

West Bengal to set up high level panel to address grievances of MSME sector

Kolkata, January 19: The West Bengal government will set up a high level committee to hear and address grievances of the micro, small and medium enterprises sector as part of its strategy to boost industrial growth in the state, the West Bengal commerce and industry minister Partha Chatterjee said here today.

The minister was speaking at the 4th India MSME Summit organised by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME), New Delhi in collaboration with the Federation of Small and Medium Industries (FOSMI), West Bengal.

“The West Bengal government is committed to the growth of the MSME sector and will set up a high powered committee to hear and address the grievances of the sector to ensure their rapid growth,” the minister said while delivering his address as Chief Guest.

He was responding to the request of Mr V.K. Agarwal, president of FISME who while delivering the welcome address argued that the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the industrial sector and urged West Bengal Chief Minister Smt Mamata Banerjee to set up a very high level empowered committee headed by her to hear and address grievances of the MSME sector through monthly meetings as a key element of the strategy to revive industrial growth in the state.

“MSMEs are the backbone of the industrial sector – they are resilient, flexible and humble – and they need careful nurturing as they provide 90% of jobs in the manufacturing sector,” Mr Agarwal said.

“After a particularly inglorious stretch of history, creating a bright future for the people has to be the prime focus today,” Mr Agarwal said emphasising the need to create jobs in a state that today has the highest level of unemployment among all states in India. “Mamata Di has ignited a spark of hope and MSMEs can play a significant role in job creation,” Mr Agarwal said while pointing out that there had no growth in job creation in the large organised sector over the past few decades.

“We are committed to the industrial revival of West Bengal and will do whatever it takes to promote the growth of the MSME sector,” said Chatterjee.

Mr Chatterjee outlined the various initiatives taken by his government already to boost the growth of MSMEs including plans to set up 17 MSME clusters in West Bengal.

Pointing out that West Bengal accounted for as much as 25% of all sick units in India, Mr Agarwal called for introduction of an exit and rehabilitation policy for sick units in the state so that entrepreneurs get a chance to revive units that had been affected by the overall downturn of industrial fortunes in the state which was once the leading industrial state in India.

He said as elements of an industrial revival strategy, facilitation councils for nurturing the survival and growth of MSMEs should be activated, the culture of innovations should be promoted and encouraged, central government schemes for enhancing productivity and improving quality should be encouraged, and the highest priority should be accorded to creating new jobs. He said all of these objectives could be realised by helping MSMEs become competitive.

Explaining that FISME works through as many as 700-odd industry associations spread across the country, Mr Agarwal said that was committed to serve the strategic interests of Indian MSMEs and

would be more than happy to work with the state government, its institutions and industry associations towards development of MSMEs of the state.

About FISME

The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME), traces its origin to 1967 when the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (NAYE) was established to promote small industries. In the post-liberalisation era, NAYE along with eight state level associations formed FISME in 1995 to lead Indian SMEs into the refurbished economic environment

FISME is the progressive face of Indian MSMEs and is regarded as such by the Government of India. FISME is a member of the National MSME Board formed under the MSME Act 2006. FISME is well represented in and consulted by SME policy making set-up of the country and also works in close cooperation with major multilateral and bilateral bodies in India such as UNIDO, ILO, UNCTAD, DFID, GTZ etc. Currently, under the multilateral project Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalization in India supported by UNCTAD, DFID and Ministry of Commerce & Industry, FISME, as a Tier-I partner, is leading 22 provincial SME bodies in 18 states.

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