

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE 47TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (RIMS) ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT JUBILEE HALL, RIMS, IMPHAL

Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,

Dr. K. Mani Singh, Former Addl. Prof. of Surgery, RIMS,

Dr. R.K. Sanajaoba Singh, Former Sr. Registrar of Anaesthesiology, RIMS,

All the Faculty Members of RIMS,

All the participating Doctors, students and staff Members,

Friends from Print and Electronic Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with you all here this afternoon on the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day Celebration of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. I offer my heartiest greetings to you all on this occasion.

The Foundation Day always remains a day of great significance in the life of an establishment and those associated with it. It is an occasion for both celebration and introspection for all concerned. It also provides an opportunity to all to be together, exchange ideas, reflect on the activities of the past and discuss the prospects and challenges for the future to move forward.

A brief history of this premier health Institute is that RIMS, Imphal was established on this day in 1972, the year in which Manipur attained Statehood. When it incepted, it was christened as Regional Medical College, a joint venture of the North Eastern States led by the Government of Manipur and the Central Government. Later, the College was renamed as North Eastern Regional Medical College in 1976. It was upgraded as Regional Institute of Medical Sciences on 1st April, 1995 when the Institute was taken over by North Eastern Council. The Institute has been transferred now to the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from the Ministry of DoNER w.e.f. 1st April, 2007.

The basic objective of this Institute is to impart quality medical education and render quality health services to the people of the North Eastern States particularly Manipur. People in the rural areas where adequate health and medicare facilities are not available also form a target group for the health benefits. I am glad to learn that though it started as an Institute catering to the seven North Eastern States of India except Assam, students from different parts of the country under All India quota are today enrolled both for the Under Graduate and Post Graduate Courses. It fulfills all the statutory norms of the Medical Council of India. More than three thousand doctors have graduated from the Institute as on 31st March, 2018. A new Nursing College was set up from December 2009 with an intake capacity of 50 students. Super speciality courses in Urology and Plastic Surgery have been started. A new department of Immuno Haematology and blood transfusion was opened on 22nd July 2009.

Though the Institute has progressed tremendously since its inception, there is much more to be done. The medical equipments and instruments need to be upgraded. Some of the Departments are yet to be made properly functional while the super specialists are lying underutilized. I have heard of a proposal to upgrade the Institute to that of AIIMS level but nothing has happened so far. I am also aware of a tight purse string for the Institute on the part of the Central Government and the budgetary allocation decimated drastically. These fund constraints are not good for the health of the Institute. I have taken up the issue with the Health Ministry and also invited the Union Health Minister to pay a visit to the Institute to see its functioning and discuss ways for improvement.

Health is an essential prerequisite part of life. All social and economic activities of a country are closely related to the health standards of its people.

Investment for eradication of diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, etc. and also for prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS and H1N1 is of great economic value. With the rapid advancement of medical sciences, many diseases can now be prevented or cured. However, we are still to do a great deal. As for example, a number of diseases have been stamped out through immunization. Small pox has disappeared from the surface of the earth. In technologically advanced countries, childhood diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria today occur infrequently and sporadically. Diseases like influenza and some others remain difficult to control because of the many varieties of the viruses and capacities to mutate. Such challenges are being engaged actively in current research works.

As we are aware, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal has been rendering humanitarian service to the people of North Eastern Region and striving relentlessly towards enhancement of academic and research activities. I am also happy to learn that RIMS is implementing various schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India such as Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram and Direct Benefit Transfer. RIMS being a quality referral hospital should ensure that no patient is referred to other hospitals and provide the best medical care possible. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to the RIMS authorities for felicitating me on receiving the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2013.

I am confident that all concerned in the Institute will put in their best to make RIMS, Imphal a centre of excellence for medical education, research, health and medicare in the country.

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.