



West Bengal

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly Election – 2011



Election

# *Manifesto*

Left Front Committee

West Bengal

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## The Perspective

The 15<sup>th</sup> State Assembly Election in West Bengal is being held in the backdrop of an unprecedented worldwide economic crisis with its adverse impact on the Indian economy. The hegemonistic western capitalist countries led by US imperialists have been shifting the onus of crisis on to the Indian people. India's Central Government is unabashedly succumbing to their pressures. The Central Government's 'Look East Policy' has been transformed brazenly into 'Open-up to the West Policy.' Inflation, speculative money and future trading are being imported from abroad, while Indian peoples' daily necessities, such as cereals, sugar, onion etc. are being exported overseas. In the last Union Budget subsidies on foodgrains, fertilizer and petro-products have been cut to the extent of more than Rs. 20 crores, while corporate sector have been granted tax relief of more than 88, 250 crores. State-owned enterprises, bank and insurance sector, retail trading are being offered in a silver platter to the domestic and foreign corporate hands. Crisis is intensifying in the agricultural front with its adverse consequences on the lives of the farmers. Seeds, fertilizer, domestic markets – everything has been given away to the multi-nationals. Cost of farming is increasing day by day, while the farmers are being deprived of remunerative prices of their produce. The incidences of farmers' suicide have surpassed more than 2 lakh in number during last two-three years. On the other hand, the Central Government is refusing to disclose the names of those who stashed abroad their ill-gotten money amounting to Rs. 70 lakh crores and deposited with the banks in the tax-haven countries. During the last two years number of asset-holders of more than 4,500 crores has increased from 26 to 53, while the, number of Indians among the world's richest 10 families has risen from 1 to 3. Conversely, more than 70 percent of total population do not have per capita income of Rs. 20 in a day. Unemployment is increasing. Employed persons are losing their jobs. In terms of number of Indian people suffering from hunger, malnourishment and illiteracy our country stands topper in the world. An all-time record has been created in the matter of corruption at high places. Prime Minister of our country cannot absolve his responsibility. Knowing full well, why couldn't he prevent his Ministerial colleague, now behind the bar in Delhi's Tihar Jail, from committing such humongous corruption in distributing the license of 2 G

Spectrum to a handful of chosen corporate houses during the last two years? How could he approve of wrongful appointment of a person, himself accused of corruption charges, in the post of CVC., who is supposed to oversee the cases of corruption in Government departments? How under the nose of Prime Minister's office, ISRO's tainted S-Band Spectrum lease-deal could be finalized? No honest reply to these questions is available with the Prime Minister.

In regard to India-US relation and national economic policy, there is little difference between Congress and BJP. In the record of corruption, BJP does not lag behind. Besides, under the protective umbrella of Sangh Parivar, Hindu fundamentalist activities are now being carried on in broad daylight. The Congress appears to be in compromising mood with it.

The Trinamool Congress was first with BJP-led NDA and is now with Congress-led UPA-II governments at Centre. Obviously, while with NDA and UPA-II respectively they are part and parcel of anti-people policies pursued as a alliance-II partner of these two outfits. Thus the TMC is silent about the sky-rocketing price-rise and the increasingly incidences of corruptions at high places. In the meantime, outside of the budget the Railway Ministry headed by TMC leader Mamata Banerjee has surreptitiously increased the goods fare and thereby igniting further the price-rise. The corruption has taken a new peak in the TMC-led Panchayats and Municipalities and by opening camp offices at Railway Minister's residence for selling forms for so-called jobs in Railway and other Central Government departments. The blatant example of double-speak is manifest in the activities of Congress-TMC alliance contravening what were promised in TMC Manifesto released on the eve of last Lok Sabha election.

