



A Study Performance of Akali-BJP Government in Punjab 2007-2017

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to study the performance of the Akali-BJP government in Punjab in the period of 2007-2017. It was a Coalition government. When no single political party secures majority of seats, some parties combine to form their joint government is coalition government. It is an expression of different views of the people and political parties to come into power. The SAD-BJP Coalition government made a healthy impact on the society of Punjab. The coalition also strengthened the roots of democracy in State. The divide that had been created between the Sikhs and Hindu that continued for long time was bridged by this Coalition. The one party era ended in 1967 and a new era of politics of alliances ushered in with the formation of coalition governments in state since then. On the basis of performance people can judge the policies and programme of a political party. It creates awareness among people. Punjab is facing so many problems in these days like drugs, corruption, unemployment, female feticide etc. So it is necessary to analysis the performance Akali-BJP government in Punjab and identifies the factors and situations affecting the performance of these governments in the direction of fulfillment of promises.

Key words: Performance, elections, political parties, public, democracy, coalition.

Introduction

In democratic set up the aim of every political party is to achieve power through elections. When no single Party is able to form the government then efforts are made to forge an alliance to get power. The politics of alliances has gained tremendous importance in Indian polity. Alliance means “The action or state of being joined or associated” and “An association formed for mutual benefit”.¹An electoral alliance or electoral coalition is an association of political parties or individuals, which exist solely to stand in election. Each of party with in a alliance will have its own policies, but will choose temporally to put aside differences in favors of common goals and ideologies. “Coalition” is used for an alliance or temporary union of joint action of various powers of states and also of the union into a single government of distinct parties.

Contrary to the national perspective, the basic structure of the party system in Punjab is characterized as dualistic. Since independence, the politics of Punjab has been dominated either by the congress party or by the Shiromani Akali Dal .The Akali Dal is one of the most powerful and oldest regional parties of India and Bhartiya

Janata party the former Jana Sangh, have important place in politics of Punjab. Over a number of times, the Akali Dal has forged both pre and post poll alliances against the Congress party to gain power in the state. First assembly elections in the reorganized Punjab were held in 1967. The Akali Dal (Sant) made first electoral alliance over adjustment of seats with the two Communist parties and the Republic Party and formed the united front government after the elections. In the 1969 mid-term Punjab Assembly elections, the Akali Dal entered into alliance with the Jana Sangh, the CPI (M) and Swatantra party and again was able to form the government. The Akali Dal contested the 1977 Parliamentary and state assembly elections in the alliance with Janata Party along with the CPI (M). In 1980 Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections the Akali Dal formed alliance with the CPI and CPI (M). However, during the 1997 Assembly elections the Akali Dal forged the alliance with BJP. In 2007 or 2012 Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections also Akali Dal made alliance with BJP under the leadership of Parkash Singh Badal as Chief Minister. The Akali Dal BJP alliance, despite some constraints, work successfully and it was the first time in the history of Punjab that Akali Dal led government could complete its two full terms.

It is said in India that Coalition governments are less effective than one party government. So coalition governments often experience acute inter-party conflicts between different parties of the coalition and the frequent defections from opposition to the ruling group generally make them instable than the one party governments it is being argued that both the pride about one party governments and the prejudice against coalition governments need be subjected to rigorous empirical enquiry before normative myths about their performance are given the status empirically formulated conclusions.²

Since the reorganization of Punjab in November 1966, eight non Congress coalition governments have been formed in the state. Out of these eight governments, one was Punjab Janata Party government which was a minority government supported by Congress from outside. The remaining seven were coalition governments of diverse compositions. It is proposed to analyse the performance of these two coalition Governments 2007-2012 and 2012-2017 in the chronological order one by one.

Performance of the Akal BJP government (2007)

After the five years, a new coalition ministry of Akali-BJP was formed in the state. The Akali-BJP government assumed office in a changed political situation where the expectations of people were very high with regard to the performance of new government. The people expected that this government would take serious steps to do something positive for them. However before analyzing its performance, it seems to be necessary to first look into the promises which the coalition partners made with the people of Punjab. The two partners by releasing their separate manifestoes had made various promises with the people.

The Election manifesto of Akali Dal

In the context of the contemporary reality, the SAD declares its commitment to the following policy and programme for the Sikhs and whole Punjabi community in India. The election manifestos of Akali Dal demonstrated the usual rhetoric of

populist promises. SAD believes that the setting up federal structure is only way to strengthen the national unity and prosperity, SAD will continue its peaceful struggle for the fulfillment of Punjab's demand for the transfer of Chandigarh and other Punjabi speaking areas to Punjab, on River water issue SAD demanded the implementation of Riparian principle.³

