

**Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Vikas Mela at Palamu on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.**

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahaiji, Shri G.Krishnan, Advisor to Governor, Shri Inder Singh Namdhari, MP Chatra, Shri Ramchandra Singh, MLA, Manika, Shri Prakash Ram, MLA,Latehar, Shri Videsh Singh, MLA, Panki, Shri Ramchandra Chandravanshi, MLA, Bishrampur, Shri Girinath Singh, MLA, Garhwa, Director General of Police, Divisional Commissioner, Palamu, DIG,Palamu Chairman, Nagarpalika, Medininagar Deputy Commissioner, Palamu, other civil & police officials, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am very happy to inaugurate this Vikas mela which is aimed at imparting information & providing benefits of government programs and schemes to the people of Palamu division.

Palamu is known for its history and diversity, its flora and fauna. It is also known for its recurrent droughts and crop failures. Today, as speak here, we are passing through yet another year of severe drought in Palamu. The aim and intension of this Vikas Mela to provide relief in this difficult situation by distributing assets worth Rs.65.00 crs to over 32000 beneficiaries and appointment letters to over 1550 persons.

Today we are taking up a large number of developmental & welfare activities such as -

- ❖ Girl child adoption by PSU banks;
- ❖ Disbursement of education loan;
- ❖ Disbursement of Consumption loans to drought hit farmers;
- ❖ Disbursement of loan/subsidy to SHG under Swarnayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna;
- ❖ Disbursement of DR Loan to beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana;
- ❖ Disbursement of Kisan Credit Card (KCC);
- ❖ Sanction of Loan under Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Programme;
- ❖ Disbursement of Tractor Loan;
- ❖ Disbursement of loans for purchase of trucks
- ❖ Disbursement of loan for purchase of Auto Rickshaw
- ❖ Distribution of PDS license to Women Self Help Group
- ❖ Distribution of Patta under Forest Dwellers Rights Act
- ❖ Distribution of Gratuitous Relief to people affected by drought
- ❖ Distribution of Power tiller under Mukhya Mantri Kisan Khushali Yojana;
- ❖ Cheque distribution for construction of ponds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana;
- ❖ Distribution of cheque under National Family Benefit Scheme;
- ❖ Distribution of medical aid to the sick;
- ❖ Distribution of cheques to Indira Awaas Yojana beneficiaries;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment letter to dependents of victims of leftwing extremists;

- ❖ Distribution of cheque to Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojana beneficiaries;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment letter to Chaukidar;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment letter to Raojgar Sewak;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment letter to Anganwari Sewika and Sahayika;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment of letter Para Teachers;
- ❖ Distribution of appointment letter to person appointed on compassionate ground;
- ❖ Distribution of Cycle & uniform to girl students;

If there is one thread which runs through all these abovementioned actions on our part it is the welfare and happiness of the poor, needy and downtrodden. Neither I know nor do I want to know the caste, religion or political party of the beneficiaries who have been given assets or appointment letters in today's Vikas Mela; however, what I do know is that all these people are children of Jharkhand and my government is committed to serve them to the best of its ability.

Within the short time that I have been in Jharkhand all my endeavours have been towards improving the quality of life of common man. I have initiated several measures for ensuring food security and livelihood security for the people of the state. Keeping in view the delayed and deficient rainfall in the state, the whole of Jharkhand has been declared drought affected. My government has undertaken several drought mitigation measures including distribution to free ration to BPL and Antyodaya families, free

ration to Primitive tribes and supplementary nutrition at ICDS centres. Families in dire need of sustenance who are not getting free ration are being provided Rs.400/- per month under Calamity Relief. Again, for the first time since the formation of Jharkhand five kg free rice is being distributed to 23.94 lakhs BPL and Antyodaya families during the Ed, Desherra & Durga Puja festivals. My government has sanctioned Rs.1.25 crores to provide a subsidy of Rs.15/- per litre to farmers under the Diesel Subsidy Scheme for providing irrigation in the drought-affected areas.

We have also strengthened and reoriented the PDS system to ensure that benefits reach every household. Sugar distribution through PDS has started for the first time since creation of Jharkhand. Over 12000 new Public Distribution System shops are being opened through women self-help groups who are being given Rs.10,000/- as Seed money from government besides bank loan. To keep check on rising prices of essential commodities we have opened over 1244 Suvidha Stores wherein over 4 -lakh persons have already shopped up-till now.

We are giving special emphasis to NREGA, which is the flagship programme for employment generation in rural areas. I regret to say that during 2008-09 over Rs.1000 crores remained unutilised under NREGA in Jharkhand and only 47 days employment per family could be provided. This year we are ensuring that every village has NREGA schemes under execution and whoever demands work is provided work near his or her place of stay. NREGA month is being celebrated to generate awareness

and undertake additional work. Already over 40 days employment per family has been given and we are on course for providing 100 days employment per family.

Further, over 6000 additional ICDS centres have been opened resulting in the appointment of 9000 women as Sevikas and Sahayikas. The honorarium of 74000 Aaganwadi Sewikas & Sahiyikas has also been increased to Rs.2200/- (from Rs.1850/-) & Rs.1100/- (from Rs.950/ or Rs.750/-)-. All backlog of old age pension has been cleared and over Rs.199.00 crs have been distributed amongst 8.77 lakhs old age pension beneficiaries. Speedy implementation of Bharat Nirman Schemes relating to provision for drinking water, rural electrification, health and education are also being ensured.

My government is totally committed to providing pro-poor governance in the state. I congratulate officials of Palamu Division for distributing assets and grants worth Rs.60.00 crores, for inaugurating schemes worth Rs.15.00 crores and for distribution of appointment letters to over 1550 persons. All these works & assets and appointments are directed towards the welfare of the poor, the needy and the downtrodden whose service is the corner stone of my government. I seek the support and cooperation of all in establishing people oriented, efficient and transparent administration in Jharkhand.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.