

# Proletarian Era

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## 16th Parliamentary Election

# Stands out as a glaring instance of administrative rigging and free play of money-mafia-media

After entertaining the entire world, one of the greatest shows on the earth has drawn curtain over it. The Parliamentary election (General election) of India completed its 16th round since independence of the country continuing for a period of two months. Powers that be like Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal or those in Bihar and elsewhere expressed happiness at the "festive" mood of polling. People, in their turn, must have been amused to see how during these days of so-called fund crunch in every welfare project, the much-needed money of the public exchequer or private coffer of the PPP model was drained out liberally in thousands of crore along thousand and one channels from campaign to poll processes. They must have also wondered how that

money would be drawn out from them to compensate for the extravaganza. They must have pondered over how India, an avowedly bourgeois democratic state has undauntingly carried on such a mega process of its parliamentary elections at regular intervals over a period of more than six decades, whatever might have been happening in between. They must have felt proud for the way the administration, in particular the Election Commission (EC) boastfully pledged for a free and fair election, and encouraged people on hoardings to small screens to fearlessly exercise their sacred franchise to strengthen the country. And at these, they must have laughed from the core of their heart to recall that the country announcing itself as a parliamentary democratic system,

did not see any recent election to be free and fair. All those were marred perceptibly by administrative rigging in various ways. They must have noted with awe and reverence, how on earlier occasions as supplementary to the administrative rigging, an omnipotent triumvirate of 3Ms — the money of monopolists-corporates, the media, at least a large pliant section sponsored and monitored by them and the mafia, a formidable lavishly paid nonchalant muscle- flexing *harmads* or gangsters to petty local goons worked out their plans, aided and abetted by the police-administration-bureaucracy. It was active as they saw in the present election too.

On face of these entertainment shows of election, people must have also enjoyed the added attraction set up by the major

bourgeois or petty bourgeois or social-democratic parliamentary parties, national or regional or claiming to be national but surviving on regional soils. They, in tune with their exemplary political-ethical-cultural standards could turn the political battle of election into a campaign process devoid-of 'dry' politics and based on shameless falsehood and muddled presentation of facts, catchy slanderous mud-slinging with cockney vocabularies and expressions, even personal character assassinating, populist, mass frenzy- arousing activities often by pop-stars of different fields, pompous road shows, even overt or covert communal or caste-community-oriented overtones. The EC too must have enjoyed these without paying heed to how far

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### Dr Tarun Mandal's letter to the Election Commission demanding repoll in 98 booths of Jaynagar parliament constituency

To  
The Returning Officer  
19 Jaynagar (SC) Parliament Constituency  
West Bengal

Dear Sir,

As apprehended and repeatedly brought to the notice of all concerned viz. Special Observer, West Bengal, Chief Electoral Officer, General Observer of 19 PC, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas and SP South 24 Pargana, there has been massive rigging and booth capturing in AC 139 Canning Purba, AC 138 Canning Paschim, AC 128 Basanti and AC 141 Magrahat right from the time voting had commenced. The affected booth numbers are appended :—

AC-139 Canning Paschim — Booth Nos. 3,4,5,6,7,8,9

AC-138 Canning Purba — Booth Nos. 38, 41, 49, 50, 55, 56, 70, 72, 73, 74, 81, 82, 86, 116, 117, 135, 136, 137, 144, 145, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 160, 161, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 176, 179, 181, 185, 186, 187, 188, 191, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 217, 218, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 237, 240, 241.

AC-128 Basanti (SC) — Booth Nos. 6,7,15,16, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70.

AC-141 Magrahat Purba — Booth Nos. 144, 145, 146, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165.

1. It is most disquieting a fact that in most of these places, there was no arrangement on the part of the government to take care of food

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### SUCI(C) strongly protests most unjust steep hike in diesel price immediately after Lok Sabha elections

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 15-05-14 :

We strongly oppose the most unjust steep hike in retail diesel tariff by Rs 1.27 per litre immediately after Lok Sabha elections as a 'post-poll gift'. Needless to say that this would further push up general price line, increase transport cost and make fuel dearer to the peasants who run shallow pumps for irrigation. Thus, the common people reeling under galloping price rise would bleed white on a larger scale finding life yet more nightmarish. Following the utterly anti-people decision to deregulate petrol-diesel prices in a phased manner, the oil marketing companies have been raising diesel prices by 50 paise a month since January 17, 2013. Only there had been a temporary halt for about two months as part of populist gesture before the elections. Notably, the oft-repeated pretexts that fuel price needs escalation because of rise in international crude price and continuous depreciation of rupee compared to US dollar also do not hold water this time as the price of crude in global market is on a downward spiral and rupee has been gaining over the last three weeks. The bogey and myth of 'under recoveries by oil companies' used as the excuse to hike fuel prices is akin to committing a fraud on the people as 'under-recovery' does not denote any real loss but is just a fancy notional calculation based on hypothetical import-parity pricing purported to benefit the profit-making oil behemoths.

We demand immediate roll-back of the hike, reverse the policy of deregulation and call upon the people to force the government yield to these legitimate demands under pressure of organized powerful movement.

## 16th Parliamentary Election

# Exploitation-corruption-criminalization- degeneration make bourgeois rule unbearable today

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those violated its stipulated codes or not.

Now that this mega show is over and its effects are going to boomerang people, they must call back their composure to see through what happened and why, what future did this much-hyped 16th General Election leave for them.

### Casteism communalism criminality corruption distinguish electoral politics

It has been a sad experience for Indian people to see that despite all tall claims, the political arena, particularly the electoral politics have been miserably infested with caste- communal- community questions, with criminalization not just penetrating even dominating, or with branded and tainted corrupt

names being pampered to make reappearance on the scene. Traditionally for the last few decades caste- communal- religious identities have been hyperactive in northern and western India. This time too, as the reports go, it is the deciding factor in many cases in this part of the country. Even the PM designate of BJP, Narendra Modi shamelessly played communal cards. Once he invoked Ganga (the sacred river to the Hindus held as goddess) to have made him the candidate in Varanasi, far away from his state of Gujarat; then in West Bengal finding no other suitable issue he declared in a public meeting that if he was made the PM, the Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh would be driven back; again in Faizabad of UP near Ayodhya he addressed from a

dais with the picture of proposed Ram temple and a portrait of Lord Ram, a Hindu God, used as backdrop in a way that the headgear of Lord Ram fitted on the head of Modi. The caste communal equation is evident also in scores of constituencies for instance, the Varanasi constituency with high-profile contest among Narendra Modi of BJP, Arvind Kejriwal of Aam Aadmi Party(AAP), Ajay Rai of Congress and Kailash Chaurishiya of Samajwadi Party (SP). There the equation hinges on which caste or community will support which candidate. Even the Muslim votes are said to be divided into their Beralvis and Deobandis, the communities not really seeing eye to eye. What might have been added in the present General election is that this time caste-communal-religious organizations nakedly and openly took sides, and thus involved themselves in electoral politics in southern states also like Kerala and elsewhere, surpassing all previous records.

