

## ***Sone Ki Chidiya: Jobs, opportunity, security, justice***

Swarna Bharat Party is committed to your life, liberty and property rights, to your freedom in general, including your freedom to pursue happiness. We will deliver a free market economy supported by an effective but limited and accountable government. Detailed policies are in our manifesto.

### **1. Jobs for all through competitive free market economy**

#### *Farm sector liberalisation*

- Jobs for farmers and their children by liberating the farm sector
- Article 31 B and schedule IX of the Constitution of India to be repealed, bringing an end to unjust restrictions including land ceiling and Essential Commodities Act
- Farmers to be liberated to access markets and technology and APMCs removed entirely
- Phased deregulation of prices (e.g. minimum support) to minimise increase in food costs
- Freedom to buy and sell land and convert to other commercial and residential uses subject to appropriate infrastructure provision

#### *Minimal regulation of the market*

- Jobs for all through dramatic increase in private sector opportunities across all sectors
- Highly competitive economy to promote innovation: Focus on #1 position in global ease of doing business indicator: slashed red tape, regulation only where the benefits exceed costs, else deregulation.
- Market regulator without regulatory capture; strong limitations on regulatory tools (such as occupational licensing) that restrict competition

### **2. Low tax regime so people can keep more of their money**

- GST at a flat rate of 10 percent.
- Flatter (but mildly progressive) income tax with goal to reduce highest slab to match Singapore (currently 22 per cent); a high standard deduction (e.g. Rs. 5 lakhs under current circumstances); widening the income tax base with everyone required to lodge an annual return
- Ceiling on overall tax (including State and local) at 25 per cent of GDP.
- Zero tariffs on all imports with restrictions only imposed to protect national security. This would dramatically reduce prices for consumers and promote new investment and new jobs.
- Revenues from through divestment of PSUs and asset sales and lease of government land
- Efficient taxes and charges, e.g. land taxes, personal income tax, limited use of consumption taxes (which are regressive). Reduction or elimination of inefficient transaction taxes

### **3. Equal opportunity for all**

#### *Elimination of poverty*

- Total elimination of dire poverty within three years through a negative-income-tax-type top-up that is transferred directly into bank accounts of the poor based on annual income tax reporting (this is not basic income which distorts work incentives).

#### *Access to good school education for the poorest*

- Equal opportunity created through access to high quality school education for the poorest of the poor. Initially, competitive neutrality will be ensured so that government schools charge full fees. The poor will be directly subsidised through vouchers with freedom to choose their school. Government to step out of ownership and management of schools in a phased manner.
- Total privatisation of higher education with loans for the poor

#### *Access to good healthcare for the poorest of the poor*

- Voucher for health insurance for the poorest of the poor
- Government funding (social insurance) of trauma treatment for everyone
- Government to step out from ownership and management of health infrastructure.

#### **4. World class infrastructure and cities**

- Creating 50 Singapores in India: World class cities through market-based urban planning. Dramatic increase in floor area ratios and adequate regulation for public realm, gardens and green areas
- Government to facilitate and regulate (rarely build and own directly) through privatisation of electricity and gas, and phased privatisation of water, roads and railways.
- Market price recovery of costs through value capture for capital assets (e.g. land tax, levy from businesses) and user charges (e.g. congestion pricing and road use charges)
- Access for the disabled to public infrastructure, e.g. disabled friendly footpaths

#### **5. Security, and law and order (Core function #1)**

- Police funding to be doubled and police/population ratio increased over the course of ten years from the present 106 per lakh population to the UN-recommended 222.
- Policemen at senior levels will be recruited from the open market (some specialists could be recruited globally), with contractual appointments linked with performance.
- Improve the competence and morale of the Police through a range of reforms
- Improve accountability with police to use body cameras while performing public duties.
- A prosecuting agency completely independent of the police.
- Self-defence rights: Right to responsible gun ownership for citizens with training.
- Complete separation of state and religion

#### **6. Speedy and cost-effective justice (Core function #2)**

- Funding for justice to be increased 10 times to 0.1 per cent of GDP from 0.01 per cent: 130 judges for every one million persons from the current 13.5
- High performance accountable judiciary: (a) Independent commission for remuneration of judges, (b) Parliament to appoint all Supreme Court judges and High Court judges appointed by State Assemblies, (c) internal review to deal with complaints against judges, (d) training of judges and (e) Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill.
- Fast track courts against MPs and MLAs and for crimes committed against person
- Jury system for all criminal trials.
- Stronger pre-litigation processes and plea bargaining, and stopping endless appeals.
- Many more mobile courts, Lok Adalats and Family Courts, with some functions delegated to Panchayats, and to private courts.
- Easier access to bail. Prison reforms to focus on rehabilitation and reduced recidivism.
- Drastic reduction in the scope of contempt of court provisions and defamation laws.
- Minimum standards, not a uniform civil code; all redundant legislation to be repealed; reform of numerous laws including regarding child protection, domestic violence and dowry.
- Laws to dramatically increase freedom and separation of religion and state

#### **7. Strong local government, governance reforms and electoral reforms**

- Strong local government system with multiple councils for all major cities (elimination of centralised municipal corporations), full power of councillors to appoint and pay CEO and ensure the total accountability of employees
- Electoral reforms – including state funding of elections on per vote basis to motivate good people to join public life
- Replacement of Part 14 of the Constitution with legislation for an accountable public service (contractual appointments at senior levels)
- Open Government - transparency on everything that does not directly impact national security