

Statement Issued by Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, In-charge, Communications, AICC. 12th October, 2016

The belligerent chest thumping by the BJP on the issue of surgical strike is unending and the nasty attempts at political and electoral gains has brought disgrace to the traditions and culture of governance of our country. The RSS and BJP President, Sh. Amit Shah has publicly declared their intentions to make political capital out of the surgical strikes.

First, Defence Minister, Sh. Manohar Parrikar claimed that Modi Govt had 'made the army realize its prowess and strength ' for the first time. Going a step further, Sh. Amit Shah lied to the Nation and disgracefully undermined the sacrifice of our armed forces by proclaiming that 'Army has crossed the LOC for the first time in 68 years' under Modi Government.

Not to be outdone, Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar today on two occasions has made remarks which we vehemently dismiss and strongly condemn. It does not behoove a defence minister to insult the service, sacrifice and valor of the Indian Armed forces by shamelessly denying the factum of earlier 'surgical strikes' by Indian Army to defend the Nation.

Blinded by political vote garnering out of the blood and sacrifice of our soldiers, Mr. Parrikar is unabashedly lying & misleading the people of India. Defence Minister is free to give credit to anyone but should abstain from undermining the huge sacrifices made by our armed forces in last 68 years.

Shri Parrikar should immediately apologize for his statement insulting our armed forces, denying their supreme sacrifice during multiple surgical strikes and in defending the nation.

Today his statements have insulted war veterans and ex-servicemen along with all those para military and police personnel. Does he mean that those who fought the great wars of 1947, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999 had no courage and deserved no credit?

Those who participated in operation Ginger held in 2011 as also before and thereafter are valued members of our forces and some of them are still serving. Shri Parrikar has dangerously attempted to belittle their contribution and is dividing the forces on political lines.

This distasteful commentary, unending public felicitations of the Defence Minister in Goa, Agra & Lucknow and converting 'national security' into an 'event management' exercise to polish the image of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi is an unfortunate attempt and reflects desperation on the part of BJP.

We urge the ruling dispensation to show maturity and gravitas in handling such crucial issues of 'National Security' and sacrifice of our soldiers.

Onus lies at the door step of PM, Sh. Narendra Modi to come forward, tame his belligerent Defence Minister and BJP President, apologize to the armed forces on their behalf and publicly vow to never make political capital of army's sacrifice.