

Will bring CET to MCVV students next year: Tope

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STUDENTS of Minimum Competency Vocational Courses (MCVC) may also be eligible for the medical, engineering and other Common Entrance Tests (CET) from the next academic session if reforms suggested by the 11-member Vocational Education Committee are accepted and the Vocational Education and Training Act is passed by the Assembly, said Rajesh Tope, Higher and Technical Education Minister in the city on Friday.

Details of the proposed Act and other reforms suggested for vocational education in the state, mainly formation of a Maharashtra Vocational Universities Act, Maharashtra Vocational Education Commission (M-VEC) and the Maharashtra Vocational Education and Training Quality Council as well as an Accreditation Board, will be presented by the state government early next week, said Tope.

"I have had an informal discussion with the chief minister and the deputy chief minister. A formal presentation with details of the report of the committee will be made to them next week. If the Bill is introduced in the monsoon session, I am hopeful it will be passed

TIMETABLE FOR SSC, HSC

The March 2012 timetable for exams of Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination, including MCVC, was announced by Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education on Friday. SSC examinations will begin on March 1 with the first language paper and end on March 28. For general and bifocal (vocational) as well as MCVC candidates of HSC, the exams will begin on February 21 with English and end on March 28, with IT as the last paper for the vocational, bifocal as well as general courses. MCVC exam will end on March 7.

by the winter session and the reforms implemented from the next academic session," said Tope.

As of now, MCVC students are not eligible for CET and many other competitive examinations as they do not have mathematics and science in HSC. If the reforms are accepted, they can opt for maths and science instead of a third language paper (for which they now appear in the absence of other subject options).

"Further, these students do not get entry into undergraduate programmes at many universities other than limited courses. There is no 'vertical mobility' for them. Besides skills they have obtained in HSC (Vocational) are lost

when they take admission to non-vocational under-graduate courses," added Tope.

The state has about four lakh students in vocational courses. As per estimates, Maharashtra alone requires about 4 million skilled people in the next two years. The committee was constituted on January 27 this year by the Ministry for Higher and Technical Education.

Swati Mujumdar, chairperson, Vocational Committee, said, "The Committee studied the Indian vocational scenario in comparison to ones in countries such as Germany, UK, Australia, Korea, China and Sri Lanka. China has more than 100 Vocational Universities while Germany has 160 which are successful and are preferred by employers as they can hire people with hands-on skills."

The committee has recommended creation Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) scheme to measure skills of unqualified but skilled persons to help them in skill advancement. A single statutory body, Vocational Education and Training Act to plan, regulate and standardise vocational education, training and skill development at all levels in the in Maharashtra has also been suggested by the committee.