A long list of how criminalization and corruption are reigning over the politics nowadays will prove an affront to the rich experience of people in this regard. A single instance again from Varanasi will suffice for the purpose. The Congress may claim itself as one of the most celebrated and traditionally acclaimed party of the country. Its candidate for the Varanasi seat is Ajay Rai, a noted mafia and a party hopper. Once he was a BJP MLA; then in 2009 he contested as an SP candidate, but could not win. In 2012 as an independent candidate he earned support of another mafia Mukhtar Ansari, now in jail, yet contesting. This time Rai is with the Congress. If he has not provided an instance of criminalization and corruption, who else could do that. All these reported facts must be known to the EC, which must have considered these 'no impediment to free and fair election'. Who cares for bewildered hapless people? A further pathetic example of communal question playing havoc has come from Kokrajhar, Baksa and other districts of Lower Assam, where at least 34 people of the minority community including children with no voting right have been killed, their houses burnt down, reportedly on the ground that they did not vote for a powerful candidate of a particular community. How gracious the Indian parliamentary democracy is!

Violence during election is held traditional in Bihar. The state did not break the tradition this time too. At least in one case, one person was killed and around six injured in police firing in Sitamarhi constituency when police opened fire to chase two rival groups trying to cast bogus votes by capturing booths. In another case four RJD polling agents were detained for allegedly forcing the voters to cast vote in favour of a particular party.

These are the few samples of how election went through in different parts of India, with caste-communal equation, criminalization and violence and terror marking the democratic process. West Bengal, a politically significant state does not stand isolated in these respects. It is true that the caste-communal equations have not yet driven their roots deep into the state soil, though this time, the PM designate of the BJP tried frantically to whip up a communal frenzy. However, the prolonged rule or misuse of the CPI(M) led Left Front has established a different kind of criminalization as well as terror, loud as well as silent, in the political and electoral processes. The state is supposedly undergoing *poribartan* or change with the Trinamul Congress or TMC replacing the social democratic CPI(M) and its front adjunct. What change there has been we will elaborate later.

### Dubious role of Election Commission of India

Before that let us see the role of the brave and efficient Election Commission, as the EC officials claim about themselves. We have already cited a few examples. The Varanasi constituency has emerged as a sort of icon of Indian election for all the wrong reasons and for the EC too. The EC cancelled the proposed meeting of the BJP candidate Narendra Modi on the district administration's suggestion that it would cause law and order or security problems. But the same EC allowed the massive road show of the Congress as well as that of the SP in the same city. The Congress maintained meaningful silence, because the EC decisions were going in its favour. It even made a few Congress leaders dare to come out with hopes of better results than it was apparent earlier. But it made the BJP cry foul against the EC. However, the BJP did not feel keen to congratulate the EC for turning a

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## Repoll demanded in 98 booths of Jaynagar parliament constituency

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- and shelter of the polling officials and CPF personnel. They were virtually placed at the disposal of the local ruling party criminals and miscreants who took up the job of taking care of their requirement from the night previous to the date of polling. As a result, they were in captivity of the ruling party criminals and hence remained indulgent onlooker to all the illegal acts of massively rigging votes in those booths. This is in gross violation of the principle of neutrality which the polling machinery is supposed to adhere to.
- In most of these booths, the ruling party-backed miscreants forcibly entered the booths, chased the voters away after putting ink on their fingers and cast the vote on their behalf in front of the presiding officers and other polling personnel who simply acquiesced in the entire rigging operation either with a view to deliberately favouring the ruling party nominee or out of fear. This is, as per Section 135A stated in the 'Handbook for the candidates' is nothing but "seizure of a polling station or a place fixed for the poll by any person making polling authorities surrender the ballot papers or voting machines", "allowing only his or their own supporters to exercise their right to vote and prevent/coerce others from free exercise of their right to vote" and "seizure of a place for counting of votes."
  - Since the local administration betrayed a kind of disdainful attitude to such a large scale rigging, forcible capturing of the booths, tampering with the voting machine by casting proxy votes, there has been no election in these booths but only forced stamping in favour of the ruling party nominee. So, the entire electoral exercise has been a farcical affair glaringly militating against the concept of free and fair election and proving all claims of conducting elections as per laid down rules and regulations a mockery.
  - Any impartial enquiry into the state of affairs would vouch the truth of our statements enumerated above.

WE, THEREFORE, DEMAND THAT IN ALL FAIRNESS, REPELLING OUGHT TO BE ORDERED IN ALL THE ABOVE BOOTHS AND STRINGENT PUNISHMENT MUST BE METED OUT TO ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING THIS ELECTION INTO A TOTAL FARCE.

Thanking You

Yours Faithfully  
Dr. Tarun Mandal  
SUCI(C) Candidate

## 16th Parliamentary Election

# Election Commission must answer for its culpable negligence, if not connivance with administrative rigging machinery

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blind eye to the gross violation of "Model code of Conduct for Political parties and Candidates" (MCC) in the communal mass-inciting utterances of Narendra Modi in his electoral speeches in West Bengal, UP or elsewhere or in the Faizabad case stated above flouting the clause 7.1 of MCC which stipulates, inter alia that "Mosques, Churches, and Temples, or other places of worship shall not be used as forum of election propaganda."

That the EC, to its convenience, was not going to act without the local administration's consent was evident from the Varanasi case, where it went by the readings of the local administration. Elsewhere, for example, in Karnataka the Yadgiri District authorities debarred our party Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) from holding meeting at the Gandhi Chowk in Yadgiri town, a place where regularly meetings of prominent Karnataka leaders including six chief ministers were held since decades as also this time. At Surpur town the same district authorities allowed the BJP to hold a film show for election campaign for more than one and a half hour, while they did not allow us to hold meeting there on the same date after the film show. Neither did they allow us to hold meeting at an alternative place under the jurisdiction of Municipality. Instead they suggested to hold our meeting as such places as owned by some private land lord getting permission from him. Repeated approach to the EC did not yield any result.

