

English translation of the
Speech delivered by Shri Syed Sibtey

Razi

His Excellency the Governor,

Jharkhand

On the occasion of the 58th Republic day

at Ranchi

Ranchi, 26th January, 2007

Dear brothers of Jharkhand, sisters and children,

JOHAR

1. We have gathered here today, in this historical Morhabadi grounds to commemorate our glorious past and to celebrate the Republic Day. We are celebrating the 58th Republic Day in this land of such immortal and brave martyr's as Birsa Munda, and Sidho-Kanho, a land which abounds in natural beauty, precious minerals and limitless possibilities. I extend my heartiest congratulations to you on this occasion. My salutations are for the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sardar Patel, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, all the immortal martyrs and heroes of Jharkhand and great freedom fighters, in whose leadership we have attained freedom and who still remain a source of inspiration in the fulfillment of our constitutional duties and responsibilities.

Salutation to the Martyrs

2. Dear citizens of Jharkhand, we feel proud of the historical, social and cultural heritage of this state; a state which has produced such great sons and martyrs as Birsa Munda, Tilka Manjhi, Sidho-Kanho, Chand Bhairav, Neelambar-Pitambar, Jatra Tana Bhagat, Thakur Vishwanath Shahdeo, Seikh Bhikhari, Tikait Umrao Singh and Pandeya Ganpat Rai. Tales of their bravery and valour and memories of our glorious past continue to enthrall us. On this great occasion, I take the opportunity of paying tribute to all our great heroes and martyrs.

3. This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first war of India's independence of 1857. On this historical day we also salute the immortal freedom fighters who shed their blood and laid the foundation of the freedom struggle. With the

objective of keeping alive the memory of the sacrifice made by the freedom fighters for future generations, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, of which I am also a member. Throughout the country we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first independence struggle with fervour and enthusiasm. I am glad to announce that upon my advice, the youthful Chief Minister of this state, Sri Madhu Koda has agreed to celebrate on a grand scale, the 150th anniversary of the first freedom struggle, the completion of 60 years of freedom as well as the sacrifice made by the martyrs with complete vigour and enthusiasm in the year 2007. It is a matter of great pride for us that the state of Jharkhand has also made considerable and important contribution to the freedom struggle. Our immortal martyrs gave a befitting reply to the British rulers with their courage, valour and bravery. I call upon all citizens of Jharkhand to come forward and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first freedom struggle(1857) with enthusiasm and fervour in the year 2007

Tribute to the Brave Soldiers

4. The brave Jawans who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the freedom of this country on the borders as well as the security inside the country are remembered on this day. It is on account of their sacrifice that we can call ourselves citizens of an independent and sovereign state. Whenever the country has summoned, our brave soldiers have courageously protected our borders and taken care of our internal security. We may not be able to compensate for the emptiness in the lives of their near and dear ones, but can definitely give them some solace and comfort. Every Indian cherishes the desire to see the youth of this country emulate the spirit of sacrifice and service to the nation, as exemplified by the brave Jawans.

Faith in Democratic Institutions

5. India is the largest democratic country of the world. For a strong democracy it is essential to have strong and stable democratic institutions. We must always bear in mind that our democratic institutions are the basic foundations of democracy . Our country can flourish only when the democratic institutions function together in collaboration and cooperation. In our Jharkhand state,Panchayat elections have not been held till date. As a result, decentralization of power has not occurred, on the one hand, while on the other, Panchayats, an important step towards public participation in administration at the rural level have not emerged. My advice to the state government, therefore, is to swiftly remove all impediments and hold Panchayat elections as early as possible, thereby fulfilling their most important responsibility.

6. To achieve the ideals and objectives of self-governance for which the freedom struggle took place; those ideals and principles, the goals of a balanced development of our nation and its people, have been enshrined in the constitution. Today is a day of self analysis and introspection. We must uphold and honour our constitution. It is essential to maintain dignity and discipline for the sake of growth and progress. In the observance of law and in honouring our constitutional institutions and traditions lies the growth and prosperity of democratic legacy.

Unity in Diversity

7. Our country is a living example of unity in diversity for the entire world. In a country with a population of hundred crores, people belonging to different religions live in harmony, preserving and strengthening their diverse cultural heritage by mutual exchange. Despite several testing situations the unity of the people has remained unshaken. In moments of crisis and in

every national catastrophe and disaster- be it from internal or external forces- our entire nation stands firm like one unified family sharing each other's joys and sorrows. We have inherited this sentiment by virtue of our faith in equality and co-existence. This is the reason why we are proud of our diverse cultural heritage and it is our responsibility to maintain and preserve it.

