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Long Live November Revolution



The Scheidemanns and Kautsky's speak about "pure democracy" and "democracy" in general for the purpose of deceiving the people and concealing from them the *bourgeois* character of *present-day* democracy. Let the bourgeoisie continue to keep the entire apparatus of state power in their hands, let a handful of exploiters continue to use the former, bourgeois, state machine! Elections held in such circumstances are lauded by the bourgeoisie, for very good reasons, as being "free", "equal", "democratic" and "universal". These words are designed to conceal the truth, to conceal the fact that the means of production and political power remain in the hands of the exploiters, and that therefore real freedom and real equality for the exploited, that is, for the vast majority of the population, are out of the question. It is profitable and indispensable for the bourgeoisie to conceal from the people the *bourgeois* character of modern democracy, to picture it as democracy in general or "pure democracy",

Marx and Engels in their last joint preface to the Communist Manifesto (in 1872) considered it necessary to specifically warn the workers that the proletariat cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made (that is, the bourgeois)

state machine and wield it for their own purpose, but that they must smash it, break it up.

It is sheer mockery of the working and exploited people to speak of pure democracy, of democracy in general, of equality, freedom and universal rights when the workers and all working people are ill-fed, ill-clad, ruined and worn out, while the capitalists and profiteers remain in possession of the "property" usurped by them and the "ready-made" apparatus of state power. ... Never share the "superstitious belief" in the "state" and never forget that the state even in the most democratic republic, and not only in a monarchy, is simply a machine for the suppression of one class by another.

The bourgeoisie are compelled to be hypocritical and to describe as "popular government", democracy in general, or pure democracy, the (*bourgeois*) democratic republic which is, in practice, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, the dictatorship of the exploiters over the working people. But Marxists, Communists, expose this hypocrisy, and tell the workers and the working people in general this frank and straightforward truth: the democratic republic, the Constituent Assembly, general elections, etc., are, in practice, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, and for the emancipation of labour from the yoke of capital there is no other way but to replace this dictatorship with *the dictatorship of the proletariat*. The dictatorship of the proletariat alone can emancipate humanity from the oppression of capital, from the lies, falsehood and hypocrisy of bourgeois democracy — democracy *for the rich* — and establish democracy *for the poor*; that is, make the blessings of democracy *really* accessible to the workers and poor peasants, whereas now (even in the most democratic *bourgeois* republic) the blessings of democracy are, *in fact*, inaccessible to the vast majority of working people.----V.I. Lenin ["Democracy" and Dictatorship : 1919: Collected Works, Volume 28, pp. 368-72]

SUCI(C) General Secretary Comrade Provas Ghosh's Press Briefing after his talk with CPI (M) General Secretary Comrade Prakash Karat

(Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), held a press conference on 16 October 2014 in Kolkata after meeting Comrade Prakash Karat, General Secretary, CPI (M). Appended is his address in that conference)

Last August CPI(M) West Bengal State Secretary Biman Bose wanted to talk to me and we had a discussion. He told us to take part in an anti-imperialist rally on 1 September at the call of the left parties. Even when CPI(M) was in government in West Bengal and we were organizing movements against its government, we took part in at least five united programmes with them on anti-imperialism and on anti-communalism after Babri Masjid demolition. So, this time also we agreed to join.

A few days later, Biman Bose told me that their Genl. Secretary Prakash Karat wished to meet me. I told him that I am a patient of chronic asthma with breathing problems and on more than one occasion, I had attack of pneumonia.

So, at this time of climate change it would not be possible for me to go to Delhi. Biman Bose after consulting with their Delhi office, told me that Prakash Karat would like to come to Kolkata to meet me. Then in Delhi, Prakash Karat had a primary discussion with our politburo member Comrade Krishna Chakraborty. Today 16 October was scheduled for our meeting and myself and our politburo member Comrade Ranjit Dhar met them at their office at 11.30 am. CPI(M) Genl. Secretary placed before us their concrete proposal of forming a broad left unity along with us at the all India level against the right reactionary communal forces. It was also proposed to go for a united campaign against the neo-liberal pro-monopolist pro-corporate economic

agenda of the BJP government. With this object, he gave the proposal of convening a meeting of 6 left parties — CPI(M), SUCI (C), CPI,CPI ML (Liberation), RSP, FB in Delhi on 1 November. These 6 parties through discussion would decide if any other party or forces are to be included in this united platform or not. The final declaration with some more points and a charter of demands would be released from Delhi on 1 November. Comrade Karat has given us a draft which, after considering ours and all others' opinions, will be made final on 1 November.

I have told the CPI (M) leaders that following dismantling of the socialist camp, complete disarray in the world communist movement and absence of left movement in India, leftism is in crisis today. So, it was long felt necessary to forge a unity of the left parties at all India level. Our Party has been striving for that

all along. In this left unity, inclusion of the regionalist, parochial and casteist parties cannot be considered.

The serious nature of danger we are now facing in India, we think, cannot simply be described as danger from the rightist reactionary forces. In India, for quite some time since the prolonged rule of the Congress, administrative fascism has been established. Indian capitalism had reached the monopoly stage long back meaning thereby that there has been concentration of capital in a few hands. Indian State long ago became subservient to the interest of the monopoly capital. India is ruled today virtually by an industrial-military-bureaucratic complex and all power is centralized in its hands. All these constitute the economic and political base of fascism. On the other hand, in the sphere of ideas and thinking,

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's Press Briefing

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spiritualist, medieval ideas are being encouraged while emphasis is given only on the technological aspects of science. The ulterior motive is to destroy the rational and scientific bent of mind of the people. This hastens the onset of fascism. It is thus clear that the danger of rise of fascism has all along been there in India. It was during the Congress rule. Now with the BJP coming to power, that danger has grown more. With the help and assistance of the BJP government, the RSS is spreading their pernicious ideas, communal hatred and orchestrating communal riots throughout the country. To thwart that, powerful movements and ideological struggle are necessary throughout the country.

We have told the CPI(M) leaders that the outlook of the Congress was never secular. The Congress has distorted the meaning of secularism into encouragement to all religions. Veiling itself with the slogans of pseudo-secularism, the Congress has in reality clandestinely practised communalism. And the BJP is openly communal. The very foundation of the RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP, is the communal agenda of Hindutva. So, the danger has really become very serious.

