

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Khunti District on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at Khunti.

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahayji, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Karia Mundaji, Advisor to Governor Shri G.Krishnan, Divisional Commissioner, Ranchi, Deputy Commissioner, Khunti, Ladies & Gentlemen,

My heartiest greetings and best wishes to people of Khunti on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the District. It is indeed my pleasure to share these moments of joy and happiness with you. Khunti has the distinction of being the birthplace of the inspirational freedom fighter Late Birsa Munda. I salute the memory of this great martyr and call upon the people of Jharkhand to follow in his footsteps and work for the betterment of our people, our state and our country.

Today, on the momentous occasion of Khunti District establishment day, we have dedicated to the people of Khunti new building for Khunti police station which I hope will help the police to serve public better. We have also inaugurated a Model Anganwadi Centre that will cater to the nutritional health and growth needs of the most vulnerable section of our society i.e. little children below 6 years of age and pregnant & Lactating mothers.

Some important works have also begun today such as the Power Grid Station at village Belahatu, Power Sub-station at Murhu, Rania and Arki, Cultural Centre at village Hutumbdag and Joint Cooperative Building at Khunti. All this will, in times to come, raise the quality of life of the residents of Khunti.

Khunti is a naxal affected district and keeping that in view a COBRA Battalion Headquarter is being established here at village Fudi to improve the security of this area. I firmly believe that peace and development go together and hence while

strengthening our security forces my endeavour will be to simultaneously work for improving the lot of the poor and the needy.

My government has within a short time initiated several measures 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 to free ration to BPL and Antyodaya families, free ration to Primitive tribes, supplementary nutrition at ICDS centres and gratuitous relief to those in dire need. 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. In Khunti 192 new Fair Price Shops have been opened and allotted to Women Self Help Groups and Mahila Mandals. These SHGs are also being provided seed money of Rs.10, 000/- besides bank loan for smooth conduct of their business. To keep check on rising prices of essential commodities we have opened over 600 Suvidha Stores wherein over 1-lakh persons have already visited up-till now.

We have also given 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 week and ICDS week have been celebrated to generate awareness and undertake additional work. Extra efforts are being made to ensure proper functioning of ICDS and mid-day meal programme.

Over 6000 additional ICDS centres are being opened which have resulted in the appointment of 9000 women as Sevikas and Sahayikas. 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. Further, Indira Gandhi Widow Pension Scheme and the Indira Gandhi Disabled Pension Scheme has been launched while the National Health Insurance Scheme which provides health insurance of Rs.30,000/- per year to all BPL

families has been extended from 6 (six) districts to all 24 districts of the state. Speedy implementation of Bharat Nirman Schemes relating to provision for drinking water, rural electrification, health and education are also being ensured.

The Commitment of my government to the poor and the downtrodden is total. It is my endeavour to provide pro-poor, people-oriented, efficient and transparent administration in the state. I seek the support and cooperation of all to deliver good governance for the people of Jharkhand.

Once again, I offer my greetings to the people of Khunti on the District Establishment day and wish that the vision of progress and development which lay behind the creation of new district is translated into reality for the people of Khunti.

Thank you.