

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR POST-NANDIGRAM MILIEU (Item. 1)

Buddhadev Bhattacharjee, the CM of WB, is now a definite liability for his party. Does it mean WB should take this opportunity to dust off its CPM heritage? No, not quite that far simply because there is no other party in the horizon to take up the mantle of state governance. Congress is a weakling both in the national and the provincial scenes. TMC, a one person show, cannot be an organization by any stretch of imagination. The provincial BJP is not even an also run thanks to xenophobic personality of Tarapada Roy. Any successful attempt to dislodge CPM at this stage would be disastrous both for WB and for India in general. Had Congress been strong at the center one could weather such a possibility, but Congress is barely breathing out there. Losing CPM in WB would definitely threaten our secular design; the Hindutva force under the BJP rule would fragment India with her minorities in a serious peril.

I think Nandigram now provides a single most important opportunity to cleanse CPM of its own structural weaknesses. The current leadership has no idea of governance; I don't even think they understand Marxism either. They are arrogant; power hungry and are incapable of communicating with people – they need to be replaced as they are becoming irresponsible even by their own standard. The organizational machinery of CPM and its capacity to face genuine social challenges threatening the very fabric of our society need not be abandoned to winds, but from within its rank and file, a genuine leadership could now emerge to earn the confidence of people by dint of what they do and how they do.

Here are some **immediate suggestions**:

- Change top leaders. Most of them are zaminders both in their attire and in their outlook. They love protocol of exclusivity with no people-skill for communication. They are the epitome of bourgeoisie. We need leaders who are humble, down to earth, attentive and capable of relating to people. It's time these dinosaurs leave.
- Let CPM come down to people level the way early party leaders like Promode Dasgupta lived their lives for the sake of working class. Let them, henceforth, abandon stupid frills like sirened cars when they could take a bus like everybody else. Let them use only public hospitals when they are sick and need treatment. They must procure their daily intake from whatever their ration-cards fetch.
- Edicts of judiciary must not be ridiculed and frowned upon. Let us all work together to make "bandhs" by any party, by any group of people, for any reason illegal. Let us make "visual pollution" of sloganeering via wall-writings a criminal offence.
- A code of ethics need to be developed for all employees in the WB Govt. payroll, for all public sector officials, for all officers. A strict adherence to this document should be mandatory to all once a person is required to sign it owing to earning a salary in excess of some threshold level.
- Violence as a tool to enforce an ideology must be abandoned. It has no room in a rational setting.