Important and noticeable new Akali promise was that of providing Atta-Daal (flour and pulses) at rate Rs 4 and Rs 20 per kg to the poor families, also free power for the farm sector would continue every farming family given free up to Rs.2 lakhs insurance scheme.⁴ The Akali Dal promised to make Punjab a power surplus state within five year of its coming into power. Farmers from the focus of manifesto, Recognizing that Punjab faced farm indebtedness the manifesto says that issue was on the war footing through the implementation of one time debt settlement scheme and staggered debt transfer plan.⁵ The Akali Dal manifesto included rather a long list of popular promises: filling all government vacancies within 6 month of coming into power, free power to the Dalits to be doubled from the present 200 units to 400 units, Rs15000 as a Shagun for the poor belonging to all the communities, old age pension and pension for the disabled, widow, dependent children (ranging from 250 to 400), "make your own policy" for trade and industry, streaming of vat, Rs 5 crore to be spent on 100 block level Adarsh schools, 10 medical colleges along with 500 bed hospital within three years, training institutes for self employment, five flying and cabin crew institutes, joint ventures with foreign universities to provide world class education, free education for girls up to university level, getting rid of land scams and sustainable prices for farmers, separate ministry for NRIs with representative offices in Europe, Canada, and US to protect their property and business interests in Punjab, single window clearance for NRIs investments, and international airport at Ludhiana, and an airport at Jalandhar, new urban development policy to regulate the haphazard growth, beside giving freedom to the colonizers and the builders to plan their projects, urban development within a human face, additional 5170 MW of power for Punjab by measures like reviving the Goindwal power plant and Bathinda refinery project to add 1000 MW, and the setting up to youth development and employment generation boards.⁶

One time debt settlement scheme and staggered debt transfer plan for indebted farmers, a new scheme of free health insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for every farmer and landless laborers, grant of cooperative education loan up to Rs 10 lakhs at a nominal interest to the children of marginal farmers, farmland to be acquired only with the consent of the affected farmers who were also to be given 30 per cent displacement allowances as settled by the local Sarpanch, MLA and the MP, package to the farmers to second push to the green revolution, enhancing power generation to ensure 24 hour free supply to farmers and to weaker section within three year. SAD's vision is to make Punjab a global leader in human resource development, a model of corruption free participatory and good governance, secular in social ethos and ethical transparent in the spiritual sphere.⁷

Manifesto of BJP

Bhartiya Janta party is a party who believe in Fundamental value of democratic institutions and wants to achieve its goal of socialism through peaceful and constitutional means. The party is closer to Akali-Dal. The election manifesto of BJP was urban-centric industry-oriented talks about strict enforcement of PNDT Act and focuses on women issues. The BJP also seconded that manifesto of its alliance partner, the SAD by endorsing Atta-dal promises addressing the issue of price rise and strengthening of public Distribution System (PDS).⁸ The long standing issue of Punjab, such as the transfer of Chandigarh and Punjabi-Speaking area to Punjab river did not figure in the manifesto. Several major promises of relief to terrorism affected families at par with 1984 riot victim families. Which the SAD manifesto was silent upon.⁹ All the major parties had been trying to please the media, at least in the manifesto and the BJP had also given considerable attention by announcing a corpus fund for the welfare of media persons.¹⁰

Government will give cooperative education loans of up to Rs.10 lakh at a nominal rate of interest to children of farmers, dalits, BCs and other poor sections.¹¹ Besides, farmers, land acquired only after their consent. The payment against the land acquired made according to the market price with a 30% displacement allowance as settled by a committee comprising the local Sarpanch, MLA and the MP. "For promotion of marketing of agriculture produce like sugarcane, cotton and potatoes, economic ties with Pakistan Punjab had been explored afresh and biotechnology used for diversification of packaged would be got allocated for a second push to the Green Revolution.

THE PERFORMANCE

After the gap of five years a new coalition government was formed in Punjab. Keeping in view the performance of earlier SAD-BJP governments in Punjab, the expectations of public were very high from this government also. It was like a big challenge to fulfill the promises those were made at the time of election. Both parties by releasing their separate manifestos had made various promises with the people of Punjab.

After coming to power, the Akali-BJP government started taking various bold steps to fulfill its promises made with the people at the time of elections. The performance of this government can be discussed under the following heads:

Performance in the Agriculture Sector

Agriculture is the back bone of Punjab's economy. The economy of Punjab depends on agriculture. Agriculture contributes 26.29% in total income of Punjab. Two third population of Punjab live in villages and they depend on Agriculture. Major part of voters of SAD comes from rural communities so SAD-BJP government devoted its full power to give so many facilities to the farmers to keep their support intact. The SAD-BJP government took the several steps in these directions:

1. Free power and irrigation and other incentives and subsidies to farm sector will continue. The government took very bold and controversial decision so

much pressure from various bodies, but government did not withdraw these facilities to farmers.

