

***Reinstate Savarkar's Quotes on Swatantrya-Jyot  
at Cellular Jail, Andaman: Ram Naik***

**Mumbai, Wednesday:** "Modi Government should re-instate the quotes of Swatantryaveer V D Savarkar on the Swatantrya Jyot monument at Cellular Jail, Andaman to uphold national pride. It will teach a fitting lesson to the Congress Party as its arrogant Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer had removed them", said Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister while paying his tribute to Late Savarkar on his birth anniversary.

Shri Ram Naik further said, "I have made this request in a letter congratulating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi immediately after swearing in. The issue is sensitive and crores of Indians are hoping that Shri Modi will regain the pride lost." While giving background of the issue Shri Naik added that during his tenure as a Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas it was decided that the Indian Oil Foundation would install an ever-burning flame in a monument as a tribute to all freedom fighters at Cellular Jail, Andaman. It was further decided to display quotes of Swatantryaveer Savarkar, Bahadur Shah Jaffar, Madanlal Dhingra, Bhagat Singh and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on all the four sides of the monument. Accordingly the monument was erected. However, it could not be inaugurated during Shri Naik's regime due to election code of conduct. Post elections; the Congress was in power. Though the monument was inaugurated by UPA-I's Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer; he dared to hurt sentiments of crores of Indians by removing quotes of Savarkar and thereby dis-respecting him. There were heated debate in the Parliament and also an all-India agitation. However the insensitive Congress Government did not realize the need to restore the pride, probably because it was destined that this patriotic job should be done by Shri Narendra Modi."

"Today on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shri V D Savarkar I have also telephonically requested Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum & Natural Gas to initiate the action promptly", said Shri Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**