

Press Release
26th Sept.2011, Kolkata

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc met at Kolkata on 23-25 September 2011. Com. N. Velappan Nair, Chairman of the party presided over the meeting. The meeting took stock of the current socio-political-economic situation of the country and reviewed the 'Bharat Yatra' conducted by the party from 9th August to 5th September 2011.

Bharat Yatra

The committee reviewed that the Bharat Yatra being organized by the party from Kanyakumari to Delhi, Srinagar to Delhi and Agartala to Delhi from 9th August to 5th September 2011 was a grand success. It created new enthusiasm not only among the workers and cadres of AIFB but also other left parties. The Bharat Yatra made awareness among the people about how the government policies are causing price rise, corruption, corporate loot, denial of rights on water, forest and land (Jal-Jungle-Zameen). The people's response to the Bharat Yatra was encouraging. The party has decided to strengthen the follow-up action of Bharat Yatra. The party will organize dharnas, picketing, rallies etc in the coming days on these issues.

Accept Mukherjee Commission report and
Correct Lok Sabha publication on Netaji.

The party has decided to launch a nationwide people's movement to pressurise the government to accept the report of Justice Mukherjee Commission, which probed the mysterious disappearance of Netaji and proved that Netaji didn't die in the alleged plane crash. The Party also demands to correct the recent publication of Lok Sabha on great freedom fighters in which deliberately written the death date of Netaji as 18th August 1945 though the Mukherjee Commission categorically said that there was no plane crash on 17th August 1945. The party deem it as a larger conspiracy hatched by the government to sabotage the Supreme Court order with related to withdraw the Bharat Ratna award to Netaji as posthumously and bring back the so-called ashes of Netaji from Japan. The party will continue its movement throughout the country on these demands and will organise people's movement till the government announces the Netaji Jayanti (23rd January) as 'Desh Prem Divas'. The Party has raised all these issues during the Bharat Yatra and the people were overwhelmingly accepted and extended all sorts of cooperation across the country.

The All India Forward Bloc will organise Citizen Conventions throughout the country by 15th November 2011. On 18th November, all the leaders of the party and workers will court arrest and will organise a mass dharna at Delhi on 25th November 2011. The party will submit a petition to the Lok Sabha Speaker to correct the Lok Sabha publication on 25th November. The party will approach all the Members of Parliament irrespective of their political affiliation to write to the Lok Sabha Speaker as a mark of pressure to correct this gross negligence and mistake.

Land Acquisition Bill.

An amendment bill to the British Land Acquisition act of 1894 has been introduced in the Parliament. The party always demanded new land acquisition act for our country as acquiring land has become one of the major issue throughout the nation. Land is directly linked with the livelihood of millions of people and it is related to their food security, poverty and unemployment. They have emotional attachment to their land, which provides them security, identity and social status. Therefore any attempt to acquire the land against their wish will certainly backlash. It is the duty of the government to provide them proper rehabilitation. But in almost all incidents, the government promises something and doing nothing, which forces the 'land owners' to wander here and there without any identity.

It is a fact that by one or other reasons, the area of cultivable land is diminishing day by day in our country. Therefore, the government should prepare a land use map immediately to protect the character of the land and to take special measures to develop agricultural land. The government should not leave the people at the mercy of corporate and the MNCs in the name of public utility. The poor farmers and the dependents cannot bargain with the executives and will easily capitulate to the allurements of bundles of currency notes. Therefore the government must ensure fair price, proper rehabilitation, guarantee the share in the proposed projects, provide adequate and usable land for land and to protect the interests of the share croppers and agricultural labours etc. The State governments should consult the local body governments before finalizing the plan and projects. The proposed amendment bill should reflect all these concerns.

The All India Forward Bloc will launch people's movement will raise voice in the Parliament for the speedy enactment of the act through thorough discussion.

