

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Feb. 15, 2018

**Randeep Singh Surjewala, Media Incharge, AICC; Shaktisinh Gohil, Spokesperson, AICC and Pawan Khera have issued the following statement to the press today:-**

1. Post-escape of ‘Lalit Modi’ i.e. ‘Chhota Modi’ and ‘Vijay Mallya’, another ‘#Modi Scam’ has hit India’s banking sector the hardest. **First, Lalit Modi escaped India. Vijaya Mallya escaped India. ABG’s Rishi Agarwal escaped India. Now, we are told that ‘Nirav Modi’ has also escaped India.**

A complaint was filed to PMO about the entire fraud being perpetuated as early as on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. Yet, no action was taken either by PMO or any other authority. Bank lost the money and the accused escaped.

**‘Loot & Escape’ has become the hallmark of Modi Government.**

2. India’s biggest ‘**bank loot scam**’ stands exposed involving over 30 banks, including Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank, Corporation Bank, Andhra Bank, Vijaya Bank, Canara Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, Export Import Bank of India.

Under Modi Government, entire Banking Sector’s ‘**Risk Management System**’, ‘**Fraud Detection Ability**’ and the ‘**Regulatory Mechanism**’ have been severally compromised.

3. News reports have unveiled as to how the duo of Nirav Modi – Mehul Choksi along with other family members have duped Punjab National Bank and other banks by getting issued ‘**Letters of Understandings**’ (LoUs) for siphoning of funds without any commensurate credit guarantees, thereby defrauding the entire system.

**Complaint dated 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 (annexed herewith as Annexure A-1) by PNB to CBI itself reflects as to how from 9<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017; eight LoUs worth crores of rupees were issued. On 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017; Punjab National Bank had reported this quantum of loss to be US\$ 1771.69 million or Rs.11,400 crore approximately to SEBI (Annexure A-2).**

**What the Modi Government has not told us is that there is also an exposure of Rs.9,872 crore of various banks with Gitanjali Gems Limited, a company promoted by Shri Mehul Choksi. Please see Annexure A-3.**

**Entire system was bypassed. All regulatory mechanisms broke down. Everything escaped the eyes of auditors and investigators. ‘Risk Management’ and ‘Fraud Detection Ability’ came to a naught. Yet, the Modi Government would have us believe that this entire fraud was being perpetrated by two employees.**

**4. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was made aware of this entire fraud by one Shri Hari Prasad by way of a written complaint filed on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 and acknowledged by PMO. A copy of the complaint is attached as Annexure A-4.**

**Multiple documents, including a list of 42 FIRs that were pending, were also in the knowledge of the Prime Minister. A list of these 42 FIRs is attached as Annexure A-5.**

**Despite all this, Nirav Modi traveled in the business delegation to Davos in January, 2018 with the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Please see photographs as Annexure A-6.**

### **Questions**

- 1. How did Nirav Modi/Mehul Choksi dupe the entire banking system through forged Letters of Understanding under the nose of Modi Government? Who is responsible for the biggest 'Bank Loot Scam'?**
- 2. Why did Prime Minister not take any action to protect the interests of the banking sector despite a written complaint having been received and acknowledged on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016? Why were all the authorities, including Finance Ministry, its financial intelligence units and all other authorities sleeping on their job?**
- 3. DGM of Zonal Office, PNB had written to Joint Director, CBI on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 (Annexure A-1) requesting the CBI for a look out notice against Nirav Modi, so that he does not leave the country. Despite all this, how was Nirav Modi permitted to escape the clutches of law and leave the country?**
- 4. How was the entire system bypassed? How did the fraud escape the eyes of all the auditors and investigators? Does it not point to active complicity at the highest level? Who is protecting Nirav Modi/Mehul Choksi?**
- 5. How did the entire Banking Sector's 'Risk Management System' and 'Fraud Detection Ability' come to a naught?**