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MARATHWADA: ANCIENT TO MODERN PERIOD"

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10. Government Policies and Programmes for Entrepreneurship Development

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India is a country with over 1.2 billion people, 379 million (31%) of which are between the ages of 18 and 35 (Census of India, 2011) and, many of these young people are in search of jobs, despite being educated. For example, only one in every four urban males under 29 years is employed even though they hold at least a 127 certificates or diploma. The aim of the government has been to create employment opportunities for youth while focusing on rapid economic growth. Entrepreneurship development is one of the mechanisms adopted by the Government of India towards the creation of job opportunities. The government's assumption is that support for innovation will enhance entrepreneurship development, which will in turn accelerate economic growth. The roots of India's current economic systems extend back to the time of colonial rule and its autocratic and fragmented structure. The country was made to forcefully serve as a market to its colonial bosses and their industrial products. Independence in 1947 brought many changes, but the country did not have to start from scratch. Nearly 70 per cent of Indians live in rural areas, and over past 20 to 30 years there has been a continuous flow of people from villages towards cities, mainly in search of work.⁴ The Indian economy is mostly based on agriculture, which depends on the 128 unpredictable South-West monsoon. Given the large population, it is a considerable task for the government ensures adequate and affordable supplies of food, drinking water, clothing, housing, education, and healthcare. The people of India, especially the young, crave employment. There is a limitation to employment opportunities offered by the various sectors of economy, but the government does provide employment guarantee programs. However, these programs are targeted at providing basic needs and tend to provide labor-intensive jobs that have no link with innovation. There is a realization that, to sustain rapid growth and alleviate poverty, India needs to aggressively harness its innovative potential, relying on innovation-led, rapid, and inclusive growth to achieve economic and social transformation. The innovative potential of the young Indian population, if supported through an effective innovation ecosystem, holds potential for developing entrepreneurship and

providing the growth and job opportunities that India needs. To develop and nurture the entrepreneurial sector, the support of the government is crucial. Policies need to be adopted that can give a fillip to this sector. The Indian government has taken several steps to ensure the growth of this sector and instituted several bodies to promote entrepreneurial development in the country. SIDBI was set up in 1990 as the main financial institution for financing the small scale sector, providing development and support services for promoting small industries, and engaging with other institutions engaged in similar activities. 129 The National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board promote entrepreneurship development through Science and Technology. This initiative has encouraged researchers and academicians in the field of Science and Technology to take interest in socially relevant entrepreneurial roles. Under the flagship of NSTEB, various institutes and training programmes have been formulated such as Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Entrepreneurship Development Program and many more. To boost the services and manufacturing sectors, the Govt. of India chalked out a separate SMSE department so that these industries could receive sufficient attention and support. The MSMED Act was passed in 2006, which aims at providing guidelines for skill development of employees, management and entrepreneurs in addition to resolving many other issues.

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for developing new micro and small enterprises, enlarging the entrepreneurial base and encouraging self-employment in rural as well as urban areas, by providing training to first generation entrepreneurs and assisting them in setting up of enterprises. The assistance shall be provided to these training institutions in the form of capital grant for creation/strengthening of infrastructure and programme support for conducting entrepreneurship 130 development and skill development programmes. Assistance is provided under the Scheme to following Training Institutions, for conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) and Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs) and Training of Trainers (ToTs) programmes in the areas of Entrepreneurship and/or Skill Development. (a) National level EDIs, (b) Training Institutions established by Partner Institutions (PIs) of national level EDIs, (c) Training/Incubation Centres of NSIC, (d) Training cum Incubation Centres (TICs) set up by Franchisees of NSIC and (e) Other Training institutions with proven professional competency, capacity and experience, approved under the scheme. Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI): EDI is the premier institute of small to medium sized enterprise management in India. It is an autonomous not for-profit body founded in 1983 with corporate partners including the State Bank of India and IBDI Bank Ltd, as well as significant involvement with the Indian Industry Development Commission and the United Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (MCED): Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (MCED) is a Nodal Agency promoted by Government of Maharashtra as a joint venture of its State Level Industrial Development Corporations to conduct training activities related to Entrepreneurship Development. MCED conducts a variety of training programs aimed at promoting entrepreneurship across the state, catering to the training related needs of society. To mention a few, Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Skill Development Programme, Performance Improvement Programme, Faculty Development Programme etc.

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