

SUCI(C) on meeting the challenges posed by Coronavirus

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist) issued the following statement on 19 March 2020 :

We have been observing with serious concern that the coronavirus pandemic in the world and the consequent increasing number of deaths and its rapid spread in India have created much panic and helplessness among the people. We have also noted that the concern of the central and state governments are mainly confined in giving more publicity of warning about the disease to the people, but less and meagre is the government's arrangements in providing free medicine free test and proper treatment to the affected people.

Considering the gravity of the present situation our proposals are as follows:

1. Immediately hold a conference at the central level with the eminent doctors (virologists), the government and private medical associations and scientists associated with medical science and take their suggestions, let international information be collected about the steps taken by various countries. Consider all these and then decide the concrete steps needed to be taken.
2. Persons who are coming from abroad must undergo quarantine and lab-test. Those who are coming in touch with them in the country are also to be isolated for close observation.
3. To prevent infection increase the number of doctors-health workers-and outdoors in hospitals. Distribute free facemask to the people. To disinfect hands regular supply of soaps and hand-rubs must be ensured. The number of test centres for corona infections are very few in all states. So opening of corona test centres from capital city to subdivision hospital level is to be

4. Drinking of cow urine and dipping of hands in cow dung as the medicine for corona, prescribed and propagated by some RSS-BJP people is utterly unscientific and harmful. Taking advantage of people's ignorance and helplessness this propagation and cult of the superstitious practice must be stopped immediately.
5. It's said that senior citizens and persons with pre-existing conditions such as Diabetics, Asthma, etc. are affected easily and more vulnerable and face death easily. Special care of them should be taken.

SUCI (C) on PM's speech on Coronavirus threat

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of SUCI (Communist), while reacting to the PM's address to the nation today, 24 March 2020, said in a statement:

The grim scenario that the PM has placed before the countrymen about the Coronavirus threat is true and real. But people expected some concrete steps to combat the situation and to ameliorate the sufferings of the people. The PM has said nothing about the test-kit crisis and how the government plans to tackle it. He has said nothing about the daily wage earners and the poor impoverished people who if do not go to work will be without food for the whole family. The government should do something to sustain the poor and daily wage earners' lives. Here the PM has disappointed the countrymen.

6. In our employment—starved country, millions of workers and employees are already out of work due to economic recession, people's livelihoods are also in danger due to continuous price rise. In such a situation some steps taken to prevent the spread of corona virus, have led to the closure of many establishments particularly in the unorganized sectors resulting in the loss of jobs for many. The BPL and the poor and low income groups of people, the rickshaw, auto and Toto pullers, small shop owners and contract labours etc. who are forced to go out of work for income, must be provided with free food and ration items at least for coming four weeks.

Lastly, we appeal to all the political parties, mass organizations, clubs, libraries and associations and voluntary organizations to come forward to fight the menace of corona virus. The government also should take initiative to form central, state and district level all party committees and such organizations to meet the situation.

To thwart Coronavirus attack SUCI(C) proposal in the All Party Meeting in West Bengal

On 23 March, an All Party Meeting was held at Nabanna, convened by the West Bengal state government on steps to be taken against the NCOVID-19 pandemic. Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharya, West Bengal State Secretary and Comrade Tarun Naskar, member, WB State Secretariat, represented our Party in that meeting. The salient points of the opinion they placed in that meeting on behalf of the Party is summarized below.

Addressing the Chief Minister, Comrades Chandidas Bhattacharya and Tarun Naskar thanked the state government, on behalf of the Party, for convening the all party meeting with a view to combating the Corona virus pandemic. They recalled, precisely this was what was

called for by the General Secretary of our Party in his statement issued on 19 March last. They expressed extreme worry at the worldwide outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic and increasingly huge number of death from it. Its aggressive spread in India and spirally mounting number of victims in this state of West Bengal and others, are causing widespread fear and helplessness among people. So, considering the gravity of the situation, the comrades proposed concrete steps to the state government. First, a high-level Medical Task Force needs to be formed comprising eminent physicians, virologists, epidemiologists, public health specialists, representatives of government or private

