

Few averse to normalcy in Valley: Jitendra

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh today said "only a few people" were averse to normalisation of the situation in Kashmir while the majority was keen to be part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led development journey in the country.

"There are some elements in Kashmir who do not want the situation to get normal otherwise the youth of Valley have moved forward. Only a few people, whose politics runs in the chaotic situation, are out to maintain this situation," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He referred to the selection of 19 Kashmiri boys and girls in IITs across the country and some more emerging as toppers in the IAS examination over the past couple of years.

"The youth of Kashmir and the common man on the streets of Srinagar have moved ahead and are keen to become the part of the development journey led by Modi," Jitendra said.

In response to a question about the recent spurt in terror attacks in the state, the MoS said the militants were on the back foot as they were facing the heat because of the anti-militancy operations by the security forces.

About Pakistan, he said it had been left isolated diplomatically and militarily for sponsoring terror activities.



Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh being welcomed by ASSOCHAM secretary-general DS Rawat in Jammu. TRIBUNE PHOTO

“The youth of Kashmir and the common man on the streets of Srinagar have moved ahead and are keen to become the part of the development journey led by Modi.”

Jitendra Singh, MoS in the PMO

Jitendra refused to comment on the repeated pleas by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti pitching for a dialogue with Pakistan and said, "I am not qualified to respond to that. It is for the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence to decide. I am not privy to the inputs which qualify me to respond to whether we have talks (with Pakistan) or not."

On repeated ceasefire violations by Pakistan to push infiltrators into the state, he

said: "The question is not what Pakistan is doing but the question is what we have to do. The response we are giving (to Pakistan) is not seen in the last many years."

He said the Centre was "very supportive" to Jammu and Kashmir and "we have to get ready to seek investment and for that we have to attract investors with incentives".

"The support J&K is enjoying under the leadership of Modi has no match. We have to make the situation conducive so that the investors get attracted to invest here which will boost the local business, besides provide an opportunity to youngsters to start their own businesses," he said.

When asked whether Article 370 was a hurdle for the investors to move into the state, he said, "I do not want to get into that." — PTI

'Support to small biz to help prevent scams'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh today said that providing support for growth and development of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) could help in preventing high-profile scams committed by a handful of big industrialists.

"One of the biggest buffers to prevent such high-profile scams happening from time to time is to promote MSMEs," he said while inaugurating an ASSOCHAM conference on the MSME sector.

The minister also encouraged the industry for not seeking subsidies. "Those who actually support the MSMEs should forego the subsidy. If that happens

The minister urges the industry not to seek subsidies

then we will not witness such scams being committed by 500-odd big businessmen," he said.

Terming the present scenario 'favourable' for both Jammu and Kashmir and northeastern states, Jitendra said the Central government had the required willpower which was lacking during the previous regimes.

Earlier, in his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Industries and Commerce Minister Chander Prakash Ganga urged the Centre to treat Jammu and Kashmir on a par with northeastern states and extend the benefits and exemptions on similar lines.

■ 'Kashmiri youth want peace, development'

Dr Jitendra for creating conducive condition for outsider investors in J&K

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Feb 19: Stressing on creation of conducive conditions for the outsider investors in the State, so that they are induced to invest in J&K, Union Minister in PMO with



Independent Charge of North Eastern States, Dr Jitendra Singh today cautioned that incentives given to industry should not become disincentives.

Talking to reporters at the sidelines of a function organized by ASSOCHAM here today, the

Union Minister stressed that proactive role needs to be played in bringing the investors to the State who will feel at home here.

While referring to North Eastern States, he said more and more industrialists are ready to invest due to the proactive role played by the industry there and to boost the industry in the region the Ministry of North

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East has provided a special venture fund while that kind of atmosphere is lacking in this State.

Dr Jitendra Singh said two foreign countries, Japan and Singapore are making heavy investment in North East because of cooperation they get

there. Even two foreign countries have established their Consulate Generals in NE which is not possible here, he added.

"The situation has changed in NE to such an extent in last three years of Narendra Modi rule the entire India is looking forward towards it while the outsider investors show hesitations to invest in J&K because of barriers created here," he said.

However, Dr Singh parried a question whether Article 370 was a barrier in this regard.

In response to another question about ceasefire violations by Pakistan on International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) to divert attention from its internal problems, the Union

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Dr Jitendra for creating conducive condition for outsider investors in J&K

Minister said that "it is not question what Pak is doing but what we are doing in response to that". He said the retaliation made during the Modi Government to Pak shelling has never been witnessed before.

He said the militancy in Kashmir is on wane and these are some individuals who for their vested interests are promoting the terrorism otherwise the common youth in Kashmir is for peace and wants to take part in PM Modi's development agenda.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Kashmiri youth is looking forward to his progress and this is the reason that 19 youth from Valley have qualified IIT last year while some came with flying colours in Civil Services Examinations in last some years. "In fact Kashmiri youth are far ahead than youth of other States of the country", he added.

