

'Murder accused' Amit Shah has no right to speak about corruption in J&K, says Azad

BJP chief's remarks distortion of history for political convenience: NC

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Even as the national council of the ruling BJP today ratified Amit Shah as president of the party, former Union minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad is of the opinion that Shah has no right to ask the question about rampant corruption in the sensitive border state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This man, who is himself on bail in his own state on serious charges like murder, has no right to ask such things," Azad reacted when his attention was drawn towards today's maiden address of Amit Shah as the BJP's national president in which he (Shah) has stated that corruption has crossed all limits in J&K.

Although Azad later sought to clarify his statement by saying that "Amit Shah is not still on bail, but he was on the bail," he minced no words in attacking the BJP president for raking up corruption issue in J&K.

Referring to Shah, who was earlier directed by a court not to enter his own state, Azad said, "Corruption is a big issue, but it is not as big as the charge of murder for which a person has to run away from one place to another."

The National Conference, meanwhile, described the BJP national president's remarks about Jammu and Kashmir as "distortion of history for political convenience" and said it was "an attempt to boost the sagging morale of the BJP's state cadre realising that they are on a weak wicket in the state".

"The NC is a movement and an embodiment of sacrifices for upholding the unity, integrity and the pluralistic culture of the state," Devender Singh Rana, provincial president of the NC, Jammu, said in a statement while reacting to the remarks of the BJP chief.

Amit Shah, while talking about Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi said the government in the "very sensitive state" had crossed "all limits of corruption" and people want a change. In an apparent reference to the Nehru-Gandhi family and Abdullah family, Shah also said, "The two families

have ensured that money does not reach the poor. We have to highlight this.”

Rana said, “Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was father of democracy in J&K, who struggled to empower the people of the state and strived to uphold their honour and dignity while maintaining rich tradition of secularism and co-existence.”

As and when the state went through turmoil, it was the NC and its cadre which took upon themselves the onerous task of putting it on smooth sails, the NC provincial president said.

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