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SUCI(C) party workers led by Comrade Meenakshi Joshi distributing sterilized masks and carrying on awareness campaign door-to-door in Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Comrades of AIDYO Pilani-Jhunjhunu unit prepared at their own initiative thousands of masks on a war footing to distribute those free to poor people, while the state government remained deaf and dumb to black marketing of these

Amidst everything turned black after the riot, AIDS0 brings back light to victim children

In the recent past, northeast Delhi witnessed immense terror and panic as politically designed riots gripped the entire area. Innumerable houses have been incinerated, all documents and materials have been reduced to ashes, families have lost their dear ones while many more lay injured. Communal frenzy wrecked so many families. Sisters lost their brothers, mothers lost their sons, children lost their fathers. While there are mothers who are still waiting to get the lifeless bodies of their sons to weep over. Sometimes we wonder, how cold hearted and pitiless those people might be, who launched such barbaric attacks on the innocent people!! A single house costs a middle class man years of hard work, toil and sweat. But these heartless monsters didn't even think twice before lighting everything down to mere heaps of black soot. One ought to see how a 3 months pregnant woman (she was a protestor at the Chand Bagh protest site) has been ruthlessly injured by the rioters, her head smashed with a cement block, legs and hands broken. Repeated lathi charges on her, has turned her skin black and blue. It was a matter of chance that the little life growing in her womb has not been affected. In all such brawl, the Delhi Police has played an exemplary role in working hand in hand with the rioters to spread terror amongst the common people.

Amidst this violence, the children were the worst affected. Physical injuries will heal eventually, but the mental scars that this recent episode of savagery has inflicted on

their minds, can never be completely healed. The smokes from the riots will always smother them; the screams and spine-chilling cries of their neighbours will always echo in their ears. At such a tender age, these kids have witnessed terrors of unimaginable extent... Fear and dismay have made an indelible mark in their minds. Their examinations are just round the corner, but they have neither books nor the requisite mindset to study in this situation. A young little boy of 4 years pointed to a black charred wall and said... "Pata hai appi... Ladai k baad na sab kuch kala ho gaya.." (Do you know sister, everything has turned black after the fights!) For these tender hearts, black has now become synonymous with fear and riots. Intending to help these little stars shine brighter and move ahead towards a brighter future, AIDS0 took up an initiative to reach out to such students and help them with teaching assistance, stationery articles and most important, moral support to keep these gay lives afloat even amidst this deep ocean of darkness that they have landed into. AIDS0 has made an humble appeal to the students of various universities in Delhi to come forward and help them in this endeavour. They received a highly optimistic response, both from the students fraternity as well as the local residents of the riot affected area. With the help of all such good-willed people, we have already started off with the free coaching classes and hope to go a long way ahead.



AIDS0 comrades conducting coaching class for Delhi riot victim children

BJP wins the shameful race of horse-trading in MP Assembly

It is no secret today that exponents of bourgeois politics in their bid to perpetuate the rule of the capitalist class can resort to all ways and means, however lowly and condemnable they may be. Horse trading, one of the recent coinages in the parlance of bourgeois parliamentary democracy, is one among those. Currently, the despicable spectacle in Madhya Pradesh has exposed this once again. The Congress in power in MP, albeit faithfully subservient to the capitalist class, was miserably rife with internal conflicts and squabbles. Taking advantage of this the BJP, the party equally faithful to the ruling class, which flaunted of its high-flown ideology and ideals, openly conspired to oust the elected Congress government to install itself in power. For that, the BJP resorted to purchasing the MLA's of the Congress to win them over to their side along with other unscrupulous means, to gain majority in the legislative house, which it had lost in the last election.

