

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of Teacher's Day at Maulana Azad Senate Hall in Ranchi University Campus on 5th Sept '09.

Vice Chancellor Shri A.A.Khan, Members from the Teaching fraternity, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be in midst of you all, on the occasion of Guru Vandan Parv - a day of invocation and celebration of the Gurus, the teachers. A nation is known by its people; and people are known by their teachers. This reality becomes all the more stark in states like Jharkhand where literacy and enrolment rates are relatively low and dropout ratio extremely high.

Keeping in view this context the 11th Five Year Plan places the highest priority on education and aims to address the major challenges including the challenge of bridging regional, social and gender gaps at all levels of education and bring in excellence, equity and inclusiveness in education. The department of HRD has been allocated about 800 crores . This is further augmented by the fund made available by the Govt. of India under the Sarva Shikha Abhiyan and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The purpose is to make an all round success. This success cannot come without the contribution of teachers.

The government of Jharkhand understands that teachers are our greatest resource and that public financing of education is absolutely essential. We have a very progressive pay package

for the teachers. My government has recently taken a historical and momentous decision by which all the teachers in government/aided sector, including minority institutions have been given revised pay package; we are certainly ahead of many other states. This has benefited about 66000 teachers in the elementary education, 6700 in secondary education and 3100 in the higher education. I have also given directions to ensure that payment of salary to teachers is regular and through a transparent process directly into their bank accounts. I understand that these initiatives would involve resource commitment to the tune of 100 crores but I am convinced that this is needed for imparting quality education in the state.

University teachers do play a very critical role. We have decided to give them the new pay scale under the sixth pay commission and we also intend to take care of the career advancement scheme and other promotion related issues. We definitely want the teachers to feel proud of their profession and we are thinking about ways of incentivizing them. At the same time we have great expectations from them. We want them to contribute efficiently and shape the young minds so that they are competitive in this global market. It is also expected that the teachers push the frontiers of knowledge by devoting themselves in quality research work. Teachers will have the sense of self-esteem only when they make significant contribution to the field of learning and teaching.

Another related area is the capacity building of teachers in a sustained manner. We realize the immense importance of this aspect. We have achieved a great deal in teachers' education as

far as the primary and secondary system is concerned. After the creation of the state of Jharkhand 16 training institutions have got accreditation from NCTE . Before the creation of the state there was no institutions for teachers training in the private sector, however, the importance given to teachers' education in Jharkhand has led to the creation of 39 institutions. Similarly we want that the teachers in the higher education sector should continuously upgrade their skills and take advantage of all the training opportunities that are made available to them.

In this knowledge economy teachers are not expected to remain confined to their assigned courses and subjects but we also want them to be the source of very wide and extensive knowledge for the students .For this a vibrant culture of seminars, symposia, workshops needs to be encouraged.

The higher education landscape of Jharkhand is transformed on account of the various initiatives of State and Central Government during the recent times. Govt. of India has sanctioned a Central University as well as an Indian Institute of Management for Jharkhand. The State government too has taken steps to make operational the newly created Nilambar Pitambar University at Palamau and Kolhan University at Chaibasa. Action is also underway to open a Technical University as well as National Law School in Jharkhand. Several prestigious promoters in the field of Vocational Education like Institute of Chartered Financial Analyst India University, DAV and Manipal are also opening vocational training institutes in Jharkhand thereby making it an educational hub of East India.

In conclusion, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all teachers assembled here on the birth anniversary of teacher /philosopher and former President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and call upon them to rededicate themselves with renewed vigor to the task of nation building by inculcating in our youths such knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that may enable them to bring credit to themselves and glory to the nation.

Thank you.