On the Path to Development

8. Jharkhand is a nascent state. The state has outlined its own programme for progress and development. Only a short time has elapsed; developmental schemes take their own time to be accomplished. The dreams of a developed society which were visualized by our predecessors are a long way off. Our efforts must be directed towards the attainment of our aims and goals. If we can set aside our petty differences and hostilities and instead project solidarity there is no reason why the newly formed state of Jharkhand will not be ahead on the path of progress. Can anyone hinder the progress and success of a state which possesses more than 40% of the country's mineral wealth? Our dreams are of a golden hue and a world full of hope beckons us, where the sky is the limit.

9. During the last six decades the graph of development in India has continuously shown an upward trend. New opportunities are being created. In such a scenario the youth can develop skills compatible with the challenges of our fast changing world. For this not only academic accomplishments but also professional efficiency is important. People proficient in several disciplines create their own avenues and are not dependent on mere jobs. In this era of outsourcing and call centers, the younger generation of this newly formed state of Jharkhand have the option of choosing their own area of interest and opportunities according to their efficiency and realize their goals. More than 30% of our population comprises of youth and our country belongs to the

young. By 2025 the population of the younger generation will rise to 60% and by 2050 the majority will be theirs. Instead of considering them as burden, on the contrary, they should be considered as an invaluable human resource. While taking into account their incomparable potential such activities should be organized where their energy can be properly channelised, giving them a new direction.

Growth of education

10. Efforts are being made by the government for the growth of education. The problem of children dropping out of schools is a serious one. To tackle this, those living below the poverty line are being encouraged to join schools with incentives of mid-day meals and cycles distributed to girl students upto class VIII. With the objective of spreading education amongst girl students, the scheme of free education upto Post Graduation level has been introduced.

11. Dear citizens of Jharkhand, we have taken several measures to bring about wide spread reforms in higher education. As you well know, in this age of globalization it is imperative that we impart job-oriented education to our youth. With this in mind new vocational courses have been introduced in all the universities. For the enhancement of technical education, B.I.T. Mesra is opening a branch in Deoghar. To prevent the exodus of students to other states private medical, engineering and law colleges are also being opened. For the expansion and spread of higher education it is essential that we make proper use of the available infrastructure. To provide higher education to maximum number of students, colleges may be run in double shifts. We must also focus on establishing Open Universities and Open Schools so that children especially of rural areas, benefit from the system of Distance Education. While expanding the horizons of higher education, on the one hand, the quality of

higher education should be maintained, on the other. It is, therefore, essential that the autonomy of universities should be kept intact, while its constituent bodies, for example, Senate, Syndicate and Academic Councils, be kept alive.

Agricultural and Horticultural Development

12. If we intend to find methods and means for the overall development of the people of this state then the best agricultural techniques, research-oriented seeds and fertilizers must be provided for plantation to every field. Against the total requirement of 45 lakh tones of food grains in the state only 22 lakh tones are available. It is possible to have better yields from infertile and barren plots of land if adequate facilities for irrigation are provided in the state. Water harvesting projects and the construction of check-dams and canals should be done with honesty. Research work at Birsa Agricultural University of this State, is continuously being done. In my view, one of the purposes of research should be to also provide farmers with seeds and fertilizers of good quality at low prices. The need of the hour is to transfer the results and techniques obtained from research to fields in the villages. It is with the objective of promoting the use of better techniques in agriculture that a new agricultural college is being opened in Godda. Along with this, adequate and proper marketing facilities for agricultural produce must also be ensured. Attention should also be paid towards providing adequate storage facilities for grains so that farmers get proper returns on their total investments.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

13. The exodus of labour force from the state is a serious problem. It is imperative to effectively implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, to prevent the labour force from migrating. According to the National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act, 2005, adults belonging to families residing in rural areas and seeking employment as unskilled labour are legally guaranteed 100 days employment in a year. With the help of Central assistance this scheme has been implemented in 20 districts of this state. Districts of East Singhbhum and Deoghar have been selected under the Employment Guarantee Scheme from the State Grant. Steps are being taken for the formation of "State Rural Employment Guarantee Council" to successfully implement this scheme in the state. As a result of the implementation of this scheme in the state new employment opportunities are being created, on the one hand, while on the other, infrastructure is being developed, such as the construction of roads and bridges.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, Minorities, Backward Classes and Women

