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*Constitution
of the
Communist Party
of India*

ADOPTED AT THE
EXTRAORDINARY
PARTY CONGRESS

AMRITSAR

1958

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OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA
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PREAMBLE

THE Communist Party of India is the political party of the Indian working class, its vanguard, its highest form of class organisation. It is a voluntary organisation of workers, peasants and of toiling people in general, devoted to the cause of Socialism and Communism.

The Communist Party of India arose in the course of our liberation struggle as a result of the efforts of Indian revolutionaries who under the inspiration of the Great October Revolution were seeking new paths for achieving national independence. It was forged in the fire of the big class battles of the working class, which it led from its very inception. Linking itself with the rising trade union movement, organising and leading it, the Communist Party secured a firm base in the working class of India and created the first cadres of proletarian revolutionaries devoted to the cause of national emancipation and Socialism. It was one of the first organised forces to put before our people the aim of complete independence from British imperialism. It was the first party to raise the banner of Socialism in our country. It tirelessly strove to make our emancipation struggle all-embracing by giving it a correct social and economic programme. For consistent championing of the cause of Indian freedom, for leading the innumerable battles of the workers and peasants against exploitation, for carrying the message of Socialism to the working class and the people, the founders and members of the Party had to undergo long terms of imprisonment. Many had to lay down their lives for daring to serve the people. By its courage and self-sacrificing spirit, the Party attracted to its banner the best sons of the working class and the

peasantry, steeled in the struggle of the toiling millions, and the best elements from the intelligentsia.

Steadfastly serving the masses, courageously championing the cause of freedom, democracy and socialism, the Party has grown to its present stature.

The aim of the Communist Party of India is the achievement of power by the working people, the establishment of People's Democracy led by the working class, based on the alliance of the working class and peasantry, and the realisation of Socialism and Communism.

In furtherance of these aims and taking into account the immediate tasks confronting our people, the Communist Party of India strives to unite and lead all patriotic and democratic forces in the country in the struggle for defence and consolidation of national freedom, eliminating the power of monopoly capital, removing the grip of foreign capital, strengthening of national economy, all-sided expansion of democracy and liquidation of feudal survivals and the evil heritage of foreign rule in the economic, cultural and social spheres.

The Communist Party of India defends the vital interests of the masses, fights for steady improvement in their living conditions and struggles against social and economic inequalities. It fights against all obscurantist conceptions and practices such as communalism, caste, untouchability and the denial of equal rights to women. The Communist Party upholds freedom of conscience and stands for the protection of the rights of all minorities. It fights for the rights and welfare of the people of tribal areas.

The Communist Party of India is pledged to defend the unity and solidarity of India and its people forged in the fire of our freedom struggle. Fighting against all separationist and disruptionist trends and movements, the Communist Party struggles for balanced development of all regions, for equality and equal

treatment for the peoples of all linguistic regions as a sure foundation of Indian unity.

The Communist Party of India stands for a foreign policy based on the principles of Panch Shila. It fights for peace and peaceful cooperation between all countries on the basis of full freedom and equality of all peoples and nations. It supports the anti-imperialist struggles of the colonial and dependent peoples.

In the struggle for its immediate, as well as ultimate objectives, the Communist Party of India is guided by the philosophy and the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism which alone show the toiling masses the correct way to put an end to the domination of exploiting classes and the establishment of a Socialist society. It combats tendencies of revisionism, dogmatism and sectarianism in all their manifestations.

The Communist Party of India works out its policies by applying the theory of Marxism-Leninism to the realities of the Indian situation, taking into account India's history and its national peculiarities, as well as the best traditions of the Indian people. It formulates its policies and determines its line of action in accordance with the interests and needs of the people and is responsible to them for its decisions.

Working out its policies on the basis of concrete Indian conditions, the Communist Party draws on the rich experience of the International Working Class Movement extending over more than a hundred years, on the experience of the Soviet Union, China and all countries of People's Democracy, as well as of all Communist and Workers' Parties.

The Communist Party fights against chauvinism and bourgeois nationalism. It bases itself on the principle of proletarian internationalism and stands for fraternal relations and cooperation among the workers and peoples of the world. It strives to strengthen the unity of the organised Communist movement in the

common struggle for peace and against war, for the liberation of subject peoples from the yoke of imperialism, for the defence of the achievements of Socialism, for establishment of democracy and Socialism all over the world. The Party believes that cooperation and common understanding between the workers and peoples of Socialist and non-Socialist countries have a vital role to play in achieving the common aim.

The Communist Party of India strives to achieve full democracy and Socialism by peaceful means. It considers that by developing a powerful mass movement, by winning a majority in Parliament and by backing it with mass sanctions, the working class and its allies can overcome the resistance of the forces of reaction and ensure that Parliament becomes an instrument of people's will for effecting fundamental changes in the economic, social and State structure.

In cooperation with all forces working for Socialism in the country, the Communist Party shall strive to build a Socialist society which ensures rapid advance in all spheres and also guarantees the widest possible extension of individual liberty, freedom of speech, press, association, and the right of political organisation to all, including those in opposition to the government, as long as they abide by the constitution of the country. Socialism alone, by abolishing the exploitation of man by man, can create conditions for the full flowering of the human personality.

For discharging its political and mass responsibilities effectively and for leading the movement of the people, the Communist Party organises itself in accordance with the principles of democratic centralism. The principles of democratic centralism build the Party as a unified disciplined and militant organisation capable of moving its membership into action in any situation.

The correct observance of democratic methods and practice, the initiation and encouragement of organised discussion in the Party on current and important ques-

tions, the ascertainment of the freely expressed opinions of Party Members, constitute a vital responsibility of the leading organs of the Party.

