

Ensure safety of employees, NASSCOM chief tells IT firms

Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD: President of NASSCOM Som Mittal on Friday advised software companies to observe "best practices" in ensuring safety and security of their employees which was a priority for the industry.

He declined to comment on the Supreme Court's order which paved the way for the trial against him to proceed in the case of a rape and murder of an associate of Hewlett Packard in Bangalore, as the "matter is sub-judice."

It may be recalled that the Bangalore police filed an FIR against Mr. Mittal, who was heading HP then, on the charges of not implementing certain regulations of the Karnataka State government. "We need to provide a healthy work environment to all our young employees," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 16th annual awards of Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (Hysea).

Software exports

Software exports from the country were US \$ 41 billion and were growing by 28 per cent every year. The domestic business also grew by 29 per cent.

On the rupee appreciation,



ON THE TOP: NASSCOM chief Som Mittal presenting the special jury award to SQL Star International Ltd in the city on Friday. - PHOTO: K. RAMESH BABU

he said: "Currency movement impacts businesses. But, I don't think they will take the retrograde step to devalue the rupee like China."

Plea to Centre

He urged the Union government to extend the sunset clause under Software Technology Parks of India beyond 2009 to enable small and medium enterprises to

sustain growth.

Number of Hyderabad-based software companies whose exports exceeded Rs. 100 crore grew from 10 to 33 in the last one year.

Awards

The Hysea awards were presented to Amazon Development Centre, Tanla Solutions, AMD's R&D centre, Brigade Corporation, Capital

IQ Information Systems, Effigent India, Wings Infonet, EMBINUX, ValueMinds, TCS (for NREGP initiative), Zen Technologies. Innovation awards were also presented to students.

Satyam Computers director A. S. Murthy, IT Secretary of the State S.K. Joshi, Hysea president Anil K. Jampala and its Executive Director K. Hari Kumar also participated.

'IT needs sops for next 10 yrs'

M Venkat Rao

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: The domestic IT industry needs the tax breaks given under the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) for at least another 10 years, according to Som Mittal, president of National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

The extension of STPI scheme is on top of IT-BPO industry's list of expectations from the forthcoming budget. "We are still nascent and young. And under the current pressures that the industry is in, we still need support for sometime to stand on our feet," he said.

Further, SEZs are not coming up in smaller towns nor can business processing companies move into SEZs, he told reporters after giving away the 16th annual awards instituted by Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (Hysea) here on Friday. Amazon Development Centre (India) has bagged the best start-up offshore development centre award from the Hysea for



IT'S HIGH TIME TO ACT: Nasscom president Som Mittal (left) shares a lighter moment with Hysea president Anil K Jampala at Hysea awards function in Hyderabad on Friday

the year 2007.

The other companies which won the Hysea awards were Tanla Solutions Ltd (Best Indian SME), AMD R&D Centre (India) Pvt Ltd (Best Established Offshore Development Centre), Brigade Corporation (Best Indian ITeS Company), Capital IQ Information Systems (India) Pvt Ltd (Best MNC ITeS Company), Effigent India Pvt Ltd (Best Software Product - Early Stage), Wings Infonet Ltd

(Best Software Product - Established), SQL Star International Ltd (Special Jury Award for Best Software Product Established), ValueMinds (Best Innovation Award), TCS (Best Software Product CSR Contribution) and Zen Technologies (Highest Security Certification ISO 27001:2005/BS 7799).

APIIC chief engineer Pardhasaradhi Rao was felicitated with the Service To IT/ITeS Industry Award.