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Fortnightly Magazine

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*Your enemies will speak many malicious and insulting words discrediting your prowess. Alas what could be more painful than that? – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 36)*

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"Coalgate has become a TV serial which has many episodes. Till now it has had four episodes. In the first episode the scam was exposed, in second the names were out, in third the questions were raised and later the files went missing. We don't know what we'll see ahead."

-Sushma Swaraj

"Let each citizen, each youth take it on themselves, to uproot those who are ruining the nation. Embracing Sushasan is the need."

-Narendra Modi

"Modi is an extraordinary leader who has shown how good governance and development can be achieved and we all look up to him."

-Raman Singh

## ATTENTION READERS!

### Small write-ups about regional fairs and festivals invited

*Informative and insightful write-ups in around 100 words and photographs about fairs and festivals celebrated in different States and UTs are invited from esteemed readers of Kamal Sandesh, researchers, writers and journalists for publication in the fortnightly Kamal Sandesh magazine. The objective of this new section is to bring the regional and sub regional fairs and festivals celebrated in different parts of the country to the fore. Please feel free to write to us.*

-Editor



### *Onam in Kerala (September 16, 2013 Monday)*

Onam is one of the most ancient Hindu festivals which is still celebrated with a great devotion. Onam marks the homecoming of King Mahabali, a legendary king, who ruled Kerala in ancient times. That period was believed to be the golden age of Karala, people were happy, free from harm and complete harmony and prosperity was there. This golden age ended when Lord Vamana (an avatar of Lord Vishnu) pushed King Mahabali, deep into the earth. Satisfied by Mahabali's honesty and generosity, the Lord granted him a wish that he can visit his kingdom and dear subjects once in a year. Onam is celebrated for ten days - Atham is the first day and Thiruvonam is the final day of the celebration.

***Kamal Sandesh Parivar wishes a Happy Onam to its esteemed readers***



## Congress cannot fool people on missing Coalgate files

# Editorial...

The files of Coalgate scam have been made to disappear. From nation's parliament to every village *chaupal* it is common refrain these days, 'what kind of Congress led UPA government is this?' After a scam is exposed, the concerned ministry or department first of all is supposed to secure the evidences. The investigating agency takes all the documents in its custody. And in the case of Coalgate scam the CBI is working under the direction of Supreme Court. The disappearance of files in such circumstances is not an ordinary incident. There may be some evidence in those missing files which could have proved explosive for the national politics. People are saying that these files were not missing but were made to disappear. The needle of suspicion is moving towards Congress led government at the Centre. The explanation given by Dr. Manmohan Singh in the parliament due to Opposition and more particularly BJP's demand has also brought him in the ambit of suspicion. It would be fit to mention here that when the government itself vanishes from among the people then files are made to disappear in the same fashion. Now the question arises whether a peon can take the risk of 'disappearing' the file or the officer under whose custody the files are kept. After all who knew about those files? Who knew about the content and evidence? Whether this secret was known to ordinary officers or to minister and secretary level officials? Does the Prime Minister understand the gravity of the situation? If it is so then why there is no FIR? Why seven days were allowed to pass? Is there no importance of Coalgate scam in the eyes of Prime Minister? Does Supreme Court hold any importance in the eyes of Prime Minister? Why so much of carelessness?

In the Lok Sabha Prime Minister says how it can be accepted now that files are missing. Does the Prime Minister think that parliament and people of this country are fool? Country is taking the issue very seriously. The Congress led UPA government is not serious. Those who are giving support to the Congress led UPA government; they will also be not spared. People know as to who is defending the government against all these scams. Therefore their face will also be blackened.

Prime Minister is the pride of the nation. He can be elected from any party but Prime Minister belongs to all. Prime Minister is the protector of tricolor, border, constitution, parliament and the pride and self-respect of every Indian. He is the pride of the ramparts of the Red fort. But maybe Manmohan Singh forgot all these things. There is a huge difference between self-pride and the pride of the nation. He should not be a man of zero-self-respect and zero-pride. Determination should be his hallmark. If a thief robs a government then can we call it a government or a 'decaying government'?

The Congress led UPA government is a decaying government and it will not be justified to keep it rotting for long. So let us come together and save the nation by conducting people's surgery of this decaying government as per democratic norm. ■



# Chhattisgarh has revolutionized the PDS system : Narendra Modi

Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive BJP public meeting at Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh. The meeting was a part of Dr. Raman Singh's Vikas Yatra, which had commenced in May. BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and BJP Central Election Campaign Committee Chairman & Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Modi appealed to the people of Chhattisgarh to take the state ahead under the leadership of Dr. Raman Singh for the third time. He also called for spreading awareness about voter registration across the state.

Praising the work of Dr. Raman Singh, Shri Modi stated, "When Dr. Raman Singh became the Chief Minister, he had two ways ahead of him. The first was to complain day and night and ask Delhi to give the state something. The other option was to take Chhattisgarh on the path of development on the strength of its youth and tribal communities. Dr. Raman Singh did not wait for Delhi. He decided to let Delhi do as it feels but the state will move ahead on its strength. Yes, this path was tough. It is very easy to go to Delhi and ask but Dr. Raman Singh did not do that. He fought but never bowed down."

Shri Modi further praised several initiatives of the Dr. Raman Singh-led Government in Chhattisgarh, most notably the Chhattisgarh Government's efforts to revolutionize the PDS system. He recalled that he had

got the opportunity to come to Chhattisgarh in 2008 when the scheme to give rice to the poor was launched. "The Honourable Supreme Court that rebukes the Centre praised Dr. Raman Singh's initiative of giving food to the poor. What Dr. Raman Singh has done is a matter of

in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. He recalled that when the progress of the states on the 20 Point programme was evaluated, the top five states would be either BJP or NDA ruled states and that is why rather than making



great pride," he pointed Shri Modi shared that the Gujarat Government always seeks to learn from the best government practices of other states and that is why officials from Chhattisgarh had come to Gujarat to share the working of the PDS system. He added that he himself sat during the session to hear them.

During his speech, Shri Modi showered praise on the development works done by various BJP Governments, be it the current Governments of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh, Shri Manohar Parrikar in Goa and the previous BJP Governments

amends to their own Governments, the Centre stopped the evaluation altogether.

Taking a dig at Dr. Manmohan Singh and praising Dr. Raman Singh, Shri Modi said, "Chhattisgarh has a Singh, Delhi also has a Singh. Both have completed ten years in power. Both are doctors also. Dr. Raman Singh is a doctor of humans, Dr. Singh is a doctor of money and see what has happened to the Rupee, which is oscillating between life and death."

Sharpening his attack on the UPA Shri Modi pointed that in the journey of a nation there will be good times and there will be bad times but leadership is tested

on how the people are assured and their trust remains in tact during the bad times. However, Shri Modi added that for the first time there is a Government whose work culture is characterized by arrogance and their style is not to answer the people. He said, "Common people are being affected by price rise, children are weeping but the Government

the person on whom the Congress is heavily banking on, saying that poverty is a state of the mind. He also wondered what his grandmother, who coined the slogan of Garibi Hatao would be extremely sad to hear his view. The Chief Minister likened such behavior on the part of the Centre as throwing acid on the wounds of the poor.

during the BJP rule in 2000, there was joy across all the states but in contrast, the situation is different when the Congress announced Telangana. He opined that this is because the Congress does not consider the people as citizens but as votebanks and due to that even if the Congress touches gold, it becomes dust and the problems of the people increase.



Earlier during the event, BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh described Shri Narendra Modi as the most popular leader of the nation. He added that the Congress is envious of Shri Modi's popularity and that is why they are hurling

is busy defining poverty. The Planning Commission that is headed by the Prime Minister says that the poor can live with Rs. 32/- a day in cities and Rs. 27/- a day in villages. And, their ministers, leaders, spokespersons are saying that in Rs. 5/- you will get whatever you want. More than angry, I am concerned that there are such people sitting in Delhi who do not even know how much the poor spend. They do not even know the problems a Mother has to face to give two square meals to her children." He described the Government as insensitive and devoid of humanity.

Referring to the Congress Party, Shri Modi affirmed, "Congress is very arrogant but when efforts are made to walk over the anger of the people, they destroy this arrogance through the medium of democracy."

allegations at him.

Targeting the Centre on the issue of the coal scam Shri Modi affirmed, "There was a debate on the missing coal files in Parliament. The Supreme Court is asking, the Parliament is worried but the people are asking where is the Government? The Government is lost, the money is lost from the coffers and their honour is lost a well!"

He affirmed that the attacks on Shri Modi may sharpen but the entire nation and the entire BJP stands with Shri Modi. Shri Singh lauded the performance of the Chhattisgarh Government under Dr. Raman Singh and compared the good work done by Atal ji's NDA Government with the current mess under the UPA.

Referring to recent statements made by the Congress Vice President that poverty is a state of mind, the Chief Minister said that he was shocked to hear

The Chief Minister shared that when he comes to Chhattisgarh, he remembers former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He stated that when three states were created

Dr. Raman Singh spoke at length about the efforts of the Chhattisgarh Government to transform the state and take it on the path of the development. He spoke about the PDS reforms and the Ambulance services that save the lives of many people.

