

# AITC PRESS RELEASE

## Mamata Banerjee Tears Into BJP Over Its Autocracy &

## *JUMLAS: “BJP Is Harming This Country But The People Of Bengal Know How To Fight And Resist”*

“OVER 1.99 CRORE LAKSHMIR BHANDAR BENEFICIARIES HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCED DURING STATE BUDGET THIS YEAR”

“TODAY, ELECTIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED USING CENTRAL AGENCIES. THEY ARE GOING TO EVERY HOME AND SAYING – BJP KE VOTE DAO, AGENCY THEKE MUKTI PAO”

“OVER 5,000 HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN THE RECENT STORMS. WHY ISN'T THE ECI GIVING US PERMISSION TO HELP THE PEOPLE? ARE THEY WAITING FOR CLEARANCE FROM BJP?”

### Mathabhanga (Cooch Behar) & Mal (Jalpaiguri). 04.04.2024

- A few days ago, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, & Alipurduar faced a destructive storm, similar to a tornado, that wiped out several houses. 4 people lost their lives, and over 156 were left injured. As soon as I got to know, I immediately reached at night after obtaining the requisite permission
- I reached Bagdogra Airport at around 11 pm and met the families of the deceased at 12.30 am. Following this, I went for spot visits and to the hospital. I met the injured at the hospital and spoke to them about their needs. I thank the medical staff, locals, and the leaders as their efforts saved many lives. I reached Barnish at 2 am, where around 700-1000 houses were destroyed in the storm. I visited relief camps there as well. The next day, I went to Alipurduar and reviewed the situation there. **The houses were destroyed as they were made of mud. This is why we had insisted on clearance of the Awas funds for 11.36 lakh beneficiaries**
- BJP does not respect the guidelines and codes of the Election Commission because they consider it as their own institution. Nobody looks at what's happening there in the BJP camp. There are no consequences for their transgressions – be it assaulting someone or arresting them. **Today, elections are being conducted using central agencies. They are going to every home and saying – BJP ke vote dao, agency theke mukti pao.** They may use their agency power as much as they want but I urge people to not bow their heads to this. They must be taught a lesson
- Have we forgotten about Sitalkuchi where 5 people – who had queued up outside the polling station – were killed during the polls? Four were from the minority community and one was a Rajbanshi. I stood by them then
- **The incident was carried out under the instructions of someone, who still has cases registered against him but has now been given clearance by the Central government. He is now contesting from Birbhum. After killing so many people in Sitalkuchi, the blood on his hands has not been wiped off yet. He is claiming that he was just SDPO in Sitalkuchi – so what? How can they shirk off the responsibility? Nobody has the right to act as an agent of a particular party and snatch people's lives. He has multiple cases against him including that of vigilance. Despite the state government's objection, he was given the clearance. I**

don't know if the Central government believes in the constitutional process and law. They only believe in one law - One Nation, One Party

- Ahead of elections, they only believe in giving fake assurances and lying. Today, they will be here to do a meeting and shed crocodile tears. Ask them why the funds under MGNREGA, Awas Yojana, and Gramin Yojana were not released in the three years. We were the topmost state in terms of implementation of these schemes
- While the Centre stopped funds under MGNREGA, we announced the new Karmashree scheme in the latest state budget and promised 50 days of work to job cardholders. We have allocated funds for houses as well
- **Today, they are taking numbers from the list of 11 lakh verified beneficiaries shared with them and are calling these people. Calls are being made from the BJP Call Centre to all those Awas beneficiaries, and they asking the innocent people to re-register. Why should they register again? Our government promised 3 months ago that we would ensure a roof over people's heads. There is no need for anyone's help or alms**
- Around 5,000 houses have been affected by the storm in north Bengal. The people who lost their houses will also get help from us. Had it not been the polls, I would have immediately issued orders. But now, even disaster is included in the list. I only request the Election Commission to clear the requests as these people are living in relief camps. The administration will help them get back their houses. This is an administrative decision. **Why has no permission been given yet? Why are they wasting time when state government will give the money for the houses of the people? Will they give the permission after BJP or PM Narendra Modi calls for it?**
- For three years, so many job cardholders were not given their wages despite working under the MGNREGA scheme. I had assured people that we would make the arrangements for the same. Keeping our word, we cleared the dues of 59 lakh MGNREGA workers
- Before the 2021 polls, we had promised Lakshmir Bhandar and delivered on it. On April 1, banks are closed and it takes a couple of days for processing. **So far, over 1.99 crore Lakshmir Bhandar beneficiaries have received increased financial assistance - from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 and from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200 - announced during the state budget this year.** Everybody should check their bank accounts. More than 6 lakh women - over 60 years of age - will be receiving the old-age pension along similar lines
- I got to know recently that small tea growers, with up to 5 bighas of land, are facing issues as the companies are no longer buying their tea leaves saying it has pesticides. The notification was issued in 2015 by central government. They were quiet for all this while but a few days ago, the Tea Board under GoI and Food & Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sent a notice
- Time should have been given for them to figure out the issue through research and tests and develop alternative solutions. **We will not accept that they will arbitrarily stop the livelihood of over 10 lakh people close to the elections. We don't snatch people's rights**
- How many political leaders visited Cooch Behar before? During my tenure as Railways Minister, I have done a lot for this district. Anyone can go & see the pink book. More than Rs 300 crore was spent on Cooch Behar airport but they took the credit for it. What has the BJP done?
- **One of their *babus* was chased away from our party. He was an *aapod* [problematic] for us and now has become their *sompod* [wealth]. He only knows how to engage in hooliganism. He roams around with police support and even attacked Udayan Guha's car recently. He has connections to Assam as well. Should I remind him of how many cases he is implicated in? I will give it to our local leaders. Today, he is serving as Union MoS Home Affairs. This is a matter of shame for the country. Democracy has been tarnished. Was there no other Rajbanshi or SC leader here? Why are they not giving tickets to good people?**

- On the other hand, son of the soil Jagdish Chandra Basunia is our candidate here. He speaks less and does a lot of work. He is Cooch Behar's *heere* [diamond] whereas their candidate uses foul language and orchestrates conspiracies
- They said they have increased Rs 7 as MGNREGA wages but they are not even giving the money for the past three years. The announcements were made during the poll period. How is that not a violation? They are using central agencies such as ED CBI, Income Tax, and NIA. While our state officers are being transformed, how many of the central agency officers are being punished for their biased actions? **I will take care of Bengal. As long as I am here, they wouldn't dare lay a finger on any person in Bengal**
- **They were screaming CAA-CAA ahead of polls. CAA is the head and NRC is the tail. Now, they are saying that a priest can give it [citizenship]. How can this be possible under the law?** There should be a limit to their lies and them depriving people. Priests pray in the temple
- **The moment people register themselves as a foreigner, they will not be able to avail of government welfare schemes or services. They will not be able to vote. If a priest can give the clearance for citizenship, why have census officials been included in the committee?** No CAA-NRC will happen. Be rest assured. People of all faiths will live harmoniously in Bengal
- Since the day they came to power in 2015, they have oppressed Bengal the most. In the past five years, they have taken away more than Rs 6.50 lakh crore whereas stopped Rs 1.80 lakh crore of our rightful due
- **I humbly request the EC - I am not criticising but I have a democratic right to plead with the EC to see how BJP is doing hooliganism. How BSF, CISF, Income Tax, & NIA are moving toward BJP workers & harassing people. This is not a democratic level-playing field**
- Unemployment is at its peak in India. They had promised Rs 15 lakh in bank accounts and 2 crore jobs to the unemployed - did anyone get even one paisa of that Rs 15 lakh?
- **BJP is not even ashamed to co-opt Lakshmir Bhandar. It has become a model scheme for the country. Since they cannot do it, they only limit it to the election period. They don't give the scheme to everyone whereas we have made it universal**
- For Banglar Barir Prokalpa, we give 40% of the funds and the land for the houses. But they want it to be named Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. They want photographs of PM Modi and BJP logo at the ration shop. BJP increased cooking gas prices to Rs 1,200. They have decreased the prices ahead of elections but will increase it again
- We don't engage in riots before elections because we value all faiths
- **Accompanied by BSF personnel, BJP candidates may try to threaten our daughters ahead of polls. I am giving clear instructions, that if there are any threats by BJP candidates, register a police complaint. If any police station refuses to take any complaint, directly write to me. There is a secretariat here as well. Besides, I will keep visiting. I will come to Cooch Behar for 3 more days**
- One can trust snakes but not the BJP. **In Bengal, CPI(M), Congress, and BJP are fighting against us and there is no INDIA Alliance in Bengal.** There is another party that is aiming for Muslim votes – just as MIM in Hyderabad. Their work is to cut minority votes in exchange for money from the BJP and defeat Trinamool. I urge people to not fall into that trap as it is the duty of our administration to keep everyone in the state safe
- Ahead of elections, they will give money and promise to construct houses. People may decide what they want to do but I wouldn't have taken it as it is the money earned through sin. Money seized by ED from people's houses is being given to BJP. They are now claiming that Rs 3,000 crore seized by ED will be distributed among the poor people. If that is the case, every person will get Rs 21. Do people want Rs 21 or do they want to save India and Bengal? If Bengal is safe, the country will be safe too. Time to realise: *Ghasher opor Joraphool, Desh Bachaabe Trinamool*

- People of this region have given 5 years to BJP but the leader here [in Cooch Behar] has only improved upon his own fortunes after becoming the Union MoS. He lives like a Jomidar and roams around with 20 cars but has not done anything for the people of Cooch Behar. This time vote for *Trinamooler Gorjon, Birodhider Bishorjon*
- BJP leaders use teleprompters to speak a few words in Bengali here and this is why they can't even talk properly
- I urge everyone that till the time results aren't out, ballot boxes must be guarded. They might use central agencies to tamper with the boxes after causing load-shedding
- **In Jalpaiguri, our candidate Professor Nirmal Chandra Roy is an extremely humble man who has kept all his promises after being elected as Dhupguri MLA with people's support. This is why we want him to manage a bigger responsibility as the MP of Jalpaiguri. During the storm, all of us were standing by our people**
- Even if they are giving foodgrains, they put their photo and logo there. Why is the BJP so busy with self-publicity? If one is the PM of the country, everybody would know them. And if the BJP is so confident of its victory, why are they instructing central agencies to raid people's houses every day? BJP leaders are roaming around with NIA, BSF, and CISF. It is shameful
- I read in news reports that the Army hospitals too have been handed to the BJP organisers. Aren't they ashamed of inserting politics everywhere? BJP is the only Jumla Political Party. Yesterday in Malda's Habibpur, a person was killed by BSF, who claimed that the deceased was a Bangladeshi. How did they know? A case was registered. But who has given them the right to kill? If somebody is an intruder, it is a matter of law and order, which is a state subject and not theirs. Just because they have guns doesn't mean they can kill people
- **The Hon'ble PM has reportedly said that the ECI will strongly monitor activities in Bengal. Who is he to say this? Does this mean he has bought the ECI? Are instructions for official transfer and IT raids being given?**
- Around 10 days ago, an Income Tax team visited one of our councillor's houses and stayed there for 3 days in the name of conducting raids. The residents weren't able to use the washroom or cook. Their children were unable to use the washroom. The food bills of the officials went up to Rs 20,000 but they didn't care whether the occupants of the house, including children, had their meals or not. Instead, our leader was told that if they joined the BJP, the officials would leave. But our leaders responded by saying they would never betray the Trinamool Congress
- A few days ago, a youth in Kolkata died by suicide after worrying over CAA. So many died in Assam. **I appeal to my people – do not be afraid. I am the *Paharadar* here. I am not a *Jomidar*, who comes here to do politics from Delhi. I am from this *Maati***
- **I heard that they will implement UCC after this. Will they now decide in what way people shall marry or what clothes the people shall wear? BJP is ending this country. But the people of Bengal know how to fight and resist.** People in Uttar Pradesh do not have the ability to speak as people are killed if they raise their voices. Around 12 journalists were kept nearly naked after they engaged in a conflict with them. Same in Maharashtra
- **BJP has been going around writing on walls that they will give Rs 3,000 under Lakshmir Bhandar. How can they give Lakshmir Bhandar? This is a state government programme and not a Narendra Modi programme.** Why didn't they give all this while? If you dare, give Rs 50,000 to every family per month and then make claims. I have kept my promises and this is why my words have some value
- Nirmal Chandra Roy said that Dhupguri should be developed into a sub-division. It was fulfilled by the state government within a few months along with the sub-divisional hospital. If he asks me anything for the people again, I will look into it