

Address by Smt. D. Purandeswari MoS-HRD(HE)
On the occasion of inauguration of
Industrial Training Institute
On 12th November, 2007
At Maulana Azad National Urdu University
In Hyderabad.

Mr. Vice Chancellor and other distinguished guests and friends,

It gives me immense pleasure in inaugurating to-day the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Hyderabad under the aegis of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU). As you are aware this University was established in 1998 as a Central University with an all India jurisdiction and with the mandate inter alia to promote and develop the Urdu Language and to provide higher, technical and vocational education in the Urdu medium. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in whose name the university was founded was a devout national Muslim who had always been in the vanguard of our national movement to fight for the freedom of our country. After India became independent in 1947, he became the first Education Minister of this country and under his tenure, a number of measures were initiated to promote primary and secondary education, scientific and vocational education,

establishment of universities and promotion of avenues of research and higher studies. However he did not live long enough to see the full fruition of his efforts in regard to the development of education. But his tenure saw the beginning of a paradigm shift in free India's educational reforms.

As I have just mentioned earlier Maulana Azad National Urdu University was established in 1998 at Hyderabad by an Act of the Parliament as a Central University with an all-India jurisdiction. The Act empowers the University to impart education through both the distance and Campus modes of education. I learn that the University today is fast developing on its flourishing 200 acre campus at Gachibowli, Hyderabad and has nearly 700 students on the campus and over 70,000 students enrolled in Distance Mode. It has increased its activities by foraying into the field of technical and vocation education too. In its task the MANUU has been ably aided in its efforts of empowering the people by the far-sighted recommendations of the Sachar Committee report, which is an outcome of the social concerns of the UPA government addressed in its Common Minimum Programme.

The Sachar Committee has made the pertinent observations that though Urdu speaking population have a flair for handicrafts and artisan skills, it has been systematically wiped out due to economic and social factors. This trend should be arrested and the Government should take concrete efforts to establish ITI's in Urdu

speaking areas wherein trades can be taught to impart livelihood skills to the people and the Government may make special grants for the establishment of such institutes countrywide. This problem is now sought to be addressed by the setting up of an ITI here. I am glad that the UGC has accorded sanction to the establishment of an ITI in Hyderabad permitting 40 students intake each in several grades like Electrician, Plumbing, Electronic Mechanic, AC and Refrigeration and Civil Draughtsman.

I welcome the efforts of the MANUU in this regard. Their initiative is worth lauding and it will go a long way to emerge as an important and sustained intervention in uplifting the economic conditions of the socially depressed Urdu-speaking community of India. The Government of India will, always, support this young and national growing institution in its future endeavors.

I understand that the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has made certain recommendations to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India regarding ITI's/ITC's to make them flexible, contemporary, relevant, inclusive and creative. The Commission has pointed out that the existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) in the country are facing problems such as poor quality trainers, lack of flexibility, outdated infrastructure, etc. According to it has made some positive suggestions some of which are as follows:

- i. Extent of functional autonomy must be increased, ITIs should be given more power to strengthen and adapt their training programmes to better meet local market needs.
- ii. Modules on literacy, numeracy, communication skills, entrepreneurship and other general skills relevant to workplace requirements must be introduced in all courses.
- iii. Industry and trade involvement should be enhanced not only at the internship stage, but also at the time of examinations and placements.
- iv. Curricula should be constantly monitored and updated.
- v. The skills and courses offered should be reviewed periodically. The number of skills currently offered needs to be increased.
- vi. Teaching should be conducted in English as well as **local languages.**
- vii. Infrastructure should be regularly upgraded.
- viii. Quality of teaching should be considerably improved.

I hope these suggestions would receive the attention they deserve in order that we may upgrade the standard of vocational education. We must realize that skill building and training are a major means to empower people to improve the quality and organization of work, enhance citizens productivity, raise workers

income, promote job security and social equity and help individuals become more employable in rapidly changing labor markets. The ITI's/ITC's must play of an effective role in supplying semi skilled workers to the industry if they want to hasten the growth and development of the nation.

It is increasingly being realized that in the 21st century, a new society was fast emerging where knowledge would be the primary production resource instead of capital and labour. The Knowledge society is empowered by innovative capacity and efficient utilisation of this knowledge alone could create comprehensive wealth of the nation and also improve the quality of life - in the form of better health, education, infrastructure and other social indicators. Ability to create and maintain the knowledge infrastructure, develop knowledge workers and enhance their productivity through creation, growth and exploitation of new knowledge, would be key factors in deciding the prosperity of Knowledge Society. Whether a nation is progressing towards the knowledge society can be judged by the way the country effectively deals with knowledge creation and knowledge deployment in all sectors like IT, Industries, Agriculture, Health Care etc. The Industrial Training Institute creased the Maulana Azad National Urdu University is required to play a major role to play in this context in transforming the Urdu speaking members of the society into knowledge workers through their dual mode education system and persuade them to join the national mainstream.

The ITI which I am inaugurating to-day has also a special responsibility for building the capacity among the local students for participating in the nation building tasks. The capacities required to be built up among the students by the faculty members in this context are: the capacity for research and inquiry, the capacity for creativity and innovation, particularly the creative transfer of knowledge, the capacity to use high technology and the capacity for entrepreneurial leadership. The aim of the ITI management should also be to build up character, and human values, and also to enhance the learning capacity of the students through technology and build the confidence among them. I have no doubt that it will acquit itself creditably in discharging these responsibilities.

With these words I have great pleasure in inaugurating the ITI which, I am sure, would go a long way in fulfilling the aspiration of the local people for increasing opportunity of vocational education and higher employment market.

Jai Hind.