Top Ministers, MLAs, MPs and other office bearers of the BJP were present on the occasion. ■

## Every Parliamentary instrument utilized to highlight the failures of UPA : BJP

Faced with a huge anti-incumbency, non-performance, serious allegations of corruption and mismanagement of the economy, the UPA government had initially decided upon an escapist route by cutting short the size of the Monsoon Session. Its strategy was to merely pass certain key legislations of the government and leave inadequate time on other subjects of public interest, which the Opposition wanted to have. This move of the government did not succeed. The Congress Party (not the UPA government) announced a decision to carve out a separate state of Telangana on the eve of the Monsoon Session. It was obvious that this announcement would cast a shadow on this Session. It indeed did. The BJP utilized the session on raising the issue of Telangana and exposing the complete mismanagement of the UPA. The BJP fully supports the creation of Telangana as a separate state. The BJP would have preferred that a Bill for creation of Telangana be brought in the Monsoon Session itself. The BJP, in the discussion on Telangana, also highlighted the difference with regard to the manner in which the NDA had created three states viz. Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There was not a single protest held then, as against the complete mismanagement of the UPA on the creation of Telangana.



***Joint statement issued by  
Leader of Opposition in  
Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma  
Swaraj and Leader of  
Opposition in Rajya  
Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley  
on the conclusion of the  
Monsoon Session of  
Parliament, on  
September 7, 2013.***

The BJP had decided to use the Parliament as a forum for exposing the blunders of the UPA. We were, therefore, extremely keen on utilizing the Parliament forum to the extent possible for discussion and debates.

### Discussions

The economy is in deep crisis. The Rupee had been collapsing. The growth rates are down. Investment is shrinking; the UPA government is a mere helpless spectator, depending predominantly on 'external factors' to resolve the problem. On the mismanagement of the

economy, the Party utilized every Parliamentary instrument to highlight the failures of the UPA. Separate discussions on the state of economy, on Demand for Grants were held. Even a reluctant Prime Minister was compelled to make a statement on the state of the economy and face the grilling before Parliament.

The BJP has been in the forefront of highlighting the blunders committed during the UPA government. The highlight of this session was repeated discussions on the Coal Block Allocation scam, wherein the government of the day was seriously exposed with regard to the missing coal files. The Coal Block Allocation scam involves arbitrariness, nepotism, loss of revenue and corruption. The Supreme Court is monitoring the investigations. Notwithstanding the fact that there is an extensive scrutiny by the Supreme Court, Parliament, media and public opinion, the crucial files of the Coal Block Allocation during the period 2006-09 have disappeared. The disappearance of the files is an attempt to destroy the evidence. The BJP insisted in both House of Parliament for a response by the Government and being dissatisfied with response of the Minister insisted on the Prime Minister speaking on this subject. Regrettably, neither the Minister nor the Prime Minister had any satisfactory answer.



The Uttarakhand tragedy and a complete neglect of the State in providing relief work was raised through special discussions by the BJP in both Houses of Parliament. Senior leaders of the Party exposed the callousness of the government when human life and property was in danger. Besides several other issues such as – killing of our soldiers by Pakistani Army, encroachment of Indian territory by China, and the arrest of Yasin Bhatkal and non-cooperation by the state of Bihar were amongst the key issues highlighted by the BJP. This session also polarized the Parliament between strong critics of the government and those who are direct or proxy supporters of the government.

**Legislations**

This was also a session, in which the government was keen to legislate on several important matters. The BJP played its role as an effective Opposition in the matter of legislation. Some illustrations are as under-

**Food Security Bill :** In the National Food Security Bill, the Party, while supporting the measure in larger public interest, insisted on several amendments to make the Bill more effective. It highlighted the fact that, neither the financial outlay for the food security would be increased nor the reach as to the number of beneficiaries would be increased. The Party further highlighted that for several vulnerable sections like the BPL category, the quantum of the subsidized food, to which they were entitled, would be reduced and price being charged was higher than the price at which food was being made available under the

original schemes of the Central government and many State governments.

**Land Acquisition :** The BJP was firmly in support of increasing the amount of compensation being paid to Indian farmers when their land was being compulsorily acquired. The Party, therefore, supported the Bill on the principle of higher compensation to the farmer. The Party, however, wanted to balance the larger interest of the farmers with requirements of economic development. The Party, therefore, suggested several amendments on the floor of the House by virtue of which infrastructure, industry, irrigation project would continue to be developed along with greater magnanimity being shown to the interest of the farmers.

**PFRDA Bill :** The BJP supported the passage of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill as the concept of a regulatory authority for this crucial financial sector was originally mooted by the NDA government. The Party also ensured that the FDI in this sector was capped at 26 percent as against the UPA's bid to hike it to 49 percent at one go. This is consistent with the NDA's policy of calibrated liberalization in financial sector.

The Party supported a large number of social welfare legislations like Street Vendors, Manual Scavenger Bills etc. The Party, however, was against hasty decisions on bills against higher accountability for those in politics and public life. Thus the Party insisted that the

Government's Bill to amend the RTI Act to exempt the political parties from its purview, as also to allow convicted MPs to attend legislative bodies required a larger consultation. In view of its doubtful constitutionality, the Party required them to be referred to the Standing Committee. On the Judicial Appointment Commission, the BJP is firmly of the Opinion that whereas such a Commission is required, there should be proper consultation on such a serious issue. The Government wanted to rush through the Constitutional amendment creating the Judicial Appointments Commission which would have led to a hiatus and freezing of the judicial appointments as the creation of the alternative mechanism of National Judicial Commission was still pending before the Standing Committee. The BJP is of the opinion that since the constitutional amendment has not been approved by the Lok Sabha, the government must reconsider its stand and refer it to Parliamentary committee for discussion and improvement so that it is available for consideration before the Parliament at the earliest.

The BJP looks upon this session with a sense of satisfaction. The Members of Parliament have worked overtime to highlight issues of public importance to both support and amend various government proposals. The Party believes that it has played its role effectively.

Its stand was motivated purely by responsible Opposition and larger public interest. ■

# No provision for people living in Jhuggi-Jhoparis : Rajnath Singh

**T**he Land Acquisition Bill has come up for discussion in the House after a long wait. I have studied this Bill in details. But I have found that there are several important aspects which have completely been ignored. The seriousness with which the interests of the farmers, the poor should have been taken into account has not been done. Rather more emphasis has been given on cities and industries. Though I am not against cities and industries, they should do get all the facilities, at the same time efforts should be made to solve the problems being faced by villages, poor and farmers. Although the Government has made efforts to make this Bill slightly better than the previous ones, it seems that this Bill has

lost its original objective. We cannot link land with economic activities alone, farmers are emotionally and culturally attached to it. The manner in which there has been indiscriminate acquisition of land in the name of economic development pre and post Independence has created resentment among the farmers. Land acquisition has led to displacement of about 6.5 crore farmers. This Bill has been amended thrice i.e. in 1962, 1967 and 1984 since 1894. The farmers are of the view that their land should be acquired in such a manner that it should not create any crisis for their family in future. The Government should pay attention towards this. Despite the above amendments the farmers of the country did not get any relief. This Bill finds a way out for acquisition of land for private sector through inclusion of the term 'public purpose' in this Bill. A long list of public purposes has been appended to this Bill which includes infrastructure also. This term is so omprehensive



***Synopsis of the speech delivered by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on August 29, 2013 while initiating the discussion on Land Acquisition Bill.***



that it includes commercial activities also but I would like to refer to the special economic zone. The entire House knows the objective behind setting up special economic zones. So many SEZs have been set up in the country but many of them are yet non functional. Farmers land was acquired indiscriminately for the purpose. The term 'public purpose' is ambiguous. I want clarification on this.

The norms described for land acquisition for government and private projects are not uniformed. What was the problem in making them uniform I would also like a clarification on this. I have an apprehension that the forceful acquisition of land would continue even after this Bill. The process of social impact assessment and

environmental impact assessment should be initiated in a time bound manner before acquisition of the land. In our country about 20 per cent cases related to land titles are sub-judiced. There is no provision in the Bill to dispose of such cases. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister on this. I would like to draw the attention towards clause 9 of the Bill which exempts social impact assessment invoking the urgency provisions under section 38. This is the problem which is being faced by our villages in regard to land acquisition. How this problem going to be solved, I would like to know from the Minister. I suggest that clause 9 should be done away with. Clause 10 of this Bill mentions that no irrigated multi cropped land should be acquired but sub-section (2) of section 2 makes a way for acquisition of such land. We are of the view that cultivable land should not be acquired without the consent of concerned farmers. I also suggest that this Bill should be implemented



with a retrospective effect in such cases also where farmers have not yet taken compensation or the Government has not yet paid compensation or the process of acquisition has not been completed. Clause 39 of this Bill is very dangerous where district collector can take possession of land 30 days after publishing a notice for the same invoking urgency provisions. I want that this clause should also be done away with. The clause 45 of this Bill mentions that land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement authority would be set up but this is not clear whether such an authority would be set up at state level or central level. We are of the view that such an authority should be set up at district level or at the most at commissioner level, because most of the land disputes are at district level. Such cases should be disposed of quickly. Clause 95 of the Bill is related to the return of unutilized land. It says that if the land acquired remains utilized for a period of ten years from the date of taking

**Clause 39 of this Bill is very dangerous where district collector can take possession of land 30 days after publishing a notice for the same invoking urgency provisions. I want that this clause should also be done away with.**

## Uttarakhand govt. failed comprehensively during recent floods Sushma Swaraj demands dismissal of Govt.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj on September 04 demanded the dismissal of the Uttarakhand Government for its failure to take proper action during the recent floods. Initiating a discussing in the Lok Sabha on this subject, she also demanded a complete ban on construction of dams on rivers like the Ganga to prevent catastrophes in future.