If we look at the economic front, we find that the Congress has always served the Indian and foreign monopolists and multinationals. The so-called neo-liberal policies, which are nothing but instruments to serve the interest of the native and foreign capitalists, were also introduced by the Congress. But the class was demanding more speedy implementation of those policies, which the Congress was failing due to compulsion of coalition government. Besides, the Congress was rapidly losing popular support due to its corrupt and anti-people character. In such a situation the native and foreign monopolists chose the BJP and Narendra Modi and brought them to power. So Modi is committed to serve the corporates better than the Congress and he has already proved it by his government's policies and measures. Along with these, the BJP-RSS combine is spreading the tentacles of their venomous ideology of Hindutva, which seeks to liquidate the contributions and achievements of Indian Renaissance. If they succeed, the logical mind, democratic values and thought, scientific temper, whatever in minimum, our society still possesses, will be destroyed.

I have also told them that anti-communalism does not *ipso facto* mean secularism. Secularism signifies dissociation of politics, state, education and laws from religion. Religion will remain as a personal matter of a citizen. The state will regard both believers and non-believers as persons with equal rights. European Renaissance had brought this democratic idea in the world as one of the fundamental conditions of a modern democratic state. But here in India this has never been followed. Consequently bigotry, communalism, casteism etc. have become easy weapons in the arsenal of the cunning and rogue political forces to reap benefits in the elections by dividing the people on communal-casteist-parochial lines. With the RSS-BJP in power, the

Party was also broken. In 1971 we formed the 8-party combination. CPI and FB were with us. The CPI(M) was then in another 6-party combination. Again in 1972, the CPI(M) forged an unity with us in a 9-party combination. In 1974, this combination was broken centering on the issue of joining the JP movement. In 1974 Jay Prakash Narayan launched a mass movement against the misrule of the Indira Gandhi led Congress government. We held that the demands and the movement were democratic. Jana Sangh and other rightist forces were taking benefits from the movement because of the absence of the left parties. It was advisable that we join that movement and try to provide alternate left leadership. But the CPI then openly sided with the Indira Congress and the CPI (M) did not join the movement on this or that plea. Thus by fully using the movement to its own advantage Jana Sangh and others succeeded in increasing their strength. On this issue we criticized the CPI(M). Then the CPI(M) told us "by remaining in the united combination, how can you criticize us, this you cannot do." We told them that the Marxist approach towards unity is based on the principle of unity-struggle-unity. It means that while keeping unity against the common enemy, the constituents would conduct ideological struggle among them and by improving mutual understanding would further strengthen the unity. The correct approach to unity is like this. But the CPI(M) leaders did not agree to our views and decided to break unity with us. Since 1974, we have had no unity with CPI(M).

In 1977, CPI(M) came to power in West Bengal. The CPI (M) government started taking non-left and anti-people policies. We took the course of intense mass movements against its anti-people policies. I briefly narrated this history to Prakash Karat. And again reminded him that while engaged in continuous movements against their government, we wanted united movement with CPI(M) at all India level against the anti-people policies of the central government. We informed this to the then CPI(M) leaders even. But they replied "stop organizing movements in Bengal, then unity at the all India level is possible." We could not agree to this. For this, unity at the all India level could not materialize. All these I have told clearly to Prakash Karat. Even when we went for unity with the Trinamool Congress (TMC)

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Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing 16 October Press Conference. Comrades Ranjit Dhar and Saumen Basu are on his left and right respectively.

threat to the unity of the people has become alarmingly dangerous. In order to resist this, strong ideological movements are to be organized against religious fanaticism and spiritualist ideas and thoughts. On the other hand, right from the day of coming to power, the BJP has unleashed continuous economic attack upon the working class, peasantry, and lower middle class people. To repel these attacks, only conventions, meetings and campaign will not do. What is imperatively needed is development of well-organized militant class and mass struggles in various states as well as at all India levels. This should be the basis of unity and work of the lefts.

I have explained that we were and are always in favour of left unity. I told Prakash Karat that I had no prior acquaintance with him. He may or may not be knowing that after independence, in the 1950's when left movements were taking shape in West Bengal, the left parties were against including undivided CPI in united movement. RSP, FB, RCPI were very powerful -parties at that time. The difference and bitterness had developed

could understand and the CPI was invited. Since 1950 to 1970, we were in unity first with the undivided CPI and then with the CPI(M) since the latter's formation in 1964. Serious mass movements were also organized by our united efforts. Differences arose on various questions between us, but unity was also there. On points of differences, we would have placed our views. In 1967 and '69, serious differences cropped up while forming United Front (UF) government. Our point was UF government should be viewed as an instrument for developing class and mass struggles. This government could not function like the governments led by other bourgeois parties. The object of this government should be to intensify class and mass struggles in the interest of the toiling people. This UF government ought not to use police to suppress people's movements. On this question, there was difference of opinion between us and the CPI(M) and other parties.

In 1970, the CPI(M) raising the slogan of class based front broke the UF government. Unity with our

Burdwan Bomb Blast Incident

Both the Central and State governments are responsible

(Placed below is the text of the address of Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), at a press conference on 22 October on the situation created following bomb blast and terrorist activities at Khagrakar of Burdwan district in West Bengal.)

We all are gravely concerned about the incident of bomb blast at Khagrakar in Burdwan district. We all want that the culprits be apprehended and meted out exemplary punishment. We also believe that since the question of security of the people is involved, both the central and the state governments should have taken joint initiative based on mutual understanding. Instead, there is a cold war going on between the two. One is accusing the other. There is one more question. If the culprits are stated to have come from Bangladesh, what were the Border Security Force and the intelligence departments of both the central and state governments maintained by spending huge amount from public exchequer, doing? Why could not the officials of the intelligence branch have a hint of that earlier? So, can both the central and the state governments deny that they have not discharged their responsibilities?

We further like to state that instead of searching for the culprits, there is an attempt to fan up communal sentiment. No matter which religion the terrorists profess, terrorism is a crime. For that, it is wrong to assume that a large section of the minority community people is involved in it. Those who demolished Babri Masjid or orchestrated Gujarat pogrom were Hindu fanatic rioters. Does that mean that the majority of the Hindu community was involved in it? Similarly, enquiry has revealed involvement of Hindu terrorists like Swami Asimananda of Gujarat or the Pragma Bharati of Rajasthan in several cases of bomb blast in trains-temples or mosques. Does that mean that most of the Hindus are terrorists? If any of the madrassas has been used by the terrorists, does it *ipso facto* mean that all madrassas are dens of terrorists? One hermitage-dwelling self-declared godman Asharam Bapu has been jailed for adultery. Does that imply that adultery is happening in all the hermitages? This is not the correct way of judging things. A campaign has been unleashed that the Muslims of Bangladesh are crossing border and coming here to build up a Muslim state in this country. Can it be forgotten that thousands of people of Bangladesh sacrificed their lives and shed their blood just a few decades back to fight Islamic

Pakistan and set up independent Bangladesh? Even today they are fighting the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islam with all their might. And it is being propagated that such people of Bangladesh are coming to this land to strengthen Jamaat. These kinds of trashes are being floated. There is an international law which governs conversion of the citizens of one country into citizens of another country. It is the responsibility of the Government to ascertain who should be granted citizenship and who not. On the other hand, scourged by poverty, many people migrate to the neighbouring or any other country, both legally and illegally. There is massive influx into USA from Latin American countries. From our country, people go to Middle East and other countries. Similarly many people come to India from Bangladesh or Nepal. Many of them come in the morning, work throughout the day and return in the afternoon. Can such people be indiscriminately called terrorists? Rather, they should be given work permit.

