

## **PRESS RELEASE**

February 26, 2016

**Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition and Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC have issued the following statement to the press today:-**

“Unholy saga of ‘Tarun Bharat Mumbai Scam’ raises serious questions of flagrant and willful violation of law, blatant conflict of interest, negation of ‘Code of Conduct for Ministers’, non-disclosure of mandatory information in election affidavits by Union/State Ministers and murky dealings. Documents in public domain reflect specific involvement, complicity and role of BJP leadership that need to be answered to people of India.

**1. Extension of Loan by BJP to a For Profit Public Limited Company – Is it not a flagrant and willful violation of law?**

(i) Shree Multimedia Vision Limited (SMVL) is a ‘For Profit Public Limited Company’ incorporated on 18.01.2001. Annual Return of the Company dated 30.09.2013 reflecting shareholding (please see page-6) is attached as **Annexure A-1**. This Company owns and runs ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’.

(ii) Last Annual Return for the Financial Year 2012-13 of SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’ reflects a loan of Rs.25 lakh from BJP. A copy of this return is also attached as **Annexure A-2**. BJP has also stated that this loan was not returned by ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’ as “Company is out of business and it was not possible to return”.

(iii) Admittedly, SMVL also publishes ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’ from BJP Office at Chembur, Mumbai. ‘Tarun Bharat’/SMVL state that they have taken the BJP office on an ‘expenditure sharing basis’. Political parties never undertake commercial or rental activities from their offices.

(iv) Annual Return of SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’ also reflects Rs.20 lakh loan from ‘Keshav Kunj’. RSS headquarter at Jhandewalan, New Delhi is also known as ‘Keshav Kunj’. Will BJP/RSS tell whether this is a loan from RSS or another entity?

(v) ‘Bhartiya Darshan Vichar Trust’ has also given Rs.20 lakh loan to SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’. Admittedly, this Trust is also headquartered at BJP Office at Chembur, Mumbai (as disclosed to media). Is this a BJP Trust? What is the source of funds? Do these funds also belong to BJP? If it is not a BJP Trust, how is it operated from BJP Office?

(vi) Will Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley explain as to whether extension of loan to 'For Profit' public limited companies by political parties does not violate the provisions of Income Tax Act and other laws? Is it appropriate for a political party to hire out its political office for commercial purposes? (Please see FM, Shri Arun Jaitley's blog dated 10.12.2015), which is attached herewith as **Annexure A-2A**.

## 2. **Blatant Conflict of Interest**

(i) Shri Vinod Tawde, Former BJP President and Education & Culture Minister and Marathi Bhasha Minister, Maharashtra, has been Director of SMVL i.e. owner of 'Mumbai Tarun Bharat' along with its Editor, Shri Dilip Karambelkar. Business Association of Vinod Tawde and Dilip Karambelkar is well known. Both Shri Tawde and Shri Karambelkar have also been Directors in 'Shrirang Printers'. Shri Vinod Tawde also owns shares in 'Jan Kalyan Sahkari Bank', where Smt. U.D. Karambelkar, wife of Shri Dilip Karambelkar, is a Director.

(ii) On becoming Minister for Education and Marathi Bhasha in Maharashtra government, Shri Vinod Tawde appointed Shri Dilip Karambelkar as Head of Maharashtra State Marathi and Encyclopedia Production Board (MSMEPB) i.e. a public office with elaborate perks and privileges.

What is shocking is that Government had put up four names for consideration to appoint as President/Chairman of MSMEPB and 24 names for appointment as Members. Name of Shri Dilip Karambelkar was not among these 24 names at all. Copies of the notings of Government file are attached herewith as **Annexure A-3**. Despite this, vide instructions of Shri Vinod Tawde, Shri Dilip Karambelkar was appointed as President/Chairman of MSMEPB. Copies of the relevant notings are also attached herewith as **Annexure A-4**. Shockingly, notings also reflect that they were not approved even by the Chief Minister, Maharashtra at the time of appointment.

(iii) Shri Vinod Tawde had proceeded to appoint his business partner and a known RSS man, Dilip Karambelkar to a public office without even his name having been considered or selected by the government. Conflict of interest and illegal appointment to public office is, thus, writ large.

## 3. **Negation of Code of Conduct for Ministers**

(i) 'Code of Conduct for Ministers' (both Union and States) issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India requires that a Minister must sever all connections with the conduct and management of any business in which he was interested before his appointment as Minister. Clause 1(b) is reproduced below:-

“(b) Sever all connections, sort of divesting himself of the ownership, with

the conduct and management of any business in which he was interested before his appointment as minister.”