Proper practice of democracy in the Party strengthens centralism which is essential in order that the Party may conduct the people's movement in a vigorous and unified manner.

The strength of the Communist Party lies in its ideological purity and homogeneity, in its firm links with the working class, peasantry and other toiling sections of the people, in its unity of will and action. It is the paramount duty of every member of the Communist Party to strengthen this unity continuously and at all times and on all occasions.

The Communist Party of India enjoins on all its members to place the interests of the Party above their personal interests, observe strict discipline and loyally serve the great people of our land. They must work hard to unite our people in the common endeavour to consolidate our independence, establish People's Democracy and lay the foundations of a happy, prosperous Socialist India.

Article I

NAME

The name of the Party shall be the Communist Party of India.

Article II

EMBLEM

The emblem of the Party shall be a crossed hammer and sickle in white against a red background with a circular inscription in white: "Communist Party of India."

Article III

FLAG

The flag of the Party shall be a red flag of which the length shall be one-and-a-half times its width. At the centre of the flag there shall be a crossed hammer and sickle in white.

Article IV

MEMBERSHIP

1. Any Indian citizen, eighteen years of age or above who accepts the Programme and Constitution of the Party, agrees to work in one of the Party organisations, to pay regularly the Party membership dues and to carry out decisions of the Party shall be eligible for Party membership.

2. New members are admitted to the Party on individual application and through a Party Branch on the recommendation of two Party Members. Party Committees at Town, Taluk, District, State or Provincial and Central levels also have the power to admit new members to the Party. Party Members who recommend an applicant must furnish the Party Branch or the Party Committee concerned, truthful information about the applicant, from personal knowledge and with due sense of responsibility. All applications for Party membership must be placed before the appropriate committees within a month of their presentation and recommendation.

3. The General Body meeting of the Party Branch shall decide on the question of admission and, if the applicant is admitted to the Party, he or she shall be regarded as a Candidate Member for a period of six months commencing from the date of such admission.

4. If a leading member from another political party of local, district or provincial level comes over to the Party, in addition to the sanction of the local Party committee or District or State or Provincial

Committee, it is necessary to have the sanction of the next higher committee of the Party before he or she is admitted to membership of the Party.

5. Members once expelled from the Party can be readmitted only by the decision of the Party Committee which confirmed their expulsion or by a higher committee.

6. Candidate Members have the same duties and rights as full members except that they have no right to elect or be elected or to vote on any motion.

7. The Party Branch or the Party Committee admitting Candidate Members shall arrange for their elementary education on the Programme, Constitution and the current policies of the Party and observe their development, through providing for their functioning as members of a Party Branch or unit.

8. By the end of the period of candidature, the Party Branch or Party Committee concerned shall discuss whether the Candidate Member is qualified to be admitted to full membership. The Party Branch or the Committee concerned may admit Candidates to full membership or prolong the period of candidature for another term not exceeding six months. If a Candidate Member is found unfit, the Party Branch or Committee may cancel his or her candidate membership. A report of recruitment of Candidates and of recommendations for admission to full membership shall be regularly forwarded by the Branch or the Party Committee concerned to the next higher Party Committee.

9. The higher committee may, on scrutiny of the report, alter or modify any such decision after consultation with the Branch or the Party Committee which has submitted the report. The District and State or Provincial Committee will exercise supervisory powers over the recruitment of Candidates and over admissions to full membership and have the right to modify or

reject the decision of the lower committees in this respect.

10. A Party Member may transfer his or her membership from one unit to another with the approval of the unit from which transfer is sought and by presenting a letter of introduction from the same to the new unit he or she wishes to join. In case of transfer outside the District or Province, approval by the District or the Provincial Committee concerned shall be necessary.

Article V

PARTY PLEDGE

All Candidates as well as full Party Members shall sign the Party Pledge. This Pledge shall be:

"I accept the aims and objectives of the Party and agree to abide by its Constitution and loyally to carry out decisions of the Party.

"I shall strive to live up to the ideals of Communism and shall selflessly serve the working class and the toiling masses and the country, always placing the interests of the Party and the people above personal interests."

Article VI

PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARDS

1. On admission to membership, every Party Member shall be issued a Party Membership Card.

2. Party Cards shall be uniform throughout the country and shall be issued by the State or Provincial Committees. Their form and contents shall be decided upon by the Central Executive Committee.

Article VII

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP CARD

1. There shall be an annual renewal of Party Membership Cards. Renewal shall be made on the

basis of a check-up by the Party organisation to which the Party Member belongs. No Party Card shall be renewed in the case of any Party Member who, for a continuous period of more than six months and without proper reason, has failed to take part in Party life and activity or to pay Party Membership dues.

2. A report on such renewal of Party Cards by a Branch or a Party Committee concerned shall be sent to the next higher committee for confirmation and registration.

Article VIII

RESIGNATION FROM PARTY MEMBERSHIP

1. A Party Member wishing to resign from the Party shall submit his or her resignation to the Party Branch concerned, which by a decision of its General Body meeting may accept the same and decide to strike his or her name off the rolls and report the matter to the next higher committee.

2. The Party Branch or the Party Committee concerned may, if it thinks necessary, try to persuade such a Party Member to revoke his or her wish to resign.

3. In the case where a Party Member wishing to resign from the Party is liable to be charged with serious violation of Party discipline which may warrant his or her suspension or expulsion and where such a charge is substantial, the resignation may be given effect to as expulsion from the Party.

4. All such cases of resignations given effect to as expulsions shall be immediately reported to the next higher Party Committee and be subject to the latter's confirmation.

