

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of Engineers Day Celebrations on 15th September, 2009 at Mecon Community Hall, Shyamli, Doranda ,Ranchi.

Sri G. Krishnan, Advisor, Sri Shiv Basant, Chief Secretary, President JESA, General Secretary, JESA, All Engineers present in the Hall, representatives from Press and media, Ladies & Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to be with you on the 42nd Engineers' Day which is being held to commemorate the 148th birth anniversary of Dr. M. Vishweshwaraiya, one of the greatest engineers of the land. Bharat Ratna Dr. Vishweshwaraiya was, as you all know, not only a great engineering genius but also a very able administrator. His works in irrigation sector are engineering marvels and remain source of inspiration for engineers for all times to come.

The topic for today's technical discussion "The hindered development of Jharkhand-causes & remedies" is very relevant for this state. I will be most interested in the results of your deliberations and suggest that the same be submitted to Chief Secretary for follow up action.

Jharkhand was created nine years ago but it has not lived up to the promise of development. Development of infrastructure is key to state's development, but the condition of infrastructure is quite pathetic in Jharkhand in all sectors like Road, Power and Irrigation. Not even a single major irrigation scheme has been completed and not one Megawatt of electricity has been added since the state came into existence.

We have lost precious time and resources, but we have to perform if creation of Jharkhand has to have any real meaning for the common man. The State Govt. and especially the engineers of the state will have to take pledge to develop our infrastructure with speed & quality.

Quality and speed are the essential key words for infrastructure development. We have to draw both long term and short-term plans. I believe the engineers the state are instruments of change and development of any state depends to a large extent on their performance. All Works Departments need to be restructured & revitalized on the pattern of developed states and Central Govt. institutions like NHAI and CPWD. A comprehensive policy of Transfer and Posting should be drawn and all outstanding issues of promotion of the engineers should be expeditiously resolved. I have been told that engineers have not been given regular promotion in some departments ever since the State came into being and they are made In-charge & Acting, Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Chief Engineer and Engineer in Chief. This needs to be corrected.

I feel that little attention is paid here on the quality of the works executed. Not a day passes when we do not read newspaper reports on the poor quality of our schemes. Same is the case with monitoring system. There is neither proper quality set up nor a modern monitoring system in any Works Department. Works Deptts should establish proper Monitoring and Quality Assurance Cells. Our labs should be truly functional. Since Infrastructure Development has become a complex exercise involving private sector, Consultants, External Aid institutions like ADB & World Bank, other departments of the state and centre, all Works Department HQs should have IT, legal, and training cells. I am all for involving engineers in the decision making and making them responsible for the works entrusted to them. Our engineers are not less qualified than their counter parts in other states. Given the challenge and autonomy, I am confident that our engineers shall rise to the occasion and shall not let this state down.

On the occasion of 42nd Engineer's Day, I would like to inform you that my government has taken decision to rename Nepal House as Vishweshwaraiya Bhawan. We also propose to set up a Jharkhand

Engineering Academy in Ranchi for continuous training of engineers and other construction staff of all Works Departments. This Academy shall also do research work & shall interact with industry. It can be modelled on the pattern of National Academy of Construction, Hyderabad.

I know that engineers have to work in the remote & naxal infested areas of the state. Also they have to encounter criminal elements in course of their duty. The State Govt. will do everything that is necessary to ensure the safety and security of engineers working in Jharkhand.

My government will be responsive to all genuine demands of the engineers : but we also seek reciprocity. Engineers will have to take pledge to honestly discharge their duty. They should strive to update their technical know-how with latest codes of practices and standards. They must ensure timely completion of projects with quality. There is no place for non-performers in my scheme of things. Every Works Department must have in place a modern evaluation system for all its engineers, the existing CR system be revamped and a list of performing & non-performing engineers be drawn at the end of each financial year. Each works Deptt. should devise ways to reward 5 (five) best engineers each year to encourage better performance by all concerned.

To conclude, I exhort all engineers to feel pride in their profession, take challenges and discharge their responsibilities with dedication. I call upon all the engineers of the state to emulate the path of, and to take inspiration from, the life and work of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. Vishweshwaraiya.

I thank JESA and the organizers for calling me here to interact with you all.

Thank you.

Jai Hind