Increasing Poverty

The Planning Commission of India has accepted the Tendulkar Committee's methodology for poverty estimate that includes spends on education and health besides food, taking the number of the poor to a whopping 37.2 per cent from 27.5 per cent estimated earlier in 2004. This means that India now has 100 million more people living below the poverty line than in 2004. Now the Commission told the Supreme Court on 20th September 2011 that anyone spending more than Rs.965 per month in urban areas and Rs.781 in rural areas will not be deemed as poor. It means those who spend more than Rs.32 a day in towns and Rs.26 a day in villages would no longer be eligible for central and state government welfare schemes for those living below poverty line (BPL).

It is absurdly unrealistic calculation and an attempt to suppress the real number of poor in India. In one side the government says about economic growth due to liberalization and on the other side trying to hide the increasing disparity between the haves and have nots. The All India Forward Bloc urges upon the government to reject summarily the calculation of the Planning Commission and start to consult the state governments before finalising such vital information.

Cash for Vote Scam.

The Cash-for-vote scam once again revealed the ugly face of Congress (I) in their desperate attempt to hang on power. When the left parties have withdrawn their outside support to the UPA I government, the Congress (I) started horse trading and engaged the political brokers with money bags to save the government. Now the brokers are in jail but the real powers behind the entire episode are acting as apostle of democracy and transparency.

The All India Forward Bloc demands that the real culprits of this undemocratic incident, which brought down the image of Indian Parliament, should be booked under stringent anti-corruption laws.

Mr. Chidambaram should resign.

The latest report about the departmental note from Pranab Mukherjee, the finance minister to the Prime Minister regarding the role of P. Chidambaram, the former finance minister in the 2G Spectrum scandal once again reveals the high level conspiracy behind the scam. The CBI argued in the Supreme Court in favour of Chidambaram and is trying to save him. But the affidavit submitted by A.Raja, the former Telecommunication Minister clearly describes the role of Prime Minister and finance minister in this 2G Spectrum loot.

The All India Forward Bloc demands the immediate resignation of P. Chidambaram on the basis of the new revelations.

Sufferings of Farmers.

The sorry plights of the Indian farmers are still continuing even after the big talks and claims of

government's about special packages and loan waiving. Allowing 100% FDI in agriculture, entry of MNCs in agriculture and agri-business, lack of remunerative prices, subsidy withdrawal on fertilizers, urea price hike, petrol and diesel price hike, lack of proper marketing facilities, dismantling of public distribution system, forceful acquisition of farming land, lack of adequate crop insurances, unwanted import of agricultural products which we can make plenty etc. are making the life of farmers miserable. The movements of the Kisan organisations are falling in the deaf ears of the ruling clique. The All India Forward Bloc calls upon all the Kisan Sabhas to wage independent and joint action to save the farmers from the anti-farmer policies of the government.

Post election atrocities by ruling party in West Bengal

It is matter of great concern that with the installation of new TMC-Congress led government in West Bengal, the major ruling party Trinamool Congress are in a planned way engaged in continuing revengeful actions against the left party workers and leaders. This is exactly in contradiction of what they said before the election that they want 'change' not the 'revenge'. In the process, many left and innocent people have lost their lives. This vindictiveness is not a healthy political approach. We deeply condemn this anti-left atrocities and apprehend that the democratic fabric of traditional political trend in the state is going to be destroyed.

The TMC government is seizing the patta-land from the poor peasants and evicting the tillers from their land, forcing resignations of current elected office bearers of Panchayat bodies, municipal boards, student's unions of different colleges and universities and syndicate or governing bodies of some universities with the presumed allegation that they are having left leanings. People are experiencing a reign of terror in the state. In the name of clean city, the state government is trying to take steps to ban or restrict political meetings and processions, pulling down hoardings-posters-flags of left parties as desired by their close friends in commerce and industry lobby. Although in matters of serious political issues like 'Gorkhaland' or 'Jungalmahal', the government does not care to call 'all party meetings'.

We urge the people of the state to raise their united voice of protest against these anti democratic actions of TMC-Congress (I) led government and save democracy as long aspired by the people.