14. The prime concern of the government is the economic and social upliftment of the Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Tribes, women and weaker sections of the society, as well as, their inclusion into the mainstream. The state has already constituted Women's Commission, which will ensure justice for women and the deprived classes. Implementation of several welfare programmes, such as abolition of dowry system and witchcraft; and the promotion of self empowerment, inter-caste marriage, as well as, the empowerment of the girl child have been initiated by the State. Twelve out of twenty-two districts of the State are completely included in scheduled area and two districts as partially included in scheduled areas. In consonance with the 5th schedule of the Constitution, a Tribal Advisory Council has been constituted for the welfare of these scheduled areas. Several measures have been taken for the welfare of minorities based on religion and language. We have to advance rapidly in this direction.

Industrial Development and Resettlement Policy

15. In view of its natural mineral wealth, Jharkhand is one of the richest states in the country, Attracted by its mineral resources several proposals for mega projects have started pouring in. The State Government's decision to work for Value Addition within the State, rather than export mineral and ore, will enable the local people to gain better profit and enhance the economic growth of the State. Apart from three existing Industrial Area Development Authorities another new Industrial Area Development Authority at Santhalpargana, has been constituted.

16. While, on the one hand, we must consider about investments and industrialization, on the other, we must also emphasize the importance of the resettlement of displaced persons on account of installation of new industries. Some solid resettlement policies need to be formulated. One must also seriously consider the protection of environment and ecological balance.

Improved Supply of Electricity

17. One of the most fundamental infrastructural prerequisite to development is uninterrupted power supply. The State Government is making continuous efforts to bring improvement in the production and distribution of power. As a result of these efforts we can expect to increase production capacity to 2000 megawatts at the State level, 3000 megawatts at the Central level and 4000 megawatts in the Private sector, during the 11th Five Year Plan. The expansion of rural electrification is of supreme importance and the state government is making serious efforts towards the electrification of all villages by 2009.

Health Services

18. In my opinion, for better health services to be made available to every individual, it is essential to systematize these services. I

am glad that the government has made concerted efforts towards providing good health facilities to all residents of the State and is seriously thinking of making the best health facilities available to every individual residing in remote areas. For families of all communities living below poverty line, Health Protection Scheme has been started, under which Health-for-All Mission Trust has been constituted.

Organization of National Games

19. It is a matter of pride that the government is hosting National Games 2007 for which necessary infrastructure of International standards are being built. Organization of National Games will create a proper environment for Sports in the State. The National Games is a matter of prestige and I am confident that the State Government, the Jharkhand Olympic Association and the people of Jharkhand will work together for its success.

Law and Order and Extremism

20. Extremism is a major problem impeding the path of progress and development in the State. We have been successful to some extent in solving this problem but we are still making efforts to root it out. The government has started schemes for providing employment at the village level to those youth who have drifted away and to bring them back into the mainstream. Concerted efforts are being made to make the police administration more effective, more accountable and sensitive towards the public. For quick and impartial execution of matters related to atrocities against women, a women's-cell has been allocated to one police station in every district. Orders to post adequate women police officers and staff in these notified women's police stations have been issued. To prevent people, who are in the habit of lodging an F.I.R. for petty conflicts, and to solve these conflicts by mutual understanding, Non Government Organizations and the

common public have formed a committee in these police stations; the results of which have been positive and encouraging.

A Sensitive Administration

21. In the context of strengthening the administrative machinery and with the objective of eliminating the practical difficulties at the regional levels, old and complicated rules are being amended in accordance with modern administrative practices. The government feels that the benefits of such Public Welfare Schemes which are implemented by it, should reach the people for whom it is intended. All officers of the state government at the district level have been directed to hold 'Janta Darbar' to find solutions to their problem at the local level and alleviate their sufferings. This is being done to make the government more sensitive and responsible towards the public. To bring transparency into the working of the government, Right to Information is a welcome step. This will not only enable the public to understand the government procedures but also bring transparency and sensitivity into the system.

22. In the end, I once again congratulate you on the occasion of the Republic Day. I call upon you to join hands and work in unison with a strong sense of brotherhood, communal harmony; to combine your creative and positive energies and direct it to the upliftment and all-round development of Jharkhand, transporting it to the heights of achievement and glory.

**"Let's be one with Life, Let's be one with the Universe
As we move on, Let's move on with the world."**

JAI HIND! JAI JHARKHAND