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UPA responsible for worst ever economic crisis, terrorism: Rajnath

Governments, he said the Party after coming to power will settle this issue too by granting citizenship rights to these most deprived sections of the society and added that BJP will frame a relief and rehabilitation policy for refugees.

He also called for nomination of candidates from PoK refugees to 24 seats in State Assembly which have been reserved for them by keeping vacant.

He hailed the Panchs and Sarpanchs of the State for taking bold stand against militancy and expressed concern over State Government's failure in implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment to empower the Panchayats and local bodies in the State.

Justifying the Party's demand of proposing general elections in the country, Mr Singh said if the UPA continues in the office the crisis will further deepen in the country because the things have gone beyond their control now. Keeping this thing in mind the BJP has appealed the President of India Mr Pranab Mukherjee that general elections be proposed to save the country from further crisis.

Making a strong dig at Congress, he said it was responsible for prevailing economic crisis and ridiculed the Party for holding BJP responsible for the same. He said in 2004 when BJP was ousted from power, the GDP growth was 8.4 which has now reduced to 4.4. This is a cause of concern for all. It has for the first time happened in the history of world anywhere which too in India that Government has held the opposition responsible for the economic crisis in the country, he added.

He said not BJP but Congress was responsible for disrupting the Parliament as opposition members were not given the chance to raise the corruption issues on the floor of the House.

He said the currency no where in the world has devalued so low against dollar except Indian rupee. This will lead to hike in prices of petrol and petroleum products. Besides, the food security Bill will also lead to price rise, he added.

He wanted to know does PM want to improve economy on basis of foreign investment.

In response to a question regarding declaration of Narinder Modi as Prime Ministerial candi-

date, Mr Singh said the decision will be taken by BJP's Parliamentary Board at proper time.

About present deteriorating situation in J&K, he said that J&K has many problems and the solution to them has to be found by State Government.

Responding to a question whether the Party is considering the re-entry of seven expelled MLAs into its fold again, BJP chief said that he has given its state unit full powers to take a decision in this regard.

On Aasa Ram Babu issue, he said that law will take its own course and he has nothing to say further in this regard.

Mr Singh during the Press conference was flanked by BJP national general secretary, J P Nadda, Party MP and in charge J&K Avinash Roy Khanna, state president, Jugal Kishore Sharma, former presidents of the Party Ashok Khajuria, Dr Nirmal Singh and Shamsheer Singh Manhas, BJP chief spokesperson and National Executive Member Dr Jitendra Singh, MLAs Ch Shyam and Sukhmandan Kumar and senior vice president Chander Parkash Ganga.

Insiders in the convention told the Excelsior that Ambika Soni directed the party Ministers to shun the tag of being constituency specific and behave as Ministers of entire State. She called upon them to start touring the State along with senior functionaries of the party and strengthen the Congress in every nook and corner of the State.

Not only this, Ambika Soni, who was on first visit to the State after being appointed as AICC (I) general secretary, Incharge Jammu and Kashmir is understood to have expressed surprise and serious concern over the fact that the party leaders were raising same issues in 2013 which she had heard from them in 2002 when she was also Incharge of J&K.

"I had come here to listen about Food Security Bill, Land Acquisition Bill, passed recently by the Lok Sabha. Here, the situation is totally different. I am hearing the issues, which I used to listen in 2002. We are in power in the State for last 11 years now (since 2002). What we have done? Why our Ministers have failed to get these issues addressed while being in the Government? This is very unfortunate situation," she reportedly said taking the party Ministers to task in an angry tone.

Party insiders said Ms Soni was highly critical of the party Ministers having miserably failed to get the issues of 1947, 1965 and 1971 refugees addressed prompting the convention to pass a strong resolution in support of the demand of PoK and West Pakistani refugees. She directed the Ministers to get all issues of all refugees addressed within two months with legal cover.

She went on: "what has happened to our party Ministers and leaders? I met a large number of delegations since arriving here yesterday afternoon. The delegations said they have been losing faith on Ministers. Their works are not being done. This is sorry state of affairs".

Ambika Soni is said to have directed the party Ministers, leaders and workers to hold rallies in all 87 Assembly segments and maintain liaison with the people to fare well in the upcoming Parliament and Assembly elections. She cautioned the

Cong anticipates early Assembly polls, to contest all 87 seats; targets win in 50

senior party functionaries that if they failed to improve the party prospectus in next two months she would be forced to give responsibility to the Youth Congress.

