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RED SALUTE KARL MARX



Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Veteran Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) garlanding the portrait of Karl Marx at Central Party Office, Kolkata, on 14 March, 2011

SUCI(C) condemns NATO aggression on Libya

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) in a statement issued on 20-03-11 said :

We strongly condemn and oppose the military offensive launched by the NATO forces led by US imperialists on Libya on the pretext of ending the violence of autocratic Gaddafi regime against innocent civilians. While extending full support to the Libyan people's movement against the most despotic right-wing dictatorial Gaddafi rule, we are of the firm opinion that it is the task of the oppressed people of Libya to decide the kind of governance they intend to have in their motherland and the US-led imperialist sharks have no propriety to meddle into the internal affairs of that country through such a large scale military intervention using UNO as a rubber stamp. These plans for war by US imperialists and their NATO allies are motivated not by any desire to protect the Libyan people and further the cause of democracy but are solely purported to capture the rich oil fields of Libya, install a puppet regime there and suppress democratic struggles in that region.

We call upon all anti-imperialist democratic-minded people of the world to close their rank and force the US-led world imperialists have their hands off Libya under pressure of world public opinion against such a barbaric move.

Defeat CPI(M)-Congress-BJP in the coming West Bengal Assembly Election

**Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C)
at the Press Conference on 22 March, 2011**

As you are aware, five states of India are going to the Assembly polls. We are contesting 25 seats in Assam, 26 in Kerala and 2 in Tamilnadu. In all these three states, we are fighting on our own strength without having any alliance with any other party.

I now turn to the position in West Bengal. When on 18 March Trinamool Congress (TMC) declared its first list of candidates in West Bengal, many were eager, and quite naturally, to know our immediate reaction. But we did not come out with any instant reaction. Because, before we take any important decision, we do collect the opinion of our workers-supporters as well as a large section of the common people, duly examine all their views and suggestions and then only arrive at a decision. Earlier also, before entering into an alliance with the TMC in 2008 at a particular stage of political developments in the state, we gathered such opinions from all concerned and then went ahead. Similar was the case when the TMC decided to have a seat adjustment with Congress in the last parliamentary elections and our alliance was almost at a breaking point. Likewise, this time also, for three to four days, we sought the views and opinions of our party workers-leaders-supporters-sympathizers and a vast section of the masses, held discussions at all levels of the Party and then the Central Committee of the Party has arrived at a decision. I am presenting here the decision of the Central Committee.

At first we gave TMC a list of 15 constituencies other than Joynagar and Kultali where we have our sitting MLAs. We knew that this time TMC would contest in some of the seats where we contested in earlier elections. So we did not even ask for those seats. We had meetings with TMC on 1 March, 5 March and then on 16 March. All the three meetings were held at our

State Party office in Kolkata. In the last meeting, i.e. on 16 March, we informed TMC leaders that the two seats where we have our sitting MLAs would naturally be ours. Apart from that, we be given at least 12 constituencies in place of 15 to contest from. TMC leaders assured that they would sit with us later and take decision after mutual discussions. It is very surprising that since then they did not even contact us, let alone holding any meeting. TMC leaders went on bargaining with Congress for mutually dividing West Bengal between them for quite a long time, undertook repeated trips to Delhi, but could not find time to talk to us. All of a sudden they



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing the Press Conference—by his side are Comrades Ranjit Dhar (right) and Manik Mukherjee (left), both Polit Bureau members and Comrade Soumen Bose (extreme left), Central Committee member and West Bengal State Secretary.

unilaterally announced a list in which they earmarked for us those two constituencies of Joynagar and Kultali which have been returning our candidates for so many years. Naturally, not only the workers-supporters of our Party, innumerable people of West Bengal, people belonging to different sections of the toiling masses have not only been taken aback but visibly aggrieved. It is beyond them that such a thing could happen. Many have protested verbally, many have communicated their displeasure via SMS. All have been of the opinion that this has been very unjust and beyond their expectation. Some even have said: "Why

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Press Conference

Earmarking only two long-winning seats for SUCI(C) by TMC does not make any logic

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did you want only 15 seats, why not more? We were certain that you would come out victorious in at least 10 to 12 seats." Infuriated, some have even commented: "By this act TMC has exhibited conceit and autocracy."

People have been unanimous in the opinion that earmarking of these two seats to us does not make any logic as these two have been our long-winning seats. Some people even said that long before the formation of TMC, long before many present leaders were even born, Joy nagar and Kultali meant citadel of SUCI(C). In fact, since 1952 there have been 14 Assembly elections in Bengal. Out of 14 we have won 12 times in these two seats. On 10 occasions out of these 12, we won on our lone strength i.e. not in alliance with any other party. So, 'giving' us these two seats has no meaning. The poor have-nots, the oppressed middle class of Joy nagar and Kultali have given SUCI(C) these two seats at the cost of their own blood and lives since the Congress regime upto the present CPI(M) rule. So, it is the people of these two constituencies who have the last word in giving or not giving these two seats to us.

We think, the decision TMC has taken now is somewhat similar to what the former CPI(M) chief minister declared in 1977 just before the state polls. He declared then that if CPI(M)-led Left Front came to power there would not be any mass movement, disturbance, lawlessness because SUCI(C) was no more a constituent of the Left Front. We knew who the target audience of this declaration was. This was to assure those people who do not want protests-mass movements-struggle, i.e. the large industrial houses, monopolists, bureaucracy and vested interests. This time, TMC's declaration of not letting us contest any seat other than Joy nagar and Kultali has similarity with this declaration of the CPI (M) leadership in 1977. Now TMC is about to enter Writers' Buildings and in these circumstances an increase of strength of SUCI(C) in the Assembly portends danger to the big industrialists, bureaucracy and vested interest, as everybody knows that our Party stands for class and mass struggles and protests against

all anti-people policies and injustice. This decision of TMC has made the people sad, indignant. But jubilant are the corporate sector, domestic and foreign monopoly houses, bureaucracy, vested interest. This is our considered view. We are also of the opinion that whatever be the criticism of the people or their grievances against the decision of denying any seat to us, TMC is pretty consistent in their politics, and from that very perspective they have taken the decision of not allowing any increase in the strength of SUCI(C) in the Assembly. This also is clear, that this attitude towards our Party means a blow for democratic mass movement, a blow upon the glory of the battle of Singur-Nandigram.