It is true that religious fundamentalism has emerged throughout the world as a menacing force. It is history that in course of its struggle against feudalism for establishing democracy, the bourgeoisie during its rising period had fought against religious thoughts and fundamentalism. Afterwards, by reaching reactionary stage, the same bourgeoisie is reviving religious fundamentalism to thwart anti-capitalist socialist revolution. So long as world socialist camp was in existence and there was spurt of anti-imperialist anti-capitalist movements in various countries, religious fundamentalism could not spread its tentacles. In absence of that, the bourgeoisie has nurtured all religious fundamentalisms particularly Islamic fundamentalism and brought them to so menacing a stage. Osama Bin Laden, Al Qaeda, Taliban, ISIS, Jamaat are all creations of US imperialism. Now they all have turned Frankenstein. I am a Marxist, a non-believer but I respect all the religious preachers

because they all in their time fought for justice and progress. So I believe that had Hazrat Mohammed been alive, he would have firmly stood against what a group of terrorists are doing in the name of Islam, the destructive activities they are undertaking in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and other countries, the Shia-Sunni conflict precipitated by them and the way they are abducting girls and using them as sex slaves. Similarly, had Vivekananda been alive, he would have raised voice against what the RSS-BJP are doing in the country in the name of Hinduism. We had asked, were not Chaitanya, Ramakrishna or Vivekananda Hindu? But, they had not called for destroying Babri Masjid and building Rama temple in its place.



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing Press Conference on Khagrakar

Were they cowards and hence did not give such a call? Ramakrishna took part in Namaz in mosque. I can read out to you from the works of Vivekananda to show that he

said "To me all religions are equal; I give equal respect to all religions." He further said: as I respect Krishna, so also I respect Hazrat Mohammed. He even went to the extent of saying that: "If I had a son, I would not have given him any religious tutelage except practising concentration, one paragraph of prayer and chanting mantras. Thereafter, in course of growing in age and listening to various opinions and advices, he would have been acquainted with something which to him would have been the truth. It is very natural that simultaneously with full freedom and without having any conflict, my son could be a Buddhist, my wife a Christian and myself a Muslim." Let the RSS leaders say if Vivekananda was a Hindu or not.

West Bengal had a tradition. This state had been the nerve centre of Indian renaissance, revolutionism within our freedom movement and leftism influenced by world communist movement. The communal forces could not raise their heads in this state that much. Rammohan had emphasized on Western education in place of Sanskrit education, scientific education in place of the Vedanta. Vidyasagar had said that the Vedas and Vedanta are false systems of

philosophy and what was required were natural philosophy and science. Trampling that tradition underfoot, the RSS is trying to drag the country to Vedic age. As if, everything was in the Vedas. Hereafter, it would say that parliamentary democracy, theory of relativity, quantum mechanics—everything was in the Vedas. Rabindranath-Saratchandra-Nazrul were against linking religion with politics. I am reading out what Subhaschandra had said: "Hindu Mahasabha has sent the monks and female ascetics to solicit votes with tridents in hand. Every Hindu bends his head by seeing saffron cloth and trident. Hindu Mahasabha has appeared in the scene by taking advantage of and defiling religion.... isolate these traitors from the national life. Do not listen to them. We want that all freedom-loving men and women of the country serve the country unitedly and intently. Since the Hindus are majority, there is slogan of 'Hindu raj'. These all are false, futile thoughts. There can be nothing more wrong than to think that the interests of the Hindus and the Muslims are different. Flood-famine-epidemic etc., spare none." Under the influence of such thoughts of Subhaschandra and others, a person like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee also could not carve out a space in Bengal. On the one hand, the CPI (M) has undermined the prestige of leftism in West Bengal, destroyed the tradition of mass movement and did not launch any ideological struggle against communalism. So, a section of the Hindu followers of the CPI (M) is joining the BJP while another section of The Muslim followers is tilting towards the Trinamool Congress (TMC). On the other hand, the misrule of the TMC is making people frustrated and angry. Taking advantage of that and being backed by the media, the BJP is raising its head here.

Both the BJP and the Congress are using communalism to destroy class and mass struggles and create vote banks. For example, the incident of Khagrakar is so projected as if this is the main problem of the country. But, you are already witnessing what kind of "achhe din" (good days) are being brought by Modi. By one stroke, he raised railway passenger fare and freight charge by 14.2% and 6.5% respectively. Even with government control, prices of medicines were beyond the reach of the common people. Now Modi has paved the

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RSS-BJP's nasty game centring on so called love-jihad

That the villain is never short of pretext is amply borne out by the recent hue and cry over so-called *love-jihad* whipped up by the BJP-RSS combine in UP in particular attempting to push it through across the country. It denotes a campaign in which any and every case of young girls and boys belonging to different religious communities getting into relationship, marrying and sometimes getting converted in the process is being stamped upon with this term, cunningly equating it with another notorious term *jihad* raised these days by the Muslim fundamentalists.

The Saffron Brigade of the BJP-RSS combine is always on the lookout to seize an opportunity for fanning up communal hatred against one minority community or the other. *Love-jihad* issue is another fresh instance of that process, as it is being blown out of proportion in a way as though such unions and conversions have become rampant in the Indian society! The fact remains, however, that though there may be some stray cases as the one of a Meerat girl there is nothing sort of a religious content in these occurrences, and never on an epidemic scale, and hence they hardly warrant any occasion to be aggressive about it.

