



Speech
of
His Excellency
Syed Sibtey Razi
The Governor of Jharkhand
At
Conference of Governors

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Respected Rashtrapatiji, Up-Rashtrapatiji, Pradhan Mantriji, Union Ministers, Dy.Chairman Planning Commission, fellow Governors/Lt.Governors.

It is a privilege and honour to present before this august gathering an overview on the problems, the possibilities and the areas of special concern relating to Jharkhand, the youngest state of the Indian Union that came into existence on 15th November 2000, the birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter, Birsa Munda. Jharkhand is a predominantly rural state with 78% of its population of 2.69 crores living in 32,000 rural settlements. Of the total population, 26.3% belong to scheduled tribes and another 11.8% belong to scheduled castes and 15 districts, out of total 24 districts, are totally or partially included in the scheduled area.

Despite vast mineral and natural resources, a majority of the population of the state(52%) lives below the poverty line. The per-capita income stands at Rs.4,161/- but that too, is not a true reflection of the poverty in the rural areas because this figure has got enhanced due to some rich industrial pockets. Although agriculture is the main stay for the 80% of rural population in the state, only 11% of the net cultivated area is irrigated. Similarly, only 30% of the villages have electricity and there is no connectivity by all weather roads to a large number of villages. The literacy rate of the state at 54.13% is far below the national average. Other indices of development are also poor. In other words, Jharkhand paradoxically is a rich state inhabited by poor people and this is the real challenge before all of us.

Left Wing Extremism - One manifestation of this developmental paradox is the incidence of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in 18 out of 24 districts of the state.

CPI (Maoists) is the main LWE outfit with influence across the state although there are other outfits as well with presence in local pockets. Jharkhand is critical to the LWE scheme of things because of its location at the center of 4

naxal affected states, namely Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal & Bihar , its vast forest tracts that provide them shelter, training ground & safe passage and its mineral & forest wealth which are a source of revenue for them.

Recognizing left wing extremism as the main internal security challenge for the state, a four-fold policy comprising of initiatives on the security front, developmental front, public perception front & political front is being pursued in consultation with the Union Home Ministry. Strengthening of the state security set up has been taken up in right earnest and accordingly, the strength of police force has been almost doubled (from 25000 to 50000) since the formation of the state. Major initiatives in the area of reinforcing security are -

- (a) Doubling of the State Police Force since creation of state.
- (b) Strengthening of the state intelligence set up.
- (c) Raising of India Reserve Battalions I, II & III with the assistance of MHA.
- (d) Raising of a special task force on lines of Grey hounds of Andhra Pradesh.
- (e) Sanction of the School for Jungle Warfare.
- (f) Raising of 2 battalions of Special Auxillary Police comprising of ex servicemen.
- (g) Sanctioning of 14 additional companies in JAP Battalions.
- (h) Appointment of 3000 odd Special Police Officers with financial support from MHA.
- (i) Almost 100% Utilization of the funds of Centrally Sponsored police modernization scheme to strengthen the firepower, mobility, communications and security of naxal affected Police Stations.
- (j) Payment of hard area allowance to staff posted in naxal thanas and outposts.

This is, however, not to say that there have not been reverses. The CPI (Maoists) have been with chilling regularity laying ambushes and exploding lethal landmines against our security forces. Internecine clashes between rival groups are resulting in higher civilian casualties. Public representatives, too, are being targeted and in recent past one Member of Parliament (late Sunil Mahto) & two MLAs (late Mahendra Singh & Ramesh Singh Munda) have been

assassinated by the CPI Maoists. Huge levy collection from illegal coal & iron ore mining, trade in minor forest produce and developmental schemes is being generated & that in fact is one of the reasons for infighting amongst naxals. During 2007 & upto July 2008 the levy amount recovered from naxals by security forces was Rs.33.48 lakhs & Rs.12.66 lakhs which is only the tip of the iceberg.