## Anti-Left Grand Alliance in West Bengal

All credit goes to TMC for letting BJP to have a political foothold in West Bengal. After its breakaway from Congress, the TMC started its strides joining the bandwagon of BJP. Now it completes its full circle riding piggyback with the Maoists. What a pity, the Indian National Congress to keep its existence in West Bengal now seeks alms from the TMC-Maoist alliance! And, what is worse is that at the Panchayat-Municipality level TMC-Congress-BJP's unethical alliance is still carrying on their anti-people activities. Recently, the WikiLeaks has exposed the reactionary activities of this grand

alliance since the last Lok Sabha polls. Before the Lok Sabha polls the Cables sent to Washington by US Ambassador in India prove beyond doubt that on the Indian soil the main force to protect the US interests is Congress-BJP and their cohorts, while Leftists are only the formidable block to them. It is therefore clear why the US imperialist and other domestic and foreign forces have made the Left citadel West Bengal their target of attack. With the help of a section of media and sophisticated weapons bought by black money deposited in foreign banks, TMC and Maoist killers are indulging in indiscriminate murders of common poor people and creating a state of terror and anarchy in certain parts of West Bengal. In their killing spree women, children, students, nurses, physicians, teachers, workers-peasants-employees, tribals and minorities – nobody is being spared. Even 149 innocent railway passengers travelling in Jnaneshwari Express were killed by sabotaging the train. At the joint initiative of TMC and Maoist, not only the roads and culverts are being destroyed, schools, colleges, hospitals have been forced to close in a fascist way. Even projects of industrialization and development have been stopped by force. Having encouraged all sorts of divisive and separatist forces they are conspiring to split the State. TMC is run in a fascist way. Minister, leader and all-powerful Supremo is one person. Others are non-entities. Use of media on cash or allurements or threat, to cater lies and hollow promises, baseless accusations and concealment of truth or distortion of facts the TMC indulging in, is reminiscent of fascist propaganda blue-print replete in history. And, for all these reasons the ensuing State Assembly election throws a challenge not only to the left forces but also to all democratic, peace-loving and development aspiring people of the State. At the same time this election offers new possibilities. As long as peoples' bread and butter, employment, peaceful living and democratic rights will remain under threat, resistance against the threat will also be intensified and spread. Thus the people are re-assembling, uniting in resistance, joining processions and meetings in thousands and lakhs. The last Brigade Parade Ground Rally bears the testimony of it. There is no doubt that these people will again create history by establishing 8<sup>th</sup> Left Front Government in West Bengal.

## Left Front Government

At the height of intensive struggles against 1970's semi-fascist terror and curtailment of democratic rights clamping internal emergency, the first Left Front Government was established in 1977. From the first meeting of the cabinet, 17,000 political prisoners irrespective of their political affiliations were freed and more than 10,000 attendant cases were withdrawn. Thus commenced the onward march to re-establish and expand the democratic rights. On completion of one year first 3-tier Panchayat elections were held on the basis of adult franchise and thereafter for the first time in the country, Civic elections were held extending the right of adult franchise to the age of 18 years. From thence, only West Bengal has the record to its credit for regularly holding village level panchayat and civic elections. Progressively, step by step reservation of 50% seats for women, tribals, scheduled castes and other backward classes, constitution of gram-sansad and village development samity, ensuring of representation of the opposition at each and every stage — West Bengal first showed the path in every step. Elected Primary Education Council, from Secondary School to University everywhere elected Governing Bodies, elected Co-operative Society and Co-operative Banks — in short, to expand the democracy and democratic rights West Bengal Left Front Government created a history of sorts in the country. The rights and status which the opposition members enjoy today in panchayat and civic bodies could not be dreamt of during the Congress rule.

