

**Speech of His Excellency Shri M.O.H. Farook at the Training Programme of Crèche workers organized by Jharkhand State Council Child Welfare in Partnership with Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra, Getalsud, Ranchi.**

Mr. B. K. Jhawar, Office Bearers and Members of Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra, Office Bearers and Members of Jharkhand State Council for Child Welfare, Crèche workers/ Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to participate in this training programme of Crèche workers organized by Jharkhand State Council for Child Welfare in partnership with Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra, Ranchi.

With the passage of time there has been a shift in approach and today we look at our big population not as a liability but as an asset, in fact as a huge pool of human resource, which if properly harnessed, will make the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the Indian century.

However, the critical point is the proper harnessing of our demographic dividend and this will only be possible if the children of today, who will be citizens of tomorrow, are well fed, well educated, well trained and imbued with the right values drawn from our democratic and plural traditions. In case, however, our children are not properly fed, not properly educated, not properly trained and not transmitted proper values then the same demographic dividend will in no time get converted into demographic disaster of unimaginable proportions.

Keeping this mind very ambitious programmes of pre-school and school education are being pursued by Central and State Governments in the form of Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid day Meals Programme, Sarva Shiksha Campaign and other schemes aimed at providing nutrition support and universal access to basic education. The crèche programme of Jharkhand State Council for Child Welfare, which targets children in the age group 0 to 5 years and belonging to Below Poverty Line is an important intervention towards nurturing our children in a manner that they become worthy citizens of tomorrow and crèche workers i.e. the Sevikas and Sahayikas are our main instruments for achieving this end.

In fact just as we have soldiers in uniform who take care of challenges from across the border similarly our Sevikas and Sahayikas are also soldiers, who may not wear the olive uniform, but are taking care of the equally challenging task of nation building by feeding and educating the citizens of tomorrow. I am certain that the training given to you over here, has equipped you in a manner that you can perform your duties still better.

I expect you to discharge your responsibilities with utmost commitment and sincerity since there is no greater challenge to nation building than looking after our children who are the future of the country.

My best wishes and blessings will always be with you.

Thank you,