The BJP targeted Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was one of the most prominent leaders of Congress in Madhya Pradesh. Only two weeks back, he was vociferous in attacking BJP and reposing full confidence on his party then, i.e. the Congress. A peoples' representative to the MP Assembly elected with votes of the people more than once as a Congress candidate who had become even a Central Minister for a term, Scindia has now become what can be best termed a 'turncoat'. The BJP succeeded in making Scindia join in by handing over to him a gift of the Rajya Sabha ticket. Full of personal ambitions and only too eager to continue to be in power, Scindia resigned from the Assembly. He was also able to rope in a whole lot of disgruntled Congress MLA's, i.e. 20/22 of them including 6 ministers, to follow him to come out of the Congress. As a result, the Congress was pushed to the brink, losing its majority and its government being toppled. Obviously the bait was, these hitherto Congress MLA's are likely to contest in the by-election as BJP candidates. Both the parties were engaged in the most unscrupulous exercise of fishing in troubled water so as to anyhow increase its MLA count to prove its majority in the Assembly. In the process, as a shameful exercise accompanying this horse-trading, each of the two parties tried to get

their MLA's interned at resorts or places of convenience, so as to guard them from the opponent luring them over to their camp! But finally the Congress chief minister left the stage before there was any floor-test of strength.

The practice of 'horse-trading' accompanied by other unfair means, flouting all democratic norms is however nothing new in this country. In West-Bengal, during the last parliament election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had boasted of TMC leaders keeping contact with him. Only a few months back Maharashtra had witnessed how overnight President's rule was lifted at midnight and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis took charge as the Chief Minister sworn in by the Governor. Also Manipur, Arunachal, Karnataka are on the list of states where democratically elected governments were toppled through such manoeuvres. There were similar cases in the past too. The BJP regime has made such nefarious games all-pervasive and child's play. By using means, foul enough and far from fair—through lure of lucre, threat and intimidation like subjecting them to CBI investigations etc., the BJP is all set to weaken the opponents and strengthen itself.

Such were not the ways when bourgeois parliamentary democracy was introduced as a system at the time of advent of capitalism. Those days even in bourgeois politics, stalwart leaders, through their character and ethical and moral standard, had won over deep respect and confidence of the people. Being elected as people's representative to the legislature as a candidate of some parliamentary party, bourgeois or petty bourgeois, also demanded allegiance to that party.

But today, when capitalism is decadent, when there is acute degeneration of values, of ethics and morality, bourgeois politics has also slumped down to become utterly degraded. Driven by base political interests and opportunism, guided in the main by greed for power and pelf, bourgeois politicians have tarnished the very essence of what was once deemed as noble. So nowadays politicians, thriving upon bourgeois parliamentary politics as faithful subservient agents of the ruling monopolists, do not feel any compunction to change sides of the court, to be with the force in power. This is true anywhere in the country. The current turbulence in the political

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SUCI(C) Gujarat state submits memorandum to the state CM on Corona Pandemic

Comrade Meenakshi Joshi, Secretary, Gujarat State Organizing Committee of the SUCI (C) submitted on 25 March 2020 the following memorandum to the State Chief Minister, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani on combating the ongoing Corona Pandemic together.

Dear Sir,

You are well aware of the fact that the Corona Virus has created an unprecedented situation throughout the world. Up till now (24 March 2020), there has been over 3, 95,439 cases and 17,226 deaths world over. In India also, there has been over 519 total cases out of which there are 10 deaths. In Gujarat there are 33 positive cases till now, with one death.

Under the circumstances, the guideline of WHO should be followed strictly. Undoubtedly the lockdown is an inevitable step which will definitely ensure social distancing. But this lockdown is sudden and so it has created many problems for the marginalized people, particularly, the poor, marginalised workers and homeless people dwelling on pavements of big cities of the state. If their problems are not addressed on humanitarian ground, then the problem may get compounded. So we are placing some suggestions:

- While implementing lockdown, some important public health measures should be taken.
- Strictly implement Isolation and Quarantine condition for the affected patients. We expect that 47000 NRIs who have come to Gujarat during this period, as per the report in The Times of India, should be immediately isolated and quarantined.
- Many are not able to understand

the necessity of Quarantine and feeling hesitant to come out as COVID-19 patient. Government should initiate to form a team of local administration, social organisations and volunteers from political parties and go to the people and make them realise the importance of Quarantine and lockdown to stop the Coronavirus from spreading to prevent it from reaching the third stage of community spread.