(ii) Shri Vinod Tawde continues as Director of SMVL till today as per the latest documents available with Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Not only this, he is also Director of four other companies i.e. ‘Shrirang Printers Private Limited’, ‘Tawde Nalwde Buildwell Private Limited, ‘Nashik Marine Feeds Private Limited’ and ‘Innovative Offshoring Private Limited’. Copy of the relevant documents is attached herewith as **Annexure A-5**.

(iii) Flagrant violation of Code of Conduct is, thus, writ large, Will BJP as also Chief Minister, Shri Devender Fadnavis explain the reasons for inaction against Shri Vinod Tawde, both on account of blatant conflict of interest and flagrant violation of Code of Conduct for Ministers.

**4. Non-disclosure of Mandatory Information in Election Affidavits by Shri C. Udai Bhaskar Nair (BJP leader & shareholder of SMVL) as also Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister (share holder of SMVL).**

(i) Shri C. Udaibhaskar Nair, owner of SMVL is also a BJP leader, who contested the election on BJP ticket from Palakkad Assembly Constituency in Kerala. A copy of his election affidavit is attached herewith as **Annexure A-6**. In Ann.-2 of Annexure A-6 containing details of investment in shares, he has conveniently forgotten to explain that he owns over 50% stake in SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’.

Incidentally, list of donors of BJP for Financial Year 2008-09 also reflects Shri C. Udai Bhaskar Nair as a donor at Sr. No. 81 and his company ‘Ravi Nair Hospital’ as a donor at Sr.No.78. Copy of this document is attached as Annexure A-7. Interestingly, a news report dated 19.12.2013 in public domain also reflects that ‘Orange City Hospital & Research Institute, Nagpur’, which is owned by ‘Ravi Nair Hospital’ (company of C. Udaibhaskar Nair) has been accused of illegally occupying land sanctioned for road. Copy of this news item is also attached as **Annexure A-8**. Will BJP explain this entire set of financial transactions and allegations?

(ii) Similarly, Union Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari as also Shri Ravindra Boratkar (President of Purti Group of Companies of Shri Gadkari) are also shareholders of SMVL (please see A-1, page-6). In the election affidavit dated 28.03.2014, Shri Nitin Gadkari has also omitted to mention his shareholdings in SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’. Copy of this election affidavit is attached herewith as **Annexure A-9**. In hindsight, Shri Gadkari is trying to explain this omission by stating that it was put under miscellaneous investments. Will Shri Gadkari publicly disclose the details of these investments to put the facts in proper perspective?

(iii) Why is it that most of the shareholders of SMVL named above have omitted to mention their shareholdings in SMVL i.e. owner of ‘Mumbai Tarun Bharat’ altogether? It raises unanswered questions about propriety thereof.

## 5. Questionable Dealings

(i) Balance Sheet of SMVL i.e. owner of Mumbai Tarun Bharat for Financial Year 2012-13 (Annexure A-2) also reflects that one Shri Vilayati Ram Mittal has also extended a loan of Rs.15 lakh to SMVL.

(ii) Surprisingly, report of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) reflects that Shri Vilayati Ram Mittal is a builder, who is being investigated by Anti-Corruption Bureau. List of contractors debarred by DDA also contains name of 'M/s Vilayati Ram Mittal' and another of his concern 'M/s VRM (India) Limited'. Copies of these two documents are attached herewith as **Annexure A-10**. Shri Vilayati Ram Mittal is also a contractor of NHAI, who is executing Lucknow-Kanpur section of the road. Copy of this document is also attached as **Annexure A-11**. In the past, there have been ongoing litigations between CBI and Shri Narender Mittal son of Shri Vilayati Ram Mittal. Copy of one such judgment dated 26.10.2013 is attached as **Annexure A-12**. Is it fair and proper for a company and newspaper being operated from BJP office to receive funds from individuals/companies with questionable record?

Indian National Congress demands that BJP makes a full disclosure of facts on the above and related issues, Prime Minister and Shri Nitin Gadkari explain the non-disclosure as also complete nature of his relationship with the aforementioned entities and Maharashtra CM, Shri Devender Fadnavis should forthwith sack Shri Vinod Tawde and makes the full facts in public domain. BJP leadership should also make a full disclosure statement to people of the country.”