But constrained or not, the role of the EC faced questions on various other counts. Take for instance, the reports of serious malfunctioning of the EVMs from all over the country. Reportedly, in some cases, whichever button was pressed the response went for only the ruling candidate, namely the Congress in a case in Maharashtra or the TMC in West Bengal, in a booth in Kultali Assembly Constituency of Joynagar Lok Sabha Constituency. In other cases, different buttons behaved differently, some were nonresponsive. In Raichur parliamentary constituency in Karnataka while the symbols of the Congress and the BJP came out in bold bright shape, those of all other candidates were shown in dull colour. Such discriminatory features bringing advantage to the 'big' parties surely went against the spirit of free and fair polls. And all of these problems with instruments might not

be just accidental or mechanical, but may also be deliberately manoeuvred, that is programmed, in favour of the big or ruling parties. Apart from these, there were reports from Odisha of keeping the EVMs without any proper security making it amenable to manipulation by anybody in power or in charge. Such cases of deliberate tampering of the EVM including its programming, or deliberate or casual handling of the used EVMs, may be indications that silently administration played its invisible hand in unlawfully manipulating results, that is, in rigging.

The role of administration was further brought out when it was found, as reported from Mysore Parliamentary constituency or Bangalore South constituency of Karnataka, that names of voters in bulk were missing from the list. In the former Mysore constituency it affected rural (Yetwal) and urban (Udaygiri and Shantinagar) areas and in the Bangalore South about 400 voters from an area inhabited mainly by the Muslim community had gone missing. Such omission or deletion of names were reported from other places too. Role of the EC was also questionable because of its directive to accept the voters slip issued by them as valid identity proof. In several constituencies of Kerala, so far as the reports were available, this directive gave scope for large scale false voting, since duplicate slips in sufficient numbers were fraudulently made and the same person voting 20 to 30 times in different names was not any exaggeration but a thing actually happening in certain booths. Thus with UDF, LDF and BJP charging each other for extensive rigging, large scale false voting was reported from a number of constituencies, either from the so-called strongholds of CPI(M) such as Kannur, Kasaragod and Vadakara constituencies in northern Kerala, or from areas dominated by the Congress. Both CPI(M) and Congress activists were arrested respectively from these cases, on charges of impersonating and false voting for deceased or Military Services men posted elsewhere or those living abroad.

### **Ground reality in West Bengal**

Now coming to the role of the EC and the ground reality of electoral processes in West Bengal. With more reports available for the state than from any other we can indulge in a bit more details. First, money, the ever-efficient means

was undeniably hyper-active. Dazzling and prolific flexes, huge hoardings, magnum-sized insertions in dailies, frequent clippings in small screen along with joyride by helicopters, massive roadshows all provided ample proof of how fluently money was flowing. Freebies, now quite familiar, to woo voters were not only offered by the ruling party in the shape of cycle for the villagers or school goers or such others. Even the opponents promised liberal freebies to woo voters if the latter voted them to power. At the same time distributing hard cash was another trend in the recent times. With or without accompanying liquor, it might be a paltry sum for the abject poor but it takes sure advantage of their helplessness and served on the night before the polls it hits the target of securing their votes.

Privileges were not meant just for the voters. The officials associated with polling, even the security personnel were greeted with liberal hospitality by the activists of the ruling party in particular, may be also by others in their convenient cases. Such advances tacitly or even explicitly demanded favour in return. Glaringly this was a very cunning means of administrative rigging. The government, the administration which is supposed to arrange for the board and lodging of the polling and security personnel, have not only deliberately refrained from performing their duties; they handed over the responsibility to the ruling party machinery that too dominated by local goons, who obviously took the advantage of binding the forces into obligation and thus making them ineffective. All through the EC looked the other way; if it is not connivance what else could it be termed?

Where there is such offer of privilege, there must be opposite too. Freebies go to the pliant. Those who do not yield or those who do not meet demands in lieu of the privileges offered to them or who dare to speak out are dealt with harder means of threat-intimidation-thrashing even killing. This was glaring in the state of West Bengal. Here, leaders of the ruling TMC, at the state or district or even village levels issued direct threats to the opponents right from the beginning or even before the start of the poll process. Some leader, a former professor, openly announced that they would follow precisely the ways in which the CPI(M) used to carry on voting in the past; it meant

they would use threat and intimidation, do rigging, booth jamming, booth capturing, bogus or fake voting, mass stamping or pressing buttons, and what not, just as the CPI(M) used to do in the past. Another leader asked his TMC activists to chop off hands of anybody who would dare to vote against their party. He was even charged with being a mastermind if not accomplice in the killing of one person who dared to present himself as an independent candidate against the official TMC one in the last panchayat polls. Another prominent TMC district leader asked his activists not to let people get out of their house if they belonged to or supported other parties. Obviously these loud threats were accompanied by equally strong if not more, silent ones across the villages, where people had to live with these demons as powerful neighbours. These leaders were given certificates as 'good boy' or 'able organizer' etc. with indulgent admiration, by even the supremo of the TMC party. It simply added to the glee of those errant leaders and caused grave concern for opponents or victims. Such admiration, again, was made in the same way as the CPI(M). Once the latter announced that their leaders Tapan and Sukur, who were directly connected with Nandigram killing, were assets of their party. Anyway, with these leaders at the helm of the affairs the TMC went to the polls.

### **Underneath so-called peaceful election flows chilling silent terror**

Nowadays after elections a common phrase that is dished out by the Election Commission or the parties in power is that : Polls were largely peaceful barring some sporadic or stray or minor incidents. Such self-assuring attestation of free and fair election, however, completely ignores or at least overlooks a glaringly disturbing fact. These days of improved communications, particularly with mobile phones, internet or such other means any news of even a few incidents of disruptions or disturbances under threat-intimidation spread across the districts and, in actuality, that spread like a wild fire in these cases. These become adequate to create a general ambience in which common villagers, out of fear, are deterred from coming out and cast their vote even without an incident taking

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## Who fund these pompous election campaigns and why

The nine-phase, six-week election campaign for constitution of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha which concluded on 12 May last has not only been the largest election in history, it could also end up being the most expensive, beating the \$7 billion estimated to have been spent during the last US presidential campaign. And the bulk of campaigning has been in the form of a publicity blitzkrieg in each and every available form, from print to electronic. Full page newspaper ads, innumerable TV spots of varied duration and nature, radio jingles, internet pop ups, large cut outs, decorative flex and banners, multi-coloured attractive posters, messages on mobile handsets, voice mails—everything featured in this billion rupee festivity. Besides all these there have been pompous roadshows with a convoy of cars, tablos, gorgeously dressed dancing troops, band parties and what not. And the leaders hopped from one place to other in helicopters or chartered planes to address election meetings. Not that the big bourgeois parties like the Congress and BJP are only riding this cavalcade of extravaganza. Most of the regional bourgeois outfits as well as the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI who hog the headlines in mainstream media have been formidable partners of this lavish promotion of dance of democracy.

