

Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala said Congress President while addressing the Steering Committee specially emphasized putting across a new vision, a new way forward and putting more focus on Congress policies and ideology with a renewed vigor. Congress Party particularly spoke about three important issues –

1. Congress President Shri Rahul Gandhi emphasized that composition of the All India Congress Committee must reflect a harmonious blend of experience of senior leaders and vitality and dynamism of the youth. He has emphasized the point that representation in the Congress Party hierarchy of women, of Members of the SC and STs and backward classes must be considered sacrosanct and a first priority.

2. While expressing deep concern on the jobless growth as also the on-going agrarian crises in the country. Congress President emphasized that for India either continuance of jobless growth or not addressing and empowering the farmers and farm laborers is no longer an option but mandatory and the only way for India to go forward.

3. Thirdly, but not lastly, Congress President also emphasized the challenges faced by the country as also the Congress Party both ideologically as also organizationally. Congress President particularly emphasized the fact that let Congress Party absorb the views and opinions from every nook and corner of India that will reach the entire hierarchy of then Party through this plenary session and that Congress Party will attempt to put up a vision and a view point as also a way forward for the country problems that the country faces today. Besides this, the Congress Working Committee had elaborate discussion and deliberations on the biggest bank loot scam that concerns the entire banking sector and its ability that threatens the security of money of 132 crore Indians lying with our banks and decided after deliberations to issue a statement asking certain deliverables from the PM and the Government and I take this opportunity to read these four paras of the statement of the Congress Steering Committee.

It says “Statement of Congress Steering Committee – India’s biggest bank scam has exposed the complete failure of regulatory mechanism and fraud detection ability of the entire banking sector and failure of oversight by the RBI and the Finance Ministry. The manner in which thousands of crores of public money was looted with impunity and the complete failure of the entire Risk Management System tells its own story of favours extended and protection granted. The truth is

that bank scam has exposed the culture of crony capitalism that has thrived and flourished under the watch of Modi Government.

Over the last 45 months, the BJP Government has shown Zero action and Zero result on bringing back black money stashed abroad as promised by the Prime Minister and in taking action against accused in multiple corruption scams that have been exposed. Zero tolerance for corruption has become Zero tolerance for accountability on corruption.

Repeated frauds under Modi Government's watch have given rise to grave concern among the people regarding the security of their money in banks. Nearly Rs. 6,000 crores bank of Baroda fraud was a case in point. What is worst – the swindlers of public funds have left India freely with the BJP Government and its agencies acting as silent bystanders. The great escape of Lalit Modi, Vijay Mallaya, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi and dozens of other accused of banking and other frauds are irrefutable examples of complicity at the highest echelons of power.

Congress Steering Committee calls upon Prime Minister to

1. Apprise the nation of complete facts about the biggest bank scam instead of remaining as usual silent. It must be brought out as to how entire banking system was duped through Letters of Understanding under the watch of Modi Government and why all authorities including Finance Ministry, FIU, SFIO, ED, CBI and others were found wanting in preventing the loss.
2. The Prime Minister must also tell the Nation as to how a fraud of this magnitude escaped the eyes of all the Auditors and Investigator including Statutory Audit, Internal Audit, Concurrent Audit and RBI's own audit.
3. The Prime Minister must tell the Nation the reasons for failure of the fraud detection ability of the entire banking sector and the Finance Ministry. The Prime Minister must also share with the Nation the action taken by PMO and other agencies and departments of the Government on the complaints made on the impending bank scam as early as on 7th of May 2015 and on numerous occasions thereafter.

These are important issues that need to be assured by Prime Minister and the BJP Government in the national interest as also to assure 132 crore Indians that the money deposited in the banks would be safe from such frauds as well as to assure the people that guilty will be apprehended, tried and punished in accordance with law.

This statement, after deliberation, was adopted by the Steering Committee unanimously.

Shri Surjewala also added that I am releasing to you a list of LOUs. The great mystery of LOUs is all here with me. So this great mystery now stands unveiled, who issued, when were they issued, which dates were issued, which bank they were issued, I am releasing to you a list of 367 LOUs which runs into close to I think Rs. 11,000 crore. I have not totaled, so please pardon me if my total is bit here or there but I have now got the entire list. It is being sent to you in four different annexure. It will have 8 LOUs in one, 146 LOUs in another, 143 LOUs in one more, 77 in one and one in one. I have tried to glance through dates of these LOUs which solve a whole lot of mystery that has been started over couple of days and all these LOUs are dated 2017 and 2018 and I do not know which one is 2011. I could not find any LOUs with life of which is 90 days extended to 6 months or 360 days by the bank. I could not find single LOU i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013. They are all 2017 and 2018. I am sure the Social Justice Minister, Law Minister, Human Resource Development Minister and we have Defence Minister added to the kitty and hopefully we will have the Road Transport Minister in a day or two coming forward to deliberate on these. They will tell you as to why they have not released such a list. The Congress Party is releasing to you along with this statement a list. This should set at rest the whole doubt of evidence that is being raised by Ministers who had nothing to do with the knowledge of the bank scam.

Question answers

On the question whether on plenary session [on 16th to 18th March 2018](#), decision to the elections to the CWC will be taken, Shri Surjewala said whenever such a decision, if at all it is taken, we shall inform you.

He also said that just to straight the facts, in 133 odd years of history of the Congress Party, including, if I may remind all you senior friends here, even when Subhash Chandra Bose Ji was elected twice, he was given the authority to have a Congress Working Committee of his choice except on 5 occasions and the best person who knows our history, I have verified from General Secretary (Administration) Shri Janardan Dwivedi Ji since he knows our history far better than I do. I think elections were held to CWC. So, perhaps you may also like to check those facts that 133 years they were held. Many things are deliberated in CWC I have pointed out the crux of what was deliberated in CWC to you. This Steering Committee principally met to decide the date of the plenary session. The dates of the plenary session as also the ideological way forward as also the policy focus of the Congress party has been decided. I have pointed out the three broad parameters of what was said by Congress Party and what was agreed to by the Members of the

Steering Committee. Except for that, whenever there is any further decision, I will be very happy to share the same with you.

The Congress Party had been talking democracy within the Party on the elections; Shri Surjewala said we consider all of you as an extended member of our family. Everybody believes in the inane ideas of India, is automatically a part of the Congress family for we are the defenders of that idea for 133 years. To answer your question, I also would want to you to correct to say that that we are all Gandhians. There is no non-Gandhian who has been President of the Indian National Congress and Subhash Chandra Bose Ji was not the son of Mahatma Gandhi Ji although Gandhi Ji always, despite the disagreements many times on ideological and organizational issues, treated him and many others closer than his own child. I also assure you we are the only party in the country on whose elections multiple questions and debates can happen. Has anybody heard ever an election being held for the post of President as far as Shri Amit Shah or any other person in BJP is concerned. The answer perhaps would be No and if a member of the BJP meeting Press person had asked the question perhaps Shri Amit Shah would be greatly offended but I would very respectfully say that I have checked the history which I have pointed out to another senior colleague's question, any further information that I have, I will be happy to share with you.