MODI RIPS 'SENIOR-MOST POLITICIAN' NAIDU, 'HELPLESS' KUMARASWAMY

Express News Service

In three back-to-back rallies in three different states across the South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday tore into the ruling parties in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka but went easy on Tamil Nadu, where the BJP hopes to stitch together a pact with the AIADMK ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Modi was at his acerbic best in Gunjyur, terming the TDP government in Andhra as 'Baap-doh saahab' (father of Loksabha). Referring to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as the 'father of Loksabha' in an apparent attempt to give a 'masandar' (dy- namic) tag to the TDP, he said the CM opted out of the NDA as he was told to account for the Central funds Andhra received.

"He kept reminding that he is the senior-most politician in the country. Yes, he is. He is the senior in changing alliances, in forging mahagathbandan. In backstabbing his own father-in-law (NTR), and losing election after election in which I am definitely not a senior. You are also the senior in criticising someone today and supporting that person tomorrow," Modi quipped amid loud cheer.

In Karnataka, he lampooned the unstable JDS-Congress coalition government that forever appears shaky. Chasing Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had become CM's punching bag, Modi said the Opposition wants to impose the 'helpless' Karnataka model at the Centre through its rainbow mahagathbandan. "Any such dispensation coming to power at the Centre could make the country a laughing stock in the international arena," he added.

"The upcoming elections have placed a choice before the people - between development and dynasty, between stability and instability and between prosperity and confusion," Modi said adding the people's mandate will give direction to future of the country. "The people should decide whether they need a helples (mazboot) or a strong (mazboot) government," he asserted.

At Perumalur near Tirupur, Modi singled out former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for criticism. "There was a very wise minister from TN, the accounting minister. In his typical arrogance he said - why is the middle class so worried about price rise, they buy such expensive ice cream and mineral water... The middle class does not need the tamizh by you and the Congress. They have rejected you and will continue to do so.

Charging that the opposition is said piously thought light loan waivers to farmers every 10 years, he pointed to the new Kisan Samman Nirniy of 70,000 per acre as a scheme that would make farmers prosperous.