

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR, ON THE OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD, 2016 AND R.K. SANATOMBI DEVI AWARD, 2016 AS CHIEF GUEST, ON OCTOBER 1, 2016 AT ASHA JINA COMPLEX, IMPHAL

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibobi ji,

Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Dr. Th. Meinya ji,

Friends from Print and Electronic Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Dear Teachers and Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you all on this auspicious occasion and specially with the eminent educationists of Manipur, awardees and young dear students on the occasion of Presentation of the Governor's and R.K. Sanatombi Devi Awards here today. I offer my congratulations to all the awardees and wish them further success in future.

As you are all aware, Human Resource Development is vital to a nation's strength, progress and prosperity and education is one of its key elements. The central purpose of education is to inculcate among the students the ability to think and apply the knowledge they acquire in class rooms in solving social problems. The responsibility of imparting knowledge and education rests with the teachers who are considered to be moral guardians, friends, philosophers and guides in moulding the character of the students. The teachers enable the students to acquire knowledge, skill and education for shouldering the responsibilities to be reposed in them by society. It is, therefore, imperative for all of us to do every thing possible to inspire, encourage and support the students so that they are able to play a meaningful and definitive role in the nation's future.

Our education should not only focus on access to global knowledge, but should also uphold the richness of our culture and values, supported by the time honoured and eternal discipline. Education should stimulate all aspects of human intellectual potential as well as impart core values needed to live as responsible citizens in our complex democratic society. It is equally important that the students are suitably equipped for gainful employment. The present education system unfortunately, is producing a large number of students who are not employable resulting in severe wastage of time, energy and money. The students who have passed out become frustrated and this situation leads to social turmoil. There is an urgent need to link education with employment and I am sure efforts are being made by all concerned towards this goal. Perhaps, employment holds the solution to many of the ills our society is ailing from. The bottom-line is that education should be made purposeful.

Perhaps, you know that I am the grand niece of India's first Education Minister of free India, Maulana Azad and I remember what he said in April, 1948 in the Constituent Assembly. He said, "I want the Government to consider education on par with defence and allocate maximum funds for education because the development of a country will not be measured by how many factories or institutions are there but by what quality of mind is behind it. We strive to develop that quality of mind in our schools and colleges. For that we should improve the standard of educational institutions as those of the ancient times like Nalanda and Taxila where people used to come to India to seek knowledge."

I am a great admirer of Guru Rabindranath Tagore and what he said about education has a sublime connotation. I quote: "Education means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us wealth, not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love, making this truth its own and giving expression to it"

and “The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

I am happy to note that Padma Shri Th. Haridas Singh along with his associates in the Management of R.K. Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya has contributed valuable services to society, particularly in the field of education. It merits unstinted appreciation that the Vidyalaya has been giving the Governor’s Award to its best students every year to encourage the students in the pursuit of excellence in academic and co-curricular activities. It also has been giving R.K. Sanatombi Devi Awards to the selected persons in different trades/professions every year as an indication of social harmony which is so very essential for an all-round development in the State. I am sure that the efforts and dedication of the Management and Teachers of the R.K. Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya will go a long way in achieving their aims and objectives.

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this function and, once again, I congratulate the Award winners.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.