Even the case in question has to be probed to get to the truth. A Hindu girl of Sarawa village in Western UP of Meerat, initially alleged that she had been abducted,

raped and subsequently converted to Islam. Soon afterwards she retracted and revoked her complaint, saying she had been under pressure from her family. However, this was enough to prompt BJP leaders to be up in arms against the Muslim community. Hence BJP spokesperson of western UP Chandramohan remarked ... "This is part of a global *love-jihad* that targets vulnerable Hindu girls who are entrapped and forced to convert to Islam". Or again, BJP state President of UP Lakshmikan Bajpayee said "...it was not mere coincidence that the victim was Hindu and the accused were Muslims and thatthere is a pattern to all such incidents of entrapping Hindu girls and converting them to Islam", so on and so forth. Then again RSS coordinator for Western UP, Rajeswar Singh even declared a double-phased *Naya Shuddhikaran* (Newer purification) project scheduled in December, when their intended conversions of Muslim and Christians would be arranged. What these facts bespeak can be clearly seen.

Such comments coming up from BJP-RSS leaders cannot but be termed, nothing other than attempts to ferment fanaticism and start communal frenzy — 'building a mountain out of a mole hill'! Can those protagonists of *Hindutva* deny that the mindset that is

reflected over this *love-jihad* agenda would unwarrantedly work against the unity of the common people? It is not to be overlooked that Sarawa the village to which that girl belonged, despite being dominated by the Hindus earlier elected a Muslim as its head, but is now divided on religious lines.

The heinous campaign which has come out to be based really on falsehood cannot but raise the question — do we not live in a democratic society? Is not an adult here entitled to have the right to make a choice of his or her life partner? Is it not a common knowledge that religion, or for that matter nothing else can come in between or intervene in so subjective and personal a matter as falling in love and marrying? Yet the fundamentalists are apt to disown this very right of an individual. They have no compunction to violate individual right, freedom and dignity if it suits their communal leasing! And they only wish to gloss over the facts that these values and rights evolved in course of the march of human civilization, in India as elsewhere in the world. So what they attempt is nothing but against progress and development of man and his society.

What is prompting them to act thus? It is no secret that they are simply flaunting the *Hindutva* agenda out of petty sectarian interest of creating and maintaining

vote-bank by wooing the majority mass, to get it rallied behind them. So this sort of rabid regression in ideas and practices, that deserves outright and unequivocal condemnation.

It is significant to note that the BJP's central leadership have kept themselves away from these pronouncements of their UP leaders. They are not encouraging, nor denouncing. A little effort will bring out that the stance is adopted simply out of political expediency. With by-elections in different states in the offing at that time, such a campaign could well nigh work against their electoral interests. However the *Hindutva* concept being their pet agenda, it goes without saying that at the opportune moment they too would endorse the communal card.

Hence the lessons for people are simple and clear. Democratic-minded people need to be alert and vigilant about the way communal forces intend to carry on their designs of training guns against this community or that. Each of their moves must be critically viewed. And above all, people must preserve their hard-earned unity based on democratic and secular values. For that they should be on their guard so that none including the Saffron Brigade play their heinous cards based on communal agenda and promote divisiveness and disintegration among the common masses.

Burdwan Bomb Blast Incident

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way for unbridled rise in medicine prices by withdrawing the government control. Similarly, by deregulating diesel prices, he has opened up the scope for whimsically raising the fuel tariff by the oil corporates. As a result, there will be spurt in transport cost, priceline will soar further and the cost of irrigation will rise. The price of natural gas has been raised by 33%. As fallout of that, fertilizer price will go up and the cost of pipe gas (CNG) will increase. The 100-day work scheme will now be confined to only 200 districts and the remuneration for that will also be reduced. For acquisition of land, opinion of 50% and not 70% of the peasants will be sought for. More SEZs will be set up. By reforming labour law, the Modi government is allowing the capitalist owners to close down industries, resort to retrenchment, lower wage and increase working hours at their sweet will. Thus, the owners are

relieved of the responsibility of providing security to the workers. There is a spree of disinvestment in nationalized banks, public sector units and mines. Already, 49% FDI has been granted in defence and insurance. In this way, the government is working to bring "achhe din" to the capitalists.

Facts show that when the foreign debt of government of India is Rs 26, 76, 600 crores, domestic debt has climbed to Rs 46, 25, 037 crore and fiscal deficit is growing, the government has given Rs 36, 50,000 crores of tax waivers and exemptions to the monopolists and corporate sector. This amount will be recovered from the people by way of price hike and tax increase. Lest the people being assailed by such repeated economic assaults should burst into protest agitations, it has become necessary for the government to raise the bogey of *Hindutva* and blow up the incidents of terrorism. We must understand that.

The youth among the minority community who are going astray and joining terrorist activities on the plea of self defence and raising ultra-fundamentalist slogans are in fact harming the minority community. The people belonging to the minority community should also come forward and fight religious fundamentalism and terrorism. No religious founder has ever preached hatred and disaffection against another religion. Honest and religious people cannot support fight and bloodshed in the name of religion. Religious faith and fundamentalism are not the same. We believe that the solution to the problem lies in development of united movement of people of all religions against the anti-people pro-capitalist policies of the central and state governments and linking ideological struggle against communalism to that.

Replies to the questions by the journalists :

Journalist: Your party is going to

hold joint convention with the CPI (M) against communalism. Do you think they are serious about the matter?

Answer : Their declared commitment is against communalism. We shall try to fight communalism along with them to the extent possible.

Journalist: Why are you not including the Congress which also talks of secularism?

Answer: The Congress is pseudo-secular and not truly secular. True secularism means religion will have no connection whatsoever with politics, state, education or culture. Religion will remain as a matter of personal belief. The Congress has never cultivated that. In that event, the country would not have been divided. The Congress has also used communalism.

Journalist: What is your view about the TMC in this regard?

Answer: We do not find the TMC fighting communalism. It is also doing what is needed in the petty electoral interest.

Comrade Provash Ghosh's Press Briefing

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centering round the Singur-Nandigram movements, our foremost condition was that the TMC must not attack Marxism-leftism. The TMC agreed to this condition and was compelled to abide by it throughout. Our other conditions, of course, it did not stick to. We also even declared before the last assembly election that as soon as the TMC would be saddled in power, we would be on the streets with the banner of leftism to organize movements against its government. We are following that course. We therefore always stood and stand for left unity. This has all through been our political line. If the CPI (M) is serious for left movements and want to build up class and mass struggles on the basis of leftism, then we are for that unity. But we have told Prakash Karat that the state of Kerala would be an exception because we are already in a united front there with two other left parties—RMP and MCPI. So we cannot go for united movement with the CPI(M) in Kerala.