Article IX

MEMBERSHIP DUES

All Party Members, full as well as Candidates, shall pay a Party Membership Due of one rupee per year.

This annual Party Due shall be paid at the time of admission into the Party or at the time of the renewal of the Party Card. (The Party Member's Dues may, if the Provincial Executive Committee concerned so decides, be realised in quarterly or half-yearly instalments).

Article X

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTY DUES

Party Dues collected from Party Members by Party Branches or Units shall be distributed as follows :

10 per cent for the National Council;

40 per cent for the State or Provincial Council; and

The remaining 50 per cent shall be divided among the District Council, the Party Branch and the Local Committee where it exists, in such proportions as decided by the State or the Provincial Executive Committee concerned.

Article XI

PARTY LEVY

The State or Provincial Executive Committees and the Central Executive Committee may fix levies on the Party Members in accordance with the guiding rules approved by the National Council.

Article XII

DUTIES OF PARTY MEMBERS

1. The duties of the Party Members are as follows:

(a) To regularly participate in the activity of the Party organisation to which they belong and to faithfully carry out the policy, decisions and the directives of the Party;

(b) To study Marxism-Leninism and endeavour to raise their level of understanding;

(c) To read, support and popularise the Party journals and Party publications;

(d) To observe the Party Constitution and Party discipline and behave in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and in accordance with the noble ideals of Communism;

(e) To place the interests of the people and the Party above personal interests;

(f) To devotedly serve the masses and consistently strengthen their bonds with them, to learn from the masses and report their opinions and demands to the Party, to work in a mass organisation, unless exempted, under the guidance of the Party;

(g) To cultivate comradely relations towards one another and constantly develop a fraternal spirit within the Party;

(h) To practise criticism and self-criticism with a view to helping each other and improving individual and collective work;

(i) To be frank, honest and truthful to the Party and not to betray the confidence of the Party;

(j) To safeguard the unity and solidarity of the Party and to be vigilant against the enemies of the working class and the country;

(k) To defend the Party and uphold its cause against the onslaught of the enemies of the Party, the working class and the country.

(l) To deepen their understanding of the noble traditions of the Indian people and their rich cultural heritage.

2. It shall be the task of the Party organisations to ensure the fulfilment of the above duties by the Party Members and help them in every possible way in the discharge of these duties.

Article XIII

RIGHTS OF PARTY MEMBERS

1. Rights of the Party Members are as follows:
 - (a) To elect Party organs and Party Committees and be elected to them;
 - (b) To participate freely in discussions in order to contribute to the formulation of the Party policy and of the decisions of the Party;
 - (c) To make proposals regarding one's own work in the Party, to get work assigned to themselves in accordance with their ability and situation in life;
 - (d) To make criticisms about Party Committees and Party functionaries at Party meetings;
 - (e) To demand to be heard in person when a Party Committee or any Party organisation discusses disciplinary action against any Party Member or evaluates their personal character or work in connection with serious mistakes which he or she is alleged to have committed;
 - (f) When any Party Member disagrees with any decision of a Party Committee or organisation, he or she has a right to submit his or her opinion to the higher committee, including and up to the National Council and the Party Congress. In all such cases the Party Member shall, of course, carry out the Party decisions and the differences shall be sought to be resolved through the test of practice and through comradely discussions;
 - (g) To address any statement, appeal or complaint to any higher Party organisation up to and including the National Council and the Party Congress.
2. It shall be the duty of Party organisations and Party functionaries to see that these rights are respected.

Article XIV

PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

1. The structure of the Party is based on, and its internal life is guided by the principles of democratic centralism. Democratic centralism means central leadership based on full inner-Party democracy and inner-Party democracy under the guidance of the centralised leadership.

In the sphere of the Party structure, the guiding principles of democratic centralism are:

- (a) All leading organisations of the Party Committees from top to bottom shall be elected;
- (b) The minority shall carry out the decisions of the majority; the lower Party organisations shall carry out the decisions and directives of the higher Party organs or committees, the individual shall subordinate himself to the will of the collective. All Party organisations shall carry out the decisions and directives of the Party Congress and of the National Council;
- (c) All Party Committees shall periodically report on their work to the Party organisation immediately below and all lower Committees shall likewise report to their immediate higher committees;
- (d) All Party Committees, particularly the leading Party Committees shall pay constant heed to the opinions and criticisms of the lower Party organisations and the rank-and-file Party Members;
- (e) All Party Committees shall function strictly on the principles of collective decisions and check-up combined with individual responsibility;
- (f) All questions of international affairs, questions of all-India character, or questions concerning

more than one State or questions requiring uniform decisions for the whole country, shall be decided upon by the all-India Party organisations. All questions of a State, Provincial or District character shall be ordinarily decided upon by the corresponding Party organisations. But in no case shall such decisions run counter to the decisions of a higher Party organisation. When the Central Party leadership has to take a decision on any issue of major State or Provincial importance, it shall do so after consultation with the State or Provincial Party organisation concerned. The State or Provincial organisation shall do likewise in relation to Districts;

- (g) On issues which affect the policy of the Party on an all-India scale, but on which the Party's standpoint is to be expressed for the first time, only the Central leadership of the Party is entitled to make a policy statement. The lower committees can and should send their opinions and suggestions in time for consideration by the Central leadership.

