

# **CPI(M) Appeal**



**Jobs, Not Jumlas  
For Youth**

**17th Lok Sabha 2019**

Open unemployment among the  
**Youth & Higher Educated**  
has reached **16%!**

Unemployment in the northern states has reached **8%.**

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## CPI(M) Appeal to Youth

### **Quality education and decent employment to one and all – that must be the national agenda!**

Dear friends,

The Lok Sabha elections have been announced. 50 per cent of India's population is under the age of 25 years, 65 per cent is under the age of 35 years—the future of the nation is in their hands. So many promises were made to young people and first time voters by Modi in 2014. But his rule has become a tale of promises betrayed.

At such a time, the youth of India look towards the legacy of India's youthful martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad and Ashfaqulla who sacrificed their lives for the independence of India and for the development of poor and working people of India. The present regime had nothing to do with India's freedom struggle and therefore it is not Bhagat Singh, but Godse they seek to remember and worship.

The present Modi-led regime's policies, its theories, and its politics are all against the interests of the youth, against the interest of India.

#### **Where is my job, Modi ji?**

Who can forget the promise of 2 crore jobs every year that the Prime Minister had made? But the opposite happened. It is estimated that last year, 1.1 crore people lost their livelihoods, including 88 lakh women. Because of the disastrous economic policies and specifically,

the attack on livelihoods through demonetization, more jobs were lost than created.

Instead of providing the promised jobs, Modi gave chest thumping speeches in abundance along with free advice to sell pakodas! But in fact pakoda sellers were deprived of their livelihood by demonetization on the one hand, and anti-street vendor policies on the other. 'Make in India', 'Skill India', 'Digital India', 'Start up India', 'Stand up India' etc. are slogans to cheat the youth. It seems, the government believes public memory is short. So they change grand slogans every season.

There are so many different sources and statistics available on the actual picture of unemployment among youth under the Modi Government. All of them point in one direction- job-loss growth.

For example:

According to a leaked report of NSSO, unemployment rate has risen to the highest level in the last 45 years. But the government chose their favourite method to resolve the issue – suppress the data!

The Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) has found that unemployment has increased to 7.2% this year.

According to an All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) study, out of 1.5 million engineers graduating from technical institutions across the country every year, 9 lakh or around 60% remain unemployed.

The fifth annual employment survey (2015-2016) conducted by Central government's Labour Bureau revealed that 4 out of 10 Indians in the working age group do not get work throughout the year. As per the same survey 58% of graduates and 62% of post graduates are jobless. The government solved this problem quite easily.

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They discontinued the practice of conducting annual employment surveys!

### **Government promoting unemployment**

The Government approach has been to publicise manipulated growth rates to show how India has developed. However, it is estimated that even a ten per cent growth rate produces less than one per cent growth in employment. This is because, in the peculiar nature of capitalist path of development in India, services sector growth is the mainstay rather than manufacturing, and in services, jobs created are much less than in manufacturing for the same investment. No amount of concessions to corporates have spurred job growth. What did increase were profits. Business strategies of private sector and government policies are in the same direction - promoting 'jobless growth'.

The nature of jobs being offered to young people is also a serious problem. Having taken loans and suffering great hardship young people get educated hoping to find better opportunities. But what they get are only contract or casual jobs, with no guarantees of either minimum wages or any facilities. Hire and fire policies have made life a nightmare. Under the Modi Government the contractorisation of jobs in the Government and public sector, and even in education sector, has hugely increased.

For example thousands of young teachers in States across India are on the streets in protest because they are being paid one tenth of what they should get. They are named guest teachers, casual teachers, temporary teachers even if they have worked for several years.

Thus the Modi's anti-worker anti-employee, anti-teacher policies directly affect unemployed youth as changes in laws make those coming into the job market, very vulnerable to exploitation of a high degree. That is why we have a situation where 23 lakh persons,

including graduates applied for 368 posts for peons in Uttar Pradesh; or more than 2 crore young people applied when the railways advertised vacancies for less than one lakh jobs.

The Government has put a ban on recruitment, so lakhs of vacancies remain. It is estimated that taking the central and State Government together there are more than 50 lakh vacancies which go on increasing as more people retire and Government does not fill those posts.

### **Issue of reservations**

This situation deeply affects youth of the poorer sections who are eligible for reservation. This is because there is no reservation in the contract workers and employees. There is no reservation in the private sector. Modi has refused to pass such laws. Therefore, when the number of jobs in the Government and public sector decrease so sharply due to Government policy, then it means a virtual elimination of the right to reservation. Even where there is a backlog in SC and ST posts, the posts lie vacant.

In this context, the Modi Government's last minute attempt to assuage the anger of the youth by reserving 10 per cent jobs for youth of general category on the basis of economic criteria is totally flawed.

The CPI(M) has supported affirmative action for youth of economically exploited families across castes and communities. While we voted for the Bill in Parliament, the CPI(M) has strongly opposed the high economic limit of Rs. 8 lakh annual income and other assets for the eligibility criteria proposed by the Government. This will mean that no young woman or man from a poor background in a general caste family will benefit and the reserved posts will be grabbed by the more well-off sections. This is nothing but a jumla.

## **Skill India**

So many youth had high hopes that they would learn skills under the Skill India programme. There are supposed to be multiple courses and choices in the short term training programme. But what happened? According to the Government's own data as many as 28 lakh youth registered for short training courses. But over two thirds of them got no jobs. As for the one-third the Government claims got jobs, there is no data about where they got the jobs and whether it was at all connected with the skills imparted. Now the Government has publicized that one crore people will be trained. But if there are no jobs, if there are no opportunities for self-employment because the loans are so small, then this is nothing but a cruel hoax on young people.

## **Crisis in the country side**

Millions of families making their living from agriculture are in a great crisis. Rural distress is pushing out a large number of youth from villages. They are forced to live in pathetic conditions in the periphery of big cities suffering intense exploitation and intimidation. The dreams of rural youth from poor families lie shattered. When their parents and guardians have been so badly hit by the Modi Government policies, youth in rural India need strong affirmative policies, but that is absent.

## **Young Women Badly Affected**

Within the problem of unemployment, the situation of young women is particularly stark. Recent Government figures show that the unemployment rate for educated women (those who have completed at least secondary level) has also shot up. According to the NSSO it went up from 9.7% in 2011-2012 to 17.3% in 2017-2018 among rural women and almost doubled for urban women from 10.4% in

2011-2012 to 19.8% in 2017-2018.

Young women are excelling wherever they are given an opportunity, but Modi govt.'s policies have ruined their hopes and destroyed their dreams of economic independence.

At the same time, young women are facing an assault on the Constitutional right to equality and independence. Those ruling India today have an ideology which sees women as subordinate to the male. This is the Manu Smriti understanding which is sought to be imposed. The Government and the Sangh Parivar dictate to young women what they should wear, who they should speak to, who they should choose as their partners. If such dictates are not obeyed, then the young women face a conservative backlash, including violence and sexual assault.

The CPI(M) stands for the autonomy and independence of women and supports all movements to establish equal rights for women in all public places.

### **Communalism – using the youth as cannon fodder**

Violent communal organisations have had a free run under Modi Raj. We are witnessing innumerable acts of communal violence, police colluding with right-wing criminals, atrocities on Dalits and women, 'honour killings', increasing number of female foeticides and spread of obscurantist practices.

Job divisions in Sangh Parivar is such that several BJP ministers in the Centre and various states, Parliament Members and Party leaders regularly issue threats against minorities and the leadership remains silent.

Those who dare to oppose RSS's politics of hate are intimidated, assaulted and imprisoned. Pseudo-nationalists attacking true patriots branding them as 'anti-national' is the cruel joke of our times.

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Efforts are being deliberately made to exploit the frustration and desperation of unemployed youth by the Sangh Parivar. They try and deploy some sections into Gaurakshak Sena and many such vigilante groups. Moral policing has become rampant. Sangh Parivar youth are deployed to attack those who dissent whether on the college campuses or elsewhere. Sangh Parivar youth are also encouraged to make cyber attacks and troll all dissenters. In fact BJP-RSS leaders even follow such people on social media platforms. Efforts are on to brainwash young people with the toxic ideology of the Sangh Parivar.

The present ruling dispensation is hell-bent on spreading irrationality in every sphere. Under this regime, prestigious institutions like the Science Congress have become a laughing stock with calls being given to rename gravitational waves as 'Narendra Modi waves'.

Our youth are deeply disturbed due to lack of educational opportunities and unemployment. Rightwing politics feeds irrationality and hate to such youth and tries to turn them into pawns for hate based politics. But the youth of India have resisted all such attempts.

### **CPI(M) Appeal**

In the fight against the menace of unemployment and the ideological framework of hatred, communalism and violence, the most immediate step is to dislodge the Modi government which is the fountain head of such policies and politics.

India belongs equally to its entire people regardless of social or religious background. The CPI(M) will uphold this principle at any cost. We will tirelessly fight the perils of communalism and forge secular unity throughout the whole country. For patriotic youth who share Bhagat Singh's vision for India, this is the most urgent task today.

The CPI(M) is committed to policies which generate employment, which generate a social environment that promotes secular and progressive values. In these precarious times, increasing the strength of the left in Parliament is essential.

**Defeat the BJP, Save India!**

**Strengthen the CPI(M) and the left!**

**Ensure a secular Government at the Centre!**

The CPI(M) is committed to:

- The inclusion of the Right to Work as a constitutional right.
- Provision of jobs or unemployment allowance.
- Lift the ban on recruitment in central government and state government services. All vacant posts to be filled in central and state governments within a time bound framework.
- Draft a new National Youth Policy to address the concerns of the youth.
- Set up Sports Missions sponsored by both central and state governments to promote sports activities and training facilities for youth.

( from the CPI(M) Election Manifesto,  
17th Lok Sabha 2019 )

# **Vote CPI(M)**



**Defeat the BJP alliance**

**Increase the Strength of the  
CPI(M) and the Left**

**For an Alternative Secular Government**

March, 2019

Price : Rs. 5/-

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Published by Hari Singh Kang from AKG Bhawan, 27-29 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi-110001 on behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Printed at Progressive Printers, A-21, Jhilmil Industrial Area. G.T. Road Shahdara, Delhi-110095 (No. of Copies : 1500)