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'Train local unemployed youth to construct highways'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a unique exercise to develop world class road infrastructure, the Road Ministry has asked the developers and skill training institutions to train the local, unemployed youth in highways construction and also upgrade the skills of existing workers.

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said such active intervention to promote skill upgradation will benefit lakhs of unskilled and under-skilled local, unemployed youth in the near future. It would also be made mandatory for every contractor, who is awarded a highways contract, to train at least 10 people for every one crore spent on the project.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is in active consultation with



stakeholders to finalise and unfold the programme for skill upgradation of highway construction workers and drivers of commercial vehicles.

The programme, proposed to work on the PPP (public private partnership) model, is aimed at upskilling both unemployed local youth as well as those already working under contractors. The

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National Highways Builders Federation, Original Equipment Manufacturers and NHAI would be the main programme partners.

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) will be the Lead Agency and will coordinate all activities pertaining to the training programmes. "Standards of training programmes, intake, syllabi, trainee-trainer ratio and other parameters for the training

programmes, within the National Skill Quality Framework, will be finalised by IAHE with the approval of the Ministry. The training will be imparted in various trades related to highways construction such as masonry, concreting, machine operation and so on," Gadkari said during the deliberations with stakeholders at Transport Bhawan on Monday.

"The programme aims to start with training 20,000 highway construction workers

immediately and increasing the numbers so that the manpower requirement of the sector is fulfilled together with creation of employment opportunities for jobless youth," said a Ministry statement. The course content and certification will be as per approved standards of the Ministry of Skill Development.

Gadkari stated that accountability, and proper auditing will be the key elements of implementation together with putting online, all details of trained workers for ensuring complete transparency. Besides Government will also pay ₹15,000 as stipend to highway construction workers during the training period to compensate loss of minimum wages and said 20,000 workers will be trained in the first phase.