

The People's Position of Indian Left-wing Forces in Epidemic Prevention and Control

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Abstract

As novel coronavirus pneumonia's epidemic spread around the world, it is difficult for India to be good. Prime Minister Modi announced the "seal of the country" on March 24. Adopting the "seal of the country" policy has undeniably achieved certain results in controlling epidemic and has also received active cooperation from all walks of life. However, the policy was put forward without a plan and its implementation was completely transparent, and the State Government, political parties, experts and civil society organizations were not consulted. After the implementation of the policy, the poverty and hunger of millions of people in India have been neglected, and there are no corresponding measures to ensure the basic living needs of the poor. India's left-wing forces, mainly the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism), actively participated in the epidemic prevention and control and adhered to the people's position as the fundamental position. The left-wing forces have always insisted on taking the people as the center and fully considering the interests of the poor people, both in their statements and claims on epidemic and in their actual anti-epidemic actions. They have fully demonstrated the Communist Party's feelings of taking responsibility for the people, relieving worries for the people and relieving difficulties for the people.

Keywords

Anti-epidemic in India, Left-wing forces, People's Position.

1. The People's Position of Left-wing Forces in Domestic Anti-epidemic

Kerala has the best anti-epidemic work in this new crown epidemic. As of May 25, "Kerala has 795 infected people, 515 recovered, 4 in death and less than 1% in mortality rate." [1] The state is in power by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the left-wing coalition dominated by the Communist Party of India. Without the support of the central government, the state independently fought against epidemic and won. It can be said that it is a model of anti-epidemic in India. The reason why the Kerala government led by the left-wing forces has achieved such great results in the anti-epidemic work is that it has adopted a series of people-centered anti-epidemic measures. First of all, strict prevention and control measures were taken earlier. Isolation measures in the region were implemented before the closure of the country. Schools and unnecessary workplaces were closed and all public gatherings were prohibited. Secondly, a large number of epidemic publicity and medical and health services were invested to prevent them as early as possible. Kerala has invested more in health than anywhere else in India, which is conducive to the public to keep abreast of the information and latest situation about coronavirus. In addition, the Kerala Government also insists on releasing new news to the public every day so that citizens can keep abreast of it. K. N. Harilal, a member of the state planning committee, said: "We have doctors, nurses and nursing staff in every village. Therefore, we have a strong team of medical workers to fight epidemic." Finally, Kerala's ability to slow

down the growth of regional epidemic at a time when the rest of the country is experiencing epidemic's outbreak lies in the state's strong grassroots democracy. The Kerala government has devolved power to the village committee, enabling the community to formulate plans to effectively deal with epidemic and implement epidemic prevention and control.

Epidemic is more serious in West Bengal than in Kerala. As of May 25, "the total number of infections in West Bengal is 3,459, recovered is 1,281 and death is 269." [1] The number of infections is increasing every day. Although the left-wing forces lost their ruling power in the process of changing the state, the left-wing forces are still very strong, and the left-wing forces, mainly the Indian Communist Party (Marxist), are trying to regain this lost territory. In this new crown epidemic, the relief programs of the central government and the state government have failed to take care of the vast number of poor people such as daily wage workers, returning workers, the urban poor, slum dwellers and rural agricultural workers, whose livelihoods are facing serious challenges. Faced with such serious epidemic in the state and such neglect of the poor people by the central and state governments, left-wing forces have launched emergency relief work in various regions of West Bengal, distributing emergency supplies to poor and vulnerable areas in extreme difficulties to help stranded migrant workers. Left-wing forces have also formed specific relief centers in the state together with mass organizations, arranged basic relief services in case of emergency, disseminated scientific knowledge related to epidemic, and formulated preventive measure to prevent infection.

The left-wing forces also have a certain mass base in Tamil Nadu, where the left-wing forces won seats. In the 2019 national election, the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) both won 2 seats. The state's new crown epidemic is relatively severe. As of May 25, "the total number of infections in Tamil Nadu is 15,512, recovered 7,491 and death 103." The infected persons in this state are mainly migrant workers from other states working in Tamil Nadu and Tamils who go out to make a living. However, the central government has not taken any measures to help these migrant workers, and the state has received only about 5% of the government's relief. Some charitable organizations and individuals provide some food in some areas, but this cannot meet the needs of thousands of workers at all. Left-wing forces stepped forward to help solve the problem of Tamil migrant workers stranded in Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka states. With the help of other social organizations, migrant workers have been linked to community kitchens and food rations and shelter have been provided to workers in need. Left-wing forces have provided dry food to more than 1,000 people and cooked food to 9,000 people in the state, 90% of whom are migrant workers from Bihar, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

The left-wing forces have adhered to the people's stand and carried out anti-epidemic work in these traditional states. Among them, there are some remarkable measures for the convenience and benefit of the people. For example, the combination of online and offline propaganda methods and community kitchens have really helped a large number of people and demonstrated the spirit of the left-wing forces in doing solid work and serving the people.

A combination of online and offline publicity methods. Since outbreak, epidemic, the left-wing forces have been sticking to the propaganda work. In order to better achieve the propaganda effect, they have adopted a combination of online and offline methods. Facing the new crown epidemic, left-wing forces such as the Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism) launched an online platform calling on the central government to solve the suffering of migrant workers across the country. Social media is effectively involved in publicity. On the one hand, it can petition and put pressure on the Government; On the other hand, it can attract migrant workers scattered in the state and all over the country to help them solve their difficulties. For example, in several states such as Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, online platforms have been fully utilized for publicity. The Indian Communist Party has also launched a 24-hour helpline, which works 24 hours a day and coordinates between workers and state governments

to help hungry people in the streets. Left-wing forces such as the Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism) went to villages and towns in various states below the line to explain to workers, farmers, the poor and daily wage workers how to change basic habits to prevent the spread of coronavirus, such as keeping distance, to wash your hands often, paying attention to cleanliness and hygiene, and covering their mouths with cloth or hands in cough or sneeze. These measures have really helped the poor people.

Launch community kitchens serving the people. During the epidemic, community kitchens were very helpful in solving the hunger crisis, which was successfully implemented in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and helped a large number of people. When Modi's government announced the closure of the country, hunger swept across the country, especially in extremely poor and backward areas. However, many government agencies have monopolized relief operations and even do not distribute food rations to the poor. Under such circumstances, left-wing forces such as the Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism), together with all other progressive organizations, set up relief work committees and launched community kitchens with socialist characteristics. About 10 people in each community kitchen are responsible for the management of the kitchen. The relief committee has made arrangements for rations and the work is completed by the community kitchen. In this epidemic disaster, this plan is really serving the people and considering the interests of the people.

2. The People's Position of Left-wing Forces in International Anti-epidemic

On March 26, 2020, the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) participated in a joint statement entitled "Take Immediate Measures to Protect People's Health and Rights" sponsored by the Greek Communist Party and signed by the Multinational Communist Party and the Workers' Party. It is emphasized that the new crown epidemic has exposed the anti-social nature of capitalism, once again demonstrated the necessity of striving for a socialist society, and demanded that all necessary measures be taken immediately to deal with epidemic on the premise of supporting and strengthening the public health system. The statement pointed out in particular that the bourgeois government serves the big capital and focuses its fiscal measures on supporting monopoly groups, which sacrifice the needs and health of the people for the benefit of capitalism. However, the bourgeoisie wants to shift the burden of the epidemic crisis to the workers and other mass classes. The workers and the people must take measures to resist and can no longer pay for it.

On April 3, 2020, Facing the global tension caused by the spread of the new crown epidemic, The Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism) participates in an international joint platform composed of 32 left-wing political parties around the world. He proposed "to issue a joint declaration on improving the medical and health system and the working conditions of workers, improving employment opportunities, and safeguarding the democratic rights and freedoms of the people, and called on all left-wing political parties and organizations to unite and work hard to realize communism and establish a world community free from exploitation and oppression." Noting that Novel Coronavirus, SARS in 2003 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in 2012 are increasingly demonstrating that capitalist and imperialist countries have created a world in which climate and environmental changes seriously threaten human survival, However, these capitalists only care about their own survival and do not care about the survival of the poor masses, which shows the depravity and incompetence of the entire imperialist world system. The future of mankind lies in the realization of a classless communist society and the establishment of a world community in which human beings and nature are not exploited. The Indian Communist Party issued a statement on April 15, strongly condemning US President Donald Trump's erroneous remarks. For example, "World Health Organization must be held

accountable for his mismanagement of the new crown epidemic and his failure to perform his basic duties. World Health Organization has done his best to allow medical experts to enter China, objectively assess the situation on the ground, and point out that China lacks transparency, epidemic could have contained it, and there is almost no death. "He also pointed out that Trump wants to use this as a reason to stop the share of funds provided to World Health Organization. This unilateral protective measure shows the nature of imperialism. In the fight against the epidemic, the United States did not adopt any form of unity and cooperation, but redoubled its deployment of its new Cold War strategy, trying to shift the responsibility for the failure to China, calling novel Coronavirus the "China virus". China has done its best to curb the spread of Novel Coronavirus among 1.4 billion people, while US media organizations have manipulated the public health crisis to undermine the legitimacy of the Chinese government and regard its political system as a threat to the world. U.S. Media have been widely criticized by left-wing forces such as the Indian Communist Party for China's response to epidemic's demonization, praising the Chinese Communist Party's people-centered principle.

3. Left-Wing Forces Criticized Modi's Anti-People Policy

Indian communist pointed out, "under bourgeois rule, profit indicators are the driving force. Under the rule of the working class, social responsibility is the most important." Under the capitalist rule of Modi's government and the BJP, in order to pursue profits instead of harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature, the country's public health system also aims to pursue maximum profits. This new crown epidemic reveals the anti-people policy implemented by the bourgeois government in order to realize the profits of monopoly groups in the process of serving large capital. For example, Modi's government announced a plan of about 2 trillion rupees (about 10% of Indian GDP) on May 12, but the plan only continues the privatization policy of six years in power more cruelly, serves foreign capital and domestic capitalism, and ignores the people affected by epidemic, such as unorganized workers and agricultural workers. The revelation of this fact by the left-wing forces is to let us clearly see the anti-people, anti-social and parasitic nature of capitalism.

The Communist Party of India pointed out that Modi's government not only failed to solve the urgent problem of poverty and hunger of millions of people in India's new crown epidemic disaster, but also focused on strengthening centralization of power and eroding the foundation of parliamentary democracy and federalism on which India's political system is based, weakening the power of state governments and depriving the people of their democratic rights. The new crown epidemic has provided new impetus and new excuses for this continuous anti-democratic act. Although the state government felt that its power was seriously weakened, it could only allow it to do so during epidemic. Only Kerala, led by the left-wing forces, defended its power. Although criticized by the central government for not following the blockade procedure, the state succeeded in containing epidemic independently. Therefore, Modi's government does not consider the specific epidemic situation of each state and blindly strengthens the centralization of power, which not only damages and destroys the rights of the people, but also is not conducive to the fight against epidemic.

The new crown brings not only viruses, but also an all-round impact on the current political systems of various countries and a test of the country's governance capability. India's central government announced the "seal of the country" without any plan. This policy first caused great panic among the poor and working class in the capital Delhi. The Delhi government is unable to provide food to those in urgent need. The government not only does not help these laid-off workers, but also violence against these poor people, depriving them of food rations and salaries to maintain their livelihood. Delhi's labor minister also refuses to talk to trade unions. It can be seen that this series of problems triggered by the capital Delhi have witnessed the

failure of the current governance of political institutions. Even so, the trade union still demands that the central government and the state government immediately solve the problems of workers and the poor, formulate the "Action Plan for Migrant Workers", and propose that employers should not be allowed to lay off workers and reduce wages, and that the use of force against hungry people must be stopped immediately. The left-wing forces also insisted on writing to the Delhi government to ask for relief work, but most of them turned a deaf ear. The central government's 5,000 rupees was only provided to construction workers registered with the Delhi Construction Workers Welfare Committee. The total number of beneficiaries accounted for almost 1% to 2% of Delhi's total labor force, and a large number of poor workers still did not receive substantial help.

Here, I have to point out the economic losses brought to Indian farmers after the implementation of Modi's government's policy of sealing off the country. Due to the interruption of market functions, many farmers cannot sell agricultural products at reasonable prices. However, the central government did not provide any additional support to deal with the agricultural crisis caused by the blockade.

Long before the novel coronavirus pneumonia attack, India is facing a serious unemployment problem, among them, the problem of unemployment in rural areas is more serious. According to the latest data from the Labor Force Survey (PLFS), "the work participation rate of men of working age in rural areas dropped from 82% in 2011-12 to 75% in 2017-18, and that of women of working age dropped from 37% in 2011-12 to 22% in 2017-18." This low employment rate is due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural areas, forcing a large proportion of rural workers to migrate to cities and towns to engage in non-agricultural activities. With the implementation of the policy of sealing off the country, thousands of returning workers are unable to go home and support their families due to lack of food and are facing unprecedented difficulties in survival. However, agricultural workers trapped in cities have also lost their jobs and incomes and are facing poverty and hunger. "A survey conducted by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on about 8,870 migrant workers stranded in a certain area found that 58% of them are temporary workers, 29% of the interviewees have no rice, 51% have no flour, 52% have no beans and 54% have no cooking oil." [2] However, the central government has ignored their plight and pain.

Left-wing forces criticized Modi's government for this anti-people approach, Without considering the vital interests of the poor, these toiling people were thrown into the industrial reserve army to compete for jobs and exploit and oppress them with the lowest wage. Migrant workers and urban workers are the economic pillars of the country. Without them, economic recovery cannot be realized and epidemic cannot be effectively fought. The Indian Communist Party strongly protested against the most inhumane and unhygienic treatment of agricultural workers by the central government in epidemic's early days, such as gathering them in unventilated places or even failing to provide basic facilities. Left-wing forces such as the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India (Marxism-Leninism) have put forward a series of specific measures to help the poor people most affected by epidemic. For example, it calls on the Government to announce the financial plan without hesitation and provide the necessary financial assistance to the State Government so as to have sufficient medical equipment for protection and treatment and sufficient food for distribution to all those in need; Take measures to help millions of returning workers across the country and provide convenient transportation for migrant workers so that they can reach their hometown.

Acknowledgements

This paper is funded by the Institute of Marxism for studying and implementing the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, Project No MYXS201916.

References

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