- Provide Free Masks and Sanitizers to the common people.
- Bear the total expense of Medical tests; admit charge, medicines, etc. to the patients free of cost.
- Provide monthly ration and minimum Rs. 3000/- dole to the workers of unorganized sector, casual workers and random workers without any discrimination of BPL and APL.
- Check black marketeering of masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, etc.
- Take strict action against those elements spreading rumours, false information, misinformation or unscientific gimmicks either personally or through social media.
- Immediately set up a mechanism for the mass education to the people about all the aspects of this pandemic.
- In case of getting essential things, provide lockdown special

passes to those volunteers who are working for the people.

- Form medical task force involving eminent doctors, scientists related to medical health, hospital management etc at state government level and also pursue to do so at central government level.
- As we are almost at the verge of entering the community transmission stage, government and private hospitals under the state government control should work to control COVID-19 on the basis of regular review.
- Form a co-ordination committee involving all political parties, voluntary organizations, health workers as well as philanthropic people, citizens willing to work in this condition among the community.
- We should take care that laboratory and testing places should not be contaminated by corona virus.
- We know that in cities thousands of people are staying at footpath. Government should take initiative to shift them to nearby schools. Government should also provide them free food and medicine as required.
- In every hospital there should be a screening OPD to separate common fever cough and cold from COVID-19.
- Appeal all the retired doctors and health workers to join the fight

against COVID-19.

- Declare economic package for the poor people.
- Provide all kind of social security, financial help and aid to the daily labourers, rickshaw drivers, hawkers, small shop owners, household workers.
- Provide essentialities to MNREGA workers in the rural area through PDS vans.
- Ensure no private workers, or those in industries and offices are laid off or retrenched for not joining work due to lockdown. Release notification for that. They should be paid their salary for the lockdown period.
- Engage ASHA workers in the rural areas.
- Provide adequate safety to the medical workers, doctors and staff engaged in COVID-19 treatment.

SUCI (Communist) urge you to seriously consider these suggestions and implement them. It is the practice of our party to stand by the people in any natural calamities, be it earthquake, flood or drought. Now as a part of our moral duty, our various frontal organizations have started awareness campaign as well as making and distributing sterilized masks among the common people. We would like to assure you that our party and all of our frontal organizations are with the people of Gujarat in this crisis.

Thanking you,



90 th Martyrs' Day commemorating Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru : Howrah (right), Srinagar-Garhwal (top left), Kanpur

Horse-trading in MP Assembly

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scenario of Madhya Pradesh is nothing but the latest of these instances. It has to be seen as a conflict of petty interests and opportunism of the leaders of these parties involved in the race to attain power and self and expression of conflict among small and big corporate houses. It may also be added that the so-called scared bourgeois parliamentary politics do not provide the people the right to recall their representatives in case they betrayed, a provision that was there in socialism.

Aggrieved at such degeneration in politics that tramples all democratic norms and values, SUCI(C), the revolutionary party of the toiling

masses, appeals to all conscientious, progressive citizens, students and youth to realize that these bourgeois parties not only fail to redress the burning problems of peoples' life like those of education, health and employment but at every juncture they are subservient to the capitalist class and can lower themselves to any depth and extent for power and self. So the situation today demands that people have to be freed from the tentacles of such degenerated bourgeois parliamentary politics and be organized and involved in movements on the burning problems of life, as also alongside, with the ultimate object of overthrowing the decaying capitalist system, to strengthen revolutionary politics.

SUCI(C) proposal in the All Party Meeting in West Bengal

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organizations of medical professionals, scientists associated with medical science, specialists in hospital management and such others. The state government should chalk out necessary steps in consultation with this task force. Similarly the Union government may be requested to take steps to form a similar kind of task force at the national level. Second, though the Union government is yet to pronounce it, India stands at the threshold of entering the most critical stage of community infection or transmission. So necessary lockdown for more than 14 days should be clamped on the affected and susceptible areas, routes and vehicles of mass transport that may carry or transmit the virus. In that case adequate facilities for treatment of all must be arranged under supervision of the government or private medical institutions. Corollary measures need to be taken to extend the official financial year ending from the present 31 March date-line. To keep people safe from the virus, persons arriving from abroad must be put under compulsory quarantine and lab test. Those coming in touch with them or persons on transit from one to another state, should also be subject to proper scientific observation and to strict vigilance to keep them in isolation or home quarantine. To identify them helps may be sought from local organizations, clubs or voluntary associations. If necessary,

