

Cong. sees 'conspiracy' in closure of units

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC. 29. The Congress (I) today charged that a "conspiracy" had been hatched by BJP leaders and the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, to drive out lakhs of people of Poorvanchal, working in thousands of industrial units, out of the Capital by closing down factories.

Stating that all such moves would be resisted and no Government or authority would be allowed to take arbitrary decisions which are against the interests of the people, senior party leaders led by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee(I) president, Mr. Subhash Chopra, resolved that the Congress party would stand by the more than 40 lakh people of Poorvanchal whatever the circumstances arise.

At a massive rally organised at Dabri More in Nasirpur constituency and presided over by the area MLA, Mr. Mahabal Mishra, more than 25,000 people courted arrest against the indiscriminate closure of industries. The local police announced that more than 25,000 had been taken into custody after they were prevented from blocking traffic on the busy Pankha Road.

A resolution moved by Mr. Mahabal Mishra, dubbed as the "Laloo of Delhi" by various speakers, was passed by

raising of hands by the protestors. It stated that the conspiracy to drive out people of Poorvanchal from the Capital would not be allowed to succeed and condemned the Central Government for its failure to change the Master Plan of Delhi.

Another resolution was moved by Mr. Mishra and Mr. Mukesh Sharma, MLA, which requested the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, to intervene in the matter and dismiss Mr. Jagmohan. It also urged him to direct the Central Government to make necessary changes in the Master Plan of Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mahabal Mishra said that it was not easy to throw out the people of Poorvanchal from the city. He challenged Mr. Jagmohan and the BJP leaders to come out in the open and go among the affected people.

The fraud of the BJP leaders has been exposed. If they dare to venture out on the roads, they would have to face the wrath of the peo-

ple who feel sold out. The BJP MPs have no locus standi to accuse the Delhi Government when their own Minister was bent upon destroying the industry in the Capital", he remarked.

Congratulating the DPCC(I) president, Mr. Subhash Chopra, for unleashing the "Nayaya Yudh" against the indiscriminate closure of industry, Mr. Mishra said that under the leadership of Mr. Chopra and Mr. Sajjan Kumar, the Congress party would certainly defeat the communal forces.

Addressing the protestors, Mr. Chopra condemned the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, for going on a vacation to Kerala when the Capital was burning and the poor people were being uprooted.

The BJP leaders, he said, are not able to face the people because of their anti-poor policies. The Deputy Speaker Vidhan Sabha, Ms. Kiran Chaudhary, demanded the resignation of the BJP MPs from Delhi for their failure to protect

the rights of the people.

Mr. Mukesh Sharma, MLA, said it was sad that those villagers who had contributed a lot to making Delhi what it is today are being denied the basic right of earning their livelihood.

He said the Congress party was against pollution but it also did not favour rendering more than 20 lakh people unemployed.



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee leaders at a rally near Dabri More in Delhi on Friday.



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Former Delhi Chief Minister and national vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, leading a dharna outside the old secretariat in Delhi on Friday to protest against the closure of industrial units in the Capital.

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