Meanwhile, a very senior Congress leader and a strong contender for the post of Chief Ministership in case the party stormed to power in next Assembly elections, reportedly told the convention, that the State Government was preparing to hold early Assembly elections. A senior party functionary quoted the top party leader as saying that the elections could be held in the next few months. His indication was interpreted that Assembly and Lok Sabha elections could be held simultaneously in the State i.e. in April-May.

On points raised by some party leaders that Congress agenda was not being implemented in the present dispensation, he reportedly said that the party agenda would be implemented only when the party formed its Government in the State.

Virtually ruling out any pre-poll alliance with National Conference, he was said to have called upon the party leaders to brace up for contesting all 87 Assembly seats in the State during the elections and fixed the target of winning at least 50 seats, six more than the simple majority in the Lower House, which would help the party form the Government on its own.

The party veteran reportedly said in the convention that the Congress was very well poised in five districts of Jammu region including Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur, where, he claimed, the party was in a position to win majority of seats provided that a little more attention was paid there.

However, he anticipated a stiff contest in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch with "two regional parties" (NC and PDP) apart from BJP. He called upon the Congress cadre to pay more focus on these five districts to garner maximum seats from there.

As the convention was confined to Jammu region, the Congress leader didn't give analysis of Kashmir and Ladakh regions.

He was said to have asked the senior party leaders not to air comments on functioning of the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in public. It may be mentioned that some organisations have been supporting while others were opposing the VDCs after August 9 Kishtwar riots.

The BJP and the NPP have openly been backing the VDCs.

Insiders said the statement of the Congress veteran that the NC was bracing up for early polls and that Assembly elections could be held in the next few months took many party leaders by surprise as they had been anticipating that Assembly polls would be held on time.

He reportedly called upon the party cadre to brace up to make a Congressman as the next Chief Minister in the State so that agenda of the party was implemented.

Sources said party veteran dropped enough hints in the convention that the Congress was going to make a determined bid to form next

Government in the State on its own.

While Parliament elections were due in April-May next year as new Lok Sabha had to be constituted before the middle of June, the Assembly elections were due in November-December 2014 as new Assembly had to be constituted before January 5, 2015.

Former Minister and Inderlud MLA Ghulam Mohammad Saroori reportedly agitated over neglect of erstwhile Doda district by the present Government as well as Congress. Pointing towards a party office bearer and MLC, he reportedly said the Congress leader, who had secured 50 votes in last Assembly elections have been made office bearers while the leaders of Doda belt, who had taken thousands of votes have been ignored in the party.

Meanwhile, speaking to media after the party convention, Ambika Soni flanked by Mr Azad and Prof Soz said the party would hold a similar convention in Kashmir in next 7 to 10 days followed by inter-action with leaders of Leh and Kargil to decide party's strategy for next Assembly elections including pre-poll alliance.

"I will answer your question only after eliciting the opinion of all party leaders from all three regions," she told a questioner.

To a question on Babu Asaram, the Congress leader said her party's stand was very clear on the issue that law is equal for all and it should take its own course. "Victimisation of women in the country wouldn't be tolerated at any cost. We are very clear on this. Our Governments acted promptly on New Delhi and Mumbai rape cases. No leniency should be shown to any person involved in any act of crime. I can't accept the charge that the Congress Government (in Rajasthan) was lenient towards Babu Asaram. The fact that Asaram's supporters have indulged in violence indicated that they are on the weak wicket," she asserted.

To a question on implementation of 73rd amendment of the Constitution of India in Jammu and Kashmir, Ambika set two months timeframe for the Government for implementation of major provisions of the amendment in the State Panchayati Raj Act as agreed upon by the two coalition partners.

"I'm not setting any deadlines but I have set two months time frame for the Government for implementing major provisions of 73rd amendment like reservation for women, SCs, STs, honorarium and powers to Panchayat members etc in the State Panchayati Raj Act," she said and pointing out that the Congress had been raking up the issue for past quite some time.

She recalled the agitation launched by the Youth Congress for the purposes and issue taken up by Prof Soz in the Co-ordination Committee. She disclosed that Prof Soz after discussing the issue with Mr Azad had also written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on July 26 for implementation of major provisions of 73rd amendment and holding of elections to Block Development Council with reservations.

"When we hold our convention in Srinagar, both of our senior leaders (Mr Azad and Prof Soz) along with our two MPs will speak to the Chief Minister on the issue once again," the AICC (I) general secretary said.

Asserting that the Congress had been since the time of Rajiv Gandhi stressing for strengthening and empowerment of Panchayats, Ms Soni said the State Government shall have to be time bound and implement provisions of 73rd amendment within two months.