It should be kept in mind that the wind of change that is blowing across the state of West Bengal is no creation of any political party. This very urge for a change is the product of democratic mass movements. You can recollect that it was in 1967 that Congress had suffered its first electoral reverse in the state. West Bengal became the hotbed of continuous united anti-Congress movements in the state, one after another since 1952 under the leadership of the left parties. The undivided CPI and later CPI(M), though pursuant of reformist politics, used to be within the mass movement. In this way the ground for ushering in a change was gradually prepared. The urge for change reached the peak in the historic food movement of 1966. 'No more Congress' became the decision of the people of West Bengal. Though the left forces fought the 1967 elections being divided into two fronts, yet Congress was reduced to a minority in the poll. Thus the wave of change of the 1960's was triggered by mass movement, although CPI (M), as a bigger constituent of the then left combination, usurped in their own sectarian electoral interest the people's urge for change. Another surge of popular opinion in favour of a change in the entire country occurred in 1974. Till then, the rule of Congress at the Centre was continuing uninterrupted. But the mass movement under the leadership of late Jayprakash Narayan stirred the entire country and based on that, there was a wave

in favour of a change. As a sequel to that, Congress was dislodged from power in 1977.

After CPI (M) was saddled in power in the state in 1977, no party other than ours initiated mass movements against their anti-left, anti-people policies. Those who are a little aged would recollect how our workers while conducting mass struggles were assaulted by the police and ruling CPI(M) sponsored storm troopers. The roads of the city of Kolkata, as well as many towns and villages, were soaked in the blood of our workers. Many of them were murdered. Yet, we did not relent, continued the struggle with all our might. Congress was then moving with an understanding with the CPI(M). TMC was not even born then. Of the two demands that the CPI(M) government was forced to concede to under pressure of movement, one was reintroduction of English at the primary level. Starting from eminent personalities like Dr. Sukumar Sen, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy, Premendra Mitra to a host of noted educationists, intellectuals, litterateurs and people from all walks of the society joined this historic language movement and made it a grand success. This was a turning point in the history of democratic movement of West Bengal. The second demand the CPI(M) had to yield to was abandonment of the sinister pro-capitalist designs at Singur and Nandigram. It was our Party which initiated the people's movement both at Singur and Nandigram.

During the CPI(M) rule, it was our Party which first called a Bangla bandh in 1990. Till date, the people of West Bengal have made 15 Bangla bandhs at our call a total success. Apart from that, we have developed several movements on legitimate demands of the workers and peasants, on many pressing issues related to education, electricity, health-care, price rise etc. and succeeded in wresting some of the demands as well. Thus, we have conducted sustained movements since 1977 and created the ground for a change. People of the state as well as the journalist friends are well aware that the movements in Singur and Nandigram were first started by us. But, in the face of barbaric attack unleashed by the CPI(M) government to crush these

movements, we on our single strength could not make the struggles victorious. The

movements were victorious because TMC also joined them. Time and again, we have said this before the people. It was our Party which first gave a call for Bangla bandh on the Singur issue. On Nandigram also, ours was the first to call for a statewide bandh. At least this is not to my knowledge if TMC could realize any demand by building up any movement singlehandedly on their own strength. As forms of movement, TMC resorts to sit-in-demonstrations, dharna, padayatra (route march), law violation etc. But they are not for developing any united, organized, disciplined long-drawn movement. Success of Singur-Nandigram movements is attributable to our capability of developing well-organized sustained movement and the greater strength of TMC in terms of mass following. Over and above, because of TMC's involvement, the movements received media-backing and thus the people of the entire state as well as the whole country could come to know what beastly savagery raved wild there. This helped development of powerful public opinion and involvement of a vast section of the intelligentsia in support of the movements. All these factors made the movements assume such a gigantic dimension. Had the movement been conducted by us alone, the media would have never given so much publicity. Everybody knows that the media seldom covers any news of the mass struggles developed by us. These movements emerged victorious because of the joint participation of SUCI(C) and TMC. "CPI(M) must go" — this demand for a change arose from the Singur-Nandigram movements only. The role of Singur-Nandigram movements in the raising of the demand for a change cannot be denied. Likewise, the role of SUCI(C) in developing one after another mass movement since 1977, as well as in Singur-Nandigram movements cannot be denied either. This is a reality. Earlier, TMC could not register any tangible electoral gain by either moving alone or entering into electoral alliance with BJP or Congress. They had organized rallies of hundred

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14th Tamilnadu Assembly Election 2011

Reeling under crisis, people oscillate helplessly within two-party system

The 14th Assembly Election in Tamilnadu is scheduled on April 13. As usual, the forces and interests that live on the bourgeois parliamentary politics of the country, aided and abetted by money-bag, muscle power and media, are gearing up, gradually picking up momentum. People, in their turn, are preparing themselves to pass through virtually the same, as far as the common man's problems are concerned, remedially futile exercise called election that is being repeated at intervals since Independence. Over and above these general features, Tamilnadu has its peculiarities. Before going into those, it may be worthwhile to delve into some relevant facts.

There is no denying the fact that the crisis-ridden Indian capitalism, which had given birth to monopoly capital even before Independence, could not get over its all-out socio-economic-political crisis, however much it tried to develop and consolidate its capitalist system in independent India. Rather, development and consolidation of capitalism meant increasing severity of exploitation and aggravation of acute unemployment and abject poverty. This meant concomitant erosion of purchasing power of common toiling people, leading to more and more acute market crisis for the monopolists, that ultimately sought to tide over the situation through searching for market beyond the limits of its national boundaries. Indian capitalism explored foreign markets, assumed imperialist character and aspired to emerge as dominant regional power. Globalization, mooted and dished out by imperialists, came as a boon to the Indian monopolists too.

However the crisis within the country simply became more intense and pervasive. While Indian monopolists figured among the richest few of the world, and Indian economy was painted as one fast emerging, mounting unemployment, stone-heavy taxation, resulting in spiraling price-rise and ever-spreading pauperization still continued to plague peoples' life. Erosion of democratic norms and rights has led to criminalization and corruption in every sphere of life, more so in politics, and robbed people, in turn, of their voice of protest and resistance. Behind all flamboyant words of providing education and medical facilities to all, those were made high-priced commodities bringing lucrative return to private investors, but taking these away from the poorer sections of people. Added to these comes total degeneration in the realm of culture-morality-ethics, fomented by the ruling class itself to

ensure that the moral backbone of people, more so of the youth is broken and they can not stand against exploitation, oppression and injustice. All sorts of divisive traits of chauvinism, regionalism, casteism even communalism are stoked up to drive cleavage within the exploited masses.

