

PRESS RELEASE

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

India's '**National Security**' stands gravely compromised with shocking leak of entire design plan and specifications of '**Scorpene Submarines**' containing 22,400 pages of '**Project 75**' carrying emblem of the Indian Navy on leaked documents. It is the biggest defence disaster of recent times. This scandalous leak has put a question mark on India's maritime security and jeopardized the sole initiative to build six Scorpene Submarines of French company DCNS at a cost of US\$ 3.5 Billion (Rs.23,500 Crore approximately) being built presently by Government owned 'Mazagaon Dock Ship Builders Ltd' at Mumbai.

Disturbing and disquieting details of the leaks of Scorpene Submarines include: (i) 4301 pages of Combat Management System and 493 pages of specifications of Torpedo Launch System; (ii) Secret stealth capabilities of the 6 submarines; (iii) 4457 pages of submarine's underwater sensors & 4209 pages of submarine's above water sensors; (iv) 6841 pages of submarine's communication systems; (v) Diving depth, range and endurance; (vi) Magnetic, electromagnetic and infra red data; (vii) Frequencies at which they gather intelligence; (viii) Details of speed & conditions needed for using the periscope; (ix) Noise specifications of the propeller; (x) Radiated noise levels that occur when submarine surfaces; (xi) Level of noise at various speeds; (xii) Places where submarine crew can speak to avoid detection.

Despite the '**Himalayan blunder**' that has deeply hurt India's defence preparedness, Modi Government / Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parriker are indulging in '**operation cover up**' instead of fixing responsibility. To the dismay of all concerned, Defence Minister and Indian Navy to have spoken in contradictory voices. Shri Parriker continues to describe the leaks as 'hacking'. Indian Navy states that 'source of leaks is overseas and not in India'. Government has gone on an over drive describing the leaks as 'old information' to 'damage not substantial' and 'operation capabilities not compromised'.

On the contrary, French Company DCNS, while assuring Australians of fail proof security, has clearly hinted that leak may have taken place in India by stating, 'Multiple and independent controls exist with DCNS to prevent unauthorised access to data and all data movements are encrypted and recorded. In the case of India, where a DCNS design is built by a local company, DCNS is the provider and not the controller of technical data'.

What's even more appalling is that entire details have been uploaded online but except indulging in a mutual blame game or underplay this stunning breach Modi Government or Defence Minister has done little else. With a coastline of 7517 Kilometres to defend with merely 13 submarines and one nuclear submarine, Government appears to live in denial.

This alarming situation requires a complete 'security audit' of Mazagaon Dock Ship Builders Limited, Mumbai as also of the Defence Ministry. Such a security audit/commission of enquiry will only establish the source of the leak, which cannot be established by a mere denial on part of either the Defence Minister or the Indian Navy. It is in fact intriguing as to how 'clean chits' are being meted out without conducting a proper enquiry. For such an enquiry to be fair, it has to be headed by an independent neutral authority of the level of a sitting Supreme Court Judge with officials of the Armed Forces, Naval and Military Intelligence, IB or other specialized agencies as its members.

Prime Minister and Defence Minister also need to take the Nation into confidence as to how do they propose to deal with protecting the maritime security as also ensuring that 'Project 75' for building of six 'Scorpene Submarines' is not negated in toto and rendered completely useless leaving our coastline vulnerable to hostile neighbours including the six submarines that may be manufactured open to being neutralized by hostile attack and thereby defeating the very purpose of their acquisition. Prime Minister and Defence Minister must also tell the Nation as to what action being proposed vis-à-vis the French Company DCNS, which appears to blame the Indian establishment for the leaks, besides protecting the interest of public exchequer qua the fund outflows worth US\$ 3.5 Billion.

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Pariker cannot brush these issues under the carpet. Responsibility of political executive, bureaucrats and officers need to be affixed for the unprecedented leaks that have harmed National interest irreparably