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To,
Shri Amit Shah Ji,
Union Home Minister,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India.

22-September, 2020

Sub: Rising threat to State and National security from terrorist and Maoist activity in West Bengal and consequent risk to free and fair elections

Respected Sir,

I would firstly like to convey my sincere admiration for the stellar work done by you as the Union Home Minister to keep our country safe and secure. Today, the citizens of our country are guaranteed protection from all inimical forces that aim to disrupt and negate the great progress made over the past 6 years under the BJP led Central Government.

Unfortunately, this environment of safety, which is so crucial to our progress, is under serious threat in the state of West Bengal. What is even more concerning is that these threats are not ordinary in nature and have the potential to put the security of the entire country at risk. On the 19th of September 2020, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 6 Al-Qaeda operatives from the Murshidabad district in West Bengal. Sadly, the presence of such terrorists in West Bengal is not a one-off occurrence. Over the past few years, there has been a rapid growth in the activities of notorious terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh in the State.

At this moment, it is not enough to remark just upon the presence of these terrorists in the state. It is equally important for us to look into the factors that have turned West Bengal into a fertile breeding ground for terrorism. The answer lies in the policies that the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has followed over the past 9 years. Firstly, the policy of overt appeasement by the TMC to retain its vote bank has enabled radical Islamic terror outfits to carry on their nefarious activities with little interference. Secondly, under TMC rule, West Bengal has seen the blossoming of the illegal bomb and weapon making industry, as the ruling party is dependent upon violence to maintain its position of power. This has once again enabled terrorist activity as the materials needed by them are already easily available in the state. Lastly, many Madrasahs, which are supposed to be centres of learning, have been turned into factories of radicalisation by these terror outfits. Thus, the TMC has, for its petty political considerations, put the security of our nation at great risk.

The second matter of concern that should be highlighted is the threat posed by the resurgence of Maoist activity in the Jangalmahal region. This year, on Independence Day, Maoists hoisted black flags in Jangalmahal after a gap of 9 years. There have also been multiple reports of Maoists putting up posters in the region over the past few months. This resurgence of left wing extremism in Jangalmahal is a major cause of worry. The people of this region suffered for years from the scourge of left wing extremism and to have

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them go through the same experiences again would cause severe harm to the future of the communities that reside in Jangalmahal.

The timing of this resurgence, once again, puts the role of the TMC in the spotlight. How is it that Maoist activity is suddenly on the rise in the run up to the Vidhan Sabha elections in West Bengal in 2021? Adding to these suspicious circumstances is the release of notorious Maoist leader Chhatradhar Mahato by the TMC Government. Mahato has not only been released, he has also been made a TMC office bearer. The TMC seems to be playing a dangerous double game of opposing Maoism publicly while enabling its resurgence privately for political gain.

West Bengal and its people are unsafe today, as the TMC would rather play politics than ensure the security of the people of the state. It is an open secret that the TMC government is neither capable of nor willing to provide the safe environment that is needed for the state and its people to progress and prosper. Additionally, this lack of a safe environment is not just a threat to our security but also a threat to our democratic rights as citizens. The unchecked killing of BJP workers by the TMC and the rampant violence perpetrated by the TMC in past elections clearly show that the TMC is likely to use these disruptive forces to ensure that free and fair elections are not possible in West Bengal.

This being the case, Sir, I urge you and the Central Government to take the most stringent measures needed to end these threats to our security and democracy. It is my strong recommendation that the Central Government should take stringent action to shut down the bomb making industries, the fake currency rackets, the smuggling operations and the factories of radicalisation to end the terrorist threat once and for all. I would also strongly recommend that immediate measures be taken to nip the Maoist resurgence in Jangalmahal in the bud before it causes unimaginable bloodshed and loss of life. Lastly, I would like to urge you and the Central Government to take all necessary steps to create the conditions required for citizens to exercise their democratic right to vote fearlessly and thus ensure free and fair elections in West Bengal.

Earnestly seeking your intervention to reestablish law and order, free and fair democracy, security and peace in West Bengal, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Dilip Ghosh
(Dilip Ghosh) 22.9.20

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