

PRESS RELEASE

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Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC, has issued the following statement to the press today:-

"Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi describes Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as new neighbours. Suffering from selective amnesia qua complete blockade of social media and internet telephony for days together in BJP-ruled Gujarat/Maharashtra, failed curbs of his government on Net Neutrality and Encryption of Whatsapp/Facebook messenger etc.; Shri Modi is expressing his new found love for social media freedom.

Modi ji is laboring to present a new definition of development. PM is trying to make believe that merely by typing the words 'foodgrains' in Goggle, foodgrain stocks of 265 million tons will be posted on Instagram. Another Modi- make believe is of posting photographs of lush crops on Facebook translating into cheap foodgrains for 130 crore Indian. And if the story teller does not resort to theatrics thereafter and sheds a few tears, make believe story does not become interesting. While PM takes great pride on the sacrifices made by his mother in the past, he does not find time to meet her even once in 16 months (after the 16th May, 2014 election results) nor does he decide to ensure that she lived with him either in Chief Minister's residence for 12 years or in Prime Minister's residence for 16 months.

Prime Minister has crossed the real world into a make believe virtual world. It is for this reason that he is unable to see the ground realities across this wall made of arrogance of power. PM is unable to see the rapid down slide in industry and trade. He also can't see that farmers of India are facing abject misery on a bed of thorns. Rapid downfall in crop productivity, growing disappointment with falling employment and all round distress cannot be seen across the castles built in thin air of rhetoric and self promotion by our Prime Minister. Latest figures of Finance Ministry disclose that Agricultural Growth is down to 0.2%, Foodgrain Production has declined from 265 million tons to 252 million tons.

Core Infrastructure Industry Growth has narrowed to 2.4% in the first quarter of 2015-16 which was 8.7% in June, 2014. Cement production is down to 2.6% and Steel production has seen a decline in growth form 12% to 4.9%. Electricity production growth is down to barely 0.2%. Our exports have been falling at the rate of nearly 15%

for eight months in a row.

On the contrary, it is important to note that when Congress demitted power in 2014, not only was the 10 year growth rate averaging to 8% but even a new telecom/internet revolution, that PM now speaks about, had been unleashed with 992.4 million telecom consumers and over 75% teledensity.

Prime Minister must remember that while Instagram and India's 'GRAMS' (villages) may have a common phonetic sound but there is a marked distinction between virtual and actual reality. While India's 7.5 lakh villages are waiting to unleash their potential, there is little or nothing that Modi government has done for them.

By hiding the scams of his own government like Modigate, Vyapam, PDS Scam, Bank Scam, Mining Scam, Chikki Scam, Tender Scam running into thousands of crores; Prime Minister cannot define honesty, transparency and accountability.

Shri Modi must remember that 'self-praise is no recommendation'. Contrary has never witnessed a leader so in love with himself that he is blind to the National interest in his insatiable quest to project himself as the benefactor of all good things. Outcomes of the visit to 29 countries are few and far in between. Modi ji must remember that Indians didn't outshine everyone in the Silicon Valley in last 16 months but in last 16-20 years. He should have at least emulated the ilk of Pichai Sundar and Marc Zuckerberg with whom he interacted.”