The obvious question is where does such huge sum of money come from? The common people are wrecked by fierce price rise, fiscal savagery, unemployment, job loss and dwindling income so much so that almost 80% of them lack means to have even one square meal a day. So they wonder while they are languishing in abject poverty and destitution, who is financing this grandiose campaign trail. Hardly have the people seen any of the vote-based political parties to collect funds in the streets or knock door to door for donation. Then what is the source of such wide scale glitz and glamour? Obviously, the industrial houses, large corporates, realty promoters, contractors and blackmarketers who thrive on the hunger of the millions and prosper on the faithful service of the beneficiary political parties are the suppliers of this mind-boggling sum. There was a time when a political party used to feel ashamed in openly admitting that it received funds from the corporate houses or big business. But now the veneer has come out. Open the page of the newspapers and you would come to know which industrial house is funding which party and to what extent. Surely, the corporate bigwigs and monopolist giants are not benevolence personified to make charitable donations to the political parties illuminating the corridor of power. They finance these parties to exact to the last penny. The financial assistance is provided on set terms. Once saddled in power, these parties are obliged to ensure that there are freebies of undue advantages, privileges, concessions, waivers and even indulgence to amassing wealth through illegal and corrupt routes to their financiers. So, the corporate houses, hoarders, blackmarketers, speculators and money-launderers remain in close touch with the leaders-ministers of the ruling

parties. In return, the leaders-ministers and political strapons enjoy pelf and power, cherish self-aggrandizement. So, we find that there are scams after scams, enormous swindling of public funds, willful tax evasions, default in payment of hefty bank loans, large scale hoarding even of most essential items including foodgrains, widest of price manipulations, rampant blackmarketing and surfeit of all other corrupt practices. But the government, no matter which of the beneficiary parties, the BJP, the Congress, the AIADMK, SP, TMC, CPI (M) or anyone else runs it, is always a mute spectator, helpless bystander or indulgent onlooker. The quid pro quo is nakedly manifest.

Things have taken a worst turn after introduction of so-called liberalization of economy in compliance with the prescripts of ruinous globalization. Liberalization of economy stipulates that there ought not to be any control on the part of the government nor should the government keep any of the sectors including areas of public utility or welfare like health, education, civic amenities etc., under its aegis. Everything should be placed at the disposal of private operators to be run on commercial basis for minting maximum profit. In other words, there should be least, if not nil, intervention of the government in the loot and plunder of the private enterprises and big business. They should be left free to derive profits by any means squeezing even the last drop of blood of the toiling millions. To give a theoretical cover to this, a buzzword, crony capitalism, has been invoked in the parlance of crisis-ridden decadent moribund capitalist economy. The word crony means friend. But, who is whose friend? At the outset, it would appear that it denotes simple cooperation between government and business. But, that is not the

case. It is no docile friendship but a motivated one with definite dubious objective. It is a friendship between the corrupt government officials, ministers and the business world. In other words, it stands for an unholy nexus between the government and the private industrialists and businessman. Crony, for all intent and purpose, is a synonym of 'phony' here. Crony capitalism, therefore, has to be understood as a pejorative term referring to the corrupt business dealings carried out by government officials in a capitalist economy. It refers to the success in business by the corporate houses based on a close relationship between industrialists and the government officials. Under crony capitalism, the industrial houses spend money lobbying ministers-legislators for handouts in the form of grants, loans, tax advantages, 'out of the turn' favour, etc., so that they stand to score over other competitors in making business gains. In turn, the ministers-bureaucrats hand out special privileges and undue favours to the politically well-connected houses for a consideration. This is how the nexus evolves and a 'give and take' ensues. The gains of such activities usually accrue to the shady business dealers and corrupt politicians. The power and benefits of crony capitalism invariably rests on corruption as the crux of the deals is extending or seeking undue favour or peddling in unabashed favouritism. What is it that the power-seeking bourgeois politicians normally do when they become ministers? First of all, they misuse their political power, bend rules, subvert norms to reach out all kinds of undue benefits and favours to the ruling monopolists and big business that nourish and nurture them. Then, they seize every opportunity to make fortunes for themselves and help their family member and friends make money by awarding them government contracts, permits, specials tax breaks, etc., and also by pilfering public exchequer. While the coffers of the ruling monopolists, their lackeys and political managers swell, common people pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist oppression foot the bill for all such misappropriation, theft, fraud and larceny. This is how crony capitalism creates a system of privatized gains and "socialized losses".

This crony capitalism is now in full swing. One after another mega scams involving billions and billions of rupees are unfolding. During the

Congress regime of last decade, one has seen a torrent of financial frauds like 2G spectrum, Coalgate, Commonwealth games, IPL cricket, shady defence deals and so forth. Earlier in the BJP regime also, there were coffin scams, Tehelka leaks and so forth. Who have benefitted out of all these? Obviously, the big corporate houses, shady operators, ministers and a section of the bureaucrats. Underhand arrangements, mutual exchange of favours, ministerial and administrative reshuffle and reorganization as per choice—everything marked these murky episodes of 'white coloured' burglary. It was revealed during 2G episode that the Tata House decided who would become the Telecom minister. Similarly, there has been reshuffling of petroleum ministers at the behest of the Ambani brothers. The Ambanis could grab the gas basins along the Krishna-Godavari belt at a throwaway price because the Congress ministers acted as the brokers. Not only that. Under pressure from Reliance Industries of the Ambanis, the Congress-led government revised the gas price in 2007 to \$4.2/mBtu, which was clearly an act of corruption. The same Congress government once again obliged the Reliance by allowing another gas price increase, to \$8.4/mb without factoring in the cost of production to make the price of gas in India one of the highest in the world. It was nothing but a tame surrender to the "mala fide intent" of the company. Gopal Krishna Gandhi, former governor of West Bengal said in a recent meet at New Delhi that the Reliance is running a parallel government in the country. Notably, both the BJP and the Congress have refrained from speaking out against Reliance on the gas pricing issue. Because none wanted, in fact did not dare to antagonize the Ambanis going by the script of crony capitalism and keeping in mind the requirement of huge slush of funds in the elections. This excellent arrangement of 'mutual cooperation' allows the corporate houses to keep their profit line soaring while the ministers-politicians have sizeable accretion to their bank balance and black money holding. In the elections also, these capitalist owners operates crony capitalism by fattening the purse of the bourgeois parties.

