

No move to cut strength of armed forces: govt.

Centre accuses Congress of rumour-mongering

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The government on Wednesday accused the Congress of rumour-mongering, and denied that there was any move to reduce the strength of armed forces, as reported by some media houses.

“No proposal for reducing the strength of the defence forces, as alleged by the Congress, is under the government’s consideration. Unlike its predecessor, this government has taken specific and decisive steps to translate into action its commitment to ensuring the country’s defence and security. The government also attaches the highest priority to modernise our armed forces and

ensuring their preparedness in accordance with the emerging challenges, and strategic and technological imperatives,” said authoritative sources in the government. Sources added that the Congress had derided taxpayers’ money spent on welfare programmes as “income” terming the remark “mischievous”.

Tax revenue

“The collection of taxes into and their expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India is according to the provisions of the Constitution. It is mischievous to term the tax revenue as ‘kamayi’ [income],” said sources.

Government sources also

said that the frequent assertion by the Opposition that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spent money on filming a fitness video was a lie. “The matter had already been clarified: no expenditure was incurred on the fitness video..., it was filmed in house,” said sources.

“Similarly, information on the Prime Minister’s visits abroad has been shared with Parliament. The expenditure on them is significantly lower than the arbitrary figure sought to be pushed by the Congress,” added sources, also demanding that the Congress “refrain from misusing mass media for rumour-mongering and abusing democracy.”