

Modi's schemes not effectively implemented in Bengal: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh alleged here on Thursday that Modi's schemes have not been effectively implemented in Bengal.

In a series of BJP election meetings in the Lok Sabha constituencies of Serampore, Arambagh and Hooghly here, Dr. Jitendra said, it is a question to be analysed by critics and commentators as to why whereas in some of the States like Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, there had been 100% saturation of welfare schemes rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the same was not the case in the State of West Bengal.

He asked, whereas over 12 crore toilets had been built across the country and over 10 crore households received gas cylinders under Ujjwala scheme, why the State of West Bengal had not been able to receive the benefits to the same extent as some other States.

Dr. Jitendra accused the TMC led by Mamata Banerjee of deliberately sabotaging the large-scale implementation of Centre's welfare



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP Election meeting at Tarakeswar in Arambagh Lok Sabha constituency, West Bengal on Thursday.

schemes because of its narrow vote bank politics.

He said, most of the "Viksit Bharat" schemes are to be translated on the ground through district administration which is controlled by the State Government and, therefore, the instructions had been issued not to implement them in letter and spirit.

It is sad, Dr. Jitendra said that Bengal, which was traditionally known as one of the most progressive regions of India had been left behind in both development as well as aspirational growth of the common masses, simply because this does not fit into the retrograde agenda of the TMC and the Communists.

He said, even as several of

the B-towns of the country have developed to global standards, some of the most developed cities in the State of West Bengal have been victims of retarded growth or no growth at all.

Appealing to the BJP workers, particularly the Mahila Morcha activists, Dr. Jitendra asked them to reach out to the women folk and groups and make them understand how while for the first time in the history of independent India, Prime Minister Modi had initiated highly sensitive and effector reforms and programmes to ensure ease of living with respect for the women of this country, in the State of Bengal it appears as if it was a different world. The

TMC government and its representatives in the Parliament never wanted this State to be a part of Modi's development plan, he said.

It is in the interest of the common people of the State, particularly the youth, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that while India and each of its different regions and States have started making their presence felt in the world arena, we cannot afford an important eastern part of the country to be left behind just to serve the narrow political interests of a handful of individuals.

He called for maximum voting in this election and expressed confidence that this time BJP will be able to get maximum out of the 42 of Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal.



NC, PDP are like two sides of same coin, both striving to continue their family rule in J&K: Bukhari

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, said that the leaders of both the NC and the PDP desire to continue their family rule in Jammu and Kashmir. However, he expressed hope that the people will not allow the Abullahs and Muftis to exploit them any longer. He made these remarks while addressing a public rally in south Kashmir's Shopian today.

The event was part of the party's ongoing campaign for the Lok Sabha polls. The party's Vice President, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, also addressed the rally.

Addressing the rally, Bukhari said, "Over the decades, the traditional parties, especially the two family-based parties, have divided Jammu and Kashmir like Rajwadas to rule the people. Both the family parties, NC and PDP, were in consensus to stay at the helm of affairs alternatively. But things have now changed. They can no longer fool people through their deceptive narratives and fake promises. I am sure that their era has ended, and people will reject both political dynasties through the power of their vote."

Urging people not to fall prey to the deceptive slogans



Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari addressing public rally at Srinagar.

and fake promises by the NC and PDP, the Apni Party president said, "They are trying to allure you again through deceptive promises. Earlier, they used to take your votes, promising to ensure things like 'Raishumari', 'Autonomy', and 'Self-rule.' Now, since these promises are things of the past and Article 370 has been abrogated, they are trying to convince you that they will restore the abrogated Article. They have been misleading you for years, even decades. Tell them that 'enough is enough.' Reject them through the power of your vote."

Bukhari promised people that the Apni Party if given the mandate to serve, will transform Shopian into a modern city.

He said, "I have a clear vision for the development of this

new heights of peace, prosperity, and development.

He said, "We do not raise any misleading political slogans, nor do we promise you the moon and stars. Our primary agenda is to ensure permanent peace, enduring prosperity, and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. To achieve this, we have a clear-cut vision and roadmap for the development of every area in Jammu and Kashmir."

Speaking specifically about Shopian, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari promised that the Apni Party, once given a public mandate to serve, will transform Shopian into a modern city.

He said, "I have a clear vision for the development of this

beautiful place. Apni Party's government will not waste a single day in speeding up the completion of the Mughal Road tunnel. This tunnel will not only improve Shopian's connectivity, making it easier to transport fruit to outside markets, but it will also shorten the distance between sub-regions and establish these roads as all-weather roads. Furthermore, we will build tourism infrastructure here to create employment opportunities for local youth. We will also ensure that daily wagers in various government departments are regularised."

He added, "I know that orchardists here are unable to afford refrigerated vehicles to ferry the fruit to outside markets, thus facing losses as the

perishable fruit sometimes gets spoiled during transportation. Apni Party's government will ensure a 50 percent subsidy in the fare charges of refrigerated vehicles. Also, I promise you that our government will ensure the waiver of the due interest amount on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to provide relief to the people."