This is the reality, the backdrop what the people of Tamilnadu have passed through as they prepare to face this 14th Assembly Election. Like any other states of the country, people of Tamilnadu, too, had to face this crisis-ridden capitalist system which shifted all the burdens of crisis on to the shoulder of people and people only. To speak of only the more recent ones, the Congress-led central government raised fuel price several times and also the railway goods tariff. As a result prices of all essential commodities including the daily consumables like vegetables, rice, pulses, cereals, oil and fuel have gone up steeply beyond the reach of not only the poor, even a large section of the middle class too. Besides, black marketing and illegal transit to neighbouring states as well as export and on-line trading of essential commodities have added to this rampant price rise. With the recent 10% tax levied by the Union government, garments have also become costly. To complete the trio, i.e., food-cloth-shelter, cost of construction materials like cement, sand, electrical and plumbing materials have all gone up; in addition, in Tamilnadu, supplies to the 'Kalaignar free housing scheme' floated by the state government, have added to an artificial scarcity and thereupon steep price hike for the basic construction materials. Education and health services have already become a costly commodity in the state. No doubt, the Congress-led Union government stands responsible for all this. But, after all, the DMK that leads the Tamilnadu government is a partner

in the same UPA government at the Centre and has the Congress as its ally in the state.

And how has the DMK rule fared in Tamilnadu? To start with two vital sectors of people's life, namely education and health, the government had no hesitation to support and implement the Central anti-people Bills on education like the Foreign University Bill, Unitary University Bill etc., or the policies of NRHM, both of which promote privatization and commercialization of the two sectors respectively. It has substantially slashed grants, aids and budget allocations for educational and medical institutions, and encouraged PPP schemes. Hundreds of self financing engineering colleges or private professional institutes and several deemed universities testify to the extent education has been commercialised. Vigorous implementation of the SSA has only led to more drop-outs and closures of schools.

The Govindarajan Committee, the government instituted to regulate the high fees being charged arbitrarily by the private Matriculation schools, face challenge in court from the managements. Parents and teachers seething with resentment stand helpless, the only outcome being the government's success towards legalising the globalisation mantra 'if you want education, pay for it' giving the lie to the much trumpeted Right to Education.

In the health sector, following the policies of NRHM, the state government introduced SRHM promoting privatization of the sector at the cost of state-run hospitals and measures. A World Bank loan of about 700 crores of rupees for health insurance scheme turns out to be a conduit for income for the favoured insurance company and for diverting money to selected private hospitals, as the dismal state of government hospitals and health centres force patients to go to private hospitals for treatment. Initially the insurance premium would be paid by the government. Once people get used to the scheme they will be forced to pay the premium in future. On the other hand, the loan and the interest on it will ultimately come on to the

shoulder of people in the form of increased taxes and costs.

Privatisation is also afoot in power sector with unbundling of the TNEB and deregulation of electricity. Along with this, however, industrialists are assured of uninterrupted power supply, while ordinary people, especially small industries and small farmers are denied electricity, power cuts of up to six hours being the 'unofficial' order of the day in many rural parts of Tamilnadu.

Despite globalization, rather because of it, no new industries are being opened barring some capital-intensive ones. Rather thousands of small industries have been forced to shut down, driving many to suicide. Hopes of generation of employment opportunities have receded into thin air. Downsizing of work force, recruitment on contract, refusal to fill up existing vacancies even in government establishments, added to closures, lay-offs, merger of smaller industries into bigger ones are only aggravating unemployment.

In agriculture, the rural rich peasants stand out as beneficiaries from much-hyped agriculture loans. On the contrary, remunerative prices for agricultural produce are not ensured by the state government.

Centralised procurement system has been drastically reduced. Struck by all-out miseries, about 3737 peasants have committed suicide in the last six years (Reference: NCRB, The New Indian Express 09-01-11). Agricultural output is constantly decreasing in the state, with cultivated land reduced drastically in recent years. Agricultural land is being handed over to real-estate business or to so-called 'Industrial Parks' under nearly 67 anti-people SEZ schemes.

When people come out in legitimate protests, these movements are dealt with severely, even with brute repression, with police lathi-charge or arrests. Sometimes hired goons are unleashed on the protestors. Workers of Hyundai, Foxconn and Pricol industries, primary school pupils asking for teachers to be appointed, teachers fighting against conversion of government and

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Tamilnadu Election

DMK rule marked by corruption, exploitation, repression

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government-aided colleges into Unitary Universities, primary teachers demanding hike in pay based on the Sixth Pay Commission, or by people protesting forcible land acquisition for SEZ in Sriperumbudur have all been victims of such high-handedness by the police and the respective managements. In a recent trend of repression, enthused with the apparent success of using the stick of Maoist threat in some states, Tamilnadu police has jumped upon a method of 'seeing' Maoist influence in workers' movements or even on students, particularly those coming from certain northern and North-eastern states.

The previous AIADMK regime was equally, if not more, repressive. In 2003, Jayalalitha dismissed lakhs of government employees and teachers at one stroke, declaring their strike illegal and using the draconian TESMA, foisted cases upon the employees, and even harassed the families of the leaders of the strike. She went so far as to change in court the fundamental right to strike. The irony is that the CPI-M and the CPI which at that time were allies of DMK and lambasted Jayalalitha for her blatant anti-worker stance, and held her to be the epitome of corruption, has today run to her as they see in her the force that will fight the corruption and other misdeeds of the present DMK government.

In its repressive move, the present DMK government, even before implementation of the Lyngdoh Committee recommendation, banned students' union election in colleges. A simple demonstration requires permission five days in advance, and protests are only allowed in such areas as would attract least public attention.

Government-run liquor shops are open every few hundred metres in cities, towns and villages. Crimes like kidnapping of school children for ransom, attacks on women, including raping and murdering them, ornament snatching, daylight robbery are on the rise. Sex education in schools is being implemented affecting the cultural and moral health of students.

