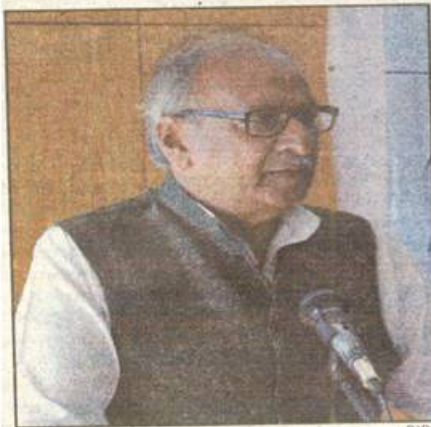


Nagaland must be counted among dev states: Governor



Governor Nikhil Kumar addressing the workshop on Linking Budding Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes and Markets in Kohima on Friday

DIMAPUR, OCT 14: Governor Nikhil Kumar today expressed his desire that Nagaland should be counted amongst the rapidly developing states in the country for which he felt single devotion as a requirement.

Addressing a workshop on 'Linking Budding entrepreneurs with government schemes and Markets' in Kohima, the Governor brought to the notice of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) that, although Nagaland has for the past 6 decades had a history of violence, the State is something special. "We are now rapidly developing and Nagaland is peaceful and 100 percent secure," he added.

The Governor also viewed that the

State Government's achievements ought to be projected outside the State to enable investors to learn about the conducive atmosphere being offered for development of various sectors.

Dwelling on the PPP (Private, Public, Partnership) concept, Kumar opined that the private component requires internal confidence for successful PPP model to be enforced. "People from within and outside Nagaland should be encouraged to invest in industry, agriculture and every facet of developmental activity," he maintained.

The Governor lauded the notable contributions made by ASSOCHAM in the country and said that being the apex body of the Country's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it is a very decision influencing body in the country. On behalf of the State, the Governor assured cooperation and support to ASSOCHAM for development of entrepreneurship in Nagaland.

APC and Principal Secretary, Agriculture, HK Khulu highlighted some of the challenges confronted by the State in the present scenario. He pointed out that lack of adequate infrastructure coupled with phobia of law and order problems as the limiting factors seriously hampering investments from private sector.

"Agriculture remains the major sector with 80-85% of the State's population depending on it. However, entrepreneurship is yet to really take off," Khulu said. He also said that land development and irrigation facilities for agricultural use is still inadequate even for kharif crops and cited it as the reason for low production in volume and also in terms of yield per ha.

(More on Pg 5)

...From Pg 1

He further pointed to Post Harvest Management as an area of concern, particularly in the Horticultural sector and informed that wastage is the highest in the country with as high as 35%. He viewed that processing, value addition and marketing are the most important missing links in the value chain and said that the resultant benefits are not reaching the farmers and the entrepreneurs to the desired levels.

Khulu acknowledged the services rendered by various financial Institutions, but he however felt the need for adequate credit support, informing that there are still 16 unbanked blocks in the State.

Pointing out that marketing is one of the major problems faced by the farmers, he felt the need for strengthening and augmenting the

boards. He emphasised on the dire need for provision of storage facilities to the farmers in all the potential areas of the state.

Assistant General Manager, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Bidyut Kr. Baruah, in his presentation observed that productivity of various agri/horti commodities in Nagaland is higher as compared to other NE States and felt the need to follow the scientific method of cultivation, to come at par with the productivity of other parts of the country. We need to focus on productivity and quality as price competitiveness of various produce in the global market is increasing, he said. Stating that Nagaland is in advantageous position as far as location is concern, he opined that Nagaland could play an important role towards development of economy in the whole region.

He called upon the budding entrepreneur of Nagaland to be more pro-active and to take the benefit offered by various agencies of Government of India and the State Government to establish themselves and lead the whole region towards prosperity.

Earlier, Director ASSOCHAM, Dr OS Tyayi delivered the welcome address and said ASSOCHAM acts as a catalyst between the government and industry and has been successful in influencing the government in shaping India's economics, trade, fiscal and social policies which benefits to the trade and industry. He further assured that ASSOCHAM would work hard in hand with the State.

PCKVK, NRC on Mithun, Jharnapani, ICAR Research Complex for NE Region, Dr RK Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

(DIPR)