

PROTESTS OUTSIDE MISSIONS

Have asked states to take appropriate steps, says MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 22

AMID REPORTS THAT a banned pro-Khalistan group has called for protests outside Indian missions in countries like the UK on Republic Day, the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said India has asked the states to take appropriate action for ensuring security of the mission premises.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also said wherever Indian missions see that anti-India activities are taking place, they raise the issue with the government of that country and work with them.

Asked about banned Sikh for Justice calling for a blockade of Indian missions on January 26, he said in those countries where there have been protests outside the mission



"Wherever our missions see that anti-India activities are taking place, this issue is raised with the government of that country and we work with them," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said responding to a question on steps being taken by India on support extended by Khalistanis amid farmers' protests.

posts or protests are going to take place, "we have raised the issue of security of our diplomatic mission with local authorities."

"The responsibility of security of diplomatic mission is of the host country. We have asked these states to take appropriate action to ensure the

security of our mission and staffers," he said.

"Wherever our missions see that anti-India activities are taking place, this issue is raised with the government of that country and we work with them," Srivastava said responding to a question on steps being taken by India on support extended by Khalistanis amid farmers' protests.

To another question on India being invited to G7 by the UK and what would be the agenda at that summit, he said it was too early to talk about agenda but pointed out that in these summits it is largely the priorities of the chair which are important.

On the recent visit by Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali, Srivastava said the holding of the high-level meeting despite the Covid-19 restrictions is an example of the strength of the ties.

‘All ministers with us’: Arnab’s chats make BJP do some social distancing

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
New Delhi, January 22

THE BJP AND the Centre have avoided reacting to the WhatsApp chats between Republic TV's Arnab Goswami and former CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta submitted to the court by the Mumbai Police in the TRP case. But as the Congress calls for a JPC probe and flags Goswami's claims of proximity with the government, that distancing will be tested once Parliament begins.

The Congress Working Committee Friday demanded a "time-bound investigation" into "the breach of national security, violations of the Official Secrets Act and the role of the persons involved."

Congress president Sonia Gandhi criticised what she called the "deafening" silence of the Government adding that "those who give certificates of patriotism and nationalism to others now stand totally exposed."

"Why should we enter the picture?" said a Union Minister. "Neither the government nor the party has anything to do with what chats Goswami has with someone.



Arnab Goswami

As of now, there is no wrongdoing, nothing to prove that any party leader has something to do with it," said a Union Minister.

On the Congress allegation that the chats show Goswami had prior knowledge of "sensitive" military operations - a reference to Balakot - BJP leaders said the chats didn't reveal anything that wasn't public knowledge at that time. Indeed, several leaders in the party and the Government, from the Prime Minister down, had warned of decisive action to avenge the Pulwama attack.

Yet, at least six BJP leaders The Indian Express spoke with, including a Union Minister, admitted that the controversy has put them in a spot.

Negative references to leaders like late Arun Jaitley, Prakash Javadekar and former minister Rajyvardhan Rathore; Goswami's remark that "all ministers are with us," and his offer to mediate with the political leadership, including the PMO, aren't what anyone in the party or the government wants to have to respond on.

More so, after their top leaders came out to strongly defend Goswami when he was picked up from his home in a suicide abatement case by the Mumbai police in November.

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Javadekar, S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Smriti Irani and BJP president J P Nadda had called it an attack on the free press.

"That support was extended because the Maharashtra government and the police were going after Goswami," said a senior BJP leader. "This isn't the same thing. There is alleged wrongdoing and people have been arrested."

At least two leaders said the WhatsApp chats were like the "Radia moment" for the BJP referring to telephone chats between former corporate lobbyist Niira Radia and

politicians and journalists in 2009, which was used by the BJP in its campaign against the Congress-led UPA in the run up to 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

"The content may not be as damaging as Radia tapes, but specific claims of proximity to politicians and corporates. But it is embarrassing when someone flaunts or brags about connections with Ministers," said a party leader.

There is also, another BJP leader said, uncertainty over what's in the pipeline -- if there are other chats that will be revealed by the Mumbai Police who this week were successful in getting the court to reject Dasgupta's bail plea.

"We don't know what will come out but as of now, the government and the party will maintain that we have nothing to do with what has been leaked so far," said a leader. "And that the law with take its course in the TRP case anyway."

Goswami, incidentally, has threatened legal action against the Congress for its "falshoods." Dasgupta's advocate Arjun Singh Thakur said that "motivated interests" had leaked the chats that has "nothing incriminating."

‘If farm laws repealed, no govt will dare bring them again’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 22

NITI AAYOG MEMBER Ramesh Chand on Friday said that if the new farm laws are repealed, no government will have courage to bring them again in the next 10-15 years, and termed the ongoing stalemate between the Centre and protesting farmer unions as a "clash of egos".

Chand, while addressing a media briefing, said agriculture issues have now become "very complex" and as far as need for reforms is concerned, he thinks everybody is convinced. "I somehow feel that now, it has become a sort of clash of egos. We need to somehow leave this ego issue and look at larger interest of the sector.

"Because, if these reforms are repealed, I don't know whether in the next 10-15 years, anybody will have courage to bring these kinds of reforms," Chand said.

The Niti Aayog member (agriculture) further said that if that happens, it will be "very very damaging for the farmers and the agriculture sector". He also opined that even protesting farmers seem to be for reforms but they are probably asking that first you the government repeal then bring a new one. Chand also said the government and the Supreme Court have shown accommodation, they have shown flexibility for farmers.

Another minister quits in Bengal, BJP invites him to join their party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 22

WEST BENGAL FOREST Minister Rajib Banerjee resigned on Friday, dealing another blow to the Trinamool Congress fighting to stanch a steady stream of desertions to the BJP ahead of Assembly elections.

