

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

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General Secretary

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Press Communiqué

The following is the communiqué issued by Communist Party of India General Secretary D Raja at the press conference on July 16 at the conclusion of the three-day National Council Meeting held at New Delhi on July 14, 15 and 16, 2023:

The meeting was presided over by Sambasiva Rao, Member, National Executive and secretary of Telangana State Council of the Party.

Party General Secretary D. Raja placed the draft report on political, economic developments, proposals for future campaigns and on organizational tasks. In a strongly worded document, the general secretary of the Party exposed the anti-people, anti-constitutional activities of the BJP government. The BJP government and Modi rule in his 9th year has caused serious damage to the secular, democratic fabric of India. Caste based atrocities have increased and so also the discrimination with minorities. He also exposed the anti-federal nature of the government and severely criticized the anti-people economic policy of the present government.

The draft report was adopted after discussions by the members of the national council. After deliberations, the following decisions were been taken.

Party has decided to observe 25th July as Manipur solidarity day all over India. The situation in Manipur is grave and the party has expressed its concern over violence, arson and killing of people. It has condemned the role of BJP state and Union governments in aggravating the situation. The silence of Prime Minister on this issue is inexplicable. It shows callousness and insensitivity on the part of the government. The Party has condemned the filing of FIR against Annie Raja, general secretary of NFIW and national executive member of CPI and Nisha Siddhu, national secretary, NFIW and leader of CPI in Rajasthan and Deeksha Dwivedi, independent lawyer, who were part of the NFIW led fact-finding team to Manipur. The Party demands immediate withdrawal of FIR.

Elections:

In the year 2023 assembly elections will be held in Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. The Parliamentary elections will be held in 2024. Party has decided to contest all these elections and concerned state units have been asked to prepare themselves by identifying constituencies and candidates. They have also been directed to prepare the election machinery and do fund collection. Our objective is to defeat the BJP and increase our party's presence in assembly and parliament.

Attack on Federalism:

The action of Tamil Nadu Governor of dismissing a minister, the Union government's directing Food Corporation of India (FCI) not to sell grains in free market to the states with a view to scuttle Karnataka state government's scheme of distribution of rice and issuing an ordinance to undo the decision of the Supreme Court upholding the right of elected government of Delhi to control the bureaucracy are some of the examples of anti-constitutional, anti-federalism actions of

the Union government. This is an attack on the federal principles of governance and an attempt to centralise all power, undermining the state governments.

Economic Situation:

The Party has expressed serious concern about rising unemployment and inflation. It also demands withdrawal of the recent circular issued by RBI to allow willful defaulters of the banks to have compromise solutions on their loans. This is nothing but legalising the loot of public money.

The income of the farmers was to be doubled by 2022 but this has not happened instead the expenditure of farmers on inputs has increased.

Economy continues to be sluggish. Modi's policies have exposed their class character. In recent years the number of billionaires have gone up. But the number of poor has also gone up.

Then they are also aggressive on privatisation. Modi spoke in one meeting: 'Hamara Desh me public sector marne ke liye Janam hotha hai'. This is their attitude. But the unions are fighting back. United struggles are there. It is good development. For example is the agitation by bank unions. Government has slowed down the privatization move. Till elections they may not do so. But their agenda to help the corporates is still there.

In banks we know huge concessions and write offs for corporate companies.

Last month, even for wilful defaulters who deliberately cheat the banks, RBI has announced that banks can write off their loans. In fact, tough action should be taken on them but government is giving them concessions. This is their love for the corporates.

19th July is 55th bank nationalization day. Our party played a big role inside and outside the parliament. Prabhat Kar the then general secretary of AIBEA was an MP of our party who fought vehemently for bank nationalization.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

Recent attempt by the Prime Minister and ruling party to politicise and communalise the Uniform Civil Code issue for petty political gains is condemned and the party urges the Union government to keep diversity of the society in mind. All stakeholders should be consulted in the matter.

The 21st Law Commission had clearly opined that the Uniform Civil Code is not required the present Law Commission has disregarded this and has invited opinion of the people about UCC without even giving a proper draft and discussion. Our Party stands for gender equality uniformity is not equality.

Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam Chief Minister) statement Condemned:

The National Council condemned and commented that statement accusing Muslim merchants for high vegetable prices is nothing but an attempt to spread hatred and communalise the atmosphere in the state and elsewhere in order to hide their inefficiencies in controlling prices. Adopted resolutions enclosed.

