

## **Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Vikas Mela at Chaibasa on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.**

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Shri G.Krishnan, Advisor, Shri Madhu Koda, MP, All M.L.As, Divisional Commissioner, Kolhan, DIG, Kolhan, Deputy Commissioner, Chaibasa, other civil & police officials, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am very happy to inaugurate this Vikas mela, which is aimed at imparting information & providing benefits of government programs and schemes to the people of Kolhan division.

Kolhan Division, which is located at the strategic trijunction of Orissa, West Bengal and Jharkhand is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty on one hand and abundant mineral and forest wealth on the other. It is, however, also true that this division is beset with problems of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy and that all the 3 districts of this Division are affected by left wing extremism.

Today's Vikas Mela is dedicated to the poor, needy and downtrodden of Kolhan division as we are distributing assets worth Rs.821.59 crores to over 44000 beneficiaries, providing jobs to 1294 persons, inaugurating schemes of Rs.82.63 crores, and laying foundation stone for schemes of Rs.109.64 crores.

The developmental & welfare activities taken up today include -

- ❖ Distribution of Cycle & Uniform to girl students;
- ❖ Distribution of Old Age Pension;
- ❖ Disbursement of Education Loan;
- ❖ Disbursement of loan/subsidy to SHGs under Swarnayanti Gram Swaraj Yojna;
- ❖ Distribution of DRI Loan to beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana;
- ❖ Disbursement of Kisan Credit Card (KCC);
- ❖ Disbursement of loan for purchase of Auto Rickshaw;
- ❖ Distribution of PDS license to 696 Women Self Help Group;
- ❖ Distribution of Patta to 827 tribal households under Forest Dwellers Rights Act,
- ❖ Distribution of cheque under National Family Benefit Scheme;
- ❖ Distribution of cheque to Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojana beneficiaries;

We have today inaugurated some extremely important landmarks, such as-

- ❖ Two new blocks, namely, Gudri and Anandpur, have been created in West Singhbhum district;
- ❖ 7 Panchayat Bhawans in West Singhbhum;
- ❖ 20 Anganwadi Centres in West Singhbhum;
- ❖ Power Substation at Monjhgaow, Kumardungi and
- ❖ Khutpani in West Singhbhum;
- ❖ 100 beded Hostel for Schedule Tribe Students at Ghatshila College, East Singhbhum;
- ❖ 50 beded boys hostel at Al Kabir, Polytechnic, Jamshedpur;
- ❖ Old Age Home at Saacchi, Jamshedpur;
- ❖ 5 Health Sub Centres in East Singhbhum District;
- ❖ 3 Training-Cum-Production Centres in East Singhbhum Distt;
- ❖ 4 Panchayat Mandap in East Singhbhum Distt;
- ❖ And large number of roads, bridges culverts and checkdams;

Further, we have also laid the foundation stone for several important schemes & projects, such as -

- ❖ Subdivisional office at Jagannathpur in West Singhbhum;
- ❖ Sub Jail at Chakradharpur in West Singhbhum;
- ❖ Construction of bridge on river Karo at Manoharpur block in district West Singhbhum;
- ❖ Industrial Training Institute at Chakulia and Baharagora in distt. East Singhbhum
- ❖ Kasturba Gandhi Girls School at Jamshedpur and Musabani in East Singhbhum;
- ❖ 4 Training-cum-Production Centres in East Singhbhum Distt. under SGSY;
- ❖ 5 godowns with 250 Metric Tonne capacity in East Singhbhum;

If there is one thread which runs through all these abovementioned initiatives on our part it is the welfare and happiness of the poor, needy and downtrodden. Neither I know nor do I want to know the caste, religion, or political party of the beneficiaries who have been given assets or appointment letters in today's Vikas Mela; however, what I do know is that all these people belong to Jharkhand and my government is committed to serve them to the best of its ability.

Within the short time that I have been in Jharkhand all my endeavours have been towards improving the quality of life of common man. I have 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 and supplementary nutrition at ICDS centres. Families in dire need of sustenance who are not getting free ration are being provided Rs.400/- per month under Calamity Relief. Again, for the first time since the formation of Jharkhand five kg free rice was distributed to 23.94 lakhs BPL and Antyodaya families during the Ed, Desherra & Durga Puja festivals. My government has sanctioned Rs.1.25 crores to provide a subsidy of Rs.15/- per litre to farmers under the Diesel Subsidy Scheme for providing irrigation in the drought-affected areas. We want to improve agriculture and put more money in the hands of our farmers through bouquet of agriculture/horticulture and allied activities under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Programme and National Horticulture Mission. In this context, my government has launched a dairy project of 1.00 lakh litres which will help 40000 farmers across the state.

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 who are being given Rs.10,000/- as seed money from government besides bank loan. To keep check on rising prices of essential commodities we have opened over 1244 Suvidha Stores wherein over 4 -lakh persons have already shopped up-till now.

We are giving special emphasis to NREGA, which is the flagship programme for employment generation in rural areas. I regret to say that during 2008-09 over Rs.1000 crores remained unutilised under NREGA in Jharkhand and only 47 days employment per family could be provided. This year 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 month is being celebrated to generate awareness and undertake additional work. Already over 40 days employment per family has been given and we are on course for providing 100 days employment per family.

Further, over 6000 additional ICDS centres have been opened resulting in the appointment of 9000 women as Sevikas and Sahayikas. We have sanctioned Rs.28.50 crores to provide safe drinking water at each Aaganwadi Centre. The honorarium of 74000 Aaganwadi Sewikas & Sahiyikas has also been increased to Rs.2200/- (from Rs.1850/-) &

Rs.1100/- (from Rs.950/ or Rs.750/-). Along with Aaganwadis we also want our primary schools and in particular the midday meal programme to function properly. Keeping this in view we have sympathically responded to the demands of para teachers and raised their payment by Rs.1500 per month at all levels with effect from 1.4.2009. This decision will benefit over 79000 para teachers in the state. We will also make necessary amendments to the existing Community Teachers Rules to provide for reservation for para teachers in future appointments of primary teachers. 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. Speedy implementation of other Bharat Nirman Schemes relating to provision for drinking water, rural electrification, rural roads, health and education are also being ensured. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana one lakh BPL were provided electricity connectivity during August '09.

I believe that a responsive government must be near the people so that it can reach them in times of need. Keeping that in view I have ordered the creation of 12 blocks and 27 police stations to improve the security environment & expedite developmental programmes.

My government is totally committed to providing pro-poor governance in the state. I congratulate government officials and bank officials of Kolhan Division for distributing assets and grants worth Rs.821.59 crores amongst over 44000 families, for completing schemes & projects worth Rs.82.63 crores, for starting new schemes & projects for Rs.109.64 crores and for providing jobs to 1294 persons. All these works & assets and appointments are directed towards the welfare of the poor, the needy and the downtrodden whose service is the corner stone of my government. I seek the support and cooperation of all in establishing people oriented, efficient and transparent administration in Jharkhand.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.