

AITC PRESS RELEASE

“If BJP-led Centre Had Cleared AWAS Funds for Bengal, The Children Wouldn’t Have Required Hospitalisation; The Responsibility For This Injury Lies Squarely on BJP”

Abhishek Banerjee Met Storm-Affected Injured At Hospital At Siliguri, Assured Them Of Full Support As He Closely Monitors The Situation

Siliguri, 01.04.2024

- Natural calamity is not in our hands. The catastrophic storm accompanied by rain inflicted huge losses across a large area. Farmland, crops, and human settlements have been destroyed in many places. Nearly 1,500 homes have been damaged according to information received by us till now
- Four people have lost their lives while two are in serious condition. The two are children and one of them is 2 years old while the other is 14 years old. They have been admitted for medical care
- Till now, the government has taken swift measures to support the people. Our state’s Hon’ble CM Mamata Banerjee reached Jalpaiguri last night to stand with the people. She stood beside those who lost their houses and assured them they would receive shelter in relief camps
- The CM took the personal initiative to reach Jalpaiguri by midnight. If she wanted, she could have come to Jalpaiguri this morning. She knew the significance of Jalpaiguri District Hospital for the people of the district and that the injured were hospitalised here
- **To avoid any obstruction of medical services, Mamata Banerjee took a flight at night and reached Jalpaiguri in the middle of the night, when everyone else was sleeping. Like an alert custodian, she went to stand with the people at 1 am. By doing this, she has set an example. No one in India has ever done this**
- During the destructive Amphan and Yaas cyclones, she sat in the state secretariat of Nabanna till 4-5 am and oversaw relief operations to protect human lives. She has set an example with her commitment and dedication to protecting lives and serving people at all costs
- **I don’t want to do politics on this but those who are doing politics on this, I will ask them to stand with the people. Political campaigning such as meetings and processions are permissible but they can be held after a day or two**
- The districts Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur are close to the storm-affected areas. It is the BJP MPs who were elected in these constituencies in 2019. **Even the affected districts of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, and Cooch Behar have BJP MPs. In fact, Balurghat’s MP is the BJP state president. They have never stood with the people and people are noticing this**

- But, they are issuing mocking statements on the cyclone. **BJP's former state president said that due to BJP's storm, houses have been swept away. It is unfortunate that they do not have the bare minimum realisation that instead of doing politics around elections, they should be working towards assisting people in whichever manner possible.**
- **They don't have the mindset to help the people, give shelter to them, or save lives. Their real faces have been exposed. It is utterly unfortunate that they mock and make fun of a catastrophic climatic disaster**
- People who elected them believing in their promise of *Acche Din* should see how these leaders are. **Balurghat is only 300 kms from Jalpaiguri. If Sukanta Majumdar wanted, he could have reached Jalpaiguri.** It is just 4 - 4.5 hours by road. If he wanted, he could have reached by car. The storm happened at 4:30 pm and if he wanted, she would have reached by 9 pm. **On the other hand, the distance between Jalpaiguri and Kalighat is 620 km but Mamata Banerjee reached the spot yesterday itself**
- **Those BJP leaders who talk of guarantees couldn't reach Jalpaiguri on time. This proves that they are only doing politics and no relief work. Those who went to click pictures today by denying people services, what work have they done?** Has any development initiative been undertaken by a BJP MP in Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, and Cooch Behar in the last five years?
- Has any BJP leader provided any service or brought any special economic packages for the tea workers of Alipurduar or our Rajbangshi community? No
- **Those who talk of guarantees are delivering it in the form of social media posts sitting 2,000 kms away. Their guarantee for work is over with a tweet. Our guarantee is to save people's lives, give them all medical assistance and ensure they return home after recovering as soon as possible. This is Mamata Banerjee's guarantee. This is the difference**
- People are coming to terms with this now. **I want to appeal to everyone, irrespective of caste and political beliefs to stand with the people at least for the next 48 hours.** We hope to help the distressed as much as we can, within our means

Outside the hospital in Siliguri:

- I hope both the injured children recover fully and are released in 2-3 days. Their vital parameters such as oxygen saturation, pulse, and blood pressure are stable. Dr Moloy Chakraborty took personal initiative and treated them. I have spoken to him and the family members of the injured kids. Since their family survives on daily wages, whatever happened is very stressful for them. I urged them to have faith in the doctors and medical fraternity
- Nobody can control climate disasters but how we choose to respond to them is important. [The victims] were taken to Jalpaiguri Medical College and were administered the initial treatment. As this [Siliguri's Malay Hospital] specialises in neuroscience since 2010, the children were brought here. No stones were left unturned and we pray to God that both the kids recover soon
- The family broke down in tears while telling me that they lost their homes in the disaster and had nowhere to go. We can make alternative arrangements for homes, cars, and workplaces. It may take time to build a house but life is priceless. If life is lost, it cannot be brought back. If someone survives, everything else can happen gradually
- On behalf of the state administration, our Hon'ble CM reached Jalpaiguri last night and met with those hospitalised. She has gone to different places in Alipurduar to personally monitor rescue and relief work. People camping at the relief centres in schools have been requested to remain in government-run rescue shelters for the next few days. The government is swiftly working to help the people

