

GE partners with Ministry of Skill Development to give boost to Skill India Mission; Sources skilled workers for its Greenfield manufacturing base in Bihar

New Delhi, 13 June 2017: General Electric (GE) in partnership with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is planning to source workers and skilled technicians from Bihar itself, in line with its Greenfield manufacturing base being set up in Marhaura (Bihar), service facilities in Roza (UP) and Gandhidham (Gujarat). This project was launched as a part of PM's 'Make in India' scheme in which GE agreed to invest close to \$200 million and will certainly boost employment opportunities for the local people. Under this project, GE even plans to **set up state of the art Skilling Centres** with support from the Skill Ministry which is headed by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

As part of the project, the production of first railway coaches will start from mid-next year from Saran. GE, in collaboration with India Railways, is nearing completion of a Diesel Locomotive Manufacturing Plant in Marhaura, Saran district in Bihar. A new transmission line to Marhaura is being created to provide electricity to this factory. GE is also coming up with a state of the art maintenance shed for diesel locomotives in railway's land in Roza near Shahjahanpur.

To discuss the progress of the project, John G. Rice, Vice chairman of General Electric Company met Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy today. Mr Rice thanked Shri Rudy for his consistent support on the project. Mr. Banmali Agarwala, President and CEO, GE South Asia and Sharmila Barathan, Senior Vice President – Corporate Affairs & Policy, GE South Asia joined him in the meeting.

During the meeting Shri Rudy expressed his desire that GE should conduct skill mapping of the surrounding areas in consequent wake of the requirement of skilled workforce in setting of the plant. He stated that the nearing ITIs can be leveraged to offer skilled resources. GE can also set up and additional infrastructure for training. The Minister further suggested to the GE delegation that old colonial infrastructure can be revamped to set up health care centres which GE can run under its CSR initiatives.

Further, he flagged the issue of alarming levels of arsenic in the ground water of Bihar which he has been combating through his own personal funds and MPLAD budget allocations. He suggested the ample scope of development work on the said issue.

Mr. Banmali Agarwala updated the minister that they are working on extending support for ancillary industries in that region. He updated Shri Rudy that GE Healthcare, an arm of General Electric is working in line with the Skill India Mission and aim at creating 1, 00,000 strong skilled healthcare workforce in India by partnering with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and has now set up skilling centres in 15 cities where they are training individuals to be lab technicians, X-Ray machine operators and Radiology equipment operators..

It should also be mentioned here that GE Power India, part of the General Electric Co., was the first corporate donor to contribute to the National Skill Development Fund, a special fund setup under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. GE Power has allocated INR 50 lacs in CSR contributions towards this effort covering the current financial year.

For more information on Skill Development, please follow the links below:

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