“The State Government is ineffective and irresponsible. It has done nothing,” she said, claiming timely alerts could have saved many lives. She found fault with the rampant construction activities for the calamity. She noted that Uttarakhand floods affected the entire nation and that communication system in the affected areas could have been restored early. She wondered why the Government still does not have the exact number of people who died during the floods, especially in this age of advanced technologies.

Asking why there was inordinate delay in carrying out relief work, Smt. Swaraj said, “It is a dismal scenario”. Suggesting measures to prevent such calamities in future, she said all pilgrims should be asked to register themselves with the Government and micro chips should be provided so that they can be tracked. ■

over the possession the same shall return to the land bank of the Government. I want to know can't this land be returned to the concerned farmers. I would also like a clarification from the hon'ble Minister in this regard. I also wish to register my complaint regarding the norms prescribed for providing compensation because amount of compensation is very less. We see that so many poor people are living in Jhuggi Jhoparis miserable condition in metropolitan cities including Delhi. There is no provision for such people in this Bill. 90 per cent of acquisition is done in this

country under the laws enacted by the centre and state governments but it is strange that the provisions of this bill will not be applicable to these laws. What is the rationale behind keeping these laws outside purview of this Bill? I would also like to suggest that a provision should be made in this Bill as to whether the land of the farmers should be taken on lease or acquired be left on the consent of the farmers. Finally, I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to kindly accede to as many amendments as he could at his discretion so as to make this Bill farmer friendly. ■

# Element of nutrition completely ignored : Dr. Joshi

**I**n Her Address in June, 2009 the hon. President had said that Her Government would bring a Food Security Bill in the House. This Government has taken four and a half years in bringing this Bill. I thought that the Government would have taken every aspect into consideration for providing food security to the people of the nation while bringing this Bill but this has not happened. There is a mention of adequate food in this Bill but what does this term



*Synopsis of the speech delivered by Former BJP National President Dr. Murlimanohar Joshi in Lok Sabha on Food Security Bill on August 26, 2013.*

really imply. How much food would be adequate food? As per the suggestion of ICMR an adult person should consume 14 kg of foodgrains per month according to international standards. This Bill provides for only 5 kg. foodgrains to a person per month. There is no provision of pulses, ghee, salt etc. along with foodgrains to be provided under this Bill.

The element of nutrition has completely been ignored. As per the Report of 2009 of the Ministry of Rural Development, the intake of foodgrains of the poorest of the poor in rural India was 9.88 kg. Now, the Government has reduced the calorie intake from 2100 to 1500. This Government claims that with the passage of this Bill the poor would get rid of starvation. The Government says that 75 per cent rural people and 50 per cent urban people would be covered under this Bill but what about the remaining 50 per cent urban people? The objective of this Bill should have been universal i.e. food security for all as has been mentioned in the Address of hon. President in 2009.

**The Government of Chhattisgarh is giving food security to 90 per cent population. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said "Everything else can wait but not agriculture" but it seems that the Government did not pay any attention to that. This Bill provides for giving hot cooked meal to**

the poor but there is no mention as to how this meal would be delivered from door to door? What mechanism would be put in place for this purpose? The Government is promising utopia. This Government has not yet even ascertained the correct number of BPL families in the country. Now this Government has left this task to the Tendulkar Committee. Dharavi in Mumbai is the biggest slum of the world where one million people are residing but there are

only 141 BPL card holders. If this is the number of poor residing there then all are rich in India. This is how the Government counts the BPL families.

India ranks 66th among 88 developing nations in the Global Hunger Index list. We are only one notch above Zimbabwe. Even Bhutan and Nepal are placed above us. Similarly, we rank 132nd in the United Nations Human Development Index. This is the condition of our country but the Government says that the number of the poor is decreasing whereas the reality is the other way round. When it comes to per capita foodgrains, we stand where we were in 1947. We should be grateful to our farmers that they have been able to feed our ever burgeoning population. You are creating scarcity under some design. You are formulating such policies that a large segment of the population of this country remains poor and hungry. By bringing this Bill, you want to woo the people and create an atmosphere that this law is being brought for the hungry, poor people whereas the fact is that this is your duty. You have stated in the Bill that you have sympathy for the farmers. But, two thousand five hundred farmers are giving up agriculture everyday in the country. Marginal farmers are being ruined. The number of suicides by such farmers is increasing. I want to ask whether you are providing remunerative prices and MSP

for their produce. The contribution of agriculture to GDP is on the decline in the country. Today, agriculture makes 15 per cent contribution to our GDP. Considering this fact, agriculture should have 90 per cent impact on our economy. It has been stated in this regard that storage facility will be provided. But it is not clear why the warehouses are not being constructed and why wastage of food is going on. It has been stated that priority would be given to transportation of foodgrains and to providing sufficient number of rakes.

But, I want to ask in how many years these rakes are going to be provided and which company is providing these rakes. So far as healthcare is concerned, we are aware of the condition of healthcare in our country. In World Hunger Index, the number of persons suffering from starvation in the country is reported to be 20 crore. Provision of 166 gram foodgrains per person per day cannot satiate the hunger of any person in this country. Once there is a food security in the country, its borders, its economy and its currency will also be secured. If you cannot provide food security to hundred percent population, this Bill will remain on paper only. I want to know from where will you arrange funds for this and make a budgetary provision therefor? Why is the Government shying away from implementing Akshaypatra Yojana for children? Under this scheme, 10 lakh children are being provided food today. There is a need to pay attention to the shortcomings in the Bill. The Government should first modify the Bill in its present form and then bring it before the House. There should be no problem in this because you have already adopted the ordinance route. The Government has already taken the mileage of its propaganda. ■

## **BJP North-East India Sampark Cell**

Picture of North-East can only be changed by changing the mindset of people : Ahluwalia

The National Executive Committee meet of BJP North East India Sampark Cell was held at BJP National Headquarters on 02 September 2013 in New Delhi. Executive Committee members of North East India Sampark Cell and delegates from all over India were present on the occasion.



The function was inaugurated by BJP National Vice President Shri SS Ahluwalia. Speaking on the occasion Shri Ahluwalia also presented a detailed roadmap for North East India narrating the strategy to be taken in the region. He said that there is a need to bring change in the attitude of the people from rest of India towards the people of North-East and this can bring transformation at large.

Shri Ahluwalia also said the picture of North-East can only be changed by changing the mindset of people. BJP National North-East India Samparak Cell Convener Shri Sunil Deodhar also presented the blueprint of the work done by the Cell in the last session and the roadmap for the future. The first Executive Committee meet was completed with the address of in-charge of Mizoram State BJP and National Executive member Shri Nalin Kohli.

Shri Kohli said regular and continuous communication is essentially required between the people of North East and rest of India so that national integration gets established. There should be cultural exchange programmes and events on a regular basis in order to establish cultural and social bond with the region.

In order to encourage party members to contribute more towards achieving their goals, the BJP North East India Sampark Cell on the occasion of the National Executive conferred the *Karmayogi* Award on Shri Dipok Kumar Barthakur from Assam. ■



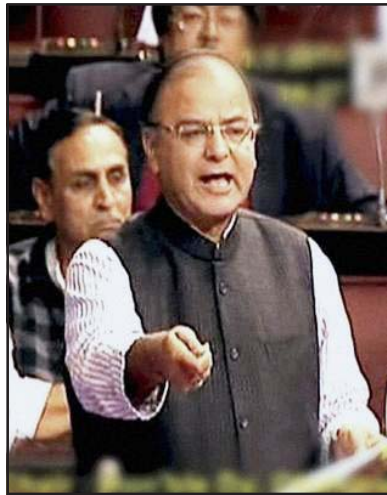
## Bill merely repackages the existing schemes : Arun Jaitley

*Synopsis of the speech delivered by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha  
Shri Arun Jaitley on the Ordinance and the Bill relating to  
Food Security on September 2, 2013.*

The Food Security Ordinance is an abuse of the legislative power to issue Ordinances. An Ordinance under Article 123 is issued when issues of extreme urgency arise and cannot await a forthcoming Parliament Session. The matter must be of such urgency between the date of issuance of the Ordinance and Parliament Session that it is difficult to wait for that period. The Ordinance in the instant case was issued on

**It is, therefore, essential that not only a wider consultation of the States is held but also that a certain amount of flexibility is given to the States as to the nature of the food distributed. The extent of coverage and the expanse of nutritional value is determined by them. That one size will fit every state is unknown to the federal system of India. Since the law is almost in its entirety to be implemented by the states, it would be appropriate for the Centre to make it mandatory for every state to have a Food Bill.**

July 5, 2013 and the Parliament was convened on August 5, 2013. What is it that had to happen between these 30 days that could not wait a legislative discussion and a legislative approval to the Bill? Clause 3 of the Bill provides for priority households to receive a certain amount of subsidized foodgrain. Clause 9 empowers the Central Government to fix a percentage coverage for rural and urban areas. Clause 10 provides for identification and preparation of a list



of eligible households within a period of 365 days of the commencement of the Act. Identification and distribution of food grains under this Act can therefore only take place in the latter part of 2014 at the earliest. Till then the existing food grain scheme shall continue. What was the urgency then in issuing the ordinance

on July 5, 2013 itself? This is a gross abuse of the ordinance issuing power.