Now about the situation in West Bengal, in the presence of Biman Bose, I told that, here 161 of our comrades, while engaged in mass movements, were either murdered by the CPI(M) miscreants or killed in police firing. 49 of our comrades are serving life imprisonment on false cases. I myself and my colleagues once met Biman Bose in

this office and went to the then chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjya at the state secretariat building. I told them our comrades who were getting killed were our leaders and workers. We do not recruit cadres by providing salaries. They come to politics with an ideal. They are precious sons and daughters of society and your party men are killing them. You stop this. But both of them did nothing to stop the killings. The situation, therefore, is such that the relation between our and your Party workers at the ground level is not good. There is bitterness. So, the all out unity that we envisage at the all India level is not now feasible in West Bengal. We have to advance gradually and step by step here. Now we can go for issue based united programmes, like anti-imperialism, anti-communalism. In this way, as and in the extent mutual understanding at the ground level will grow, unity will also gradually advance to that extent. I have told them our representative would attend 1 November meeting in Delhi. At the end of the discussion, I repeated that the left forces cannot advance without militant class and mass struggles. This is all of what we have discussed today with CPI(M) leaders.

On the Press Reporters' queries:

Reporter: What was Prakash Karat's reactions to your views?

Provash Ghosh: He listened silently, did not pass any comments.

Reporter: Yours and CPI(M) 's strength are mainly in Bengal and Kerala. If you do not go for all-out unity in these two states, how it would be successful at the all India level?

Provash Ghosh: They have strength in both Bengal and Kerala, we do also have. Apart from these two, our Party has organizations in Karnataka, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Tripura, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and these are growing well. I have told Prakash Karat that barring states like Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, we are working in almost all other states. He told me that he was aware of it. He moreover told me that he knew that we are now running medical relief camps in the flood-affected

areas of Kashmir. So, in a word, there will be all-out unity at the all India level and in these states. In Bengal it will be achieved gradually, moving towards it step by step. Only in Kerala there will be no unity with the CPI(M). Our discussion today has been positive. The draft declaration after considering others' opinions would be made final on 1 November in Delhi.

Reporter: Will your party go for movements in West Bengal against the state and central governments?

Provash Ghosh: Why future tense? We are already organizing movements against the anti-people policies of the state and central governments in different states of India including West Bengal. Media might not give the news, but you journalists must be in the know of it. You will find the news if you go through our Party's publications.

Thank You.

Crorepatis and criminals flock assemblies by bribing voters

Who are flocking the legislatures and how? Some revelations in the media answer the question in no ambiguous a term. Money power seems to have emerged the winner again in this round of Haryana and Maharashtra assembly elections. In Haryana, an overwhelming 83% of the winning candidates are part of the crorepatis. Seven MLAs have declared their assets size in excess of Rs 50 crore with BJP MLA from Faridabad declaring the highest assets worth Rs 106 crore. Two hundred and fifty three (88 per cent) out of 288 winners from Maharashtra Assembly elections 2014 are crorepatis. It is not huge wealth that is the only mark of the newly elected MLAs. In Haryana, out of the 90 winners, 9 (10%) winners have declared criminal cases against them. 5 (6%) winners have serious criminal cases pending against them. Record of Maharashtra is even more tantalizing. Out of 262 MLAs analysed during Maharashtra Assembly elections in 2009, 136 (52 per cent) MLAs had declared criminal cases against themselves. One hundred and fifteen (40 per cent) MLAs had declared serious criminal cases including cases related to murder, attempt to murder, communal disharmony, kidnapping, crimes against women etc. This year out of the 165 MLAs who have declared pending criminal cases against themselves, 51 (31 per cent) have declared that the charges for these cases have already been framed by the court of law. Three MLAs have declared cases related to murder out of which two are from BJP and one is from Shiv Sena.

And how have they won elections? Here also money played a major role. Putting their money where the mouth is, political candidates in Maharashtra started off a price war among themselves in their efforts to win over the electorate. No sooner had the Election Commission begun to look into rumours that the buy-a-vote rate in the Gangakhed constituency was Rs 900, than the resultant buzz on the grapevine caused the price of votes to go up to Rs 1,500 in Bhosari and Rs 2,000 in Aurangabad. Many voters in Maharashtra had taken to heart – or rather, taken to pocket – the unsolicited pre-poll advice given to them by BJP minister Nitin Gadkari that they should accept 'bribes' from all electoral candidates. While the Election Commission is said to have taken a dim view of Gadkari's suggestion as debasing the values of democracy, not a few of those who exercised their franchise might have felt that the neta's exhortation inspired them to put a cash value on their vote, thereby enhancing their net asset values as stakeholders in the game of thrones called elections. Like clapping, the give-and-take business of what in impolitic terms is called bribery requires the use of two hands, one that gives and one that takes. To be even-handed, the golden goose of democracy should benefit not only our would-be netas but also those whose favours they seek in order to attain power and pelf for themselves. What a glowing spectacle of biggest democracy in the world! (Source Times of India, 18-10-14 and 21-10-14, The Hindu-21-10-14 and UNI 22-10-14)

All India Science Conference in Bangalore held with huge enthusiasm

Under the auspices of Breakthrough Science Society- a three-day long All-India Conference was organized from 17- 19 October, 2014, at Bangalore. More than 1000 delegates comprising professors, lecturers, teachers, science professionals, research scholars and students from 16 different states of the country participated in the conference.

The programme started with the "March for Science" from Freedom Park with Sreemati Indumathi Rao, Honorary Coordinator of Multimedia Group at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, flagging the march. Stressing upon the prime importance of science Sreemati Rao said it should not just be a carrier but a way of life itself.

The open session was inaugurated by Professor Roddam Narasimha, eminent aerospace scientist, former NAL, IAS, dwelling on the history of science and the advent of rationalism in India. Highlighting the contributions of Aryabhata, Charaka, Brahmagupta in the ancient period, as well as of those of the modern era Professor Roddam Narasimha pointed out how India and China had progressed in the field of Science till 14th century belying the claim that science had come from the western world.

Professor Soumitra Banerjee, All India convenor of Breakthrough Science Society, in his keynote address pointed out that the advances of science have not reached the common man and insisted on the need for a powerful science movement. The inaugural session was presided over by Professor Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee. Dr. R. Manivannan from Madras University also addressed the gathering. Professor S. Mahadevan from IISc, Dr. Shylaja from J.N Planetarium and other eminent scientists took part in the panel discussion on 'Why our Science Education is failing to impart scientific bent of mind'. Rajani KS, presented the message from Bharat Ratna Dr. CNR Rao and other eminent scientists from across India. Padma Bhushan Professor U.R. Rao, internationally reputed space scientist and former chairman ISRO attended the delegate session.

Can people enjoy the Right to Information?

With every passing day the prevailing capitalist system finds out newer and newer ways and means of exploitation and deception to make the life of common poorer people miserable. The monopolists and their corporates exploit people to make them bleed white. They deceive them so that in the labyrinth of confusion or misconception people are prevented from rising up against exploitation.

