

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Vikas Mela at Bokaro on 19th September, 2009.

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahaiji, Shri G.Krishnan, Advisor to Governor, Shri P.N.Singh, MP Dhanbad & Shri R.Pande, MP, Giridih Divisional Commissioner, Hazaibagh, Managing Director, Bokaro Steel Ltd. Shri V.K.Srivastava, Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro, other civil & police officials, Ladies & Gentlemen,

My heartiest greetings and best wishes to people of Bokaro for the forthcoming Id, Deshera and Durga Puja celebrations. This is my first visit to this industrial town and I am very happy to inaugurate this Vikas mela which is aimed at imparting knowledge & providing benefits to you all in regard to various government programs and schemes.

At this Vikas Mela we are doing several things such as -

- ❖ distribution of seeds for alternate crops to farmers facing drought;
- ❖ distribution of cheques to beneficiaries of National Family Benefit Scheme;
- ❖ distribution of pattas under the Forest Dwellers Rights Act;
- ❖ distribution of bicycles to 200 School going girls;
- ❖ distribution of wheelchair to the handicapped;
- ❖ distribution of PDS licence to Women Self Groups;
- ❖ distribution of share certificates worth Rs.40 lakhs to 36 Cooperative Societies;
- ❖ distribution of appointment letters to Rozgar Sewaks & Chaukidars;
- ❖ electric substation for the remote Nawadih block is being made operational;
- ❖ bridges worth Rs.8.16 crores are being inaugurated to improve rural connectivity;
- ❖ rural water supply schemes worth Rs.6.5 crores are being inaugurated to provide clean drinking water to villages;

We have also today laid the foundation stone for Industrial Training Institute at Tenughat and Tourist Information Centre & Vikas Bhawan at Bokaro.

All these actions will clearly demonstrate that my government is totally committed to the service and needs of the common man. Within a short time I have initiated several measures in Jharkhand 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 of 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 to bring a smile to the faces of the poor during the Ed, Desherra & Durga Puja festivals.

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. To keep check on rising prices of essential commodities we have opened over 600 Suvidha Stores wherein over 2-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. 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.

Further, over 6000 additional ICDS centres have been opened resulting in the appointment of 9000 women as Sevikas and Sahayikas. The honorarium of 74000 Aanganwadi Sevikas & 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 Bokaro administration for distributing assets and grants worth Rs.50.00 crores, for inaugurating schemes worth Rs.15.00 crores and getting

foundation stone laid for works of Rs.20.00 crores. All these works & assets 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. Once again a very happy Ed Desherra and Durga Puja to all of you.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.