

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Vikas Mela at Hazaribagh on 9th October, 2009.

Shri G.Krishnan, Advisor, Shri Shiv Basant Chief Secretary, ,Shri Yashwant Sinha, M.P. & Former Union Minister, Shri Indar Singh Namdhari, M.P., Shri Ravindra Pandey, M.P., Shri Manoj Kumar Yadav, Smt.Annapurna Devi, Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary, Smt.Aparna Sen Gupta, Shri Sourabh Narayan Singh, Shri Mathura Mahto, Shir Khiru Mahto & Shri Vinod Kumar Singh, All M.L.As, Divisional Commissioner, Hazaribagh DIG, Hazaribagh, Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh 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 Hazaribagh division.

Hazaribagh, or the city of 1000 gardens, is known for its picturesque natural beauty on one hand and its abundant mineral wealth on the other; however it is one of the paradoxes of development that this mineral rich area is inhabited by mostly poor people engaged in subsistence farming for their livelihood.

Today's Vikas Mela is aimed at the poor & needy of Hazaribagh division as we are distributing assets worth Rs.598.00 crores to over 34000 beneficiaries, providing jobs to over 1300 persons, inaugurating 25 schemes of Rs.52.00 crores. and laying foundations for 32 schemes of Rs.291.00 crores.

The developmental & welfare activities taken up today include -

- ❖ Launch of Gramin Shakti Scheme of State Bank of India whereby women members of SHGs will get insurance cover of Rs.25,000/-at meager premium.
- ❖ Distribution of Cycle & Uniform to 4635 girl students;
- ❖ Distribution of Rs.96.00 lakhs as Gratuitous relief to 24066 households;
- ❖ Adoption of girl children by Public Sector Banks,
- ❖ Disbursement of Consumption Loan to 2535 farmers of Drought affected areas;

- ❖ Disbursement of Education Loan;
- ❖ Disbursement of loan/subsidy to SHGs under Swarnayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna;
- ❖ Distribution of DRI Loan to beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana;
- ❖ Disbursement of Kisan Credit Card (KCC);
- ❖ Disbursement of Tractor Loan;
- ❖ Disbursement of loan for purchase of Auto Rickshaw;
- ❖ Distribution of PDS license to 331 Women Self Help Group;
- ❖ Distribution of Patta to 532 tribal households under Forest Dwellers Rights Act,
- ❖ Distribution of cheque under National Family Benefit Scheme;
- ❖ Distribution of cheque to Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojana beneficiaries;

We have also today participated in the unfolding of some extremely important landmarks, such as-

- ❖ Inauguration of Chalkusha Block which will satisfy a long standing demand of the people of this remote area of Hazaribagh;
- ❖ Inauguration of power sub stations, roads and bridges, checkdams, community centres, rural pipe water supply schemes, hostels, panchayat Bhawans etc. which are all aimed at improving the quality of life of common man.

Further, we have also laid the foundation stone for several projects of great importance such as -

- ❖ Ring Road Hazaribgh,
- ❖ Kasturba Gandhi Residential School, Hazaribagh;
- ❖ Houses of urban poor at Dhanbad;
- ❖ Bridge on river Damodar at Chandankiari;
- ❖ Bridge on river Kesho at Masmohana;
- ❖ 141 Microlift irrigation scheme in Chatra and;
- ❖ Widening and strengthening of several roads.

If there is one thread which runs through all these abovementioned initiatives 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 want to improve agriculture and put more money in the hands of our farmers through bouquet of agriculture/horticulture and allied activities under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Programme and National Horticulture Mission. Further, my government has launched a dairy project of 1.00 lakh litres which will help 40000 farmers across the state.

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. We have sanctioned Rs.28.50 crores to provide safe drinking water at each Aaganwadi Centre. 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. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana one lakh BPL were provided electricity connectivity during August '09.

I believe that a responsive government must be near the people so that it can reach them in times of need. Keeping that in view I have ordered the creation of 12 blocks and 27 police stations to improve the security environment & expedite developmental programmes.

My government is totally committed to providing pro-poor governance in the state. I congratulate government officials and bank staff of Hazaribagh Division for distributing assets and grants worth Rs.598.00 crores amongst 34000 families, for completing schemes & projects worth Rs.343.00 crores and for providing jobs to over 1300 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.