

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE WORKSHOP ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN MANIPUR ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2016 AT DARBAR HALL, RAJ BHAWAN, IMPHAL.

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

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship,

Shri T. Manga Vaiphei ji, Hon'ble Minister (Labour & Employment),

Friends from the Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be present here today in the Workshop on Skill Development. We are gathered here to collectively reflect upon the ways and means to bridge the gaps in the present skill framework particularly in the context of Manipur. I strongly believe that this Workshop will definitely be a platform for a fruitful deliberation among the experts and find solutions to many of the issues. Let us make optimum use of this occasion to learn from some of the key players in the field of skill development to be able to participate effectively in nation building.

The north-eastern states of India have their unique requirements in skill based training depending on the natural resources, industry and native trades. The governments of these states have embarked on skill development missions to meet the aspirations of the youth through training, enhance employability and employment. For a skill strategy to be successful, it should be complemented by commensurate creation of jobs in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors which will be a key outcome of overall economic growth including entrepreneurship cutting across all sectors.

Unemployment is one of the biggest challenges our young population is facing. In view of the rapidly changing economic landscape in the country, entrepreneurship opportunities have emerged as an important source of meeting the aspirations of the youth. The objective of 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 too. 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 develop entrepreneurial spirit. If all our youth are gainfully employed, I am sure that most of the problems ailing our society will be minimized.

In order to expand the job avenue, we have to enable the youth of our state to access global opportunities also and empower them by imparting skill training. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is a significant step in that direction. The flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship aims to impart skilling to 10 million youths of the country with a corpus of Rs. 12,000 crore. It also aims to promote industry-relevant skill training, thereby making the trainees market ready. Also, keeping in mind the need to create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency based skill development training, the Central Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra.

Skill Development today, therefore, is one of the key areas of attention of the Government and it deserves to be so. India has the distinction of having a large young population in the working age group. However, the mere presence of a large number of young people in the prospective workforce does not mean much, unless these youths possess the skills that would allow them to find decent, well-paying jobs, or become gainfully self-employed. So, the challenge is not only to have the wealth of the numbers of educated youth in

the country but also to ensure that, if not all, most of them are gainfully employed or become successful entrepreneurs.

There is large scale unemployment prevailing in Manipur state also and the general restlessness of the youth often lead to law and order situations. For getting jobs, the youths need to be skilled. We must push forward skilling of the youth for job opportunities and also create room for self-employment. The State Government alone cannot be the job provider. Since I took over my gubernatorial assignment in Manipur, I have been focussing on health, tourism and skill development in the main as they hold the key to the unemployment issue and the overall development of the state. There is a huge potential for these sectors in the state. Besides, horticulture and food processing are also very promising areas for improving the economic condition of the people. The boys and girls of the state are also very suitable for service and IT sectors. Thousands of young persons from the North East including Manipur are working in these sectors and earning a good name for themselves and their organisations. Hospitality and the service of beauty & wellness come naturally to the youth of the state 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.

I take this opportunity to thank Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for taking the initiative to hold the Workshop which shall pave the way for skilling the youth of Manipur. It is heartening that a wide spectrum comprising 16 sectors will be covered in this workshop. I hope that he and his officials are able to provide a vision that shall guide us in our future endeavours. I am also grateful to the National Skill Development Corporation for being equal partners in this venture. I am glad that we have with us here, the Sector Skills Councils as well as Training

Providers who are vital stakeholders in our effort for skilling Manipur. It is a wonderful opportunity for prospective training providers to comprehend the modalities of skill development and to integrate their efforts and add value to the skill landscape of the North East region in general and the State of Manipur in particular.

With these words, I thank the organisers for inviting me to this significant event.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.