The ugly face of this degenerated ambience becomes further evident from the issue of corruption. NRCB (National Crime

Record Bureau) 2009 report shows that out of 5000 officials implicated in corruption, 790 are from Tamilnadu, the highest for any state. Another report shows that every household in Tamilnadu has to shell out, on an average, Rs 450 for getting the services of the government, from getting a ration card to a birth certificate to a death certificate, etc. The state records high malnutrition death. The manufacture of illicit and adulterated drugs and medicine is rampant and the sale of expired medicines was a recent scandal in the state.

The recent 2G scam revealed how a DMK minister at the Centre oversaw the loss of 176,000 crore rupees to the nation while benefitting various communication giants in the auction of 2G broadband. Reportedly, the scam also involves family members of the Tamilnadu Chief Minister. Obviously, such a scam could work only with the connivance and collusion of politicians at the highest levels.

In fact, Mr Karunanidhi and Ms Jayalalitha, the two chief ministers who have occupied the chief ministerial chair in turn in the last two decades, have both earned notoriety for their corruption. If Jayalalitha is referred as the queen of corruption, Karunanidhi is said to have made corruption an art during his first stint at the helm. Their declared assets do not fall below several crore rupees. The DMK government led by Karunanidhi was dismissed in 1976 on corruption charges at the finding of the Sarmatia Commission. Though M G Ramachandran (MGR) formed AIADMK raising voice against corruption in DMK, Jayalalitha did not hesitate to make corruption a part of her rule.

While it is people's experience that all major parties indulge in the practice of 'money for votes', the scale of money distributed by the DMK in the last Assembly, Lok Sabha and by-elections to buy voters, such attempts even extending to middle-class areas, have assumed mind-boggling dimensions. In order to circumvent Election Commission strictures, this practice has taken novel forms – blessing newly-married couples, christening ceremonies of children, traditional 'aarthis' welcomes to

candidates and party leaders, to delivering free provisions at the doorsteps of voters. AIADMK does not intend to lag behind DMK in the 'Battle of Freebies'. Thus while Karunanidhi promises free mixies and grinders to women, Jayalalitha adds a fan to the list. DMK promises laptops for first year students belonging to SC/ST, MBC and BC communities; the AIADMK offers free laptops to all class XI and class XII students, and college students, besides four free sets of uniforms and a pair of shoes for schoolchildren. DMK promises free bus passes for senior citizens in local town buses; AIADMK promises such passes to all persons above the age of 58 to travel across districts and also shelters for senior citizens. While DMK promises free colour TV, one rupee per Kg of rice through PDS, free gas stove and 35 kg of free rice per BPL family etc. AIADMK offers 20 kg free rice to each BPL family, free houses of 300 sq ft each to three lakh BPL families, 60,000 cows for 6,000 rural families. Women have been promised Rs 12,000 during four months of maternity leave, enhanced marriage assistance with a special gift of gold coin and loans up to Rs 10 lakh for self-help groups (SHGs).

The phenomenon speaks for itself. However, this heinous attempt to allure voters with money or freebies, leave contrasting reactions. While cynics, including political analysts of name, may comment "When the ruling party continues to play populism, how can the opposition keep silent. It has become an inevitable game.", people do not seem to welcome these. Some people accept these without choice, but there are others who feel humiliated at this throwing of 'charity'. A vocal section resents the fact that the government washes its hands off its responsibility to provide affordable and standard education, health and medical care, but misuse people's money in such populist unethical gimmickry. In fact, these freebies are a pittance compared to the hundreds of crores of rupees in subsidies given to the big industrialists and SEZs in the form of land, water and power, who are the real beneficiaries. And this patronage to the leading multinationals, both Indian and

foreign during both the AIADMK and DMK regimes, only leads to greater exploitation of workers in terms of wages and longer working hours, exploitation of women, increased contractorisation, attacks on the trade union rights of workers, and actions by the administration and police on behalf of the management of these corporate entities.

This being the present scenario, a quick glance through history may help understand its real import. Since independence up to 1967 Congress, the most trusted representative of the Indian capitalists, ruled Tamilnadu, besides being in the Union government as well. But this uninterrupted rule of Congress and its brazenly pro-capitalist policies simply led to discrimination, sufferings, deprivation and pauperization of the common people, with only the handful of capitalists and their hirelings and henchmen reaping the fullest benefit. The ruling capitalist class frantically searched for a way out to ensure that this wrath of people is not directed against the capitalist system itself and people remain confined to the parliamentary politics. They embarked upon an attempt towards implementing the two-party system in 1977 reflected in the formation and rule of the Janata Party replacing Congress and later in coalition governments alternately led by Congress and BJP.

In the state of Tamilnadu, in addition to the countrywide anti-Congress resentment, there was a strong contradiction between the Indian monopolists and the regional bourgeoisie, based upon the contradiction between the monopoly capital and the regional capital vying with each other for squeezing maximum profit. Cashing upon the strong resentment and indignation of common people against the Congress rule, that burst out particularly against its decision to impose Hindi, the regional bourgeoisie fanned up regional sentiments and slogans like 'North prospers, South is ignored', formed a new party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) to rise to the seat of governmental power in 1967. However, subservient to the capitalist system as a regional bourgeois party, the DMK with its

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Tamilnadu Election

To reflect people's voice inside Assembly make SUCI(C) candidates victorious

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anti-people policies particularly in agriculture, price rise of basic food grains, rice and its indulgence in severe corruption soon gave birth to people's resentment and wrath against it. The party split; a new party namely Anna DMK, now called AIADMK, under the leadership of MG Ramachandran, was formed which rose to power in 1977 replacing DMK. This provided the ruling class with a fertile ground in Tamilnadu to carry on with their attempt towards a two-party system there. For, since then, the state witnessed alternate rise and fall of DMK and AIADMK, with DMK taking the chair in 1989, '96 and 2006, whereas AIADMK forming government in 1977, '80, '84, '91 and 2001. The political crisis that had been plaguing the country was also rife in Tamilnadu, as was reflected in the sprouting up of a host of smaller regional or local, even caste-based parties, sometimes centring round an individual who in Tamilnadu often turned out to be a prominent screen personality, or breakaway factions of bigger, even, national parties during this period since 1977. These forces, as well as the two major national parties, Congress and BJP, the two trusted representatives of the Indian bourgeoisie at the national level, and even the parties like CPI(M) and CPI, indulged in shameless opportunist politics, alternately choosing between the DMK and the AIADMK and to freely change sides with them, primarily on the assurances or denial of some Assembly seats, only to earn some share in the power and pelf. Thus in 1991 AIADMK had Congress on its side, whereas DMK government survived for the five years since 2006 as partners of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre and with support from Congress, PMK and other parties. In 1996 DMK won a majority with GK Moopanar's Tamil Manila Congress, a breakaway from the Congress, siding with it, whereas 2001 election saw Joyalalitha making a comeback with the support of PMK and Moopanar's TMC. CPI(M)-CPI, too, did not fall back in this opportunist side-changing. To

