

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE STATE LEVEL PAINTING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ORGANISED BY NHPC LIMITED AT RAJ BHAVAN, IMPHAL ON 11TH NOVEMBER, 2016.

Friends,

It is a most pleasant opportunity for me to inaugurate the State Level Painting Competition for school students organised by Loktak Power Station, NHPC Ltd. under the aegis of Ministry of Power, Government of India and to felicitate the prize winners.

I am also very happy to know that the Ministry of Power launched the National Awareness Campaign in order to promote energy conservation in the country and painting competition for students has also been included as one of the activities of the campaign. It would not only make the students aware about the need of conserving energy but at the same time would educate and involve their parents as well in the above cause.

Energy has been playing an increasingly pivotal role in achieving development. Accelerated industrialisation and growing urbanization which are indicative of development are, however, leading to high energy demand. Meeting the energy needs of the growing population in a scenario of supply limitations has posed a formidable challenge for sustainable economic growth. Resource-use efficiency and conservation are, therefore, critical for the agenda of inclusive growth and development. From a rapidly depleting conventional energy resources, people are turning to non-conventional energy resources for replenishment. Such a painting competition by NHPC will serve as a timely step and of intense contemporary relevance to inculcate thought on energy efficiency among school children.

Education should be well rounded and enriching to be purposeful and we must use the system of education to promote and inculcate among young

people the zeal to participate in a better life for themselves and their societies. That is the way to also ensure a more equitable and just life for all. By focusing their attention on the core area of energy supply or lack of it affecting the world, such a painting competition is sure to equip the students with better knowledge and understanding of the issue at hand for conserving energy. Children are the driving force of the society. The future of the humankind depends on how we invest in our children. One important aspect is that the students should be made aware of their environment. Dear students, let me remind you here that Gandhiji, Father of the Nation was also an early environmentalist. True to the spiritual traditions of India, he was close to nature. He had great faith in nature's kindness as he said, "Nature provides for man's need but not for his greed".

I like painting and learnt it at school level and as a student of Botany and Zoology, it came very useful to draw plants and animals for my journals. I have tried water and oil paintings but now I do silk painting which is a special technique where water based dyes are used on starched silk after using wax or gutta, the blocking agent and painting is done. It is a very fascinating form of painting. Though similar to Batik, you can draw anything, flowers or abstract but I do calligraphy. I'll one day like to do the demonstration.

During my short gubernatorial tenure in the state thus far, I have had the chance of coming across some very good painters in the state. The Artist does not look at joy and sorrow, crisis and success, with ordinary eyes. His vision explores the heart of things, looks for many forms in one and shows them as such. Painting cannot diminish sorrow but help in understanding it and living with it. It gives strength in times of trial. It adds ecstasy to happiness. I am simply amazed by the beauty and imagination that have gone into the output of these students in this competition. I had seen painting of

some of the students at the screening stage and the quality of the works left me deeply impressed. I have not been disappointed in this final round also.

The theme of today's painting competition is related to awareness campaign on energy conservation among the students and organising such competition on regular basis will pay rich dividends and the society at large will be benefitted. I congratulate the students who are participating in the competition and the prize winners in particular. I thank the organisers for inviting me to this competition.

Thank you,
Jai Hind.