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MANGALURU

60% of engineers jobless: MHRD plans edu revamp

Common Tests, Teacher Training To Up Standards

Manash.Gohain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: More than 60% of the eight lakh engineers graduating from technical institutions across the country every year remain unemployed, according to the All India Council for Technical Education. This is a potential loss of 20 lakh man days annually.

That's not all. Less than 1% of engineering students participate in summer internships and just 15% of engineering programmes offered by over 3,200 institutions are accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

All this points to the huge variation in standards of technical colleges in the country, a majority of whom churn out graduates who are not employable. To buck this trend, the ministry of human resource development is planning a major revamp of

INTERNSHIP TO BE MADE A MUST?

PROBLEMS

- Only 15% of programmes offered by 3,200 technical institutes accredited by NBA
- Less than 1% engineering students participate in summer internships

SOLUTIONS

- 50% of programmes in institutions likely to be accredited through NBA by '22
- Students may have

to undergo mandatory internships of 4 to 8 weeks

MHRD MIN ALSO PLANS TO

- Improve employability of engineering students to 60% from the current 40%
- Make annual teacher training and revision of curriculum mandatory
- Test understanding of concepts & skills rather than subject knowledge in exams

India's technical education.

The strategy involves rolling out the single National Entrance Examination for Technical Institutions (NEETI) from January 2018, linking annual teacher training as mandatory condition for approval of the institution, mandatory induction training to enrolled students and annual revision of curriculum.

According to a senior MHRD official, NEETI (for admission to engi-

neering programmes) will be the first exam to be conducted by the National Testing Service (NTS), which will be completely computer based.

"In all probability NTS, will be ready by January 2018 to conduct the NEETI as well as National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical courses. The exams will be conducted multiple times in a year," said the official.

As per plans, the first NEETI ex-

am is likely to be schedule for December 2017-January 2018, followed by another one in March 2018 and the third on May 2018.

The official added that NTS will also conduct entrance test for Indian Institutes of Technology. "The paper setting will continue to be with the IITs. Only the conduct of the exams will be NTS's responsibility."

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), under MHRD, has also set broad targets for raising the standards of technical education, which includes immediate improvement of employability to 60% from the current 40% and to ensure that 75% of the students get industry exposure in the form of summer internships.

And before 2022, 50% of the programmes in the technical institutions shall be accredited through NBA and unless there is credible progress annually, institutional approval will be refused.

According to the planned initiatives of the AICTE, the selection process will be based on the single entrance test by an agency autho-

riized by MHRD and there will be a ban on conduct of such exams by any other institution or university or agency. Every student, post enrolment, will undergo mandatory induction training to reinforce the fundamental concepts and the required language skills needed for technical education.

Students will also have to undergo mandatory internships of four to eight weeks before the completion of the under graduation and the responsibility will be with the institution to facilitate the same. "Right now the institutional level mandatory internship is nearly 0%," said the official. The institutions from now on will have to make "suitable changes in the curriculum every year" and the process shall be completed in the month of December each year ahead of the coming academic year.

Linking annual teachers training as mandatory condition for approval of the institutions, at least 50% of the faculty will have to participate in the refresher course through Swayam portal.