A perusal of the Bill shows that 30 key functions under this Bill are all to be performed by the State governments. Ration cards are to be issued by the state governments [Clause 2 (16)]. Distribution of the food grains has to be done by the state governments [Clause 3 (1)]. Alteration of the food grains has to be done by the state governments [Clause 3(3)]. Identification of the Anganwadis has to be done by the state governments [Clause 6]. Distribution of mandatory doles has to be done by the state governments [Clause 8]. Identification of the priority households is to be done by the state governments [Clause 10]. Updating of the list is to be done by the State Governments [Clause 10 (2)]. Display of the list has to be done by the State Governments [Clause 11]. Reforms are to be undertaken inter alia by the State Governments [Clause 12]. Grievance redressal mechanism has to be determined by the state governments [Clause 14]. All appointments to the State Food Commission have to be done by the state governments [Clause 16]. It is the obligation

of the State Governments to monitor the scheme of the Centre [Clause 24]. Local authorities, being made responsible for this scheme is to be done by the State Government [Clause 25]. Maintenance and public disclosure is to be done by the State Governments [Clause 26]. Authorization of local authorities is to be done by the State Governments [Clause 28]. Rules are to be made by the State Governments [Clause 40]. These are only some of the important functions states under this law.

It is, therefore, essential that not only a wider consultation of the States is held but also that a certain amount of flexibility is given to the States as to the nature of the food distributed. The extent of coverage and the expanse of nutritional value is determined by them. That one size will fit every state is unknown to the federal system of India. Since the law is almost in its entirety to be implemented by the states, it would be appropriate for the Centre to make it mandatory for every state to have a Food Bill.

The contention that this bill gives us statutory right to food rather than entitlement under the existing schemes is fallacious. The language of the bill itself shows that the right is flexible and can be varied by the State. Under Clause 3 (2), the coverage to the extent of 75% rural population and 50% urban population is the outer limit. It is the cap. It is not the mandatory recommendation of the minimum extent of coverage. The words under the Clause make it essential for the eligible households to get food at subsidized prices. It provides that the number of households extends up to 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population. Thus by keeping the percentage as flexible, the right will always at best become an entitlement, because the number of people to be covered under the bill will always remain flexible. Similarly, Clause 9 empowers the Central Government and not the State Governments to vary this percentage coverage. The Bill can be operated only within these parameters.

All existing food schemes provide for subsidy this year upto Rs. 113,000 crores. The Minister has informed the Rajya Sabha on 23rd August 2013 that after the Food Bill, the subsidy will increase to Rs. 125,000 crores. The much touted Food Bill will thus increase the subsidy by only Rs. 12,000 crores. The budget documents for this year under various schemes including the TPDS, Mid Day

Meal, ICDS, National Food Security Mission, Computerization and Warehousing, already provided for Rs. 124,844 crores.

For the BPL category, the quantum of food grain in fact will reduce from 35 kg per family to 5 kg per person, which amounts roughly 25 kg per month for a family of 5 persons. The number of beneficiaries under the existing food grain schemes is 18.04 crore households i.e. 82.99 crore people. This figure will be reduced to 81.37 crore people under the new scheme.

For states such as Chattisgarh and several other states, where 35 kg of food grain, 2 kg of gram/dal, 1.3kg sugar and 2 kg free iodized salt is given to 42 lakh families out of a total of 56 lakh families. The present Food Bill will reduce the entitlement both in terms of extent of coverage as also the nutritional value. The Central legislation therefore must factor in more liberal schemes being offered by the States. The states like Chattisgarh are offering food-grain at Rs. 1/kg. This Act is going to charge twice this price, since the Central Government Scheme provides for twice or thrice the value of the State, it must necessarily factor in the larger schemes being offered by the States. The quantity is reduced and the cost increased.

Lastly, the Bill is an abuse of the ordinance issuing power. It legislates on the subject which has to be implemented entirely by the States. It merely repackages the existing schemes of the Government. It neither increases the coverage of the existing schemes nor the financial grant to them. It is inferior to what the State governments are already offering. It is offering lesser food at costlier prices, and yet the UPA government chooses to call it 'National Food Security Bill'.

**the Bill is an abuse of the ordinance issuing power. It legislates on the subject which has to be implemented entirely by the States. It merely repackages the existing schemes of the Government. It neither increases the coverage of the existing schemes nor the financial grant to them.**

## You never felt any need to provide food security : Naidu

*Synopsis of the speech delivered by former BJP National President*

*Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu on Food Security Bill on September 2, 2013 in Rajya Sabha.*

The BJP is for the food security of all the people of the country. For 67 years, you have totally neglected the common people and poor people. You never felt that there is any need to provide them food security. Suddenly, on the eve of elections, you realized that there is a need for food security. The Government is trying to get vote security in the name of food security. This is nothing but an electoral gimmick. The Government has betrayed the people on every count. Food security can be provided if there is satisfaction among the farmers of the country. How you are going to encourage the farmers to produce more? Unless you produce more, you cannot meet the requirement.

The population is growing, the consumption levels are increasing but the production levels are not commensurate with the consumption levels. The agriculture is in dire crisis. People are waiting for the Government to take action on the Swaminathan Commission recommendations with regard to fixing the minimum support price. This Food Security Bill can be implemented if you produce 350 million tonnes extra. The Government has not outlined any steps in this Bill with regard to providing safety, security and incentive to the farming community. The number of cultivators has declined during the last decade from 127.3 million to 118.7 million. The prices of seeds are going up. The cost of cultivation is going up. All the agriculture input costs are going up. The cost of production per quintal of paddy is Rs. 1,355 whereas the Minimum Support Price fixed is Rs.1,080. How do you expect the farmer to produce more? The Government is not able to understand the seriousness of the situation at the grass-root level. Thousands of farmers are committing suicide. While giving incentives for the food security, they should have given some incentives for producing the food also. They should have taken some welfare measures for the farmers also. First of all, assure the House, assure the country about providing sustainability for the agriculture. The fear among the farming community is that tomorrow the State Governments, guided by the Central Government,



may go for a levy on rice and the farmers will be forced to sell it to the Government agency first. They will not get remunerative prices from market. Procurement is a major challenge. Where is the infrastructure? Where are the godowns? We have failed in providing storage capacity. The real worry is how are you going to finance

the scheme? Fiscal deficit is on the rise. Current Account Deficit is increasing. Your subsidy bill is increasing. Investments are flowing out. Investors, both domestic and global, have lost confidence. Large-scale unemployment is looming large. The experts are warning that this Bill may play havoc with Government finances. In the next few years, growing subsidies could

restrict employment opportunities including agricultural sector. The outgoing Governor of RBI said that the only solution to our rupee problem is to reduce Current Account Deficit (CAD). We have seen CAD to be well above the sustainable level for three years in a row. If the inflation goes up and the Government is not able to contain the prices and control inflation, then what will happen to the common people?

The fact is that there is problem of malnutrition in the country and without covering the aspect of the nutrition, how are you going to take care of those children? My point to you is, please don't attack the federal system of the country. Please allow the States to have their own schemes. If you want to supplement them, supplement those States' programmes fully. The Food Bill is not going to be such a good Bill. It is going to be a very heavy Bill. You are talking of so many things on the eve of the elections. Giving lollypops and making empty promises without proper allocation at the last moment is not going to serve the purpose. The concept of food security is nobody objecting. States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other States are implementing it in a better manner. ■



# It's Déjà Vu all over again

By Yashwant Sinha

**D**uring the last two years, the UPA government postponed tough decisions and invited a full-blown economic crisis. We are plunging into a downward economic spiral, such as in 1990 and 1998. It is déjà vu all over again.

Several Congressmen have attacked me for being critical of the UPA government, but I have to speak up in the national interest. The lessons of 1984-89 and 1996-98 have been forgotten. Then, we had governments that hoped to use fiscal populism to improve their chances in impending national elections.

GDP growth slowed due to policy paralysis, inflation shot up, the fiscal deficit and the current account deficits became unmanageable. Once foreigners stopped funding our profligate ways, we had no choice but to depreciate the rupee, seek foreign loans with strings attached, raise interest rates and practice fiscal austerity.

Indians suffered from higher prices, fewer jobs and lower quality of life. I know this because I was the finance minister in 1990 and 1998.

When the NDA came to power in 1998, we resolved to address the chronic macroeconomic problems that India had faced since Independence: slow growth, high inflation, high interest rates and recurring balance-of-payments crisis.

The only way to address

*The only way out of the crisis is for the UPA to seek a fresh mandate from the electorate now*



these chronic problems was to invest in building India's national strength: our key industries, infrastructure, education and so on. Despite many trials and tribulations like the Asian financial crisis and the economic sanctions after Pokharan II, we managed to accomplish all this and left the nation stronger than we had inherited.

## Operation Demolition

During the UPA's nine years in power, I have watched with concern the demolition of all the achievements of that era. The government let the economy drift and deferred making policy decisions. For example, we have not implemented the Direct Taxes Code or the goods and services tax. Our financial institutions are again afflicted with high bad debts.

We have not freed oil marketing companies to deal with oil subsidies. PSUs have been further shackled and their position has eroded. Tax policies have been capricious.

Corruption has been the fatal blow to the economy. The UPA government has been the

most corrupt in Indian history. We seem to have become a country where everyone believes that it is fine to lie, cheat and steal. From the lowest to the highest, everyone is working some deal to line their pockets. Opaque allocation of coal, iron ore and spectrum has led the Supreme Court to shut down all such allocations.

Multinational companies are losing faith in India. They believe that their money and assets are not safe here. In some cases, their own Indian executives swindle money and cook the books. Foreign investors found that many promoters that they regarded as daring entrepreneurs were actually crony capitalists paying off government officials to gain unfair advantage. In fact, corruption has led many good Indian companies to decide to invest abroad.