"I am the nominee of both Centre and the State leadership. When I say something, I say it on behalf of both. Implementation of 73rd amendment provisions is not an election issue for us. This was the issue in our manifesto. We would look all issues in our manifesto to be fulfilled. So I have set the time frame of two months," she added.

Ambika Soni said even the

Chief Minister is keen to adopt the major provisions of 73rd amendment in the State Panchayati Raj Act. I'm confident that the process would be completed in the next two months," she added.

She evaded reply to a question on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's statement that he was not custodian of the missing Coalgate files. "I don't know much about it as I was not in New Delhi yesterday," she said.

Taking questions of media persons, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad ruled out early elections to Parliament and said they would be held as per its periodicity.

"There is no question of early Lok Sabha elections... There are no grounds for it," Mr Azad said.

"Parliament elections would be held as per its periodicity and will not be held a single day before its due timing," he said.

He was replying to a volley of questions on early elections, Kishtwar communal clashes and relief to quake-hit areas. The BJP had yesterday submitted a memorandum to President Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi seeking dissolution of Lok Sabha and early Parliamentary elections in view of economic crisis in the country and failure of the UPA Government on all fronts.

Replying to a query on the communal clashes in Kishtwar, Mr Azad said a team deployed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has done a commendable job as they have created good atmosphere by bringing both the communities together.

"The team has filed their report and I hope that the issue of immediate compensation for people whose properties were damaged in the riots would soon be decided by the State Government soon," he added.

Referring to the implementation of the 73rd and 74th amendments in the Panchayati Raj Act, Mr Azad said the Ministers from both the regions had strongly batted for its implementation and he was hopeful it would happen soon. "I am hopeful that these recommendations would soon be implemented," he added.

To a question, Mr Azad said the State Government shall not be cowed down by the threats to German Zubin Mehta's concert in Srinagar by the separatists. "The concert should be held," he added.

The Congress passed five resolution in the convention including promoting unity and integrity of the State, condemning Pakistan for unprovoked firing, addressing issues of refugees, strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State and welcoming the UPA Government decision for passing Food Security Bill and Land Acquisition Bill in the State.

The political resolution, moved by party veteran Dharam Pal Sharma, former MP and seconded by Mula Ram, former Minister resolved that Jammu and Kashmir would remain one entity with balanced model of development of all three regions of the State in a climate of peace, togetherness and human dignity.

"The PCC resolved to leave no stone unturned to promote and strengthen the unity and integrity of the nation. It further resolved to make all efforts to strengthen integrity of the State and ensure balanced development of all three regions," the resolution said.

The resolution on refugees was moved by former Minister RS Chib and seconded by Congress senior leader and party MP from Jammu, Poonch Lok Sabha seat, Madan Lal Sharma. It urged the coalition Government to accept demands of various categories of refugees now residing in different parts of the State.

"There are refugees from PoK and those, who were displaced in wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971. All these categories of refugees have genuine demands, which should be accepted at the earlier. The JKPC feels that the Government of India is very clear on this issue and once Jammu and Kashmir Government decides action on the demands, the Centre

would provide necessary support," the resolution said.

The resolution condemning Pakistan firing on the LoC was moved by Pt Mangat Ram Sharma, former Deputy Chief Minister and seconded by Congress MP from Udhampur-Doda Lok Sabha seat Choudhary Lal Singh.

It condemned killing of five Arms jawans and offered condolences to their families. The resolution urged Government of India to tell Pakistan in clear cut terms that such events of organised acrimony are unacceptable to India and warn it against repetition of such deplorable incidents.

The resolution urged the State Government to devise a plan to declare the area within the radius of 8 to 10 kilometers along the border in Jammu and Kashmir as backward and provide the benefits to the people, which have been granted to backward areas elsewhere.

The PCC (I) resolution on strengthening of Panchayati Raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir was moved by Youth Congress president Shah Nawaz Choudhary. It said the Congress is committed to empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions so that democratic process have a positive impact at the grass root levels in the State and participation of all segments of society is ensured in the development process.

Asserting that 73rd amendment of the Constitution of India has empowered Panchayati Raj in the country, the resolution reiterated the PCC resolve that unless provisions of 73rd amendment were incorporated in the Panchayati Raj Act of the State, the Panchayat system would not get empowered. It expressed hope that Congress endeavours in this regard would bear fruit in the future.

Through another resolution moved by Prof Soz and seconded by Mr Azad, the Congress described National Food Security Bill and Land Acquisition Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha as "historic and welcome steps".

