



SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY GEN JJ SINGH,
PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON INAUGURATION OF

BAMBOO PROCESSING CENTRE,

AT

POMA VILLAGE,

ON

TUESDAY, 18 AUG, 2009

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate this Bamboo Processing Centre here at Poma Village today. It is like a dream come true. I always wanted to initiate a project, which will provide financial empowerment to the people or 'aam admi' and today we have here a project of such nature. For this I would like to express my gratitude to the Arunachal Pradesh State Forest Corporation Limited, local MLA Shri Ngurang Pinch, District Administration, PWD and my beloved people of Poma and its neighbouring villages for their support and cooperation. I congratulate the people of this area for being the beneficiaries of the first pilot project of a Bamboo processing unit to be run by their own society.

It is estimated that 70 per cent of the country's growing stock of bamboo is in the Northeast that is yet to be properly utilized. Arunachal Pradesh occupies an important position among the bamboo bearing states of India. Bamboo forms a major constituent of the forest vegetation of Arunachal Pradesh. Friends, I am telling you about this today because inspite of our abundant God gifted bounty, we are yet to exploit it properly for improving our socio-economy development. But with this kind of value adding project, we can transform our village economy. Such projects will generate income and facilitate the youth and women to work and earn while staying in their villages – a true example of village based 'Mini Cottage enterprise'.

As you all know, bamboo has played an important part in the lives of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. It has been an integral part of the cultural, social and economic traditions of the State, and is an important component of the wealth of our tribal community. It is utilized in many ways, for housing, fencing, functional articles, agricultural implements, basketry, and even fuel and food. People possess traditional skills of working with the material, and knowledge of the cultivation and management of bamboo.

Arunachal Pradesh also has a vibrant craft tradition and every tribe excels in craftsmanship. Cane and bamboo is an important craft of this area, and the workmanship is of a very high order. With raw material available, that to in required shape and size, we can improve our quality and

quantity for commercial venture. You can showcase your skills in handicrafts with products made of bamboo, wood handloom weaved cloth and other forest based products including 'honey'.

Friends, this project is a unique and first of its kind. As I always have been advocating on community ownership of any government project for its sustainability, this Centre will be handed over to Poma Village welfare Society to run this project. For that, of course, we have already provided training to selected farmers and youth of the village on handling the machines at Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati. I was very impressed by their live demonstration today. With 100% buyback surety from CBTC, Guwahati, I am sure it will be one of the success stories in rural economy tomorrow and it will be one 'success

story' that shall be, hopefully replicated in other parts of Arunachal Pradesh as well. In this direction, I would like to call upon the Industries department to procure finished and semi-finished products of the centre for the artisans of the department.

This venture, I feel will also help in preservation of green cover as we will be concentrating on bamboo, instead of timber. As it is fast growing one, we can very soon replace the cultivated area with new growth.

The potential of this area quite promising to be developed as a tourist attraction, municipal camping and picnicking on the Poma River, Souvenir and handicraft shop, organic fruits and vegetables and floriculture like orchid growing,

restaurants, tourism showing the flora and fauna, trekking, fishing and rafting. These are some of the possibilities which can be exploited hereafter in the same area. I will request the tourism and small scale industry ministries and other Govt. agencies to help the villagers of this area by adding more facilities for tourist interest and to showcase local products.

Well, before I conclude, I would once again congratulate the people of Poma Village and Arunachal Pradesh State Forest Corporation Limited, PWD, District Administration, Muskan and Raj Bhavan officials and all other involved. I hope that the project will set example for others and make Arunachalees proud.

Thank you.