With elections looming and growth slowing, the UPA decided to embark on several massive entitlement programmes. With mining shut down and coal being imported, the current account deficit has shot through the roof and put pressure on the rupee. Inflation is surging and people are buying gold, since they do not trust the financial system to protect their assets.

These policies will make India vulnerable to external shocks that could easily trigger another balance-of-payments crisis. But the government does

not care. Once the US Fed announced that it was considering tapering its quantitative easing, the crisis was bound to hit India.

1990, 1998, 2013

What we are facing now is reminiscent of 1990 and 1998. A weak government is plunging India into crisis. Foreign investors have lost faith in India and will demand harsh conditions to send dollars to us. The Indian public is going to be penalised for the government's mistakes.

The UPA cannot whitewash this by blaming external factors.

The crisis needs tough decisions: inflation will have to be controlled, spending may have to be curtailed, tax policies modified and investors assured. A leaderless government cannot undertake such actions. The only honourable course of action for the government is to accept responsibility and ask for a fresh mandate.

We too have a Dream

The NDA's economic policies are clear. We want to build India's productive capacity and unleash its entrepreneurial energies. We want industries to grow. Foreign investors can trust us to create an investment-friendly environment and work in the national interest.

We shall pay the fullest attention to rural areas and ensure that the quality of life there match that of cities. We want to create the world's best safety net through a citizen-based registry that benefits the vulnerable and the needy. So, let us go to the people and let them judge; that is the only way out of the present crisis. ■

*(The writer is former finance minister and BJP MP)*

## Three day BJP training camp in Sikkim

### BJP Karyakartas should work hard to give a special place to BJP in the hearts of people : Ram Lal

Sikkim BJP organized a three day training camp from 31st August to 2nd September in Jorethang (South Sikkim district). It got a good response from the Karyakartas and around 75 BJP members attended the training camp. The members of other local political parties of Sikkim also attended the training workshop for two

Ram Lal addressed the gathering. He discussed about the election management and mainly focused about the booth agent and the strategies to be applied for the forth coming Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha elections in 2014.

In the second session the West Bengal BJP (Organization Secretary) Shri Amal Chakravarty spoke on the birth and growth of BJP from Jan Sangh days.

Evening session was conducted by Sikkim BJP Prabhari Dr. Dineshanand Goswami. He explained



days. The training camp was inaugurated by the former Member of Parliament of Sikkim Shri Nakul Das Rai flanked by other dignitaries by lightening the traditional lamp, on 31st August 2013.

Sikkim Pradesh BJP President Shri Padam Chhetri briefed about the workshop and the program started with huge support and enthusiasm from the party Karyakartas.

On the second day of the training BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri

about various methods and strategies that we would apply with the aim to make BJP enter in the State Assembly this time.

The concluding day session was chaired by North East BJP Organization Secretary Shri Panchanan Raut and BJP Sikkim Organization Secretary Yadav ji. And the last session was taken up by RSS Prant Pracharak Shri Basudev Pal.

He discussed about the methods and functioning of an organization. ■

# It's the end for the UPA Government

By Balbir Punj

**W**hen domestic and foreign investors, the Government's own PSUs and economic advisers, have all given up on the regime, why blame the main Opposition for asking it to pack up and leave sooner than later?

Twelve hours after the Congress-led UPA passed the food security Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 26, the most non-political reactions came from the market. Between 9am when the bourses opened and 4.58pm when they were about to close, the rupee slid from Rs 65.005 to the US dollar to Rs

the fall: Industry had no trust in Union Minister for Finance P Chidambaram's repeated claims last week that the food security scheme would not balloon the fiscal deficit. A number of independent economists like Surjit Bhalla, corporate economists like Ashish Vaidya, rural economic experts like Ashok Gulati, who heads the National Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, as well as the chief economists of large Indian and foreign banks have warned that the scheme will cost much more than the estimated Rs 1.25 lakh crore,

persistent doubts even within the UPA on the feasibility of the proposed legislation or even the need for it, especially when some States – notably BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh and the AIADMK-ruled Tamil Nadu – have improved upon the existing Public Distribution System to ensure food security.

Even the other day NCP chief and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar publicly expressed his misgivings if the country could grow enough grains to meet the requirements of the scheme and still leave something for the open market to serve those who are not entitled to the subsidised food. Also, if the Union Government sucks out 63 million tonnes of food grains from the market – where the total surplus grains out of an annual production of 250 million tonnes is not more than 100 million tonnes – food grain prices will hit the sky.

Even if you assume that all 800 million targeted beneficiaries of the food security scheme have access to the promised quantity at designated shops, another 400 million will still be at the mercy of grain merchants who'll charge exorbitant rates. The middle class will be forced to buy rice/wheat at more than Rs 40 a kilo. It will wipe out all chances of household savings being maintained at even 26 per cent – a figure that has stagnated anyway for sometime now due

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66.19. As the downslide continued unabated, all indications were that the rupee might touch 70 to the dollar. The concurrent 590 point blow to the Sensex was yet another warning that the economy was in a ruthless downward spin. It was not merely a case of foreign exchange speculation, the Sensex drop made clear.

Market operators did not hide the primary reason behind

which in itself is also a huge amount. In fact, warnings against the Congress's mindless profligacy – allowed by the UPA merely to satisfy the whims of its well-sanitised chairperson – have been in the air for over a year now.

Let us not forget that it took the Congress four years to get the food security Bill accepted within the ruling alliance alone. This was because there were



to the UPA's economic mismanagement. Lower savings means lower investments, and with interest rates going up and aggregate demand falling, businesses will shrink further and the economy will go into a tailspin.

For the last four years, the Indian economy has been on the sickbed. In January 2011, the eminent economists who constitute the Prime Minister's economic advisory council warned that due to policy paralysis in Government, investors are losing confidence in the economy. But it was not until after 2011 that the Prime Minister began to speak of resurrecting reform measures. By then, even the Government's own public sector undertakings were unwilling to reinvest their mounting cash surpluses despite state prodding. Most

**When domestic and foreign investors, the Government's own PSUs and economic advisers, all have lost trust in Mr Chidambaram's assurances (his roadshows in Washington, DC, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo did not fetch a single additional dollar, as the rupee's fate reveals), is the main opposition party out-of-line in asking this regime to fold up?**

private sector investors were competing to invest abroad rather than in India, as scams hit the Union Government one after another, and policy paralysis grew worse because a worried bureaucracy refused to take any initiatives.

When domestic and foreign investors, the Government's own PSUs and economic advisers, all have lost trust in Mr Chidambaram's assurances (his roadshows in Washington, DC, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo did not fetch a single additional dollar, as the rupee's fate reveals), is the main opposition party out-of-line in asking this regime to fold up?

To be fair to Mr Chidambaram, he is not the real villain of this piece; nor is it his predecessor, Pranabda. That blame must be laid at the doorstep of the UPA chairperson who has surrounded herself with a set of jholawallahs at the National Advisory Council. These persons enjoy enormous clout in economic policy without any corresponding responsibility to Parliament.

The trouble with the UPA Government is that it has to listen to this herd of hot heads and ideologues while its chief bends over backwards to be seen as pro-poor. It reminds us of the 'Garibi Hatao' days of the early 1970s when Leftists and Socialists who advised Prime Minister Indira Gandhi used that slogan to beat her political rivals. The economic disaster that followed the reckless 'reforms' of those years — such as bank nationalisation, wheat trade nationalisation, stopping legitimate donations to political parties — resulted in rising

**The food security Bill might prove to be the proverbial last straw (cost Rs 1.25 lakh crore to three lakh crore rupees) that will break the camel's back. By some strange coincidence, Ms Gandhi could not be present to vote for the Bill. Blame destiny? Was it an omen?**

inflation, foodgrains scarcity and the licence-control raj.

But if Indira Gandhi had to impose Emergency to save her career, her daughter-in-law has burdened the country with a number of wild-cat schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (cost Rs 1,83 lakh crore), the Right to Education Act (cost Rs 1.82 lakh crore), the Right to Information Act (administration is squirming under it), the Forest Rights Act (that has brought mineral production and exploration to a standstill) and now the National Food Security Bill. These costs have clogged the fiscal pipelines and expanded fiscal deficit. The food security Bill might prove to be the proverbial last straw (cost Rs 1.25 lakh crore to three lakh crore rupees) that will break the camel's back. By some strange coincidence, Ms Gandhi could not be present to vote for the Bill. Blame destiny? Was it an omen?■

*(Writer is BJP National Vice President and Rajya Sabha Member)*

# Which other democracy has a doormat for a PM?

By Kanchan Gupta

*Manmohan Singh made a pathetic spectacle of himself in Parliament while defending his abysmal failure to halt India's economic decline. Feckless people like him blame others; they lack the courage to own up and step down.*

Cornered, bruised and battered, the Prime Minister decided to do an angry old man act in Rajya Sabha on Friday while reading out a banal statement on the ruinous state of the Indian economy. He need not have bothered with reading it out; it may well have been taken as read. India was looking forward to more than a Press Information Bureau handout and the fact that the Prime Minister failed to rise to the occasion is as much a reflection of his towering incompetence as further proof, if at all that is needed, of the huge crisis of leadership that the country faces in these troubled times.

We shall return to what Manmohan Singh said, and did not say, in a while. Before that it would be in order to comment on his mock heroic anger which has so enthused Congress stooges in media, one of whom, an over-rated anchor-turned-editor-in-chief at a media house which has just sacked hundreds of its staff on account of the looming economic crisis, couldn't stop blabbering and

gushing over what he described as the Prime Minister 'striking back' at the Opposition. Like much of what he says and writes, this too is an exaggeration whose purpose would be lost on the naïve and the ill-informed.

