

4.8 lakh skilled workers certified under PMKVY's RPL scheme

New Delhi (IANS): Aligning competencies of the informal workforce to the mainstream, over 4.8 lakh skilled workers have been certified under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojanas (PMKVY) Recognition of the Prior Learning (RPL) programme, an official statement said on Monday.

In less than two years of its commencement, the programme has covered 458 districts across India covering skills ranging from carpet weavers in Rajasthan, tea plantation workers in West Bengal and rubber plantation workers in North East.

"The candidates have been en-

rolled, assessed and certified in 185 job roles across 30 sectors," a statement said. The Recognition of Prior Learning programme is one of the key components under PMKVY, whereby informal skills such as construction, masonry, plumbing, carpentry and yoga, which are generally acquired through family trades or gained from life experiences, are assessed and certified based on the standards set by the National Skills Qualification Network framework.

Rajesh Agrawal, Joint Secretary at the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry, said the informal sector contributes

nearly 80 per cent to the national income and overall economy.

"Reminiscing a strong interest in the informal economy as one of the routes towards building sustainable livelihood, the RPL program aims to standardise and benchmark the unorganised skills and knowledge," he said.

National Skill Development Corporation's Director and COO Jayant Krishna said, "We have a significant population in the formal and informal sectors whose competencies acquired on-the-job and home-grown skills can be mapped and certified to reap the benefits of a better workforce."