

## 16 State Governments Sign MoU with Textiles Ministry to Impart Skill Training to Workers

Sixteen State Governments signed MoU with Ministry of Textiles at a function in New Delhi to take Samarth - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) forward. Eighteen States have agreed to partner with the Ministry under the scheme. Initially, the Ministry has allocated over 3.5 lakh targets to the agencies nominated by State Governments to implement this scheme. After the training, employment will be provided to all these beneficiaries in various textiles related activities. The programme covers the entire value chain of the textiles sector except spinning and weaving.

The training programme involves advanced technology oriented features like Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), CCTV recording, dedicated Call Centre, Mobile App based Management Information System and on-line monitoring.

The resolve to skill over 4 lakh people is a big step and every effort must be made to achieve it. 75% of the workers engaged in the textiles sector and 70% of the beneficiaries of the Mudra loan are women. North Eastern States need to focus on silk and jute sector and review the targets of skilling under Samarth scheme.

### Background

India is a very small player in the global market and there is huge potential of employment generation in the textiles sector. There is a gap of 16 lakh trained skilled workers in textiles industry. The high standards have been set out in the Samarth scheme for the skilling of the workers so that they are readily employable by the industry.

The Ministry of Textiles, as part of the Government's broad focus on skill development, implemented the flagship scheme (2010 to 2017) of skilling in textiles sector, Integrated Skill

Development Scheme with a target to provide 15 lakh additional skilled workers to the textiles sector by 2017. Under the scheme 11.14 lakh persons were trained by March, 2018 and 8.41 lakh persons were provided placement.

With a view to leverage the institutional capability created by the Ministry and the synergy / collaboration achieved with the industry and the state governments, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for a new skill development scheme, titled "Samarth" - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)" from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It is a placement oriented programme for meeting the skill requirements of textiles industry. The scheme aims at skill development of 10 lakh youth upto 2020 in the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving in the organized sector, with a projected outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.

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