The perceived 'anger' of the Prime Minister was not the rage of a wronged man or a slandered politician, it was the impotent rage of a feckless person who, having offered to serve as the doormat of his boss, can't figure out why nobody holds him in high esteem. Had Manmohan Singh been half the person he would like others to believe he is, he would have raged against Congress president and Nehru-Gandhi Dynasty matriarch Sonia Gandhi and stormed out of office. Instead he has chosen to not only supinely do her bidding that has fetched rack and ruin to the national economy but also demean the office he holds, bringing disrepute to South Block like no other Prime Minister has ever done, not even Chandra Shekhar during the few months he held that post.

A Prime Minister so denuded of honour, integrity and

esteem can't really expect his party colleagues, leave alone those in the Opposition, to treat him with anything except contempt as they do. It is only natural that the Opposition, barring those individuals who are given to supping with Sonia Gandhi in private while denouncing the Congress in public, should treat Manmohan Singh as beneath contempt. To pretend otherwise, as Manmohan Singh does, is to live in denial. He is welcome to do so, but he should not expect respect — that's an unfair expectation.

As for his ersatz anguish over being called a 'chor' — as some MPs are believed to have done while remonstrating against the limitless corruption under his tutelage — he need not play Little Red Riding Hood; much worse has been said by his party and his boss about the Opposition and its leaders. Surely Manmohan Singh has not forgotten Sonia Gandhi's vicious attack on Atal Bihari Vajpayee in bazaar Hindi spoken in guttural Italian accent. Or her spiteful description of Narendra

Modi as “Maut ka Saudagar”. In which democracy does this happen?

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley did not allow despise and loathing to get better of his sense of decency and decorum or else in his sharp repartee he would have gone beyond reminding Manmohan Singh that in no other democracy does a Prime Minister win a confidence vote by buying MPs. But neither decency nor decorum need restrain us from asking Manmohan Singh in which other democracy does a Prime Minister hold office without winning a direct election? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister hold himself unaccountable for the sins of omission and commission committed in his watch? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister preside over scam after scam, scandal after scandal without so much as bothering to even offer to resign? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister shield a Railways Minister hawking top jobs to the highest bidder? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister ask his Law Minister to fix the report of investigators looking into a massive scam? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister willingly mislead Parliament on crucial foreign policy issues that impinge on national security? In which other democracy has a Prime Minister been repeatedly found to be telling less than the truth? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister slyly blame the Opposition for the swindle-and-loot, tax-and-splurge, steal-and-scoot Government he heads?

*In which other democracy does a Prime Minister hold himself unaccountable for the sins of omission and commission committed in his watch? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister preside over scam after scam, scandal after scandal without so much as bothering to even offer to resign? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister shield a Railways Minister hawking top jobs to the highest bidder? In which other democracy does a Prime Minister ask his Law Minister to fix the report of investigators looking into a massive scam?*

It is laughable that Manmohan Singh wants the people of India to believe that the Opposition questioning him and his Ministers on dubious deals and stalling Parliament to expose the crimes of the Congress and his amazing silence have led to loss of investor confidence at home and abroad. That's undiluted bunk. Investors have not lost confidence in India – the country and the people are the same as they were before the waning of trust happened – they have lost confidence in the UPA Government, the Congress which leads this Government, and the Prime Minister who heads the Government.

Surely Manmohan Singh knows better than to expect investors to have faith in a Government whose leading lights are constantly looking for opportunities to feather their own nests? Nor should he expect us to believe that investors are

not deterred by his Government's wasteful ways. The Prime Minister conveniently forgets that imposing retrospective taxes on corporates was not the doing of the Opposition. If licences have been cancelled by the Supreme Court, causing telecom investors to shy away from India, it is not because the Opposition stalled Parliament on the Great 2G Spectrum Robbery, it is because Manmohan Singh did nothing to stop the robbery that took place with his full knowledge. If big ticket reforms have languished, it is not on account of the Opposition but due to the pusillanimity of the Prime Minister. We could either accept these facts or blame the crisis in Syria for our woes.

Meanwhile, the latest financial figures came out last evening, delayed by several hours so that Manmohan Singh could make a last ditch effort to sell the fiction that not all is lost and he shall bravely soldier on to resuscitate a sputtering economy.

Growth rate is down to 4.4 per cent, exports are down on a year-to-year basis and food inflation remains frighteningly high. Worse, jobs are disappearing across sectors at an alarming rate. And here we have our Prime Minister blaming everybody except the culprits responsible for this criminal destruction of the economy. That's understandable, though not condonable, since he is primarily to blame for this wanton destruction. No punishment would be sufficient for him. ■

*(The writer is BJP National Executive Member)*



# Why is electronic media showing a pro-Congress bias?

By Meenakshi Lekhi

**M**ukhiya mukhu so chahiye, khan paan ko ek Paale poose sakal ang, Tulsi sahit vivek. Kabir's doha, when translated, means this: just as the mouth receives food that nurtures all parts of the body, the leader must be driven by similar wisdom. The Congress-led UPA is possibly unaware of this, as is obvious from the current political and socio-economic crisis it has got India into.

The consequences of over several lakh crores of loot in the last nine years through the 2G, coal and other scams are now being felt across the nation. India has been assaulted like never before. While many believe that this government is weak and paralysed, the back story suggests the contrary. The present Congress government seems to be a rogue regime run with an iron fist on the lines of several authoritarian or autocratic regimes around the world. Its actions speak louder than words.

The actions of this regime have ensured massive unemployment, encouraged imports that destroy local production capacities, and, most importantly, have facilitated the criminal loot of national resources. Biased journalism? Getty images on the political front, this regime continues to engineer a separatist mindset, by fortifying ethnic groups as vote

banks and by dividing India. Be it Left-wing terror, jihadist terror or any anti-India movement, the Congress is found to be creating, nurturing and controlling divisive tendencies. The root cause of all problems such as casteism, communalism, law and order or social unrest lies in illiteracy, unemployment and poverty. Survival insecurities and religious fundamentalism are being used as weapons of political mobilisation and mayhem.

A closer look at the UPA's support structure reveals how India's institutions are being subverted. Parties supporting the UPA, such as the SP, BSP, DMK and many others, are being kept in line by the Congress party through the use of state power in the form of CBI, Enforcement Directorate, NIA, etc. Deceit and criminal intimidation have become legitimate tools of governance.

The Congress party's 57 years of rule have created artificial pressure groups to deceive the masses. It has planted its supporters in the executive, the media, and

industry to justify and legitimise its sins. Let's take the example of the mainstream media (MSM), especially the television media. It has a pro-Congress bias. The pattern is like this: suppress most cases of Congress-run corruption while highlighting individual and nationally irrelevant issues. Remember how embarrassingly

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silent the MSM was on the cash-for-votes scam that allowed UPA-1 to continue in office? Cameras were also focused on the antics of some Hindu Sena activists near a Karnataka bar in January 2009. Similarly, when the Indian economy is in a shambles, the nation is reeling under corruption, inflation has raised the cost of necessities, and there is huge unemployment and loss of job opportunities, the mainstream media finds Asaram

Bapu to be the main news point. While the role of the state government is not discussed, there are regular repetitions of this episode.

There are no updates on gigantic scandals such as Satyam, NREGA, Augusta Westland, and sale of Railway Board jobs. FIRs against Sheila Dikshit, Jagdish Tytler and CBI cases against Andhra Pradesh ministers are not even reported, forget taking them up for prime-time discussion. Similarly, ethnic riots in Assam, UP and nearly 5,000 cases of major and minor riots post-2004 are conveniently forgotten.

The MSM has never questioned the communal credentials of the Congress party which has a history of overseeing riots in the country even while being in alliance with communal parties such as MIM, TNMMK and the Muslim League. India's MSM has maintained complete silence involving Congress leaders and their family members in corruption cases under the disguise of editorial freedom of choice.

The ethics of journalism are completely forgotten while dealing with anyone other than the Congress. The IPL saga too was part of the same unwitting efforts at cover-up. At a time when the Central government was at the receiving end of the stick and being pulled up and censured by the Supreme Court for its role in the CBI investigations into Coalgate and the mama-bhanja sale of Railway Board jobs, the media was focused on N Srinivasan's resignation drama at BCCI. Time

and again, there is an attempt to make the Indian public forget the gigantic scams involving public funds while playing IPL (private money) sagas, turning encounters into fake ones, and mocking leaders from the opposition while protecting the misdeeds and criminality of the Congress regime!

The time has come to ask honest questions from the Indian media. Will the fourth pillar display integrity and act as the

custodian of the right to information or ignore its duty, especially when the nation is going through a crisis? Even as I am writing this piece, important information on the indictment of Sheila Dikshit by the Delhi Lokayukta, and court orders for the registration of FIRs against her and Jagdish Tytler is in the air. But I wonder whether it will make it to prime-time discussion. ■

*(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson)*

## Prime Minister is a failed economist : Murli Manohar Joshi

Continuing its tirade against Prime Minister Manmohan Singh outside Parliament following his aggressive stance in Rajya Sabha, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on 02 September termed him as a "failed economist" and attributed current economic woes to the flagship schemes of UPA Government.

While holding the Prime Minister responsible for "unabated slide of rupee", former BJP National President Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi also termed Finance Minister P Chidambaram and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia as "failures". "As far as economy is concerned, Manmohan, Montek and Chidambaram have failed. In my view, they are not economists but rather bad or useless economists... UPA has lost the mandate to rule the country," Dr. Joshi told reporters at the party office in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Joshi alleged that downward spiral of economy started the day Chidambaram took charge as Finance minister of the country. On Chidambaram's comments in Lok Sabha on August 27, which were largely interpreted as insinuating President Pranab Mukherjee for being responsible for current economic woes as former finance minister, Dr. Joshi said, "It is for the first time in the country's history that any finance minister has blamed his predecessor for economic mess".

He said alleged that populist schemes like MNREGA and Food Security Bill are proving to be a drag on the country's finances and are pushing up inflation. "The government is going to pump in crores of rupees under the Food Security legislation. Such allotments are not only unproductive but counterproductive as well as they push up inflation," he said. During a debate in Rajya Sabha, the prime minister attacked the opposition for hampering growth and hurting investor sentiment by repeatedly disrupting Parliament. ■

# Shifting blame will not help Mr. Prime Minister

**By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi**

**W**hile the entire nation watched the downslide of Indian rupee against US Dollar with disbelief and unease and the market panicked Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his statement in parliament thinks it is good for the economy. He considers 'this depreciation was merely a needed adjustment'. In his statement he said,

"Madam Speaker, coming back to the effects of the Rupee depreciation, we must realise that part of this depreciation was merely a needed adjustment. Inflation in India has been much higher than in advanced economies. Therefore, it is natural that there has to be a correction in the exchange rate to account for this difference. To some extent, depreciation can be good for the economy as this will help to increase our export competitiveness and discourage imports."

In fact his entire statement is a bundle of contradictions. He first shifts the blame for falling Rupee to 'unexpected' external factors to the extent that he counts among them tension and therefore Syria! It is a bizarre explanation as to how tension over Syria has not affected US economy which in turn has resulted in strengthening of Dollar but weakened Indian Rupee against it. He then counts huge import of gold, rising price

of crude oil, import of coal and declining exports. Had it been so was his government able to take any corrective measures and if so, then he has failed to enumerate those steps. He also blames the foreign exchange markets which according to him 'have a notorious history of overshooting'. He says that it is

**In fact the clarification of the Prime Minister has created further confusion which is symptomatic of the confused status in the government which has led to policy paralysis at all levels.**

happening with other currencies in India Rupee has also been hit so his government has no role in this phenomenon. In a way he says that it is beyond his control and since he is not responsible for it so he cannot do anything about it.

At the same time he also says that 'The RBI and Government have taken several steps to stabilize the rupee'. Now, if the depreciation of Indian rupee is good for the economy as the Prime Minister tries to argue why RBI and Government are taking steps to stabilize Indian rupee. And if it is due to external

factors how can his government control it? In fact the clarification of the Prime Minister has created further confusion which is symptomatic of the confused status in the government which has led to policy paralysis at all levels. The Prime Minister is not clear whether the depreciation of rupee is good or bad for Indian economy. He has no policy whether his government intends to stabilize the Indian rupee or allow its further depreciation.

If we look at the track record of Congress led UPA government, it always believes in fatalism. In his statement Dr. Manmohan Singh expects the economy to 'kick in' due to good monsoon. If it fails then the blame can be easily shifted to floods and related natural calamities including heavy rain. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is in the habit of shifting blame for non-performance of his government and sheds tears as a helpless person who has been wronged by the turn of events. In fact his government chooses to ignore the wrong policies of the government which has created inflation to unprecedented scale causing untold miseries to the common man and unleashing an era of corruption which has robbed the Indian people of untold wealth.

Rupee weakening against Dollar

The rupee has witnessed



sharp depreciation since the last week of May and it has touched Rs. 68.75 in the last week of August with many fearing that it may well cross Rs. 70 mark very soon. Indian rupee which was equal to one dollar in 1947 has come to such a stage that doubts about its stability has become an issue of national concern. The time when Dr. Manmohan Singh became Finance Minister in the Narsimha Rao government one Dollar was equal to Rs. 24. The time when he became Prime Minister one dollar was equal to Rs. 44. And now in the last year of his second term one dollar is equal to Rs 68. The investors have lost confidence, market is in panic, sensx is crashing yet Dr. Manmohan Singh maintains that it may in some way or the other benefit the economy.

As rupee depreciates, India's economic confidence is also declining sharply. It reflects worsening health of Indian economy which appears very alarming. The exchange rate between currencies simply operates on the principle of demand and supply. The dollar is now clearly in short supply owing to various factors which may be attributed to short sighted government policies. Mick Gordon, CEO of Ipsos in India says, "Indian economy is in distress with rupee depreciating sharply against dollar. Strong demand of US currency from importers and banks, continuous capital outflows, widening current account deficit and dollar's strength against other currencies overseas amid expectation that the Federal Reserve will soon taper its bond-

buying programme has put enormous pressure on the rupee".

The depreciation of rupee may be explained away as a global economic phenomenon beyond the control of the government by Dr. Manmohan Singh but the consequences would be very harsh for the people of India. It may have a domino effect on the economy which may be hit hard by sharp depreciation of rupee and the poor people of the country will have to pay in following manner:

- ▶ Import will become costlier
- ▶ We import 50-55% of the total fertilizer required for the country. Prices of fertilizers will rise further and farmers will be hit very hard.
- ▶ Medicine and many products used in it are imported, so common people are in for big trouble ahead.
- ▶ Around 75% oil and oil products are imported, price rise of diesel and petrol will create high inflationary condition in the country.
- ▶ Banking sector will also get affected due to inflationary condition thus created leading to costly loans which may further affect home loans and thereby construction sector.
- ▶ Costly loans may affect almost all sectors creating crisis in almost every sphere of economic activities.
- ▶ Foreign investors may shy away from investing as the return would be low. It may also trigger flight of foreign capital from the country.
- ▶ The corporate sector will

have to curtail its expenditure owing to costly loans. It may result in job cuts leading to unemployment condition in the country.

Contrary to Dr. Manmohan Singh's explanation, the consequences of depreciation would be very harsh for the people and more particularly the poorer sections of the society. NDA's gains wasted away by UPA

The rule of Congress led UPA will not only be remembered for having wasted the economic gains made by NDA but also for leading the nation into a situation of crisis and uncertainty. The gains have not only been nullified but negative trends have been set in motion. The atmosphere of vibrancy has been lost and terms like 'policy paralysis' and 'economic downslide' are in vogue. The 'external factors' which is quoted time and again by Dr. Manmohan Singh was very high during NDA rule when economic sanctions were imposed on the country in the wake of Pokhran II. But the fundamentals of the economy were managed in such manner that India and its market could not be ignored for too long and sanctions were lifted. When NDA was elected in 1998, inflation was around 13.2%. In 1999, it came down to 4.7% and in 2003 remained at 3.8%. Even when hit by international sanction, Kargil war and a severe drought, the NDA did not allow the situation go out of hand. Importantly, inflation remained below 4%. The price of dollar when NDA came to power was

at around Rs. 38 and when it left it was between Rs. 42-44. NDA represented an era of fiscal discipline when the prices were stable and Fiscal Deficit was brought down to 3%.

Congress led UPA on the other hand has led the nation on the verge of an impending crisis. It has brought the nation to the same situation from where NDA had pulled out the economy and led it to vibrancy. The nation had to face high inflationary condition wherein food inflation touched the figure of 18.5% and people had to reel under unbearable economic pressure. The UPA Government data on wholesale price index (WPI) shows that from April 2004, a month before UPA took charge to April 2012 there has been a 63% increase in the price of all commodities. However, on food products, the index has risen from 98 to 206.4. In the last nearly 10 years under UPA the fiscal deficit is reaching nearly 7%. The situation has come to such a pass that Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma has suggested mortgaging of 500 tonnes of gold from its reserve to rescue the economy from the impending crisis.

Conclusion

The economic mismanagement and short sighted economic policies have led to worsening of economic situation under Congress led UPA rule. While the government is in the grip of 'policy paralysis' it has not shied away from taking anti-people measures which has increased general misery and unemployment. The policy of deregulation, de-control, subsidy cut, placing even

necessary commodities within the scope of speculative market and other steps taken in the name of reform have not yielded the promised results. The claim of UPA that all these will lead to economic recovery now stands falsified. It appears difficult to support Dr. Manmohan Singh's call for harder reforms as 'the easy reforms of the past have been done'. He further says, "We have the most difficult reforms

**While the Prime Minister is in the habit of shifting blames to external factors, this time he has also shifted the blame to opposition. Can he give credit to opposition for any of his government's achievements? It is another matter that UPA government has no achievement to count, it has failed on all fronts but it is also true that had there been any achievement he would not have shared the credit with opposition.**

to do such as reduction of subsidies, insurance and pension sector reforms, eliminating bureaucratic red tape and implementing Goods and Services Tax". Although Dr. Manmohan Singh knows that his earlier reforms made on the same plea of recovering the economy has backfired, he is making a new case for more such reforms at the cost of common men's interests.

While the Prime Minister is in the habit of shifting blames to external factors, this time he has

also shifted the blame to opposition. Can he give credit to opposition for any of his government's achievements? It is another matter that UPA government has no achievement to count, it has failed on all fronts but it is also true that had there been any achievement he would not have shared the credit with opposition. During its tenure the UPA has never tried to take opposition into confidence or to build consensus on any contentious issue. It has always worked with an anti-democratic mindset trying to bulldoze the opposition. On the issue of corruption, it stands exposed. Its ministers were sent behind bars and the highest court of the land passes strictures against its acts of omissions and commissions. So there is no way the Prime Minister can defend his government except shifting blames to 'external factors' and opposition.