Communist Party of India

National Council Meeting from July 14 to 16, 2023 at New Delhi

1. Resolution on Chandrayan 3

The National council of the Communist party of India proudly takes note of the successful launching of Chandrayan 3. The party whole heartedly congratulates the whole team of ISRO scientists, employees and workers who tirelessly worked for this great achievement. Chandrayan 3 marks a great step forward in India's historic voyage in space expedition. Communist Party of India, at this occasion, remembers the contributions rendered by legends like Vikram Sarabhai, who took the spirit of the freedom movement to the realm of science and technology. The Communist party of India always stood with their dreams with the committed position of 'space for peace'.

Congratulating the historic achievement of ISRO and scientific community, the CPI National Council reiterates its resentment at the policy of the Union government in opening up space for corporate investments.

2. Resolution CPI Opposes Delimitation Draft

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has opposed the draft proposal for delimitation of Assembly and parliamentary constituencies of Assam published on 20th June by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and called for keeping the ongoing delimitations to kept in abeyances for the time being.

Communist Party of India does not oppose delimitation per se because it is a continuous process. We oppose the way the entire delimitation exercise has been by the ECI violating section 9 (1) a of the Delimitation Act of 2002. The ongoing exercise has not been undertaken using the proper methodology and is not objective. The ruling party is seeking to use the delimitation for its own political benefit. BJP Party is also trying to whip up communal passion on the issue. People's Representatives Act of 1950 8 (A) is being pushed away. They divided the total constituencies into three categories to maintain 'Population Density' in order, hence, to communally divided the whole process. In the act, there is no provision to divide the constituencies into three categories. This act of Election Commission is completely unconstitutional.

The Chief Minister of Assam H.B. Sarma has been repeatedly asserting that the draft document, if implemented will safeguard the indigenous communities. The Chief Minister is making false claim. In fact, the number of Legislative Assembly constituencies (LAC) and Lok Sabha seats dominated by individuals will decrease if the draft gets implemented. The Lahowal Constituency of Dibrugarh, where the Motok Community has a major influence will cease to exist. Sivasagar district, dominated by the indigenous communities will lose one constituency. There are so many, other such examples as well. So, where is the question of the indigenous people benefitting from delimitation.

The total number of constituencies should increase during delimitation. But the ongoing process does not have the provision to increase constituencies. It only entails the exchange and merger of areas among constituencies. This delimitation, therefore will turnout to be futile exercise. Look at the draft published by ECI. The number of LAC in the Barak valley will get reduced by two, even as the population in that region has increased which is totally illegal.

The Hon'ble President of India, on public demand deferred the delimitation exercises in Assam 8th February, 2008 interalia on the ground that NRC in respect of Assam yet to be completed. The situation today is the same as was on 8th February 2008.

The Election Commission of India has recently completed the delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir using 2011 census data, which is normal. Then why not in the case of Assam. For same delimitation process 2011. Population data will not be used.

The proposal new constituencies should be of convenient geographical space constant, with the aforesaid Provisions of Section 9 (1) 9 of the delimitation Act 2002. The recently published draft is not a reflection of sound and logical principle.

Country wise delimitation process will be undertaken in 2026 as per 24th amendment of the Constitution.

This national council meeting of the Communist Party of India of the firm opinion that the present proposal delimitation in Assam, which appears subspurious, is not at all considered at all now.

The meeting demands, the delimitation exercise in Assam should be kept in abeyance for the time being and it should be done along with the rest of the country in 2026 on the basis of the latest updated census data.

3. Resolution on Floods

Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and other states are under unprecedented floods. These floods have led not only to the huge losses of agriculture crops, cattles, property but also have caused loss of human lives. People's daily life is very badly affected. The relief measures by the central and respective State governments are inadequate but affected people are left to the mercy of the flood waters. The Central Government led by BJP and Prime Minister Modi has not rushed even Sufficient NDRF TEAMS to the affected areas. People are not even being given relief material. They are not getting even food, drinking water, milk, medicines etc.

The CPI national council demands that food, drinking water, milk, medicines, etc. must be rushed to the affected people.

All losses of agricultural crops, cattle, properties must be compensated by the Union and respective state governments in realistic terms. All those who very sadly lost their lives due to unprecedented floods, their families must be given realistic compensation. Agricultural loans must be waved off.

The Union government and State governments as per the federal character of the nation must plan and do adequate infrastructure improvement in the management of flood waters to avoid future flood. In this matter short term and long term planning be done.

4. Resolution on Observe July 25 as Solidarity Day with People of Manipur

The National Council expresses its grave concern on the situation in Manipur, which is a strategic and sensitive state in North East region and border with Myanmar. From 3rd of May till date, over 142 lives were lost, over 1000 individuals were injured, and more than 70,000 people are displaced. So cruel and pathetic, that they find shelter in about 272 refugee camps in their own country. A few thousand people also took shelter in neighbouring states and also in Delhi.

The violence started on May 3 with the solidarity rally organised by different tribal groups.

The question of tribal status and tribal rights were engineered in such a way that led to the distrust between both the communities, which resulted in violations between Meiteis and Kuki communities. Two months have passed but till Manipur is in Turmoil and peace remains elusive.

The BJP governments in Manipur and Centre have totally failed the people of Manipur and their right to have a peaceful prosperous life. Present ethnic conflicts took place due to the long negligence of the state and central governments and their failure to address the complex issue of land, identity of social and cultural issues among different communities, misuse of forest lands, unemployment, equal access of education to all ethnic groups, poppy cultivations, containment of different underground arms groups in Valley and hills area, unchecked infiltrations from Myanmar and many other issues.

The malicious campaign of RSS for long time to divide the people on religious line, the role of Assam Chief Minister in this conflict should be condemned.

The utter failure of BJP government in Manipur is responsible for such situation. CPI National Council demands immediate resignation of the present chief minister to meet the demands from the cross sections of the Manipuri people.

The National Council feels that when mistrust and hatred exist among all sides and violence is continuing, then the priority must be first to restore peace and tranquilly in Manipur. A political solution to the crisis should be reached by taking all opinions and people into confidence through dialogue and reconciliation can only bring a solution to this ongoing crisis.

In this context the initiative of National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) to send a fact find mission and later the visit by CPI and CPI(M) MPs to Manipur to be appreciated as serious attempt to understand the situation and to build the confidence among all communities in Manipur.

The National Council believes that to create a conducive atmosphere for dialogue and reconciliation following actions to be taken immediately:

1. Resignation of Chief Minister
2. Disarm all terrorist groups and individuals who posses arms illegally to be arrested immediately.
3. To stop infiltrations from Myanmar. Army and Border Security Force should take appropriate steps in this regard.
4. Stop Poppy cultivation in Reserve Forest land and to oppose the decision of giving 65 thousand acre of land to Adani group to do mining and other commercial activities which will change the character of Land
5. Considering the magnitude of sufferings, grievances and loss caused to the people from all sides special package of compensations, relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and livelihood in a time bound manner for the affected people to be ensured by the state and central government without any bias and discrimination.
6. All Highways in Manipur must be opened for free movements of necessary goods and medicine.
7. Withdraw cases filed against Annie Raja, General Secretary and Nisha Sidhu, Secretary of NFIW and individuals which are farcical and fabricated.

While demanding the above, CPI once again reiterates its position towards the territorial integrity of Manipur and unity of the people.

Party condemns the continuous silence of the Prime Minister on Manipur situation confirming that the double engine government of BJP is responsible for the present situation. This has invited criticism from across the world showing our country in poor light.

Party calls upon all its units to observe 25th July as a solidarity day with the people of Manipur and to protest strongly against the FIR made against the Party leaders and other individuals.

5. Resolution on Hold Early election to Cantonment Boards

Cantonment Boards are local bodies under the Ministry of Defence for which elections are to be held once in five years.

Lastly, the elections were held in 2015. The term of the elected members of Cantonment Boards expired in 2020. Thereafter the period was extended for another year to the erstwhile elected members and that too expired in 2021. Now there are no elected representatives to Cantonment Boards. Now the Cantonment Boards are run by the officials with the advice of ruling BJP party nominees. Running local bodies without holding elections is unconstitutional.

There are 61 Cantonment boards in India, which are run by the ruling BJP party through the back door. The BJP Government is delaying the elections for political considerations. It seems the BJP is delaying elections under the pretext of the excision of Cantonment Boards. Excision of Cantonment Boards without conducting any sort of public debate or discussing the issue with stakeholders like various political parties, residents, and employees is undesirable.

Annexing cantonment Boards with neighboring state governments may take several years even if all factors are conducive. Keeping a local Government without elected representatives is undemocratic and unconstitutional.

National council of the Communist Party of India, in its meeting held in New Delhi on 14-16 July 2023 calls upon Govt. of India to hold early elections to Cantonment Boards based on the 'Universal Adult franchise' and uphold the spirit of the Panchayat system and to drop further action for excision of Cantonment Boards without holding the public debate.

6. Resolution on Remove Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi from his Position as Governor

In non-BJP ruled states, Governors appointed by the Union government run parallel governments against the governments elected by the people in those states.

R.N. Ravi, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been acting in a controversial manner since his inception.

