

Naik: I share cordial terms with Akhilesh

As Governor Ram Naik completes two years in office on July 22 he will release an annual report 'Ram Naik in Raj Bhawan' as he did last year. In an exclusive interview with **Subhash Mishra**, he shared his experiences as the governor of India's largest state...

■ You are seen as a pro-active governor. Comment.

My predecessors BL Joshi and TV Rajeswar had been administrative officials while I am from among the masses and there is a difference between functioning and approach of a bureaucrat and a politician.

■ You have constantly questioned functioning of the state government and

also objected to its decisions.

A: I have the holy book, the Constitution of India, to go by and for welfare of state and public I have done whatever is best.

■ No governor objected to appointment of Lokayukta and list of names for the state council. What made you object?

I neither objected nor created any obstacle and only stuck in letter and spirit to the Constitution. How can anyone expect me to give my consent to any name that is tainted? I was always constitutionally correct and the government realised it too.



■ Is there acrimony between you and chief minister Akhilesh Yadav?

It is absolutely baseless and far from truth. I have warm and cordial rela-

tions with the chief minister and from time to time we keep discussing development, power situation and law and order. In fact, the CM praised me for arranging a meeting between him and the Union power minister to discuss the crisis in state.

■ Have you been raising the issue of feasibility of development projects in UP?

I had appreciated the construction of the new high court

building and had merely suggested its cost could have been less had the project been completed on time and within budget. Similarly, I feel Metro train project in Lucknow would succeed only if its fare is affordable. The promoters should also calculate the time in which commuter reaches destination.

■ You have often expressed anguish over law and order in the state.

If a state has to attract investment, areas to be looked into are law and order, power and infrastructure and behaviour of human resource.

■ What made you apprise Centre about Mathura, Kairana and Dadri incidents?

It is my duty to apprise the Centre and the President regularly of law and order situation of the state. If jewellers and banks are robbed, firearms are being used for murders frequently and train passengers are looted, Centre must be apprised.

■ Is there a feud between you and Azam Khan?

That is another wrong impression. I am only doing my constitutional duty, from which no one can deviate me through pressure or criticism. It is for the chief minister or the ruling party to see how ministers behave.

■ Samajwadi Party feels some of your actions have dented its image in public.

A: I reiterate I have merely

performed my constitutional duties in the interest of state and public and not to create barriers for anyone. State benefited from my honesty and accountability.

■ How did you feel inside the Raj Bhawan in the past two years?

I and my wife (Kunda Naik) were having morning tea when she said she felt like being in a golden cage. We can neither interact with the people freely, nor can they approach us directly with so many protocols and restrictions.

■ What is your agenda for the third year?

Ensuring welfare of the state and its people and to strive to fulfil my constitutional responsibilities and duties.

2 YRS IN OFFICE