Transport Minister Suvendu Adhikari and Minister of State for Sports Laxmi Ratan Shukla had earlier resigned their posts in the government and party. Several Trinamool MPs and MLAs have also left over the past several weeks.

Rajib Banerjee had been skipping meetings of the Mamata Banerjee cabinet for some time now, and had expressed his unhappiness over the functioning of the party.

In his resignation sent to the Chief Minister and copied to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, Banerjee wrote: "I regret to inform

you that I hereby tender my resignation from my office as cabinet minister being in charge of Forest Department on today, i.e., on 22 January, 2021."

It had been a "great honour and privilege to serve the people of West Bengal", Banerjee said, adding, "I heartily convey my gratitude for getting this opportunity."

Banerjee, the TMC heavyweight from Howrah district, later went to Raj Bhavan to personally hand over his resignation letter to the Governor.

Afterwards, Banerjee told reporters: "I had decided to leave the state cabinet two and a half years ago, when I was removed as irrigation minister. I had expected the minimum courtesy from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a co-worker that she would inform me about her decision before making the announcement. I came to know from the media when I was holding a party meeting. I had then decided to leave the cabinet and remain a



Rajib Banerjee with West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in Kolkata on Friday. Twitter/@jdhanakhar1

party worker. Later, Mamata Banerjee pacified me and gave me new responsibilities and roles as a minister."

He had taken up his grievances about the party with Mamata and other leaders over the last two and a half years, Banerjee said.

"Over the last two months, I have aired those grievances in public. But in last few months statements made by my co-workers have hurt me a lot. I was deeply pained... I don't believe in making personal attacks. But personal attacks against me made me take this decision (to quit)."

Banerjee, who did not take questions from reporters, later told his close circle that he would announce his next step in due course. "If only Mamata Banerjee had called me once over the phone, all issues would have been resolved," Banerjee is learnt to have told aides.

On January 16, Banerjee, the MLA from Domjur, had alleged during a Facebook Live session that he had been unable to do some good work for the people "because of some persons in the party", and had asked the TMC leadership to take "corrective steps" to

bridge the gap with the people.

TMC MP Prof Sougata Ray said Banerjee's resignation was expected. "Good riddance. He was not discharging his duties as a minister and party leader. We tried to change his mind and to make him understand. But he decided otherwise. It is good that he has resigned, else we would have taken action against him."

TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said: "This will have no impact on the TMC. The party is like an ocean. There will be no effect if you draw two or three drops from it. If one or two leaves fall from a banyan tree, new leaves start growing. People like him are being roped in by the BJP to badmouth us... One day they (Banerjee and others who have left) will realise that they made the wrong decision."

The TMC also moved swiftly to crush further dissent in the party, expelling MLA Baishali Dalmiya soon after she came out in Banerjee's support on Friday.

Dalmiya, the daughter of the late cricket administrator and businessman Jagmohan Dalmiya, joined the TMC in 2016 and was immediately given the ticket to contest the

Assembly election from Bally constituency in Howrah district. After Banerjee quit, Dalmiya said: "Rajibda resigning from as state minister is a big loss to the party and the people. Everyone has self-respect and no self-respecting person can tolerate insult. In Howrah district, we have faced a lot of disrespect and insults from a section of the leadership."

Within hours, the TMC disciplinary committee met and decided to expel her from the party.

Since December, eight TMC MLAs, including the powerful leader from Midnapore Suvendu Adhikari, have joined the BJP. Two Congress MLAs, an MLA each from the CPM and CPI, a TMC MP, and a former TMC MP too, have joined the BJP. Laxmi Ratan Shukla has taken a break from politics after quitting the government, Rajib Banerjee is likely to join the BJP later this month.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh appealed to Banerjee to join the party. "He has resigned as state minister but he is still an MLA of the TMC. We cannot do anything unless he resigns as MLA. But we will wait for him. He should come and join hands with the BJP," Ghosh said on Friday.

BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said, "Those who want to honestly work for the people cannot remain with Mamata Banerjee. This is because Mamata and her nephew are indulging in corruption across the state. Their leaders are getting arrested in cow smuggling and coal scams. So people like Rajib Banerjee are leaving... We will welcome him to the BJP if he wishes to come."

After he turned rebel and skipped cabinet meetings, the TMC had tried to reach out to Banerjee. Partha Chatterjee met with him to address his grievances. Banerjee, however, continued to speak against the party.



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FINANCIAL RESULTS

Sl. No.	Particulars	(₹ in Lakhs)				
		December 31, 2020 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2020 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended / As at March 31, 2020 (Audited)
1	Premium Income (Gross) ¹	13,87,436	11,75,966	34,60,744	28,69,751	40,63,473
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	23,308	39,491	92,033	89,196	1,41,354
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	23,308	39,491	92,033	89,196	1,41,354
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	23,285	38,977	92,347	89,152	1,42,217
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] ²	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Equity Share Capital (Paid up)	1,00,006	1,00,000	1,00,006	1,00,000	1,00,003
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve and fair value change account.)	8,80,940	7,35,196	8,80,940	7,35,196	7,88,389
8	Earnings Per Share (face value of ₹10/- each)					
	1. Basic (not annualised for three / nine months) (in ₹)	2.33	3.90	9.23	8.92	14.22
	2. Diluted (not annualised for three / nine months) (in ₹)	2.33	3.90	9.23	8.91	14.22

Note:

- 1) Premium income is gross of reinsurance and net of Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- 2) The Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) are currently not applicable to Insurance companies in India
- 3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly financial results are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and the Company (www.sblife.co.in)

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Place: Mumbai
Date: January 22, 2021

Mahesh Kumar Sharma
Managing Director & CEO
(DIN: 08740737)