This time, in the flushed fund election campaign, the BJP has scored over all. Taking cognizance of the mounting wrath and

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## 67th Party Foundation Day observed in a befitting manner

66th anniversary of foundation of our beloved party SUCI(Communist) was observed on the backdrop of the height of countrywide electioneering process of the 16th General election of the country. The observance made in a befitting manner was however held more on local or regional efforts. We have already reported observance of the Foundation Day at the central Office in Kolkata. Here we include the reports obtained so far from other parts of the country.

### Delhi

Delhi State Organizing Committee of the SUCI(C) convened a public meeting on 25th April, 2014 at the J.L.Nehru Yuva Kendra, ND Tiwari Bhavan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi. The meeting which was attended by hundreds of people from different parts of Delhi started with the singing of party song on the founder



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau, addressing Party Foundation Day Meeting at Delhi

General Secretary of the Party our leader, teacher and one of the great Marxist thinkers of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Politburo Member of the Party was the main speaker. Comrade Pran Sharma, Secretariat Member, SUCI(C), Delhi, presided over the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, SUCI(C), Delhi. The meeting ended with the collective singing of the *Internationale*.

### Haryana

The Party Foundation Day was observed in the state of Haryana through various programmes. At Rohtak, the Party flag was hoisted in the morning of April 24, with the Central Committee member and Haryana State Secretary Comrade Satyawar and Secretary Rohtak – Jhajjar District Comrade Anoop Singh and Comrade Zile Singh member of Local Committee paying tribute to the great leader of the Proletariat and the Founder General

Secretary of the Party Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The foundation day meeting was held on April 27 at Chhoturam Dharamshala with Comrade Zile Singh presiding over and Comrade Anoop Singh as the main speaker.

On 24 April a Foundation Day meeting was held at Hansi town of Hisar district in which Comrade Satyawar was the main speaker and other leaders of AIKKMS, AIDYO and others were present. At

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## Publicity blitzkrieg aimed at image building of parties, ruling class backs

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grievances of the people against the misrule of the Congress, the ruling capitalist class decided to back the BJP for bringing about a change in the government. The objective has obviously been to once again dupe people by holding out that a change of incumbent would change their lot. That needed to spruce up an image of the BJP which stood hated before the people for its crass communal character and trackrecord of engineering riots and pogrom. Hence, it warranted a massive campaigning in favour of the BJP and its prime ministerial nominee Modi who already proved to the class his efficiency to serve its class interest in an effective manner. In Gujarat, he had made available huge stretch of coastal land to the Adani group at a very nominal price, provided a 25-year loan of Rs 10,000 crores to the Tatas at an interest of only 0.01% when the poor peasants pay as high as 12 to 14% of interest on the agricultural loan. The Ambanis also received hefty concession from his government. When the millions of poor and downtrodden are somehow eking out a living in Gujarat and the spectacle of their immense suffering is glaring in all available facts, figures and statistics, Modi has freely depleted the exchequer to extend favour to a group of big industrialist houses and thus emerged as their darling. On the other hand, those who have not been beneficiaries of this

munificence of Modi are also hoping to derive some advantage if Modi comes to power. So, all these big industrial houses and corporate tycoons have rallied behind Modi and the BJP with bagful of money. Reliance industries head Mukesh Ambani openly pitched for prime ministership of Modi. Hence there been so much of a razzle-dazzle in the publicity of Modi and the BJP. It is reported in the media that the BJP spent over Rs 10,000 crores in campaigning this year. It needs no elaboration as to who has funded this expenditure and for what reason.

What is important that the truth must reach the common people. In absence of proper understanding, they often get carried by this visual splendor of ads, blaze of crassness and pitch of propaganda propelled by the bourgeois media. They fail to realize that these vote-birds are no friends of the people but servitors of the exploitative ruling bourgeoisie. The entire politics of these parties are oriented towards serving the oppressive corrupt capitalist class. All the pre-electoral verbal duels between the Congress and the BJP, DMK and AIADMK, Mulayam and Mayawati, Mamata and CPI (M) are just unsavoury public catfight which has no connection with people's interest. The glitter of publicity might well grab the eyeball but the beguiling charm would fade away once the hype centred on election recedes and the venomous fangs of reality

unfold. Can a party which is funded by the Ambanis wage any movement against rise in the fuel or gas price or forcible landgrab? Can a party which gives land free of cost to the Tatas raise voice against the unlawful activities of theirs? They of course raise some catchy slogans, pay lip service to people's interest and shower promises before elections in media glare, in costly ads and copter-ferried election meetings. But all these prove to be hoax, bunkum, utter deceptions once the elections are over and the hot seat of power is captured. This is no new a thing. People experience it every time. Yet, they continue to be duped and ditched because they fail to understand the class character of these parties, cannot make out that in a class-divided society, no party is supra-class. It has to be either the party of the capitalist class or party of the proletariat, the downtrodden and have-nots. A party of the proletariat cannot be funded, nurtured, reared and backed by the ruling class. The class cannot bring such a party to the forefront. Rather, all efforts are concentrated to obfuscate its existence. On the other hand, the parties of the class are made to surface with all pomp and grandeur, catapulted to visibility with the help of pumped publicity and all other supportive devices. A party of the proletariat staunchly fights capitalism, works for its overthrow. So, it represents the anti-thesis,

works against the current, remains insulated from the fads and aberrations of rotten corrupt capitalist system and is premised on higher proletarian ethics and culture. Contrary to that, all the parties who are subservient to ruling capitalism no matter what flag they wave or what cud they chew, do enjoy backing of the system and are necessarily parts of crony capitalism. This is evident in the election time also. The bourgeois parties, the petty-bourgeois regional outfits and the pseudo-Marxist social democrats whose bread and butter is to stay afloat in the arena of vote politics and vie for pelf and power, compete with each other in high-decibel campaign blitzkrieg with funds received from the industrial houses. On the contrary, the party of the proletariat, the genuine custodian of people's interest, fights with the distinct line of advancing people's movements against capitalist oppression, corruption and wrongdoings. It wholly and solely depends on public charity to meet its electoral expenses. Naturally it cannot match the mainstream parties in multi-billion campaign trail nor can receive any publicity in bourgeois media which only patronize the partners of crony capitalism. Time has come for the suffering people to identify the friend and foe and stand by their own party as against the flash and glimmer of bourgeois vote politics.

## 16th Parliamentary Election

# Wrong-doing leaders in West Bengal assert “We have all the licenses”; who allowed them to do that?

*Contd. from page 3*

place. Instead the situation goes further in favour of the miscreants who can carry out their activities on a wider scale unnoticed, unstopped, unabated and unchallenged. By no exception, the present so-called festive mood of the election was accompanied by this loud or silent flow of terror overwhelmingly by the ruling party, TMC but in cases also by other parties like CPI(M), Congress and BJP.