A recent case in point is the issue of giving people access to knowing what is happening in the country. On one hand, the entire framework of news making and catering is channelized into the tight grip of media of all hues and means largely and in the main sponsored, controlled and monitored by the monopolists and the corporates. The result is that people are allowed to obtain only those news and informations that do not go against the interests of the latter. On the other hand the carrot of the Right to Information Act is dangled before the people. It professes to guarantee people's access to any information. How deceitful the latter

move is, has been made clear from some recent findings, unavoidable even for the media. The fact is, a report on the occasion of one year of the Act, reveals that for this much-hyped singular Act there are 118 separate sets of rules formulated by different agencies and authorities. The latter include the union and the state governments, courts, information commissioners, Parliament and state assemblies. And the rules relate to what not: different amount of fees charged by different states, difference in application format or in types of identity proof required by public authorities, in number of words permitted in the application or in mode of payment. Together or singly, these make the process of accessing information a complete maze, pushing it behind the reach of even literate people, not to speak of poor illiterates. The RTI, like many other rights, thus boils down to practically nothing more than a deceitful hoax for the countrymen. Only the world knows that there is a right to information for the Indian people.

Medical Service Centre holds Health Camp in the Flood-devastated Areas in Kashmir and sends appeal for relief

Doctors and health staff of the Medical Service Centre, a voluntary organization, dashed to the flood affected areas of Kashmir, the 'Earthy Paradise', with their medical relief kits to the succour of the victims. They have been treating the victims of the districts namely Badegaon, Srinagar and Anantanag from the health camps set up for the purpose.

Earlier they conducted such health camps in the earthquake devastated Gujarat, cyclone affected Orissa, and Tsunami devastated Andaman. They conducted medical camps in these states for over a year.

The cell in-charge of the camp in Kashmir, Dr. Angshuman Mitra and Dr. Jiten Murmu said that immediately on reaching Srinagar on 22 September, they tried, after talking to the common people, to identify the affected and neglected areas. On 25 September they set up a base camp with a five-member medical team at Badegaon and started treatment. The Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement organization extended their helping hands to the camp. On 26 September the medical team conducted a survey in a

government school relief camp at Rainawari of Srinagar district where 200 families of the Dal Lake area took refuge. The affected people of that camp agitated against the scanty relief work. They alleged that the food packets dropped from the helicopter had the dates expired. The biscuits distributed were inedible even for the dogs. The flood victims accused that the government had given no doles to them. The doctors conducting the camp said that they attended on the victims in this area on 27 September. On 28 September another camp was launched in Akhoon area of Dal Lake. The local youth helped the team in conducting the camp. Medical camps were also held at Badshahibag, Majornagar, Bemina etc., simultaneously. The camp in-charges held that attempts were afoot to run more camps in Anantanag district as well.

It is highly difficult for a private voluntary organization to run health camps in such extravagantly expensive places like Kashmir. They have appealed to the people of the country to stand by the devastated people by contributing their mite as much as possible.

AIUTUC flays Modi Government's deceptive attack against labour

In his initial reaction to a host of measures that have been announced in the name of Labour Welfare by the Prime Minister yesterday in a Conference at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) in course of a statement issued on 17 October, said- "Going a step further after announcing retrograde amendment particularly in Factories Act, I.D Act and Apprenticeship Act the Prime Minister yesterday unleashed BJP Government's move to completely disarm the working class of protective measures, whatever little had been there hitherto, on the plea of simplification of Labour Laws. Modi's intention clearly came to the fore after announcing such measures when he called upon the Domestic and Foreign Monopoly Houses to 'Make in India' projecting his corporate friendly credential once again. The highly organized conspiratorial slogan 'Put an end to Inspection Raj' has been systematically weakening the enforcement machinery for over last two decades. Now Modi announces its final destruction in effect giving a free hand to employers not to implement

Labour Laws with full immunity. Not only unanimous demand of trade union movement for a Minimum Statutory Pension of Rs. 3000/- per month has been rejected but also the existing amount of pension has been drastically reduced due to the change of formula of calculating Pensionable Salary from on the basis of average of last drawn 12 months' salary to 60 months' salaries. Lastly, it is really difficult to understand how the announced measures would ensure the Workers' Social Security Net financed by the government and the Employers. In these circumstances we call upon the working millions to correctly grasp the implications of the so-called welfare measures being free from vile influence of illusory slogan like 'Shrameva Jayate' and build up united movement to protect their hard-won Rights and Resist Anti-Labour moves, most of which were initiated by the erstwhile Congress-led UPA Government for the interest of domestic and foreign monopolies. We also call upon them to participate in millions in the demonstrations in all the state capitals and the Parliament Street on 5th December, 2014 on the **PROTEST DAY** called by all the Central Trade Unions."

Save Education Convention, Bihar

On September 26, All India Save Education Committee, Bihar organized a convention at IMA Hall in Bihar, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of IswarChandra Vidyasagar, pioneer of Indian Renaissance. Prominent educationist Professor Binay Kumar Kantha inaugurated the convention. Among

those who spoke were Professors A N Karna, Daisy Narayan, Bharati S Kumar, Ashish Ranjan, Vikash Rahi, Tarun Kumar - all of them eminent educationists of the state. Professor Santosh Kumar presided over while Bihar State Committee Secretary Sadhana Mishra greeted the audience.

Students' demonstration in Tripura

Tripura State AIDSIO organized a students' demonstration at Bandharghat Choumuhani on 15 September against fee hike in education, commercialization of education and abolition of pass-fail system upto class VIII, and in

demand for appointment of permanent teachers in the colleges, 50% concession to students in bus fare and guaranteeing security of the girl students and women. The main speaker was Comrade Amar Debnath, AIDSIO State President.

Black money account holder big donor to BJP, Congress

The BJP which has been resisting revelation of the names of the black money holders who stashed their ill-gotten money abroad citing breach of confidentiality norm of tax treaties with certain countries, claimed that when the names are disclosed, the Congress will be embarrassed. But the fact is that things might prove to be equally sour for itself. As per latest media report, one of the three people whom the Centre named in the Supreme Court as being black money account holders had made big donations to both BJP and Congress between 2004 and 2012. Radha S Timblo, a Goa-based miner and owner of Timblo Pvt Ltd, donated Rs 1.18 crore to the BJP and Rs 65 lakh to the Congress in this period. Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said, quoting figures submitted by the parties to the Election Commission. This is just the tip of the iceberg. If the full list is published, more skeletons will tumble out of the cupboard. (Times of India 28-10-2014)

What price Modi victory and who will pay?

