



Dhumal slams Virbhadra for questioning CEC

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MANDI, JULY 21

Chief Minister PK Dhumal today slammed chairman, Congress Campaign Committee, and former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh for taking potshots at the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) saying the BJP would go by the CEC verdict whether it was the question of imposing a code of conduct or the date for the state Assembly poll.

The constant questioning by Virbhadra had resulted in the ousting of the Congress from power in the past as well and this time also. The BJP is on a threshold of accomplishing its mission repeat in the coming poll, Dhumal said at a press conference.

On a three-day tour of this district, the Chief Minister was accompanied by PWD Minister Gulab Singh Thakur, Rural Development Minister Jai Ram Thakur, co-in charge of party affairs Shayam Jaju, state president Satpal Satti, Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur and district president Deli Ram.

Loyalists of the party national vice-president Shanta Kumar, however, remained absent at the Circuit House and preferred to gather at a private resort, where Industry Minister Kishan Kapur, a supporter of Shanta, had been camping since yesterday.

Unfazed by factional fight in the BJP, Dhumal alleged that Virbhadra had questioned the CEC during the last Assembly poll and during the Mandi parliamentary poll, when his wife



CM PK Dhumal with PWD Minister Gulab Singh Thakur at a press conference in Mandi on Saturday.

Pratibha was contesting, but he had to face defeat.

Virbhadra had taken his team of ministers in helicopter to pressurise the CEC, but the Commissioner had directed the Congress to send the travelling bill by helicopter to Delhi as it was not an official tour, Dhumal said.

This time also, Virbhadra is confronting the CEC for imposing of code of conduct and fixing date for the elections and it will help the BJP accomplish its "mission repeat" in the poll, Dhumal said.

On the issues of charge sheet and corruption raised by Congress and BJP detractors, including HLP convenor Maheshwar Singh and Kangra MP Rajan Sushant,

the Chief Minister ridiculed the Congress charge sheet.

Regional outfits like Maheshwar Singh's Himachal Lokhit Party, Sukh Ram's Himachal Vikas Congress and JBL Khachi's Lokraj Party came up only during elections, he said.

He further dismissed Virbhadra's attack on the BJP and DGP DS Minhas on the issue of the audio CD, saying that the CD was released by the then Congress leader VS Mankotia in 2007.

"SM Katwal, former chairman, HSSS commission, Hamipur, and Mankotia had demanded a CBI probe in it. But Virbhadra managed to get a stay in the court," he said.