

AITC PRESS RELEASE

Another OPEN CHALLENGE To BJP By Abhishek Banerjee: 'BJP Should Not Worry About Lakshmir Bhandar As GoWB Is Taking Care Of It; Instead BJP-led Centre Should Give Free Cooking Gas Cylinders For Next 5 Years'

"PM TOLD BJP CANDIDATES THAT RS 3,000 CRORE RECOVERED BY ED WILL BE GIVEN TO PEOPLE. BUT IF RS 3,000 CRORE WERE TO BE DIVIDED AMONG 140 CRORE INDIANS, EVERY PERSON WOULD GET RS 21. THE BJP IS ASKING FOR PEOPLE'S VOTES FOR 5 YEARS IN EXCHANGE FOR ONLY RS 21. THIS JUST SHOWS THAT THEY CONSIDER PEOPLE AS WEAK"

"I HAVE SAID LONG BACK THAT INSTEAD OF STAYING BEHIND THE SHADOWS, ED-CBI SHOULD ENTER THE POLL FRAY. BJP HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A CANDIDATE FOR DIAMOND HARBOUR; ED AND CBI DIRECTOR COULD CONTEST FROM THIS SEAT"

Kulpi (Mathurapur), 30.03.2024

- Though I was scheduled to arrive here at 3 pm, I came early leaving other work as I saw that a huge crowd had gathered here and we didn't want them to wait under the sun. I am extremely grateful to the people who have come here today to bless us
- Since the 2001 Assembly elections, when Trinamool candidates won the seats of the district, the party has had a personal relationship with this place. The district has always voted for us in large numbers without falling into the trap laid down by Opposition parties
- Last time, we won the Mathurapur seat by a margin of 2.5 lakh votes. This time, it must be increased to 3 lakh votes. Strengthen Mamata Banerjee's hands in defeating the Bangla Birodhis. The people of Mathurapur have loved me just as much as the people of Diamond Harbour. This is why I take responsibility for Mathurapur's overall development
- There are two months to go for the polling here on June 1. In every booth and anchal, appeals must be made that people believe in what they see and not what they hear. Those who gave speeches three years ago during polls were nowhere to be seen after they lost the elections. It was Trinamool Congress and its workers who stood by the people during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as cyclones
- While others may have voted on the basis of religion, the people here prioritised development. This is why despite multiple efforts, the BJP could not spread unrest here in the name of religion

- In 2021, women here voted on the basis of Lakshmir Bhandar and our government delivered on their promise. April 1 onwards, the women will receive increased financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per month whereas SC/ST women will get Rs 1,200 per month. **Every year, our government spends Rs 25,000 crore to give Lakshmir Bhandar to 2.12 crore women. In the past three years, we have spent over Rs 75,000 crore. The Centre doesn't even give a paisa for this**
- Those who speak of Acche Din should see how prices of essential commodities have exponentially increased in the past 10 years. This is the Modi government's example of development
- **The Modi government has been depriving and oppressing the people of Bengal in multiple ways. Time and again, they have devised anti-people policies to snatch poor people's money such as demanding Rs 1,000 for Aadhaar-PAN linkage. Whereas Mamata Banerjee is giving Rs 1,000 as Lakshmir Bhandar to every woman**
- **They had promised Rs 15 lakh in bank accounts, 2 crore jobs per year, and a roof over the heads of all by 2022. But has it happened? No! This is the reality of Modi Ki Guarantee**
- Whereas, Didi had promised that we would give Lakshmir Bhandar financial assistance to one woman per household. After winning the elections, she extended the benefits of the scheme to every woman in the household. This is Didi Ki Guarantee
- On one hand, we have the guarantee from someone who is sitting 2,000 kms away and uses an Rs 8,000 crore plane to visit foreign countries but only comes to Bengal during polls. On the other hand, we have the guarantee of someone who is just 50km away, wears *hawai* chappals and lives in a simple house, but continuously works for the people
- **BJP leaders are now claiming that if they come to power, they will give Rs 3,000 as Lakshmir Bhandar. BJP is in power in 17 states. If they can implement this in even one state, and give half the amount i.e. Rs 1,500 to everyone, I will leave politics**
- **I appeal to the PM, his ministers, and BJP leaders saying that they don't have to give Lakshmir Bhandar as Mamata Banerjee is already doing the same. If you can, issue a notification to declare that the cooking cylinders – which cost Rs 1,000 – will be free from now onwards. If the Central Government issues a notification and promises that they will give cooking gas cylinders free of cost for the next 5 years, I will withdraw candidates from 42 constituencies. Instead of promising Rs 3,000 as Lakshmir Bhandar, why not just ensure that gas cylinders, priced at around Rs 1,000, are given for free? This is my open challenge**
- They are nothing but *jumlabaaz*. After winning 70 MLAs and 18 MPs, they blocked Bengal's money. See their arrogance and imagine what they would do if they were in power. Over 59 lakh MGNREGA workers received their wages a month ago after Mamata Banerjee disbursed the amount that was supposed to be cleared by the Centre. These workers had been waiting for their money for the past 2 years but the BJP-led Centre did not care

- **Recently, the Prime Minister of the country told a BJP candidate over a phone call that he is taking legal advice on how to distribute Rs 3,000 crore recovered by the ED.** The PM called three BJP candidates (from Bengal and Kerala) and told them that Rs 3,000 crore has been recovered by ED and he wants to return the money to the people. **If Rs 3,000 crore were to be divided among 140 crore Indians, every person would get Rs 21. The BJP is asking for people's votes for 5 years in exchange for only Rs 21. Imagine the extent of their deception. This just goes on to show how weak the people of the country are in their eyes**
- This is why they are called Bangla Birodhi. They refer to Lakshmir Bhandar as alms but are asking for votes to remain in power for the next 5 years in exchange for Rs 21. People will respond to this humiliation
- Those who were in the BJP – from Shantanu Bapuli to Dilip Jatua – all have returned to Trinamool's fold today and pledged their commitment to Mamata Banerjee and her ideals
- I have already said that we are confident of securing a 4 lakh victory margin in Diamond Harbour. That number will be 3 lakh in Mathurapur
- Mamata Banerjee has kept all her promises. I would urge everyone to vote for their rights and development. The BJP government has withheld the funds for houses after losing the elections in 2021 Assembly elections. The PM had said that he had sent the money for houses. But around 16 days ago, I challenged them to produce a white paper on the issue. It has been 380 hours but they have not produced the white paper
- If Mamata Banerjee can spend Rs 75,000 crore in 3 years and give Lakshmir Bhandar to 2.12 crore women, then in this fight for Bengal's rights, the anchor that strengthens Bengal's hands, won't have to stay at anyone's mercy. Our government will disburse the first installment for people's houses in their bank accounts
- **I have said long back that instead of staying behind the shadows, ED-CBI should enter the poll fray. BJP hasn't been able to find a candidate for Diamond Harbour; ED and CBI Director could contest from this seat**
- **BJP still hasn't fielded candidates in four seats. Income Tax Director, CBI Director, NIA Director and ED Director can contest from these seats**

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