

Governor Dr. Jakhar addresses first session of 13th Vidhan Sabha

**New water policy to be made for public water sources
Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana to be launched for villages**

Bhopal, January 7, 2009

Governor Dr. Balram Jakhar, while extending a hearty welcome to the newly elected members of 13th Vidhan Sabha at its first session, congratulated residents of the state, political parties, administrative officers and employees for their alertness and awareness and dexterity for the peaceful conduct of Vidhan Sabha elections. In his address, the Governor informed that a new water policy will be chalked out about public water sources in view of shortage of water in many parts of the state due to scanty rainfall. The policy will ensure effective conservation and augmentation of rivers, water tanks, ponds wells, boudis and other water sources in the state. He informed that meaningful and effective measures will be undertaken for augmentation of level water and groundwater sources and old water sources will be revived. Irrigation schemes lying incomplete will be completed and new irrigation schemes will be launched.

Throwing light on the achievements, targets, decisions and future planning of the state government, Governor dr. Jakhar said that there was a paramount need for effective implementation of the government schemes and ensuring that the benefits of the schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries. For this purpose, investment will be made in the human

resources and the government staff will be made the carriers of efficiency and good governance. Madhya Pradesh is pioneer in the use of information technology. With this in view, information technology will be utilised further for increasing transparency and efficiency in the government departments. Steps will be taken to enable Panchayati Raj institutions to avail the benefits of information technology. Describing formation of the new government as people's mandate, the Governor said that this is the testimony and verification of the resolve of the state government for reconstruction of the state. This repeated mandate signifies people's faith in the measures taken by the state government for development and progress. He said that due to lack of development of infrastructure, the possibilities of economic progress come to an end themselves. Foundation has been laid in the state for participation in the private sector and large construction works have been started. Dr. Jakhar said that Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana will be launched to cover the villages which have been left out in Pradhan Mantri Gram

Sadak Yojana. Under the scheme, all the divisional headquarters will be linked with four-lane roads and district headquarters with two-lane roads.

In the address, Governor Dr. Jakhari informed that farmers' protection will continue to be state government's priority. Red wheat's distribution from PDS shops has been stopped. Additional bonus has been given for procurement of local variety of wheat. Record reduction has been registered in the rate of interest on loans to farmers. Dr. Jakhari informed that the target of the state government is reducing the cultivation cost and increasing prices of crops produced by farmers. For this purpose, interest rates will be slashed further. Agriculture Risk Fund will be set up. Madhya Pradesh will be made an ideal state for bio-farming. Krishak Kalyan Ayog will be made more effective and agriculture-based food processing industries will be promoted. The Governor said that with a view to providing subsidized food grains to the poor, the state government has introduced Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana. This has proved to be shield for the poor against spiralling prices. This scheme will be strengthened further. Terming urban administration as challenging in view of speed of urbanisation, he said that well-orchestrated development will be ensured in the urban areas.

Governor Dr. Jakhari said that the state government has fulfilled most of the resolves and announcements during the last five years and during the next five years it will further accelerate to put into practice its resolves and dreams. The government has started working right from the first day to achieve the targets of Jansankalp-2008 with the help of various sections of society. Dr. Jakhari said that the government believes in giving a chance to the people to chalk out schemes instead of taking packages of schemes to them. The common man has proved that he has got solution to various problems during various Panchayats and Mahapanchayats. His proposals and suggestions are nearer to the ground reality. He said that the use of people's suggestions will be made in making Madhya Pradesh a golden state. The government is going to launch another novel scheme called "Ideas for CM" for eliciting people's suggestions and problems and redressing them.

Governor Dr. Jakhari informed that measures will be taken to lift the academic standard apart from extending it. High schools will be opened at every five kilometres if required in the rural areas. The efforts of sustain the golden touch of Madhya Pradesh in sports will be continued. Dr. Jakhari informed that the government has always remained committed to the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes and will continue to undertake steps for these sections' social, educational and economic uplift. Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to provide forest dwellers their due rights under Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act-2006.

Governor Dr. Jakhari informed that the government has taken the resolve of women's empowerment. The state has made big strides in this field but still some more measures are to be taken including reduction in mother and child mortality rate and doing away with malnourishment. The state has set a precedent before the country by reserving 50 percent jobs to women in local bodies, gender budgeting, Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana, Gaon Ki Beti Yojana, increase in women's representation in government services and implementation of Ladli Laxmi Yojana. More steps will be taken in this direction.

The Governor informed that a congenial climate has been created in the state for investment. The global economic meltdown has posed new challenges for industrial investment in the state. Therefore, there is a need for increasing the investment by big industrial houses and Non-Resident Indians. The state government has decided to participate in the process of providing market networking for products of village, small and cottage industries. Dr. Jakhari informed that several milestones have been achieved during the last five years in power generation, transmission and distribution and the state will be made self-reliant in this sector. Solar and alternative energy sources will be expanded and augmented.

Recalling Panchayats of various sections of society convened by the government and the effective method adopted by it for redressing problems raised by them, Governor Dr. Jakhari said that the government is committed to continue the process of good work in the sectors of road, water and power.

Recalling state government's efforts to give special importance to fiscal management for furtherance of people's ambitions, Governor Dr. Jakhari said that priority of the government will be mobilising additional resources for achieving targets of welfare schemes. .

Concluding his address, Governor Dr. Jakhari recalled the terrorist attacks and said that police in the state are being specially oriented. For this purpose, modern look will be given to the police. Stress will also be laid on community policing for ensuring people's active participation. The state has achieved remarkable success in eliminating dacoity menace. The government will ensure that people continue to feel safe. Terming the mandate given to the government as a challenging one, the Governor said that the government will strive to discharge its responsibility of making Madhya Pradesh a golden state. This is a stupendous task since it calls for hard work every moment not only from the government but also from every citizen of the state. The Government said that everyone should work shoulder-to-shoulder to write a golden chapter of Madhya Pradesh.

.....