

## AITC PRESS RELEASE

### Let The BJP & Its Agencies Use All Their Might, If They Have The Guts, Let Them Stop Our Yatra; People's Support Is With Us, Says AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee

"IF THE CBI CAN CALL ME FOR QUESTIONING BASED ON A LETTER BY KUNTAL GHOSH, WHY AREN'T THEY QUESTIONING SUVENDU ADHIKARI, AGAINST WHOM SARADHA ACCUSED SUDIPTO SEN HAS WRITTEN A LETTER?"

Kolkata, 20.05.2023

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- *Photos from Nabo Jowar & Jono Sanjog Yatra, and enthusiasm of people have rattled BJP leaders*
- *In the name of investigation, it is a conspiracy at the behest of a political party to halt our 'yatra'*
- *CBI wasting their time & my time with this exercise. Net output of 9.5 hours of questioning is zero*
- *What about Jay Shah, whose income has skyrocketed? Does CBI have guts to question Amit Shah?*
- *Central government is busy doing 'notebandi'. In 2024, people of India will show them 'votebandi'*
- *The rule of law seems to be different for the ruling party and for the Opposition. However, instead of being New Delhi's pet dog, I would rather be a Royal Bengal Tiger & die with my head held high*
- *90% of names taken during questioning were of people from Purba Medinipur & Murshidabad, People of Bengal well aware of who was the in-charge of Trinamool in these districts all these years*

#### **Important Pointers:**

- **A total of 9 hours and 40 minutes, call it almost 10 hours.** Someone asked me what was the point of all this? **I believe the one who was questioning me, his time was also wasted; and I, who answered the questions, also wasted my time**
- I have always maintained and I am repeating this again. Whatever proof these agencies have against me, they should bring it to the public light, I have no objection. **If you have proof of my corruption, prepare the gallows, I am ready to be hanged**
- I had said the same thing three years back when I was summoned in the coal scam, I said the same thing when I summoned in the cattle smuggling scam, and I am saying the same thing when I have been summoned in SSC Scam
- We started the *Trinamoole Nabo Jowar* last month. **The photos from our Jono Sanjog Yatra, the sea of crowd present at our Jan Sabhas, the enthusiasm and excitement of the people, these have made BJP leader lose their sleep.** They are unable to digest the support we have received from the public
- Hence, in a bid to halt the 60-day yatra of ours and to harass me, I received the CBI summon. Despite the harassment, I have fully cooperated with the law agency

- CBI issued me a notice yesterday (Friday) afternoon at 2.30 pm. I was in Onda in Bankura, as part of *Trinamoole Nabo Jowar*. CBI officials asked me to reach their Kolkata office at 11 am on Saturday. **I was not even given a days' notice before being summoned**
- On a usual day, it takes around 6 hours to reach Kolkata from Bankura. I had thought I would, at least, get a 48-hour notice, but that was not to be
- **I don't have issue with the urgency, I am ready to be summoned anytime.** My only contention is that I had prior commitments on Friday and Saturday, where over 30,000 people would be waiting for me on the roads
- **The thing is that people now have understood these political gimmicks.** The day the High Court order had come out, I had specifically mentioned in the media that whenever I receive a summon, I will be present
- **After 9.5 hours of questioning, in which I have fully cooperated with the CBI and have answered all their questions, the only thing I can say is that, whoever has called me is wasting his time, and my time as well**
- The net-output of this exercise is zero. What are they trying to prove? It has been over 15 years since the Nobel Prize of Rabindranath Tagore was stolen, has there been any headway in CBI's probe in that matter? Same is the case for Saradha Scam and the Narada Sting, in which the prime accused is now in the BJP
- During today's questioning, I was asked if I knew few people. **The irony is that 90% of the names that was taken, belonged to either the Purba Medinipur district or the Murshidabad district. The people are well-aware as to who was Trinamool's in-charge of these districts all these years?**
- I don't want to discuss what all was discussed in the questioning today, as it is between the CBI officials and me. However, I can say this with utmost confidence that the names of 90% of people, these 'so-called' agents, belonged to Murshidabad and Purba Medinipur district
- If such is the case, **we all know who was in-charge of these two districts from the party back then? Why isn't he being questioned by the CBI?**
- Since a deed of Arpita Ghosh's name was found from Partha Chatterjee's house, Arpita's residence was searched by the investigative agencies. Similarly, when Dilip Ghosh's land deeds are found from accused middle-man Prasun Roy's residence, why isn't CBI or ED questioning Dilip Ghosh? Is it because he is in the BJP?
- Basically, what the agencies are saying is that **the law is different for the ruling party, and for the Opposition.** Had I been in BJP, I would have been innocent. However, **instead of being Delhi's pet dog, I would rather be a Royal Bengal Tiger** and die with my head held high
- This is 4<sup>th</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup> time that I have been summoned. **I went to the Supreme Court not against the summons, but because I wanted ED to question me in Kolkata, and not Delhi, as the case was registered in Kolkata**

