

## Cabinet Approves the Closure of H.M.T.Units

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Prime minister Narendra Modi and the N.D.A.II government have been harping about 'Make in India' scheme launched by them, that through this scheme they would provide more job opportunities to the unemployed youth, besides implementing schemes for the skill development of the unemployed youth. The ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship is signing agreements with many private organisations to take up skill development programme.

The NDA government has amended the Apprenticeship act, to suit to the needs of the industry, in support to its 'Make in India' scheme. The NDA government grandly claims that "it has recognised the apprenticeship programme as a part of its skills initiative and improve training for Indian youths and help them attain better jobs. It also proclaims that its objective and aim is to expand the number of apprentices in India".

But all these grand announcements prove to be a trick played by the government to hood-wink unemployed youth, to train them only with the view of making them available for the industry as contract workers for short periods in the private sector, as cheap labour.

In fact there is no dearth of skilled workers in India, having sufficient training and field experience. Even those completed their stipulated training, they are not being absorbed in to the companies as permanent workers. Even the governmental organisations (industries) which are supported to be the 'model employers' are blatantly denying the rights of the trained apprentices even as per the Apprentice Amendment bill of 2014. Thus the skill development schemes are proving to be a trick played by the NDA government on the unemployed youth, to convert them in to cheap labourers, to the advantage of private industry.

The union cabinet approved the closure of iconic HMT watches, H.M.T Chinar watches and HMT bearings rendering a thousand workers jobless. The workers are offered VRS/VSS settlement of their dues as per the 2007 pay scales. For the past 9 months these workers are not being paid with wages, and there is no hope of revival of these companies. Workers are left with no option due to lack of an alternative. Thus the workers of these units are forced to accept the VRS proposed by the government. This is the bitter truth about the lives of workers even working in PSUS which are being forcibly closed to give scope and chance for the private industrialists to exploit super profits In the name of liberalisation policies and reforms!

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