Copenhagen Accord disappointing: PM

ET Bureau | Jan 04, 2010, 02.53 AM IST

NEW DELHI: In a departure from the line taken by his environment minister, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed his disappointment over the Copenhagen Accord on climate change. Addressing the 97th Indian Science Congress on Sunday, the Prime Minister said nations "made limited progress" at the climate change conference at Copenhagen and that "no one was satisfied with the outcome".

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh has maintained that India had protected its interests. Even so, Mr Ramesh acknowledges that the Copenhagen Accord has "in-built hazards" for developing countries.

His disappointment notwithstanding, prime minister Singh made it clear that all countries need to move to a low-carbon economy. He told scientists at Thiruvananthapuram: "There is no escaping the truth that the nations of the world have to move to a low greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficient development path."

The Copenhagen Accord sets the goal of limiting global temperature increases to 2 degree celsius though it does not set any binding targets for emission reduction. Both developing and developed countries will have to inform UNFCCC of its commitment to reduce emission of greenhouse gases to mitigate the effects of climate change. The accord pledges $30 billion between 2010 and 2012 and $100 billion by 2020 for developing countries, particularly vulnerable countries and small island states, to help adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Copenhagen Accord could not be adopted due to objection by several countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Sudan. As a compromise measure, the Accord was "taken note of".

In this context, the prime minister called on scientists to "do much more" as the scientific capability will determine India's ability to face the new challenges like climate change. "We face new challenges of climate change and the management of our scarce water resources. We also face old challenges of food security and disease control. In all these areas, our success will depend critically on the quality of our institutions of science and technology."

Mr Singh said India must not lag behind in efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency, shifting to renewable sources of energy and chalking out strategies for adapting to climate change. "India must not lag behind in these areas. Indeed we should plan to be among the leaders in the development of science and technology related to mitigation and also adaptation to climate change. The market for such technologies is not just India. It is indeed the whole world."

As far as India's energy basket was concerned, Mr Singh said renewable and

clean energy supplies will need to play a much bigger role than at present. "Nuclear and solar energy supplies will need to increase considerably. The agreement reached last year with the Nuclear Suppliers Group represents a landmark in lifting long-standing restrictions on the transfer of nuclear fuel and technology to India. I am confident that we can now plan for an accelerated nuclear power development programme."

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NEXT STORY

Mayawati slams PM Narendra Modi for remarks on Gorakhpur tragedy

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 04.18 PM IST

LUCKNOW: BSP president Mayawati today attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks on the death of children in Gorakhpur and asked people to understand the "distorted thinking" of BJP leaders.

The BSP chief also termed as shocking BJP chief Amit Shah's statement at a press conference in Bengaluru that "this is not the first time such an incident has taken place in this large country of ours".

"Instead of taking action against their ministers and others, both Modi and Shah are showing ego and behaving in an authoritarian manner and BSP condemns it in the strongest words," she charged.

"It is both surprising and sad that Prime Minister Modi went a step ahead of his party president Amit Shah and described the death of children in Gorakhpur, caused by criminal, official negligence, as a natural calamity...people of the county should now understand the distorted and wrong thinking of BJP leaders," Mayawati said in a statement here.

In his Independence Day speech yesterday, Modi had said, "Sometimes, natural calamities become a very big challenge. Good rains contribute hugely to the prosperity of a nation. But due to climate change, sometimes, these natural calamities bring distress."

"A few days back, in many parts of the country, natural disasters took place. A few days back, at a hospital, our innocent children died," Modi had said.

Mayawati said everyone is aware that the tragedy is an outcome of rampant corruption at every level still the prime minister "has tried to save his party government by terming it as natural calamity when his own party MP and the

RSS have condemned it".

"Instead of taking action against their ministers and others, both Modi and Shah are showing ego and behaving in an authoritarian manner and BSP condemns it in the strongest words," she charged.

Shah had recently rejected the demand for UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ouster over the Gorakhpur tragedy, saying such incidents had also happened in states governed by the Congress.

"It is natural for Congress to ask for Yogiji's resignation. This is not the first time such an incident has taken place in this large country of ours. Such incidents have taken place during Congress rule in many states," he had said.

The BSP president claimed that the BJP wanted to hold Lok Sabha elections by the end of next year along with Assembly polls in some BJP-ruled Hindi-speaking states and asked the safforn party to at least now work honestly for the welfare of people.

Terming the Modi government's claims of fighting official corruption as hollow, she said the Centre has not set up the Lokpal in the past over three years and its governments in the states are "desisting from acting against corrupt ministers and others".

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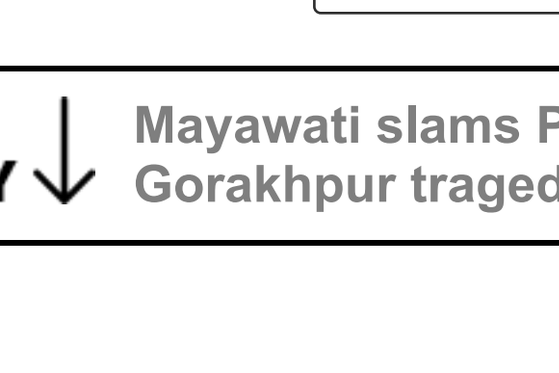
Mayawati slams PM Narendra Modi for remarks on Gorakhpur tragedy

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 04.16 PM IST



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NEXT STORY

Ex-IAS officer I V Subba Rao appointed secretary to vice president Venkaiah Naidu

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 04.10 PM IST

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved I V Subba Rao's appointment to Venkaiah Naidu on a contract basis for a period of two years.

NEW DELHI: Former IAS officer I V Subba Rao was today appointed as secretary to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post on a contract basis for a period of two years, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

A 1979 batch IAS officer from Andhra Pradesh, Rao retired from service in August 2015, according to his service records.