Sir, left wing extremism is a fundamental challenge to our democratic polity and hence the support of MHA towards strengthening of state security set up should be continued and augmented. The recent initiatives of MHA toward raising of COBRA battalions under CRPF, setting up of counter insurgency training schools & the new scheme for provision of security related infrastructure in naxal affected states are indeed welcome steps. The MHA sponsored pilot project on intensive security and development action being implemented in highly naxal - affected districts of Chatra & Palamau is a successful model as Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patilji had himself seen during his visit in June to these two districts. We may replicate this model to other districts as well. It is necessary to ensure that the implementation of development programmes in naxal affected districts do not become a source of revenue for the naxals. On the political front there is perhaps, the need to conceive an attractive surrender & rehabilitation policy so that such elements who want to return to the mainstream could be facilitated in so doing. The developments in Nepal in this direction are a case in point.

Elections to Local Bodies - Empowerment of people through local body elections is critical for bringing responsiveness & accountability in governance. Municipal elections in Jharkhand that were due since over two decades have recently been successfully completed. Efforts are afoot to expedite the disposal of case on panchayat election pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court since two and half years wherein the legality of PESA has been questioned. Once the matter has been resolved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court I am sanguine that election for panchayati raj bodies which are due since 3 decades will be quickly held and it will have a salutary impact on overall governance.

Boarder Management Issues - Jharkhand does not have any international boundary and therefore there are no state specific border management issues.

Climate Change And Sustainable Development - Observed changes in temperature, precipitation, snow cover, sea level and extreme weather conditions confirm that the global warming is a reality. The precipitation has become spatially variable and the intensity and frequency of extreme events has increased. The sea level also has risen at an average annual rate of 1-2 mm during this period. The continued increase in concentration of Green house gases in the atmosphere is likely to lead to climate change resulting in large changes in ecosystem, leading to possible catastrophic disruption of livelihoods, economic activity, living conditions and human health.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of Kyoto Protocol is one of the flexible mechanisms for emission reduction activities in developing countries. India is the leading CDM Country in the world with 35% of the total share of global CDM Projects. Jharkhand Government too has constituted a Clean Development Mechanism Cell in the State which is co-ordinating with the Central Government.

Jharkhand is a mineral rich state and it is also having a good forest cover. In order to gain the benefit of sustainable development Jharkhand is taking up large scale plantation schemes under State Plan, NREGA etc.

In Jharkhand we have an abundance of coal and iron ore mines. There is lot of scope for development in the fields of energy, mining, Iron & Steel manufacturing. Give the propensity of these sectors to increase green house gas emission we will have to carefully monitor & regulate mineral industry based developments keeping in mind the environmental & ecological requirements.

Food Security and Overall Price Stability - As per the world food program mapping, Jharkhand is listed as one of the most insecure in terms of food and nutritional security. According to National Sample Survey II, about 2 percent of population suffer from acute and chronic hunger and 10 percent from seasonal food insecurity. The public distribution system is the main mechanism for providing food security and overall price stability. It operates in Jharkhand

through a network of 14000 odd ration shops which provide foodgrains at differential rates and quantity for different category of persons.

For the distribution of wheat and rice, different schemes are going on, viz., APL scheme, BPL scheme, Antyodaya scheme and Annapurna scheme.

The state government also provides iodised salt to BPL and Antyodaya families at the rate of 25 paise per kg and 2 kg/per family on the monthly basis. Village Grain Banks are also proposed to be set up in selected food scarce areas by installing silos with a capacity of storing 40-quintal food grains for 40 poor families. For effective implementation of PDS system, Distribution cum Vigilance Committees have been formed at various level . State Level Public Distribution and Grievances Redressal Commission is also functioning.

Notwithstanding these monitoring arrangements at various levels complaints on the performance of PDS are rampant and hence the proposal of Union Consumer Affairs Ministry to bring greater transparency & to leverage technology in the matter can hardly be overemphasized.

Promotion of Gender Equality - The status of women in a society is a reflection of social justice in that society. While the Constitution of India guaranteed equality of opportunity and status to men and women it is common experience that women as a class have been subjected to deprivation & discrimination in India. Govt. of Jharkhand is implementing various programmes and schemes aimed at empowering the women of the State as well as combating social evils like child marriage, dowry, Dayan Pratha etc.

The women empowerment schemes generally relate to special skill enhancement, construction of working women's hostel, Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana, Kishori Shakti Yojana, Svayamsddha, running of women Helplines at Ranchi & Dhanbad and general awareness on gender related issues. The schemes for combating social evils detrimental to women focus on dowry eradication & Dayan Pratha eradication. Jharkhand State Women Commission has been set up to attend to the grievances of the women in distress, and also suggests measures for the general welfare of the women of the State.