2. The SAD-BJP government decided to abolish Land Revenue tax.
3. The government made new land acquisition policy, farmer's prior consent made mandatory for acquisition. In case of consent, the Government decided to pay full market price of the land acquired, plus 30% of the price as displacement allowance. Acquisition only after payment. Market price of land will be determined a committee comprising the local Member of parliament, M.L.A., Deputy Commissioner, Sarpanch of the village/ member of Municipal Committee of the concerned area. Farmers whose land is acquired by government will be exempted from registration duty in case they re-invest their sale proceeds on buying fresh land in the state. Tube well connections will be given for the land so purchased on priority basis. A new scheme make farmers share-holders in the projects on the land acquired from them will be stated. Farmers could adopt either for a stake in housing and infrastructure development schemes or a strain share in net profit over his land after deducting expenses incurred by government.
4. To give relief to the farmer the Government provided the farmer high quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and other agricultural inputs.
5. The government provided cooperative loans up to Rs. 10 lacks at nominal rates of interests for children of poor farmers, dalits, BCs and other poor sections.
6. Government introduced scheme free health insurance cover up to 2 lakhs for every poor farmers and landless labor.
7. To give relief to the farmers the government provided atta at Rs.20 per kg.to the poor Farmer indebtedness and the resultant suicide menace to be tackled on war footing.
8. For a improvement of irrigation the SAD-BJP government a massive Rs. 211 crore river cleaning project started to cleanse are rivers of Punjab and provide clean water for drinking and irrigation.
9. The government also decided that if any farmer wanted to transfer his property in his lifetime in the name of his children, no fee will be charged from him.¹²

Performance in the Trade and Industry sector

In Punjab, the industrial sector is mainly dominated by small scale industry. There are over two lakh small-scale units in the state, providing employment to the about nine lakh persons which is over 80% of the total employment generated in the industrial sector of Punjab. The small scale sector also contribute about sixty percent of total export from the state. Though punjab is one of the richest and agriculturally advanced state, but industrially it is quite backward. Future progress of the state economy depends on the Industrial growth of the Punjab. The problem of unemployment can be solved through industrial employment. The SAD-BJP government took several steps to boost its industry. The main among them were:

1. 24 hour uninterrupted power supply must be ensured for industry development. The Sad-BJP government gave 24 hours power supply to industry.
2. For the development of industry the government abolished the Octroi.
3. Cooperative banks are set up by the government to provide loan to small shop keepers, vendors, hawkers etc.
4. Sad-BJP government started online filing and refund of VAT on the pattern of central excise and taxation.
5. To stop the harassment of traders small scale businessman and industrial entrepreneurs by government official at check points and places of work are stopped for ever by introducing a new plan for “Self Assessed Average Guaranteed Revenue Receipts” from sales and other taxes.
6. The government started special schemes to promote industry in kandi belt.
7. The SAD-BJP government gave a package of Rs. 100 crore for strengthening traditional industrial base of Punjab such as sports goods, hosiery, iron and steel, hand-tools, cycle parts, pappad-varhi, chilli powder etc.
8. Five project started to increase power generation.¹³
9. Bathinda refinery completed.
10. To protect Punjab’s Industry, the SAD-BJP government allowed import of raw material and inter mediatory product at zero or minimum duties.
11. To promote industry the government gave special emphasis on information technology, Bio- technology and nano- technology based industries.

Performance in the Field of education

Education is very important field for the development of society in a state realizing the importance of education the government gave special intension in the field of education.

1. The SAD-BJP government allocated one Adarsh school in each block, with an investment of Rs. 5 crore each to provide quality education in rural areas. The Children of poor farmers and dalits will receive education in the school. Talented teacher will teach the student in the school.
2. The role of girl child in our society is very important. Government has made arrangement for free girl education up to eleventh, twelfth class.
3. Under the Mai Bhago Scheme free cycles were provided by the government for eleventh, twelfth girl students.

4. For higher education government set up 5 new universities or 17 degree colleges in state and ayurvedic university was set up in Hosiarpur in the name of Guru Ravi das Ji.¹⁴
5. Most vacancies of teacher in school were filled by the government.

Performance in the Health Sector

Health is very important sector for the development of economy in a State. SAD-BJP government gave special attention in the health sector. It did many works to improve the health services in the state. It established Punjab health system corporation in Punjab. Rs. 500 crore fund for providing easy and subsidized access to health services to the poorer section of the society.

1. The government set up super speciality Cancer Hospital for treatment.
2. It gave facility to its people free medical checkup and basic health problems to senior citizens above the age of 65 years.
3. The government gave free medical insurance cover up to Rs. 2 lakhs for every farmers and every person in the BPL group.
4. To facilitate the people under the emergency health service dial 108 Ambulance was started.
5. New medical colleges are set up by the government to improve the Health condition of the people.
6. Every victim of Cancer disease Rs. 150 lakhs financial aid was given by the government.¹⁵

Performance in the Field of Power sector

The SAD-BJP government believes that no development and progress can be made without giving special attention on power generation and distribution of power. Agriculture trade and Industry in the state has to suffer major loss due to unnecessary cut of power so to improve the power system of Punjab SAD-BJP government took several steps such as:

1. SAD-BJP government set up 6560 MWs. Power production projects to give 24 hours uninterrupted power supply.
2. SAD-BJP government revived these projects to improve the power generation capacity. Five projects started by the government to increase power generation.¹⁶
3. The Goinwal power plant of 500 MW. Capacity was increased to 1000 MW.
4. Shahpur Kandi project started with a capacity of 168 MW.
5. Lehra Mahobbat III plant started with a capacity of 500 MW.
6. Mukerian Hydel II started with power generation capacity of 18 MW.
7. Bathinda Refinery started with the capacity of 500 MW.

