

# AITC PRESS RELEASE

## We Have Lakshmir Bhandar But They Have ED Bhandar & CBI Bhandar: Mamata Banerjee's *Gorjon* In Purulia

“OVER 5,000 HOUSES WERE DAMAGED IN NORTH BENGAL’S STORM. SIX DAYS AGO, WE WROTE A LETTER TO ECI BUT ARE YET TO GET PERMISSION TO PROVIDE HOUSES FOR THE PEOPLE. WHY IS PERMISSION BEING WITHHELD WHEN THE MONEY WILL BE GIVEN BY US AND NOT THE BJP?”

Purulia, 07.04.2024

- At first, I would first like to apologise to my brothers and sisters for the delay in arriving here. Due to uncertain weather, I had to travel by road for 3 hours which led to a delay. I would like to thank all the communities and people present here today
- Shantiram Mahato's family is well-known in Purulia. He might have been unable to secure victory in the Assembly polls but we want to send him to the Lok Sabha as he represents our people and their aspirations
- The industrial town that is being set up at the cost of Rs 74,000 crore in Raghunathpur will revolutionise industrialisation, especially with the Dankuni-Raghunathpur corridor. Our youth will not have to travel anywhere for jobs. The industrial corridors of Panagarh-Raghunathpur and Dankuni-Raghunathpur will also lead to development
- Before 2011, people were scared to step out in this region fearing bloodshed. Tourists would not visit the region. Today, things have changed. People from different languages and backgrounds are living here in harmony. We have a lot of Hindi-speaking people here. Be it Bengali, Adivasi, Tapashili, or Mahato, we all live here peacefully and in unity. We had sent our Chau artists to Paris. They made Bengal proud and this is why we also have an academy for them here
- When I was the Union Railways Minister, I announced multiple railway lines and trains for Purulia keeping the needs of the people in mind. We have worked a lot for Purulia. Those who died at the hands of Maoists have received jobs and compensation. So many youngsters in Jangal Mahal have got jobs
- **We have worked towards the welfare of tribals whereas in Manipur, tribal women are being paraded naked. There is no respect for our mothers and sisters. The same is the case in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. This is the situation across the country. Our Dalits and Tribals are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve in Bengal**
- We have worked towards upholding their rights, celebrating their language, culture, and uplift the entire community through various welfare schemes. Our Adivasi brothers and sisters are getting forest patta and community patta. Santhali and Kurukh languages have gotten the status of official languages in Bengal. We will not allow anyone to seize the land of our Adivasis and we have issued notifications to ensure that their lands remain with them
- Today, while I was coming here, I saw a few mud houses. While 2 houses were painted with the Lotus symbol and the other one had Joraphool as Trinamool is going to win here. **I would like**

**to tell those who have mud houses that it is the Modi-led BJP government that has not given money to construct *pucca* houses for our people for the past 3 years.** They haven't given us the money for roads. While BJP withheld funds for 59 lakh MGNREGA workers, it was ultimately given by our State government

- We had generated over 45 days of work last year. This will continue. 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 going forward. If needed, it will be increased to 60 Days but we will not kill this work
- **During the recent storm in North Bengal, over 5,000 houses were damaged. Six days ago, our state administration sought permission from the Election Commission to build houses for them under Banglar Bari as this happened during the election period. However, the ECI has not given us the clearance. Why is permission being withheld when the money will be given by us and not the BJP? All they have to do is give us permission. What is stopping them from doing so?**
- The Central government had sought verification of the Awas Yojana beneficiaries and we had given a list of 11.36 lakh names following intense scrutiny. They are using that data to make calls and are asking people to apply at BJP's Call Centre if they want houses. I urge people to not fall for it. The state government will provide those 11 lakh houses for the people as soon as elections are over. We announced this in the budget. If people register again, their names will be cancelled
- We have a diverse candidate list ensuring representation from all sections of society. While people voted for the BJP MP in Purulia, he has not done anything for the people. While my photograph has been removed from the area as per election norms, PM Narendra Modi's photo is still there. This was the duty of the officials to ensure the same
- Purulia has certain water issues. The JICA project has been delayed. This should have been done in 2 years but it has taken over 12 years. We have taken it upon us now and will be working towards ensuring that our people have water in every house. *Ghar Ghar mein paani* is not Modiji's guarantee but the guarantee of GoWB. While the BJP is going around saying that they are giving water to every household, the reality is that the state government is providing a far greater share than them. Along with 40% of the funds, we give money for land and maintenance. They only give advertisements and fake promises
- When people are protesting against them, NIA is being brought in. Late at midnight, when women are asleep in their houses, they are dispatching NIA officials to harass them without informing local police. Earlier, many would wear police uniforms and inflict atrocities in Singur Nandigram. How could our women differentiate? When our mothers and sisters protested, they registered a complaint against them. They just want to arrest all Trinamool workers
- I also came to know that in Purulia, they go to every hotel and enquire which political leaders are staying there. What is the issue if someone is campaigning during elections?
- **NIA and CBI are BJP's Bhai-Bhai. ED and Income Tax are BJP's funding box. We have Lakshmir Bhandar but they have ED Bhandar and CBI Bhandar They are intimidating every political opponent saying they will not be spared unless they join the BJP. We have never seen such a situation and it is prevalent across the country now**
- While unemployment is increasing across the country, PM Modi is going around talking about his guarantee. In reality, his guarantee is demonetisation, CBI, NIA, Income Tax, misuse of central agencies, and withholding funds of the poor people

- They keep claiming that there is corruption in Bengal. Based on the words of BJP's traitors who asked not to release any funds for Bengal, hundreds of central teams were sent to the state to probe the matter. They submitted a report. Make those reports public along with the reports from Uttar Pradesh. 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
- All panchayats are not under us. There are BJP and CPI(M) panchayats in some areas. If there is any corruption in those areas, it is on them
- **So far, 2.05 crore women 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. We have sent money to all beneficiaries. I urge everyone to check their bank accounts.** More than 6 lakh women – over 60 years of age – are receiving the old-age pension along similar lines
- **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 as against 1 crore under Ayushman Bharat?** 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
- **Our Guarantee is the well-being of Bengal and welfare schemes whereas Modi Babu's Guarantee is just his photo, which is plastered across packets of food grains as well. Has this happened in any other country? NO! We don't distribute free ration with our photo or Trinamool's Joraphool symbol**
- The MP here did not do anything. BJP only knows how to lie and make fake promises. I urge the ECI to work impartially. If they don't, no one in the world would forgive them for failing to protect our vibrant democracy
- There is no INDIA Alliance in Bengal. CPI(M)-Congress-BJP is fighting together in Bengal and we are fighting against their unholy alliance. I urge people to vote for Trinamool Congress. As more seats are secured by the Trinamool Congress, the likelihood of the BJP's defeat becomes increasingly certain
- If this doesn't happen, India, as we know it, will not remain. Now, they have come up with a Uniform Civil Code. They want to decide how we get married and what we eat by imposition. They have also brought in CAA, which will make people homeless and threaten their citizenship
- We have a lot of festivals coming up. I extend my best wishes to all and urge people to refrain from falling into their trap of violence. Do not fall for any provocation
- Trinamool leadership must have second-tier and three-tier leaders so that if they arrest our first-tier leaders, the remaining workers can continue with the work. We are organisationally strong and can do this
- Following the elections, guard the ballot boxes. Their first plan is to offer money to those guarding the boxes, the second plan is to spike food with sedatives to get them to sleep, and the third plan is to capture and tamper the boxes
- I also agree with the longstanding demands of my tribal brothers and sisters. I have also written to the Centre multiple times over the recognition of the Sari and Sarna faith. This should be done