Role of Governor in administration of Scheduled areas under Vth Schedule - The fifth schedule of the Constitution of India casts a special responsibility on the Governor for the administration of the scheduled areas. Jharkhand has 24 districts and 212 blocks out of which 13 districts are totally under the scheduled areas whereas 2 districts are partially under the scheduled areas.

The important issues being faced in the scheduled areas are alienation of tribal land, displacement due to large projects, low level of education and involvement of village-community in execution of development programmes. I have been periodically reviewing these issues to ensure that the interests of scheduled tribes are safeguarded.

During 2007, there was serious public discontent in Jharkhand due to proposal of Delimitation Commission of India to reduce the number of seats reserved for the scheduled tribes in the Legislative Assembly and in the Lok Sabha from Jharkhand. I apprised the concerned Ministries of Central Govt of the situation and am happy to say that the proposal of Delimitation Commission was shelved and necessary corrective action taken. Another important matter, which also came-up in year 2007 was the exclusion of Ranchi Town and other urban areas from the notification of schedule areas of Jharkhand. Here, too, I took up the matter with the concerned Union Ministry and necessary amended notification was finally issued.

The enactment of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 and the pronouncements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of Forest Conservation Act 1980 and related legislations have cast additional responsibility on Governors in the context of administration of Scheduled Areas & Tribal Areas under the V Schedule that I will endeavor to discharge in true letter & spirit.

Over the years the working of the Tribal Advisory Council especially in the context of Jharkhand has been rather disappointing. It is worth considering that the chairmanship of TAC be given to Governor to make it more responsive to its mandate. During the last conference of Governors I had suggested the need

to institutionalize the arrangements in spheres where special responsibility vests with the Governor under Schedule V in such a manner that the Governor is able to perform his obligations without coming into conflict with the elected government. I think this suggestion even now merits serious consideration.

Implementation of Central Government sponsored schemes for the welfare of ex- servicemen, war-widows and their families - There are more than 18,000 ex-servicemen and war-widows in Jharkhand whose resettlement and welfare is an important responsibility for all of us. I have been regularly holding the meetings of the State Managing Committee for Amalgamated Fund for ex-servicemen, which is running a slew of welfare programmes for ex servicemen & war widows. At my initiative the state govt. has contributed Rs.5.00 crores towards the Corpus of Amalgamated Fund. Though we were expecting a match grant from Ministry of Defence (MOD) they have so far contributed only Rs.1.00 crore.

World War II veterans were getting financial assistance of Rs.500 per month, till 2006, which was too meagre. Keeping in view of the current cost of living the same has been increased to Rs.2,500 per month from 2008. An important development in the matter of resettlement of ex-servicemen in my state has been the decision of state govt to raise two Battalions of Special Auxillary Police comprising ex-servicemen so that on the one hand, ex-servicemen can be resettled and on the other hand, the police can also have adequately trained manpower. Another, similar initiative, under consideration, relates to raising of Tourism Security Force comprising of ex-servicemen.

Role of Governor as Chancellor - In my capacity as Chancellor of the Universities in my state I welcome the 9-fold increase in the public outlay for Higher & Technical Education in the 11th Five Year Plan.

It has been my endeavour to expand the size & improve the quality of higher & technical education in the state and some of the salient initiatives in this regard are -

(a) Two new universities, namely, Nilamber Pitamber University, Medininagar (Daltonganj) and Kolhan University, Chaibasa (W.Singhbhum)

besides one private University, namely Institute of Chartered Financial Analyst of India University (ICFAI) have been established.

(b) Mechanism for ensuring autonomy & accountability in university functioning have been put in place. Sessions have been regularised, Senate & Syndicate meetings are held on time, Convocations are being regularly held & students union elections have recently been conducted.

(c) 665 Lecturers have been appointed in the state bringing the present PTR to 1:66.06.

(d) The expenditure of GSDP on Education has gone up from 2.81% to 3.81% in last 5 years.

(e) The modalities of public private partnership is being worked out keeping in view that most of the districts of Jharkhand are difficult districts.

