

Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Vikas Mela at Ranchi on 15th October, 2009.

Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Shri Karia Munda, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.Krishnan, Shri T.P.Sinha, Shri Wilfred Lakra, All Advisors, Smt. Rama Khalkho, Mayor, Ranchi, Shri S.S.Ahluwalia, Ms Mabel Rebello, Shri J.P.N.Singh Shri Parimal Nathwani, Shri Hemant Soren, Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, All MP Rajya Sabha, Shri Sudharshan Bhagat, MP, Lok Sabha, Shri Sudesh Mahto, Shri Neil Tirkey, Bandhu Tirkey, Shri Sukhdev Bhagat, Shri Gopal Sharan Shahdeo, Shri Bhushan Tirkey, Shri Gopal Krishna Patar, All M.L.As, Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, DGP, Divisional Commissioner, Ranchi, Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi, 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 and bank programmes to the people of South Chotanagpur division.

South Chotanagpur division, the land of the legendary and charismatic Birsa Munda, is known for its picturesque natural beauty, its salubrious climate and its hardworking people; however it is also true that this division is beset with problems of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy and that all the 5 districts of this Division are affected by left wing extremism.

Today's Vikas Mela is dedicated to the poor, needy and downtrodden of South Chotanagpur division as we are distributing assets through banks worth Rs.865.38 crores to over 47523 beneficiaries, distributing grants and relief under various government programmes worth Rs.20.92 crores to 46569

beneficiaries, providing jobs to over 1600 persons, inaugurating 82 schemes of Rs.43.79 crores, and laying foundation stone for 44 schemes of Rs.58.58 crores.

The developmental & welfare activities taken up today include -

- ❖ Distribution of uniform to 1605 Scheduled Caste & 5957 Scheduled Tribe students;
- ❖ Distribution of Indira Gandhi Widow Pension to 3065 widows;
- ❖ Disbursement of ration card to 5000 persons;
- ❖ Distribution of House Upgradation Grant to 14530 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Distribution of Gratuitous Relief to 8000 persons;
- ❖ Distribution of RSVY Healthcard to 6000 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Disbursement of Tana Bhagat Khata Pustika to 95 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Distribution of PDS license to 428 Women Self Help Group;
- ❖ Distribution of Patta to 85 forest dwellers under Forest Dwellers Rights Act,
- ❖ Distribution of cheque to 880 beneficiaries under National Family Benefit Scheme;
- ❖ Distribution of Wheel Chair, Tricycles etc. to 145 disabled;

If there is one thread which runs through all these abovementioned initiatives 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 orientation 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 have also ordered the creation of 12 new blocks and 27 new police stations to bring administration nearer to the people.

Friends, I have been in Jharkhand for just 80 days and in this short period I have taken a number of new pro-poor initiatives, as had never been taken before, such as -

- ❖ Distribution of free food grains to 24 lakh BPL and Antyodaya families affected by drought;
- ❖ Distribution of Rs.400.00 per month as Gratuitous Relief to families in immediate need of sustenance who were not getting free rations;
- ❖ Strengthening of PDS through doorstep delivery;
- ❖ Distribution of sugar through PDS;
- ❖ Distribution of free 5kg rice during Eid, Dusherra, Durga Puja;
- ❖ Allotment of PDS shops to Women's Self Help Groups;
- ❖ Allotment of pattas under the Forest Dwellers Rights Act;
- ❖ Direct appointment of primitive tribe graduates to Class III posts in government;
- ❖ Opening of Suvidha stores all over the state to keep check on rising prices;
- ❖ Organizing Vikas Melas in all Divisions wherein assets worth Rs.2500.00 crores have been distributed to over 2.36 lakh beneficiaries;

As you all know, Jharkhand is presently under President's Rule and as Governor of the state, it is my responsibility to provide a clean, transparent and efficient government in the state and no one can deflect me from this path. I would like to reiterate and reemphasize that I am totally committed to providing pro-poor governance in the state and for this I need the support and cooperation of all.

I congratulate government officials and bank officials of South Chotanagpur Division for distributing assets and grants worth Rs.886.30 crores amongst over 94092 families, for completing 82 schemes & projects worth Rs. 43.79 crores, for starting 44 new schemes & projects for Rs.58.58 crores and for providing jobs to over 1600 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. Once

again, I seek the support and cooperation of all in establishing people oriented, efficient and transparent administration in Jharkhand.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.