

# Working group proposes strategy to boost MSMEs

**Our Bureau**

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To boost micro, small and medium enterprises, the Working Group on MSMEs Growth during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan has identified thrust areas. It has recommended six umbrella schemes – Credit and Finance, Technology and Innovation, Infrastructure, Marketing, Skill and Entrepreneurship Development, Institutional Structure.

The schemes/proposals mentioned under each would be treated as components of the Umbrella Scheme, an official release said.

On advantages of such a scheme, the release said there would be flexibility of fund utilisation under each Umbrella Scheme. Funds can be transferred to components that are doing well from those experiencing tardy implementation.

Implementation of different components would be cost-effective and time saving since the inter-linkages between different components can be addressed simultaneously, it added.

On finance, the Group has recommended operationalisation of SME exchanges for easy access to equity finance. As regards technology, it suggested a scheme for acquisition and upgradation of technology.

For infrastructure, the Group proposed developing clusters of excellence and setting up 100 tool rooms and product-cum-process development centres.

It also suggested a procurement policy for goods/services by Government Departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings to market MSME products.

*richam@thehindu.co.in*