Performance in the Field of Infrastructure Developments

The development of infrastructure is very important for speeding up commercial activities and push up the process of economic growth and development in the state. The government took several steps to improve the Infrastructure of the state:

1. Six-Lane super express ways were built in the state collaboration with the centre to connect Chandigarh with 'Patiala- Sangrur-Bathinda, Ludhiana,- Moga- Ferozpur and Ropar, Nawanshehar- Jalandhar-Amritsar.
2. Work on four-lining of all state highways was completed by the government.
3. It started Metro Rail project for Ludhiana and Amritsar proposal has been sent to Union Government.
4. Multipoint flyovers and railway crossing were made by the government.

Schemes and grants for Schedule Caste and Backward Classes

The SAD-BJP government gave special attention on the development of Schedule Castes and backward classes. The government took major and bold socio-economic initiatives to completely revolutionize the society's approach to the downtrodden. The government announced several schemes for the welfare in order to have their political sympathy for the alliance.

Firstly, it started shagun schemes for these caste. Under this scheme Rs. 15000/ are given to dalit girl at the time of their marriage.

Secondly, houseless dalit families were given 5 Marla land for their house and the financial assistance of Rs 50,000/ will be given for the construction of house.

Thirdly, each Dalit family and economically weaker section of the society was given 200 units of Electricity Per month free of cost for domestic consumption.¹⁷

Fourthly, free education to all Dalit girls was given to the graduation level through scholarship and other financial assistance.

Fifthly, for engineering and other technical courses government gave loan up to ten lakhs on easy terms.

Sixthly, for improve Sanitation in area inhabited by dalits SAD-BJP government provided the facility of their own toilet.

Seventhly, and lastly under the Accelerated Rural water supply programme (ARWSP) Scheme the government provided safe drinking water to entire SC/BC/dalit population.

For the welfare of Employee and Unemployment

The Akali-BJP government took special steps to ensure the Jobs for Punjab's youth on merit basis in government sector .More than 1,15,000 peoples were given jobs on merit basis. And several other steps were taken to tackle the problem of unemployment.

1. Fifth Pay commission has been implemented.
2. Promotion scale of (4-9-14) was given by the SAD-BJP government to all the employee.
3. The government took several steps to regularize all the contractual employee.
4. Under the Cabinet subcommittee SAD-BJP government solved the economic
And Promotion related problems of employees.
5. The government took steps to check commercialization of education.
6. Government introduced liberal housing for employees.
7. Pay commission Report implemented with liberal add-ons.

On the Economic Front

On the economic front, the SAD-BJP government brought a turnaround in the economic health of the state, taking the annual revenue from Rs. 9017 crore to nearly Rs. 20408 crore. The state GDP went up from Rs. 1,26,791 crore to Rs. 2,54,931 crore. The momentum will be speeded up further, to create resources both for accelerated all around development and also for meeting the needs of the economically weaker sections of society.

The government was committed not only to preserve the strengths of the predominantly agrarian economy of the state, but also to starting schemes to open new opportunities for growth in other sectors such as trade and industry, the service sector, science and technology, adopting modern and post-modern business models for growth.

In the Field of Punjabi language and culture

The SAD-BJP government took major steps in this direction. The government got a special act passed to make the use of Punjabi compulsory in government offices. The party will take this step further and work at all levels for the promotion, growth and glory of the language of the Gurus (Gurbani) in Punjab.

Path breaking and historic initiative for preserving and promoting heritage started. In addition to Khalsa heritage complex, memorials for Vadda and Chotta Ghallughara, and for Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's Sirhind Fateh was set up for posterity.

For the Peace and Harmony

The shiromani Akali Dal BJP considers peace, Punjabi unity and communal harmony as the foundation of its version for a futuristic Punjab. Peace is pre-requisite for progress and development and the SAD-BJP government will continue to preserve it at all costs. The shiromani Akali Dal party reiterates its commitment to the its highest ideal of the welfare of humanity.¹⁸

Thus, on the basis of above discussion the performance of Akali-BJP government shows that It was able to fulfill many of its promises made to the people of Punjab like giving jobs to unemployed youth, free electricity to farmers, introducing shagun schemes for Dalit girls, free Atta- daal to poor's, abolishing the octroi, old age and widow people pension, improvement in road infrastructure, improvement in power production, free cycle to all +1 school going girls and lokpal, etc.

The performance of government in power sector road infrastructure, agriculture and in culture and heritage was impressive. It gave many benefits to farmer. With the help of central government did very good work in making of 4 lines or 6 lines express Highways. However its performance in the field of industry was not very satisfactory it gave no major concession to industry sector. As the consequences, industry shifted to neighboring State Himachal Pradesh because central government declared special package to Hilly States.

The performance of government in other field was also not very impressive. The Akali BJP Government came into power on the issue of corruption against the previous Congress government. But corruption was not less in this government also.

Government failed to put pressure on central government to solve long pending issues of Punjab like transfer of Chandigarh, Punjabi speaking area to the state and SYL issue etc. However in the history of Punjab it was second time when any non Congress government who was able to complete its full term of 5 years.