Obviously, re-establishment and expansion of democracy and democratic rights could not be achieved without changing the correlation of class forces in favour of the poor people. Consequent on land reforms, more than 45 lakhs landless farmers and share-croppers earned the rights of tilling the 23 lakhs acre land. Now ownership of 84% farm land belongs to owners of less than 5 acres of land. More than 10 lakhs homeless persons have got land to build their own homes. In cities and villages dwelling houses have been built for the homeless persons. The government buying land at higher than the market price has distributed more than 2 lakhs homeless persons under the project of providing land for dwelling and farming. In the cities, to those who are residing for more than 20 years on government land, lease-rights have been accorded on payment of Re. 1/- only. As in the villages, in the cities also the State Government has started employment guarantee schemes.

Everywhere rate of wages have been increased. In the village panchayat system, poor and middle income groups people having been empowered, have, in effect, established their own governments in their villages. Thus harvest has increased and become widespread. While food production in the whole of country has declined, in West Bengal food production has risen. Relevantly it has to be noted that West Bengal shares less than 3% of whole of country's total farming land. Yet, West Bengal produces 8% of country's total food production. In 1977, 74 lakh tons of foodgrains were produced in West Bengal, while now it has increased to 170 lakh tons. Before Left Front Government were established, West Bengal was a deficit state in respect of foodgrains. Now West Bengal stands at the top leaving behind all other states in foodgrains production. West Bengal also tops in the country in the production of rice, jute, potato, vegetables, fruits and fish. We are now self-sufficient in the production of paddy. Crops now in grown in 100 acres land is equal to that of 192 acres land. Now rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- a k.g. is sold to 2 crore 64 lakh poor people. BPL card-holders get sugar at the rate of Rs. 13.50/- per k.g., the market price of which is Rs. 5/- a k.g. Packets of atta at the rate of 5 /- each are given to them . Whereas the Central Government is abandoning the public distribution system.

After 1977, the co-operative movement in the state has got a specific vision. As a result, innumerable co-operative societies have come up. In other states, co-operatives are limited to the rich and privileged sections of the people, while in West Bengal mainly poor people are engaged in co-operative movement. About 700 co-operative agricultural development societies have been established. West Bengal is a state where in granting loans for agricultural production, the farmer's interests are protected.

During the tenure of Left Front Government, significant success have been achieved in building agricultural marketing infrastructure in the state. It is notable that only in West Bengal in the country, the State Government has built up as many as 37 multi-purpose cold storage for preservation of vegetables-fruits-flowers. West Bengal is the only State where under the auspices of the State Government, Netaji Subhas Agricultural Marketing Centre has been set up to impart proper training in agricultural marketing. To keep up the tempo of production and development in agricultural sector unabated, work for building improved agricultural marketing infrastructure is in progress. Work for expanding the food processing programmes is also on steam.

Land belongs to the poor. Harvest also belongs to the poor. So their purchasing power has increased. In the villages, have come up various markets, trading places and communication system. Besides the farming, opportunities for other types of work have also opened up. Cottage, small and medium sized enterprises have increased., West Bengal tops in creating employment opportunities in this sector. State has also guaranteed the social securities to those who are employed in this sector. Health Scheme, Provident Fund Scheme for them have been introduced. Beedi mazdoor, construction workers, domestic hands, shop employees, hawkers, rickshaw-puller, auto-drivers, car drivers, brick-klin workers, fishermen, agricultural labour – about 61 types of unorganized labour, all are protected under these social security projects. At the initiative of the Government and with the participation of the mass organizations the work of expanding the benefits of the social securities among the unorganized labour is continuing. Payment of monthly allowance to the workers of closed factories is in vogue only in this state. To ensure social security to the poor, underprivileged, unorganized working people the state Government projects and schemes have no match to that in any other states of the country.

West Bengal Left Front Government acts as citadel in protection of the interests of employees, teachers and middle class. While the employees of banks, insurance, railways, post & telegraphs, et al, are now under attack of the Centre's neo-liberal economic policy, the Left Front Government stands by the side of their struggle against the Centre's attack on their lives and livelihood. In and outside of Parliament left parties are only fighting against privatization and disinvestment, against job shrinkage and joblessness and against curtailment of hard-earned democratic rights.

This year about 17 lakhs of students (boys and girls both) appeared at the Secondary-Higher Secondary-Madrassa Examinations in the state. Besides, more than 10 lakhs students have been studying in the colleges and universities. They are the new generations, future of West Bengal. Today prevails in the state an atmosphere of peace and tranquility for carrying on their studies, timely holding of exams and publication of results in due time. Now the forces of opposition are trying to make foul this atmosphere. In the interest of this new generation it is essential to open up new opportunities for employment through industrialization and creation of newer service sectors. To enable them to get on-the-job training ,

projects for varieties of vocational training centres have been undertaken and also numbers of technological training institutes have increased. Separate universities of technology have come up. Many more big and medium size industries have come up during this time. Despite TMC's anti-development, destructive and negative movements, rate of investment during last few years has surpassed past records. In the last five years more than Rs. 35,000 crores have been invested ensuring employment for more than a lakh young men and women. The total quantum of investment in the state in 2009 is more than what were during the last two decades from 1991 to 2010. There has been a new spurt in information technology sector. More than a lakh young men and women are now working in this sector. In the interest of students and youths, the Left Front Government endeavors to make it great strides. Only last year export trade from IT sector has earned 6,500 crores of rupees.

Majority of the state populace comprises tribals, schedule castes and religious minorities. They are mainly backward section of people and live in villages engaged in work related to agriculture. They also constitute a major section of unorganized labour. Mostly, they are the beneficiaries of land reforms in West Bengal. Among 30 lakh families who have got share of vested lands through the process of land reforms, 20 lakh families belong to tribal-schedule castes and Muslim communities. Half of the 15 lakh farmers who have been recognised as share-croppers also belong to this section of people. They constitute the majority among who are getting the benefits of higher wage and other facilities in the unorganized sector. In this state, responsibilities of preservation of forests have been vested with the forest-dwellers. For this they get a part of forest-products. This system prevalent in North and South Bengal has no parallel in the whole country. As a result, forestry has grown up to 16.17% in this state. In North Bengal the purview of panchayat system has been extended to the tribals and Nepali-speaking people living in the tea-gardens. The state government has undertaken the work of supply of safe drinking water and electricity and of ensuring health services for them. Tribal and Nepali-speaking tea-garden workers have got lion's share of allowances and other facilities accorded to the workers of the closed tea gardens. The children of their families are availing of the opportunities for education. To prevent drop-outs the tribal girl-students studying in class VIII to class XI are provided with school dress and cycles by the state government. Muslim girls are also more and more coming up for education. More than two

lakhs boys and girls students appeared at Secondary exams this year, belong to Muslim families. Among them girl-students, number is more than a lakh. It has been possible to grant scholarships amounting to more than 250 of crores rupees to 17 lakhs boys and girls students. Only this state for the first time in accordance with Ranganath Mishra Commission's recommendations, reservation for economically backward classes have been put into effect. Among two crore twenty lakhs Muslim populace in this state, one crore seventytwo lakh persons have been covered by this reservations. For the educated and trained persons in the self-employment scheme, one lakh seventyfive thousand young men and women belonging to minority community have been granted loans to the extent of 400 crores of rupees. In 1976-77, the state government used to spend Rs. 8.50 crores for the welfare of tribals and backward section of people. But now this year 678 crores of rupees have been allocated for them. Today about 1 lakh 21 thousand old tribal persons have come under the purview of Government's pension scheme. In 1976-77 on account of Madrasa education Government expenditure was Rs. 5.60 lakhs, while now it has increased to Rs. 610 crores.

Lives, livelihood and rights of the religious minorities are best protected in this state. Here, in the name of castes' conflicts people of lower castes are not subjected to oppressions and repressions. This state is free from sins of untouchability. There is no caste-based discrimination in the political and social field. And this state is also free from communal riots. When there had been anti-Sikh riots in other parts of the country and also when Hindu-Muslim riots had erupted in other places as a sequel to destruction of Babri Mosque, this state remained immune to such communal holocaust. There has been riots in Gujarat which the state of West Bengal fled upon.