It is well known that nowadays money has come to play a more and more influential role in bourgeois parliamentary election politics. But just how big is the amount involved? Recently, *The Statesman* carried the headline: "One Modi rally cost Rs 1.04 crore" (Oct. 11, 2014). It published the news after obtaining possession of the first documented account detailing the cost of one single election rally addressed by Mr Narendra Modi in Imphal on 8 February. This staggering cost of Rs 1.04 crore was not even for the largest or the most impressive of Narendra Modi's rallies. And before the Lok Sabha elections he held as many as 437 large rallies (a number reportedly provided by BJP president Amit Sah). In all, Mr Modi was said to have participated in 5,827 public events. The above report raised the obvious question: if the rally in Imphal cost a little more than Rs 1 crore, how much did the BJP spend on Mr Modi's 5,827 public events? How much more was spent on rallies addressed by other leaders?

Again in the just concluded different Assembly elections, we find the same feature of Mr Modi, now Prime Minister, holding one rally after another. This time, a news report in *The Times of India* (Oct. 10, 2014) drawing attention to another feature, highlighted that in Maharashtra Assembly elections in Mumbai, for example, different parties were also organizing large-scale employment of even domestic helps and drivers for election work. And they paid them a minimum of Rs 300 upto Rs 1,000, depending on the area, (plus two meals) for election work which included attending rallies, morchas, public meetings, or distributing voter cards, etc., the pay being on an hourly, daily or work basis.

That voters' inducement in one form or another has become an integral part of bourgeois parliamentary election politics is an open secret, but the BJP union minister Nitin Gadkari had let the cat out of the bag in his pre-Assembly poll advice to the people of Maharashtra that they should accept 'bribes' from all electoral candidates but vote for the BJP. A newspaper jokingly remarked on how this advice had led to a price war among political candidates in Maharashtra over the buy-a-vote rate: no sooner was the rate

rumoured to be Rs 900 in Gangakhed constituency than it shot up to Rs 1,500 in Bhosari and to Rs 2,000 in Aurangabad.

While above-mentioned news reports may afford at best an inkling of the staggering amounts used in the elections, the question remains: how were they all funded? That business houses donate funds to different bourgeois parties for election purpose is a well-known and long established practice. But to what extent they do so and to what length they go with their competing business interests to bring to power those parties or party they perceive as best suited to serve their class interest remains largely veiled from the public glare. All the more so when it involves black money changing hands.

What is absolutely clear is that during the last general elections the corporate business houses opened their purse strings to an unprecedented extent, to ensure the projection of Narendra Modi as prime ministerial candidate on such a grandiose scale, to ensure this kind of huge rallies, teeming with all that visible 'support' of the people. How huge were the funds, how well-orchestrated this campaign or gamble, meant to obscure or take care of the question of Mr Modi's antecedents and acceptability not only in his own party but among people at large. So clearly, it was a truly corporate driven campaign that got Narendra Modi seated in power. But have the corporate houses spent such huge funds simply for the love of Mr Modi? They have done so because they perceived that their interests would be best served through him as Prime Minister. And they want their money, or should we say, investment, back with due profits.

And Mr Modi in turn has promised more pro-business reforms which include also further privatization. Now, the Modi government claims it is pro-poor and at the same time pro-business, and sees no problem in that. But how is that possible? No sooner has the Modi government been installed in power than it hiked the railway fare — increasing general passenger fares by 14.2%, freight charges by 6.3%, while doubling monthly tickets rate, and serially hiking ticket rate under Tatkal on the plea of deficit of fund. Yet dearth of fund does not come in the way of allocating a staggering

SUCI(C) strongly condemns killing of three persons in gunfight between TMC and BJP in Parui, West Bengal

Strongly condemning the killing of three persons during the gunfight between the TMC and the BJP at Parui of Birbhum district, West Bengal centring on capture of territories, Comrade Saumen Basu, West Bengal State Secretary, SUCI(C), in course of a statement issued on 27 October said:

In a turf war between the ruling TMC and the BJP for territory capturing, miscreants resorted to indiscriminate firing, bomb charging, consigning houses into flames, looting and arson at Parui, in Birbhum district on 27 October. Three persons fell to the bullets fired by the miscreants. Common people are often attacked during the violence erupting centred on the power struggle between these two parties. In various parts of the state, such incidents are happening regularly. It is a matter of great surprise that in spite of being attacked by the goons of the ruling party, the police is indifferent and the miscreants are moving freely.

We demand of the state government that such attacks on the common people by the ruling party centring on turf fight be immediately stopped and all those involved in such incidents be arrested at the earliest and given exemplary punishment.

Rs 9 lakh crores for the proposed bullet train between Gujarat and Maharashtra, which only business people or the rich can afford. FDI in railways has also been invited. Can these measures by any stretch of the imagination be called pro-poor? Even the better passenger amenities promised are nowhere in sight. And that was just the beginning.

Without delay he has started to further deliver on his promise of pro-business reforms, and is getting through one measure after another. Thus, the Modi government has already decontrolled drug prices. Where one anti-rabies injection had earlier cost Rs 2500 it now costs Rs 7500, while a particular cancer medication that had been available at Rs 8500 has now soared to a staggering Rs 1 lakh. It is another matter that even earlier some of the restrictions were circumvented but now such decontrol of drug prices leaves people simply at the mercy of profit hungry corporates. How pro poor is such a measure that is going to wreak such incredible havoc for the health of the people and their economic life? Then, we find that diesel price has been deregulated to benefit private and public sector oil companies leaving the door open for unrestricted rise in future. Again, that is followed by the announced price hike of natural gas by a whopping 33 %, which is really but the first installment, all of which, needless to say, will further drive up prices of essential commodities, including transport and electricity. Moreover, the Modi government has already announced drastic curtailment of NREGA, the 100 day guaranteed rural employment scheme to be confined only to the poorest 200 districts. This provides

just a glimpse of some of the measures so far taken. Whatever pro-reform measures have been implemented so far or announced, including among others, disinvestment of PSUs, FDI in insurance and defence etc. labour reforms, the latter aiming at dismantling the last vestiges of workers democratic rights, such as right to collective bargaining among other, have been widely hailed by the corporate section. Is it any wonder that the corporate sector loves Mr Modi so much? With what efficiency he goes about smoothing the way and spreading the red carpet for them to freely reap super maximum profits and perpetrate their exploitation unhindered, without government interference, not even reasonable restrictions.

