

School named after Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo

NC, Cong had vested interest in KPs' exodus: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday alleged that contrary to the myth being spread that the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) was engineered by the then Governor Jagmohan at the behest of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the matter of fact is that the National Conference (NC), Congress and their Kashmiri-centric allies had a vested interest in KP exodus because it gave impetus to their policy of appeasement towards a particular community and benefited them by creating a deep communal divide.

Speaking at a largely attended programme organised to name a Govt School after Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the aftermath of Kashmiri Pandit exodus and the overwhelming atmosphere of terror that followed, the voter turnout in 1996 and subsequent elections remained confined to around 10%, which the National Conference and its allies were successful in easily manipulating to get their members elected as MLAs and MPs.

He recalled that he had on the floor of the Parliament said that there should be a provision to fix the minimum threshold of voter turnout percentage to allow a candidate to be recognized as having been elected as the member of Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he and several other youth activists of his genera-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a gathering of displaced Kashmiri Pandit community after formally naming a Govt School after Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo, at Rohini, New Delhi, on Sunday.

tion were eye-witness to each sequence of exodus beginning from the arrival of first batches of Kashmiri Pandits at Geeta Bhawan Jammu and makeshift Camps at Mishriwala and Nagrota, where they lived in most unhygienic conditions with the drains passing through the kitchen area and hardly any toilet facility available.

It was pathetic to see upper middle class Kashmiri Pandit families forced to live in a makeshift single room shed without any basic amenities.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he vividly recalls the summer of 1990 which was most harsh for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits who had never seen the summer of plains, as a result of which there were a series of Heat Stroke cases happening, and as a

young medico, he and his colleagues would physically lift heat struck Kashmiri Pandits and place them on ice-slabs.

He said, the film "The Kashmir Files" has done a tremendous contribution in bringing out the unspoken side of the Kashmir story, when most of the film makers were busy making films romanticising the Kashmiri ter-

rorist. Describing the death of Tika Lal Taploo as not only an assault on Kashmiri Pandits but a bigger assault on the composite culture of Kashmir valley, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Taploo enjoyed reverence across all sections of society for his integrity and compassion.

He said, there are several other aspects also, which require more films

to be made to depict, for example, why in a democratic set up, a section of society was forced to become refugees in their own country and why this did not elicit the world's attention.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijender Gupta MLA & former Delhi BJP President welcomed Shri Tika Lal Taploo's family which now resides in Rohini, along with 237 families of Kashmiri Hindus or Pandits.

Gupta said that people of Delhi are shocked at the level of insensitivity and apathy displayed by Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal on the plight of Kashmiri Hindus.

Not only did the AAP government refuse to make 'The Kashmir Files' tax free, but its leaders also made mockery of the Kashmiri Hindus massacre in the Delhi assembly, he said adding that this attitude is a proof of CM Arvind Kejriwal's anti-Hindu mindset.

It was an emotionally charged moment when people remembered Tika Lal Taploo and what ensued in Kashmir after his brutal killing. Many of them recalled the dark days of Kashmiri Hindu genocide and subsequent coverup that took place due to vested interests, especially in politics and media.

Mayor of NMCD, Raja Iqbal Singh graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Aloki Sharma, President, NMCD Education Committee and MCD Councillor presided over the programme.

BJP rules by deceit, 137 days of election period saw no price hike of petrol, diesel: Congress

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JAMMU: Congress has charged BJP of ruling by deceit, as it stopped price hike of petrol and diesel for 137 days of election period and now it's price increasing every day.

Criticising the steep rise in the prices of essential drugs and petrol and diesel everyday for past five days totalling increase of Rs 3.20 so far, this week, JKPPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said that BJP rules nation by deceit, as it didn't increase these prices for 137 days of election period to dodge voters. This is clear loot by deceit & cheating, the citizens, as it has other emotional issues in elections to divert attention of people from real issues of unprecedented inflation, uncontrolled prices and large scale unemployment due to failure to create jobs and wrong economic policies, he said.

The sudden rise of petrol and diesel prices after gap of 137 days in view of elections in different states, Sharma said, clearly indicates how BJP befools people and loots them after elections, while in elections BJP has other diversionary tactics. He said that the price of petrol and diesel was Rs 71.41 and Rs 55.49 during Dr Manmohan Singh's government when the price of crude oil in international market was 108 USD. At that time govt had to change Rs 9.20 and Rs 3.46 per litre for it as duty which is Rs 18.70 and Rs 18.34 at present under BJP rule, as the price of petrol, diesel per litre is Rs 98.61 and Rs 89.87 IN the Capital, he alleged.

He said that the rise of eleven to 16 percent in the prices of over 800 essential drugs is a shocking news for all especially poor and common man. The poor patients will die as they would not be able to afford the medicines. This is first time that such a high prices will be hiked as earlier it was 0.5 to one percent hike every year.

He said that BJP government loots the common man through huge taxes, least bothering about the poor and common man, who are suffering a lot under BJP regime and unable to meet both ends of their families.

The party shall launch a campaign against the anti people, anti poor moves of the Modi government and has urged the people to strongly oppose the unprecedented taxes and tax terrorism of BJP.

amount could not be spent for the development of the people. For this there are huge gaps in policy making.

Jasvir Singh said that if there are no major changes in the policies, then the condition of the next financial year will also be similar to the previous financial year and the circumstances of the present point towards it.

He said that there is a huge shortage of teachers in rural areas, due to which the future of rural areas is in dark because for the development of these areas, it is most important to strengthen the field of education. Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that there is a need for recruitment of teachers on a large scale, the delay in this is tarnishing the hope of bright future of lakhs of students from poor and backward sections. Teaching learning tools are not fit for the present time and required immediate change. The government should take immediate steps for this. There is acute shortage of staff in almost all government departments. Without listening to the issues of the youth and finding a positive solution, the dream of a new Jammu and Kashmir will remain incomplete. New

recruitment policy and new youth policy are the urgent need of the hour.

Team Jammu chief further said that the non-completion of government projects on time is causing huge loss to the exchequer and the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The government should study the ground situation in depth while making policy. He expressed his support to the employees demanding the old pension scheme. He said that the government should work fast towards making every temporary government employee with a respectable salary and permanent. Ensuring employment for the youth must be included in the priority of the government.

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