

## How did the UPA do? Parties give mixed response

The Left was ambivalent, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) frankly critical and the Samajwadi Party pulled its punches -- it was a mixed bag from friends and adversaries for the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) that completes four years in power Thursday.

'We are discussing the issues (of performance) and will come out with something comprehensive soon. But I cannot comment on it at the moment,' said Nilotpal Basu of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) that leads the Left parties that support the UPA government.

BSP MP Ambeth Rajan, whose party also props the UPA government, said: 'This government should go immediately. We asked for Rs.800 billion for the development of Uttar Pradesh. While we did not get the money, their young Congress leader (Rahul Gandhi) only created problems in the state.'

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said the government had failed on all fronts.

'It is for the UPA allies and supporters to see and analyse whether their CMP (common minimum programme) was met or not. But this government has failed to control price rise and growing terrorism. It has practised the politics of appeasement towards minorities to divide the nation,' BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said.

'The prime minister has provided weak leadership and has failed on the foreign policy front too as is clear from the encroachment by China in Arunachal Pradesh,' he added.

The Samajwadi Party, which had withdrawn support to the UPA in 2007 but is now moving closer to the Congress, felt the UPA started out well but seems to be in fix now.

'Economic growth was good in the first three and a half years but now rising inflation is a cause for concern. It has put the impressive eight percent growth in the shadow,' said Rewati Raman Singh, the party's MP from Allahabad.

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