He said the people of the State should take benefit of the policies and programmes of Modi Government and the way liberal funding has been made to the State by present Union Government has never been there as before.

He also parried a question on Mehbooba Mufti's demand of holding talks with Pakistan saying he is not qualified to respond to it as the issue pertains to Home Ministry, Defence Ministry and External Affairs Ministry.

Earlier addressing the function, Dr Jitendra Singh said that when other States of country have overcome the disadvantages why not J&K and this needs a strong introspection.

He said for last three years there has been un-credible outreach by Prime Minister to promote young entrepreneurs in the country and some months back PM made a visit to young champions and it was specially arranged for young entrepreneurs of the country. Two youth from J&K participated in it and both were from Kashmir and no one was from Jammu, he added.

Stressing on changing the mind set, he said "instead of becoming subsidy seekers we should become subsidy givers".

Denying that any discrimination has been made with any region during Modi Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said "I say

with confidence that no discrimination has been made with any region during last three years and there is also no question of it in this Government".

Referring to tax holiday demand made by the business community, he said it is already in the State.

Dr Jitendra Singh, while referring to giving equal treatment to every region said that after the sanction of AIIMS for the State, the demand from Jammu also took momentum and Central Government sanctioned another institute for the State. But he apprehended that it may end up in establishing a sick AIIMS as the doctors from outside will not be ready to serve here due to certain constraints. A doctor serving for 30 years in the State will not be allowed to settle here, he added.

He said NE was far behind than J&K as two states of the region had not seen the train.

But the people of the region are fully cooperative as two foreign countries have opened Consulate Generals there and in J&K we have created man made barriers. "We can't expect investors here as instead of welcoming them we hold a non welcome road", he added.

Dr Singh said providing support to growth and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can help in preventing high profile scams committed by handful of big industrialists.

Talking to media Industries and Commerce Minister, Chander Parkash Ganga said that no political party is as committed to welfare of martyrs as BJP and he highlighted the vari-

ous steps taken by present Government for the welfare of martyrs as well as border people. He said it was BJP Government which raised the compensation for martyrs in border firing to Rs five lakh and also increased the compensation for injured.

While addressing the function he highlighted the various steps taken for the welfare of Industrialists in the State and said that work on Rs 5000 crore Dry Port will begin next month. He said industrialists will feel pleasure in sending goods outside.

Ganga, however, demanded that in case the NE States were given special package, the J&K be also given this benefit and he highlighted various achievements in the industrialists sector during last three years.

Others who spoke included ASSOCHAM secretary general, D S Rawat, M P Raiker, Chairman ASSOCHAM, National Council for Development of MSMEs, Rakesh Gupta, president Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Amit Ray, Executive Director, Uflex Ltd and Anil Kishora, Chief General Manager SBI.

Excellence Awards were presented by Dr Jitendra Singh on the occasion and Dr Virender Mahajan of Rahul Pharma Jammu got the winner award in Innovation, while Archit Puri of PBI, India Pvt Ltd, Jammu got the winner award in Most Promising Brand.

Promoting MSMEs can help prevent high-profile financial scams: Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said that providing support for growth and development of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can help in preventing high-profile scams committed by a handful of big industrialists.

"One of the biggest buffers to prevent such high-profile scams happening from time-to-time is to promote MSMEs," said Dr Singh while inaugurating an ASSOCHAM Conference on MSME sector in an apparent reference to colossal banking scandal involving fraud worth Rs 11,000 crore committed by absconding billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi.

The Union Minister also encouraged the industry for



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh releasing a souvenir during the conference at Jammu.

not seeking subsidies. "People should forego subsidy for those who actually support the MSMEs, if that happens then we will not witness such scams being committed by 500-odd big businessmen," added Dr Singh.

Terming the present scenario as 'favourable' for both Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern states of India, he said that

the incumbent government at the Centre has the required will power which was lacking during the previous regimes.

"We need to create favourable situations at the state level to lure investors to come and set up their businesses through incentives rather than dis-incentivise them," said Dr Singh while addressing a MSME Sammelan organised

by ASSOCHAM.

Praising the efforts of the youth of the valley, the Union Minister said, "Today the youth of Jammu and Kashmir has gone ahead of their counterparts in many of the states across India as they are becoming toppers in top-notch education institutes of the country like the IITs." He however lamented that there are certain

elements who do not want to see things normalising in the terrorism-hit state.

Earlier, in his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Industries and Commerce Minister, J&K Government, Chander Prakash Ganga urged the Centre to treat Jammu and Kashmir at par with north-eastern states and extend benefits and exemptions on the similar lines.

Amid others who addressed the ASSOCHAM conference include ASSOCHAM secretary general, D.S Rawat; M.P Raiker, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Development of MSMEs; Rakesh Gupta, President, Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Amit Ray, Executive Director Uflex Ltd and Anil Kishora, Chief General Manager, SBI.

