

PRESS RELEASE

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Dalit Communities are being suppressed and exploited by BJP

Abolishing 'Dalit Sub Plan' is a conspiracy to deny share in State resources to the poor.

Scheduled Castes quota of jobs shrinks, SC Backlog increases and drastic cuts are imposed on SC Welfare Schemes in BJP rule.

Congress has a historical commitment to the cause of poor and dalit, will wage a decisive struggle for justice.

AICC Media Incharge & Senior Congress leader, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala gave a clarion call to the Valmiki-Dalit communities to fight a decisive battle for uprooting the Modi & Khattar governments from the Centre and State. He was addressing a State-level 'Garib Sammelan' in Kaithal today, where thousands converged with gusto and enthusiasm. This massive gathering was organized by Scheduled Caste leader & Ex-MLA, Shri Phool Singh Kheri.

Mr. Surjewala said that BJP is undertaking a sinister conspiracy to abolish the constitutional guarantee of reservation. He said that this is depicted by the statements of RSS Chief, Shri Mohan Bhagwat and Sar Sanghchhalak, Shri Manmohan Vaidya, who have spoken about 'reconsideration of Reservation' to 'abolition of Reservation as it divides society'. Shri Surjewala said that Congress Vice-President, Shri Rahul Gandhi and the Party are committed to foil any such move and called upon the SC communities to remain watchful of BJP's hidden agenda.

Describing the abolition of 'SC Sub Plan' in Centre and States as a concerted treachery, Shri Surjewala said that this is a deceptive ploy to abolish the share of Scheduled Castes in the resources of the State. Direct consequence of abolishing the 'SCs Sub Plan' would hit the allocation of SCs Welfare Schemes abrogating the claim of the poor over distribution of resources for their benefit, he added.

Citing the anti-dalit mindset of Modi & Khattar Governments, Shri Surjewala said that in Haryana, even elected BJP MLAs of Valmiki communities are facing threat to life as also humiliation. Shri Surjewala cited the example of BJP MLA from Mullana, Smt. Santosh Sarwan Chauhan, who publicly accused BJP-RSS workers of murderous attempt on her life and questioned CM Khattar for not taking any action. He further said that BJP MLA from Bawani Khera, Shri Bishambar Valmiki was humiliated in a government function and had gone to the extent of saying that, "they are treated like slaves".

Quoting government data on dalit atrocities, Shri Surjewala said that a dalit is attacked in India every 9 minutes, yet BJP government remains a mute spectator. Shri Surjewala said that NCRB figures reflect that cases of dalit atrocities in the year 2013 were 39,408 and they increased to 45,003 in the year 2015 and as per an estimate, have increased to 60,000 in the year 2016. This means that the figure of atrocities has virtually doubled.

Expressing grave concern about shrinking quota of SCs jobs and ever increasing backlog, Shri surjewala said the BJP is abrogating the share of dalit youth in government jobs by a design. In the year 2013, 92,928 dalit youth got government jobs in GoI but the number drastically reduced to 8,436 in the year 2015. These figures have been placed by BJP government on floor of the Parliament. In the same vain, budget of 'Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Dalit', which in the year 2013-14 (when Congress presented its last budget) was Rs.882 crore, has been reduced to a pittance of Rs.50 crore in the year 2017-18, he added. What is indeed shocking is the fact that BJP has not spent a single penny out of the budget meant for 'Manual Scavengers Employment and Rehabilitation'. The declining budget year to year in this head itself tells a story of neglect (2014-15: Rs.435 crore, 2015-16: Rs.461 crore, 2016-17: Rs.10 crore, 2017-18: Rs.5 crore, Actual expenditure NIL).

Shri Surjewala reminded that the previous Congress Government in Haryana employed 11,000 safai karamcharis in the villages, gave a free water connection to every SC household, increased emoluments of chowkidars, gave grant for construction of SC and Valmiki dharamshalas, besides introducing many beneficial schemes of housing. All of them have been left in the lurch.

Shri Surjewala said that Valmiki and Dalit communities need to determinedly fight against this injustice meted out by BJP. He assured that Congress Vice-President and the entire Party would solidly support this quest for justice.