

PRESS RELEASE

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**Narmada Project in Gujarat remains incomplete, even
though BJP is in power for 22 years, out of which
Modi ji was CM for 14 years**

**PM Modi using Narmada Dam Project as an Election
Gimmick without completing even 20% of 90,389 kms
of Canal Network**

**Rampant Corruption mars 'Narmada Nigam' as BJP
shields the Corrupt**

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi is indulging in misconceived electoral 'hype, hyperbole & hoopla' by yet again 'inaugurating the Sardar Sarovar Dam'. Using the world's second largest dam built by the painstaking efforts of the Congress Party and people of Gujarat as an electoral gimmick has become the centerpiece of BJP's 'Gujarat Model'- for this is the only tangible project that would ameliorate people's conditions, when actually completed. The rest of the 'Gujarat Model' is ingrained with fakery, doublespeak, fallaciousness and falsehood. **The BJP is ruling Gujarat since the past 22 years and not even 20% of the canal network, creating minors and sub-minors, has been completed. Yes, the dam reservoir has water but it cannot not reach the fields of the needy farmers in absence of the canal network. Truth is that BJP and Modi government have failed the beneficiaries.**

Despite a plethora of stumbling blocks and challenges, it is only the Congress Party that tirelessly strived for completion of Narmada Valley Project, as an incompetent and insensitive BJP repeatedly failed the people of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. From the laying of the foundation stone by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1961 up till 1987, when its construction work was stalled for environmental reasons and litigations, there were a multitude of insurmountable road blocks. It was under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi that each blockade was cleared conscientiously and 90% of the work was approved for completion.

On the other hand, the then Planning Commission and the CAG have clearly stated that there should be vertical integration approach in the canal network. Once again, this was ignored by BJP Government in the game of deception. As a result, farmers see water in canal but it does not reach their dry fields crying for succor. **Today, water reaches only 3 lakh hectares out of the planned irrigation of 19 lakh hectares. Will the BJP Government and PM Modi, who are responsible for this abject failure, apologize to farmers of Gujarat?**

Only 18,803 kms of canal network was constructed in the 22 year of BJP rule against planned length of 90,389 kms? Will the BJP explain the reasons for the same?

The last couple of decades of BJP rule in Gujarat is replete with symbolic rath yatras and political gimmicks. At a time when the project is not even complete, keeping in mind the upcoming elections, the BJP has launched another yatra—Narmada Mahotsav Yatra, which the people of Gujarat has strongly rejected as it was marred with demonstrations and protests throughout its route. **This is a befitting reply that the people of Gujarat—especially the farmers - are giving to the BJP for its unpardonable apathy and non-performance.**

Even if the agricultural land covered under the project is increased by 1,21,103 hectares in the next two years, it will still be 18.42% of the total targeted area. It may be noted that BJP Government has also reduced the length of canal network plan—key for agriculture sector—to 71,784 kms from 90,389 kms as originally planned.

In response to questions, the government has said that it will construct 3,856 Km of canal network in 2017-18. At this pace, it will take another 11 years for the project to be completed! In addition, the project cost was originally estimated at Rs.9,000 crore, but due to the delay in its completion, it has since swollen up to Rs.56,286 crore.

There has been rampant corruption in the Narmada Nigam and funds are being diverted. The CAG report clearly confirms that. (Please See Annexure A) What action have you taken after the exposure of rampant corruption, mal administration and misuse of funds in Narmada Nigam? Why is the BJP shielding the corrupt?

Gujarat is facing multiple issues related to the availability of water and unaddressed problems met by the agricultural sector. Farm distress is galore and the recent protests are the manifestations of the same.

The people of Gujarat are disillusioned with the insensitive ‘Suit-Boot’ policies of the successive BJP Governments and the leadership of PM Modi, which thrives on ‘full publicity & zero delivery’. Time is ripe when the people of Gujarat will give the BJP a befitting reply to its apathy and mis-governance by showing them the door.