

Cong will not declare Rahul as PM candidate: Digvijay

NEW DELHI, July 12:

The Congress will not declare Rahul Gandhi as its Prime Ministerial candidate in the Lok Sabha elections, senior party leader Digvijay Singh hinted today while dismissing suggestions that BJP's projection of Narendra Modi is a challenge to it.

He also did not say whether Prime Minister Manmohan Singh could be a candidate for the top post once again if the party wins next year's elections. "We do not have a presidential form of Government. Congress party does not declare PM or CM candidates before elections... Even in the Karnataka Assembly elections, we had not declared any CM candidate," Singh told in an interview.

He was replying to questions why Congress was diffident about projecting Rahul Gandhi, why it should not project him and who is the PM candidate of Congress.

Singh also gave indications that the Congress was not averse to doing business with the

after the next elections and apprehended that the advent of Modi could lead to communal polarisation in the polls.

Asked about BJP's elevation of Modi as its election campaign chief, just a step short of announcing him the prime ministerial candidate, Singh said, "We are not concerned. It is not an issue with us. BJP is free to take any decision. We are in the politics of ideology and not personality... Congress party does not believe in the politics of polarisation."

Asked whether Congress treats Modi as a political challenge and about Union Minister Jairam Ramesh's comments that Modi presented managerial and ideological challenge to the party, Singh said, "The very name of Modi and before that of L K Advani give an impression of polarisation."

"It is not Modi. It is the ideology of the Sangh and the BJP which believes in divisive politics. Politics of hatred and violence based on religious lines, which is the challenge," he said.

Singh sidestepped a query on whether Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh could again be Congress' PM candidate. "First the country has to give us a mandate again and then the Parliamentary Party and the party chief have to take a decision in consultation with elected MPs," he said.

To a question on whether Left Front, which supported the UPA I government from outside is a natural ally of the Congress, Singh said, "We had very good experience for the first four years of working with the Left in UPA I but unfortunately Left made a big issue of the nuclear bill" and withdrew support to the government.

"My own perception is that with Left, we know the parameters in which we work together. It is easier to work with the Left because we know the parameters in which they work," he said.

About the political fallout of the JD(U) walking out NDA in Bihar and whether it can be a part of UPA, Singh said this is an issue which has to be considered by the Congress high command. (PTI)

Govt studying SC decision on MP disqualification; to discuss with political parties: Sibal

NEW DELHI, July 12:

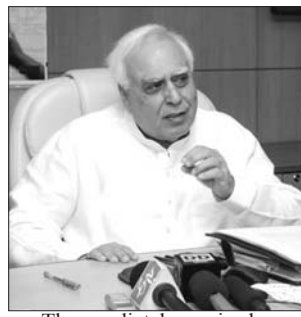
The Government is studying the order of the Supreme Court ruling that a lawmaker convicted of crime has to quit immediately, and will consult all political parties before taking a view on it, Minister for Law and Justice and Telecom Kapil Sibal said today.

Talking to reporters here on the sidelines of an event, Mr Sibal said the Government is studying the ruling of the apex court and would consult all political parties before giving any response.

"We are scrutinising the decisions. Once we read the decisions carefully and discuss with other parties, we will comment," Mr Sibal said.

Till now, the Congress and the UPA Government have reacted cautiously on the Supreme Court ruling, striking down the legal provision which protects a lawmaker from disqualification even after conviction in a criminal case.

In fact, talking to reporters yesterday, AICC spokesperson Renuka Chaudhary, while welcoming efforts to bring transparency in public life, stressed the need to address concerns by political parties.



The verdict has raised concerns about misuse by the police or a party in power for score-settling.

Talking to reporters here, Ms Chaudhary said, "Yesterday, we said we welcome any measure to bring transparency in public life. That is why we brought the RTI. We are happy that the Court has joined in our efforts in this regard."

"However, we need to study the order and understand what steps have been suggested to check misuse of the order. There is a need to address the concerns of political parties."

