RURAL Development and Panchayat
Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the government may not be on
top of the chart as far as innovation is concerned, but its capacity to scale up
any idea that comes from an outsider will really have a wider impact.

At a discussion on ‘Reimagining partnership’ organised as part of a
Development Dialogue by Deshpande Foundation here on Saturday,
he said the civil society and NGOs are welcome to have partnership
with the government if their ideas and innovations are in the larger
interest of public.

Debunking the myth that prevail
among civil society and NGOs that it is impossible for them to work with
the government, he said it has been projected like that in media. He, however,
said NGOs should understand the root cause of the problem that they have chosen and must have a
definite approach towards finding a solution to the same, before present-
ing it before the government.

Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy said the reason for the prev-
alence of such a myth was because some influential people with hidden
agenda approach the government with ideas. So, he finds no fault in
the government putting a lot of reg-
ulations on NGOs while working on
any project. As public money is in-
volved, the decision making at the
government level takes more time, he added.

Top bureaucrat of Kar-
nataka T M Vijaya
Bhaskar said the stategov-
ernment is already part-
ned with several NGOs
and there have been amaz-
ing results. Partnering
with Akshaya Patra Founda-
tion to implement the midday meal programme is the best example. Simi-
larly, several other foundations have made wonders in primary education sec-
tor in the state.

He, however, said NGOs, especially those with for-
eign origin, should think
carefully before selecting
an area. They should maintain restrain while involving in matters like
religion, caste, democracy,
judiciary and government as their action can be
misunderstood.

Byre Gowda said so-
cial entrepreneurs are
perfectly fit to join the
government to bring in
changes as the latter
alone cannot deliver.