

Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of National Khadi, Saras and Hasthashilp Mahotsav, 2009 on 11th October, 2009 at Morhabadi, Ranchi.

His Excellency Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Jainandu, Chairman, Jharkhand State Khadi & Village Industries Board, Shri N.N.Sinha, Secretary, Industries, other dignitaries, Ladies & Gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the Rashtriya Khadi Hasthashilp Evam Saras Mahotsav, 2009 organised by Jharkhand State Khadi & Village Industries Board and sponsored by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Govt. of India & Rural Development Deptt., Jharkhand.

We are all aware of the historic close association between our national movement and khadi. Indeed, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, used to refer to Khadi as "The livery of freedom". In fact, Khadi was introduced in the year 1920 as a political weapon and as the best instrument for giving concrete expression to the

Swadeshi Spirit to boycott foreign goods. Khadi rendered an opportunity to every man, woman and child to cultivate self-discipline and self-sacrifice as a part of the non-cooperation movement. Gandhiji wrote that Swaraj (self-rule) without Swadeshi (country made goods) is a lifeless corpse and if Swadeshi is the soul of Swaraj, Khadi is the essence of Swadeshi. Therefore khadi became not only a symbol of revolution and resistance but also a part of the Indian identity.

In the post independence period the biggest challenge facing the nation is that of inclusive growth. We cannot afford a model of economic growth where the fruits of development by-pass the poor and the downtrodden. Development, to be meaningful, must answer the hopes and aspirations of the common man and provide for this basic necessities of food, clothes & shelter. Development of Khadi and Village Industries provides the path to translate the objective of inclusive growth into reality. Moreover, along with Khadi, Handloom, handicrafts, Sericulture, indigenous technologies too, generate large scale employment and thereby strengthen rural economic structure. In this

endeavor Khadi and Village Industries Boards, Departments of Industries, financing organizations, skill development authorities, Forest development Corporations,, banks, marketing agencies etc all have very important roles to play.

Jharkhand is well endowed by natural and manpower resources to make a mark at the national level with herbal products, sericulture, beekeeping, minor forest produce, minor minerals etc. However, there is need for proper backward and forward linkages to convert the potential into reality. The Jharkhand Khadi Board together with a network of official & non-official bodies is trying to develop this sector and this Khadi and Handicraft Mahotsav is proof of this endeavour.

Over the years the Khadi & Handicrafts Fair has become an important event in the socio-economic calendar of Jharkhand. By bringing the producers and the consumers face to face, this Mahotsav proves to be a win-win for both. I am sure the people of Jharkhand will visit this Mahotsav in large numbers and patronize the Khadi and handicraft products on sale over here and make it a success.

I congratulate Jharkhand Khadi Gramodyag Board to organizing this fair & thank the Textiles Ministry Govt. of India for sponsoring this event.

With these words I declare open this National Khadi, Saras and Handicrafts Mahotsav and give my best wishes for its resounding success.