



H.K Chaudhary

Sixty-three year old Hari Krishna Chaudhary is a prominent industrialist of Kolkata. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Vikram India Limited, which has burgeoned into Vikram Group of Industries. Chaudhary is a well-known patron of education and is the founder of the famous Heritage School in Kolkata. He is interested in promoting the MSMEs. He is at present involved in building vocational and healthcare training centre in Salt Lake.

We need to improve work culture

Q) One of the biggest challenges faced by MSMEs is fund arrangement. Please elaborate how micro finance schemes help MSMEs to secure credit?

A) Financial assistance is needed by every human being. Big people have teams, chartered accountants. Middle class people have relatives to help them to get out of financial troubles. Problems become prominent for the ordinary people for whom INR 5000 or 10000 is very important than millions. To get financial help, they end up in the hands of exploiters. This continues in society as a vicious circle.

To bring out ordinary people from this circle, we need willpower; we need Self Help Groups and NGOs who will guarantee civil payback to the banks and micro-finance institutions. The micro-finance sector should develop in India so that economic empowerment goes to ordinary Indians on a large scale. Loan on ordinary payment terms is important without paper work, but cumulative from the group.

Q) What are the courses especially for MSMEs skill developments on offer?

A) Skill development and vocational training are important for entrepreneurs of MSMEs. There are a large number of drop-outs in this country who are in the grey group. Vocational training such as welding work, electrical and plumbing job and paramedical courses can help them to

get jobs. They can run their own small business also.

I am currently building such a vocational and healthcare training centre in Salt Lake in 5 acres of land. It will be made for the ordinary people and it will help them to seek employment at a very negligible cost.

Q) How has global meltdown affected the SME market? What is your opinion about the future of MSMEs?

A) The meltdown has started from U.S. In India, some of the sectors of the economy, especially the export oriented sectors, are affected temporarily. India is not burning. I am taking it very positively. We are not blind followers any more of USA. To cope with the global crisis, our society must understand the dignity of small skills. There should not be any superiority or inferiority complex related to labour. We need to improve work culture.

Various jobs are available in the market but people are not willing to take them. Jobs are there but jobs we want are not there. We are unnecessarily choosy. We need to believe in the dignity of labour.

For MSMEs, the marketing facility is not there. The government should provide centres to sell their products. There should be a guiding factor like a strong association to fight for them on various issues like finance, security, marketing, micro insurance, mentoring etc. A powerful government officer dedicated to their cause should be employed.