"The National Food Security Bill is a landmark legislation that will revolutionize the system in the entire country as it would provide adequate food at affordable prices to the people to live a life of dignity," Prof Soz said, adding that this "revolutionary measure" envisaged to cover 75 per cent of rural population and 50 per cent of urban population.

Prof Soz said the Right to Food Security and Land Acquisition measures will together constitute a great leap forward for India to its glorious era of peace and prosperity.

The resolution, however, made no appeal to the State Government to implement Food Security Bill and Land Acquisition Bill in the State.

Proceedings of the convention were conducted by PCC (I) general secretary, Incharge Media and Communications, Ravinder Sharma, MLC.

FIR registered against Kichloo in slapping case

341, 323 and 506 RPC.

It may be recalled that CJM Kishtwar on the complaint filed by Riaz Ahmed Choudhary had issued directions to Station House Officer Kishtwar to investigate the matter in terms of 156(3) CrPc and submit the report on or before May 14, 2013. The Kishtwar Police, in its report submitted within four days of the CJM's directive, gave clean chit to Kichloo.

After going through the report and arguments of the counsel of the complainant Advocate Zulker Nain Sheikh, Chief Judicial Magistrate, while taking serious note of the casual approach adopted by the police, passed detailed order directing SHO Police Station Kishtwar to register the FIR against Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo.

The Station House Officer Police Station Kishtwar in spite of complying the order in letter and spirit filed review petition before District and Sessions Judge Kishtwar, which was dismissed on August 26, 2013.

The then CEO Kishtwar Development Authority, in his complaint, had submitted that on April 18, 2013 the then MoS Home slapped him twice in full public view at TRC on the ground that he was little bit late in calling on the Minister.

Vigilance initiates probe into financial irregularities in SMVDU

expense of Public money are among other allegations, which have been referred to the Vigilance for investigations, sources added.

The Vigilance action has been initiated on the direction of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Puneet Gupta following a complaint filed on the basis of some RTIs disclosing alleged financial irregularities in the University, which came into existence under Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University of 1999.

Following the direction of Special Judge Anti-Corruption last month and consequent approval of Director Vigilance Sheikh Owais this week for investigations into the allegations, inquiry has been entrusted to a special team of Vigilance Organization Jammu, sources informed.

As per the allegations, under investigation of Vigilance team, soon after assuming the charge of Vice-Chancellor SMVDU, Prof Bamezai, purchased a Science research equipment known as

MassARRAY SEQUENOM at a price of 3, 68,389 \$ (approximately Rs 1.75 crore). This purchase of high value equipment was made without floating any national/global tender thus violating the SMVDU regulations governing "Purchase and Management of Stores".

Further, in order to make appear that the MassARRAY equipment had been purchased for use by the university, three scholars of Prof Bamezai during his tenure as Professor at Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, were invited to stay at SMVDU. However, with the exit of Prof Bamezai as VC, all the three scholars also disappeared.

The then Vice-Chancellor is also accused of professional misconduct and misusing his official position for selection of his scholars against the advertised posts in the School of Biology and Chemistry by becoming Chairman of the Selection Committee.

There are more allegations of conferring undue financial bene-

fits by misusing official powers by the Registrar and other officers besides violating the J&K Public Servants Classification and Control Rules and misrepresentation of facts to help individuals, sources said.

The records obtained through RTI also establish misuse of the University official vehicles covering more than double distance than the actual one between Katra and the SMVDU Campus. These official vehicles were allegedly misused to the maximum capacity and even showed plying while the concerned officers were out of station.

There is also an allegation of hanky panky dealing with the UGC grant amounting in crores of rupees under XI Plan period.

All these allegations and a few others in the form of complaint under Section 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, are now under investigation of the Vigilance team, specially constituted for the purpose, sources said.

Omar for Indo-Pak PMs summit to resolve Kashmir

issue in the Shimla Agreement, Lahore and Agra Summits.

He pooh-poohed the utterance of PDP leadership asking for 40 Assembly seats to solve the Kashmir issue. He challenged PDP by announcing the support of his 28 Assembly Members and asking it to come forward with a categorical solution to the Kashmir issue. "You have 21 Assembly Members. I will provide you the support of my 28 Assembly Members. You will have 50 seats with you. Let you come forward with a certain and categorical solution to Kashmir issue," he told PDP adding that he is ready to relinquish the office in this regard.

"What a lie you are telling to people? People have understood your only agenda of grabbing power by hook or crook. The public is wise enough to be led astray by you time and again," he told PDP leadership and added that the leadership of PDP should read the

writing on the wall written by the masses for writing this party off from the political arena of Jammu and Kashmir for this Party's deceptive politics, brazen lies and vested interests.

