



ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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अखिल हिन्द फारवर्ड ब्लाक

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PRESS RELEASE

4th November 2010, New Delhi

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc met at New Delhi on 3-4 November 2010. The meeting reviewed the current socio-political developments of the country and the ongoing preparations for the National Conferences of the Mass fronts of the party.

Obama's Visit.

The president of USA Mr. Barack Obama is visiting India from 6th to 9th November 2010. The All India Forward Bloc is of the opinion that the change of guard in the USA made no change in the US approach towards third world countries. The US aggressive policies towards Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, DPRK, Cuba and other Latin American countries are unchanged. What the whole world expected from Mr. Obama has not materialized and there is no indication of much change in the near future.

Mr. Obama's visit will further concretize the strategic and military alliance between India and US, which is a shift from India's time tested Non-Aligned foreign policy. It is now clear that the US administration is keen to mobilize Indian investments for rejuvenating the scrambled economy of the USA.

The government of India has already committed for \$12 billion with US companies, of which \$5 billion is defence related and the rest in commercial deals. It is calculated that this \$12 billion Indian investment will create at least 60000 new direct jobs in the USA. Obama's visit will pave path for more highly subsidized agricultural imports from the USA, which will strangulate further the Indian farmers who suffer due to anti-farmers policies of the government of India. America gives substantial subsidies to its farmers under different heads, and while India too offers farm subsidies these are nowhere at comparable levels. It is imperative to remember that it was one of the key contentious issues between the two countries at the WTO's Doha round of talks.

The young people of India cannot forget the remarks of Mr. Obama regarding the cheap outsourcing of software related jobs to Indian companies by the US based firms. His regime has imposed several measures such as tax hike, subsidy cut, license fee hike etc. to put an end to the US outsourcing. It may be one of the reasons that he is not visiting our IT 'hubs' - Bangalore, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

Unlike the other regimes of USA, Mr. Obama's administration has hiked the Visa fees from \$320 to \$2,320 for skilled workers and from \$320 to \$2,570 for unskilled workers. Therefore the Indian investors are now forced to recruit American employees. It is worth to mention here that Indian companies are now the second largest foreign investors in the US, next only to UAE and have created around 57,000 new American jobs.

The All India Forward Bloc, the party founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will, therefore oppose with all might, the proposed visit of Mr. Barack Obama to India. We are not against the American people, nor we are showing disrespect to the US president Mr. Obama, our protest is against the aggression policy of America against the people of the third world. The party will observe a protest week from 6th to 12th November 2010 throughout the country. The party and its mass organizations will mobilize people from all walks of life to the streets raising voice against the visit of Mr. Obama. The Members of Parliament belonging to the All India Forward Bloc will abstain from the Parliament when Mr. Obama will address the joint sitting of the house on 8th

November 2010 as the party considers that when we protest outside by mobilizing the people, we must also register our protest in all forums.

The All India Forward Bloc will participate with maximum mobilization of people in the joint protest being called by the four left parties on 8th November 2010 all over the country.

Price Rise.

Even after exclusive debates in the Parliament, the agony of price rise is still continuing. Prices of all essential commodities are sky rocketing during this festival season. But the government is justifying the price rise with statistics and economic growth figures, which in fact will not give any solace to the common people. Instead taking strong measures to check the price rise, the government has allowed the petroleum companies to hike the petrol prices as much they wish under different pretexts. The All India Forward Bloc will continue its mass action against the price rise and the callous attitude of the government to strengthen the public distribution system and to stop all forward trading of essential commodities.

CWG Scandal: JPC Must Be Constituted.

Unprecedented volume of corruption cases have emerged from the preparations of the recently concluded Common Wealth Game (CWG) in New Delhi. It reveals that both the ruling party and the main opposition parties are involved in the scam. An enquiry under the tainted government will not bring the real culprits and the crime. Therefore, the All India Forward Bloc demands that a Joint Parliamentary Committee must be constituted to enquire the entire gamut of the corruption at the earliest.

In the light of India's encouraging performances in the CWG and as a programme to develop new talents, the government must adopt a comprehensive and scientific as well as transparent sports policy for the nation.

Minister A.Raja must be removed.

It was revealed without an iota of doubt that the Communication Minister A.Raja was very much involved in the 2G spectrum scam. A rough calculation shows that the national exchequer has lost about one lakh crore rupees due to this 2G spectrum allocation. The minister is directly involved in the allocation process. A CBI enquiry has been announced but the tainted minister is still in power. The Supreme Court recently asked the government that "The complaint is lodged in 2009. The same minister is continuing. Is that the way the government is functioning? Is it the rule of the law? You follow the same standards in respect of every one?" The Prime Minister did not answer these questions of the apex court so far. The All India Forward Bloc strongly demands that the tainted minister must be removed from the union cabinet immediately.

Land Acquisition Act must be modernized immediately.

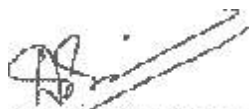
- along with a comprehensive package of compensation and rehabilitation for the land losers.
- for public utility and development work including industry and infrastructure, land can be acquired by the state governments as well as the entrepreneurs/market forces direct from the land owners.

Food Security Act must be passed immediately.

- to take care of both the BPL as well as the low-income APL in rural and urban areas.
- subsidized food grains along with other essential commodities through Universal PDS.
- Agricultural productivity must also be increased at the same time.

Ranganath Mishra Report must be tabled.

The All India Forward Bloc urges upon the government to table the Ranganath Mishra Committee Report regarding the Minority Communities and the Action Taken Report to the Parliament in the ensuing session.



(Debabrata Biswas)
General Secretary