The Supreme Court on Wednesday had ruled that any MP or MLA who is sentenced to two years or more in jail would automatically stand disqualified.

The verdict was seen as a path-breaking judgement with

wide ramifications for criminals-turned-politicians.

A bench comprising Justices A K Patnaik and S J Mukhopadhyaya also made it clear that a sitting MP or MLA who has been convicted and filed appeal before the pronouncement of this judgement, shall not be affected as this ruling will not have retrospective effect.

The apex court also made it clear that the moment an MP or MLA is convicted or sentenced by the trial court he or she will automatically lose his/her seat in Parliament or Assembly.

The judgement is viewed as one that will go a long way in cleansing and freeing the Indian political system of criminals-turned-politicians.

Till now, any MP or MLA given two years sentence was permitted to continue as MP or MLA till the appeal was decided provided the representative got a stay against his conviction.

As per this judgement, those convicted and sentenced to two years or more shall also be debarred from contesting elections.

Those in jails shall also be debarred from contesting. (UNI)

U'khand tragedy SC asks NDMA to give status of rescue ops

NEW DELHI, July 12:

The Supreme Court today asked the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to apprise it within two weeks about the status of rescue operations in rain-ravaged Uttarakhand.

"NDMA to file an affidavit on the status of rescue operations within two weeks," a bench headed by Justice A K Patnaik said.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand Government informed the court that pilgrims who were stranded in the various affected areas of the state have been evacuated.

It said that only natives, who didn't want to move out, were there.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on July 26. The court was hearing a PIL filed by lawyer Ajay Bansal, who has sought the apex court's directions to the Centre and the State Government to rescue people stranded in the flood-hit areas in Uttarakhand.

Earlier, the court had directed the Centre and the state to make all-out efforts to rescue the stranded people and to provide them with food and drinking water.

It had also asked the authorities to deploy sufficient number of helicopters for rescue operations. The Centre and NDMA should provide all required resources to the State Government, it had said. (PTI)

Sidhu is still our 'best candidate': BJP

CHANDIGARH, July 12:

The BJP today defended cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu's prolong absence from party affairs for the past few months, saying the Amritsar MP is still the "favourite candidate" for them.

"He has some professional commitments... He will soon return," said Punjab BJP chief Kamal Sharma when asked about Sidhu's absence from Amritsar for the past nine months.

"He is our best candidate for the traditional Amritsar seat. He had been the MP on BJP ticket from Amritsar thrice," Sharma said.

"Sidhu is not unhappy and he is not quitting the party... His services will be utilised," Sharma elaborated.

Earlier, Sidhu's wife, Navjot Kaur, who is the party's sitting MLA and chief parliamentary secretary, had claimed that "her husband is disillusioned" from the party as he has not been considered in party affairs.

Sidhu was conspicuously absent from a recent rally at Modhpora addressed by Narendra Modi after his latter's appointment as chairman of BJP's election campaign committee for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. He was also absent from the state executive meeting at Amritsar convened by the outfit's national president Rajnath Singh.

When pressed that Sidhu preferred to remain engaged in TV shows and cricket matches commentary, Sharma said that "every man has his profession... He has chosen his career... He has his own priorities."

"Sidhu did not attend Modi's rally as on the same day (June 23) he was engaged in commentary for the final of the Champions trophy at London... He had signed a contract," he said.

Sharma categorically refuted assertions that Sidhu was being ignored by the party. "He is being intimidated about party issues from time to time," he said.

On being asked that whether party is considering disciplinary action against Sidhu's wife for being vocal against certain issues, including allegations of her phones being tapped, Sharma said, "There is a difference between discipline and regimentation... If there are any issues with Sidhu's wife these would be resolved at party level." (PTI)

Sharma wants PM to convene meet to review FDI policy in pharma

NEW DELHI, July 12:

Expressing "serious concern" over the impact of the prevailing FDI policy for brownfield investments in the pharmaceutical sector, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to convene a high-level review meeting to deliberate on the matter.

"Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the pharma sector has neither proved to be an additionality in terms of creation of production facilities nor has it strengthened the R&D in the country. These facts make a compelling case for revisiting the FDI policy on brownfield pharma," Sharma said in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"I would urge the PM to call an urgent high-level review meeting, along with Finance Minister, Health Minister, Pharmaceutical Minister, and the undersigned (myself) to deliberate on the matter," he said.

Apparently, the Commerce Ministry is concerned about the fact that an overwhelming majority of foreign direct investment in pharma is coming only in existing units (brownfield investments).

"In case the FDI policy continues... Then our domestic capability will gradually wither away. In that eventuality India would be compelled to be dependent for life-saving medicines either on domestic facilities of MNCs or on imports," Sharma said.

Production of many critical drugs and medicines has been lost and India is already import dependent for intermediates and vital drugs like penicillin, which is a matter of serious concern, he said. (PTI)

According to RBI data, between April 2012 and April 2013, as much as USD 989 million FDI was received in brownfield investment, and a mere USD 87.3 million in the greenfield investments.

"Clearly, most of the FDI in pharma during this period has been brownfield, thereby merely a substitution of domestic capital by foreign capital rather than an additionality," Sharma said.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) had earlier this month raised concerns over spate of acquisitions of domestic pharma firms by multinationals.

"More than 90 per cent of the FDI is coming in the brown-field pharma. There must be some reason why FDI is not coming in new projects. Is it giving the desired outcome of the policy. Whether they meet public concern," DIPP Secretary Saurabh Chandra had said.

The current policy says that 'government may incorporate appropriate conditions for FDI in brownfield cases, at the time of granting approval'.

Currently, India permits 100 per cent FDI in pharmaceutical sector through automatic approval route in the new projects but the foreign investment in the existing pharmaceutical companies are allowed only through FIPB's approval. (PTI)

GRANT OF SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION IN ARMY DENTAL CORPS

Indian Nationals eligible for grant of Short Service Commission in Army Dental Corps subject to fulfillment of specified eligibility conditions may apply.

For eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, specimen application format etc, see Employment News/Rojgar Samachar issue of 20 Jul 2012. The same can be downloaded from the website indianarmy.nic.in also.

Application on prescribed proforma required to reach Office of the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS/DENTAL-2), Room No.25, 'L' Block, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi-110001 latest by 31 Aug 2013.

davn 10601/11/0025/1314

SC refuses to hear Tytler's plea

NEW DELHI, July 12:

The Supreme Court today refused to entertain Congress leader Jagdish Tytler's plea seeking a stay on an order of the trial court directing CBI to conduct further probe into his alleged role in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

A bench headed by Justice P Sathasivam said that the apex court should not interfere in the matter at this stage as the case is pending in the Delhi High Court which is scheduled to hear it on September 18.

Sensing the mood of the bench, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi agreed to withdraw the petition which was allowed by the court.

Tytler approached the apex court challenging the high court's July 3 order refusing to grant interim stay on the trial court's order.

The high court had refused to stay the probe saying, "Only investigation is ordered and this court will not stop the investigation."

Tytler had on May 30 moved the high court challenging the trial court order setting aside

the CBI's closure report giving him a clean chit in the 29-year-old case and directing the probe agency to examine eye-witnesses and people claiming to have information about the riots.

Tytler, in his plea before the high court, had said that the trial court order is contrary to the scheme of code of CrP. The method and mode of investigation by a probe agency is the absolute prerogative of the agency and it is not for the court to direct the agency that which witness should be examined by it, he had said.

The trial court's order of further investigation had come on a plea by the riot victims against CBI giving a clean chit to Tytler and filing the closure report.

CBI had sought dismissal of a plea filed by a victim before the trial court, saying the probe has made it clear that Tytler was not present on November 1, 1984 at Gurudwara Pulbangash in north Delhi where three people were killed during the riots in the aftermath of assassination of the then

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Tytler's alleged role in the case relating to killing of the three persons -- Badal Singh, Thakur Singh and Gurcharan Singh-- near Gurudwara Pulbangash was re-investigated by CBI after the magistrate court had in December 2007 refused to accept its closure report.

