

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE MANIPUR STATE CONCLAVE OF NATIONAL SC-ST HUB ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2018 AT RAJ BHAVAN, IMPHAL

Shri N. Biren Singh ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur,
Hon'ble Ministers,
Hon'ble MLAs,
All the participants,
Members of Print and Electronic Media,
Distinguished Invitees,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be with you all in this very important Manipur State Conclave of National SC & ST Hub under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India in collaboration with the Forum of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Legislators & Parliamentarians. I am also indeed impressed to know that the Forum is organizing such Conclave in various States of North Eastern States to promote entrepreneurship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities. I am of the firm belief that this Conclave will have a fruitful and meaningful deliberation among the Entrepreneurs belonging to SC and ST communities of this State and explore ways and means to promote entrepreneurship. Manipur and the other north eastern States deserve this attention as the SC/ST population is large and there is tremendous untapped resources which with proper grooming can participate effectively on the road to nation building. The efforts made by the Forum of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Legislators & Parliamentarians to promote the schemes for the welfare of SCs and STs are commendable.

The North-Eastern States of India have their unique requirements for skill-based training depending on the natural resources, industry and native trades. The region is industrially backward and all the States perhaps with the exception of Assam are topographically disadvantaged to support big

industries. The Governments of these States have embarked on skill development missions to meet the aspirations of SC and ST youth through training under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and enhance employability and employment. Several training partners, academic institutions and vocational training centers are actively involved in a range of programmes that enable livelihoods, increase productivity and income levels of SC and ST in these States particularly Manipur. I would like to invite the local participants to share more details about the impact of their skill development projects and the challenges faced in achieving the outcomes.

Unemployment is one of the biggest challenges our young population is facing, more true in respect of the economically backward SCs & STs. The objective of such skill development should not only be to make the youth eligible for employment but also equip them with the entrepreneurial competence so that they can open new avenues and become job givers instead of being preoccupied as job-seekers. Only then such an endeavour will be considered successful in real terms. If the problem of unemployment with its resulting anger among the youth is to be solved then there is no other alternative but to go for such development of skills that will both open employment opportunities and development of entrepreneurial spirit. If all our Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes youth are gainfully employed, I am sure the society as a whole will be better positioned.

The Government of Manipur has created various committees and sectors to create a stimulus in enabling the youth belonging to ST and SC to undergo skill education and training. The State Government has also been striving to create an effective linkage between different organizations connected to skill development. Skill Development today is one of the thrust areas of the Government. A major task of the Government and the Forum is to establish a structured mechanism to provide a connect between education, skill development, training institutes and the employment opportunities in potential sectors at both Central and State levels. This is important and we

must try to match the supply with demand while continuously creating further demand.

One thing that can be safely said is that besides other fields, the boys and girls from this region especially Manipur are very talented and most suitable for service and IT sectors. Thousands of young persons from the North East are working in these sectors and earning a good name for themselves and their organizations not only in the region but also in other parts of the country. In Manipur, for example, hospitality comes naturally to the younger people and their IT skills are par excellence. In my view, organisations in the country should have special focus on the North East with the aim of training them in these sectors and giving them good employment and entrepreneurship ideas and in the process also help their assimilation in the national mainstream. In this connection, I am fully confident that the Forum of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Legislators & Parliamentarians will lend their unstinted support and mentor the SC and ST members of the region particularly Manipur to become successful entrepreneurs.

I suggest that we should have a more intense workshop in Manipur to further motivate the educated young men and women of SC & ST in the field of skill development and entrepreneurship. I will take this opportunity to make this suggestion once again to all the participants and experts of Private and Public Sectors for their consideration. I had taken the initiative of organizing a Workshop on Skill Development in Manipur at the Raj Bhavan on the 2nd December, 2016 under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in association with National Skill Development Corporation in which 16 sectors were covered. It had a positive impact and the outcome was quite encouraging. The present Conclave will help in carrying this initiative forward.

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this Conclave and wish the collaborative endeavour of the Ministry and Forum all success.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.