

OFFICE OF RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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BJP MIGHT CONSIDER MINIMUM BASIC INCOME INCLUSION IN IT'S LOK SABHA POLL MANIFESTO: MP RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

~~ Implementation of minimum basic income is one of the suggestions which the party received during the public consultation - Bharat Ke Mann Ki Baat held across India ---

~The Manifesto committee led by Sh. Rajnath Singh will take the final decision~

Bengaluru, 14th March 2019: Among many suggestions pouring in, the BJP is considering including minimum basic income scheme in its Lok Sabha election manifesto, which would eliminate poverty and ensure survival of individuals without work requirement.

"Lot of participative and unprecedented grassroots suggestions are pouring in during our manifesto committee meetings with various groups of people. Implementation of minimum basic income is also one of the suggestions which the party received during the public consultation – Bharat Ke Mann Ki Baat held across India and just like all other ideas and suggestion received, will be taken up for consideration," BJP Leader and BJP's Manifesto committee member Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

Asked if the party seriously considering including minimum basic income in its election manifesto, Chandrasekhar said, "I'm not aware of this. The committee will take a final decision, but various next stage reforms are under consideration and is being discussed."

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AICC President Rahul Gandhi earlier had scored a political point over BJP by saying that the Congress would implement the minimum basic income for poor, if the party is voted to power in the upcoming seven-phase Lok Sabha election beginning April 11.

The minimum income guarantee for poor is a spinoff of the concept of UBI, which is a model for providing all citizens of the country or a geographic area with a sum of money.

UBI is a fixed income provided to every adult including the rich, poor, working or idle by the government. The core idea of UBI is to eliminate poverty or at least ensure survival of individuals in the country or within a certain area/state. Further speaking on the issue, Chandrasekhar said he is impressed with so many other suggestions that are unprecedented as part of Bharat Ke Mann Ki Baat

"I have done many programmes. Many youth and government servants and children are coming up with suggestions. I am very much impressed with most of them. All these suggestions are being discussed under Rajnath Singh ji, who is the chairman of a committee. If required, some suggestions slowly go into the manifesto," he said

Asked if Priyanka Gandhi's re-entry into politics would affect BJP's fortunes in Uttar Pradesh, Chandrasekhar said the Congress is out of sync with the expectations of the people.

The people, especially youngsters, expect their leaders who have made their mark the very hard way rather than Priyanka and Rahul Gandhi, who are reaping benefits without having any experience of governance, he said.

"What are the achievements if Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi? Nothing, except of the name Gandhi, they are enjoying high party offices. It is astonishing that the Congress is not understanding the pulse of new India which wants leaders of merit, not those coming through dynasty politics," he said.

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As many as 68 per cent voters below 35 years of age are not at impressed with the Gandhi's, he added. They are impressed with a person like Modi who climbed the ladders of success," he said.

Asked how many seats BJP would win, Chandrasekhar said it is premature to talk about it, but majority of the people want Modi to continue as the prime minister, for his policies have benefited almost all communities and caste.

The people also are satisfied with Modi's action against loan defaulters like Nirav Modi by implementing stringent banking code, he said.

Asked about the affect BJP would have because of Mahagatbandhan in UP and few other states, Chandrasekhar said alliance arithmetic would not play a decisive role in this Lok Sabha elections, but the performance of Modi government.

Replying to a query, Chandrasekhar said more than Masood Azharji row, the larger issue is tackling of terrorism through the prism of votebank politics by the Congress, which has always compromised national security.

A couple of days back, Rahul had raised a political storm by addressing JeM terrorist Masood Azhar as Masood Azharji. This JeM terrorist is the mastermind of the recent Pulwama attack.

Chandrasekhar also blamed Congress for politicising Balakot air strike which was carried out by the Indian Air Force across Line of Control.

"It was the Congress which politicised the air strike first. The BJP just reacted to the unprecedented doubts raised by the opposition on Balakot strike. We are not here to keep silent. If the Congress and their supporters would raise doubts on the armed forces, we would retaliate," he said.

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Moreover, the Prime Minister did not utter a word until the release of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by Pakistan army and then released due to increasing global pressure, he added.

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