

REPORT ON WORLD HABITAT DAY -2013.

Like every year, this year also “**World Habitat Day**” was celebrated at The Institution of Engineers (India), Jharkhand State Centre, at Engineer Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, on 22nd. December 2013, at 6.00 p.m.

The event started with welcoming of Chief Guest Er. Arun – IAS, Secretary, Gramin Vikas, Govt. of Jharkhand, Guest of Honour Sd. Surender Singh, Retd. Chief Engineer (Civil), Jharkhand State Electricity Board, and Key Note Speaker Dr. C. K. Singh, Retd. Engineer-in –chief, Govt. of Jharkhand, and Head of Deptt. –Civil Engg. of CIT, Tatisilwai, Ranchi.

Er.B.K. Verma, Past Chairman of IEI), JSC welcomed the dignitaries on the Dias and spoke the importance of observing this day and also explained about this year’s theme of ‘Urban Mobility’. He gave a glimpse of this grave problem of urban mobility and how to tackle this situation with the help of awareness among people.

The Convener Er. Khagesh Thakur invited all dignitaries to light the Inaugural lamp. He also spoke a few words on importance to observe this Day.

The Key Note Speaker Dr. C. K. Singh started his speech right from the Ancient days of Purana and Mythology, when Rishis and Devataas said about of importance of Habitation like shelter and other basic needs of survival of human beings in this world. He explained, the basic needs of Habitat (which includes not only shelter but also other needs of survival like food and other basic necessities). He gave a picture, how this grave problem of urban mobility to be tackled. The rate of growth of population in urban areas/ cities are growing at an alarming rate and as the current infrastructure is not expanding, there is a huge gap and the result is in front of us. The urban areas are chocked with traffic due to shortage of road and open space. There is vast gap between habitat and inflow of

population in urban areas but facilities are not available to cope up with situation by govt. machinery. To tackle this grave problems, huge infrastructural improvement/ projects to be taken up. Hence, it is his views, people should be made aware, so that they should help the government as well as different organizations to take up this bigger projects to provide shelter & other amenities to improve habitation facilities specially in urban areas.

The Guest of Honour spoke about the current crisis of shelter in the urban area specially the floating crowd and inflow of rural people running towards the cities for their livelihood and which is aggravating the problem of habitation and as the theme is 'Urban Mobility' obviously the crisis of housing in urban area are rapidly increasing. Now, the situation is such to get rid of this problem, local government has to think some alternative, and to arrest the in-flow of rural crowd towards the urban areas can solve the problem and for that some alternative employment or source of income to be generated in rural areas.

The Chief Guest in his speech first of all gave a picture of current Scenario of habitation (shelter) in the state of Jharkhand. As per the Data provided by him for making and providing small houses to poor of the society (under Indira Awas Yojana) there is a big gap in the Demand and supply like in the last 5 year plan almost there was about 13 lakh small houses under above scheme was supposed to be provided. But only 10 lakh houses could be made and distributed. This way the Demand vis-à-vis supply of shelter are increasing. Similarly, regarding the current problem 'Urban Mobility' there is a great thrust on mobilization of rural population towards cities aggravating the crisis of habitation (shelter) in cities which is becoming a grave problem and un-controllable. Hence, we have to be aware and think some alternative to cope-up with acute situation arising by local organisations also to support the steps taken by the government.

The Vote of Thanks was given by the Hony. Secretary Er. S. Mukherjee, who thanked all the dignitaries and people who were present to make this event a grand success.