PERFORMANCE OF AKALI-BJP GOVERNMENT (2012)

Keeping in the view, the impressive performance of the earlier SAD-BJP government, the people of Punjab also expecting this government to do well. But how far it succeeded in fulfilling their expectations has been revealed in the following discussion. However, before analyzing its performance, it seems to be very necessary to discuss the promises which SAD-BJP government made with people at the time of Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections.

The Promises

Election manifesto of SAD

It was a mixture of popular promises and long pending issues of Punjab. It also emphasized on the need of maintaining Hindu-Sikh unity and peace in the state. The party pledged to fight for true federation. This commitment included the repudiation of all previous accords on the adjudication of inter-state river waters, the postponement of the Satluj Yamuna link (SYL) project, immediate transfer of Chandigarh and other Punjabi speaking areas to the Punjab. The party will continue its struggle for securing justice for the victims of 1984 massacre. To fight with corruption party will work to make strong Lokpal. For environment we are totally committed to the goal of clean air, clean water and soil. For the farmers, the party promised free power for farmer sector, free canal irrigation and health insurance of cover of up to 2 lakhs for every poor farmer and landless labour. All Farmers with five acres or less Tube-wells connections will be given on priority basis. Government will complete the work of Computerization of land record.¹⁹ range of other measures were also proposed to attract industry, inspector Raj to be completed. As Punjab will shortly be power surplus government will give liberal fiscal incentives to the industrial units. Power sector will be put on the top of the government's agenda for growth and development. Encourage development and enhance democratization. The manifesto concluded with the need of development in Punjab.

The BJP also issued its manifesto it echoed many of Akali Dal promises but differed in some significant issues. It promised the free electricity for tube-wells and canal water for irrigation and in Cities 24 hour power supply will be made possible. And special subsidies will be given on CFL bulb. While listing sops for industry said that octroi would be abolished, CLU process will be made simplified, loan will be given to small scale or agro based industry. The process of recruitment of teacher will be continue, we shall ensure supply of Atta @ Rs.4/- per kg. & daal @ Rs.20/- per kg to poor people of Punjab, more trees shall be planted in forest areas and Roadsides, free medical facility at all Govt. hospitals to media personnel, old age pensions will be increased to 750 rupees per month. setting up of IIT& IIM level Institutes in Punjab, crime against women shall be deal with iron hand, Ring roads in all major cities, and modernization of roads will be continue. Shagun scheme will be continue. Every

houseless family will be given 5 marla plot for housing .Crime against women will be taken strictly. Special intention will be given to solve the problems of Kandi/Bait area peoples.²⁰We will make every efforts for the all-round development of Punjab.

THE PERFORMANCE

After coming to power, the Akali-BJP government started work of taking various bold steps to fulfill its promises made with the people at the time of elections. The performance of this government can be discussed under the following heads:

Performance in the Power Sector

The SAD-BJP government has paid special attention to the electricity production. Total power generation capacity in fifty years stood at 2247 MW. Two units of Lehra Mohabbat thermal plant commissioned, Rannjit Sagar (Thein) Dam has been started. The work on Rs 2000 crore Goindwall sahib Thermal plant with a capacity of 600 MWS allotted.²¹

The major achievement of SAD-BJP government was that now Punjab is energy Surplus which no one thought possible. Before 2007 the capacity of power generation was 6201 MW. In the period of 2007-2017 three new thermal plant has been completed. More 6191 MW power generation capacity was increased. In the last ten years the power generation capacity was double. The SAD-BJP government provided 24 hours electricity in state. Free power to farmers and 200 units to dalit family, Punjab is only one of the State which is providing such types of facilities to his peoples.

To per mote solar energy which is more safe energy SAD-BJP Government took big initiatives in this period. With the help of solar power plant 1100 MW. Power is generated.²²

The SAD-BJP government gave free power to tube-wells and pulled the Punjab out of dark days when there used to be daily power cuts in Cities and Villages lasting 12 to 14 hours. In some cases rural areas had to go without power for several days. Now in these days a Punjab in which there will be no power cuts because of scarcity of power. Today it is reality.

Performance in the Field of Education

The SAD-BJP government gave special attention to improve the quality of education. In 2001 in the field of education Punjab was on 14th place according to national educational development index but now is on 3rd number. With the investment of 55672 crore in the period of 2007-2017 fourteen Universities and thirty new college were opened. With this Indian Institute of management, Indian Institute of technology, Indian Institute of science education and research, Indian institute of Nana Science technology and 297 skill development centre were opened. Under the Mai Bhago scheme 482703 free Cycles to girls in 11th and tenth classes.²³ SAD-BJP government recruited 84000 teachers during this period, world renowned Indian School of business started in Mohali, Prestigious IIT in Ropar started, Mai-Bhago armed forces preparatory Institute for girl in Mohali and Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed forces preparatory Institute for boys. Meritorious Schools set up Mohali, Bathnda, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Patiala, Talwara, Gurdspur, Ferozpur and

Sangrur. Government bears all the expenses of higher education for students passing through these schools. Rs 2500 Scholarships for brilliant students under Dr. Hargobind Khurana Scholarship scheme started. Free education for all the girls students up to 12th and for all boys up to 8th classes. Girls hostels in 21 backward blocks. Free education for girls up to +2.²⁴ Most vacancies of teacher in schools filled. In each block with the investment of 5 crore SAD-BJP government opened Adarsh school to provide quality education in the rural area, the wards of poor farmers and dalits will receive free education in these school.

