

F. No. L-14011/23/2014-HRD
Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)
(HRD Division)

Subject: Minutes of review meeting for two Schemes for Skill Development in ESDM

A meeting to review the progress made so far in the two Schemes for Skill Development in ESDM was held at 4.00 PM on 20.02.2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, DeitY. The list of participants is as under:

1. Dr Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, DeitY - Chairman
2. Lt.Gen. S.P.Kochhar, CEO, Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC)
3. Shri Indrajit Bhattacharya, Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC)
4. Shri Sanjay Kumar Vyas, Scientist 'D', Joint Director, DeitY
5. Shri Rohit Mehra, Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)
6. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Add. Director(T), NIELIT
7. Shri Anurag Govind Rao, Asstt. Director(E), NIELIT
8. Ms. Vanita Yadav, Joint Director(E), NIELIT
9. Shri Surendra Singh, Scientist 'C', DeitY
10. Shri Mohit Jain, Senior Consultant, PMU
11. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Consultant, PMU

2. At the outset, Chairman welcomed the participants and emphasised on the need to speed up the implementation of the scheme. He sought to know the status of implementation of the two Schemes and strategy being adopted for successful implementation of these schemes.

3. Shri Mohit Jain, Senior Consultant, PMU presented the current training status in the Phase-I Scheme. He informed that a total of 3696 students(130 students passed) have been enrolled till date as per the information being provided by the SIAs 8 States/NIELIT/ESSC/TSSC. It was also informed that the breakup of students enrolled in courses affiliated to ESSCI, NIELIT and TSSC is 2519, 657 and 520 respectively. He informed that as regards to the new Scheme, details of the 10 states along with the names of their nominated State Implementing Agency have been received and placed on DeitY website. Further, the list of affiliated Training Partners in respect of NIELIT, ESSC and TSSC have also been uploaded on the DeitY website. Thereafter, the current status of inclusion of new Courses, revision in Scheme Guidelines to bring in more clarity and other concerns/points for considerations were presented.

4. Chairman desired to know from the three Key Implementing Agencies viz. ESSCI, NIELIT and TSSC about their plan of action, concerns and the impediments faced, if any. A brief summary of the deliberations and the recommendations made are brought out in the succeeding section:

4.1 Key Implementing Agencies (ESSCI, NIELIT, TSSC) deliberations and recommendations:

- i) As per current Scheme Guidelines, employability is kept as minimum of 70% of the pass-out candidates for 100% fee reimbursement by training provider; and per candidate employed for below 70% employment. TSSC raised a concern that linkage of placement for payment of training fee will lead to fraudulent companies coming up showing placement. NIELIT also raised a concern that blocking the payment of the training partners by linking with employment is already discouraging their training partners.

Recommendations: It was noted that the placement norms are required as per the directions in the SFC meeting wherein it was indicated that '*the instant scheme would adopt the national standard norms for employability as being evolved/prescribed by NSDA/ Ministry of Skill Development*'. As regards, release of funds to the Training

Partners, it was felt that the training fees to the tune of 80% in respect of 70% of the pass-out candidates could be considered for release to the Training partners immediately upon certification and the remaining amount could be released subject to meeting the prescribed employment criterion. However, it was felt that these aspects need to be debated further in the Expert Committee/PRSG for appropriate recommendations.

[Action by: DeitY/PMU]

- ii) As per SFC recommendations, any candidate who has benefited from any other government scheme such as STAR scheme cannot take the benefit of this Scheme. TSSC raised a concern that checking by SSC for duplication with STAR Scheme would put additional responsibility to council without any compensation provisioning.

Recommendations: It was noted that this aspect is required as per the directions in the SFC meeting. Chairman indicated that DeitY would request NSDC to provide the database of the STAR scheme beneficiaries to SSCs/ NIELIT so that SSCs/ NIELIT could check duplicity of candidates, who have already availed benefits under STAR scheme, at the time of registration by matching with the Aadhaar Credentials.

[Action by: DeitY/ESSCI / NIELIT/ TSSC]

- iii) All the three Key Implementing Agencies viz. ESSCI, NIELIT and TSSC indicated that every state SIA is issuing different guidelines for approval of batches and some are not responding to their request for giving go-ahead for training in spite of repeated follow-up. It was also indicated that few states such as J&K, instead of involving ESSCI/NIELIT/TSSC, are issuing EOIs in order to identify Training partners. They highlighted that in such case, the NIELIT/ESSC/TSSC are left with no role to play in the Scheme.

Recommendations: PMU should formulate process guidelines and circulate to all the SIAs.

[Action by: DeitY/PMU]

- iv) TSSC raised a concern that assessment fee being paid only for successful candidates (based on batch certified and not on batch size), may lead to dilution of results by assessing body in order to garner adequate funds.

Recommendations: It was noted that the scheme guidelines issued earlier would need to be modified to avoid such discrepancy. It was recommended that in line with STAR scheme, every enrolled student would be required to pay for assessment fees to the Training Partners at the time of enrolment. The training Partner would then transfer the Assessment Fee collected from the student to the Certifying Agency (NIELIT/ESSC/TSSC as the case may be). The trainee would be eligible to obtain the refund upon his/her successful certification and the necessary amount due to him/her would be transferred to his account through DBT. For the Phase-I Scheme, it was also recommended that the Grant-in-Aid for the Registration-Cum-Certification fees would be provided to NIELIT-PMU and appropriate steps for releasing it to the respective Certifying Agency viz. ESSCI, NIELIT, TSSC, would be suitably added in the Scheme Guidelines.

[Action by: PMU/DeitY]

- v) With regard to the new scheme, a concern was raised that few states SIAs are too slow or few states have no SIA till now, hence there would be difficulty in implementation in such states due to lack of go-ahead to the key Implementing Agencies for conducting training.

Recommendations: It was felt that in such cases decision to allocate batches to the Implementing Agency could be recommended by PMU/DeitY based on a pre-approved formula. However, it was felt that this matter be taken up in the Project Review and Steering Group (PRSG) for its recommendations. Hence it was suggested to take appropriate steps for constituting the Project Review and Steering Group (PRSG) for the two Schemes by DeitY and to have a PRSG meeting by 31st March 2015.

[Action by: PMU / DeitY]

4.2 **Other recommendations:**

- i) **Portal on Schemes:** It was noted that the Portal being developed by NIELIT is in advanced stage of finalisation. It was recommended that the portal should incorporate a Dashboard of relevant state-wise data on the beneficiaries, with appropriate provision for drilling down upto the Candidate specific details. The Portal should be completed by 15th March 2015 and a demonstration for the same may organised in the 2nd week of March, 2015.

[Action by: NIELIT/PMU]

- ii) **PMU for the two Schemes:** The Chairman directed that the PMU staff needs to report to the HRD Division, DeitY. Further, DeitY could create a committee under the chairmanship of HOD (HRD) with JD(SKV), DD(HRD) from DeitY and with two representatives of NIELIT to be nominated by MD, NIELIT for taking operational decisions for the Scheme for the role assigned to NIELIT as PMU.

[Action by: PMU/DeitY/NIELIT]

- iii) Next review meeting to be scheduled by 15th March 2015.

4. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.