Apni Party's President reiterated the party's intention to provide 500 units of free electricity to domestic consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. He also stated that his government would provide relief to people living below the poverty line by addressing their outstanding electricity bills.

Bukhari promised that his government would ensure the return of jailed youth to their homes, allowing them to resume their normal lives with their families.

Addressing the rally, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, the party's candidate for the Lok Sabha polls in the Rajouri-Anantnag constituency, said, "Unlike traditional parties, I will never mislead you and seek your votes by claiming that these elections are for political interests such as autonomy and Azadi. To me, these elections are solely for development and prosperity. I assure you that I will leave no stone unturned to ensure the well-being of my people and the development of this place."

He said that parties like the NC and PDP have been deceiving people for years and decades through emotional sloganeering. Both parties are responsible for the killings and bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2010, when the NC was at the helm, more than a hundred people, mostly children, were killed here. And in 2016, more than a hundred children were killed, and dozens of boys and girls were blinded by the use of pellet guns.

"I wonder how these parties and their leaders muster the courage to face the people and seek their votes despite their role in the deaths and destruction on this land. It is your responsibility to reject them through your vote. Do not allow them to exploit you further."

Raina visits flood prone villages of Kupwara Assures to take up matter with LG administration

STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of flood-prone areas in Handwara, Kupwara, and Lolab to take stock of the flood-like situation caused by the incessant rains in the district.

Raina accompanied by District President Kupwara Javid Qureshi and District BJP Office Bearers Visited Nallah Pohru, Chogal, Braripora, Neelipora Magam, Kalaroose, Trehgam Warsun, Kachihama village of Trehgam, to examine the flood situation and get the first-hand appraisal of the evacuation measures and took the stock of the situation.

During the visit, Raina urged and stressed the concerned departments to remain vigilant in case of any



BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina interacting with people during visit to flood-prone area in Kupwara.

exigency.

He urged the concerned officers to be vigilant, and proactive and mobilize men and machinery so that any kind of eventuality is tackled smoothly. He also urged for close coordination to ensure timely rescue and rehabilitation.

Moreover, Raina appealed to the people not to venture close to the water bodies and Nallahs and contact

proactively to District level or Tehsil level control rooms in case of any emergency or need of any evacuation and fully cooperate with district administration.

He also paid a visit to several areas of Trehgam Constituency villages including Kachihama, and Warsun to assess the situation.

Bhatnagar inspects progress on establishment of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, on Thursday visited Teacher Bhawan and inspected the ongoing works related to establishment of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (Command and Control Centre).

Secretary, School Education Dr. Piyush Singla, Project Director Samagra Shiksha Rakesh Magotra, Director School Education Jammu Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir Tassaduq Hussain, Director Finance, Director Planning

besides other senior officers of the department accompanied the Advisor during visit.

Advisor Bhatnagar had an extensive round of the Centre to assess the progress with regard to each component of the Kendra.

After inspection of ongoing works, the Advisor had a detailed meeting to get first hand appraisal of ongoing works in the Centre. He appreciated the department for the progress made, so far, in establishing the centre. He highlighted that this technology driven initiative of School Education Department will



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chairing a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

primarily focus on learning outcomes of the students and their holistic development.

The Advisor said that the main objective of VSK is to integrate all the data sources and build a structure for taking corrective measures to

improve the education system. Besides, the dashboards and reports for districts, blocks and individual schools shall be collated in the VSK followed by a detailed analysis to fill the critical gaps.

The Advisor said that exclu-

sive remedial classes and assessment tests of students, falling behind in their studies, shall be conducted through AI-powered chatbots of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra. He added that introduction of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra is

all about giving our students and educators the best tools for success and it's the next big step in refining education in J&K using real-time data and feedback loops, adding that the 6A framework of VSK including attendance, assessments, adaptive learning, administration, accreditation, and AI nudges will be setting new education benchmarks in near future.

During the meeting, Dr Piyush Singla apprised the Advisor of the progress recorded in establishment of VSK, so far. He informed that, real-time data on various

parameters, will offer invaluable insights into student progress, teacher training and overall school performance.

Project Head, Convegenius Private Limited, Anuj, who designed the VSK and executed the project, presented a detailed presentation on functioning, operationalization and outcomes of the project

Later, a brainstorming session on key performance indicators was also held, where Dr. Piyush Singla, prioritized the tasks and set various timelines for making the Centre fully operational and functional.

Amended Roshni Act also provided for giving freehold rights to official Residential Lease Holders too

Some beneficiaries (old Residential Lease Holders) had even named the prices fixed as on Higher Side Has Roshni Scheme - ACT No XII of 2001 been unfairly treated disreputing even All Administration & J&K Legislature ?

