

AITC PRESS RELEASE

Mamata Banerjee Slams PM's Silence on North Bengal Storm, Questions What Happened To 'Modi Ki Guarantee'? **"He Had No Time To Console People Affected By The Calamity; While BJP Only Tweets, We Are On The Ground!"**

"OUT OF THE 11.36 LAKH VERIFIED AWAS YOJANA BENEFICIARIES, OVER 6 LAKH WERE FROM THIS REGION. AMONG THESE ARE PEOPLE WHOSE HOUSES WERE DESTROYED IN THE STORM. WHY HAS THE BJP KEPT THEM WAITING FOR A HOUSE FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS?"

"ECI SHOULD ALLOW THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO BUILD 5,000 HOUSES FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR HOMES IN THE RECENT STORM; ECI SHOULD NOT KEEP THIS ON HOLD TILL THE END OF POLLS BASED ON BJP'S DIRECTIVES"

"THOSE WHO SPREAD CHAOS IN BENGAL ARE PEOPLE LIKE THE BJP CANDIDATE. IF THE BJP CAN, THEY SHOULD ARREST THEM. I ENSURED THE ARRESTS OF OUR PARTY WORKERS WHEREAS THE BJP APPOINTS THUGS & CRIMINALS AS HOME MINISTER (MOS)"

"BJP TALKS ABOUT DEMOCRACY BUT SUSPENDED OVER 147 MPS IN A SESSION. THEY HAVE CREATED A LEGAL SYSTEM THAT WILL NOT PROVIDE JUSTICE TO ANYONE EVER. BJP HAS DESTROYED DEMOCRACY"

Alipurduar & Jalpaiguri, 05.04.2024

- Weather conditions aren't great but since March 31 night, I have been here to monitor the storm-hit areas and ensure relief work continues smoothly. **Over 5,000 houses were damaged by the storm in North Bengal. The people who lost their houses will get help from us. The state administration will provide the money for their houses**
- Had it not been the polls, I would have immediately issued orders. But owing to elections, we are still waiting for the permission. It has been days since we wrote a letter to the Election Commission but the application hasn't been cleared by the poll panel. **We urge the EC to clear the application instead of blocking it based on the BJP's direction. Do not keep this [application] on hold till the polls. We want these 5,000 people to have their houses. Are the permissions being decided by the BJP? This is unfortunate. We had written a letter on the matter 5 days ago but there has been no reply yet**
- Yesterday, our PM came to Bengal and made a lot of tall claims. He was canvassing for the MoS in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. **Before branding others as corrupt, the PM and his team should first look into the mirror themselves. We had removed him [BJP Candidate] from Cooch Behar as he would engage in bombings, murders, riots, corruption, and smuggling. There are documented cases against him. How can someone with so many criminal cases become MoS Home Minister? He was an *aapod* [problematic] for us and now has become their *sompod* [wealth]**

- This is a matter of shame – a stain on our democracy. On the other hand, son of the soil and *bhadralok* Jagadish Chandra Basunia is our candidate here
- People remember the Sitalkuchi massacre 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 had rushed to the spot despite the election campaign
- **The person who had given the instructions for the Sitalkuchi massacre has now run away to Birbhum as the BJP candidate.** He still has cases registered against him including that of the vigilance commission. But the BJP is taking decisions unilaterally and doing whatever it wants
- **Yesterday, he [PM] said his fight was against corruption and the atrocities in Sandeshkhali. I want to let him know that Sandeshkhali is not Singur or Nandigram. A few incidents took place locally but arrests have already been made. It was our police who made the arrests. We have returned the land to the people as we don't allow injustice against anyone**
- **Can Narendra Modi or BJP answer how many times he went to Hathras, where a Dalit rape victim was cremated in the dead of night without the consent of her parents? Was he sleeping then?** They failed to deliver justice to Bilkis Bano. Wrestler Sakshi Malik was forced to return her awards and accolades whereas the BJP MP accused of sexual assault faced no action. Isn't the BJP ashamed? How many people died because of them in the Gujarat riots? So many died in Assam over the CAA-NRC issue. **Compare this to Sandeshkhali, and people will see that we have looked into every concern**
- **Out of the 11.36 lakh verified Awas Yojana beneficiaries, over 6 lakh were from this region. Among these are people whose houses were destroyed in the storm. Why has the BJP kept them waiting for a house for the past 3 years? If there is corruption as per the BJP, why aren't they producing a white paper on the Awas Funds?** I challenge them on this. See what happened in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and then compare it to Bengal. If there were a few cases of discrepancies in MGNREGA in Bengal, action has been taken
- There are no complaints right now. Yet, the funds for MGNREGA have not been released. We have spent over crores for MGNREGA giving work to crores of people. For three years, so many job cardholders were not given their wages despite working under the MGNREGA scheme. I travelled to Delhi thrice to resolve the deadlock but they did not agree
- Over 350 central teams were sent to Bengal to check the implementation of 3 welfare schemes. They submitted a report. Make those reports public along with the reports from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. I challenge that even if there were a few cases in Bengal, we took action against the same. Whereas in Uttar Pradesh, there were 85 lakh cases of corruption
- **Do not sermonise Bengal on corruption. Those who spread chaos here are people like the BJP candidates. If the BJP can, they should arrest them. I ensured the arrests of our own workers Arabul [Islam] and [Sheikh] Shahjahan. But why does the BJP appoint thugs as Home Minister (MoS)?** The person who was here in Alipurduar for 5 years was not allowed to work for 5 years and he left. Now, a new face has been brought in
- BJP ka guarantee is zero. Have they done anything till today? They have been in power for the past decade. MPs and MLAs have been voted from North Bengal. Over 10 lakh tea farmers lost their livelihood after companies refused to buy tea leaves from them based on a circular. Yesterday, they came to me and I resolved their issues

- To ensure our people don't worry about 100 Days of Work anymore, our state government announced the new Karmashree scheme in the latest state budget and promised 50 days of work to job cardholders. After the elections, **the state government will ensure houses for 11 lakh Awas Yojana beneficiaries who have been deprived of houses by the Centre**
- **PM has been going around complaining that we don't allow Ayushman Bharat in Bengal. Why should I implement Ayushman Bharat when our Swasthya Sathi is more inclusive & over 9 crore people in Bengal can avail of the same?** While we offer Swasthya Sathi to everyone, their Ayushman Bharat decides eligibility based on motorcycles, government jobs, and a roof over people's heads. Besides, 50% of the cost under Ayushman Bharat is borne by the state government
- In Bengal, women are the guardians of the houses and have Swasthya Sathi cards in their names. We have now extended Swasthya Sathi scheme benefits to 28 lakh migrant workers working in other states
- **BJP talks about democracy but suspended over 147 MPs in a session. They have created a legal system that will not provide justice to anyone ever. BJP has destroyed democracy**
- BJP workers can use the Washing Machine facilities to remove all their sins and become spotless. But Trinamool is being branded as corrupt. Can BJP leaders answer – isn't Nirav Modi corrupt? Isn't Lalit Modi corrupt? Aren't BJP leaders corrupt? **Aren't the traitors sheltered by you corrupt? They have given school jobs to many. People don't say it out loud due to fear**
- If anyone is in BJP, all their sins are forgiven. BJP have managed to influence a few sections of the court as well. **Didn't we all see what a judge recently did while he was in the chair? He has been abusing AITC and has become the BJP candidate. I have fielded student leader Debangshu Bhattacharya against him. Debangshu must soar! The BJP candidate has deprived many students of job opportunities through his judgements. Now, his job will go due to the justice done by Jonogon [electorate]. This is Jonogoner Adalat!**
- BJP has sold the country. They are fighting here with CPI(M) and Congress. At the national level, we are a part of the INDIA Alliance but in Bengal, Trinamool is the only party fighting BJP. A vote for any other party is a vote for BJP
- BSF is indiscriminately firing at people and later branding them as Bangladeshi infiltrators. How do they know? Why are they not informing state police in these matters? Who gave them the right to shoot at people?
- I read in news reports that the Army [Sainik] schools have been handed over to the BJP organisers. What will the students learn from those who change history? They don't believe in Ambedkar, Panchanan Barma, Birsa Munda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Raja Rammohan Roy
- **So far, over 1.99 crore Lakshmir Bhandar beneficiaries have already 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.** More than 6 lakh women – over 60 years of age – are receiving the old-age pension along similar lines. This is not a Central programme or BJP's guarantee. This is our guarantee and Bengal's programme! We had promised Lakshmir Bhandar, free ration, Student Credit card, and farmers' assistance before polls and we have delivered
- I heard that in Malda, the BJP leader is asking for votes by promising Rs 3,000 as Lakshmir Bhandar. How can they give Lakshmir Bhandar? They don't have the capacity to give anything

- **They were screaming CAA-CAA ahead of polls to brand the people as foreigners. Ask the BJP, why aren't their own leaders applying under the CAA? It is because CAA is the head and NRC is the tail. The moment people register themselves, they will not be able to avail of government welfare schemes or services. They will not be able to vote and will be put in detention camps. People will be asked to furnish birth certificates of their fathers from Bangladesh. How many will be able to do this?**
- For as long as I am here and our government is here, we will not accept CAA-NRC in Bengal. Be rest assured. People of all faiths will live harmoniously in Bengal. If PM, CM, MPs and MLAs are elected on the basis of their votes, how are they not citizens? Those who have been PM for 10 years based on the votes of people cannot ask the same people to register under CAA for citizenship
- We have fielded Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Chik Baraik from Alipurduar, who wanted to contest the Lok Sabha polls because he wants to serve the people. I appeal to people to ensure his victory
- **The central government is showing how clever it is by taking phone numbers from the list we shared with them. Today, calls are being made from the BJP Call Centre to 11 lakh Awas beneficiaries, and innocent people are being asked to re-register. Why should they register again? They shouldn't, or else their names will be cancelled. 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.** It is because of the BJP that the people are homeless after the storm
- Rise in protest against the BJP. Show them your power. Ensure Prakash Chik Baraik's victory in Alipurduar, Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia's victory in Cooch Behar, Gopal Lama's victory in Darjeeling and Professor Nirmal Chandra Roy's victory in Jalpaiguri
- **Professor Roy is a good man who delivered on his promise of Dhupguri Sub-division that was made before the elections. Banarhat and Kranti have been constituted as blocks. There is a sub-divisional hospital.** Everything that the people had asked for, we delivered. **He ensured Dhupguri's development within 3 months**
- If our candidates are elected and people have any more demands, I will facilitate it and make sure that people's needs are met and we have the necessary funds. Unlike the BJP, I don't lie
- While the BJP only comes here during elections, I keep visiting North Bengal and stand by the people in their times of need. I love all religions and support them. I have not just visited but helped build temples, mosques, and churches. I will always stand by our people. But I only have one request – do not let them spark any riots
- BJP leaders have threatened that they will arrest Trinamool leaders one by one. I can also say the same but I refuse to participate in such dirty politics. They are the biggest Jumla party. **BJP has not just put the entire country in danger but also disrespected the Constitution. They are doing politics in the name of religion**
- Our candidate Prakash Chik Baraik is a good man. He is a *heerer tukdo* just like our Cooch Behar candidate Jagdish Chandra Basunia and Darjeeling candidate Gopal Lama. They are all good people who will work for the people. Whereas the BJP candidates have infamy attached to their names. Before branding Bengal as corrupt, Modi should see the stamps on his own candidates. BJP abhors Bengal and makes attempts to deprive the state
- **BJP is misusing central agencies to intimidate us. But I want them to remember that all eyes around the globe are on the upcoming polls in India.** Do not hinder the democratic

process of our elections or harm our democracy. If they are so confident of a victory, why aren't they working in an unbiased manner?

- **If Bengal is safe, the country will be safe too. Protect Bengal because Bengal will help build India. We are not scared to fight, we are not scared to die, and we will do everything it takes to win**
- **We are standing with the people affected by the storms and all their needs are being looked into. Only their houses are left and we will process the same as soon as we get the permission from EC. This is not a Modi Ki Guarantee but a Maa Mati Manush Guarantee**
- We have the money for the houses and are only waiting for the clearance from EC as the Model Code of Conduct is in place. Neither I nor my party workers will give the money and the entire process will be carried out by the state administration. Why does the BJP have an issue with this?
- BJP does not stand by the people in times of need and only makes tall claims. **We are not the ones who deprive people. Yesterday, the PM came here and expressed his angst over various political issues. But he did not speak a word on the grief of those affected by the storm in Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri. What happened to the Modi Ki Guarantee? He had no time to even express his condolences to the people over their losses. He may also have forgotten as they had already tweeted about the issue whereas we were on the ground**
- Despite winning multiple MP and MLA seats from North Bengal, have the elected BJP representatives done anything for the region?
- They have destroyed the Indian culture and the country. Ahead of the elections, they will reduce cooking gas prices by Rs 200 and then increase it by Rs 1,000 after the polls. Prices of essential items have skyrocketed under them. Since April 1, prices of essential medicines have also been increased. Whereas we have ensured fair price medicine shops
- BJP has no regard for our democracy. They have arrested Delhi's Chief Minister now and even jailed our leaders such as Anubrata Mondal and others
- If BJP's hands are strengthened, nobody will be spared and their rights will be in danger. Former J&K Governor said that the Pulwama attack was an orchestrated conspiracy. As soon as he made the statement, central agency raids were conducted at his home as well
- 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?
- **In the past five years, the BJP-led Central government has taken away more than Rs 6.50 lakh crore whereas they have stopped Rs 1.80 lakh crore of our rightful due**
- **I never deceive people. It is better to die than to deceive people. I do what I say. This is because Mamata's Guarantee is not like the lies propagated by Modi's Guarantee. Mamata's Guarantee is Maa Maati Maanush**
- I urge everyone that till the time results aren't out, ballot boxes must be guarded. If BJP offers money in exchange for tampering with the boxes, refuse. Tell them that this money doesn't belong to them and flag it to the state administration

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