

## More job opportunities will curb insurgency problem: Guv

STAFF REPORTER/DIPR

IMPHAL: Asserting that food processing industry has emerged as one of the major industrial sectors with huge potential for employment generation and improving state's economy, Governor Dr Najma Heptulla has called for creating more such opportunities to help curb insurgency problem in the state.

The Governor was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of a conference on 'Startup and MSMEs in Food Processing', organised by ASSOCHAM in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-NEH held at Classic Hotel, Imphal.

She observed that frequencies of bandh, blockade as well as insurgency related incidents have been reduced significantly in the state. With the creation of more employ-



Dr Najma Heptulla speaks at the conference on 'Start-Up and MSMEs in food processing'

ment opportunities, the government can contain the issue of insurgency and steer the state towards development, she said.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) cater as ancillary to several big industries and amongst

them, the food processing industry dominates the Indian economy to a great extent. Food processing industry serves as a vital link between agriculture and industrial segments of the economy, the Governor explained.

Manipur being home to different varieties of fruits, vegetables and other agro products, has immense potential in food processing sector including ample scope for export. If properly harvested, processed and packaged fruits and vegetables of the state will have good marketing value in both domestic and international market, she said.

Dr Heptulla further said that utilisation of technology and innovation can help flourish agro-based economy. She emphasised on the need for creating facilities for primary and secondary processing in the region by infusion proper technology for successful implementation of food processing enterprises and development of the industry in the state. The government should establish proper marketing links between farmers and manufacturers along with technological support, she stressed.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 5

## More job opportunities will curb insurgency problem: Guv

FROM PAGE 1

Micro, small or medium industries should co-exist with the big ones so as to have a balanced and holistic development of economy. Micro and small industries particularly need to be nurtured with government support in the form of financial assistance like term loan, working capital, machinery and technology upgradation, quality and efficiency improvement, Intellectual Property Rights registration and credit rating. At the same time, the government should take up certain initiatives to provide better logistic supports considering the frequent bandh, general strike, blockades or landslides along the national highways, she contended.

She also highlighted the need to create awareness

of the centrally sponsored schemes by making information available in local dialects.

With regard to the conference, she said that sensitising the budding and prospective entrepreneurs about government schemes and markets is a good initiative. It is necessary to diagnose the problems in the state for providing an improved production and marketing environment and value-added economic benefits to farmers through appropriate technological intervention.

She further maintained that ASSOCHAM has been supporting budding entrepreneurs through several incentives and schemes for development of food processing industry in various parts of the country, especially in North East.

In his presidential speech, deputy chief minister Yumnam Joykumar emphasised on the importance of bio-technology and crop rotation in agricultural and horticultural production. He said that bio-technology is one of the aspects that could help in increasing crop production while crop rotation will help the soil in regaining its fertility. At the same time, development of secondary sector is a must to enable contribution in the economy of the state, he added.

Principal Secretary (Hort & SC) JC Ramthanga, officials of Manipur Rural Bank, Manipur Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, NABARD, MSME (DI), SBI, NEDFI, Regional Centre Organic Farming Manipur, SIDBI Manipur and entrepreneurs attended the event.

# Governor notes key role of food processing industry

By Our Staff Reporter

IMPHAL, Nov 28 : Governor Dr Najma Heptulla stated that food processing industry has emerged as one of the major employment intensive industries in the State.

Speaking as chief guest at a conference on 'Start-up and MSME's in Food Processing' today, the Governor said that food processing industry is one of the important segments which contributes greatly to the State's economy.

She added that SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) serve as ancillaries to several big industries and amongst them, the food processing industry dominates the Indian economy to a great extent.

Najma maintained that the said food processing industry acts as a vital link between agriculture and industrial segments of the economy.

Manipur being home to different varieties of fruits, vegetables and other agro products affords immense opportunities in food processing, including an ample scope for trade.

She added that properly harvested, processed and packaged fruits and vegetables of the State will have good marketing value in both domestic and international markets. The Governor said that utilization of new and improved technologies and innovation can help promote the agro-based economy.

For bringing advanced development in food processing



industry in the State, she emphasized the need of creating facilities for primary and secondary processing units in the region by infusion of proper technology for successful implementation of food processing enterprises.

She said that proper marketing links between farmers and manufacturers have to be established along with technological support.

To have a balanced and holistic development of economy in the State, it is essential that the micro, small or medium industries coexist with the big ones.

She said that the micro and small industries, particularly need to be nurtured by Government in the form of term loan, working capital, ma-

chinery and technology upgrading, quality and efficiency improvement, Intellectual Property Rights registration and credit rating.

She also underlined the need to create awareness of the Central Sponsored Scheme by making it available in the local dialects.

Appreciating the conference, she said that sensitizing the budding entrepreneurs about Government schemes and markets is a welcome move. She expressed that it is necessary to diagnose the problems in the State for providing an improved production and marketing environment with value-added economic benefits to the farmers, through appropriate science and technological poli-

cies for various post-harvest functions in food processing industries.

Lauding ASSOCHAM for organising the event, she said that it has been supporting the emerging entrepreneurs through several incentives for the development of food processing industry in various parts of the country, especially in the North East.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar Singh pointed out the relevance of the conference while emphasizing on the importance of bio-technology and crop rotation in the agricultural and horticultural product. He said that bio-technology can boost production of crops or fruit yields, with crop rotation helping the soil to regain its fertility.

He stressed that the development of the secondary sector is necessary to push the economy of the State.

Principal Secretary (Hort & SC) JC Ramthanga, officials concerned of Manipur Rural Bank, Manipur Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, NABARD, MSME (DI), SBI, NEDFL, Regional Centre Organic Farming, Manipur, SIDBI, Manipur and entrepreneurs attended the inaugural function of the conference.

The conference was organized by ASSOCHAM in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GoI and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)-NEH at Hotel Classic Imphal today.

