

For Favour of Publicity

25th September, 2013

A statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister in a press conference held at Mumbai on 25th September 2013.

Ram Naik not to contest Lok Sabha election

Mumbai, Wednesday: Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister has announced that he would not contest the ensuing Lok Sabha election and would continue to contribute for the party work. "I have contested ten elections, three assembly and seven Lok Sabha elections in the last 35 years. BJP and the people of Mumbai have shown exceptional affection to me. I am therefore happy to announce my decision on the occasion of birth anniversary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, who has been a source of inspiration for me on account of his political theory of Integral Humanism", stated Shri Naik while addressing media persons today in Mumbai

Briefing the media about his political career of 53 years Shri Ram Naik said, "Like thousands of unemployed youths, I came to Mumbai in search of employment after my graduation in 1954. As an RSS activist since childhood, I continued social activities through RSS. That led to my active association with Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1960. I first contested assembly election in 1978, securing highest votes in Mumbai as an MLA from Borivli. I am the first MLA to win three consecutive assembly elections from Mumbai after the formation of Maharashtra State in 1960. It was due to overwhelming support of voters of Borivli - Dahisar. Later, I contested Lok Sabha election for the first time in 1989 and was elected as an MP from Mumbai North Parliamentary Constituency consecutively for five terms. I secured highest votes in Maharashtra in 1999 i.e. 5,17,941 votes. Mumbai has elected veteran leaders like S. K. Patil, Comrade Dange, George Fernandez, Mrinal Gore, Manohar Joshi, etc. to represent in Lok Sabha. But it was my privilege to get elected for five consecutive terms. In spite of my subsequent two defeats, the record still remains. I take the opportunity today to thank all voters, workers and colleagues for bestowing such honour on me."

Believing in the principle of accountability to voters, Shri Ram Naik adopted the practice of publishing annual performance report since 1978. He believes that he could win confidence of the voters largely due to this uninterrupted practice. Shri Naik briefed media about his few outstanding achievements. As an MLA his innovative ideas of multi-storied toilets and mobile toilets, tube wells in slums to meet challenges of ever-increasing population were well-received in those days. Shri Naik feels happy that as an MP, he could start practice of singing Vande Mataram in the Parliament, changed name of 'Bombay', 'Bambai' to 'Mumbai', enacted a law banning advertisements of baby food and encouraging breast feeding. He was also the Chairman of prestigious Public Accounts Committee in 1995 - 1996.

Shri Naik added, "My achievements as a Minister are due to inspiration and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee." As a Minister of State in 1998 - 1999 he was entrusted with the responsibilities of five important portfolios viz. Railways (Independent Charge), Home, Planning, Programme Implementation & Parliamentary Affairs. Shri Naik expressed happiness that during his regime Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation was constituted with projects of Rs.3,450 crores. The earlier neglected freedom fighters of Dadara - Nagar Haveli were given due honour of Freedom Fighters. After 1999 Shri Naik as a Cabinet Minister of the most sensitive portfolio of Petroleum & Natural Gas attracted attention of the people for various initiatives. He is the only Petroleum Minister who held office for complete term of five years in the last 50 years after the establishment of separate Petroleum Ministry in 1963. A waiting list of LPG for domestic cooking with 1 crore 10 lakh was not only liquidated but 3 crore 50 lakh new connections were given. To reduce the dependence on import of crude oil, production of ethanol for blending with petrol and investment in foreign countries for exploration and production of oil and natural gas was successfully done. He also allotted Petrol Pumps and LPG Distributorships to widows/dependents of defence personnel who laid down their lives in Kargil war.

While discharging his duties as an elected representative Shri Naik was also active in party's organizational wing. He was the organizing secretary of city unit of Jana Sangh, the first President of Mumbai BJP and held office for many years. He is also a member of national executive of BJP since inception. Presently he is national convener of Good Governance Cell of BJP.

In addition to his political work, Shri Naik also works to help under-privileged of the society. He was instrumental in organizing a union of railway porters, leprosy affected persons and many other social organizations. Since last nine years he is personally pleading for rehabilitation of project affected persons of Tarapur Atomic Power Project in Mumbai High Court. The long awaited justice is on way. Presently he is also the President of the International Leprosy Union (ILU) founded in 1987 by the renowned sociologist late Dr.S.D.Gokhale.

Shri Naik expressed contentment over the tasks accomplished so far. He mentioned his victory over the dreaded disease cancer in 1994 and said "I truly believe that my life is meant for public service. This faith is my strength which helps me to work with vigour and passion even at the age of 80 today. Naturally, retirement is not at all on my agenda. I have only decided not to contest Lok Sabha election." Shri Naik hoped that voters, workers and colleagues would take his decision in proper spirit and would continue their support. Finally he extended his sincere thanks to media for their support. On ending note Shri Naik said, "Media has been always co-operative with me. I am fortunate that in my long political tenure of 53 years there has not been a single occasion when I have said that 'I am wrongly quoted or mischievously misinterpreted.' This would not have been possible without the support of media."

(Office Secretary)