speak only of recent times, they were allied with DMK in the last Assembly, held Joyalalitha an epitome of corruption and DMK as a force to fight against it. This time, however, they have switched over to the AIADMK and have to remain content with whatever share of seats Joyalalitha preferred to offer them.

So, it was a see-saw show in which elections went on ritualistically at intervals; contesting parties took stage for the polls with liberal flow of pledges and privileges for the masses and of slanderous campaign bereft of any principle and ideology directed mutually against each other. Governments changed. Pledges were forgotten. People oscillated between hope and despair; they used to choose one party, became frustrated with it during its rule, and jumped over to the other party in the next fray. But the system of capitalism, based on limitless exploitation of people and oppression if they dared to protest, kept on running. Unemployment, poverty, price rise went on aggravating. Social ambience was menacingly eclipsed by total cultural degeneration, fraught with drugs, liquors, human trafficking, pornography, atrocities on women, crimes of sex and violence. People's life continued to be plagued with these burning problems, irrespective of who is in power.

This bare truth needs to be realized on the eve of the present election. As matters stand, the ensuing election will find two alliances built on opportunist and caste-based considerations as well as on freebies offered, as discussed above. Be that as it may, both DMK and AIADMK leading the two alliances, present the same face of ruthless, shameless, remorseless representatives of the ruling capitalist class. Common toiling people have nothing to expect from either of them. However, so long as the capitalists are successful in alluring people with the two-party system, posing DMK and AIADMK, or any combination with or without them as alternatives, the capitalist system, the root of all evils remains unidentified by the exploited, oppressed people. So long as the people fail to recognize

that a change of government would amount only to a change in the manager to look after and govern this system, from which the capitalists continue to reap their harvest, they will have to keep on moving in this labyrinth of elections amidst these heaps of false promises and never achieved reliefs.

How this brand of opportunist politics ingrained in the two-party system affects people's interest cannot be seen better than from the instance of CPI(M)-CPI. In 1952 the undivided CPI, which then acted with the prestige of the International Communist Movement and of the peasants' movements it had taken up, had 62 seats and was the second largest party in the Madras State Legislative Assembly. It has now been reduced, together with the CPI(M) to being mere appendages to either the DMK or the AIADMK, according to the flavour of the season. Both parties have abandoned the path of building up movements of the

people on the burning issues of their lives, and end up with presenting petitions to the Chief Minister. People find nothing other than opportunism and thirst for power in these parties.

In such a situation, as a revolutionary party, SUCI (Communist) has taken over the charge of explaining to the people the real face of the design behind all these rhetoric and grandeur of the election and the parties entangled in the ugly game of combining and deserting for the sake of power and pelf. It is also bearing the task of building up a real alternative of the people on the basis of the correct line of democratic mass movement on burning problems of people's life and upholding higher proletarian cultural-ethical-moral values. The Party fervently appeals to people to return our candidates or any trusted soldier of democratic movement, so that the voice of people's movements finds truthful representation in the Assembly.

SUCI(C) on the nuclear danger caused by earthquake in Japan

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) has issued the following statement on 15-03-11 :

The recent tragic event of earthquake and tsunami in Japan resulting in the loss of so many innocent lives and widespread destruction and damage to the buildings, roads etc., including the nuclear installations, once again starkly brings to the fore the inherent dangers associated with nuclear power generation. When the Indian bourgeois Government led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh embarked on a policy of massively increasing nuclear power generation in the country, our Party had strongly opposed it, voicing concern on the safety and security of the reactors and problems of radioactive waste disposal and such other associated hazards. Similar concerns have been expressed by many experts and scientists from all over the world. But ignoring public concerns and protests, the Government has stuck to its policy, proclaiming that the Indian reactors are absolutely safe and there is no chance of any catastrophe in the event of any accident. Japan is technologically much more advanced than India and possesses exemplary preparedness to face natural disasters. But even then, Japan is on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe of unprecedented dimension resulting from meltdown of the reactor core. We can easily imagine if some accident even remotely comparable to that in Japan happens in India, how devastating would be the consequences. The falsehood of the assurance of the Indian Government and the technocrats in their employ stands glaringly exposed. We have to remember that capitalism has least concern for people's welfare; everything is subordinated to its lust for profit. The people of India have no alternative but to develop countrywide powerful well-coordinated movement to thwart the extremely pernicious nuclear power generation policy that poses grave danger to the lives of the common people of India.

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Both Congress and BJP are the most trusted representatives of ruling oppressive capitalism

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thousand people and claimed it tolled the death-knell of the CPI (M), raised the slogan of “now or never” before the polls. Yet they could not create the desired wind of change, the wind of defeating the CPI (M) in the hustings.

It is because of the role of our Party in the democratic mass movements that people hoped to see augmentation in the strength of SUCI(C) in the Assembly as representative of mass movement. This was the aspiration of people and as a mark of respect to and reflection of this aspiration, we claimed 15 seats. It is indeed regrettable that despite their promise, they did not have any discussion with us on the issue after 16th March, not even bothered to inform us anything but unilaterally declared the list of candidates. I leave it to people and the workers-sympathizers of TMC to judge if this act of the TMC is democratic or undemocratic, decent or not. But I must mention that countless leaders and workers of TMC had contacted us and expressed their disapproval of the TMC decision. They said that this is injustice to us. I thank them as well while extending our sincere thanks to the people.

