

PRESS RELEASE

Oct. 08, 2015

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

“Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi – BJP – RSS are infamous for Anti-Dalit and Anti-Scheduled Tribes policies, ideology, decisions and mannerism. Subjugation and annihilation of rights of the deprived classes, particularly Scheduled Castes – Scheduled Tribes – Backward Classes, is ingrained in the BJP – RSS mindset manifested by the thought process and action of none less than the Prime Minister of the country.

Modi – BJP – RSS stood exposed with the call given by RSS Sarsanghchalak, Shri Mohan Bhagwat for review of ‘Reservation Policy for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes’. (<http://post.jagran.com/Mohan-Bhagwat-pitches-for-review-of-quota-policy-1442812764>).

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and BJP government at the Centre have taken this policy many steps forward by systematically withdrawing schemes favouring SCs/STs/BCs and imposing budgetary cuts.

Shri Narendra Modi’s track record, both as Prime Minister and as Gujarat Chief Minister, establishes his Anti Dalit – Anti ST credentials, which is apparent from the following:-

1. ANTI DALIT – ST POLICIES OF UNION BJP GOVERNMENT UNDER SHRI NARENDRA MODI

(i) Budgetary Cuts in Welfare Schemes for SC/STs

Modi government has dealt a body blow to all welfare schemes relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes across India by imposing sharp budgetary cuts. **A budgetary cut of Rs.19,734 crore in ‘Scheduled Castes Sub Plan’ and Rs.12,406 crore in ‘Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan’ has been imposed** in the Union Budget for 2015-16 as compared to the Union Budget for 2014-15 (interim budget for 2014-15 was presented by Congress-led UPA government).

Budget for welfare of Scheduled Castes under ‘SC Sub Plan’ has been **reduced from Rs.50,548 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.30,850 crore in 2015-16**. Similarly, budget for welfare of Scheduled Tribes under ‘ST Sub Plan’ has been **reduced from Rs.32,386 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.19,980 crore in 2015-16**.

Guidelines under these two programmes clearly provide that Scheduled Castes should be allocated 16.60% of the Plan Outlay which comes to Rs.77,236 crore under 'SC Sub Plan'. Similarly, Scheduled Tribes are entitled to get 8.6% of Plan Outlay which amounts to Rs.40,014 crore towards 'ST Sub Plan'. If examined on this parameter, Modi government has reduced allocation for Dalits by 61% and for Tribals by 53%.

(ii) Allocation for Women Specific Schemes under SC/STs Sub Plan reduced drastically.

On one hand, PM Modi speaks of making women as equal partners but on the other hand, Modi government has treated SC/ST women more cruelly. Allocation for 'Woman Specific Schemes' under 'SC Sub Plan' is a meager Rs.73.70 crore i.e. 0.23% of the total budget. Similarly, allocation for 'Woman Specific Schemes' under 'ST Sub Plan' is a pittance of Rs.40 crore i.e. 0.20% of the total budget.

(iii) Deliberate cuts on SC/STs Education

Baba Saheb Ambedkar to Mahatma Gandhi recognized need of 'Education' as a single most important tool for ensuring equality and justice for SC/ST/BCs. Union BJP government under Shri Narendra Modi has deliberately faulted on this account too. Allocation for 'Education' under 'SC Sub Plan' has declined to Rs.10,194 crore and Rs.5,486 crore under 'ST Sub Plan'. To add insult to the injury, funds in the critical 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme' for SC/STs have been reduced from Rs.1,904.78 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.1599 crore in 2015-16. All this reflects the Anti-Dalit mindset of BJP government.

(iv) Permitting SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Ordinance, 2014 to lapse deliberately

Previous Congress government had issued SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Ordinance on 04.03.2014 for amending the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 with a view to add certain new categories of actions as offences like forcing an individual from SC community to vote or to not vote, occupying land belongs to SC community illegally, ignoring duty by public servant relating to SCs, STs etc. Modi government inherited two ordinances i.e. the aforementioned ordinance and the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014. While Securities Laws Ordinance was enacted as a law, ordinance favouring SC/STs was allowed to lapse deliberately by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and his government. Resultantly, it is still awaiting

to be passed as a law by Parliament reflecting their Anti Dalit – ST mindset.

(v) Abolition of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) meant for 250 Backward Districts including special provision for Bihar, J&K and Odisha.

