

'Set up skill centres'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Industries in Uttarakhand face a considerable shortage of skilled manpower and to meet this requirement the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has recommended centres with better infrastructure facilities for skill training so that in five years about four lakh workers are trained to give thrust to industrialization here.

Further, the chambers has also proposed to organise a meeting in Dehradun later this year involving industrialists from across the nation to deliberate upon aspects of industrial development in Uttarakhand, said ASSOCHAM president Sandeep Jajodia.

He was addressing the media after meeting chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and jointly releasing a study report prepared by the chambers and Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) on sustainable action plan for the new government here on Wednesday.

Jajodia said that change of government in a state is an opportunity to reassess economic ground realities of that state and to make a fresh beginning to capitalise on the strengths and find solutions to nagging issues affecting



ASSOCHAM office-bearers, TARI director releasing report

Pioneer photo

progress. Uttarakhand has various strengths like scope for adventure and relaxing tourism apart from the fact that it is one of the few states where the agriculture is largely organic. He said, "The potential of the state in agriculture and other sectors has not been harnessed properly so far. If places like the Auli ski slope are developed with proper facilities, people will arrive here instead of travelling to Switzerland. Considering the large size of unskilled population, ASSOCHAM which has 10 skilling centres across the nation, has proposed to work in Uttarakhand towards skill development," he said. Jajodia further informed that ASSOCHAM has proposed to organise a meet of industrialists from across India in Dehradun during June this year.

The report submitted to the chief minister further stressed that skilling centres should be set up, like for food

processing in Rishikesh, handloom in Almora and tourism in Uttarkashi. A comprehensive policy of public private partnership (PPP) needs to be framed along the lines of Kerala, which has brought private investment and done wonders to promote tourism, stated the ASSOCHAM president.

The ASSOCHAM paper states that more investment is needed in building warehouses, cold storages and specialised transport vehicles for food processing industries.

More private sector participation should be encouraged to build tourism infrastructure. Various other aspects of industry and recommendations for improvement have also been stated in the paper. The ASSOCHAM secretary general DS Rawat, its food processing and value addition council chairman PK Jain and TARI director Kshama V Kaushik were also present on the occasion.

"Uttarakhand needs 4 lakh skilled workers in next five years"

By OUR STAFF REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 12 Apr: Industries in Uttarakhand are grappling with huge shortage of skilled manpower and, to meet the requirement, ASSOCHAM-TARI study has recommended urgently comprehensive training centres equipped with better infrastructure facilities for training so that in 5 years about 4 lakh workers are trained to give thrust to industrialisation.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) have jointly brought a Sustainable Action Plan for the new government which was released by ASSOCHAM President, Sandeep Jaiodia along with its Secretary General, DS Rawat, PK Jain, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Food Processing & Value Addition Council, and Kshama V Kaushik, Director, TARI, at a press conference here.

During 2012-22, about 2.06 million jobs will be created, while 2.53 million additional people will be added to the labour force. The paper further suggests the comprehensive training to youths for the primary sector like irrigation management, rainwater harvesting was needed.

The report was submitted to the Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat, by ASSOCHAM President Sandeep Jaiodia and Secretary General DS Rawat. The report further stressed that skilling centres should be set up, like food processing in Rishikesh, handloom in Almora and tourism in Uttarakashi. "A Management Information System (MIS) should



be designed to capture the requirement of skilled personnel at various levels in various districts in line with NSDC study/recommendations."

The state needs to build up a database for current level of migration, employment, agri processing industries, urban housing, telecom, etc. There is a need for fresh policies in the areas of health, education, skilling and water management.

"Collaboration between the state government and state universities, research institutes and public and private think tanks too is necessary for economic research and reworking of policy frameworks."

Higher growth has encouraged private sector participation and higher investment. In 2015-16, it received fresh investment of Rs 1.45 lakh crore with a growth rate of 23.7% over the previous year. Most of the investment has come into infrastructure, construction and real estate. The share of investment in infrastructure has increased from

11.8% in 2004-05 to 27.5% in 2015-16. Construction and real estate investment share increased from negligible in 2004-05 to 3.9% in 2015-16.

The industry sector is dominated by small scale industries (SSIs). During 2011-12 to 2014-15, SSIs grew by 18.5%. The sector comprises floriculture, horticulture, agri/food processing, biotechnology and tourism and has been showing continuous improvement. However, the full potential of these industries has not been exploited due to various bottlenecks which have been addressed below.

The growth in the services sector is driven by tourism (depicted by trade, hotels and restaurants) which has the highest share in this sector. Its growth, in fact, accelerated during 2004-5 to 2014-15 and its share increased from around 34% in 2004-05 to 51% in 2014-15. Growth rate of this sector has been around 17%.