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1984 anti-Sikh riots: Supreme Court forms body to examine SIT decision to close 199 cases

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 03.32 PM IST

The top court directed the supervisory body to examine the issue and submit a report within three months.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today appointed a supervisory body of two former-apex court judges to scrutinise the SIT decision to close 199 cases in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots matter.

A bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra also asked the body to examine the SIT's decision to close additional 42 riots- related cases.

The top court directed the supervisory body to examine the issue and submit a report within three months.

The court has posted the matter for further hearing on November 28.

The apex court had on March 24 asked the Centre to place before it the files pertaining to the 199 cases of the anti- Sikh riots which the special investigation team set up by the Home Ministry has decided to "close".

The SIT is headed by Pramod Asthana, an IPS officer of 1986 batch, and has Rakesh Kapoor, a retired district and sessions judge, besides Kumar Gyanesh, an additional deputy commissioner of Delhi Police, as its members.

Anti-Sikh riots that broke out after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had claimed 2,733 lives in Delhi alone.

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NEXT STORY

Rahul Gandhi launches 'Indira Canteen' in Bengaluru

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 03.03 PM IST

BENGALURU: Congress Vice President Rahul

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An amount of Rs 100 crore was provided in the budget to set up the canteens in 198 wards of Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Gandhi today launched the Karnataka government's subsidised food canteens 'Indira Canteen' here that would provide breakfast at Rs five and lunch and dinner at a cost of Rs 10.

Apparently taking the cue from the popular 'Amma canteens' in Tamil Nadu, introduced by former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, the Siddaramaiah government had announced setting up of the canteens in the state budget for 2017-2018.

Initially referred to as 'Namma Canteen', the name was later changed to 'Indira Canteen' as Congress legislators sought to give a political touch to the populist announcement ahead of the Assembly polls early next year by naming it after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

An amount of Rs 100 crore was provided in the budget to set up the canteens in 198 wards of Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Congratulating the state government for the canteen programme, Gandhi said it is designed to make sure that not a single person in Bengaluru goes hungry.

Calling the world an "unfair place", the Congress vice president, who also had a lunch at the canteen, said it is targeted at the working class like construction workers and auto rickshaw drivers.

"There are many people in this city who live in huge houses and have plenty of food, who drive in big cars and for them food is not a big issue..but there are millions of people in Bengaluru like construction workers, those who own small shops, autorickshaw or taxi drivers, barbers and people who don't get that much money, and it is those people at whom this Indira Canteen is targeted," he said.

"We want the people from poorest and weakest sections in Bengaluru to feel that they will no have to stay hungry in this city. There cannot be a single minute where a poor person in Bengaluru is hungry. We want every single person to know and understand that," he added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress General Secretary in-charge of the state K C Venugopal, the party's state unit chief G Parameshwara and Bengaluru in-charge Minister K J George, among others were present at the event.

Taking pride over the Congress government conceptualising such a canteen, Gandhi said the intention was that the quality of food and cleanliness in it be the same as the most expensive restaurants in Bengaluru.

"I would like the government to pay special attention to this fact that the canteen should have excellent quality food, excellent hygiene and people walking out of this canteen must feel that they not only had safe food, but tasty food. I think we owe this to every single citizen," he said.

He said that the chief minister had informed him about extending the programme to other cities of the state.

In the first phase, 101 canteens were launched today and the remaining 97 will start functioning from October 2, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials

said.

Though it was initially proposed to have 198 canteens launched by the Independence Day, the number was later brought down to 125 owing to constrains related in getting land for construction of canteens in all the wards.

A total of 27 kitchens will be set up across the city to cater to these canteens, of which 14 are ready and six are currently in working condition.

According to officials, the canteens as of now will serve 500 plates of food, keeping in mind the budgetary allocation, and this is likely to be increased in the future.

Claiming that BBMP had ensured that project take shape to this level within 60 days after getting the order on June 12, officials said construction of canteens is being undertaken by KEF Infra Ltd, while Rewards, and Cheftalk Food and Hospitality Services have given the catering contract for the canteens.

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NEXT STORY ↓ Shiv Sena takes dig at PM Narendra Modi's I-Day address

NEXT STORY

Shiv Sena takes dig at PM Narendra Modi's I-Day address

PTI | Updated: Aug 16, 2017, 03.05 PM IST

MUMBAI: In a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address, the Shiv Sena today dared the Centre to abolish the Article 370 of the Constitution so that people from across the nation can "visit Kashmir and embrace its people."

"Now to bring this thought into practice, abolish Article 370 of the Constitution so that hoards of people from across the country can go there (Kashmir) and embrace its people," the editorial said.

Modi, in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red fort yesterday, said, "Na gaali se samasya sulajhne wali hai, na goli se, samasya suljhegi har Kashmiri ko gale lagane se (Kashmir problem cannot be resolved by either bullets or by abuses. It can be resolved by embracing Kashmiris)."

Reacting to it in a sarcasting tone, an editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' today said, "Why nobody got this great thought before is very surprising."

"Now to bring this thought into practice, abolish Article 370 of the Constitution so that hoards of people from across the country can go there (Kashmir) and embrace its people," the editorial said.

The Sena also said that violence in "the name of faith is prevalent in the country", which frightens not only Muslims but the Hindus as well.

"Some segments of the Hindu community have become violent and extremists in the name of cow protection. Merely warning them will not be enough," said the party, which is part of the BJP-led alliance governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra.

The Sena further questioned why the government was not as strict against those who refuse to sing 'Vande Mataram' as the way it implemented demonetisation and GST.

The prime minister had promised to bring back black money from foreign banks and deposit Rs 15 lakh in each person's account, it said, adding, "We believe this will be done in the next two years."

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