In 2007, Union Congress government started a scheme for helping the deprived sections of society by creating a Special Fund called ‘Backward Region Grant Fund’ (BRGF) for 250 Backward districts of India. Scheme had a special component for States of Bihar, J&K and Odisha. In 2014-15, a budget of Rs.6,238 crore (out of which SC/ST component was Rs.2,076 crore) was specially allocated for this purpose. These 250 Backward districts are essentially SC/ST/BC population districts. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has abolished the ‘BRGF Scheme’ in the Union Budget for 2015-16 altogether.

2. ANTI DALIT – ST MINDSET, POLICIES AND DECISIONS OF SHRI NARENDRA MODI AS GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER

(i) In November, 2007; a collection of Shri Narendra Modi’s speeches to IAS officers at various points of time were compiled in a book form titled ‘**Karamyog**’. 5000 copies of this 101 pages book were got printed by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation. In the Chapter titled ‘Sadhna Parva’ on pages 48 and 49, Shri Modi stated as follows:-

“I do not believe that they (Valmiki) have been doing this job to sustain their livelihood. Had this been so, they would not have continued with this type of work generation after generation. At some point of time, somebody must have got the enlightenment that it is their (Valmiki’s) duty to work for the happiness of the entire society and the gods; that they would have to do this job bestowed upon them by gods; and that this job of cleaning up could continue as an unintentional spiritual activity for centuries. This should have continued generation after generation. It is impossible to believe that their ancestors did not have the choice of adopting any other work or job.”

A copy of the relevant extract of the book is attached as **Annexure ‘A’ and ‘A-1’** to this press release.

(ii) On 30-04-2010, at a function organized for release of book titled ‘**Samajik Samrashta**’, the then Gujarat CM, Shri Narendra Modi drew parallels

between '*mentally retarded children*' and '*dalits*'. He stated that just as people give special treatment to '*mentally retarded children*' when they visit their houses, the '*dalits*', too, ought to be treated the same way.

(iii) Under the orders of Planning Commission of India issued as per cumulative decision by all the States in National Development Council, each State is required to have a **Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)** as also **Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan (STSP)**. Chairman of the Committee for SCSP and STSP is Chief Minister of a State. In State of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi never held a meeting of SC Sub Plan or ST Sub Plan since 2004 till demission of office by him in 2014 i.e. for 10 years. Consequently, the policy was intentionally not implemented on account of Anti-Dalit – ST mindset of Shri Narendra Modi and his government.

(iv) As per Planning Commission, a percentage of total budget of the State equivalent to proportionate population of SCs is to be earmarked. In State of Gujarat, population of SCs is 14% while government allocation of budget for SCs under Shri Narendra Modi never exceeded 5.42%.

(v) As Shri Narendra Modi demitted office of Gujarat CM to take over as India's Prime Minister, there was a backlog of 27,900 vacancies of SCs and STs in the State of Gujarat. Even in the city and district of Ahmedabad, from where Shri Narendra Modi had been elected to Assembly, as many as 3,125 SC students were not given their SC scholarship also till 2014.

(vi) By a decision and in order to deny benefit of 73rd Amendment to the Constitution to dalits, Gujarat government, under Shri Narendra Modi, did not provide any reservation for SCs in as many as 600 villages out of a total of 12,000 villages in the 2012 Panchayati Raj elections.

(vii) Under Shri Narendra Modi, Gujarat had a lopsided reservation policy of district-wise reservation. Surprisingly and under a strange system in Gujarat, District instead of State had been made the unit of implementation of reservation policy. Inter-district filling of vacancies under reserve categories was not allowed denying lakhs of job opportunities to *dalits* and backward classes, which went unfilled on account of ban on inter-district movement of qualified candidates. Position continues till date.

(viii) As many as 2.5 lakh persons had been appointed on 11 months contract basis on fixed salary by Shri Narendra Modi. No rule of reservation was followed by him in making these appointments.

Instead of projecting himself as the Messiah of Dalits – STs – Backward Classes, Prime Minister – Shri Narendra Modi is carrying forward the RSS ideology of denying social justice and subjugating these deprived sections. We demand an apology from Shri Narendra Modi – Bhartiya Janata Party – RSS for their Anti Dalit – ST – BC policies, decisions and mindset.”

