

Framework on quality infra policies likely soon

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The government is likely to bring a national framework related to quality infrastructure (QI) policies to avoid uncertainty and ensure clarity about the procedures for accreditation of product and services, said a government official.

India's national accreditation system under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked fifth out of 184 countries in the world in the recent Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021. In 2020, India was ranked ninth in the world in accreditation.

Sanjiv Singh, joint secretary at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said the move would ensure more accreditation facilities in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, with a key

focus on health care and education.

"We also need to shift from government-based inspectors to third-party inspectors so that there is better management of the accreditation system and more improvement in the coming years. Third-party bodies will have government oversight to ensure that they work effectively and it does not trouble manufacturers," Singh said.

Ravi P Singh, secretary-general at QCI, said government inspectors were being replaced with third-party ones who can work with more efficiency and transparency.

"The countries ranked above India have a regulatory mechanism where they get their accreditation done only by their national accreditation bodies and these bodies have government and public trust. India needs to follow suit," he added.