Performance in the Field of Health

To improve the health of Punjabi's the SAD-BJP government took several steps like as prestigious AIIMS started for all India Institute of medical sciences-work started at Bathinda at a cost of 1100 crores. Free treatment facilities up to Rs. 50,000, facility anywhere to all blue card holder families, farmers, small traders and constructor workers and Rs 5 lakh accidental death insurance to the above categories. Free treatment to all girl child up to age of five years. Free treatment to all poor, small farmers, traders, construction workers farm labour all poor, small farmers, petty traders farm labour and construction workers was given free treatment facility up to Rs 1 lakh every year. Advanced Cancer institute in Bathinda, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital in Sangrur. Except this 8 new Nursing schools, 750 free investigation centers, 1933 free medicine centers and in Bathinda 100 beds advance cancer research and treatment centre were opened. In Punjab government's hospitals 24 hours emergency facilities, dial 104 helpline, free medical facilities for pregnant ladies, up to one year child free medical facilities and up to 5 years girl child free medical facility was given by government. Under the Chief Minister cancer relief scheme for the treatment of 32 thousand patients 401 crore amount was released. Under the scheme of health insurance policy blue card holders, Farmers, government employees, pensioners, small Industrialist, small businessman and constructor workers are given the benefit. Government declared war on cancer.²⁵

Performance in the Agriculture Sector

SAD-BJP government gave special attention on agriculture sector because most of voters belonging to Shiromani Akali Dal are farmers. Free power to farmers worth Rs 6000 crore annually for the past fifteen years SAD-BJP government is giving to farmers. Interest free crop loan of Rs 50,000 per crop to every farmer, and free treatment of Rs 50,000 to every farmer family, and free accidental death insurance of Rs 5 lakh to every farmer family. To purchase all farm implements 50% subsidy and special relief of Rs 10,000 per acre to farmers across the border fence.²⁶ Kisan chamber set up on the pattern of CII. Subsidy on Fishery 90 per cent and mega food Park. Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture research and education. In Kandi Areas, Kandi Canal and low Dams constructed to ensure better availability of water, underground pipes laid in 75000 acres of Kandi land. In Malwa belt, Rajwahas and Kassis cleaned and rejuvenated, benefitting 5 lakhs acres of Malwa Land and war on Water logging. Agri marketing to be streamlined and modernized. Crop insurance scheme to be made more effective. Financial help to distress farmer' to continue. SAD-

BJP government took major initiative to start White Revolution by providing liberal incentives to the dairying sector.

River Waters & SYL: Punjab is the sole proprietor of all water flowing through the river Satluj, Ravi and Beas. It demands that this right be safeguarded under the Riparian principle. SAD-BJP government wanted to solve this issue through Riparian principle. The State is being asked to construct the SYL. The SAD-BJP government has made it clear that Punjab does not have a single drop of water to spare for any state and nor does not have a single drop of water to spare for any state and nor does any other state have any right over these water of Ravi, Beas and Satluj. As such, SYL will not be constructed under any circumstance. Sardar Badal has declared that as long as he is alive, he will not allow this canal to be built. The Punjab government has de-notified the land which had been acquired for the purpose of constructing the SYL. The land has been legally restored to its original rightful owners. Punjab now neither has water nor land for SYL.

In the Field of Sports

SAD-BJP government tried that Punjab's sports persons continued to excel in every field. The government accorded a top priority to a sports and a sports rejuvenation wave was visible throughout the state. Deputy C. M. Mr. Sukhbir Singh Badal who was the sports minister of Punjab take major initiative to develop the sports of Punjab. Word Cups were held and game was taken to grass roots through sports clubs. The Punjab state sports Institute was set up.

As a result the Punjabi University won all India inter University Over all Championship Sports trophy and even the runner up University was from Punjab the GNDU. In fact the Punjab Universities have been dominating national sports for 29 years. Punjabi University emerged as the winner of all India Maulana Abul Kalam Azad trophy for overall Sports championship. In fact, Universities from Punjab have maintain their dominance in all the India University sports tournaments for several years now. Ten members of the national Hockey team which covered the country with glory winning from the World Hockey Cup for boys are from Punjab. The Punjab boys excelled as the country won the World Championship in Junior Hockey. Ten members of the World Champion teams were from Punjab.

The emphasis on sports will continue: Every District will have sports school under the Punjab Institute of sports. And winner of medal/podium finish in international sports meet will be given government jobs. Sports quota for professional and higher learning is reviewed to ensure greater representation to sportspersons in academic fields.

In this period government opened 7 new Hockey stadiums, 21 Multipurpose Stadiums, with the investment of 40 crores government opened sports school. In villages government gave 6490 GIM and 23553 sports kit to Punjab's people.²⁷ Government organized 5 world Kabaddi cups this initiative gave our mother a game the place of respect which it deserves.