In face of such serious threats to opponents and a strong public uproar made even the Election Commission and its counterpart, the state electoral office sit up on their chairs. They issued volleys of warning; they ordered removal of large set of government and police officers at different levels who might not act neutrally and so on and so forth. A number of observers were deputed to supervise; there were the Chief Electoral Officer of the state, police observers, general observer for each constituency and above all of them the Special Observer. They landed in the state ceremonially and tried to create a halo that this time there will be no leniency. Free and fair election will be ensured at all costs. The Commission emphatically announced that adequate Central security forces would be deployed in booths to curb terror particularly in constituencies in the state in which the respective powerful ruling TMC leaders, the MLAs, the Panchayat pradhans or chiefs, like Anubrata Mondal or Manirul Islam, had been continuously issuing serious threats to the opponent parties and their activists- supporters not to vote against the ruling party. Political parties were approached to submit lists of sensitive and super sensitive booths to help the EC. It was declared that at least the sensitive booths would have cameras to record happenings there. But at least in West Bengal all these exercises proved blank fires from an outmoded gun. Whereas there were some tens of thousand booths in the state, the number of webcams brought to use was miserably meager. Even among those a large number, to the extent of 50% was kept inactive during the polling, making the arrangement a farce.

Incidentally people may recall how the EC used to issue similar *farmans* or *fatwas* for free and fair election during the rule of the CPI(M)-led Left Front and how during and after the elections it used to become evident that all the

tirades were really void. As mentioned earlier in this write up the EC and its local that is the state counterpart, generally prefer not to act against the local or state administration. During the rule of the CPI(M), the latter was totally in tight grip of the ruling party; now with *poribartan* it has come into the grip of the TMC. If at that time the EC proved at most helpless, if not directly conniving with the CPI(M), this time it was the TMC who had the edge. In any case, to begin with, the more the EC sent fierce volleys of warnings, the louder became the TMC leadership in challenging them. As the election drew nearer the tone changed down to compliance mode.

### **EC measures prove to be mere cosmetic, culpably negligent, even conniving**

And when actual voting started it was clear why and what was the change. How efficient and purposive were the steps and measures of the EC for free and fair election was proved at every step! When the D-day came there was no trace of security forces to be seen in those earmarked constituencies or booths. Even if there were some, they were kept inert in slumber under the state police and administration, which latter acted nakedly in favour of the ruling party directly or indirectly helping TMC activists. Junglemahal, in the western part of the state was termed officially the most sensitive area from Maoist threat, though how far the threat still prevailed was a matter of debate. Here also the picture was the same though it had a different element in addition. Particularly in this part of the state any opposition is branded as a Maoist activity and on that plea, the Central force was cunningly used to prevent opponents from acting freely. At the same time, even in such a so-called sensitive area there were booths without any central force in which the ruling TMC activists went on rampage.

In short it was proved that the Election Commission which enjoyed enough power to control the administration from the moment the election had been announced, was not acting in the desired way. It was not just culpable negligence, in certain respects it looked like connivance too. The steps arranged by the Commission came out as nothing but cosmetic at best, if not hypocritical. When affected political parties reported terror and named and identified the criminals involved

the EC did not care to move beyond listening and promising steps. It did not even try to impress seriously upon the relevant local administration to arrest or even book those criminals. When complaint was lodged about irregularities or threatening inside the polling premise, namely the booths, the EC at most asked for the video recording. But with most webcam made useless, the videos were either found to be absent or missing.

### **TMC rampage in West Bengal: “We have all the licenses”**

With the avowedly evil-controlling Central forces made defunct or put on leash and the EC cutting such a sorry figure clearly partisan in effect, virtually right from the beginning the attitude of the ruling party TMC in West Bengal and its leaders became arrogant and defiant of any norms and rules. There were numerous instances. Only a few will prove the point. In one instance in Purulia district, the TMC president of Balarampur panchayat samiti Monica Mahato walked inside the polling booth without any valid identity card issued by the CEO. When challenged she even answered “We have all the licenses”. As the incident became widely known from media report, the presiding officer was removed on a show cause letter and a FIR, and the district police administration was asked to look into the matter. The DM and the SP however claimed that it was a case of communication gap owing to language problems. No action was however taken against Mahato.

Similarly a TMC MLA Deepali Saha at Sonamukhi in Bankura district known for her habit of muscle-flexing, had barged in the booth with her twenty associates, thrashed the presiding officer, had done mass stamping, i.e., pressing button and threatened the polling officers as being agents of opponents, throwing them out of the booth. It was also known later that she did the same thing in other booths. A case was filed against her; but she went absconding. Video recording of the incident taken in the camera of the EC observers was kept with the BDO, its fate remaining unsure. Under pressure of strong public opinion an order for repolling in the booth was issued, though reportedly the presiding officer was not to be found nor the errant MLA was arrested. In another case Jharna Sinha, Tirol

village (Gram) panchayat member in Hoogly district was found in a photo report in a leading daily to be standing inside the booth and directing the voters to vote for her party.

Such behaviors of leaders turned out to be highly encouraging for the lower level activists, particularly the local goons and strong-arms to come out freely with their actions. Incidentally, many of them had served the CPI(M) led front government in the same manner and thus had the expertise and experience of how to manage things unchallenged. They have changed their colour since the TMC captured power and have been efficiently serving their new master.

### **TMC rampage follows the pattern inherited from CPI(M)**

What were the means they adopted? In short, all the known methods of unlawfully manoeuvring the election process and hence the result. They asked polling agents of opponent parties not to get outside home and sit in the booth; when that did not work, they simply drove those agents out of the booth. In one case in Junglemahal in the West Midnapore (Medinipur) constituency, a mercilessly beaten agent was abandoned in the forest and fortunately rescued as he was found by a passer-by cyclist. Some agents were more unfortunate and could not be traced easily. Then again they went on threatening the villagers en masse not to go out for voting and stay at home. They even snatched the voter ID cards to prevent them from voting. This was particularly found in cases of villages where the TMC apprehended lesser or no vote in their favour. Even reporters and photographers were prevented by unauthorized TMC activists from getting into the booth premises. They were manhandled and forced to remove all pictures taken. The reporters were not allowed to talk to people outside the booth or in the village as they tried to gather information from the latter.