- The Supreme Court also agreed to my request and asked the agencies to question me in Kolkata. The only courtesy I expected from the agencies was a notice of 48-hour before summoning me, but it wasn't to be
- I will be back in Bankura on Monday morning to continue our *Jono Sanjog Yatra*. **You will see 10x more vigour in Nabo Jowar henceforth.** I have been on the road for 25-odd days. I will be on the road for a month more. **Earlier BJP leaders were rattled, now they won't be able to sleep at night**
- **In the name of investigation, this is a conspiracy, at the behest of a political party, to halt our yatra in an unethical manner**
- PM Modi keeps saying, "*na khaunga, na khane doonga*". Then how is Himanta Biswa Sarma a Chief Minister? **The one who is seen on camera taking bribes, why is he still roaming scot-free?** What about Narayan Rane, What about the 40% Sarkara in Karnataka? This is PM Modi's "*na khaunga, na khane doonga*" model
- **If CBI can call me based on a letter by Kuntal Ghosh, then why aren't you questioning Suvendu Adhikari based on Sudipto Sen's letter?** Why are the rules different for me? Is it because I am in Trinamool Congress?
- You are arresting Anubrata Mondal's daughter in Delhi, because her income has increased, and I am not defending anyone here. **But what about Jay Shah, Whose income has skyrocketed since 2014? Why are the rules different for the ruling party and the Opposition? Does the CBI have the guts to question Amit Shah?**
- The people of Bengal have already replied to such discriminatory politics back in 2021, they will do the same in the upcoming elections too
- I believe my summoning was deliberate. **The photos from the *Jono Sanjog Yatra* has rattled the BJP. Why else would you send a summon without giving even 24-hour notice?** The people, however, can see through these gimmicks. They saw through the BJP in 2021, and gave them a stern reply. **In 2023, 2024 and 2026, too, the people will give the BJP a stern reply**
- On Congress' claims that we have a setting with BJP, won't you agree that the person not being summoned at all will have a better setting, than someone who is being questioned?
- Going to the court is my right, I can go to the lower court, the session court, the High Court or if need be, even the Supreme Court. It is my fundamental right as an Indian
- **We have seen how toothless these investigative agencies have been. Back in their time, Congress used them the same way, and BJP today is doing the same**
- We learn from our mistakes. It is literally impossible to do background verification of everyone joining party. The number goes up to lakhs each year. However, with regards to party portfolios, we do background checks, but it is not 100% fool proof

- However, **the ruling party is inducting such people in their ecosystem, despite knowing that central agencies that are run by them are probing them. It is ironical and alarming at the same time**
- I have never before seen such crowd on the ground when I campaigned before. Truly, *Nabo Jowar* has become *Jono Jowar*. Despite the searing heat, people are on the roads in huge numbers
- Instead of criticising, why doesn't the Opposition step on the ground? **Earlier they said that I won't be able to stay on ground for six days. However, when they saw the crowd support that we are getting, they suddenly changed tracks and started harassing me with CBI and ED**
- I will answer questions of genuine and brave journalists. The day journalists of some channels start asking questions to Union Home Minister Amit Shah or Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that day I will answer their questions
- **The central government is doing 'notebandi'. However, in 2024, we will see 'votebandi'**. In 2016, they announced demonetisation, but as per Swiss Bank's data, black money has increased manifold in India. Then what was the purpose of demonetisation?
- Around 140 people lost their lives standing in long queues outside ATMs during demonetisation. They are again doing the same by banning Rs 2,000 notes
- **All these years the PM used Mahatma Gandhi's spectacles in Swachh Bharat for his personal branding.** Now they have dumped him, and have brought in Savarkar in the discussion by inaugurating the New Parliament House on his birthday
- **We don't need a New Parliament House at the moment. People don't have roof over their head, a huge population don't have access to two meals a day, yet you are spending crores on vanity projects.** You are looting Bengal's money and are buying fancy airplanes and spending Rs 20,000 crore on a New Parliament House
- Our chairperson Mamata Banerjee has categorically stated that **we have no qualms in supporting the Congress. However, Congress should also abide by the fact that Trinamool is the only party that is taking on BJP head-on, and that they should support us**, rather than having a tacit-understanding with BJP through their state president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
- **By joining hands with CPI(M) and attacking Trinamool Congress in Bengal, INC is ultimately strengthening BJP's hands.** As a political party, I could have gone to Karnataka too and Congress' votes there, but we didn't
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has asked the people to vote against BJP. Has Congress or CPI(M) leaders ever said something like this when it comes to elections in Bengal? Hence I say, practice what you preach