

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**July 14, 2017**

### **Statement of Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, MLA, Media Incharge, AICC**

#### **Indo-China Border standoff and the Meeting convened today**

Over last three years, Indian National Congress has repeatedly demanded that BJP Government takes the Opposition into confidence on issues involving National security. We reiterated this demand on 30<sup>th</sup> June as the current Indo-China Border standoff in Bhutan raised grave concerns and serious implications for National security.

Indian National Congress again reiterates that on issues of India's security, entire country has to act as a unified pole. We shall support the government in every endeavour to defend our National interests. During the 10 years of UPA government, Congress Party always ensured that the opposition leaders were briefed on every such issue. Pursuant to our demand, it is satisfying to note that government has woken up after three years to brief the Opposition parties on the current and emergent issues facing the Nation and has convened a meeting.

Indian National Congress shall attend the meeting. We shall ask the government to share full information about background and situation that exists on Indo-China as also on Bhutanborder where the standoff continues. We shall also ask the government to clarify all implications for our National security and the necessary steps being taken in protecting our National interests.

If the need arises, Congress Party leaders shall make a more detailed statement after the meeting.

#### **FDI in Retail**

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will chair a meeting today to review India's 'Foreign Direct Investment' (FDI) policy amidst news reports that government is considering relaxing FDI norms in retail and also bring FDI in single-brand retail under the automatic route.

Congress Party wants to remind that UPA government took a series of steps to liberalize the economy, including permitting 51% FDI in multi-brand retail without hurting the Indian producers, small scale industries or the wholesale or retail trade and even restricted this to major metropolitan cities.

May we remind the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and BJP that it is BJP, which virulently opposed the FDI in retail.

- On 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2012; Shri Narendra Modi opposed FDI in retail stating that, "It would immensely harm small shopkeepers, hit the domestic manufacturers and create joblessness. It would also mean that cheap goods produced outside will be dumped into our Nation".
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2012; BJP moved a motion in Lok Sabha opposing 51% FDI in multi-brand retail, which was defeated.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2013; the then Leader of Opposition of BJP & present Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley stated that BJP will fight FDI in retail 'till last breath'.

We have seen a lot of talk on investment, but minimum results in three years of BJP government. No wonder that over 71 FDI proposals running into a few billion US\$ are pending since 2015. This speaks volume about ease of doing business. What is even more shocking is that private investment is the lowest in last 25 years. We hope that Prime Minister will move beyond rhetoric to ensure growth in investment climate in India.