

## **Ministry of Youth Affairs**

### **MDG Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

The following targets have been fixed to achieve the above goal:

1. Halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger
2. Halve the number of people who live on less than \$1 a day

#### Entrepreneur Development Programme

It is necessary to raise income generation avenues to achieve the above targets. Small Enterprise Development Division of the Ministry implements programmes annually to raise self-employment opportunities. This division has district offices attached to the District Secretariat offices island wide (without North and East). These offices have been equipped with well trained officers on Entrepreneurship development. They conduct the following programmes to enhance the entrepreneurship capacities of unemployed youth.

#### Entrepreneurship Development Training

Under this programme unemployed youth are guided towards expansion of their existing enterprises as well as to launch new enterprises

#### Lead the youth to secure financial facilities to expand existing enterprises and also inaugurate new enterprises

Enterprising youth are directed to financial organisations and also assist to sort out financial issues of existing enterprises.

#### Introduction of new markets and take action to expand the market

Organising trade fairs for festive seasons, matching buyers and sellers, introducing small entrepreneurs' products to supermarkets are some of the activities that have been undertaken in order to promote markets. Ultimate object of these activities is to generate income avenues and eradicate poverty.

### **MDG Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases**

National Youth Services Council has launched a project to implement an awareness programme on reproductive health for youth. One of the objectives of this programme is to enhance the knowledge of youth in prevention of HIV/AIDS. The programme is funded by United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

### **MDG Goal 8: Development of a global partnership for development**

To achieve these objectives, a number of targets have been fixed. Among these, development and implementation of strategies for decent and productive workforce are directly involved with the activities of the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

#### Youth Corps

When the rate of youth unemployment increases it would not be possible to prevent the poverty, unrest, deterioration of health and falling of victims to anti-social activities. Therefore one of the strategies to build an effective workforce is to direct the young school leavers towards employment after enhancing their personalities and provide them with vocational training activities. Guiding of young school leavers after the G.C.E. Ordinary Level and Advance Level Examinations, towards employment is emphasised in the policy statement of the Mahinda Chinthana as well.

An outstanding role is played by the Youth Corps in achieving the development and implementation of strategies for decent and productive work force, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals. Through the Youth Corps programme a basic

training of 6 months is given to the youth aged between 16 – 24 years. This programme, while enhancing the discipline of the youth through personality development, group work and physical training, lays the foundation to create a decent work force. In addition to this, their skills also are developed by way of imparting of knowledge in English language and computer literacy. After the completion of the period of six months they will be trained for a suitable vocational training. Some of them are:

1. Clothing and garments
2. Printing and packaging
3. Steel and light engineering
4. Leather and shoes
5. Language skills
6. Gems and jewellery
7. Electrical, electronics and communication technology
8. Computer and information technology

Rangers of the Youth Corps are directed to Governmental and private sector organisations for training. Some private sector organisations provide employment for the trainees, once the training is completed. 8,234 trainees were directed to governmental and private sector organisations for training during the year 2007. Maximum amount of Rs 10,000 is paid per trainee as part of the training fees.

Further, some private sector organisations make requests to train youth to fill the vacancies in their organisations. Youth Corps conducts training programmes on behalf of these organisations on the condition that the organisation employs the youth after the training.

#### Gainful Vocational Training – National Youth Services Council (NYSC)

National Youth Services Council also plays a major role in achieving the objective of development and implementation of strategies for decent and productive work force. NYSC conducts vocational training programs in 32 Vocational Training Centres located throughout the island for unemployed youth. One of the complaints of school leaving youth is that, what they learnt in the schools is not useful for them to find employment. Therefore the NYSC has taken interest in modernisation of existing training courses with a view to build a work force demanded by the economic requirements of the country.

National Youth Services Council had planned to train 10,000 youth in vocational training, but during the year 2007 more than 13,000 youth had followed c=vocational training, but during the year 2007 more than 13,000 youth had followed vocational training courses. Some of the training courses conducted are given below:

1. Air conditioning and refrigeration
2. Beauty culture
3. Language skills
4. Cloth making
5. Electrical technology
6. Gardening

At present there are 12 training courses conducted by the NYSC for which internationally recognised certificates (NVO Status) are awarded. It is planned to increase this number up to 32.