

Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of handing over of ownership papers of dwelling units to slum dwellers of Ranchi on 28.8.2009.

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Shri G. Krishnan, Advisor to Governor / Local MLA Shri C.P.Singh /Mayor /Deputy Mayor /Corporators / Other Officials, Media Representatives, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to hand over ownership of houses to the poorest of the poor from the slums of Ranchi. Large number of poor people migrate from rural areas to Ranchi in search of livelihood. Without any support structure to fall back upon, these unskilled people begin living on open pavements, under over bridges, small makeshift hutments and so on. Their continued day to day effort to meet basic needs gets aggravated day by day. By giving dwelling units to some of them today we have taken a small step towards the long journey that is ahead of us.

We know that shelter is a basic human requirement, for a shelterless person getting a house brings about a profound social change in his status and welfare endowing him an identity and integrating him with his social milieu.

In the past urban housing for the poorest of the poor or those living below the poverty line did not receive adequate attention. In the year 2001 the Govt. of India launched a scheme for the benefit of slum dwellers called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna popularly known as VAMBAY.

I am happy to know that Ranchi Municipal Corporation has been able to construct dwelling units under VAMBAY scheme. The dwelling units were constructed through HUDCO. More houses are being constructed for urban poor under JNNURM scheme and they will be given in due course.

I believe that the people are the masters of the country. My government is committed to the service of the poor and the needy. After taking over the reins of administration one month ago I have initiated a slew of pro-poor initiatives for ensuring food security and livelihood security to the masses. Public Distribution System (PDS) food grains are being reached to the doorsteps of all PDS shops. Over 12000 new PDS shops are being opened through Women's self help groups. Sugar is being made available through PDS for the first time in the State. Over 300 Suvidha stores have been opened across the State to provide essential commodities at reasonable rates. NREGA schemes are being taken up in all villages so that each and every person looking for employment is provided with work. All backlog of old age pension and stipend to students has been cleared. Over 6000 additional ICDS centres are also being opened.

It will be my endeavour to ensure concrete, time bound and focussed action towards meeting the needs and aspirations of the poor people of the state. I want the whole hearted support and cooperation of all sections of population to deliver effective, efficient and transparent governance in the state.

Thank you,