- We hope that irrespective of political preferences, people choose to stand with people – and not engage in politics. Politics can happen later but the first emphasis should be on saving people
- We do not have a BJP government in place that withhold people's money if they don't vote for them. People in Bengal will get the services irrespective of who they vote for
- **If the BJP-led Central government had cleared the Awas money for Bengal, these children wouldn't have been injured or required hospitalisation. They would have had a shelter and roof over their heads today. BJP-led Centre is responsible for their peril. If the BJP has given the due funds as claimed, they should release a white paper. I had issued a challenge on March 14 but there has been no response to this**

Nisith Pramanik-backed goons attacking Udayan Guha:

- This is extremely unfortunate. People who are terrorising others and taking the help of anti-social elements to disturb law and order in the area are showing that they have lost the political ground beneath their feet. We will give the response of bullet through ballots. The people of Cooch Behar will prove that enablers of terror have no place in this soil
- **People who don't believe in the power of people will only resort to these cheap tactics and violence.** We believe in speaking truth to power and the power of the people. I think the entire Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar are ready to give a befitting reply to the BJP on April 19. Just wait and see. We will have stunning results from this region of Bengal this time where BJP will be made to taste their own medicine and given a reply in the language they understand by the people of Bengal

On Suvendu Adhikari's Baseless Allegations Over CM:

- If he is claiming that the Chief Minister has come all the way from Calcutta at midnight to create this incident into a media spectacle and just to ensure that she is getting clicked by photographers, what stopped the Prime Minister from following the same?
- The PM is known to be extremely camera-friendly. He has time to go on jungle safaris, Bhutan, different seminars, television debates, conclaves in Delhi and other parts of the country. What stopped him from coming and seeing the actual condition of the people?
- **BJP should be the last one to talk about publicity and photo-ops. Their entire politics has been revolving around PRs and photo-ops for the last 10 years.** People have realised this and they will give a befitting reply in the days to come
- BJP can only criticise. Why couldn't he come at night? I don't want to question him as I have said this matter shouldn't be politicised. The LoP is politicising this and it is clear from the media queries
- India's Prime Minister can come to Bengal five times, deliver political speeches in political rallies, take part in BJP's programmes, and explain in public meetings why people should vote for BJP. But he can't come and stand with the people of Bengal?
- During Covid-19 crisis, cyclones Amphan and Yaas, who stood with the people in different regions? It was our workers. Even if people do not vote for Trinamool Congress, we are duty-bound to stand beside people in their hour of need and deliver services. We didn't get the expected outcome in Alipurduar, Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri in 2019 and 2021 but the first one to rush here was Mamata Banerjee
- What right does he have to criticise the Chief Minister? How many times has he gone to politicise the issue in Sandeshkhali and how many times did he go after arrests were made in the case? Even today, he has been addressing political meetings. Couldn't we have

addressed 4 Jana Sabhas as we have come to Siliguri? We will do that but our priority is to ensure the well-being of the injured people

- How far is the residence of Nisith Pramanik from Jalpaiguri? How far does Union minister and MP John Barla stay? Be it Raju Bista, Debasree Chaudhuri or Kartick Pal, did any of these leaders stand with the people?

On Governor's Remarks:

- Who is responsible for the violence in Cooch Behar? Who is spreading the violence? Nisith Pramanik is doing it. If the governor is unbiased, he can send a letter against Nisith Pramanik as he is the MoS of Union Home Minister. Who is provoking violence in Bengal? The fact that Udayan Guha's car was vandalised and the rear mirror was broken has been shown by the media
- **Who was responsible for Sitalkuchi incident in 2021? Who was in control then? Who had deputed central forces then? To whom did central forces report? The person, under whose leadership the central forces were deputed, has been rewarded now.** I don't want to comment on this further. It should be left to people and people will answer
- Not only Cooch Behar we want peaceful polls across entire Bengal. Their plan is to malign Bengal saying only violence takes place here. Central forces were sent to oversee polling in Panchayat polls, Assembly polls, and Lok Sabha polls. Those who can't rely on people's support are resorting to violence and endorsing miscreants because they know if people can rightfully express themselves in ballot boxes, these miscreants will not be found anywhere

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