Owing to increased larger participation of women in the elected political and social bodies and their activities, there has been a significant progress in the socio-economic development of the women community as a whole. Now, of 1 crore 40 lakhs members of more than 14 lakhs self-employed groups, 90% are of women. Their own savings amount to Rs. 3.5 thousand crores, while the quantum of bank loan has surpassed 12.5 thousand crores of rupees. To protect them from the clutches of recently spurt lending agencies charging 150-200% interest, the state government have undertaken a subsidised scheme for providing them loan @ 4% interest. The produce of the self-employed groups of women are finding good markets abroad.

There has been significant progress in every sphere, such as, construction of new roads, bridges, fly-overs and sanitary toilets, development of wider transport network, better health services, transmission of electricity and supply of safe drinking water. Infrastructural development in North Bengal, Sunderban areas and Paschimanchal areas are taking place at a rapid pace. To develop communication link with far- flung villages, apart from work done by panchayats & P.W.D, about 1,000 kilometers metalled roads have been constructed up to last December under the Gramin Sadak Yojana alone. Work of giving electricity connection to 53 lakhs rural households to be completed by the end of this year is in progress. Similarly, work is going on for a Rs. 5800 crores-project for flood control and building of dams.

In the cities and adjoining areas, work for urbanization, development of satellite townships as well as for slum developments, Rs. 8800 crores-project under the Renewal Mission are going on in full steam.

Among all other states in the country, West Bengal tops in the field of supply of safe drinking water and construction of sanitary toilets. In the whole of country mortality rate as well as birth rate are lowest in West Bengal. In the rural areas, West Bengal stands third lowest in mortality rate of children while fourth lowest in mothers' mortality. In West Bengal about 73% populace get medical attendance and treatments in government hospitals, while in whole of the country, only 40% are provided with such facilities.

The main architect of these successes of Left Front Government is Left movement and its organizations and above all the people of the state. All successes finally depend upon the extent of peoples initiatives that are taken. Obviously, the fact remains to what extent the Left Front Government's cabinet and administration would be able to take initiative and play their respective role to ensure speed, efficiency, honesty, integrity, transparency and sensitivity in the work of successful implementation of the programme. In this work there had been lapses and weaknesses and lessons have been taken from it. Left Front is committed to carry on its uncompromising struggles against the hitherto noticed lapses and weaknesses, such as, bureaucratism, corruption, nepotism, self-conceit and ill behaviour with the people.

## The Programme

In the socio-economic state structure built up by the bourgeois-landlord ruling classes of the country, experience of running a Leftist Government for continuously 34 years is unique and unprecedented in the history of world parliamentary democracy. For this there was no previous experience. Newer experiences have gleaned while traversing in the uncharted path. To work in the interest of toiling people and for their benefits within the limitation of prevalent system the Left Front Government had to face challenges at every step. To uphold an alternative example, newer paths had to be found out. In search of this new path while significant successes have been achieved, temporary mistakes and weaknesses, too, impeded the progress at times. By rectifying mistakes and lapses, new moves had to be undertaken. Keeping in mind the goal of emancipation of toiling masses as constant guide, we have to carry on our strides taking along the people while taking lessons from the successes as well as problems faced and mistakes and lapses committed. Depending upon this understanding, West Bengal Left Front places below before the electorate a five-year programme and for its implementation, appeals to them to constitute the 8<sup>th</sup> Left Front Government.