"PDP has lost ground under his feet so it tries to raise new slogans and makes false promises to attract public attention. The ground below your feet is sinking and you believe to fool the people again and again. Not at all," he lamented and maintained that the 60 year old Kashmir issue could not be solved by the long struggle spearheaded by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

"It could not be solved by the four wars fought by India and Pakistan. It could not be solved by 25 years of militancy and disturbance. It could not be solved through summits and dialogues," he said and ridiculed PDP Patron's (Mufti Mohammad Sayed) statement demanding 40 Assembly

seats in next election to resolve Kashmir issue in a twinkling of eye.

Presenting a list of achievements registered by his Government during the four-and-a-half year, Omar said despite difficulties and hiccups on peace and law and order maintenance front, state made progress in all fields.

He said his Government delivered on the development front meritoriously and provided good-governance to the people and made administration transparent.

Mr Abdullah said in Baramulla district alone some 1000 km long roads were constructed, upgraded and improved during this period while as 40 new bridges have been constructed.

He said in Pattan constituency Rs 1550 crore have been spent on the development of roads, four new bridges and 70 km roads were also constructed.

He said a modern hospital involving Rs 7.17 crore is coming up in the area.

Mr Abdullah said Sub-District Hospital at Sopore has been constructed at a cost of Rs 60 crore. He said Rs 1.10 crore Public Health Centre (PHC) Sheeri, Rs 1.48 crore PHC Hardshiva and Rs 1.18 crore PHC Delina have been completed while Rs 1.19 crore PHC Singhpora is under execution.

The Chief Minister said 670 new schools have been opened in Baramulla district out of which 100 are in Pattan constituency.

He said 569 primary schools have been upgraded to middle schools in Baramulla district of which 51 are in Pattan Constituency.

He said out of the 50 middle schools upgraded in Baramulla Districts 8 are in Pattan Constituency.

The Chief Minister also informed that his Government started 115 water supply schemes in Baramulla district at a cost of Rs 291.91 crore of which 12 schemes involving Rs 30.58 crore are in Pattan constituency.

He also mentioned other sectors of the development and said the promises made by his Government on giving fillip to five most important sectors of Health, Education, R&B, PHE and Power have been realised to a greater extent and the attention is focused on fulfilling all the commitments made to public in this regard.

Petrol, diesel prices up

petrol in Delhi has gone up by over Rs 11 per litre after including state tax since June 1.

In a parallel move, diesel price was hiked by 50 paise, excluding VAT, in line with the January decision of the Government allowing oil compa-

5 infiltrators killed in Tangdhar sector

infiltrators near Ghoda gap on the LoC in Keran sector of Kupwara district. Three militant were killed while three others managed to flee back to Pakistan.

Last month on July 30, Army claimed that four infiltrators were killed in an encounter in Macchil sector of Kupwara and on July 9, 5 militants were killed in Keran sector of Kupwara when troops spotted a group of six militants who were trying to sneak in. Troops fired at them and killed them near the Pakistani posts.

However, the Army couldn't retrieve their bodies as they were lying near the Pakistani posts and mine fields but Hizbul Mujahideen later confirmed that the militants who were killed belonged to the outfit.

nies freedom to raise prices in small doses every month to wipe out mounting losses.

Diesel price in Delhi has been hiked by 57 paise to Rs 51.97 per litre while it will cost Rs 58.86 in Mumbai from tomorrow as compared to Rs 58.23 currently.(PTI)

Two militants were also killed in Shalabato area of Keran sector last month when a group of infiltrators was challenged by the Army on the LoC.

Around 38 militants were killed in Kashmir this year most of them while they were trying to infiltrate into Kashmir valley.

It may be mentioned here that as per Army, 350 militants waiting on the launching pads on the other side of the LoC in Tangdhar, Keran, Macchil and Gurez sectors. The Army says that the militants are desperate to infiltrate into Kashmir and their numbers have declined during past few years due to successful operations by the security forces in Kashmir valley.

MASVAR & VAHARVAR
One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode. You live in our hearts.
Masvar & Vaharvar of Late Smt Dhanwati Parimoo w/o Late Shri R K Parimoo shall be performed on 1st / 2nd September 2013 at Roop Bhawani Mandir Near Sai Baba Mandir Talab Tillo, Jammu.
DEEPLY MISSED BY:-
Parimoo/ Bhat
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Late Smt Dhanwati Parimoo

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