

Centre assigns city-based institute for Africa project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, JUNE 8

THE Ministry of External Affairs has assigned the city-based Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) with the task to set up its centers in five African countries. This follows the implementation of several projects in Africa, as announced by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during the recently concluded Second Africa-India Forum Summit on May 24, 2011.

These centers will focus on entrepreneurship development and will work towards identifying the entrepreneurial potential and aiding development in order to facilitate the setting up of small ventures in African countries, said EDI Director Dinesh Awasthi at a press briefing on Wednesday.

The PM had recently an-

nounced a grant of 5 billion dollars to help Africa achieve its development goals. The PM had also offered an additional 700 million dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

The proposed Entrepreneurship Development Centers (EDCs) will motivate the African youths to consider self-employment and entrepreneurship as a career. These would cater to the needs of both start-ups and existing entrepreneurs. Besides, the centers will also try to create tie-ups with local banks by providing them credit out of the 5 billion dollars grant, he said.

Awasthi added that the choice of selecting the five countries from Africa have been left to African Union. EDI has so far trained 1,000 Africans in Ahmedabad.