Once he freaked out that India was ruined because of Karl Marx. Sanatanam is what unites the country, he said. He described the great humanists like Thiruvalluvar and Vallalar as the pinnacle of sanathana.

He said that all countries depend upon religions, so India is a Hindu Nation. He is openly working against secularism, completely violating the constitution of India.

He shelved more than 13 bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for several months without giving approval.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested a minister named Senthil Balaji. He is being treated in the hospital as a heart patient. When the Chief Minister shared his portfolios with other ministers, the governor, who initially refused to give his approval, signed it the next day.

He arbitrarily dismissed that minister the next day and then announced that it would be suspended, expecting the legal opinion.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members from eight parties, DMK, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), MDMK, VVK, Indian Union Muslim League and Kongu People's National Party signed a letter to the President demanding Ravi's removal, several months ago. No action has been taken yet

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin, wrote a 19-page detailed letter to the President demanding the recall of Governor Ravi.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India urges that the President, should consider the letter of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the letters of the Members of Parliament and take immediate action to remove Governor R.N. Ravi from that responsibility.

7. Resolution on Suspension of Four Faculty Members and Students of South Asian University (SAU)

South Asian University has been witness to a creeping process of autocratisation that is the necessary complement of the commercialization and saffronisation of higher education. The current Union government of India has undermined the South Asian character of the University.

Last year students of South Asian University began a protest against reduction of monthly stipends. The administration of SAU failed to pay has to these protests and instead sought to branzely crush them.

A wide cross section of faculty members of SAU wrote a letter to their administration asking for a constructive solution to this crisis. In stead of constructive solution the administration of SAU began to target the faculty members by accusing them of instigating students.

In order to maxmise the autocratic impact of this attack on democratic rights, the attack on faculty members of SAU was selectively with four teachers being targeted.

A fact finding committee recommended for suspension of four faculty on the charges of inciting students against the SAU during the students' protest. Finally, four faculty members suspended on 16th June 2023 making the situation more complicated. All the four faculty members have been meted with humiliating treatment of not to leave station without permission vacate their offices, return their office computers and identity cards and register their attendance on all working days in the office. Some students were also suspended and expelled without reason and rhyme.

Intolerance for constructive criticism is becoming administrative culture of the University in Modi regime. The move by the SAU administration is completely undemocratic and in violation of all rules and norms. The authoritarian stance of SAU administration has tarnished the image of the University formed with the high ideals of integrating neighbouring SAARC countries. The enquiry conducted by the fact finding committee was motivated and a mere camouflage of the hidden undemocratic agenda of governance to stifle all vestiges of democratic voices.

This National Council of the Communist Party of India resolved and demands to External Affairs Minister and SAARC secretary to unconditionally roll back all these illegal moves against teachers and students of SAU. CPI demands to withdraw suspension of four faculties immediately and extend justice to the aggrieved students of the Campus.

8. Resolution on Withdraw Anti-Forest, Anti-Environment and anti-Forest Conservation Bill - 2023

On 29th March 2023 the Union government has placed a Bill named Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the Lok Sabha to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA).

Through the Bill the government has tried to redefine the existing forest land and forest.

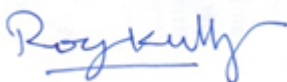
The forest survey of India in its report called State of Forest Report 2021 stated that the total forest cover of India is 7,75,288 square km out of which 1,20,783 square km which is 10 per cent of the total forest land comes under unclassified forest. In some states a large part of the forest also comes under this category. From the point of environment this unclassified forest is very sensitive and important. But the proposed amendment in the Forest Conservation Act 1980 says to keep this huge track of unclassified forest out of conservation. This means in the name of development these huge forest land and forest resources will be available for corporates. There will be no need for taking permission for diversion from forest department.

To please corporate companies the Union government has made up a conspiracy against our forest and environment. This will ruin utterly our forest resources and adversely affect the rights and livelihood of our people particularly tribals and forest dwellers living in those forest areas for generations to oppose this bill both inside and outside Parliament many objections were raised. After huge agitations Forest Bill was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The Communist Party of India and few other parties, many organisations and 60 Members of Parliament and individuals had submitted their suggestions to the Committee.

Ignoring all these valuable suggestions joint Parliamentary Committee cleared the controversial bill without proposing any changes. The proposed bill infringed the rights of the State government.

In the last nine years of union government steps have been taken to amend and dilute Indian Forest Act 1927, Conservation Rules, Forest Rights Act 2006 etc. These attacks on our forest, natural resource and livelihood cannot be tolerated and should be defeated.



(Roykutty)

Office Secretary