### Three Main Objectives

- 1. Our main objective is to improve living standard of the families below the poverty line and to create opportunities of employment.**
- 2. In terms of Human Development Index (HDI) prepared on the yardsticks of purchasing power, access to education and health services, West Bengal has to be elevated to No. 1 position.**
- 3. Employment opportunities and income of 40 lakhs poorest families of this State has to be increased by expansion of agriculture, industry and various other services. And through it, direction of overall development of West Bengal would take its course.**

### To Achieve These Objectives

1. The programme of giving rice @ Rs. 2/- a kilogram, now in vogue, will be extended to all families earning less than Rs. 10,000 a month within a period of five years. Certain daily necessities,

such as, pulses, edible oil, sugar, biscuits, cloth etc. will be brought by stages under the purview of public distribution system. To prevent distress-sale by the farmers, the government will buy rice from them giving supporting price as far as possible. To supply cooked food to the helpless poorest families, purview of 'Sahay' (Assistance) scheme will be expanded. Food production will be increased at least by 25%.

2. While continuing the distribution of vest land among the landless peasants, at some portions of this land the Government will construct multi-storied buildings to provide dwelling accommodation to the homeless and landless peasants and also for their farming and animal husbandry. In the cities, similar houses will be constructed while carrying on implementation of the programme of allocating land for dwelling houses to the persons having no homes of their own.

3. By expansion of the schemes relating to job security, provident fund, insurance and other social securities meant for contractual labour, workers in the unorganized sectors and farm labour, all concerned persons will be brought under the purview of these schemes by stages. The quantum of and the number of entitlements for old-age pension, allowance for disabled persons and all other such allowances will be increased based on necessities. Firm steps will be taken to ensure schemes of reservations as announced in employment and education.

4. Universal free education up to class VIII will be further expanded. Government will provide aids to bring the present drop-out rate down to below 1%. Initiatives for expansion of adult education will be undertaken anew. To all girls students belonging to tribals, scheduled castes, other backward classes and minority community, allowances for school dress and cycles will be given upto Class XII by stages within a period of 5 years. Special steps would be taken to make the education including stipendary and vocational, employment-oriented.

To those students studying at Class XI & XII whose schools are located more than 5 kilometre away from their dwelling place, free traveling facilities once a day both ways by Government and Private buses will be provided.

5. Government will legislate and implement a Public Health Act for prevention and free treatment of such diseases that generally afflict the common men and women and that risk their lives, under the health insurance and other health security schemes to achieve the objective of ensuring rights of physical and mental health for all. To bring under this legislation emphasis would be given on the

importance of enlisting every poor family under the purview of Health Insurance Scheme. For this, an agreement would be made between the Government and Insurance Companies in the manner that the insurance companies would bear the premium amount to will be reimbursed by the Government. Highest priorities would be given for the nourishment and health of children and mothers. The task of setting up a Medical College and a Nursing College in each district will be completed by next 5 years.

6. The Government will constitute a High Power mission to ensure the completion of the scheme for supply or minimum need-based safe drinking water for every family. Sanitary toilets will be constructed for the left-out families.

7. Metalled roads would be constructed to link between large villages and the slum areas of the towns and cities. The other rural roads will be made metalled by stages. Alongside urbanization, for comprehensive development of continually increasing slums, a special Council will be created.

8. Every dwelling house will be provided electricity connections. Electric connections would be given to all pump-sets used in agriculture and charges will be reduced if electricity is availed of during the Government-fixed hours. At the same time, to fulfill the demand of electricity at every place including industry new electricity generating stations for additional 4,000 megawatts will be set up.

9. Steps would be taken to remove the impediments that still stand in the way of making easily available every government service including the aforesaid schemes to the people. To ensure the commitment to the people for it, multi-faced programmes of necessary administrative reforms, improvement of Ministers' work on the basis of their annual evaluation and use of information technology would be undertaken on the basis of advise of experts and specialists. Proposals and advices of the people's representatives have to be taken into cognizance by holding all party meeting at all stages by the general and police administration.