(f) Provision for establishment of advance science and technology research centre in the universities of Jharkhand is also being made in the 11th Five year plan.

(g) Provision for free education to girl students upto Post Graduate Level, has been made and,

(h) Provision for grant-in-aid to permanently affiliated colleges (not registered u/s 12 B of UGC Act) has been made.

(i) 16 new vocational Courses have been started in all the universities on self financing basis.

The 11th V Year Plan objectives to increase gross enrolment rates (GER) by 5%, to reduce regional, social and gender disparities, to encourage the participation of OBCs, minorities and women in Education and to ensure that nobody is denied professional education because he or she is poor is indeed laudatory. However, it is necessary that these objectives get translated into programmes & schemes that can be availed off by the targeted beneficiaries.

The status of technical education in Jharkhand is not good. There are only five private degree level technical Institutes. The current intake capacity is only 15 for one lakh population in the State whereas it is 165 for every one lakh population in Tamilnadu. In order to rectify this situation an initiative has been

taken to promote technical education in PPP mode. 16 new vocational Courses have been started in all the universities as self financing basis. In order to achieve national average, Jharkhand has to double the number of constituent colleges and open at least 4 more technical colleges, other than IIT, IIM and a Central University. Not only this, we have to increase the intake capacity of students and also the number of faculty position of existing colleges, besides improving infrastructure.

In the 11th five Year Plan scheme of 373 colleges, 12 are to be established in Jharkhand and 48 permanently affiliated colleges will get support under scheme of assistance to colleges not covered under 12 B of UGC Act. Thus, 18 more colleges are required to be built in areas where students are deprived of entry into Higher Education due to shortage of seats. The state govt has assessed the requirement of central assistance of Rs.284 crores in this regard. Further Rs.300 crores @ Rs.60 crore per university will be required for establishment of Advance Science & Technology Research centres in the 5 Universities of Jharkhand. This amount is proposed to be shared between State and Central Govt in ratio 1:2.

The State Government of Jharkhand has proposed suitable sites free of cost for a Central University and an IIM in Jharkhand. I will request for an early decision in the matter as also on the request of State govt for sanction of one IIT in the state.

While all these developments in the field of technical & higher education will require massive financial assistance from Central Govt, I shall endeavor to ensure that the State Govt makes corresponding budgetary outlays as well as formulates the plans & proposals necessary to utilize its share of XI Five Year Plan outlays.

Pensionary and terminal benefits of Governors - Presently Governors are not being given any pensionary benefit after they retire. This puts Ex-Governors in difficult situations for maintaining the dignity of the high office from which they have retired.

The President, Vice-President and other high dignitaries are entitled to pensionary benefit, medical benefit etc. after retirement. Similarly, appointed

persons like Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioner, Chief Information Commissioner etc. are also given post retirement benefit.

Governors may be given the following facilities after retirement : -

- (i) A pension of Rupees Fifty five thousand per month (i.e. half of their current salary)
- (ii) The spouse of a person who dies after ceasing to hold office as Governor either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office, should be paid a family pension at the rate of fifty per cent of pension as is admissible to a retiring Governor;
- (iii) Rent Free furnished residence at the place of choice.
- (iv) Use of telephone facilities at the residence under the provisions;
- (v) Medical attendance for spouse and minor children.
- (vi) To travel anywhere in India, accompanied by spouse or a companion or a relative by the highest class by air, rail or steamer;
- (vii) The spouse of a person who dies while holding the office of Governor should be entitled to medical attendance and treatment, free of charge,
- (viii) A retired Governor should be entitled to Secretarial Staff consisting of a Personal Assistant and a Peon and should be paid actual charges incurred by him for the maintenance of such secretarial staff;
- (ix) During each financial year, an amount not exceeding Rs.12,000/- (Rupees twelve thousand only) should be paid to every retired Governor towards the actual charges incurred by him on account of office expenses.

Security of Former Governors - Many Governors are holding office in states affected by left extremism or other forms of terrorist activities. After retirement, such Governors may become soft targets for extremist groups. It is therefore suggested that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs may make suitable arrangements for providing security to such retired Governors through central para military forces.

Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts.

Jai Hind !