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PRESS RELEASE

Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, MLA & Spokesperson, All India Congress Committee has issued the following statement to the press today:-

“Modi government’s complete apathy, reckless mismanagement and unpardonable mal-governance tells the sordid tale of unprecedented ‘Urea Fertilizer Crisis’ faced by crores of Indian farmers today.

Last five months of Rabi season have been marked by blatant sale of Urea in black market, police lathi charge on helpless farmers, looting of Urea stocks by mobs and distribution of Urea in Police Stations in different States i.e. Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. On the other hand, Shri Narendra Modi and his government have been preoccupied in the game of political sloganeering and personality promotion.

It is now clear that ‘Urea Fertilizer Crisis’ has occurred on account of two simple reasons:-

Firstly; failure of Union Government in importing only 17.37 lakh tons of Urea in the crucial period of June-October, 2014, which was 1/3rd of last year’s import i.e. 2013 import of 43.82 lakh tons.

Secondly; failure of Union Government to pay Rs.30,000 crore of subsidy amount to domestic Urea manufacturers i.e. default of 95% of subsidy amount payable leading to closure of many local Urea units.

May we remind that Shri Narendra Modi and BJP came to power in 2014 Lok Sabha on the most important big ticket promise (other than bringing black money) of guaranting enumerative prices for farmer's crops by adding 50% profit into farmers' inputs cost and implementing Swaminathan Commission Report. Having put this principal political promise in the dustbin of false political slogans, agricultural prices have seen a free fall. Price of Basmati Rice has fallen from Rs.6000-6500 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs.3200-3300 per quintal in 2014-15. Prices of Fine Rice varieties of 1121 and 1509 have fallen from Rs.4400-4800 per quintal last year to Rs.2200-2400 per quintal this year. Even Cotton prices have fallen from Rs.5300-5500 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs.3800-4000 in 2014-15 i.e. even below MSP.

Modi Government's bulldozing of Land Acquisition Ordinance has further added insult to the injury. Consequence of these lopsided anti-farmer policies is that agricultural exports of Wheat, Rice and Corn are likely to see a decrease of nearly 29% or 135 lakh tons in 2014-15. To top it, even the area under cultivation is seeing a net reduction of 33.22 lakh hectares in 2014-15.

Resultant effect would be negative growth of farm sector in 2014-15 under Modi rule for the first time after a decade of prosperity and growth under Congress government.”

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA