

# **AITC PRESS RELEASE**

## **“If BJP Wins Even One Panchayat, They Will Block People’s Funds Again,” Says Hon’ble National General Secy Abhishek Banerjee**

“I HAVE COME HERE WITH MY REPORT CARD. DOES JOHN BARLA HAVE THE GUTS TO COME OUT WITH A REPORT CARD ON WHAT THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS DONE IN ALIPURDUAR IN THE PAST 9 YEARS?”

**Falakata (Alipurduar) 01.07.2023**

- During our Trinamoole Nabo Jowar activities in Birpara, Madarihat, I had said there that every two months, I would come to Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, or Cooch Behar. In the past three months, I have come to Alipurduar thrice covering various areas
- I had decided that I would do a meeting in Falakata as the people here have repeatedly blessed us. Though we may not have secured results as per our expectations in the five Assembly constituencies of the district during the 2021 elections, we lost Falakata by only 4,000 votes
- The people of this district voted for BJP’s John Barla in the 2019 General elections making him the MP. In the 2021 Assembly elections, people voted for 5 BJP MLAs. Among these, Alipurduar MLA Suman Kanjilal joined Trinamool Congress and I thank him
- But today, I urge people to vote on the basis of what they see and not what they hear from Trinamool, BJP, or Congress
- People are the best judge of whether Mamata Banerjee has kept her word or not. Our government started Lakshmir Bhandar after coming to power in 2021. Over 2 crore women are receiving Rs 500 per month which increases to Rs 1,000 for women from marginalised communities
- The state government is spending Rs 5-8 crore per Assembly constituency to ensure Lakshmir Bhandar for women of Alipurduar. Since there are five Assembly constituencies, Rs 40 crore is being spent every month. This means that in the two years since we came to power, Mamata Banerjee’s government has spent a total of Rs 960 crore to ensure Lakshmir Bhandar for the women of the district. We did not win seats in this district yet not a single woman can tell that they did not get Lakshmir Bhandar after voting for BJP
- On one hand, Modi has blocked funds for Awas Yojana and 100 Days of Work after facing defeat in Bengal but on the other hand, despite losing in Alipurduar, Mamata Banerjee has ensured that our women get Lakshmir Bhandar. This is the difference between them
- There are over 6.61 lakh people in Alipurduar whose lives and livelihoods are dependent on 100 Days of Work. There are around 1.33 lakh families in the district, who had worked under 100 Days of Work. Since two years, Centre has blocked their rightful wage
- They have blocked Rs 7,500 crore under 100 Days of Work and Rs 8,200 crore is pending under Awas Yojana. If any BJP candidate wins in the upcoming panchayat polls, people will be deprived of their rights
- BJP’s John Barla has only two tasks – please his masters in Delhi for personal gains and deprive Bengal of its rightful due
- The people of Bengal will not bow down in front of outsiders from Delhi. Those who want to deprive Bengal should be shown through the power of vote that the people of Bengal do

not bow down in front of outsiders from Delhi. As soon as panchayat polls are over, we will head to Delhi for a massive people's movement