The question arises: when already economic reforms (with concomitant privatization) has given rise to a situation where alone the privileged few, a minuscule section of people mainly in managerial jobs, receive some crumbs from the ever growing profits and unimaginable wealth of corporate business, but where the fate of the toiling masses is one of increasing misery, which has led to large-scale farmers' suicides and increasing social conflicts — in such a situation, how happy will be the days for the poor that the fresh pro-business reforms portend? Truly 'achhe din', happy days are coming for the corporate business houses under the Modi government! So, they funded Modi's anointment to power. But dark days are coming for the toiling people! They pay the price. And what a price they will have to pay! Until the truth dawns on them and they can see the way out.

SUCI (C) opposes deregulation of diesel price and criticizes BJP government's volte face on unearthing black money

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 19-10-14:

We strongly oppose the most atrocious decision to deregulate diesel prices in keeping with the pernicious prescriptions of economic liberalization wreaking havoc in people's life. Though the government has given a big stunt by announcing lowering of diesel prices by Rs 3.37 per litre as if such would be the outcome of deregulation, the fact is that within no time, prices would soar substantially under the pretext of spurt in global crude price and hold common people into ransom. It may be added that notwithstanding global crude oil price hitting 4 year low and currently hovering around US \$84 per barrel with indication of further plummeting, the Indian retail consumers of petrol diesel continue to pay exorbitant price. The latest gimmick on the part of the government and the oil companies to marginally lower the prices adducing the cause to fall in international crude price is a charade on the consumers as the so called price cut amount is miniscule compared to the rates slapped on them. A rough calculation assuming one US\$ =Rs 60 and 1 barrel= 159 litres and factoring in transport cost and prevailing customs duty shows that import cost of a litre of crude is around Rs 33. But the retail tariffs for petrol and diesel in the country are currently around Rs 75 and Rs 65 per litre approximately varying from state to state. In other words, imposition of various taxes and cess have more than doubled the retail price which is being borne by the common consumers while the kitty of the government and oil companies are soaring. In January 2013, the government after fully deregulating petrol prices had authorized the oil marketing companies to increase retail prices of diesel by Re 0.50 every month to close the gap on their so called notional under-recoveries. The very attempt of the government to show so called notional 'under recovery' figures as loss incurred by the oil companies has been proved to be utterly motivated and false with the oil companies balance sheets indicating fabulous profit of over Rs 50,000 crore in five years between 2007 and 2012.

We demand reversal of the decision to deregulate the prices of both diesel and petrol, all the taxes and cess be withdrawn immediately and fuel is made available to the retail consumers at actual cost price.

We also severely criticize the BJP government's renegeing on the pre-poll promise of unearthing black money and bring to book those who have been stashing away ill-gotten money overseas on the plea that it is hamstrung by the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement with Germany and other treaties forbidding disclosure of identities of those operating dubious accounts. The fact is that the BJP like its predecessor Congress, notwithstanding all brag and bluster against black money holders to play to the gallery, cannot afford to take any step to unfold the names of those holding illicit money since it is funded and flourished by the latter—a fact that is very much in public domain.

We call upon the countrymen to realize this out and out anti-people corrupt character of the BJP and its government and rise in protest against its chicanery.

SUCI(C) flays price increase of LPG cylinder

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 30 October, 2014:

We strongly oppose the decision of the BJP-led central government to raise the price of domestic cooking gas cylinder by Rs. 3 on the pretext of recovering the increased commission to be paid to the dealers. It is, therefore, clear that in order to enjoy the "acche din" promised by the Modi government, the end consumers will have to bear periodic escalation of fuel price on this or that plea so that while the coffers of the oil corporates minting huge profit would swell, the people would bleed white and be more and more pauperized.

We call upon the people not to accept such repeated economic assaults on them lying low but close their rank and voice organized protest.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty critically ill

Central Committee, SUCI(C) has issued a medical bulletin on 30 October giving latest position of critical illness of Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Polit Bureau of the Party:

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, 78 year old, was being treated at St. Martha's Hospital, Bangalore since 14/10/2014 till 27/10/2014 as he was suffering from severe intermittent shortness of breath complicated with hypoxemic respiratory failure. His was a known case of COPD, hypertension, hypothyroidism, prostatomegally (status post TURP), TIA, Age related CKD and diastolic dysfunction.

As the condition of the patient was deteriorating, the treating team referred him to any tertiary set up with ICU facilities. The patient responded to diuretic and accordingly, on 27/10/2014 Comrade Chakraborty was transported to Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital by Air Ambulance.

At Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital he was seen by the Critical Care Team headed by the eminent cardiologist Dr. Kanti Bhusan Baksi. Comrade Chakraborty is being treated by a team of eminent specialists from various disciplines, who participate actively in the collective treatment process. The team comprises Dr Saibal Ghosh – Consultant pulmonologist and CCU in-charge of Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital, Dr. Shuvan Roy, Chief of Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Hospital, Kolkata, Dr. Debasis Ghosh, Senior Interventional Cardiologist of Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Dr. Suresh Ramasubban, HOD, Critical Care of Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata, Dr. Pratik Das, Chief of Nephrology, RNTIICS, Kolkata, Dr Subhankar Chatterjee, Dr. Biplab Chandra and Dr. Nilratan Naiya. During his stay at Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital, Comrade Chakraborty had repeated bouts of heart failure of which the episode on last night (30.10.2014) was severe, which is suspected to be due to serious cardiovascular insufficiency. Last night, standard anti ischemic drugs in full doses were required to control the symptom of Comrade Chakraborty and evidence of gross ischemia of the multiple walls of the heart appeared for the first time in ECG.

Dr. K B Baksi after thorough examination and discussions with other consultants have concluded that emergency Coronary Angiography with intervention as deemed fit should be conducted at the earliest in Fortis hospital, Kolkata by the renowned Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Shuvan Roy and so, he is being transferred to Fortis Hospital at the earliest.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty's condition remained critical and high risk intervention with post-operative hazards had to be kept in mind particularly in view of his age, his co-morbidities and his deteriorating kidney function.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty was subsequently transferred to Fortis Hospital, Kolkata and there Dr. Subhanan Roy performed an angioplasty on him and 80% blockage was found in the right coronary artery of the heart which in Comrade Chakraborty's case is the dominant artery of the heart. Intravascular ultrasonogram was used to define the exact location and the extent of the blockage and subsequently a stent was put in at the precise position, that is angioplasty was done properly. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty is now in a stable condition recovering from the operation though not yet out of danger.

The Central Committee appeals to the Party workers, supporters and sympathizers to contribute their might to the treatment fund for the recovery of Comrade Krishna Chakraborty.



Comrade Arun Singh, Member, Bihar State Committee, SUCI(C), addressing Citizens Convention against FDI at IMA Hall in Patna on 7 October

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