

AITC PRESS RELEASE

'Protesters' Here To Create Unrest In Jhargram, People Should Remember Who They Are And Not Forgive Them, Says AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee

"THESE 'PROTESTERS', WHO ARE CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE ADIVASI COMMUNITY, WHY DO THEY HAVE THE SLOGAN OF 'JAI SRI RAAM' ON THEIR LIPS, RATHER THAN 'JAI GORAM'?"

"WE WANT TO GIVE HEADS OF THE ADIVASI KURMI COMMUNITY 48 HOURS TO CLEAR THEIR STAND ON TODAY'S VIOLENCE. IF YOU DON'T, WE WILL HAVE TO ASSUME THAT YOU, TOO, WERE INVOLVED"

Jhargram, 26.05.2023

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Minister Birbaha Hansda's convoy attacked by miscreants claiming to be from the Adivasi groups*
- *We have never stopped any peaceful protests. We believe in having dialogue, rather than violence*
- *Mamata Banerjee became Chief Minister of Bengal at the back of protests, she fasted for 26 days*
- *Will ask my party workers to maintain calm and not get provoked by the acts of these 'protesters'*

Important Pointers:

- **We are all witness to what occurred today while I was on my way here. In the name of 'Kurmi protests', miscreants tried to create nuisance and disturb the law and order situation of the district**
- **Birbaha Hansda is here, she is a State Minister and a proud member of the ST community. Her convoy was attacked by goondas in the evening. Our friends from the media are here, their cars, too, were vandalised with many having their windshield pelted with stones**
- **I have one question for these 'protesters', if you any issue, why can't we discuss these issues peacefully. Before Jhargram, I was in Purulia, where I had discussions with different set of groups, we did the same thing in Bankura too**
- **You should always remember that protests should never be violent. Whatever cause for which you are fighting, it should always be in a peaceful manner**
- **In fact, I got down from my car, and tried to speak with the protesters. However, the moment they saw me, they ran away. I had spoken to different groups in in Bundwan too, even though it was raining**
- **All our Trinamool workers, who were on their motorbikes, they were strangled with 'gamchas'. What sort of protest is this?**
- **We have seen protests undertaken by Gandhi ji, who made non-violence the norm. One should never forget that Mamata Banerjee became the Chief Minister on West Bengal at the back of leading several protests. She fasted for 26 days; she was**

thrown out of the BDO office in Singur. Yet, she fasted with the people, protested peacefully, before becoming the Chief Minister

- We have no issue if protests are peaceful. Once should always fight for their rights, but pelting stones on cars? What behaviour is it? And then **you have BJP leader Dilip Ghosh making absurd remarks about your community, yet you remain silent?**
- **I want to tell my party workers to maintain calm and not get provoked by the acts of these 'protesters'**
- Most of the demands of these groups are the same. I wonder why form different groups then? **They should instead come united and speak to us, we have never stopped you from having a dialogue**
- Instead of throwing stones, in the name of protests. **These 'protesters' are here to create unrest in Jhargram. The people of Jhargram should not forgive these men**
- I know, very well, who is behind today's incident. **These people, who are claiming to be Adivasis, why do they have slogans of 'Jai Sri Ram' on their lips, rather than 'Jai Goram'?**
- If I am walking up to these protesters, why are they running away? I walked up for almost 1.5 km to speak to a group, but there was not one person there
- Then **what should we make of the staged protests? And what about the actual men behind today's act? We will soon find it out, but I request our workers to not fall in their trap and maintain calm**
- **Minister Birbaha Hansda was injured today, along with her driver. I could see Molotov cocktails being thrown on the roads**
- I will hope the Adivasi community are taking note of these incidents, I hope they clear the air and their stand, whether they were associated with today's act
- **The heads of the Adivasi Kurmi community should come to the media and clear their stand** on the unfortunate incident that took place in Lodasuri and Salboni. **They should clearly state that all those associated with today's violence, have no connection with the Adivasi Kurmi community**
- The Adivasi community should clear their stand, because if BJP men are using their name to create unrest, then you should be clear that you are not associated with the violence
- **I have always been in support of protests, but blocking railways, and causing trouble to common man, that is no way to fight for your rights**
- And if you think you can scare me, I challenge you to. **I promise none of those involved in today's violence will be spared**
- **I still vehemently believe that the people behind today's incident were not from the Adivasi community. These Adivasi groups were just fronts, with another party behind the scenes**
- That is why, **we are giving the heads of the Adivasi Kurmi community 48 hours to clear their stand, because if you don't, then we will have to assume that the community was indeed involved in the violence**
- And one thing I wish to tell my friends at the BJP, you might have started the game, but I will end it
- **I want the people of Jhargram to support me, and I promise you, I will get your money back. You vote for the 'people's candidate' and leave the rest to me**