

Statement Issued by Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala,
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Rhetoric and 'jumlas' having become the sole hallmark of his government, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi seems to be buying the loyalty of the Indian people at the rate of Rs.1. This sly game of projecting robust numbers so as to look good in public discourse by depositing Rs.1 to reduce the number of 'zero balance' Jan Dhan accounts lies totally and thoroughly exposed now, and the truth is there for all to see.

First it was fudged GDP figures, then it was claiming growth even as all indices of exports, industry and manufacturing plummeted. There were yarns of fantasy woven around "Give it up" saving 24,000 Cr in LPG subsidy and lowering inflation claims even as Dal sold at Rs.200/Kg and Vegetables and Milk soared. Tales of Financial inclusion were then imagined and dished out around the Jan Dhan Yojana. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and his motley group of disempowered Ministers have been doing nothing but fudging numbers, manipulating data and institutions and creating a chimera of performance and development out of thin air.

Even as a vigilant opposition and an objective press keep on calling his bluff, the Government continues with its games of deceit. The Congress Party yet again intends to flag these issues in public domain, lest the drama of falsely claimed 'Modi Model of Development' continues to play out and ends up hurting the very roots of our progress in absence of any oversight. We stress and reiterate the following:-

ONE THIRD ZERO BALANCE ACCOUNTS

- (1) Media investigation and RTI replies obtained from 18 public sector banks and their 16 regional rural subsidiaries established existence of 1.05 Crore Jan Dhan accounts with deposits of Re.1. This was done to reduce the number of zero balance accounts in the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). Shockingly, no written order was passed by the banks to its officials to deposit Re.1 through their own pocket.
- 2) Shri Modi, has time and again claimed credit and tried his best to hog limelight by flaunting the Jan Dhan Yojana. The truth is that the PM Jan Dhan Yojana rests on the broad shoulders provided by the Congress led UPA. Let us rewind a bit and take note of the beginning of Financial Inclusion in India.

In 2005, the Congress Government directed the banks to open “no frills accounts”. There were 43.9 crore bank accounts in the country when Congress-led UPA came to power in 2004. This figure rose to 77.32 crore when Congress demitted office in 2014.

In effect for all the unabashed tall claims made by the Modi Government, 1/3rd of the total 24.10 Jan Dhan Accounts, in effect remain without any money in them.

The Modi government has forced banks to open crores of accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana, which remain unutilised. All Shri Modi achieved in these two years is forcing crores of people to open bank accounts. But people are asking what will they do with bank accounts when they have nothing to keep in the bank.

FUDGED GDP NUMBERS

- (3) There is broad skepticism about the reality of GDP data according to the new method of GDP calculation. Even the Governor of the RBI and the Government's Chief Economic Advisor expressed discomfort with the official data. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth at constant prices jumped from 7.2% in the December 2015 quarter to 7.9% in the March 2016 quarter. Experts all across believe the actual growth rate is in the neighbourhood of 5%.

FRAUDULENT "GIVE IT UP"

- (4) The Modi government has been carrying out a high decibel campaign 'GiveItUp', calling upon consumers to give up their LPG subsidies. Coupled with the direct bank transfers, the saving has been almost Rs. 22,000 crore, the government claims. However the CAG report tabled in Parliament has seriously punctured the claim. The audit has found that the saving from people voluntarily giving up LPG subsidy and direct bank transfers adds up to less than Rs. 2,000 crore. The remaining saving is actually thanks to the dramatic fall in the prices of LPG that India annually imports.

Manipulating figures, fudging data and falsifying so called 'achievements' has become the functioning style of Modi Government. Lies, deceit and trickery are the distinctive features through which Modi Government operates.

Be it fudging of GDP data, or the exaggerated figures of LPG connections, be it electrification of villages or the deletion of fake ration cards- Prime Minister has been fooling the nation through prevarication. Modi Ji unfortunately presides over a Government with only 'Event Management Skills', but in the absence of all fundamental facts and delivery, such event management becomes farcical and hollow.