The nation is passing through a phase of crisis. The policy makers need to assess the impact of 'reforms' and devise means to get right kind of policy framework for our nation. The international rating agencies are downgrading our economy, there is no confidence building measures except tokenism and blame game, the poor are hit very hard but there is no attempt to provide relief to them. The depreciation of rupee is certain to lead the nation to another crisis and steps are required to make economy ready to face tough challenges ahead. But can Congress led UPA do it with its short sighted policies and misplaced vision? That is the moot question. ■

## BJP Minority Morcha Executive meeting held

# Congress adopts British policy of divide & rule : Rajnath

The Bharatiya Janata Party on September 1st it would soon come out with a vision document on minority empowerment to elaborate its stand on their education, security and prosperity as also their participation in governance.

“Whether Congress adopted any other policy of the British or not, they at least adopted their divide and rule policy...Congress and some other political parties have tried to sow the seeds of division in the country,” Rajnath Singh said. He admitted that members of the minority community working for BJP find it difficult to propagate the party’s policies among people due to the perception that it was



indulge in such politics,” he said.

Addressing BJP Minority Morcha National Executive meeting in New Delhi, National Vice President Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the document will aim at “empowerment and not appeasement.”

“Our particular focus is on socio-economic and political empowerment. If we come to power at the Centre, we will bring out an action taken report detailing the promises made to minorities of the country,” he said.

He dubbed the Congress as a “traditional and professional political exploiter” of Muslims and minorities. Pointing out that the proportion of Muslims in Central government jobs came down by 62 per cent during the last decade; Mr. Naqvi said it went up in BJP-ruled states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh by 37, 39 and 24 per cent respectively during the same period.

“Congress only eulogises the Nehru-Gandhi family while the names of thousands of others have been deliberately erased from the annals of history,” he added. The meeting was also attended by the BJP National Spokesperson Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain and other senior leaders. ■

## Huge hike in petrol & diesel prices is anti-people : Venkaiah Naidu

Former BJP National President and Rajya Sabha MP Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu raised the issue of huge hike in petrol prices in Monsoon session of Parliament. He said the decision of the Government, when Parliament is in Session, without taking Parliament into confidence and making such a huge hike in petrol prices and giving a dose of 50 paise every month per litre of diesel, is totally anti-people. He added, “It is breaking the backbone of the common man. The farmers will be the worst hit because it will have a cascading effect”. Taking dig at UPA, he said, “Now the Minister is coming up with a wonderful idea of closing petrol pumps at night. Tomorrow, he may say life should come to a halt at night. What is happening to this Government? I am unable to understand it. I want the Government to take Parliament into confidence before taking any such decision.” ■

## Art and Culture Cell national executive meeting held



On August 30 first National executive meeting of BJP Art and Culture Cell was held in New Delhi at BJP Central office. All BJP workers who are associated with art and culture along with conveners of 15 states attended the meeting. The meeting was addressed by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, Lok Sabha Member Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal, National General Secretary Shri J.P Nadda, Cells & Morchas National Co-Ordinator Shri Mahindra Pandey and other office bearers of the Party.



### MADHYA PRADESH

#### UPA Govt. has damaged country's image : Shivraj Singh Chouhan



Slamming Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for the poor state of economy and the slide in the Indian rupee, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said he has damaged the country's image. "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, *aap desh*

*ki izzat ko dhool me milane ka kaam kar rahe hain,*" (PM Manmohan Singh, you are damaging India's reputation)," Shri Chouhan said at a convention of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on 01 September. Under the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule, prices of diesel and petrol had sky-rocketed and inflation was spiraling sharply, causing hardship to the people, he said.

"When BJP-led National Development Alliance (NDA) was in power, the price of a dollar was around Rs. 44, but now it trades between Rs. 63 and Rs. 66. Both Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi have mortgaged the country's self-respect," Shri Chouhan alleged. He said even the country's borders were unsafe under the UPA regime, resulting in killing of Indian soldiers by Pakistan.

"Despite these incidents, they are talking about holding talks with Pakistan, which is totally uncalled for. People will never forgive them for mortgaging the country's self esteem," he said. He also blamed Congress general secretary and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh for the mess in the education sector because of which, he alleged, careers of an entire generation of teachers got ruined.

He said that during Congress rule which lasted for nearly 60 years, only 47,000 km of roads were constructed, while in the last ten years, 95,000 km of roads were built in the State. Until 2003, the State produced 2900 MW of power, but now it generated 10,000 MW and would soon cross the 14,000 MW mark, he said.

### CHHATTISGARH

#### Bastar Maharaja's entry in BJP will strengthen the party in Bastar region : Raman Singh



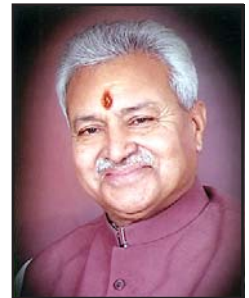
On 30 August Bastar Maharaja Shri Kamalchand Bhanjdeo joined BJP at a function held at State party headquarters in Raipur. Noteworthy, the massive tribal population of Bastar

region which has 12 Assembly seats, have a deep generations-old affection with Bastar royal family and in several seats, the call of Shri Kamalchand Bhanjdeo would decide the fate of candidates. Dr. Raman Singh has termed the entry of Shri Bhanjdeo into the party a big boost for the State BJP and said it will strengthen the party in the Bastar region which holds key for Government formation in the State. BJP National General Secretary and party in-charge for Chhattisgarh Shri JP Nadda, National Joint General Secretary (Organization) Shri Saudan Singh, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, BJP State President Shri Ramsewak Paikra and almost entire frontline leadership of the party in Chhattisgarh received Shri Bhanjdeo and his dozens of supporters at the State party headquarters and hailed his decision to join BJP.

### UTTAR PRADESH

#### SP govt. crossed all limits to appease minorities : Laxmikant Bajpai

The Uttar Pradesh BJP organised a statewide protest to oppose the Samajwadi Party Government's decision to allow 20 per cent quota in development schemes. In the State capital Lucknow, the protest was led by BJP State president Shri Laxmikant Bajpai who said dividing Hindus and Muslims



on development plank was the worst decision of this Government. "How can a welfare State allow reservation benefits in development programmes on religious lines? This is atrocious. This shows the mentality of the Government," Shri Bajpai said while addressing party workers.

He said the State Government has taken this decision keeping in mind coming Lok Sabha elections. The Government is harsh on Hindus but is very soft on Muslims, he said. He further said Akhilesh Yadav has crossed all limits to appease Muslims.

The BJP workers then marched to the GPO and handed over a memorandum to the ACM-I demanding immediate withdrawal of this controversial order. In Gorakhpur, party MP Yogi Adityanath led the protest. He declared that the party will not allow its implementation and he would raise the issue in Parliament too.

"This decision is a cruel joke on people of the State," he said. Former State BJP President Shri Surya Pratap Shahi led the protest in Deoria where he said that it seems the Samajwadi Party does not need votes of upper caste in Lok Sabha elections and therefore it is concentrating only on Muslims.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

### Congress failed to protect the interest of apple growers in Himachal : BJP

BJP blamed the Congress Government in Himachal Pradesh for low apple prices this season and its failure to check apple market collapse and announced to stage protest across apple growing districts of the State. "It is unfortunate that today horticulture industry in the State which is worth between Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,500 crore has come under grave danger. Congress has failed to protect the interest of apple growers and is to be blamed for the plight of the apple industry," said former horticulture minister Shri Narender Bragta.

He said despite record apple production in the year 2010, growers were able to get good prices for their produce during the BJP rule.

Targeting the Congress, he said that govt has failed to protect the interest of people. He further said BJP will commence a massive protest against the attitude of the Congress government from September first week.

## DELHI

### Delhi BJP releases counter report card, nails Congress' lies

The Delhi BJP on September 6, 2013 slammed the Delhi Government and Congress Party for providing wrong, factually incorrect and misleading information in its report card on its 15 years regime in Delhi. The party also released a report that counters the false claims made by Congress in its "Report Card."

Addressing a joint Press Conference on the occasion the Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said, "The Congress's report card on the performance of the Delhi Government in past 15 years is nothing but a pack of lies. Both the Congress party and its government have resorted to false propaganda. The truth is that the 15 years of misrule and corruption have converted Delhi into an unaffordable, unsafe, unplanned and polluted city."

In a joint statement, the two leaders said, "The report card released by the BJP today is actually the real report card unlike the one which was released by Congress government a couple of days ago. It is shocking to see how the Congress Party, Chief Minister and all the ministers are collectively fudging the figures. This is an indication of the desperate situation of Congress which has nothing to showcase for its 15 years misrule."

"The people of the city are suffering from high inflation, crime against women, skyrocketing power and water tariffs, poor availability of water, education, lack of adequate public transport, absence of government health services and a corrupt and inefficient PDS. Corruption and cover-ups have been the hallmarks of the Congress government in Delhi for past 15 years. The Chief Minister and her ministers have been indicted in several cases by Lokayukta, CAG and several other agencies." Elaborating about the counter report card released today, the statement said, "This is in fact just tip of the ice berg. The misdeeds and blatant lies of the Congress government are too many to be incorporated in one single document. However, it does provide a glimpse of the way Congress is trying to take common people for ride. This is also an indication that the Delhi government has nothing to show as an achievement in its report card." ■