10. Allocation of fund will be doubled for the projects of development of North Bengal, Sunderbans and Paschimanchal including that of development for tribals, scheduled castes, other backward classes, minority communities, refugees and women. For the aforesaid people and areas, programmes for creating further job opportunities by direct practice and training will be undertaken.

## **In the Interest of State's Comprehensive & Overall Development**

1. Based on land reforms to increase agricultural production and productivity, intensive farming will be raised to more than 200% by adopting high scientific system of farming like SRI, use of quality seeds, bio-fertiliser and insecticides, expansion of irrigation facilities and preservation of rain-water and soil, etc. While ensuring food security, social forestry, diversification of farming fruits, flowers, spices etc., and their preservation, expansion, processing and marketing arrangements will be reorganized top to bottom. The state will be made self-sufficient in the production of pulses, oil seeds, milk, meat, fish, egg and other animal products. Recommendations of the State Agriculture Commission will be implemented and Co-operative movement strengthened.

2. Severe resistance notwithstanding, investment in industries during last 5 years has created a record in the last two decades. Now this investment has to be increased to the stage capable of creating additional 10 lakhs job opportunities. Initiatives would be taken fast to set up clusters of cottage, small and all other labour-intensive industries, to make them modern and competitive, to develop modern industries like that of information technology, bio-technology, petro-chemicals along with heavy and large industries while making comprehensive the success achieved in the meantime in this sector. While specifically drawing land-atlas, land-bank will be constituted for expansion of industries. Pressures on Central Government would continue to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The latest policy that were adopted on the basis of consensus for adequate compensation and rehabilitation on acquisition of land for industries, will be considered as a Model. Endeavours for revival of sick industries would continue.

3. Initiatives would be taken to make comprehensive and employment-oriented the success achieved in the urban and rural areas. Steps would be taken to fulfill the demands for bifurcation of large panchayats and creation of new municipalities. In respect of both the cases quantum and quality of employment guarantee schemes have to be raised. Notwithstanding fulfillment of target of constituting self-help groups, the women groups among them, will be provided with loan, training and necessary technology to integrate them with the agriculture, industry and service sectors. Assistance will be rendered in improving the standard and marketing of the commodities produced by these groups. Emphasis would be given

to help the unemployed youths to set up self-help groups. Their earnings have to be increased.

4. The work-relating to expansion of vocational and stipendary education would continue. Importance of raising the standard and quality will be stressed upon while expanding higher and engineering studies etc. Quantum of Government stipends for the talented but economically weak, will be increased.

5. While completing the remaining work of upgrading the block - level hospitals to Rural Hospitals, all primary Health Centres will be raised to at least 10- bedded ones. At every village-level there shall be arrangements of outdoor treatment of homeopathy, ayurvedic, unani or alopahy whatever that may be. Services of quality centres will be extended to newer sections. Under the joint auspices of government and private, work of rendering services would continue. Separate Health Mission for the cities will be established. Various programmes for taking care of health and nourishment of mothers and children would be implemented.

6. Priorities would be given in the improvement of all existing state highways and construction of at least four 4-lane national highways including North-South Corridor while continuing with the work of planned urbanization and building newer satellite towns. At least one hundred large bridge and fly-overs will be constructed. Initiatives would be taken to speed up the work of modernization of airport, expansion of air services in new areas and at least construction of one sea-port. Setting up of new electricity generation centre, elevation of overall generation and transmission system including that of non-conventional electricity will be speeded up. Transport system has to be reorganized lock, stock and barrel and if necessary, re-constituted. Priorities would be given in the development of infrastructure and expansion of services to North Bengal, Sunderban areas and Paschimanchal.

7. To protect the bio-diversity through preservation of wetlands and water-bodies, total improvement of environment will be ensured.

8. To ensure natural development of children and teenagers multifarious activities of the 'Academy of Children and Teenagers' will be well taken care of.

9. For implementation of these programmes total allocation including plan-allocation of fund will be increased by two and half fold for next five years. Financial discipline will be strengthened and further increased. Revenue deficits have to be brought down by stages. Special Cell will be created for speeding up maximum utilization and implementation of the central projects with the state's contribution thereto.

## Movements on Demands of the State to the Centre

1. The Left Front Government will carry on the ceaseless movements to project an alternative to the centre's anti-people policies and corruptions.

2. Struggles will continue on the demands of refund of 50% of total revenues collected from the states, reduction of debt burdens on the states, reduction of rate of interest on the due credits from small savings, and increase of debt- deposit ratio at the nationalized banks located in the state.

3. As the central projects encroaches in the subjects pertaining to state's schedule of the constitution, struggle will continue on the demand for handing over to the states the fund so far allocated to these projects, in accordance with the decision of National Development Council in 1989.

4. Pressures would be given on the centre to recognize as national problem the breaches caused in the river and littoral places, problems of draining out of water caused by flood occurring in the inter-state and inter-country rivers, preservation and comprehensive development of environment in Sunderban areas, improvement of navigability of Haldia port, etc., and to undertake the responsibility of rehabilitation of the people affected by river-breaches and to take steps to prevent such incidents.

5. Wider public opinion will be created so that centre plays the due role for the people who had to come to West Bengal and other parts of the country from Bangladesh after 1971 and the centre bears the responsibility of refugee rehabilitation in West Bengal.

6. Public opinion will be created to raise demands and if necessary, to pressurize the centre for ensuring the supply of coal, minerals and other raw-materials essential for the state's industries, electrification, setting up of sea-air ports, railways and national highways.

7. In the face of increasing attacks on federal structure and persistent centralisation by the centre, the Left Front Government will take initiative to prepare a charter of demands arriving at a consensus with other state governments, for reorganization of centre-state relations.

## Appeal to the People of West Bengal to establish 8<sup>th</sup> Left Front Government

- To keep peace, tranquility and democratic atmosphere undisturbed in West Bengal, a citadel of struggle for democracy in the post-independence era ;
- To safeguard the integrity and unity of the state by defeating the forces of anarchy, terror, communalism and secession ;
- To safeguard the hitherto achieved rights of the workers, peasants, middle-class and other toiling people of the state ;
- To keep unhindered the flow of alternative programme for the implementation of West Bengal's overall and comprehensive development, employment opportunities and pro-people policies ;
- To ensure calm, peaceful and healthy atmosphere in education, to develop healthy culture and to expand the sports activities ; and,

***To keep the State of West Bengal at the forefront of struggles against anti-people policies of Centre, defeat the Trinamool Congress-Maoists-Congress' unprincipled opportunist alliance and ensure the Left Front nominated candidates' victory to establish 8<sup>th</sup> Left Front Government.***

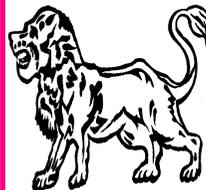
**Sd/-**

<b>Biman Basu</b>	Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Chairman, Left Front Committee, West Bengal.
<b>Buddhadeb Bhattacharya</b>	Chief Minister
<b>Asoke Ghosh</b>	All India Forward Block
<b>Debrata Bandopadacharya</b>	Revolutionary Socialist Party
<b>Manjukumar Majumder</b>	Communist Party of India
<b>Kiranmoy Nanda</b>	Socialist Party
<b>Probodh Sinha</b>	D. S. P
<b>Pratim Chatterjee</b>	Marxist Forward Block
<b>Subhas Roy</b>	R. C. P. I
<b>Sunil Chowdhury</b>	Biplabi Bangla Congress
<b>Manik Dutta</b>	Workers' Party

*In the interest of Agriculture, Industry, Peace, Democracy and Progress*

**To establish 8<sup>th</sup> Left Front Government**

**Cast your vote in favour of  
Left Front Candidates**



**And make Them Victorious  
In every Constituency of the State**

**March, 2011  
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