DAYA SAGAR

It was estimated during 2007 that around 17 Lakh kanal was agricultural land so on that basis the estimated amount that could be realised was surely to be reduced by around Rs.21080 Cr making the estimated recoveries to fall from Rs.25000 Cr to below Rs.4000 Cr even if all 20 Lakh Kanal land (nearly 3 Lakh Kanal non Agri and 17 Lakh Agri lands) were transferred to occupants where as in terms of CAG report tabled in J&K Legislative Assembly in March 2014 only 3,48,160 kanals of land { nearly 0.08 Lakh Kanal non Agri land (including 6949 kanals residential use, 990 kanals commercial use, 130 kanals lands in urban areas/ town out of 0.08 Lakh kanal) and 3,40,091 kanals Agri land } out of 20 Lakh Kanal had been cleared in seven years (from 2007 to 2013) by Revenue Department for giving ownership rights to those occupying government lands. No doubt there could be a few cases where wrong or favoured identification of occupant/ category of land might have been done but that cannot be attributed in general as wrong intentions of all the officers of revenue department / Administration and even the Legislature as have been the general comments / observations from 'some segments' on the framers of the said Act/ the Administration implementing the said Act on ground / or the beneficiaries of the said Act and more so



A Look through the Mist Part-III

staff were exercising very intimate vigil while examining the applications regarding the date of occupation, use of land for agriculture where no any authorised occupation / sanctioned occupation in terms of lease etc was not there as otherwise there was enough opportunity & time to 'share' unduly advantages over the targeted occupied government lands (20 lakh kanals).

Some typical data quoted referring government sources at occasions is given in Table B.. There may be some difference with the exact data in records but the data does give reasonably good idea for distribution of occupied lands over the J&K State and most of the lands being Agri lands.

When the process of receiving applications and processing the cases was started many questions were raised by the people, Like even on the process of implementation of Amended Roshni Act like (1) fixation of rates for granting the proprietary rights to those holding/ their dependents/ those who held occupation under residential lease/ allot-

ment made under regular government orders in 1950s/1960s after payment of premium as was being done/ is being in

occupant / authorized overstayed/ occupant "unauthorized expectant occupant"/ unauthorized occupant as of

had applied under Roshni scheme for obtaining free hold rights on lease allotments and had received demand notices asking for depositing the cost since they found the basis for conversion charges fixed as very high. Some beneficiaries were under economic stress since they were losing time for availing 25% rebate on the demand notes in case payment is not made with in 3 months or so and hence some made payments (particularly those who held lease) by arranging from any possible 'sources' since all were not grabbers/ habitual encroachers.

Some of the affected families had been approaching the administration as well as the political leaders pleading that who have/had been allotted lands for housing purposes as back as 40 / 50 years had not been treated sympathetically and fairly in the rules 2007 (SRO 64 dated 5th May, 2007) what to talk of those who had encroached small pieces of lands for housing/ earning livelihood purposes since even 30 years or even more.

No doubt generosity had been extended towards farmers by deciding to hand over ownership rights only @ Rs.100 per kanal documentation charges for agricultural lands (Section 12(4) Provided that the ceiling of 10 kanals shall not apply in respect of (a) (b) Agricultural land). Government had at the same time disappointed those in small towns/ cities/ villages who too genuinely need small pieces of

those holding possessions / have applied for vesting ownership rights. Representations were made to revenue/ Nazool authorities even by those who

had applied under Roshni scheme for obtaining free hold rights on lease allotments and had received demand notices asking for depositing the cost since they found the basis for conversion charges fixed as very high. Some beneficiaries were under economic stress since they were losing time for availing 25% rebate on the demand notes in case payment is not made with in 3 months or so and hence some made payments (particularly those who held lease) by arranging from any possible 'sources' since all were not grabbers/ habitual encroachers.

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lands (say a kanal of land) for their houses already in place but they were asked to pay 40 % of basic price as fixed (Rs 15 lakh to Rs 80 lakh or more per kanal) and in some case the expired lease holders (even 30/40 yr year) were being treated as unauthorized encroachers. Some of them objecting to demand notices approached the government in 2007 pleading that their lease be extended instead of free hold rights as per the method / the rules/ conditions that apply for lease extension/ grant of ownership rights for plots of J&K Housing Board (policy booklet 2001) i.e Rs. 3 per square foot for extension of lease for another 20 years beyond initial 20 years i.e nearly Rs.16200/ per kanal or as has been the policy even for regularization of 13 unauthorized / encroached residential colonies by the Housing and Urban Development Department upto 2005 on payment of just Rs.15000 to Rs. 40000 Per Kanal (Jogi Gate Rs. 15000 per Kanal, New Plots area Rs. 20000 per Kanal and Chand Nagar Rs. 40000/= per Kanal.) under government order No. 88 of 2005 dated 18-03-2005. Ghulam Nabi Azad the then CM did express some considering intentions has expressed his intentions to intervene but did not do so.

To be continued (The writer is Sr Journalist and social activist)