

GOVT PUSH FOR START-UPS AS NEW JOB CREATORS

Youth felt lack of jobs, so new panel to focus on it: Chief Secy

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 6

A DAY after the Union government set up a Cabinet committee on employment and skill development, Gujarat Chief Secretary J N Singh on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed the panel as during the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections youth were feeling about lack of employment and of not being engaged in the processes of national growth and national development.

Speaking at the inauguration of the first two-day annual Student Start-up Innovation Policy (SSIP) conference in Gandhinagar, Singh said, "During the entire (Lok Sabha) election process, youth was feeling that there is a lack of employment, lack of overall opportunities to get engaged in the national growth and national development. These are the few things that this Cabinet sub-committee (on employment and skill development) will look into."

Pitching for start-ups as new job creators, Singh talked about a "bleak" job scenario a "limit" to what big industries can offer jobs as. "If you look at the overall perspective of what is likely to happen, whether the youth are getting employed as many times, we do feel that there is a bleak picture. The type of people are coming up, we feel very proud of a solid democratic dividend which a country very rarely has. India is passing through that democratic dividend phase, but are we actually going to harness that democratic dividend? Are we really in a position to take care and get the fullest advantage of the youth that we are having," the chief secretary asked.

He said that there was a limit to what big industries can offer jobs as well as the service sector despite coming into a prime. But there's a limit to the job creation



Chief Secretary J N Singh

and that is where the start-ups come in, he said, adding, "And as PM (Modi) keeps telling that the youth do not have to be job seekers but job givers. This is the what the youth of India and what the expectation from all of you is."

Praising the entrepreneurship skills of Gujaratis, Singh said that the Gujarat government has been at the "forefront of pioneering policies and institutions which have gone a long way in making an innovation culture at the grassroots level. "In sync with various Central government schemes like Make In India, Start-Up India, Atal Innovation Mission, National Innovation Council, the Gujarat government has also taken very concrete steps to nurture, to support, to promote creativity, innovations and entrepreneurship," he said.

The conference was organised the Education Department of the Government of Gujarat and was attended by Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe, Principal Secretary (Education), Govt of Gujarat Anju Sharma and Commissioner of Technical Education Avantika Singh Aulakh.

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Premier institutes not collaborating, need to tie fundings: AICTE chief

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STRESSING ON the "lack of collaboration among the country's premier institutes", AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe on Thursday said that there was a need to "attach strings" to the funding of these institutes to make them undertake collaborative programmes.

"We do have excellent institutions in Ahmedabad like IIM-A, EDII, NID, IITGn. Similarly, in other cities like Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi. You look at any city of India, you have varieties of institutions which should come together, collaborate and start thinking about the future problems and how to solve them, how to empower our citizens, how to create jobs, how to help the economy to grow because most of our institutes work in silos. They have excellent facilities, but they don't share their facilities with other institutes," the AICTE chairman said.

"So, we need to develop models where the funding by any agency — whether by Department of Science and Technology, the state government or DBT, or AICTE or HRD Ministry — strings must be attached that unless you collaborate with five other institutions, this funding will not given," he added.

He also called for summer collaboration by faculty and students of these institutes to help create "new generation of entrepreneurs and start-ups".



'Institutes don't share their facilities with others'

He also said that as part of the start-up policy of the Union government, electives in the area of entrepreneurship — be it creation of business plan, in terms of market survey, economy, how to go ahead with product development to actually getting funding and then starting the entrepreneurship research — are being encouraged.

Also, this year, as part of the two-year management programme, a new discipline on innovation entrepreneurship and venture development has been launched, he said. The two-year masters programme — whether MBA or post-graduate diploma programme in management — will empower the business graduates to launch start-ups and not look for multinational jobs, Sahasrabudhe added.

According to him, in the last five years, as many as 244 large start-ups were given Rs 1,561 crore out of Rs 10,000 crore fund that was created by the government. "So, the utilisation is much less than what is projected. A total 18,861 start-ups have been formally registered. That number is okay but it is not as much as our expectations. The number of jobs created by them are 5.60 lakh, but our expectation is hundred fold — definitely 5 crore jobs could be created by start-ups alone," he said.