2. Basing itself upon the experience of the entire Party membership and of the popular movement, in the sphere of the internal life of the Party, the following guiding principles of democratic centralism are applied:

- (a) Free and frank discussion within the Party Unit on all questions affecting the Party, its policy and work;
- (b) Sustained efforts to activate the Party Members in popularising and implementing the Party policies, to raise their ideological-political level and improve their general education so that they can effectively participate in the life and work of the Party;
- (c) When serious differences arise in a Party Com-

mittee, every effort should be made to arrive at an agreement. Failing this, the decision should be postponed with a view to resolving differences through further discussions, unless an immediate decision is called for by the needs of the Party and the mass movement;

- (d) Encouragement of criticism and self-criticism at all levels, from top to bottom, especially criticism from below;
- (e) Consistent struggle against bureaucratic tendencies at all levels;
- (f) Impermissibility of factionalism and factional groupings inside the Party in any form;
- (g) Strengthening of the Party spirit by developing fraternal relations and mutual help, correcting mistakes by treating comrades sympathetically, judging them and their work not on the basis of isolated mistakes or incidents, but by taking into account their whole record of service to the Party.

Article XV

ALL-INDIA PARTY CONGRESS

1. The supreme organ of the Party for the whole country shall be the All-India Party Congress.

- (a) The regular Party Congress shall be convened by the National Council ordinarily once every two years.
- (b) An Extraordinary Party Congress shall be called by the National Council at its own discretion, or when it is demanded by the State or Provincial Party organisations representing not less than one-third of the total Party membership.
- (c) The date and venue of the Party Congress or of the Extraordinary Party Congress shall be

decided by the National Council at a meeting especially called for the purpose.

- (d) Regular Party Congress shall be composed of delegates elected by the State or Provincial Conferences as well as by Conferences of Party Units directly under the all-India Party Centre.
- (e) The basis of representation at a Party Congress shall be decided by the National Council.
- (f) The basis of representation and the method of election of delegates to the Extraordinary Party Congress shall be decided by the National Council.
- (g) The members of the Central Executive Committee and of the Central Control Commission shall have the right to participate as full delegates in the Party Congress, whether regular or extraordinary. Other members of the National Council shall be entitled to attend the Party Congress as delegates without vote unless elected.
- (h) The number of membership from any State or Province for which the Membership Dues quota to the National Council has been fully paid shall be taken as the basis for calculating the number of delegates from that State or Province at the Party Congress.

2. Functions and powers of the regular Party Congress are as follows:

- (a) To discuss and act on the political and organisational report of the National Council;
- (b) To revise and change the Party Programme and the Party Constitution;
- (c) To determine the tactical line and the policy of the Party on the current situation;
- (d) To elect the All-India National Council by secret ballot;

- (e) To hear and decide on the report of the Central Control Commission as well as on appeals;
- (f) To hear and decide on the report of the Audit Commission;
- (g) To elect the Central Control Commission.

3. The Congress shall elect a Presidium for the conduct of its business.

Article XVI

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council which shall be elected by the Party Congress, shall consist of not more than 101 members, the exact number being determined by the Party Congress.

- (a) The outgoing National Council shall propose to the Congress a panel of candidates.
- (b) The panel of candidates shall be prepared with a view to creating a broad-based, capable leadership, closely linked with the masses, firm in the revolutionary outlook of the working class and educated in Marxism-Leninism. The panel shall bring together the best talent, experience from all States, from mass fronts and other fields of Party activity and include at least two representatives from every State or Province.
- (c) Any delegate can raise objection with regard to any name in the panel proposed as well as propose any new name or names.
- (d) Anyone whose name has been proposed shall have the right to withdraw.
- (e) The panel finally proposed, together with the additional nominations by the delegates shall be voted upon by secret ballot, and by the method of single distributive vote.

Article XVII

FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. The National Council shall be the highest authority of the Party between two all-India Party Congresses.

2. It is responsible for enforcing the Party Constitution and for carrying out the political line and decisions adopted by the Party Congress.

3. The National Council shall represent the Party as a whole and be responsible for directing the entire work of the Party. The National Council shall have the right to take decisions with full authority on any question facing the Party.

4. The National Council shall elect from amongst its members a Central Executive Committee of not more than 25, to carry on the work of the National Council between its two sessions. It also elects from among the members of the Central Executive Committee the General Secretary and Secretaries. Those together shall constitute a Secretariat of six to eight to carry on the current work of the Central Executive Committee.

5. The National Council elects an Audit Commission to supervise over the disbursement of the Central Party finances and report on the same to the National Council and the Party Congress.

6. The National Council shall have the right to fill up vacancies in and remove any member from the Central Executive Committee or reconstitute the same.

7. The National Council shall fill up any vacancy that may occur in the Central Control Commission.

8. The National Council shall meet at least once every six months or whenever one-third of its total members make a requisition.

9. The National Council shall discuss and decide on the political and organisational report and other matters placed before it by the Central Executive Com-

mittee. The National Council may decide to take up any other proposal or question.

10. The National Council shall submit its political and organisational report and the report of the Audit Commission before the Party Congress, whenever it is convened.

Article XVIII

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Central Executive Committee shall direct the work of the Party during the period between two sessions of the National Council. It shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Council. It shall decide on any political and organisational question as well as on the problem of mass movements and shall guide the State or Provincial Committees. It shall submit a report on its work and discussions to the next meeting of the National Council.

2. Carrying out its responsibilities on behalf of the National Council, the Central Executive Committee shall perform the following tasks :

- (a) To convene regular sessions of the National Council and prepare reports and resolutions for the same and circulate them to its members at least one week before the date of the National Council meeting;
- (b) Guidance and assistance to the State or Provincial Committee;
- (c) Party press and Party publications;
- (d) Direction of work of the Communist group in Parliament;
- (e) Direction of the Party's work in all-India mass organisations (or mass fronts);
- (f) Party education;
- (g) Party finance;
- (h) Relations with fraternal Parties.

