

Gehlot seeks apology from Raje for U-turn on 15L jobs promise

Jaipur: Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday demanded apology from chief minister Vasundhara Raje for making a U-turn on BJP's poll promise of providing 15 lakh jobs to unemployed youth. Gehlot demanded Raje to give details of the 9 lakh jobs that her government claims to have provided so far.

Addressing a public meeting at Sirohi on Friday, Raje reportedly said providing 15 lakh government jobs would empty the state coffers. She said the poll promise was of 15 lakh jobs but not of 15 lakh 'government' jobs. The chief minister explained that it was a mix of government and private sector jobs that her government was creating. Raje then reiterated that nine lakh jobs have already been provided, while the remaining would be created in the coming years.

"It is a betrayal of trust of the unemployed youth, who were waiting to hear the government announce the vacancies. This was one of the main poll promises of Rajasthan BJP with which it lured people of the state to vote for it in 2013. CM should apologise for the false promise," Gehlot said here on Saturday.

Leader of opposition Rameshwar Dudi too attacked Raje for the U-turn. "The CM's statement is shameful. She promised 15 lakh government jobs that is why people voted for BJP. She has cheated the unemployed youth," Dudi said. He accused Raje-government of abolishing government jobs. "Nearly 26,000 Vidyarthi Mitra have been rendered jobless. Divyang (specially-abled) people have been denied jobs. Be it Patwari, TET or NRHM recruitments, all were caught up in courts because of government's faulty policies," Dudi said, while mentioning about Urdu para-teachers, Pashu-dhan Sahayak and computer operators, among others, struggling to get permanent placements with the government.

The former CM once again took to Facebook and Twitter to attack and question the Raje government on its poll promises.

"Why did it take so long for the CM to realise that the state government's coffers would be empty if 15 lakh jobs were to be given. Why were the people kept in dark for two-and-half years? Why, in the first place, this promise was included in the manifesto?" Gehlot tweeted.

Gehlot added the chief minister carried on with her poll promise even after forming the government, though she knew the promise was unrealistic. "Now when questions were being raised, she has so unapologetically said that the promise cannot be fulfilled," said Gehlot.

On the nine lakh jobs that Raje has been claiming to have provided so far, Gehlot wrote on Facebook, "Where are those jobs? In which sector? The state govt should release the facts. In which sector, which place and to whom those jobs have been given."