sum of Rs.169.76 crore is approved for Labour Welfare and Employment services sector in the Annual Plan for 2009-10. Of this, the outlay approved for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is Rs.23.21 crore.