

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME OF MANIPUR CSR CONCLAVE-2019 ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, IMPHAL.

Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur,

Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, CSR Expert and Former Secretary, Govt. of India.

Representatives of Fourth Dimension Global,

Distinguished Dignitaries and Representatives of various Corporate bodies,

Esteemed Officials of Public Sector Undertakings,

Senior Officials and Representatives of the Government of Manipur,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be here at the Closing Programme of the Manipur CSR Conclave-2019 organized by the Department of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Government of Manipur with the support of Fourth Dimension Global at this Plenary Hall of the City Convention Centre.

On behalf of the people of Manipur and my State Government, I extend a warm welcome to all of you, especially the delegates representing the various corporate bodies who have come from outside Manipur to participate in the CSR Conclave. I express my sincere appreciation of the many officers of my State Government and representatives of Fourth Dimension Global for organizing this important Conclave, which is being done for the first time in Manipur where there is a strong felt-need for investment of CSR funds for various socio-economic development of the people of the State. The notion of CSR is not new in our country and it is a means for wealthy people to be trustees to look after the welfare of the common man. CSR gradually evolved into the corporate framework and it refers to the company's sense of responsibility extending beyond its shareholders to stakeholders. I am confident that this Conclave by now has

helped facilitate fruitful interaction between the representatives of the corporate bodies and our officers of different Departments to help in our efforts to attract CSR investments in Manipur.

It goes to the credit of the Indian industry that it has always displayed a keen interest in contributing to the betterment of the society. Shouldering the task of socio-economic development is increasingly considered a shared responsibility of the government and the industry. Inclusive growth is an avowed objective of our public policy. It calls for intensive collaborative efforts of the government and the corporate sector to provide the basis for improving the quality of life in our rural and urban areas. As you are aware, the Companies Act, 2013 notified by the Government of India is a unique and path breaking legislation that allows corporates including PSUs, banks and business houses to partner with the Government actively in the development of the nation. Sensing this potential synergy and collaboration for development, the Government of Manipur has embarked on the initiative to organize the Manipur CSR Conclave, 2019. A CSR Pre-Conclave was also organized at New Delhi on August 21, 2019 wherein Senior Officers representing Government of Manipur participated and gave power point presentations to highlight the many varied opportunities for the corporate to identify areas for CSR projects in the State.

On behalf of the Government of Manipur and the people of our beautiful State, I thank all corporate delegates for your kind participation in the interactive sessions at the Manipur CSR Conclave, 2019 and I am confident that your deliberations, interaction, networking and cooperative endeavours will result in designing, developing, investing and implementing many CSR projects in the State of Manipur in the near future. For ushering in sustainable development with active cooperation under CSR cutting across various sectors in Manipur, the Government of Manipur not only commits itself to warmly invite corporate, PSUs, banks and other institutions to

Manipur but also to establish a robust mechanism for CSR project implementation, monitoring and evaluation under the initiatives of the Department of Textiles, Commerce & Industry.

Perhaps, the first impression people from outside Manipur have of our lovely State may be a negative perception, particularly relating to safety issues in visiting the State due to our long struggle with insurgency. Here, I want to assure all of you and the entire corporate world through you that Manipur is a very safe place and that it is as safe to visit Manipur as any other State in the country. Despite the many decades of insurgency and law and order problems in the past, the Government of Manipur and its people have come out strongly into a new era of peace, harmony and development as can be seen from a visit to Imphal or the interiors of the State now. Again, despite the remoteness of the State from the main parts of the country, the Act East Policy of the Government and the opening up of South East Asia is gradually transforming Manipur into a hub of India's Gateway to South East Asia.

While addressing the need for corporate bodies of the country to invest their CSR funds within the norms provided by the Government of India and with our State Government's objective to usher in maximum CSR investments in our State of Manipur, I would take this opportunity to seek the strong, committed and proactive partnership of the corporate bodies to invest their CSR funds in our State of Manipur for which my officers from all Departments are ready to discuss, examine, explore and undertake effective partnerships for socio-economic development of the State. The partnerships can be through a mechanism that is practical and efficient and under procedures that are mutually implementable to meet the objectives of both the corporate bodies and the Government of Manipur. From the foundations laid during the concluding Manipur CSR Conclave today, I look forward to your strong partnership for social, economic, cultural and industrial development of our State. I wish the Conclave a grand success.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.