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**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Labour & Employment**

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**India's Labour & Employment Minister Meets his Counterparts from United States, Korea and Australia**

Bilateral meetings held on 11/9/14 on the sidelines of G-20 Labour Ministerial Conference at Melbourne, Australia

Union Labour & Employment Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar met his counterparts from United States of America, Republic of Korea and Australia on the sidelines of G20 Labour Ministerial conference. They deliberated on the issues of mutual interest pertaining to labour and employment scenario, in these meetings held on September 11, 2014.

**Meeting with the United States of America**

US Secretary of Labour Shri Thomas Perez mentioned that the two largest and oldest democracies of the world have a number of things in common. He recalled that the MoU between the two countries, signed 3 years back, has been particularly successful in ensuring co-operation in the area of occupational safety. He expressed the view that the two countries can widen the scope of co-operation and work together in the field of skill development under the MoU. The US Secretary of Labour, while appreciating the efforts made by India in this direction, expressed his desire to learn from India's experience on meeting the challenge of job creation and increasing labour force participation rate on such a large scale. He offered full cooperation to India in its skill development efforts.

Shri Tomar apprised the US Secretary of Labour about the efforts made by India for creating employment and increasing employability of India's youth through skill development. He mentioned that under the new government, a new Skill Development Ministry has been created to focus on the task of skill development, and the government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has started a Skill India program. Minister apprised the US Secretary that new ITIs are being opened up in underserved areas under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. In order to create skills matching the needs of the industry, Ministry is entering into flexi-MoUs with industry and designing customized training courses.

Both sides agreed to take the MoU forward and scale up their level of co-operation in the field of labour in the coming days.

**Meeting with Republic of Korea**

Union Minister Shri Tomar had a bilateral meeting with Minister of Employment and Labour, Republic of Korea Shri Lee Ki-kweon. Korean Minister appreciated the initiatives of India in skill development, especially the need-based skill development program, details of which were shared by Shri Tomar in his G-20 address. Korea proposed to have a MoU in distance learning program and showed interest in need-based training initiated by India under flexi-MoU. Minister of Labour, Korea proposed that Hyundai can train youth who live or work around industrial locations of Hyundai in India, for enhancing their employability. Both ministers agreed for enhanced and sustained engagement at bilateral level.

**Meeting with Australia**

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar also met Minister of Employment, Australia Shri Eric Abetz on the sidelines of G-20 Ministerial Summit. Shri Abetz proposed signing of MoU between two countries for taking forward the cooperation on labour issues, especially to match the skill requirements of Australian industry. If a planned programme can be conceptualized to synchronise the skill requirements of Australian industry and the skill training in India, more Indians can come to Australia for work and it will be a win-win situation, he added.

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