Thus creating a free zone for themselves this harmad or goons' squads, jammed booths to force genuine voters stand in long queues in extreme heat and thus make them disgusted or apprehensive of trouble. This was a common practice during the last few elections to prevent genuine voters from casting their vote. Wherever possible there was more direct action of

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## 16th Parliamentary Election

# Bourgeoisie cannot rely on people's verdict any more, they try to gag it by any means

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booth capturing by a few miscreants. They then freely pressed the button they preferred in mass scale. Often these crude actions were replaced by more refined ones. With a local goon or two, or, as mentioned above, some leader of the ruling clique stationed inside the booth, it was a child's play to ask voters to press a particular button under open or silent threat. After all, the villagers would have to live at the mercy of these power-mongers in their villages.

To people of West Bengal these were of course not anything new. They had witnessed the same acts, to a greater or lesser degree repeatedly on several occasions of parliamentary, assembly or panchayat elections during the prolonged rule of the CPI(M)- led Left front. The same acts were repeated this time by the so-called TMC activists, rather goons, many of whom had developed their acumen by serving under none but the CPI(M). Even this time the third phase of election in West Bengal was marred by large scale irregularities and rigging of all the sorts perpetrated by the ruling TMC party. Protests and questions were raised from every quarter about the intent and sincerity of the Election Commission, leave aside the local administration and police. Under its pressure, the EC made a fresh jerk to prove its efficiency during the fourth phase, though the ground reality did not change much. Even then, the CPI(M) welcomed the EC moves and reports were available that in some cases CPI(M) cadres were on the wrong side of events.

However, in the main the TMC was in the offensive which showed that they must have felt insecure and could not rely upon people to extend support to them. So even after the EC issued new directives after the third phase of polls, the TMC activists with blessings and encouragement from their leadership and the their government, simply ignored those.

In fact, during the last phase of polling on 12 May, there was unbridled reign of terror across the state and activists and leaders of opponent parties, were attacked with bombs, guns, rods, etc., manhandled or even seriously injured. Voters were threatened. Agents were thrown out. Offices, election camps of opponents even residences of their leaders and activists were bombed, torched or

attacked. Not only the government, its police- bureaucracy- the entire administration remained indulgently passive; they acted in definitely partisan way. It was another shameless feat of administrative rigging in which the whole polling machinery of a booth acting in connivance with the ruling party goons, stopped the voters from entering the booth, marked on paper as well as on the fingers of the voters that they have voted and asked them to go back. In the meantime the ruling party goons carried on massive stamping that is pressing the button of their choice. This was a simple method in which the administration made way for rigging, rather acted as the main architect of rigging. The EC washed its hands off saying it was concerned only with happenings inside the booths, proving how it side with the administration.

However, situation took such ugly turn that the EC was forced to order repolling in booths of different districts.

### **Bourgeoisie can no longer offer free and fair election**

In summary, this was the ground reality with the much-hyped parliamentary election in India as it has come down to. It has made clear that the crisis-ridden bourgeoisie can no longer offer a free and fair election that they once introduced and stood for. Their rule is now based on sheer exploitation and oppression, accompanied by rampant corruption and all sorts of malpractices, fraudulent measures, false promises to people and above all the naked greed of the monopolists and corporate houses to reap maximum harvest of profit even from the rickety moribund economy. They are themselves aware that with this kind of rule of theirs, they can not depend upon people's verdict to chose and elect parties, forces or individuals of their own choice. This had made them grow still more deceptive, arrogant and coercive. Instead the ruling monopolists with the regional bourgeoisie as their companion- accomplice as well as contender are sharing out the country into zones to bring their subservient representatives to the power and carry on the governance in their favour. And to reach this end they are taking to any and every measure. Administrative rigging on different scales aided by the triumvirate of money-media-muscle

have thus become the order of the day. Everything from propaganda to purchase of votes, from using criminals to even placing of persons who may matter in polling, all these are being controlled by the money of the monopolists- regional bourgeoisie and the corporate houses. Dreaded brigands of notorious gangsters are being raised in villages to control the process at the ground level. Monopoly controlled media are being liberally used to further manipulate and control the proceedings. With the help of paid news or simple assertion from the seats of power, the media is being put on total leash, so much so that people are not being able to know what is really happening, how vicious this once sacred process of electioneering has become. The monopoly controlled media are catering only what they consider beneficial for their masters and are weeding out any news that may go against them. Incidentally there has been at least one report from the Dharwar Lok Sabha Constituency, holding agents of the BJP candidate from that constituency who is also the state president of the BJP offering bribes to press reporters. Finally and above everything the administration is used silently and behind the curtain to manipulate, manoeuvre and make way for the desired result, that is victory of the candidate which at any moment will come out as the most subservient political manager of the ruling monopolists. At the same time the entire nexus of administration- money- media- mafia is used to ensure that the rein of governance does not pass over to the hands of

genuine people's representatives who would raise people's voice inside the legislative bodies, be it the parliament or the assemblies. They know it well that such genuine representatives of people survive on people's support and people's goodwill as they carry on developing sustained mass and class struggles on thousand and one burning problems of people's life on the edifice of higher and nobler revolutionary ideology of Marxism and its lofty cultural-ethical standards. If and when such a force of movement happen to make way into legislative bodies, it utilizes the fora as another means of struggle to raise people's voice there and fight for that, if necessary single-handed among the whole brigade of corrupt greedy parliamentarians. This has been amply demonstrated by the activities of the single MP of SUCI(C), Dr Tarun Mandal in the last parliament, when he fought many a battle single-handed on various people's cause and issues even if obstructed or booed by the others. In fact, the ruling capitalist class, the monopolists and their lackeys, the regional bourgeoisie and even the social democratic forces tend to merge on the same platform to oppose the entry of genuine revolutionary representative of people into legislative bodies. It remains with people to stand by that revolutionary force to help step up class and mass struggles and thereby to foil the heinous attempt of the ruling capitalists to keep people confined to this vicious cycle of the putrid parliamentary election politics.

## **67th Party Foundation Day observed**

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Naranul, the meeting was held on April 26, Comrade Satyawan being the main speaker, and Comrade Omprokash, Mahendragarh District Incharge and Comrade Balbir Singh being also present.

At Rewari the Foundation day meeting was held on April 27 at Gujjar Dharamshala with Comrade Rajender Singh, Secretary, SUCI(C) Rewari District Committee as the main speaker and Comrade Balaram, member Rewari District Committee presiding over.

At Jhajjar, the meeting was held at Chajjuram Dharamshala on April 27. The main speaker was Comrade Anoop Singh. Comrade Zile Singh member District

Committee presided over. A meeting was also held at Jaipur on 27 April with Comrade Satyawan as the main speaker.

Everywhere the meetings were started with the rendition of the song on the Great Leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the *Internationale*.