I now like to draw attention to another important point. Our alliance with TMC was formalized on 13 March 2008. After the fascistic attack on Singur and Nandigram movements, we, guided by Marxist outlook, took the initiative to forge this alliance in the interest of democratic movement. We approached RSP and Forward Bloc also. Though both these parties in principle agreed with our views, they refused to part ways with the CPI (M). The Naxalites also refused to join us. The TMC chief on that day took the trouble to come to our Party office. They had then the necessity to come to us, because at that time they had severed their tie with BJP and had no truck with Congress as well. Though we do not have numbers of MLAs or MPs, people of West Bengal view us as a force of movement, repose enough trust and confidence in us and adore us with honour and dignity. Experiencing the fascistic attack of the CPI (M) government on Singur-Nandigram movement, we wanted this unity with TMC for saving mass

movement. The object of TMC was to use our image in the elections while our object was to have them with us as far as and as long as possible in furthering democratic movement. We said that this unity would be based on three conditions: (i) Equidistance from both Congress and BJP; (ii) Building up movements against the anti-people policies of both central and state governments, and (iii) No attack on Marxism-Leftism.

The TMC chief agreed to all the three conditions. The people of West Bengal overwhelmingly did welcome this unity. TMC also said at that time that this unity marked a historic turning point in West Bengal. All these are with us in writing.

It is true that after this, there have been some joint movements at different levels. But this unity got a tremendous jolt when last Parliament elections drew near. They opted for a seat adjustment with Congress. We not only disagreed but raised strong objection. They argued that Congress was in the power at the Centre and winning in the elections would not be possible without their help. We said that victory was possible and could be achieved based on people's support. It will be extremely wrong a move to rehabilitate Congress which for long had been moving with an understanding with the CPI (M), extended total support to the CPI (M) throughout the Singur-Nandigram movement, is a trusted representative of the oppressive ruling bourgeoisie and the most hated party in Bengal. On this point our unity with TMC was about to break. But there was request from the people to us for not breaking the unity. TMC also appealed again and again for maintaining the unity. Under that compelling circumstance, we agreed to maintain the unity on one condition—we would set up candidates against Congress in the elections and if after the election TMC joined the central government, we shall be in the opposition. Based on that, a kind of understanding was arrived at.

From the time TMC joined the central government, unity between us and them slowly began to crack. Since then, there has been no programme of joint movement with

TMC. After becoming a constituent of the central cabinet, despite our repeated calls, they did not hold any state level meeting with us on any issue of movement. There have been some talks on some other matters with some leaders. Nothing beyond that. They did not join the Lalgarh movement. But we were in that movement right from the beginning. Even when joint central and state police forces were deployed in collusion between Congress and CPI(M) to crush Lalgarh movement, TMC did not oppose that despite being in the ministry. We fought against this. We had called Bangla bandh on Lalgarh issue. We also gave call for several local bandhs against repression by the joint forces in Lalgarh. TMC was not a party to any of these. Afterwards, we gave call of two Bangla bandhs against the central and state governments on the issue of severe price rise as well as on various demands on education-healthcare and against hike in power tariff and fuel prices. TMC was never in support of it. We collected 15 million signatures in support of various legitimate people's demands and organized a mammoth rally of a hundred thousand people while submitting those signatures to the government. They were not in it. TMC did not participate in any programme of organized mass movement. As a constituent of the central government, TMC has become close to the industrial houses, chambers of commerce and bureaucracy. So, they began to say that they would no more be a participant in the programmes of observing bandhs, general strikes or creating road blockades. In other words, they indicated that they would not be in the mass movement which brought them to the forefront. Thus, after joining the central government, the SUCI(C)-TMC unity for developing people's movement was virtually made defunct by them. This is the hard reality. We had not brought all these things in the open so far in order not to weaken anti-CPI (M) movement, not to bring on frustration in the people. But now the time has come to tell. It is clear from what they have done this time that they have preferred to snap the thin thread on which the unity was hanging. Let people understand whether the unity exists or ceases to

be in vogue. The responsibility for this sad development solely lies with TMC, not our Party. This is the reality.

Under the circumstances, our stand that ‘the CPI(M) government must go’ – as announced earlier, remains unchanged. Because, ever since the CPI(M) government has been installed in power, whatever leftism they had once practised, even that little they have completely thrown to the wind, and are ruthlessly suppressing the workers'-peasants' struggles and people's movements, letting loose a bloodbath. Of course, they were by no means Marxists ever. Congress and BJP are bourgeois parties, they make use of muscle power or criminal gangs in elections, they make use of muscle power in riots. They suppress democratic movements with the help of armed police-military, and nowhere in India so far have they taken recourse to any other means for crushing movements. What is simply horrendous is that the CPI(M) by giving training to the criminals has built up armed, organized murderous gangs for the very purpose of perpetrating terror, organising attacks on the opposition parties, brutally crushing people's movements, killings and rigging of elections. Time and again our Party has been subjected to such attacks of theirs. They have murdered 158 leaders and cadres of our Party, while 49 comrades are languishing in jail, condemned to life imprisonment on trumped up charges, and 1100 are fighting court cases against false charges of attempt to murder that have been slapped on them. The bestial spree of mass murders and mass rapes etc., brought down on Singur and Nandigram has no parallel in whole of India so far.

The CPI(M) leaders say that they are purifying their party. What kind of purification is taking place has been demonstrated once again in Lalgarh through the mass killings at Netai village. The CPI(M) has created a most suffocating situation throughout West Bengal so that people dare not raise any voice of protest or come out against the party openly in their locality, in homes, in trains and buses. Contractors and promoters are ruling the roost in this state, rampant corruption is all pervasive, extortions and toll collections by anti-socials and criminals have become common feature. This is the state of affairs they have brought

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One of the conditions of TMC-SUCI(C) alliance was ‘equidistance from Congress and BJP’