educational institutions or government-owned halls, closed under lock-down may be used as quarantine centres. Street-dwellers may be shifted to those along with proper check-up and treatment, if necessary. To control rush of patients and keep them at safe distances in the hospital premises, separate 'screening OPD' must be opened with adequate medical personnel. Arrangements should be made for regular community screening by the ASHA workers, rural health workers and others training them up properly and providing them with necessary protective facilities like personal protective equipments (PPEs) designated mask, hand wash, hand sanitiser, gloves etc, as per the rules

laid down by the AIIMS. Supply of these protective facilities in the market for the masses should also be ensured. Extremely necessary is a properly sanitized system of transport to help doctors and all categories of medical and health workers reach their place of work and come back safe and hassle-free. Similar arrangements should be made for the employees of the offices and establishments on emergency duty as also for the stranded migrant labour set to return home. Proper medical checking should also be arranged for them.

Already with toiling people reeling under severe economic recession and acute unemployment, spiralling price rise, etc., lockdown is sure to cast its spell severely on unorganized sector, daily wage earners, struggling self-employeds, small business holders, landless peasants and agricultural labours, domestic workers and such other sections of people. The government must shoulder the responsibility of providing these people and those under the BPL, with free food and free medical treatment, without the prejudice of whether they possess necessary digital cards or not. It may be noted that many countries have already announced special economic packages for these sections of working people. The State government should urge the Union government for such a package for the country. The government must also look out that the private organizations do not stop salaries or wages of their employees or clamp break of service because of this lock-down period.

Last but not the least, the government should find out people propagating superstitious, unscientific, even health-hazardous methods in the name of curing Corona virus attack, and should take firm legal action against them. Acknowledging the state government initiative already taken, Comrade Bhattacharya and Comrade Naskar expressed hope that the honourable Chief Minister would realize the gravity of the situation and will pay due attention and weight to the proposals, our Party has placed and will do the needful.

SUCI(C) strongly protests increase of excise duty and cess on retail price of petrol and diesel, demands immediate rollback

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) issued the following statement on 15 March 2020:

The central BJP government has once again exposed its anti-people character by increasing the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs.3 a litre each in order to garner Rs. 39000 crore in additional revenue. The govt. has done this to deprive the people of a scope to gain from the slump in the international oil market which was sure to cause lowering of oil prices in the domestic market. This is a clear example of cheating of the people by the BJP govt.

With this the total incidence of excise duty on petrol has risen to Rs.22.98 and diesel to Rs.18.83. During the BJP's tenure since 2014 the tax on petrol and diesel has risen by Rs.9.48 and Rs.3.56 respectively. This is in sharp contrast to the govt.'s benevolence towards the corporates.

We vehemently protest against the government's anti-people move and demand its immediate withdrawal.

SUCI(C) expresses deep sympathy for the migrant workers of the country

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (communist), issued the following statement on 29 March 2020:

"Right from the very beginning of the Corona crisis, we have been repeatedly urging the central government to declare and take concrete steps to look into and tackle the problem of the lakhs of migrant workers who are stranded in different states far away from their home and suffering from lack of food and shelter. But to our utter dismay, the government other than voicing verbal sympathy has done nothing to help them. Now the plight of these workers is so horrible that to reach home they have been forced to walk hundreds of miles. If this continues, many will die on roads. No word is strong enough to condemn this cruel indifference of the rulers to the poor countrymen.

On the medical front, medical persons engaged in service have complained about the poor instruments they are to work with. Test kits are still not available in adequate numbers. They have also raised objections about the poor and inferior quality of protecting dress or apron the doctors and nurses are provided with. This is really alarming.

We demand immediate administrative arrangements to help the migrant workers to reach their homes safely and be provided with food to their whole family. We also demand ensuring proper and standard personal protective equipment (PPE) and dresses for the medical community who are fighting the Corona war staying at the forefront."



137th Memorial Day of Great Karl Marx observed on 14 March 2020 across the country: here is the picture of Observance at Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought Study Centre in Ghatsila, Jharkhand : The entrance ;

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