While addressing the press conference, Jaiodia said, "A

comprehensive policy of public private partnership (PPP) needs to be framed along the lines of Kerala, which has brought private investment and done wonders to promote tourism"

According to the ASSOCHAM paper, more investment is needed in building warehouses, cold storages and specialised transport vehicles for food processing industries. More private sector participation should be encouraged to build tourist infrastructure.

Lack of modern techniques and technologies, lack of high quality seeds for crops suitable for rain-fed and hill areas, small and fragmented land holdings, high taxes on purchase of food grains and lack of sufficient marketing facilities are hampering growth. The state needs to invest more in research and development of high quality seeds, application of new and innovative technologies and provide training to farmers. Village adoption programme which provides for farmers' training and

technological assistance in the plains should be expanded to hilly areas, added the ASSOCHAM Chief.

The concept of cooperatives, contract farming, self-help groups and farmers' organisation were helpful in addressing the problems arising out of small and fragmented land holding, like access to credit and innovative technologies, it was stated.

The report said the industrial sector had done well, particularly the rural and small industrial units had grown by leaps and bounds and the sector now contributes around 40% to the GSDP - one of the highest in India. However, there is a huge potential for the expansion of agri-based industries which needs to be harnessed by improving marketing facilities and skilling. The ease of doing business ranking has improved but complex documentation, lack of IT-based tracking and monitoring of administrative clearances act as disincentives and need to be addressed.

Assocham to establish skill development centre in Uttarakhand

By Our Political Editor
DEHRADUN, APRIL 12

Lead and the oldest business chamber of the country, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has proposed to set up skill development centre in Uttarakhand. The chamber is already running 10 such skill development centres in 10 states in the country. In this connection, a delegation of ASSOCHAM led by ASSOCHAM's newly elected President Sandeep Jajodia and Secretary General of ASSOCHAM, DS Rawat today called on Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and submitted the proposal.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel thereafter, ASSOCHAM President Sandeep Jajodia informed that ASSOCHAM had carried an intensive study with Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) on the labour situation in Uttarakhand, a copy of which was also submitted to the CM during the meeting.

Jajodia further informed that the study had found that the industrial units in Uttarakhand were facing a



huge shortage of adequately skilled manpower. The industry in the state would require at least 4 lakh skilled workers in next five years. Jajodia said that to meet this requirement, the study had recommended comprehensive training centres equipped with better infrastructure facilities to impart adequate training skills to a huge number of unskilled or semi-skilled workers.

He added that the Chief Minister was receptive to proposal submitted by the

ASSOCHAM and had hinted at collaboration with ASSOCHAM for this purpose.

At the press conference, the ASSOCHAM President Sandeep Jajodia along with its Secretary General DS Rawat, PK Jain, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Food Processing & Value Addition Council and Kshama V Kaushik, Director, Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) also released the study titled Sustainable Action Plan for the new government. This report

has been jointly brought by ASSOCHAM and TARI. Jajodia stated that the report had laid emphasis on organic agriculture and horticulture, food processing and agro-value addition, commercial and adventure tourism and renewable energy as the sectors with huge potential for growth in Uttarakhand.

The report says that during 2012-22, about 2.06 million jobs will be created whereas 2.53 million additional people will be added to the labour force. The paper fur-

ther suggests the comprehensive training to youth for the primary sector like irrigation management, rain-water harvesting needed, noted the study.

The report has taken note of the fact that share of agriculture in Uttarakhand's GDP is declining sharply and that agriculture is no more very remunerative, particularly in the hills. The report has further taken note of the fact that majority of holdings in the state are small, marginal and fragmented and has therefore

recommended the concept of cooperatives, contract farming, self-help groups and farmers' organisations as a solution to the problems arising out of small and fragmented land holding, like access to credit and innovative technologies.

The report has further stressed that the skilling centres should be set up, like food processing in Rishikesh, handloom in Almora and tourism in Uttarakashi.

"Management Information System (MIS) should be designed to capture the requirement of skilled personnel at various levels in various districts in line with NSDC study/recommenda-

tions".

ASSOCHAM feels that Uttarakhand needs to build up a database for current level of migration, employment, agri processing industries, urban housing, telecom etc. There is a need for fresh policies in the areas of health, education, skilling and water management. It has recommended Collaboration between the state government and state universities, research institutes and public and private think tanks for economic research and rework-

ing of policy frameworks.

The report said the industrial sector has done well, particularly the rural and small industrial units have grown by leaps and bounds and the sector now contributes around 40% to the GSDP — one of the highest in India. However, there is a huge potential for the expansion of agri-based industries which need to be harnessed by improving marketing facilities and skilling. The ease of doing business ranking has improved but complex documentation, lack of IT-based tracking and monitoring of administrative clearances act as disincentives and need to be addressed.

