

PRESS RELEASE

April 30, 2016

Reacting to the statement of BJP President, Shri Amit Shah and BJP leaders in Augusta Westland case, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC has issued the following statement to the press today:-

"Shri Amit Shah and BJP leaders have become masters in pursuing politics of deceit and deliberate lies. No wonder, **"Empty Vessels Make the Loudest Sound"**.

BJP government and its leaders need to introspect, "whether **mudslinging and muckraking** can ever replace the truth"? Can **'smear campaign'** and **'hatchet jobs'** of 'BJP's dirty tricks department' defend the **'Operation Cover-up'** of BJP government in helping **Augusta Westland?**

Shri Amit Shah has asked three questions. We urge him to ask these questions from 'Modi government' and seek answers for people of India.

1. Shri Amit Shah has called **Augusta Westland** and its parent company, Finmecanica a 'bogus company'.

(i) Will Shri Amit Shah ask Modi government as to why it has been protecting the same bogus company for last two years as CBI/ED investigation has reached no conclusion?

(ii) Will Shri Amit Shah and BJP answer to the people as to why the same 'fraud company' was permitted to be part of Prime Minister's 'Make-in-India' programme and participate in 'Aero India Exhibition'? (Please see press release dated **03.03.2015** issued by PIB, attached herewith as **Annexure A-1**).

(iii) Will Shri Amit Shah also answer as to why the same 'fraud company' was being given permission by Foreign Investment Promotion Board of Modi government as recently as on **08.10.2015**? (Please see press release dated **08.10.2015** of PIB attached herewith as **Annexure A-2**, wherein at Sr.No.8, Joint Venture of Augusta Westland is mentioned).

(iv) Will Shri Amit Shah also answer as to why the same 'fraud company' was given permission to participate in defence contract as a **'sub-contractor'** as also **'supplier to a contracting party'** with **Government of India** by order dated **22.08.2014** of Ministry of Defence? Copy of the order is attached herewith as **Annexure A-3**.

2. Shri Amit Shah has raised questions and stated that the **bank guarantee** of the defaulting company, Augusta Westland was not encashed by the previous Congress government. It is again a bundle of lies, aimed at creating a smoke screen and befool the people of India.

(i) Will Shri Amit Shah and BJP government answer whether it is not correct that the then Congress government immediately encashed bank guarantees of close to **Rs.240 crore** deposited in Indian banks?

(ii) Will Shri Amit Shah and BJP government also answer whether it is not correct that the then Congress government filed and won the court case leading to encashment of bank guarantees worth **Euro 2,28,00,00,00** (228 million) in the court at Milan, Italy on **23.05.2014**? Copy of the release dated **23.05.2014** issued in this regard is attached herewith as **Annexure A-4**.

(iii) Will Shri Amit Shah tell the country whether it is a fact that Indian government has recovered an amount of **Rs.2,068 crore** from Augusta Westland as against payment of **Rs.1,620 crore** besides **confiscating three helicopters**?

3. Shri Amit Shah has also raised questions with regard to permitting testing of helicopters on **'foreign soil'**.

(i) Will Shri Amit Shah ask the same question from Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar?

(ii) Is it not true that **'Defence Procurement Procedure 2016'** issued by Modi government provides that process of trial can be carried out abroad i.e. on foreign soil, including in the premises of vendor owing to export restrictions, security related issues, availability of testing infrastructure/platforms or other reasons? A copy of the relevant extract of 'Defence Procurement Procedure 2016' is attached herewith as **Annexure A-5**. Reference may particularly be made to **Clauses 66 and 65** thereof.

BJP and Shri Amit Shah must remember that 'Confidence is Silent, Insecurities are Loud'. A lie spoken hundred times can never become the truth for truth is absolute and infallible.

Shri Amit Shah and BJP leadership must apologize to the country for misleading and diabolical statements being fed as half truth to section of media.

Lest Lasting Truth prevail. Not lacking leaks!!"