

**Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of the Statewide launch of the National Health Insurance Scheme on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Town Hall Ranchi.**

Mr. G. Krishnan, Advisor. Mr.S.K.Choudhary, Development Commissioner, other dignitaries on the dias, representatives from Electronic and Print media, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here on the occasion of the Statewide launch of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

We are all aware of the problems and hardships faced by families of workers in the unorganised sector. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India has launched the National Health Insurance Scheme as part of the endeavour to extend social security to families of unorganised workers living below the poverty line. Under this scheme families of unorganised workers living below the poverty line will be provided benefit of health insurance coverage of Rs.30,000/- per year. The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner from 2008-09. The Government of India is contributing 75% of the premium and 25% of the premium is being contributed by the state government. Uptill now the scheme was being implemented since 2008-09 in the districts of Ranchi, Khunti, Dhanbad, Garhwa, Deoghar, West Singhbhum. Today this scheme is being extended to all the districts of the state.

Absence of social security to unorganized sectors of society who are living below the poverty line has been a matter of great concern for both the Central and State Governments. In our country more than 90% of the workers are in unorganized sector. It is hoped that health insurance coverage through National Health Insurance Scheme will go a long way in providing effective social security coverage to unorganised and marginalized section of society.

Along with National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, National Health Insurance Scheme will constitute a social security basket that will focus on the needs people living below the poverty line.

I hope that all stake holders including Government Departments, the Insurance Company, the beneficiaries, apart from electronic and print media would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that more and more beneficiaries take benefit of the scheme.

Thank you.

Jai Hind, Jai Jharkhand