- **When we started Trinamoole Nabo Jowar, Opposition leaders mocked us saying we won't be able to stay on the road for two months. But we proved them wrong. For the first time in the history of India, a political party has fielded candidates on the basis of people's certificates secured through a referendum**
- Where is BJP's Acche Din? Petrol used to cost Rs 50 per litre but has now increased to Rs 100 per litre. Diesel worth Rs 40 per litre has gone up to Rs 90 per litre. Kerosene worth Rs 15 has gone up to Rs 120. Edible mustard oil worth Rs 75 costs Rs 215. Cooking gas worth Rs 400 costs Rs 1200. They have increased the prices of lifesaving medicines from Rs 50 to Rs 600 or more
- While they did this after being voted to power, Mamata Banerjee's government thought about the welfare of all. We might not have won in Alipurduar but have led the fight for the rights and dues of our tea garden workers
- A year ago, I announced in Jalpaiguri that we would create 70 creches and 42 PHC for tea garden workers. The work is going on. Meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee has given land *pattas* to 1,268 families. Around 67 tea garden estates are fully operational. The daily wage of tea garden workers was increased from Rs 68 to Rs 232 by Trinamool Congress
- There were issues over the Kohinoor tea garden estate but we ensured that it reopens within a month. In 2019, PM Modi promised Rs 1,000 crore for tea garden workers in Assam and West Bengal. But our workers are still waiting
- A multi-super-speciality hospital was also set up in Falakata by the state government. A new Critical Care Unit was set up in Alipurduar District Hospital. 98 new roads were undertaken under the Rastashree-Pathashree scheme along with repairing 38 old roads in the district. In each of the 64 gram panchayats of Alipurduar, 314 kms of new road was set up or repaired by the state government by spending Rs 300 crore
- Around 3.25 lakh women in this district receive Lakshmir Bhandar from the state government. Over 1 lakh female students here have received benefits under Kanyashree scheme. Over 1.50 lakh students from Alipurduar have received Aikyashree scholarships. Over 4 lakh families have Swasthya Sathi cards and more than 19,000 people have received Jai Johar assistance. Tapasili Bandhu scheme has benefitted over 27,000 people and over 37,000 women receive help through widow pension scheme. Over 14 lakh people have received free foodgrains under Khadya Sathi scheme
- **I came here with my report card. Does John Barla have the power to come out with a report card on what did the Modi government do in Alipurduar in the past 9 years?**
- If they want to fight on the grounds of development on the basis of facts, I will go wherever they ask me to within an hour and defeat them because our government has kept its word
- John Barla's house, which looks like a shopping mall, is an example of BJP's Acche Din, which is only reserved for their leaders and not the common person. The public is suffering due to inflation
- The Central government has blocked Bengal's Rs 1.15 lakh crore. Our CM has approached PM multiple times and asked him to release our funds. Even our MPs have gone to Delhi to speak with Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh but he didn't meet us.
- We have three options – first is to humbly ask them to release our money, second is to fall at their feet and beg them, and the third is to fight by organising a protest to Delhi with over 10 lakh people from Bengal

- If people ask us to beg in front of Modi, we will. But most of the people across Bengal chose the “*Delhi cholo*” option over “*paaye dhoro*”. It is my responsibility to take you there and make all the arrangements
- PM thinks that he can block Bengal’s funds by pressing a button on his remote control. But people also have the EVM button in their hands. This is the power of democracy
- In 2019, people did not vote for their rights. Instead, people voted in the name of religion and the Ram Mandir. This is why even though the people of Bengal are being deprived, Ram Mandir is being built in the country. The leaders will deliver on the issues that are chosen by the people
- In the upcoming panchayat polls on July 8, do not vote on the basis of religion or caste or Ram Mandir. People should vote for those who pledge to secure their rights and fight to ensure the livelihood, houses, roads, water and other basic necessities for the people
- If BJP wins even one panchayat, they will block people’s funds again, as they did after winning during the last elections
- We held Duare Sarkar camps in every booth delivering schemes free of cost. In the past 12 years, we have not put any economic burden on the people
- BJP is now saying that PM Modi had sent the money for 100 Days of Work but Trinamool did not give the money. There are cameras here and everyone has a phone. If I am lying, why aren't they registering a case and putting me in jail? ED-CBI belong to them. The truth is that they haven't released any money under 100 Days of Work in the past two years
- **PM is spending over Rs 20,000 crore on the Central Vista project but has blocked Rs 7,500 crore for the people of Bengal. Has PM ever kept his promise?** Did we get Rs 15 lakh in our accounts? Did we get 2 crore jobs in a year? Did everyone get a roof over their heads by 2022? Has the income of farmers tripled?
- Two guarantors made promises but only one delivered. While PM Modi failed to deposit Rs 15 lakh in everyone's bank account, create 2 crore jobs, reopen tea gardens, provide aid to tea garden workers and bring about Achhe Din, CM Mamata Banerjee delivered on her promises by implementing Lakshmir Bhandar, providing free ration under Khadya Sathi and extending Swasthya Sathi benefits
- **PM Modi calls himself a guarantor against corruption but the guarantor’s product is John Barla, who has a lavish house. The one who was seen taking money on camera has now become the party’s prized possession. The one who was accused by Sudipto Sen of taking money has been made the Chief Minister of Assam**
- On July 8, people should hold their heads high and vote. A vote for Trinamool means a vote on the basis of people-centric schemes. I am giving you my word that I will ensure that all pradhans fulfil their duty of working for the people
- Those who are contesting as independents will not be allowed to return to the party
- We ensured 100% nomination and broke the culture of violence created by CPI(M)
- It doesn’t matter how many central forces personnel are stationed. Votes are not given by central forces or CBI-ED. Votes are given by the people and only Trinamool resides in their hearts

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