

PRESS RELEASE

June 25, 2017

Randeep Singh Surjewala, MLA, Haryana has issued the following statement to the press today:-

Shifting of International Airport from Haryana to Jewar, Uttar Pradesh is a betrayal & gross injustice with people of Haryana.

Modi Government + Khattar Government has deceived Haryana at the altar of political expediency.

Haryana most suited for International Airport – Previous Congress-UPA Government had agreed to the proposal in principal.

Haryana's interests compromised – Jobs & Investments will suffer.

Union BJP Government has betrayed Haryana's interests by sanctioning the International Airport at Jewar, Uttar Pradesh. BJP Governments, at the Centre and State, have sold Haryana's interest at the altar of political expediency. Truth is that the previous Congress-UPA Government had granted in-principle approval in the year 2013-14 for setting up a green field airport in the State. Khattar Government has, however, come a cropper, failing to protect Haryana's claim. Ignoring Haryana's claim to set up an International airport at Jhajjar or Meham or Karnal; Union BJP Government has made a unilateral announcement for setting up of a new International Airport at Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.

Haryana's case for an International airport is the most meritorious and naturally acceptable. Till today, Haryana does not have a single airport, National or International, for commercial air traffic. Previous Congress Government of Haryana made serious efforts and suggested the names of Meham/Jhajjar/Karnal for setting up of an International airport as a successor second airport to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi. Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India conducted a survey and gave in-principle approval for setting up of an airport in Haryana, dealing with both cargo and commercial traffic. In the meanwhile, Government at the Centre changed and Modi Government put the entire project on back burner. For three years, people of Haryana waited with great expectation but in an act of deception, Union Government has proceeded to shift the airport to Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.

Conspiratorial silence of the Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar and BJP MPs of Haryana on this blatant sell out of Haryana's interests is deeply intriguing. Indifference of Haryana BJP Government can be gauged from the fact that despite having equal share in Chandigarh International Airport, BJP Government has not succeeded in establishing a direct route to Chandigarh and Haryana from the new International Airport till date. This only proves that the ruling BJP dispensation is only sticking to the perks of power instead of guarding Haryana's interests. What is even more saddening is the fact that despite a proposal made by previous Haryana Government to name Chandigarh Airport as "Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport", no action has been taken by Union BJP Government on the issue till date.

An International airport would have meant employment for thousands of Haryana's youth. Acquisition and development of nearly 3,000 acres of land for the airport would have brought in an investment of Rs.15,000 – Rs.20,000 crore, besides multifold development in all the districts and areas around the airport. International airport would have also given a distinct identity adding to Haryana's growth story. All these gains have been undone on account of lackadaisical attitude of the Khattar Government.

On behalf of Congress Party, we once again appeal and reiterate that Haryana's case is strongest for setting up of an International airport. Haryana Chief Minister should immediately take up the issue with Prime Minister and Government of India for doing justice with Haryana. A strong initiative in this regard by the Chief Minister will find support from every section in Haryana. It is time for BJP Government of Haryana to wake up from its slumber and act decisively against the betrayal of interests of Haryana by the Union BJP Government and fight for Haryana's cause. If they fail to do so, not only will the people of Haryana not pardon them but they will cease every right to represent Haryana's interest and should quit.