

MEMORUNDUM

Hon'ble Home Minister
Government Of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

In view of the prevailing political situation in J&K and the feedback received from the common people during extensive public outreach programmes, in the shape of Meetings, Seminars, Conventions and group discussions, we the delegation of Apni Party under the leadership of our President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari approach to your benign self with submissions as made hereunder:

1. Restoration of Statehood and holding of Elections at Earliest

Since its inception, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party has been consistently voicing the political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Today when your good self is on the last leg of one more successful visit of Jammu and Kashmir, we deem it proper to bring to your kind notice these issues and reiterate our passionate appeal to the government for their early redressal in the larger interest of the common people

At the very outset, we reiterate our long pending demand regarding restoration of Statehood before Assembly elections are held. The necessity to demand the restoration of Statehood is to instil a sense of confidence among the people of Jammu and Kashmir particularly the youth. For administrative empowerment, good governance, better devolution of powers in a federal structure and to defuse the highly misguiding and misleading propaganda of Anti-peace elements and to create a real sense

of belonging among the masses, restoration of statehood shall go a long way and would play a pivotal role in the path of confidence building.

It is worthwhile to place on record that The Hon'ble Prime Minister and The Union Home Minister have committed to restoring statehood at an appropriate time. Apni Party honestly believes that this is appropriate time to win the confidence of the people, particularly the youth of J&K by restoring the statehood and holding the Assembly Elections at earliest.

2. Transparent and Fast Recruitment

Jammu and Kashmir is facing a high unemployment rate. Earlier the government of Jammu and Kashmir had committed that fast-track recruitments to various posts shall take place and even some visible steps were also taken in this behalf. However, recently it was observed that the merit list for various government vacancies was quashed given the lack of transparency and alleged malpractices. The youth of J&K have immensely suffered due to the quashing of lists, resulting in loss of precious time and looming uncertainty, particularly on account of age bar. This also results in pendency in filling up departmental posts. It has also been observed that the verification process for such recruitments is cumbersome and time consuming, hence loses its essence and results in forfeiting equal opportunities to the concerned aspirants.

The youth of Jammu and Kashmir, no doubt deserve transparency and livelihood with dignity but this is also a matter of fact the delay in filling up of the vacant posts will also hinder the administrative functioning as most of these departments remain understaffed.

After quashing the list, the youth of J&K have once again been pushed into uncertainty. We request the government to address this growing uncertainty and ensure a transparent and fast-track mechanism whereby the youth will not suffer and at the same time the departments will get adequate human resources as the government necessarily requires filling up of these posts.

3. Release of youth

Given Independence Day niceties, smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and in the interest of overall tourist season, preventive detention of youth had taken place across many districts.

It has been long since such youth have been in preventive custody. The parents of these youth and the respective local communities have a genuine demand for their release. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir is capable and determined to play a positive role in changed scenario. We strongly believe that integrating the youth of Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream and providing them with a credible and viable platform, will allow them to contribute to the best in nation-building. Therefore, it is imperative that such youth languishing in custody be released without any further delay. It will be in the interest of justice that such youth return home in a dignified manner.

4. Resolution of problems faced by Fruit Growers of Kashmir Valley:

The apple growers and traders in Kashmir Valley continue to face hardships after hundreds of fruit laden trucks are unable to pass smoothly on Jammu--Srinagar National highway. The Apple industry, worth Rs. 12,000 Crore, is the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. As many as 3.5 million persons are directly or indirectly dependent on the apple trade, contributing about 8% to the regions GDP. The Fruit Growers and traders, however, have faced multiple hardships and downslides since January 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The apple trade at present is also marred by low prices for the produce. The rates, according to the farmers, have plummeted to half in what many see as an outcome of tax-free imports from Iran via Afghanistan which affects the economy of J&K. The Farmers have made several appeals to ensure protection of their interests and ensuring hassle-free movement of Fruit laden trucks.

The fruit growers also solicit kind intervention of Honourable Home Minister in respect of levying of local taxes on apples from JK and Himachal Pradesh by Government of Bangladesh. This has caused a great loss to the fruit industry

5. Uptake and completion of Projects

Construction of long pending projects (Sadhna Tunnel, Mughal Road Tunnel, Sinthan tunnel and Lolab-Bandipora Tunnel).

Successive Governments have failed to fulfil the above-mentioned demands by the people of J&K, despite repeated assurances for the construction of these tunnels which will ensure all weather connectivity of these regions. In the absence of the connectivity, scores of people lost their lives while crossing the snow bound areas over the years. It is pertinent to mention that these tunnels would improve the economic position of these areas and it will provide employment opportunities to the youth besides giving a boost to winter tourism in J&K. We appeal to your good self that these projects be completed on priority basis to mitigate the hardships of the common people.

6. Request regarding formation of a genuine and judicious verification policy in respect of those candidates who are selected for various Government jobs.

As per the complicated format devised by the government, the selected candidates, besides being asked to provide information about themselves, their family members including in-laws and their relatives which is least said, a cumbersome task. Further to it, the selected candidates are made to run from pillar to post to establish their innocence and non-involvement in respect of their direct or indirect, close and distant, dead or surrendered militant relatives, who acted as militant when these selected candidates were not even born. We appeal to kindly intervene

in this matter so that the future of these forward looking youth is not marred for none of their sin or fault.

7. Raising of new battalions:

We appeal for raising of additional special battalions, particularly in border regions to create job opportunities and halt the flow of misguided individuals who are worst enemies of peace and prosperity while playing in the hands of our enemies.

8. The delegation firmly believes that it is high time that recommendations in respect of OBC are entirely implemented in letter and spirit. Apni Party fervently appeals the Union Government to include Jatts community in OBC category.

With kind regards and reverence

Delegation of J&K Apni Party, through its President

(Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari)
President, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party