Preserving our rich scared Heritage

SAD- BJP government tried to preserve of Punjab rich heritage and create world class memorials to our historical legacy. It gave world class heritage look to Harmandar Sahib. The beautification project of the environs of the golden Temple in guru Ki Nagri Shri Amritsar Sahib has won worldwide acclaim, befitting the stature of the holy Shri Harmandar Sahib.

The SAD-BJP Government paid its humble but rich tribute to the heritage of our great people by setting up a world class wonder known as Virast-e-Khalsa at Shri Anandpur Sahib, the town is founded by Ninth Master, Sri Guru Teg Bhadur Sahib and birth place of the Khalsa.

Apart from that, the SAD-BJP government created world class marvels of architectural delight in the form of Fateh Burj, a salute to proud heritage of the brave and martial people of the Punjab, in the memory of the great warrior Baba Banda Singh Bhadur's pulsating victory of the Mughal forces. Memories have also been built to commemorate the legacy of Bhagwan Balmiki ji at Ram Tirath Sthal near Sri Amritsar Sahib. The Rs 200 crore project also features a Murti of Bhagwan Balmiki made with 8 quintal of gold. Similarly, a word class memorial is coming at Khural Garh to commemorate the outstanding contribution to Guru Ravi Dass ji. The Vadda-Chhota Ghallughara memorials at Kup Rahiraan and Kahnuwan respectively have also come up to make the memory of these most stirring moments from our history. The Janga-e-Azadi Yadgar in Kartarpur Sahib near jalandhar stands out as a great tribute to the matchless contribution of Punjabis to the freedom movement.

The Jangi Yadgar (War memorial) also the first of its kind in the country, recalls bravery of Punjabis in the war since 1947, and others.²⁸

Performance in the infrastructure

SAD-BJP government gave best infrastructure to Punjab in the period of 2007-2017 and tried to connect the big and small cities with 4-Lane and 6-Lane expressways have been made through the Punjab with the investment of Rs 37623 crore. With the investment of 3200 crore, 65 new Railways over bridges, 102 river Bridges have been made in this period.²⁹ Air conditioned bus service is introduced in all major cities.

In the Field of air connectivity

SAD- BJP government made 6 airports in which two are international airports. International Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh International Airport has been started. Amritsar International has already been upgraded and will be further streamlined for cargo operation. Batninda Civil Terminal's work is completed and flights have been stated, Pathankot airport is upgraded. A new Greenfield International Airport Macchiwara is Completed Sahnewal airport is being expanded.

Performance in the Field of Industry

SAD-BJP government was committed to provide special Package to the traditional small-scale industries located in places, such as, all author, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Mandi Gobindgar , Batala etc. This package will help for financial support, skill up gradation, marketing and maintenance of environment. At rate advisory panel

is set up to regularly advise the government. Punjab is power surplus state Government gave liberal fiscal incentives to the industries.³⁰ 20 Thousands industrial units were registered in Punjab. Octroi is abolished. 24 hour uninterrupted Power Supply is insured for industry. The SAD-BJP will set up an urban Cooperative Bank to provide easy credit to hawkers, rickshaws-pullers and women involved in micro enterprise. VAT was simplified. A cold chain, linked with international Airport is started in Punjab to develop Industry in floriculture horticulture and leafy vegetables. Industry set up based on, bio-technology, information technology and nanotechnology. Inspector Raj was completely abolished. For boost to employment industry will continue to be given power at the lowest Tariff in the country @ Rs.4.99 per unity.³¹

Schemes for Youth and Employment

In the period of 2007-2017 SAD-BJP government gave jobs to youth in private or government sector, 3 lakhs recruited in Government sector. Government tried employment through Tourism industry. State has Potential to engage our five lakh Punjabi youth in various aspects of Tourism industry with increased focus on places of Tourist attraction, especially our sacred places such as Guru ki Nagri, government promoted tourism. On raising the age of retirement, the government will follow the central government pattern.

For the promotion of Punjabi language and culture

SAD-BJP government worked for the promotion of Punjabi language all over the world but especially in those state of country where Punjabis constitute a significant segment of population. There will be zero tolerance in the implementation of the Punjabi language Act.³² SAD-BJP government projected the Punjab, its people, culture and folklore on national and international and forums in their true Perspective, a core advisory body of writers and artists will prepare a blue print for the promotion of Punjabi language, Art and Culture. Government started to give three annual State level awards of excellence of Rs. 51 lacs each for achievers in two stream of writing, Theatre, lalit kala, literature and Punjabi Language and Culture.

Performance in Administration and reforms

In this period 2007-2017 the government started a first of its kind governance reforms process to eliminate the problems faced by the people. As a result of this new vision, government abolished the need for affidavits in all cases except where the law of the country so requires. Government introduced E-seva centers to provide services at their nearest place such as revenue, transport, police, birth and death certificate etc. government completed the process of computerization of all revenue records to remote all hassles of the people in this regard. Government introduced that grievances Committees to solve the problems of people.³³ To improve the performance of Government 164 Saanjh Kendra, 114 Suvida Centres Dial 1905 helpline, automatic driving centers and Relaxation on excise duty was given to people.

