

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)

Central Committee

Statement:

Fight for Secular and Democratic Values!

Though the Constitution of India described India as a secular country, secularism in its real sense has never been allowed to percolate into Indian polity. It is being defined and practiced from time to time according to the narrow needs of the Indian ruling classes. Secularism is not neutrality, equidistance or allowing every religion to exist. Secularism means separation of religion from all the affairs of the state. The Indian ruling classes, their political representatives and the State headed by them never respected such a democratic value, rather they indulged in utilizing the religion to their political ends showing a clear bias towards a particular religion.

This has once again come to the fore in the context of Bhoomi pooja (laying of foundation stone) for ram temple. That the majority religious rituals are being performed at every governments' official function and on certain times includes those rituals of minority religions and it goes against the secularism as being placated as Indian tradition. This is being continued by Narendra Modi in his capacity as the Prime Minister as he performed bhoomi puja. It is nothing but making mockery of the secular values of democratic practice.

The performing of bhoomipuja by Narendra Modi has also other insidious aspects. The laying of foundation stone at the site of destroyed Babri Masjid, is being claimed as implementation of the Judgment by the Supreme Court. The same judgment which facilitated the construction of Ram temple at Ajodhya also proclaimed the destruction of Babri Masjid as the barbaric criminal act. Anyone who occupied the constitutionally elected post should have taken the steps to initiate legal proceedings against those who perpetrated the barbaric crime of destroying Babri Masjid. Instead the PM is hailing Lal Krishna Advani who led the mobs in destruction of Babri Masjid and who caused the death of thousands of innocent people during his rath yatra and carnage that followed the destruction of Babri masjid and rushed to lay foundation stone. Can anyone expect a different kind of response from a leader who sat at the helm of government that perpetrated killing of Muslim people in Gujarat in 2002!

The construction of the Ram temple has been entrusted to a Trust by the same Supreme Court judgment. This has been usurped by the BJP to serve its political interests and selected the date for foundation stone as August 5 to coincide with the degrading of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and putting it under virtual martial law. It brushed aside the objections of some Hindu religion heads like a Sankaracharya to the date of boomipooja as inauspicious, in a bid to install itself as the sole dharmacharya of Hinduism. Thus BJP proved that, contrary to its claims of protecting the Hindu religion, it chose to degrade Hindu religion as its handmaid.

The Modi led BJP government took this exercise when the corona virus is spreading to four corners of the country and his government expressed its inability to control the pandemic when

Modi asked the people to learn to live with the pandemic. BJP government used the Corona pandemic to cover up the all round crisis that is affecting the people's lives and to impose the burden of crisis upon the people and to serve the interests of big bourgeoisie and imperialism. In place of giving relief to the people who are hit by the pandemic, they have in fact launched further attacks on them while disregarding the need to improve health facilities. And now to divert people's attention from their all round failure, they have embarked on *bhoomi puja* at this very juncture. It is an attempt to divert the peoples' attention from the real issues emanating from the economic crisis and health emergency as well.

Moreover, this occasion is being utilised for larger aim of subverting the genuine struggles of the people of India and keeping the country safe for imperialist loot and continue big bourgeois and landlord rule. Communalism is being utilised for the last seven decades as one of the main instruments to subvert the united will and struggle of the people of India against the yoke of semi-feudal and semi-colonial rule. While the section of ruling classes of India represented by the parties like BJP are employing the naked forms to rake up communal hatreds, another section represented by the parties like Congress are employing the disguised forms in their game of communalism.

The Central Committee of the CPI (ML) appeals to the people of India to save the secular fabric that had been woven by the toiling masses over several centuries from being torn by the Hindu communal forces. They must adhere to the expert advice of the medical professionals in fighting the pandemic and not permit the BJP and its front organizations to exploit the people's religious sentiments for their narrow political interests.

Fight for Secularism; Fight for Democracy!

***Rally the people against economic hardships, social oppression
and for democratic rights!***

With revolutionary greetings,

Vijayawada
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Viswam
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CPI (ML)