3. The Central Executive Committee shall meet at least once every two months, discuss and decide on the report submitted by the Secretariat on its work and discussions in between its two meetings.

4. The functions of the General Secretary and the Secretariat are to direct and carry out the current work under various heads on behalf of the Central Executive Committee. All members of the Secretariat shall devote themselves exclusively to the work of the Central Executive and shall function collectively with specific responsibilities assigned to each member. No member of the Secretariat shall belong to any State or Provincial or District Party organ. To handle the work of the Central Executive, the Central Executive shall set up such Party bodies and make such arrangements as are considered necessary. These bodies shall function under the day-to-day guidance of the Secretariat.

Article XIX

STATE OR PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANS

1. The highest organ in the State or Province shall be the State or Provincial Conference. In the present bilingual State of Bombay, however, the highest organ in Maharashtra shall be the Maharashtra Provincial Conference and in Gujarat the Gujarat Provincial Conference. In the Centrally-administered areas where the Party organisation are of the same Party status as that of a State or Provincial organisation, the highest organ shall be their respective Provincial Conferences.

2. The regular State or Provincial Conference shall be convened by the State or Provincial Council once every two years.

3. An Extraordinary State or Provincial Conference shall be called by the State or Provincial Council at its own discretion, or when this is demanded by Party Units which represent not less than one-third of the Party Membership.

4. A regular State or Provincial Conference shall be composed of delegates elected by District Conferences and by the Conference of Party Units, if any, directly under the Provincial Executive.

5. The basis of representation at State or Provincial Conferences shall be determined by the State or Provincial Council.

6. The basis of representation and the method of election of delegates to the Extraordinary State or Provincial Conference shall be decided by the State or Provincial Council.

7. Members of the State or Provincial Executive Committee and of the State or Provincial Control Commission shall have the right to participate as full delegates in the State or Provincial Conference, whether regular or extraordinary. Members of the State or Provincial Council shall attend the State or Provincial Conference as delegates without vote unless elected.

8. The number of membership from any District for which the Party Membership Dues quota to the State or Provincial Council has been fully paid shall be taken as the basis for calculating the number of delegates from the District at the State or Provincial Conference.

9. Functions and powers of a regular State or Provincial Conference are :

- (a) To discuss and act on the political and organisational report of the State or Provincial Council;
- (b) To determine the line of the Party and mass work in the State or the Province, in accordance with policies laid down by the Party Congress and the National Council and to suggest changes in the all-India policies and the general line of the Party;
- (c) To elect delegates to the all-India Party Congress;
- (d) To elect the State or Provincial Council;

- (e) To elect the State or Provincial Control Commission;
- (f) The State or Provincial Conference shall elect a Presidium for the conduct of its business.

Article XX

THE STATE OR PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

1. The State or Provincial Council which shall be elected by the Party Conference shall consist of not more than 101 members. The exact number shall be determined by the Conference.
2. The outgoing Provincial Council shall propose a panel of candidates.
3. The list of candidates shall be prepared with a view to constitute a leadership to meet the needs of the growing mass movement and Party activity in the State or Province or the Centrally-administered area but bearing in mind the general considerations under Section (b) in Article XVI.
4. The election of the State or Provincial Council at the Conference shall be governed by the same rules and principles as laid down in Sections (c) to (e) in Article XVI.
5. The State or Provincial Council shall be the highest authority of the State or Provincial Party organisation between two Party Conferences.
6. The State or Provincial Council shall represent the State or the Provincial Party organisation as a whole and shall be responsible for directing its work between two conferences. The Council shall have the right to take decisions with full authority on questions of State or Provincial nature but in conformity with the policies laid down by the Party Congress and the National Council.
7. The State or Provincial Council shall elect a State or Provincial Executive Committee of not more than 25 from among its members to carry on the work of the State or Provincial Council between its two

sessions. It also elects from among the members of the State or Provincial Executive Committee a Secretariat of seven or nine including the Secretary to carry on the current work of the Executive Committee.

8. The State or Provincial Council shall have the right to fill up vacancies in or remove any member from the State or Provincial Executive Committee or reconstitute the same.

9. The State or Provincial Council shall fill up any vacancy that may occur in the Provincial Control Commission.

10. The State or Provincial Council shall meet at least once in four months or earlier if one-third of its members make a requisition.

11. The State or Provincial Council shall discuss and act on the political and organisational reports and other matters placed before it by the State or Provincial Committee. The Council may take up any other matter.

12. The State or Provincial Council shall elect an Audit Commission to supervise over the disbursement of Provincial Party finances and to report on the same to the State or Provincial Council and Conference.

Article XXI

STATE OR PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The State or Provincial Committee shall direct the work of the State or Provincial Party organs during the period between two sessions of the State or Provincial Council. It shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions and the directives of the State or Provincial Council. It shall decide on any political and organisational questions as well as on the problems of mass movement and shall guide the District Committees and shall report on the same to the Provincial Council.

2. To carry out these responsibilities on behalf of

the State or Provincial Council, the State or Provincial Executive Committee shall perform the following tasks:

- (a) To convene regular meetings of the State or Provincial Council and prepare reports and resolutions for the same;
- (b) Guidance and assistance to the District Committees;
- (c) State or Provincial Party press and Party publications;
- (d) Direction of the work of the members of the State legislature, regional councils, municipalities and other local bodies;
- (e) Direction of the Party's work in the mass organisations;
- (f) Party education;
- (g) Party finance.

