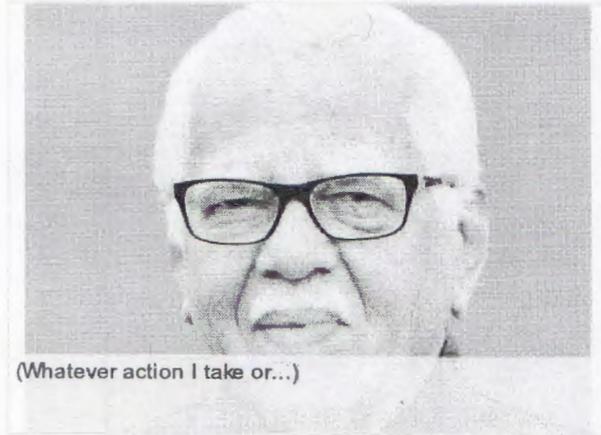


All actions will be well within the Constitution, says new UP Governor Ram Naik

Rohit Chandavarkar, ET Bureau Aug 20, 2014, 04.50AM IST

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Uttar Pradesh has recently been under limelight because of law and order issues, violence and alleged attempts of communal polarisation. Amid speculation over whether the central government will politically intervene in the state, new UP Governor Ram Naik tells Rohit Chandavarkar that his actions would be within the limits of the Constitution. Excerpts:



What are your initial observations of the situation in Uttar Pradesh?

The state is very fertile but UP is not as developed as it should be. I have been meeting leaders, other people and taking stock of the situation.

Why do you think UP has not seen economic growth like other states such as Maharashtra or Gujarat?

While I was an MP from Mumbai, I used to meet a lot of people originally from UP and settled in Mumbai, particularly in my constituency. I realised that the people of UP are very hard working and talented. They have contributed to the development of Mumbai city. If they could help so much in building Mumbai, why have not they been able to develop their own state? This is the question we should think about. I must mention here that the migration from UP to Mumbai has reduced a bit. That is because some development is now slowly taking place in UP.

What is your assessment of the political situation in UP?

It is true that the law and order situation in some places in the state is not good. In Saharanpur, there has been tension between two communities. In some other places, there has been violence. I held some meetings with UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. I have discussed some important things with him. I feel that the situation must improve. He told me that they are working on controlling the situation.

If Centre decides to dismiss UP government and, as governor, you will take charge. What will be your

course of action?

My job right now is to work as the bridge between the state and the Central government. I have completed just over a month in the state. I am looking at the situation and making an assessment. I have discussed some of the issues with the CM. Whatever action I take or whatever I will do, will be within the Laxman rekha of the Constitution.

The Constitution has provision to dismiss state governments...

I would not like to comment on that at this stage.

Apart from political agenda, as governor of UP, what are your plans for the state?

My endeavour is to make UP as Uttam Pradesh (best state). I have already started work. As governor, I am also chancellor of 24 universities in UP. I held separate meetings with all vice-chancellors.