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on. An unholy nexus of utterly corrupt police-administration-blackmarketeers-unscrupulous businessmen-criminals-ruling party satraps is calling the shots. They have brought all educational institutions under their party control. Starting from the appointment of a gatekeeper of the school to that of a Vice-Chancellor of a university, everything is being decided by the state CPI(M) headquarters at Alimuddin Street, Kolkata. They have raised tuition fees, hospital charges, opened up education and healthcare to the profiteers. Many costly nursing homes have sprouted throughout the state. They have done away with examinations up to class VIII, introduced sex education; and are fostering the racket of gambling-betting and flow of alcohol in profusion. West Bengal has become a centre for murder and rape of women, a front-ranker in women trafficking. It is for these reasons and for the suffocating situation they have created that we say: the CPI(M) must go. We have declared this earlier also. So, we want CPI(M) to go. And it is strictly for that singular reason, for achieving the object of removing CPI(M) from power, we will support the candidates of TMC in the coming Assembly election. Among the people who are supporting TMC in West Bengal, a section thinks that TMC, if installed in the government, will do a lot of positive things. There is another section — and their number is not negligible either — who holds that TMC will not really bring about any worthwhile change. What is more, observing the recent various statements of TMC, their work and performance in panchayats, municipalities and the fact that anti-socials are making a bee-line for TMC, people are losing faith and confidence. Yet, in order to defeat CPI(M), they will vote for TMC. And we want CPI (M) to go, because if TMC comes to power, perhaps there may be some scope for democratic dissent, for organizing mass movement and perhaps police attacks to suppress democratic movements may be restrained to some extent. This is our view in so far as TMC is concerned. We have said before also

that we do not believe if TMC comes to power, they would create a ‘Golden Bengal’, they would do a lot of this or that. We have characterized TMC as a regional bourgeois party. It is within the compulsions of the political structure of a bourgeois parliamentary party that they function. Any government — even if we get the opportunity to form a government in this bourgeois system — has to take sides either for the exploiting capitalist class or for the oppressed working class, exploited toiling people. Nobody can transcend the precincts of this objective reality. Actually what is happening today is that not only do the ruling parties serve the interest of the capitalist class, but the capitalist rulers themselves decide who will be the candidates of such parties in elections and even have a say in selecting the panel of ministers. For, it is the money power of the capitalists, their media power and muscle power at their command that determine the outcome of elections. Hence, simply by installing a new government through elections, no basic problems of the people can be solved. If TMC want to run the government with honesty — here ‘if’ is a big question — they might at best curb some corruption, stop the loot and embezzlement of public fund that is going on in the rationing system and panchayats, bring an end to bribe-taking and atrocities by the police, provide some relief to people and get the administration to function with some relative neutrality — more than these, they cannot do anything. But this much, I am reiterating, they can do, if they really want to. But an end to all miseries and penury of the people, emancipation from all oppressions and exploitation can be brought about only by overthrowing the present exploitative capitalist system. This is only possible through anti-capitalist revolution. And this is to be achieved on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. It is with this clear object and based on this teaching that all our party activities are being carried on, our policies, strategies and tactics are being formulated, course of action decided at every given objective situation.

I will say this much also, though

in general we will support TMC candidates, there are some candidates of theirs about whom we have our reservation. That is to say, among TMC nominees, those who have been advocates of Special Economic Zones, those bureaucrats and police officers who from the time of Congress till the time of CPI (M) rule, have track record of brutally suppressing democratic movements, they cannot be supported by us. Our Party comrades will not canvass for them. Though, in general we shall voice our support for TMC candidates, our Party workers will not take part in the campaigning for those candidates who do not have acceptability among the suffering people because of their black public record.

About Congress, we have said before also that their history is disgraceful. During the freedom movement, the leaders of the National Congress backstabbed the revolutionary trend in the interest of capitalism-imperialism. They forced Netaji Subhas Chandra to resign from the post of President of National Congress and finally expelled him. We cannot forget this spotted chapter of history. We cannot forget that in their hot haste for grabbing power, the Nehru-Patel leadership agreed to the conspiracy of the imperialists to partition of the country which even Gandhiji did not want. It is with great agony that at the last stage of his life Gandhiji lamented that if Netaji Subhas were here, this artificial division of the country would not have happened. Secondly, the rule of the Congress in the post-independence period has been nothing but a saga of continuous ruthless exploitation, rampant loot and plunder. The woes and wails of people’s life today — wrenching poverty, price rise, retrenchment, unemployment, eve teasing and atrocities on women, severe crisis in morality and sense of values, widespread corruption, roll out of anti-people moves and policies, muzzling of voice of protest and ruthless suppression of people’s movements — there is nothing among these which did not breed under the Congress rule. These are still being bred. And BJP is no exception. While BJP is openly pandering to crass communalism, Congress is covertly

peddling in communalism. Both the parties are doing it for gaining electoral advantage by artificially dividing people on communal line. Today, Congress is totally submerged in a sea of corruption. Not a day passes when media do not reveal some fresh economic scam in which one or other Congress leader is involved. The way things stand, if Gandhiji were still alive, he might have lost his mind. That things should come to such a pass was furthest from the minds of the revered activists of freedom movement in our country. Even the Gandhites never wanted such sordidness to devour the entire country. The entire Congress is under the command of one family. During the freedom movement such things did not exist. When it comes to corruption, to misappropriation of public money, be it BJP, Congress or CPI (M), there is no ruling party that is found not to be involved. All these parties whose sole concern is to win elections by hook or by crook put even common robbers and dacoits to shame. This is the sorry state of bourgeois politics today. ‘Congress will be in power at the Centre, and the CPI (M) in West Bengal’ — for long this has been the understanding between Congress and the CPI (M).

That is why we are putting up candidates against Congress. We could have fielded candidates in all the constituencies allotted to Congress by TMC. But financially we are under severe constraints. We had to arrange for treatment of serious ailments of our beloved departed General Secretary, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee and five Central Committee leaders. Hence we will put up candidates from 17 constituencies against CPI(M), Congress and BJP. Besides, we will contest from Joynagar and Kultali, our two existing seats.

At the same time we also want to stress, that had we wanted, we could also have contested from another 46 constituencies, where we are a marginal force, that is to say, where despite the sharp polarization, we had secured votes ranging from 5 to 10 thousand in the last elections. In case of a close contest, we would be a deciding factor in those constituencies. But we are not putting up candidates in those constituencies, because if we do so, then this may turn to CPI(M)’s advantage. Here I want to draw your attention to a particular constituency, that is, East Baruipur in South 24 Parganas. In the last

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**For achieving singular object of defeating
CPI(M), SUCI(C) will support TMC**

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Lok Sabha elections, the lead obtained by the TMC candidate in East Baruipur Assembly segment was of 17 thousand votes. Of these 11 thousand came from the 6 panchayats (anchals) where our Party organization is very strong. Our party controls the panchayats there. These 6 anchals were carved out of erstwhile Joynagar constituency during delimitation and tagged to newly created East Baruipur. And merely 6 thousand votes came from the areas where TMC is relatively stronger. Even that constituency the TMC has not left for us this time. What they have done is deplorable. But we want that CPI (M) gets defeated. That is why we have accepted this. Many people got angry and urged us: you should put up candidates in many other constituencies. But we did not take to that path. We stand for clean politics.