3. The State or Provincial Executive Committee shall normally meet once every two months.

4. The functions of the Secretary and the Secretariat are to direct and carry out the current work under the various heads on behalf of the State or the Provincial Executive Committee, all members of the Secretariat shall devote themselves exclusively to the work of the State or Provincial Executive Committee and shall function collectively with specific responsibility assigned to each of them. To handle the work of the State or the Provincial Executive, the State or the Provincial Executive Committee shall set up such Party bodies and make such arrangements as are considered necessary. These bodies shall function under the day-to-day guidance of the Secretariat.

5. Some State and Provincial organisations may be exempted by the National Council from forming State or Provincial Councils. In such cases, the State or Provincial Conferences shall elect State or Provincial Committees to carry on the work of the Party between two Conferences. The State or Provincial

Committees shall elect a Secretary and a Secretariat to carry on the current work.

Article XXII

DISTRICT PARTY ORGANS

1. The highest organ in a District shall be the District Party Conference.

2. A District Party Conference shall be convened by the District Council once every two years.

3. An Extraordinary District Conference shall be called by the District Council at its own discretion, or when demanded by Party Units which represent not less than one-third of the total membership, subject to the approval of the State or Provincial Executive Committee.

4. A regular District Party Conference shall be composed of delegates elected by Branch Conferences or by Conferences of the local intermediary units where such units exist.

5. The basis of representation at the District Conference shall be determined by the District Council.

6. The basis of representation and method of electing delegates to the Extraordinary District Conference shall be decided by the District Council.

7. Members of the District Executive Committee shall have the right to participate as full delegates to the District Conference, both regular as well as extraordinary. Members of the District Council shall attend the Conference as delegates without vote unless elected.

8. The number of membership from any Branch or local organisation for which the Party Membership Dues quota to the District Council has been fully paid shall be taken as the basis for calculating the number of delegates from the Branch or the local unit for the District Conference.

9. Functions and powers of a regular District Conference are :

- (a) To discuss and act on the report of the District Council;
- (b) To determine the line of the Party and mass work in the District in conformity with the decisions of the higher Party organs;
- (c) To elect a District Council;
- (d) To elect delegates to the State or Provincial Conference.

10. The District Council shall be elected by the District Conference. The exact number of members shall be decided by the District Conference.

11. The election to the District Council shall be governed by the same rules as laid down in Sections (c) to (f) of Article XVI.

Article XXIII

DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. The District Council shall be the highest authority in the District between two District Conferences.

2. The District Council shall represent the District organisation as a whole and direct the entire work of the Party between two District Conferences.

3. The Council shall have the full right to take decisions concerning the work of the District Party organisation but in conformity with the line of the Party and decisions of the higher Party organs.

4. The District Council shall elect a District Executive Committee from among its members to carry on the work of the Party between two sessions of the District Council. The number of the District Executive Committee is decided by the District Council. It also elects from among the members of the Executive Committee a Secretariat including a Secretary to carry on the current work of the Executive Committee.

5. The District Council shall have the right to fill up vacancies in and remove any member from the

District Executive Committee and to reconstitute the same.

6. The District Council shall meet as frequently as the Council may decide.

7. The District Council shall discuss and act on the political and organisational report and other matters placed before it by the District Executive Committee. The Council may take up any other matter.

8. The District Council shall elect an Audit Commission to supervise over the disbursement of District Party finances and to report on the same to the District Council and Conference.

Article XXIV

THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The District Executive Committee shall direct the work of the District Party organisation during the period between the two sessions of the District Council. It shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions and directives of the District Council and higher Party organs.

2. It shall decide on political and organisational questions affecting its work within the District and shall guide the lower committees. The responsibilities of the District Executive Committee shall be discharged in conformity with the decisions of the District Council and higher Party organs.

3. The responsibilities of the District Committee shall include :

- (a) To convene regular meetings of the District Council and prepare reports and resolutions for the same;
- (b) To check up the work of the lower units;
- (c) Guidance and practical assistance to the mass organisations;
- (d) Circulation of Party journals and Party literature;

- (e) Direction of Party members' work in the municipalities and local bodies;
- (f) District finance;
- (g) Organisation of District Party school and Party education.

4. The District Secretariat shall be responsible for looking after the work of the District Centre.

5. If any State or Provincial Council or in its absence the State or Provincial Executive Committee so decides, any District organisation may be exempted from forming the District Council. In all such cases the District Conferences shall elect District Committees to carry on the work of the Party between two Conferences. The District Committees shall elect a Secretary and a Secretariat to carry on the current work.

Article XXV

INTERMEDIATE PARTY ORGANS

1. Between the Branch and District Committee, there may be formed an intermediary local Party organ such as Taluka, Sub-Division, Tehsil or Town Committee when the State or Provincial Council so decides.

2. The highest organ of such a local unit or local organ shall be the Local Conference consisting of the delegates elected by the Conferences of the Branches in the area. The members of the Local Committee shall have the right to participate as full delegates in the Conference.

3. The Conference of the local Units, in the Taluks, Sub-Division, Tehsil or Town shall elect a Local Committee and delegates to the District Conference. It shall elect a Taluka, Sub-Division or Tehsil or Town Council if the State or Provincial Executive Committee so decides.

4. The Local Committee will be responsible for the conduct of the work of the area concerned and for

the coordination of the work of the Party Branches directly under it.

5. The Local Committee shall elect its own Secretary, and subject to the decision of the State or Provincial Executive Committee, a Secretariat.

6. The Local Committee will report on its work to the District Executive Committee once every month.

7. The Local Committee will meet at least once a month.

8. The Local Committee shall work under the direction of the District Executive Committee and shall help the District Executive Committee in maintaining close contact with Party Branches.

