

# **Popular Front of India**

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## **Social Justice Conference 26-27 November 2011, New Delhi**

Resolutions Adopted at the National Seminar:

### **Confiscate illegal Assets and Black Money Deposited inside and outside India**

The social justice conference of popular front of India urge the government of India to confiscate the illegal assets and black money deposited inside and outside India.

The recent disclosure of French government about 700 HSBC bank account reveal the widespread dumping of black money clandestinely in different foreign banks by the legislators, executives, industrialists and so on. In the light of 500 crore of black money deposits in Geneva The government shall initiate drastic steps to locate and book the culprits who amassed huge fortune by means of gratification and other nefarious modes. As part of the mission, the government shall constitute judicial commission with members of credibility, good conscience and impeccable integrity. The government shall also pursue to collect the “no assets, no deposits inside and outside India” declaration from members of parliament, legislative assembly, judiciary, executive and the like. This conference appeals to the government of India to release white paper on this accord besides confiscation of illegal assets and black money deposited inside and outside India.

### **Strengthen Lokpal Bill to catch Corrupt Companies, Media Houses and NGO.**

The Social Justice Conference expresses deep anguish and concern that the people who led the struggle for a strong Lokpal Bill have ignored the demand to bring corporate companies,NGOs and media houses with in the purview of the

Lokpal bill. The recent 2G scam and many other corruption cases have revealed that the corporate business houses have been active and willing participants in looting public money. In many instances they have been the biggest beneficiaries strengthening the suspicion they were the prime movers in many cases. They designed many plots to buy public sector enterprises for a pittance during “the exciting days” of disinvestment, bribed bureaucrats and politicians and ripped off the people in the process.

Many NGOs with lofty ideals and high-sounding names are the recipients of corrupt money as revealed in 2G scam. Their nexus with corporate bigwigs and media stars is strong. The electronic media which helped run the Anna Hazare Show have been caught red-handed in the recent Neera Radia tapes. All these entities work in public domain and take benefit from public money. The corporate companies are supported by public sector financial institutions while NGOs get government largess for development and empowerment programmes. The electronic media get large investment from big business houses. However, they are reluctant to be accountable and the so-called civil society groups are silent when this issue crops up. The media claim privacy and secrecy as they trample upon other people’s privacy and freedom.

In this context, the SJC feels that the provisions proposed by the government to put the corporate houses, NGOs and media houses within the ambit of Lokpal bill should be welcomed. They should be tightened to include big titans of business, media professionals and NGOs who benefit from public money.

The SJC also demands adequate representation of all marginalized and weaker sections of the society in the proposed infra structure of Lokpal in order to fulfill the spirit of true representative democracy.

## **Repeal the draconian Laws**

The Social Justice Conference of Popular front of India appeals to the Central Government to repeal the draconian laws of the country.

The state has armed itself with black laws such as Armed Forces Special Power Act, unlawful activities(Prevention) Act, MCOCA, KCOCA etc are irrational, unjust and against the rudimentary tenets of natural justice. These laws justify preventive detention, in camera proceedings, rejection of bail, persuade and extract of confessions by any method.

The successive political parties in power sanctified the de facto policy of Extra- Judicial killings by members of the Police Forces, the Armed Forces and Paramilitary Security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Tripura and State armed Police in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and so on in the name of combating terrorists, Naxalites, Maoists or Criminals.

The United Nations basic principles emphasize that the use of forces and firearms by law enforcement agency should be in consonance with respect for human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every one has the right to life, liberty and security. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life. Extra judicial killings clearly contravene the right to life. Hence this Conference call upon the Central Government to reform the criminal justice system and the penal code, beginning the process by repeal all special legislations enacted on pseudo-concept of combating terrorism, Maoism, Communalism which enable culture of torture and culture of impunity.

## **Parliamentary Scrutiny of Defence/Intelligence Expenditure Needed**

The Social Justice Conference calls upon the Central Government to make or amend such laws to make the parliamentary scrutiny of defence and intelligence expenditure mandatory. The country

is spending more around 164,425 crores for defence. In 2009 there was 21% increase in defence spending and it is estimated that by 2012 the country would have spend 260,000 crores for arms purchase alone.

It is common place now that a major part of the defence expenditure is spent on kickbacks, commissions and bribes .Of late there have been many cases of military men engaged in land grab and involved in corrupt practices. There are also allegations about the nexus between armed personnel and arms dealers. The arms acquisition has always been a great source of controversy in India. It is now well known that the defence purchases have been done without proper synchronisation between the three branches of the military and there is a lot of waste and corruption.

Scrutiny of the defence expenditure is hampered because of the exaggerated notions of national security and most often people in charge of defence do not like parliamentary oversight lest many skeletons jump out their closet. It is unusual that people's representatives get no opportunity to discuss the state of affairs in the armed forces.

Like wise there is a lot of opacity in the functioning of the intelligence services, their budget and their political and social views. The parliament does not have any opportunity to question the efficiency and usefulness of the intelligence agencies as they also take refuge behind the curtain of national security. We have many instances of the top bureaucrats of the intelligence agencies working hand in glove with the Hindutva politicians and spreading canards about Muslims, Dalits and tribals .

Hence SJC is of the opinion that new scrutiny mechanism have to be developed for parliamentary scrutiny of defence and intelligence expenditure and necessary laws are to be legislated to that effect.

## **Provide Right to Reject the Candidate in Elections**

The Social Justice Conference of Popular Front of India calls upon the Central government to respond to the public demand for

effectuating right to reject the candidate in parliament and Assembly elections.

The representation of People Act 1951 and its rules provide a detailed mechanism for contesting and voting at elections. The Govt. of India has framed conduct of election Rules, 1961 to provide the manner how votes are to be cast, and the precaution to maintain the secrecy of voting. But the present code and procedure do not accede to the desire of the public to reject the candidate. The election commission of India as far back as 2001 suggests the Central government to make necessary modification in the rules by providing a slot inscribing none of the above (NOTA) in the list of candidates in the electronic voting machine.

At present when voters feel disgusted and disappointed at nomination of undesirable and unscrupulous candidates and they abstain from voting, but are not able to convey their resentment effectively. The introduction of 'None Of The Above' on electronic voting machine would redress the grievances of the electorate to some extent. Therefore the Central Government shall immediately pursue necessary amendments to the rules providing a slot for NOTA (None Of The Above) in the voting machine in all future elections so as to enable and recognize the supremacy of the voters.