CBI had again given a clean chit to Tytler on April 2, 2009, claiming lack of evidence against him in the case.

On April 27, 2010, the magistrate accepted CBI's closure report in the case against Tytler, saying there was no evidence to put him on trial.

CBI had claimed that at the time of the incident, Tytler was at Teen Murti Bhawan where the body of Indira Gandhi was kept and that it had already re-investigated the case on the order of trial court but there was no sufficient evidence against the Congress leader.

The sessions court had set aside the CBI's closure report giving clean chit to Tytler in the case, which has been challenged by him. (PTI)

I am proud to be part of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag': Sonam Kapoor

NEW DELHI, July 12:

Even as her role in the recently-released 'Ranjhana' is winning accolades from audiences as well as critics, Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor will this week be seen in another path breaking film, one based on the life of India's Legendary sprinter Milkha Singh.

For Sonam, being a part of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', which has been directed by Rakeysh Mehra (of 'Rang De Basanti' fame) is a special feeling for several reasons.

"I am really proud to be a part of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag'. Being a part of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' is really special since it is an inspirational story. Moreover, it is being directed by Rakeysh Mehra, with whom I earlier worked in 'Delhi 6'. I love working with Rakeysh. So, I am really excited about the film and looking forward to the response of the audiences."

Sonam, who was in Delhi for the premier of the film, said in an interview.

'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', which hit cinema screens across the country today, pairs Sonam opposite Farhan Akhtar, who plays the title role.

Sonam, however, refused to reveal much about her role.



"All I can say is that my role is integral to the film. Hence, I cannot reveal it now," Sonam said.

At the same time, she denied that she was playing the wife of Milkha Singh as reported in a section of the media.

"I am not playing Milkha Singh's wife in the film. To know more, you will have to see the film," she said.

The release of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' comes a couple of weeks after the release of Sonam's last film 'Ranjhana', which has won her accolades from audiences as well as critics.

On her part, Sonam is thrilled at the response to 'Ranjhana', which paired her opposite South Indian star Dhanush.

2006 Mumbai fake encounter case

21 get life imprisonment

MUMBAI, July 12:

All 21 convicts, including 13 policemen were today awarded life imprisonment by a court here in the 2006 fake encounter killing of Ram Narayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya, an alleged aide of fugitive gangster Chhota Rajan.

Former senior inspector Pradeep Suryavanshi (who had led the encounter team), Tanaji Desai and Dilip Palande were among those sentenced to life by the sessions court.

While Suryavanshi, Desai and Palande were convicted for murder in the case, dismissed

police officer and 'encounter specialist' Pradeep Sharma, who is credited with gunning down over 100 criminals, was acquitted for lack of evidence and prosecution's failure to prove its case, last Friday.

Over 110 prosecution witnesses and two defence witnesses had deposed during the trial.

On Monday, the prosecution had sought death penalty for all policemen (including Suryavanshi) and two others who were not cops --Shalendra Pandey and Akhil Khan -- arguing that they had played an active role in killing. But the

defence had argued that convictions were based only on circumstantial evidence, so capital punishment should be avoided. Also, families of the accused should be kept in mind.

On November 11, 2006, a police team picked up Ram Narayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya, from neighbouring Vashi on the suspicion that he was a member of Rajan gang, along with his friend Anil Bheda, and killed Gupta in a "fake" encounter near Nana Nani Park in suburban Versova in Western Mumbai on the same evening. (PTI)

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6. M.A. (Philosophy)

The candidates finally admitted to M.Tech. Full time Programme shall be eligible for Research Assistantship from the University as per rules on the matter.

For other details related to eligibility criteria, how to apply etc. please visit our website: www.smvdu.net.in

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Further information about the course and its future prospects is also available at:

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