Article XXVI

PRIMARY UNIT

1. The primary unit of the Party shall be the Party Branch.

2. The highest organ of the primary unit shall be the General Body meeting of the Party Branch.

3. The Party Branch shall be responsible for maintaining direct day-to-day contact with the masses and for organising Party activity in its sphere.

4. The Party Branch shall discuss all questions regarding its work and mass activity and take necessary practical decisions.

5. The membership of a Branch may be divided into Groups of convenient size. Each Group shall have its own convenor.

6. The function of the Group shall be to distribute and check up the work of individuals. Where necessary for facilitating political discussion in the Branch, preliminary discussions may be organised in the Groups.

7. The Party Branch is organised on the basis of the village, panchayat, municipal ward, street, mohalla, industry, individual factory, occupation and institutions. The maximum membership of the Branch shall be fixed by the State or Provincial Executive Committee.

8. Functions of the Branch are :

- (a) To carry out the directions of the higher committee;
- (b) To win masses in its locality or sphere of activity for the political and organisational decisions of the Party;
- (c) To build up and participate in mass organisations in its locality or sphere of activity;
- (d) Sale of Party journals and publications;
- (e) Collection of Party Membership Dues and Party finances;
- (f) To draw in sympathisers and militants into the Party and educate them and to help illiterate Party Members to become literate;
- (g) To help higher committees in day-to-day organisational and agitational work.

9. The Branch at a General Body meeting shall elect a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary to conduct its current work and, where membership of the Branch exceeds 25 persons, it shall elect a Branch Committee including its Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

10. The General Body of the Branch shall meet at least once a month at which the Branch Committee or the Branch Secretary shall submit a report of the work done and its proposals.

11. The General Body of the Branch shall elect delegates to the Party Conference of the Party organ immediately above.

12. The Secretary of the Branch Committee shall submit to the next higher Committee and to the District Committee every two months a report on the new Candidate and full Members enrolled by it.

13. Where necessary a Party Member, besides being a member of a Branch in his own place of work or residence may also be attached as an associate member to the unit of his place of residence or work as the case may be, without the right to vote.

Article XXVII

CENTRAL CONTROL COMMISSION

1. There shall be a Central Control Commission elected by the Party Congress. The number of members of the Central Control Commission shall be determined by the Party Congress.

2. The National Council shall propose a panel of names for the Central Control Commission to the Party Congress. In proposing the names for nomination, the Party standing of the candidate, which shall not be less than ten years, and his experience in Party organisation and personal integrity shall be taken into account.

3. The procedure of election shall be the same as in the case of the National Council.

4. The Central Control Commission shall elect its own Chairman who shall, by right, attend the meeting of the Central Executive Committee. All members of the Central Control Commission shall by right attend the meetings of the National Council.

5. The Central Control Commission shall take up:

- (a) Cases referred to it by the Central Executive Committee or the Secretariat;
- (b) Cases where disciplinary action has been taken by the State or Provincial Executive Committee or the State or Provincial Council;
- (c) Cases involving expulsion from the Party decided upon by any Party Unit against which an appeal has been made by the comrade concerned;
- (d) Cases against which an appeal has been made to the State or Provincial Control Commission and rejected.

6. The decision of the Central Control Commission shall be ordinarily final. The Central Executive Committee may by two-thirds majority stay the imple-

mentation of a decision of the Central Control Commission, who shall refer it at the first available opportunity to the National Council for final decision.

7. In all cases there shall, however, be the right to appeal to the Party Congress.

Article XXVIII

STATE OR PROVINCIAL CONTROL COMMISSIONS

1. There shall be a State or Provincial Control Commission elected by the State or Provincial Conference. The number of members for the State or Provincial Control Commission shall be decided by the Provincial Conference.

2. The guiding principles for proposing candidates shall be the same as in the case of the Central Control Commission.

3. The State or Provincial Control Commission shall elect its Chairman who shall by right attend the meeting of the State or Provincial Executive Committee. All members of the State or Provincial Control Commission shall by right attend the meeting of the State or Provincial Council.

4. The State or Provincial Control Commission shall take up :

- (a) Cases referred to it by the State or the Provincial Executive Committee or its Secretariat.
- (b) Cases where disciplinary action has been taken up by the District Committee or the District Council.
- (c) Cases involving expulsion from the Party decided upon by any Party Unit against which an appeal has been made by the comrade concerned.

5. The decisions of the State or Provincial Control Commission shall be ordinarily final. The State or

Provincial Executive Committee may by two-thirds majority stay the implementation of the decision of the State or Provincial Control Commission and shall refer it immediately to the Central Control Commission or to the State or Provincial Council.

Article XXIX

PARTY DISCIPLINE

1. Discipline is indispensable for preserving and strengthening the unity of the Party, for enhancing its strength, its fighting ability and its prestige, and for enforcing the principles of democratic centralism. Without strict adherence to Party discipline, the Party cannot lead the masses in struggle and actions, nor discharge its responsibility towards them.

2. Discipline is based on conscious acceptance of the aims, the Programme and the policies of the Party. All members of the Party are equally bound by Party discipline irrespective of their status in the Party organisation or in public life.

3. Violation of Party Constitution and decisions of the Party as well as any other action and behaviour unworthy of a member of the Communist Party shall constitute a breach of Party discipline and are liable to disciplinary actions.

4. The disciplinary actions are :

- (a) Warning;
- (b) Censure;
- (c) Public censure;
- (d) Removal from the post held in the Party;
- (e) Suspension from full Party membership for any period but not exceeding one year;
- (f) Removal from the Party rolls;
- (g) Expulsion.

