

'Time to review quota idea in private sector'

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Ahmedabad: Milind Kamble, the founder chairman of the Dalit India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), who was at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) on Saturday to attend MoU signings, said that the central government and Indian industry should review the idea of job quotas for SCs/STs in the private sector.

Kamble was answering a question about his views on representation of scheduled castes and tribes in business and industry. "When the UPA government made the proposal and met industry leaders, they asked the government not to impose legislation as they would take responsibility for affirmative action in this direction. It's time to review the action taken in the last 10 years after which the government should take a call," he said.

Kamble, who is part of a number of government and CII committees and is the newly-appointed chairperson of the board of governors for IIM-Jammu, said that the government policy to make 20% of procurement of public sector undertakings from MSMEs has gi-



Milind Kamble and Sunil Shukla at EDII on Saturday

ven a push to Dalit entrepreneurs. According to the initiative, about 4% of procurement must be from units owned by SC/STs.

"In financial terms, procurement rose from Rs 100 crore before 2015 to Rs 745 crore in 2018-19. About 23% of beneficiaries of MUDRA scheme are SC/STs — 18% SC and 5% ST — where the average ticket size is Rs 45,000," said Kamble, adding that they are pushing SC/ST entrepreneurs to become job creators.

Dr Sunil Shukla, director of EDII, said they have added 'Tribal and Dalit Entrepreneurship' to their fellow programme as an area of specialization, to motivate SC/ST candidates to take up empirical research in the field. The institute recently organized a special programme for SC/ST entrepreneurs.