

MARXIST LENINIST PARTY OF INDIA (RED FLAG)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Cochin 4th April 2020

STATEMENT

Creation of 'PM Cares' sidelining PMNRF is against transparency and Federal Disbursements

Creating a separate fund called "PM Cares" to fight the COVID-19 pandemic instead of relying on Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), which at present has substantial unspent balance, is a move that blurs transparency and accountability as there is no clear provision for auditing. This new fund is designed to be handled by PM office and has only the association of two ministers as trustees, no provision for wider consultations regarding spending. It bears the signature of dictatorial characters.

Reports that a day's salary is being deducted from government employees, professionals, the armed and para-military forces as contribution towards this fund proves the above said negative traits. Similarly, as monopoly capital houses and corporate business get opportunity to fulfill their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations by contributing to this fund, huge sums are sure to be amassed. Without clear stipulations regarding spending according to any method inclusive of the federal character of disbursement of funds to the states, this new fund is yet another example of flouting the provisions of concurrent list that includes Health Care. The said flaws of this new fund will jeopardize the fight against the pandemic that is now a national scale disaster needed to be done with hand in hand operation by centre-state governments. This is all the more important as the resources of states including the GST payments have got depleted.

So, we demand that the funds collected under 'PM Cares' be transferred to the PMNRF with a view to keep transparency of handling and federal disbursement of funds providing amenities to the state governments for meeting the challenges of the fight against Covid 19 pandemic and saving people's lives.

Sd/-

MS Jayakumar

GENERAL SECRETARY

