

PRESS RELEASE

Yamuna Nagar. 1st Oct., 2017

Shelving Dadupur-Nalvi Project is a betrayal with farmers of Northern Haryana.

Decisive Fight for 'Justice' against Khattar Govt. Congress will revive and complete the Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project.

Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project is the life line of Northern Haryana and Congress Party will ensure its revival and completion on coming to power. Haryana's BJP Government has bartered the interests of farmers and time has come to raise a decisive battle for justice to uproot the Khattar Government from Haryana. This was stated by senior Congress leader & AICC Media Incharge, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala at Yamuna Nagar today while addressing a massive protest dharna organized by Haryana Kisan-Khet Mazdoor Congress – Haryana Kisan Congress – Bhartiya Kisan Union.

Thousands of farmers from Kurukshetra, Yamuna Nagar and Ambala converged at the dharna to register their vociferous protest against the decision of Khattar Government to shelve the Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project. A number of senior Party leaders including senior Ministers and Legislators joined the protest demonstration-cum-dharna.

Interestingly, leaders of Bhartiya Kisan Union, who were sitting on dharna for last 41 days, joined the protest enthusiastically, including Harpal Singh, Rajesh Dahiya, Babu Ram, Sukhbir, Arjun and scores of others.

Giving a clarion call to protect farmer's rights, Shri Surjewala said that Haryana's farmers will give a befitting reply to Khattar Government for this treachery and Congress Party will stand solidly behind the farmers' struggle for their rights. Describing the decision of BJP as another 'tughlaki farman', he said that close to a lakh hectare land of 225 villages of Ambala, Yamuna Nagar and Kurukshetra will be denied irrigation in a single stroke by this decision, proving once again the apathy of BJP to the interests of poor and farmers.

Addressing the agitated and angry farmers, Shri Surjewala reminded that Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project was started by Congress in the year 1985. In October, 2005; Congress restarted the Project and acquired 1019 acres of land for water recharging and irrigation through construction of Shahbad Feeder, Shahbad Distributory and Nalvi Distributory. He said that nearly 200 crore rupees have been paid in compensation for the land alone, besides spending another 111.70 crore rupees in construction of these canals. After spending over 300 crore rupees in restoring the underground water table and providing irrigation, Khattar Government is seeking to destroy the entire project on account of its myopic, parochial and anti-farmer's approach.

Shri Surjewala said that Khattar Government has now become infamous for its unthought and unconsidered 'tughlaki farmans'. Do the CM and his Government even understand that farmers will have to spend nearly 40 lakh rupees per acre in filling up the canal passing through their land, which is 58ft wide and 30ft deep? This is equivalent to the cost of one acre. In addition, BJP Government wants the farmers to repay entire compensation along with 15% interest per annum. This would mean that farmers will have to sell their remaining land or the Government will confiscate their property. Unfortunately, present Government does not even know that they have constructed a 10 KM road on the land acquired for the canal, besides constructing bridges for the National Highway. Will the Government now uproot the entire road network and newly constructed bridges of the National Highway constructed at the cost of crores of rupees of public money and change the alignment of the National Highway by seeking fresh permission from Forests, Environment and other agencies, Shri Surjewala asked? CM, Shri Khattar has even forgotten that the current government did not find any water in the ongoing Saraswati Canal Project. They executed a face saving formula by releasing water from Dadupur-Nalvi Canal in the Saraswati Project at Village 'Uncha Chandana', Yamuna Nagar. Shutting down the Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project would automatically mean shutting down of the Saraswati Canal Project, resulting into further insurmountable loss to the public exchequer.

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Describing the BJP Government as anti-farmers, Shri Surjewala lamented the lack of MSP in the paddy belt, pointing out that while 25% of paddy has already been sold, government procurement has not begun. He also added that PR paddy, whose MSP is Rs.1590 per qtl, has been sold at a distress sale price of Rs.1400 per qtl. He reminded people about the hostility of BJP Government by brutal lathi charge on farmers at Shahbad, when they were protesting against the distress fall in prices of potato to Rs.2/- per kg. Abrupt slump in the price of popular and eucalyptus from Rs.1200-1400 per qtl to Rs.600-800 in BJP Government has further destroyed the income of farmers, he said.

Former Shahbad MLA-Anil Dhantori, District Kisan Congress President-Satish Sangwan and prominent farmer leader, Shri Balwinder Sandhaya promised to continue this struggle relentlessly along with thousands of farmers present there.

Protest demonstration was addressed by senior leaders, including former Ministers and Ex-MLAs Bachan Singh Arya, Ramesh Gupta, Phool Singh Kheri, Pawan Diwan, Radhey Shyam Sharma, State Mahila Congress Chief – Smt. Sumitra Chauhan; PCC General Secretaries - Virender Rathore, Sanjay Chhokar, Suresh Yunuspur, Nahar Singh Sandhu, Ramesh Chaudhary and Satbir Bhana; prominent traders leader, Shri Suresh Gupta; President, State Kisan-Congress - Bhupinder Phogat; President State Krishak Samaj-Ishwar Nain as also prominent farmers leaders - Paramjit Rana, Rudra Pratap, Sachin, Rajesh Chaudhary, Mahabir Gujjar, Usha Kamal, Rajesh Sadhaura, Govind Sadhaura, Lucky Radoaur, Naresh Balmiki, Shiv Charan, Narender Pal Monti and others.