5. Disciplinary action shall normally be taken where other methods, including methods of persuasion,

have failed to correct the comrade concerned. But even where disciplinary measures have been taken, the efforts to help the comrade to correct himself shall continue. In cases where the breach of discipline is such that it warrants an immediate disciplinary measure to protect the interests of the Party or its prestige, the disciplinary action shall be taken promptly.

6. Expulsion from the Party is the severest of all disciplinary measures and this shall be applied with utmost caution, deliberation and judgement.

7. No disciplinary measure involving expulsion or suspension of a Party Member shall come into effect without confirmation by the next higher committee. In case of suspension or expulsion, the penalised Party Member shall, however, be removed from the responsible post that he or she may hold pending confirmation.

8. The comrade against whom a disciplinary measure is proposed shall be fully informed of the allegations, charges and other relevant facts against him or her. He or she shall have the right to be heard in person by the Party Unit in which his or her case is discussed.

9. Party Members found to be strike-breakers, habitual drunkards, moral degenerates, betrayers of Party confidence, guilty of financial irregularities, or members whose actions are detrimental to the Party and the working class, shall be dealt with by the Party Units to which they belong and be liable to disciplinary action.

10. There shall be right of appeal in all cases of disciplinary action.

11. The State or Provincial Council or in their absence the State or Provincial Executive Committee has the right to dissolve or take disciplinary action against a lower committee in cases where a persistent defiance of Party decisions and policy, serious factionalism, or a breach of Party discipline is involved.

Article XXX

PARTY MEMBERS IN ELECTED PUBLIC BODIES

1. Party Members elected to Parliament, the State Legislature or Administrative Council shall constitute themselves into a Party group and function under the appropriate Party Committee in strict conformity with the line of the Party, its policies and directives.

2. The Communist legislators shall unswervingly defend the interests of the people. Their work in the Legislature shall reflect the mass movement and they shall uphold and popularise the policies of the Party.

The legislative work of the Communist legislators shall be closely combined with the activity of the Party outside and mass movements and it shall be the duty of all Communist legislators to help build the Party and mass organisations.

3. The Communist legislators shall maintain the closest possible contact with their electors and masses, keeping them duly informed of their legislative work and constantly seeking their suggestions and advice.

4. The Communist legislators shall maintain a high standard of personal integrity, lead an unostentatious life and display humility in all their dealings and contact with the people and place the Party above self.

5. Communist legislators shall pay regularly and without default a levy on their earnings fixed by the appropriate Party Committee. These Party levies shall be the first charge on their earnings.

6. Party Members elected to corporations, municipalities, local bodies and gram-panchayats shall function under the appropriate Party Committee or Party Branch. They shall maintain close day-to-day contacts with their electors and the masses and defend their interests in such elected bodies. They shall make regular reports on their work to the electors and the people and seek their suggestions and advice. The work

in such local bodies shall be combined with intense mass activity outside.

7. All nominations of Party candidates for election to Parliament shall be subject to approval by the Central Executive Committee.

Nominations of Party candidates to the State Legislatures or the Councils of Centrally-administered areas shall be finalised and announced by the State or the Provincial Executive Committee concerned.

Rules governing the nomination of Party candidates for corporation, municipalities, district boards, local boards and panchayats shall be drawn up by State or Provincial Councils, or in their absence by the State or Provincial Executive Committees.

Article XXXI

INNER-PARTY DISCUSSIONS

1. To unify the Party and for evolving its mass line inner-Party discussion shall be a regular feature of Party life. Such discussion shall be organised on an all-India scale or at different levels of the Party organisation depending on the nature of the issues.

2. Inner-Party discussion shall be organised :

(a) On important questions of all-India or State or Provincial importance where immediate decision is not necessary, by the Central or the State or Provincial organ of the Party as the case may be, before the decision is taken;

(b) Where over an important question of Party policy, there is not sufficient firm majority inside the National Council or in the State or the Provincial Council;

(c) When an inner-Party discussion on an all-India scale is demanded by a number of State or Provincial organisations representing one-third of the total Party membership or at the

Provincial level by District organisations representing the same proportion of the total membership of the State or Province concerned.

3. Inner-Party discussion shall be concluded under the guidance of the National or the State or Provincial Council which shall formulate the issues under discussion. The Party Committee which guides the discussion shall lay down the manner in which the discussion shall be conducted.

Article XXXII

DISCUSSION PREPARATORY TO PARTY CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES

1. Two months before the Party Congress, the National Council will release draft resolutions for discussion by all units of the Party. Amendments to the resolutions, will be sent directly to the Central Executive Committee to be assorted and placed before the Party Congress.

2. The meeting of the National Council which circulates documents for the Party Congress will take place after the State or Provincial Conferences are over.

3. At each level, the Conference shall take place on the basis of reports and resolutions submitted by the respective committees.

Article XXXIII

PARTY MEMBERS WORKING IN MASS ORGANISATIONS

Party Members working in mass organisations and their executives shall work in an organised manner under the guidance of the appropriate Party Committee. They must always strive to strengthen the unity, mass-basis and fighting capacity of the mass organisations concerned.

Article XXXIV

BYE-LAWS

The National Council may frame rules and bye-laws under the Party Constitution and in conformity with it. Rules and bye-laws under the Party Constitution and in conformity with it may also be framed by the State or Provincial Councils subject to confirmation by the National Council.

Article XXXV

AMENDMENT

The Party Constitution shall be amended only by the Party Congress or in cases of emergency by the National Council by a two-thirds majority. In either case the notice of proposals for amending the Constitution shall be given two months before the said Party Congress or National Council meets.