### **Chattisgarh**

On April 24 the foundation day meeting was held at the Netaji Shubhas School in Kailashnagar-Durg. Comrade Gopal Kundu, Central Committee member of the Party was the main speaker there. Comrade Mahendra Sahu District Secretary of Durg was in conduction.

## Recent mass killing in Assam puts up the ugliest face of communal-cum-ethnic carnage

Even when thousands of people in Assam have not recovered from the nightmarish memories of the terrible communal strife about one and a half year back, violence has again popped up its ugly head in Boro Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD), the area dominated by BODO ethnic tribes. In the past few days not less than 36 innocent lives including those of women and children have been lost to bullets of armed miscreants. So vindictive were the latter that they even killed a teenager who had jumped into a river to save himself. Blazing fire has destroyed more than a hundred houses. Panic has spread over adjacent districts of Dhuburi, Barpeta and Goalpara. In the meantime, thousands more of the non-Boro people, those belonging to minority community in particular have fled for their lives.

The carnage this time in Boroland has originated from the Parliament Election apparently from a dangerous polarisation between Boro and non-Boro camps. The non-Boro people constituting the majority of BTAD population have been suffering from terrific

non-Boro dominated areas within the BTAD. Consequently, out of apprehension that their political and economic rights would be curtailed, the majority non-Boro people demanded the omission of the non-Boro dominated areas from BTAD; the clashes intensified henceforth. On the other hand because of the exploitation, oppression and limitless corruption of the BTAD rulers patronized and encouraged by the capitalist class, the hopes and desires of the Boro people also remained unfulfilled. Resentment and grievances were the natural outcome. In their bid to mislead such grievances the cunning rulers opted for the easiest path of fanning up communal strife targetting the non-Boro people- the minority Muslim community in particular. Right from those days of Assam Movement, Assam has been aflame with racial hatred, communalism and communal strife under provocation from the arch provincial, separatist and communal forces. So, playing this very card, fratricidal strife was incited by instigating the poor Boro people, pointing out that the development of BTAD was being



**SUCI(C) activists burning effigy of the Chief Minister, Assam in protest of Kokrajhar mass-killing**

insecurity for a long time. Communal strife erupting every other day has turned this Boro Land into a slaughterhouse where murder, violence and looting are daily affair. It needs mentioning that the movement for a separate Boro State that had started in 1987 under the leadership of highly sectarian and separatist forces apparently died down in 2003 in the regime of the BJP-led NDA Government when the Boro pact was made to form the BTAD. Members of the former militant organization BLT rose to win the power of BTAD's administration but peace remained a far cry in Boro Land — unrest resurfacing before long. The government subservient to the ruling capitalist class attempted to keep alive the divisiveness among the people by having included several

hampered because of the so-called Bangladeshi infiltrators. Leaving alone the past, in 2012 itself, 105 innocent people lost their lives in the terrible strife perpetrated in BTAD. Nearly 4 Lakh people were turned into destitutes.

In such a set-up, during this Parliament Election, at Kokrajhar (*Samashthi*) the non-Boros have rallied to set up former ULFA member Naba Sharania as candidate. On the other side State Congress coalition partner Boroland Peoples' Front (BPF) – the ruling dispensation of the BTAD, had State Minister Chandan Brahma as the candidate. These were the two main contestants. But after the election, following the BPF's leaders provocative comments caused by an apprehension of BPF candidate's possible defeat, the fire of violence

## SUCI(C) wrote to Election Commission demanding stringent action against Modi and BJP for using religion during vote campaign

To,  
The Chief Election Commissioner  
Election Commission of India  
New Delhi

06-05-14

Dear Sir,

It is most disquieting to find that Mr Narendra Modi, BJP's prime ministerial candidate and chief minister of Gujarat has been very blunt to flagrantly violate the "Model code of Conduct for Political parties and Candidates" (MCC), as reported in the press, by invoking Lord Ram, a Hindu God, while addressing a public meeting at Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh, from a dais with portrait of lord Ram and the proposed Ram temple in Ajodhya as backdrop. The portrait of Lord Ram was so strategically placed behind the podium that the headgear of Lord Ram fitted on the head of Modi. Such a conduct glaringly flouts clause 7.1 of MCC which stipulates, inter alia, that "Mosques, Churches, and Temples, or other places of worship shall not be used as forum of election propoganda." So, such an action carried out knowingly in violation of the MCC, is tantamount to virtually challenging the authority of the Election Commission.

Moreover, when registration is granted to political parties, it is clearly stipulated that parties should bear true faith and allegiance to the principles of secularism. The above mentioned meeting had been arranged by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of which Mr Modi is the Prime Ministerial candidate. Naturally both the Party and Mr Narendra Modi have violated the principles of secularism and thereby the Model Code of Conduct stipulated by the Election Commission of India, surely not being ignorant of its consequences, for their petty electoral gains.

The BJP and its leaders have repeatedly violated the model code of conduct and ECI has also issued notices on them. The aforesaid action shows that the BJP and its leaders have cared little for such notices which warrants serious action. We, therefore, request you to take appropriate and immediate steps against Mr Modi and the BJP for such willful violation of MCC, to ensure free and fair elections and protect secular democratic values.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely  
Sd/- Provash Ghosh  
General Secretary,, SUCI(Communist)

was once again ignited. Now Boroland has been turned into *the valley of death*. What causes the gravest concern is the fact, that it must not have remained unknown to the State Government that such a situation might crop up. As it is, BTAD is a sensitive place and incidents kept on occurring even before the election. Yet not only that the government did not take any vigilance measures, rather it has exposed the communal character of the Congress by surreptitiously allowing the indiscriminate carnage to go on.

In protest of such a callous role played by the State Government and demanding that the security of the people be ensured and severe punishment be given to the assailants, marking them out, Assam State Committee of our party SUCI(C) organized a programme at Guwahati on May 3, at which effigy of Chief Minister was burnt, followed by a rally taken out to traverse several roads of Guwahati and terminate at Ulubari. Expressing serious concern

over such carnage at BTAD, State Secretary Comrade Chandralekha Das has said in a press-release that such killings are taking place in Assam every now and then. Such heartrending and inhuman incidents take place because of the government remaining indifferent and unconcerned instead of taking stern measures to stop them. This is why Assam has turned into a slaughterhouse and a killer state to the rest of India and the world as well. She pointed out that the present situation has sprung up from the provocative comments of some organizations and individuals and with covert support from the government. Comrade Das firmly demanded of the government that such incidents be strictly dealt with and the common people be assured of security of their life. At the same time she also called upon all sections of the people irrespective of cast-religion-language or creed to develop mighty mass movement for pressurizing the government to ensure the safety of their life and belongings.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH