

PRESS RELEASE

Nov. 12, 2015

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

"PM UK VISIT AND DEPORTATION OF LALIT MODI

On his 30th visit abroad, the Prime Minister is in the United Kingdom today. While independent analysis has established to a large extent that his visits abroad are little more than over hyped self promotion events, involving managed tamashas, his visit this time can fetch a lot for the country in terms of concrete achievements.

The Congress Party hopes and demands that the Prime Minister takes up the issue of deporting the proclaimed criminal and fugitive of Indian law, Lalit Modi with his British counterpart, and ensures his deportation to India at the earliest.

The Prime Minister is aware that the incessant lies of his colleagues, M/s Sushma Swaraj and Vasundhara Raje with an aim to protect Lalit Modi have been exposed thoroughly. FM, Shri Arun Jaitley has only confounded the confusion. Even the Prime Minister himself can't make further excuses by hiding behind technicalities of extradition laws.

The Prime Minister will be well advised to get Lalit Modi back and ensure that the forthcoming session of Parliament runs smoothly. Any renegeing on this front, will only go ahead to establish that, as we have been saying, in this entire murky game of ModiGate, Bada Modi is protecting Chhota Modi.

OROP

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OROP protest by ex-servicemen has reached 151st day today. Ex-servicemen have returned and burnt 22,000 war medals till today and another 10,000 are being returned over next 24

hours. Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parikar humiliates India's ex-servicemen by describing their conduct "as unlike of soldiers". Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has not found time to even meet up and listen to their grievances. On the contrary, BJP government and Delhi police even tried to forcibly evict and humiliate ex-servicemen at Jantar Mantar on 14th August, 2015. Nearly 30 lakh ex-servicemen are pained, appalled and anguished by the maltreatment and indifference of Modi government to their demands.

On 7th November, 2015; Modi government issued a notification qua 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP), which has decimated all hopes of implementation of OROP acceptable to serving and retired soldiers of the three armed forces in India. Copy of the notification is attached as **Annexure A-1** to the press release.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and BJP government must answer the following:-

1. Notification dated 7th November, 2015 denies benefit of OROP to nearly 30-40% of service personnel of the three armed forces as it denies benefit of OROP to all '**premature retirees**'. Clause 4 of the 7th November, 2015, notification states that, "4. Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth **on their own request** under Rule 13(3)1(i) (b),13(3)1(iv) or Rule 16B of the Army Rule 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP."

Is the BJP government immune to the fact that almost all junior ranks, particularly jawans/junior commissioned officers retire by the age of 40 years? Only 30% officers get selected as colonel. Majority of the remaining officers seek premature retirement on completion of 20 years of service. Number of personnel seeking premature retirement is also about 30-40%. To deny benefit of OROP to all serving personnel of the three armed forces is a cruel injustice. It also artificially creates two classes within the armed forces i.e. one who retired before 1st July, 2014 who will get benefit of OROP and those retiring after 1st July, 2014 including all serving personnel of the three armed forces, who will not get benefit of OROP. It is neither logical nor just.

Prime Minister celebrates Diwali with our Army men but commits gross injustice with the same people on Diwali by denying them the benefit of OROP.

2. Why has Modi government rejected the six demands of our 30 lakh ex-servicemen?

Instead of back petting and chest thumping, why does the government not ponder over the unilateral rejection of OROP announcement by ex-servicemen?

3. What is sacrosanct about Ist July, 2014 for implementing OROP? Why is the government not implementing OROP w.e.f. Ist April, 2014 as decided by Congress-led UPA government? Why is Modi government denying benefit to ex-servicemen only by refusing to honour the date of implementation for OROP fixed by the Congress-led UPA?

4. Why has the government put a conditionality of review of pension after five years and not two years as was being demanded by the veterans?

5. Why should a one member committee review the OROP rather than a five member committee comprising of the stakeholders i.e. retired and serving ex-servicemen?

6. Under formula of OROP decided by Congress Party, our ex-servicemen would have got pension based on 'highest salary'. Under the current formula, pension would be decided based on the average of 'lowest and highest salary'. Why has the Modi government put our ex-serviceman at a disadvantage by this lopsided formula which will lead to disparity of pension amongst different pensioners?

7. BJP President, Shri Amit Shah arrogantly mocks at Congress Party for allocating an initial amount of Rs.500 crore by calling it a 'joke'. Does he not know that BJP's Finance and Defence Minister on 10th July, 2014 allocated only Rs.1,000 crore as OROP amount for the entire financial year 2014-15? Does it mean that BJP's Budget speech was a mere joke and an attempt to ridicule ex-servicemen?

8. BJP government only spent 87.2% of Defence budget in the financial year 2014-15. Against the Defence budget of Rs.2,29,000 crore, Modi government could spend only Rs.1,93,923 crore, thereby surrendering nearly Rs.25,077 crore. Could this money not have been utilized for grant of OROP? Was this money surrendered only on account of dishonesty on part of BJP in implementation of OROP?

Congress party demands that BJP and Prime Minister come clean on the issue, talk to protesting ex-servicemen and undo the artificial division being created for denial of OROP

to serving soldiers of the three armed forces.

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