

tion and inefficiency. Indeed, revenue meant for the welfare of the people has been gulped by their so-called representatives for their own prosperity.

Nevertheless, I do not want to conclude on a note of despair. The Chitrakoot model of rural development based on self-reliance (*swavalamban*) through community and individual initiative, evolved and implemented by Deendayal Research Institute, has shown that with proper institutional support, our rural communities can resolve not only their internal problems but promote sustainable and scalable development, and self-employment with application of appropriate technology and contemporary market support.

It is high time the nation adopted a development strategy based on people's initiative and their pro-active role and a system of governance in which the element of responsibility is inherent for discharging public duties. This will help us realise the innate capacity and innovative aptitude of our people to achieve development with social justice and equity and prevent degeneration of democracy. With this, we can achieve high levels of development with minimum of expenditure.

I wish a meaningful public debate could be initiated on the model of development that the nation should adopt, to eradicate poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, ill-health and social evils. Deendayal Research Institute has evolved such a model where people's initiative and their role are encouraged. And it is only with this spirit and zeal that 80 villages in the vicinity of Chitrakoot have achieved:

- zero-unemployment
- zero-poverty
- zero-malnutrition
- zero-litigation
- clean and green villages

Significantly, a rare complementarity has been achieved in enabling the poor families, regardless of their caste and religion to participate in the activities of the Institute, leading to '*swavalamban*'.

These targets have been achieved much earlier than the deadlines that were set for this purpose. The Institute is all set to achieve this target in 500 villages by the turn of this decade. And this miracle has not been done by any government agency. The people of the area, in close cooperation with ordinary but selfless and zealous workers of DRI

have accomplished this onerous task. The Institute has

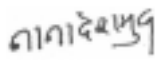
only been a motivator.

Real power lies with the people.

Some industrialists of the old generation will perhaps recall that while renouncing politics in 1977, I had urged the then President of FICCI, Shri Hari Shankar Singhania, to organise their active participation in community devel-

opment activities. As a result, many of them had also come forward in their individual capacities. Unfortunately, it could not gather a collective momentum. I once again exhort them to come forward and become active participants in this Mahayagya of Development.

With regards,
Yours sincerely,


(Nana Deshmukh)
Chitrakoot
December 24, 2004

THE NATION CAN OPT FOR A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BASED ON PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE AND THEIR PRO-ACTIVE ROLE AND A SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE IN WHICH THE ELEMENT OF SACRIFICE IS INHERENT.