

Sanjay joins shramdan

SULTANPUR (UP), July 9 (Samachar)—Mr Sanjay Gandhi today joined Youth Congress volunteers on the concluding day of a "shramdan" camp at the Amethi, 35 km from here.

The campers constructed village roads and educated villagers on the 20-point programme and the four point programme of Mr Gandhi.

Accompanied by the Youth Congress president, Mrs Ambika Soni, Mr Gandhi travelled to the neighbouring village of Parsauli to perform shramdan for the construction of a road and then ploughed the field of an agricultural labourer who had recently been given land by the State Government.

Mr Gandhi also planted three saplings in some of the 2,000 odd pits dug by the volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gandhi said the Amethi camp was the first of its kind where urban youth had gone to village on their own to help in road building and other social welfare activities to help the poor.

Similar camps were organised in foreign countries also but the participation there was under pressure. At Amethi, Mr Gandhi said, Youth Congress workers had participated voluntarily with enthusiasm and were even willing to come again.

Mr Gandhi, Mrs Soni and youth leaders from different States went round the villages where the roads had been constructed by "shramdan."

At Pasrauli, Mr Gandhi handed over cheques for Rs 275 each to eight landless agricultural labourers, including four Harijans, who had been given land.

During the 52-day camp, Youth Congress workers constructed roads at Kirona, Kakhva, Pasrauli, Urenatha, Mangalpur, Gopalpur, Mehmoodpur and Ibrahim villages. They also constructed a

road from Amethi to the "mazar" of Malik Mohammed Jayasi, a famous siant-poet.

Many Congress workers from Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh participated in the camp which was inaugurated by Mr Gandhi on May 18.

Emphasising the importance of family planning, Mr Gandhi said the benefit of progress and development would not percolate down to the common man till every one voluntarily took to family planning.

Mrs Ambika Soni, who presided over the function, expressed satisfaction at the outcome and hoped similar camps would be organised by the State units of the Youth Congress.

Mr Gandhi began his hectic tour of Eastern UP from Lucknow this morning. On his way from Lucknow to Amethi, he was given a rousing welcome by thousands of people at all the villages and towns he passed.

Earlier, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, laid the foundation stone of an industrial complex at Jagdishpur to be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 19 crore.

A stretch of 1,750 acres of land will be developed for the setting up of industrial units at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore. Another Rs 3.5 crore will be spent on various development activities. The complex when completed would provide jobs to the people of backward areas of eastern UP.