

Press Release

6th June 2011, Kolkata

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc met at Kolkata on 4th and 5th June 2011. The Central Secretariat of the party met on 3rd June 2011. Com. N. Velappan Nair, Chairman of the party presided over the meeting. The meeting took stock of current political situation of the country and reviewed the assembly election results of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Assam and West Bengal.

Baba Ramdev's Arrest is Highly Condemnable.

The way in which the central government handled the hunger strike of Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev is highly deplorable. The subsequent police action and the arrest of Ramdev illustrates that the government has something to hide on the issues raised by Ramdev such as corruption and black money. The government's role was very suspicious from the very beginning. The All India Forward Bloc recognizes the cause of the struggle being launched by Baba Ramdev. But the five star model struggle and its abrupt end raises lot of doubts about the ultimate aim of the struggle. Nobody can accuse if somebody say that the whole game was got up one and like a 'match fixing'. The entire episode clearly exposes the weakness of the central government. The All India Forward Bloc is of the opinion that if the government consulted with political parties before taking the extreme undemocratic step the entire confusion of handling the struggle could have been avoided. The BJP, which is trying to fish from the troubled water, has no moral right to speak against corruption.

Election Review.

The Left Front of West Bengal has lost the Assembly Election 2011 and is out of power after 35 years. It is indeed a landslide defeat with its strength of 235 in 2006 slashed down to 62 in 2011. One such result does not happen suddenly in a day. People's grievances go on accumulating for years together and at the end it bursts out in the form of an explosion. Left Front's downward trend was, of course, knocking at the door after the Singur Nandigarm incidents in 2007. Since that the LF has lost all the subsequent elections.

It is now realized that the people of West Bengal overwhelmingly responded to the massive slogan of 'Change' given by the Trinamool Congress. This response of the people must have been fueled by quite a few failures and wrong stepping by the LF government. Over dependency on bureaucracy, unruly behavior of left party leaders and cadres, highhandedness and megalomaniac attitude of leaders, blind and dual approach in implementing neo-liberal policies, over interest on corporates and capitalists, ignoring the minority issues, least interest on modern methods and social networking facilities in the election campaign, ignoring the new generation's and middle class's aspirations, sticking on to the conventional way of election campaign etc are the other reasons for the failure of Left Front.

The LF's detachment and alienation from the people could not be eliminated; rather it was on the increase. The LF could not realize the depth of their alienation from the public, so they also couldn't resist it. They also failed to draw necessary lessons from this detachment. The LF leadership of West Bengal failed to anticipate the depth and degree of opposition rather they were misguided. Hence, ultimately the election debacle became inevitable.

The Development work done by the LF could not more impress the people. The basic reason in this that the people have lost political confidence in LF due to accumulation of so many adverse factors for years together, particularly during the later phase of the LF regime. Even at the fag end of the electoral battle, the LF tried to come back to recover the position. But the people were aggrieved due to the vulgar language used by a few left leaders against the TMC supreme. Particularly ladies, by and large, seriously took exception in this matter. At the same time the LF of West Bengal was in a defensive position and failed to carry out a serious political campaign during the election.

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc is of the firm opinion that the defeat of West Bengal LF government is a big blow to national left and progressive movement. LF of West Bengal is

defeated but not out. In order to regain its lost ground the LF of West Bengal should bring a new leadership with new vision to face the new challenges and to avoid all confusions to handle the allurements of neo-liberal policies. The National leadership of Left Parties has to think loudly about to develop sincere left unity throughout the country without any vanity and ego. If it will not happen the All India Forward Bloc will be forced to take other political positions.

The Central Committee of AIFB congratulates the LDF of Kerala on its brave resistance on the communally polarized politics of UDF led by Congress (I). The party salutes the people of Tamilnadu on their unwavering belief on democracy and the negation of money and muscle power.

Congress (I) and the BJP have Nothing to Cheer.

The two major national parties, the Congress (I) and the BJP have nothing to cheer from these election results. Out of 824 seats in all these five states, the Congress (I) got only 170 and the BJP got a mere 5. The Congress (I) decimated in Tamilnadu, falling behind expectation in Kerala, embarrassed in Puducherry and thrashed in the by-elections in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In West Bengal the Congress party got 42 seats due to alliance with Trinamool Congress. The BJP could not open its account in Kerala, Tamilnadu, Puducherry and West Bengal. At the same time they have lost their six seats in Assam. The regional parties such as Trinamool Congress, AIADMK, AINR Congress, AIUDF, Muslim League of Kerala and other small parties have got the mandate. The people have identified the Congress (I) and the BJP as birds of same feathers with regard to the neo-liberal policies, corruption, nepotism, and subservient attitude towards US imperialism are concerned. The All India Forward Bloc appeals to the left, secular, democratic and progressive forces of India to read the writings on the wall and come forward to wage relentless struggle against the Congress (I) and the BJP without eying narrow parliamentary interests.

Bharat Yatra of AIFB

The All India Forward Bloc will start a Bharat Yatra from 9th August 2011 from the Vivekananda rock at Kanyakumari. This yatra is to develop people's movement against corruption, poverty, denial of democratic rights, rights on Jal-jungle- zameen, interferences of imperialist and capitalist forces in our domestic matters and to pressurize the government to declare 23rd January, Netaji's birthday as 'Deshprem Divas'. The Yatra will link all the ongoing on people's movement across the country on various people's demands. The Central Secretariat of the party will meet on 2nd and 3rd July 2011 at Kolkata and will chalk out the detailed programme of this Bharat Yatra.

72nd Party Foundation Day.

22nd June 2011 is the 72nd foundation day of All India Forward Bloc. The party will celebrate its 72nd birthday in a befitting manner. We consider that it is the first opportunity after the election defeat to reach the people with an alternative political philosophy. Netaji and his ideology can bring back the people who left us during this period. Therefore all the party units will chart out special programmes to celebrate the party foundation day by organizing seminars on relevance of Left parties vis-à-vis the political philosophy and vision of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose throughout the country.

(DEBABRATA BISWAS)

General Secretary