We thank the leaders and cadres of TMC for the role they played in Singur and Nandigram movements. At that time we had openly praised them for that. Even in private talks, we conveyed our appreciation to them. However, along with the change in the situation, their leaders also have changed. We are also thankful to them for the way they supported us in Joynagar Lok Sabha constituency. Without their support, we would not have been able to win that seat. We said this on previous occasions also. On the other hand, our workers put in tireless efforts to make TMC candidates victorious in other constituencies. TMC leadership also acknowledged that. We do not harbour any personal grudge against any party or leader. In 2001, CPI (M) leaders requested us to have a meeting with them at their state headquarters at Alimuddin Street. During that meeting, the CPI (M) held out an offer to us to join the Left Front. Had we accepted we would surely have got some Assembly seats. But we declined. During the memorial meeting of late Jyoti Basu, on that dais one of the CPI (M) leaders once again told us: 'Come, let us meet not in Alimuddin

Street, not in your party office, but somewhere else.' I did not show any interest. Had we aligned with them, we would certainly have got some more seats. But we have nothing to do with the politics that craves for increasing the number of MLAs and MPs – that is not the kind of politics we pursue. We are spurred on by the noble revolutionary politics and will continue to do so. We maintain friendly relations with the leaders and cadres of all the political parties. We do not harbour any grudge against anybody. We try utmost to keep friendly relations with all while remaining firm in our pursuit of revolutionary politics. With the leaders and cadres of TMC also, we will maintain friendly relations and keep on good terms.

What I like to tell the people of West Bengal is that the way thousands and thousands of people have expressed their strong grievance against the decision of TMC and their heartfelt emotion has really touched us. I am thankful to them. This means a lot to us. To my mind this love of the people, their support and sympathy that are being extended to us is worth more than getting even 10 or 15 more seats. Even if we do not get a single Assembly seat, do not get a single Lok Sabha seat, we will continue to build up movements of workers, peasants and toiling people, including the middle class, on the strength of this love and affection of the people. Today when there is acute crisis of ethics and values, we will continue our efforts to usher in a higher cultural movement by observing the birth/death anniversaries of great Renaissance personalities and revolutionaries, cultivating the ethos of their struggling lives and assimilating their teachings with a view to rousing the students and youths on the basis of higher culture, ethics and morality and spur them on to acquire greater human qualities. With that objective, we will be observing Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh day on 23 March all over the country.

In this context I would like to tell you, just one hour and a half

ago, TMC communicated us over telephone that they intend to earmark one seat in the Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council now not in existence in the state). I am telling it right here, we are against the setting up of Vidhan Parishad as a matter of principle. The salary and perks of the MLAs and MPs are increasing every now and then. This is a huge drainage on public exchequer. And setting up a Vidhan Parishad over and above the state Assembly means an even greater waste of public money. In the past when at one time there was a Vidhan Parishad in the state, we were opposed to that also. Hence, we do not want to be a party to that. I am openly saying this. With this I conclude and offer my sincere

thanks to all the media persons present here.

Question by a reporter: When your object is to oust CPI (M) from government then why are you putting up candidates in the constituencies where Congress has fielded their candidates in alliance with TMC?

Comrade Provash Ghosh: The main enemy of the people of India is the ruling capitalist class. At the national level at present Congress is working as the chief political representative of the capitalist class and so is pursuing all out and out anti-people policies, bringing down untold misery on the people. BJP is also such a party and their pro-capitalist character got exposed during their rule. At the state level CPI(M) likewise have been serving the capitalist class against the interest of the people. To expose and fight these political parties is the duty and responsibility of a revolutionary party. We are doing that.

List of candidates for West Bengal Assembly Election

Constituency	District	Candidate
1. Mekhliganj (Sc)	Coochbehar	Pramila Roy
2. Sitai (Sc)	..	Anil Ch. Barman Roy
3. Alipuduar	Jalpaiguri	Abhijit Roy
4. Jalpaiguri (Sc)	..	Haribhakta Sardar
5. Phansidewa (St)	Darjeeling	Bhola Tirki
6. Goalpokhar	North Dinajpur	Dulal Rajbanshi
7. Karandighi	..	Muktar Ahamed
8. Raiganj	..	Sanatan Datta
9. Gazole (Sc)	Malda	Goutam Sarkar
10. Samsanganj	Murshidabad	Tipu Sultan
11. Suti	..	Md. Samiruddin
12. Jangipur	..	Mirza Nasiruddin
13. Raghunathganj	..	Rabiul Alam
14. Raninagar	..	Abul Aktar
15. Mursidabad	..	Gulsanara Iva
16. Domkal	..	Md. Baijit Hossain
17. Baduria	North 24 Parganas	Nurul Amin Mandal
18. Basanti (Sc)	South 24 Parganas	Baidyanath Bar
19. Kultali (Sc)	..	Joykrishna Haldar
20. Joynagar (Sc)	..	Tarun Kanti Naskar
21. Canning Purba	..	Yahiya Akhand
22. Kharagpur Sadar	West Midnapur	Suranjan Mahapatra
23. Sabang	..	Narayan Adhikari
24. Baghmundi	Purulia	Bishambar Mura
25. Para (Sc)	..	Shibani Bauri
26. Taldangra	Bankura	Kabita Singhababu
27. Katulpur (Sc)	..	Mohan Santra
28. Katwa	Burdwan	Apurba Chakrabarti
29. Ausgram (Sc)	..	Manasa Mete
30. Hasan	Birbhum	Amal Mandal
31. Nalhati	..	Rafikul Hassan

*Having received encouraging response while collecting election fund from the people, the Party has decided to contest from 31 constituencies as against 19 announced earlier.

**Press upon
this symbol**



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