Performance in the field of Safety and Security and peace

SAD-BJP government is committed to provide peace in State. Several steps was taken such as the main faces would be prevention of crime by improving,

performance, accountability, efficiency and transparent police railway system. Saanjh kendras started dedicated counseling facilities.

In the Field of Rural Development and Social Welfare

SAD-BJP Government was trying for the welfare and development of all sections of society-Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas. Government gave free electricity to Tube well of farmers, cheap atta-Scheme to be continue and to be suitable amended to be made more poor friendly, free five marla plots to landless poor, free gas connections for all BPL families. Shagun of Rs.15000 to dalit girls. Free domestic power 200 units to dalits and economically weaker sections. Free cycles and free education upto+2 girl child, free admission in meritorious schools for the poor children.100% sewerage and water supply to all cities. Subsidized travel facility to old age citizen, Under Bhagat Pooran Singh Sehat Seva protection scheme a new medical cover up to Rs. 2 lacs, for all blue card holders, widows, old age Pensioners and all farmers having a land of holding up to five acres was given.

Schemes and Grants for Dalits and Backward classes

Backward and OBC welfare Board is set up government with 11 members from the concerned Communities. Rs.20 crore special fund was set up for free coaching and competitive examinations of IAS, IPS, PCS etc., will be provided to children of Dalit, BC, OBC and backward and economically weaker section. Free education for talented children from Dalit, backward, OBC and economically weaker families up to school and easy loan for Self employment Shagun Scheme of Rs. 15000, pensions Rs. 500 per month and under Bhagat Pooram Singh Sehat Bima Yojana Rs. 50,000 was given to dalits.

Performance in the field of Cooperatives

Akali-BJP coalition government assured farmers to start schemes for providing cooperative bank insurance for agriculture unprecedented rise in credit limit on co-operative loans with these interest rates were slashed. Compensation for agriculture land acquired by Government linked to the market rates 93,000 waterlogged acres of land reclaimed through a massive project in five of the states reclamation of another 15,000 acres in Mansa District has also been progressed.

Performance of Punjab in Nationwide

Under the Leadership of SAD-BJP government Punjab has become no.1 state national wide.

- In the production of Kinnows.
- In per acre wheat production.
- In cross bread cows.
- Per person availability of milk.
- In export of honey.
- Most develop state of Country.
- Best basic infrastructure in Country.
- In irrigation.
- Safe drinking water supply in rural area.
- To establish business.

- In manufacturing of cycles and cycle parts.
- In making of hosiery and ready-made cloths.
- In manufacturing of sewing machines.
- In making of Sports goods.
- In production of Cotton and thread.
- In manufacturing of Agricultural tools.
- In manufacturing of hand tools.

Conclusion

The above discussion on the performance of SAD-BJP government shows that it was able to fulfill many of its promises made to the people of Punjab like, Several unprecedented facilities are extended to different sections of society, such as Atta-Daal to the poor, the small farmers and traders, free medical treatment up to Rs.50,000 and accidental death insurance of Rs. Five lakh these families. Intelligent students are encouraged to push forward with even better results with liberal scholarships of Rs 30,000 under Dr. Hargobind Khurana scholarship scheme. Safe drinking water facility. Girl student in schools was given free bicycles as incentives for education. Everybody knows that the welfare schemes such as free power to farmers, pensions, shaguns, free Teerath yatra, or cancer relief of Rs. One lakh fifty thousand etc. was major achievements of SAD-BJP Governments.

The past ten years have been a period of unprecedented progress and development in the Punjab. The state has witnessed path breaking initiatives in the most area of progress, including agriculture, business, trade and industry, education, health, sports, investment and social welfare sectors. The basic infrastructure in the state underwent a complete revamp with four-lane and six lane expressways coming up. The state which used to reel under power-cuts 14 to 18 hours every day is now power surplus. To beat the disadvantage of being land-locked, the state now has two international and three domestic airports. Every section of society is getting direct government support as in incentive or assistance to take the state and its people forward. Punjabi farmers are the only farmers who got agricultural power free of cost. Several needy sections of society are also getting domestic power free.

The state government was acting a strong different of states, rights over critical areas such as river waters and territorial issues. The SAD-BJP government put the issue of SYL construction beyond the area of human possibility by returning the land acquired this canal. Now, it does not have an inch of land to build the canal either. The SAD will never allow SYL to be built. The state remains the most peaceful region in the country and despite many challenges; it enjoys an atmosphere of complete communal harmony.

However its performance in other field was also not very impressive, its performance in the field of industry, Drug, SYL issue, transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, and other Punjabi speaking area to Punjab and transfer to more power to state etc., was not satisfactory. Despite being partner of the ruling NDA coalition government at the centre, it failed to put pressure on central government to solve the long pending issues of Punjab. The Akali BJP Government came into power on the issue of development,

corruption, unemployment, education and health etc. but the performance of government on all these issue was not satisfactory.

Overall the SAD-BJP Government was successful first time in the history of Punjab that any coalition government completed its two full terms. This is great achievement of coalition government. SAD-BJP government faces the difficulties very successfully and made the Punjab progressive in every field.

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