

# CONSTITUTION OF THE CPI (M-L) ADOPTED AT THE FIRST PARTY CONGRESS, HELD IN MAY 1970

## CHAPTER—1

### GENERAL PROGRAMME

1. The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) is the Political Party of the proletariat of India.

2. The Communist Party of India takes Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought as the theoretical basis guiding its thinking. Mao Tse-tung Thought is the Marxism-Leninism of our era in which Imperialism is heading for total collapse and Socialism is advancing to world wide victory.

3. The basic programme of the CPI (M-L) is the complete overthrow of the rule of the Bureaucratic Bourgeoisie and the Big Feudal Landlord classes, the agents and lackeys of U.S. Imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism, the establishment of the People's Democratic Dictatorship led by the proletariat in place of the Dictatorship of the Bureaucratic Comprador Bourgeoisie and the Feudal Landlord classes. The ultimate aim of the Party is the realisation of Socialism and Communism.

4. To overthrow the rule of the above enemies of the people, CPI(M-L) places the path of armed struggle before the Indian people. It rejects the parliamentary path for the whole of the strategic period. The people's war in semi-feudal and semi-colonial India is the peasant's war under the leadership of the working class. As pointed out by Comrade Lin Piao, our strategy of People's War is "to rely on the peasants, build base area, resort to persistent armed struggle and to use countryside to encircle and finally capture the cities".

5. In order to defeat the enemies of our people and to win victory in the revolution the three tasks before the CPI(M-L) are: (i) the building and strengthening of our Party with the method of criticism and self-criticism and link with the masses of the people; (ii) A People's Army under the leadership of our

Party; and (iii) United Front of all revolutionary classes and all revolutionary groups engaged in armed struggle under the leadership of our Party.

6. The CPI (M-L) regards the Communist Party of China as the leader of the international communist movement and recognises China as the centre and base of the World Revolution.

7. The CPI (M-L) upholds Proletarian Internationalism; it firmly unites with Marxist-Leninist parties and groups the world over, unites with the proletariat and the oppressed peoples and nations of the whole world and fights together with them to overthrow Imperialism headed by the U.S. Imperialism, Modern Revisionism with the Soviet Revisionist renegade clique as its centre, and the reactionaries of all countries and to abolish the system of exploitation of man by man on globe so that all mankind will be emancipated.

8. The CPI(M-L) is composed of the advanced elements of the proletariat. It is the vanguard of the proletariat and the revolutionary masses in the fight against the class enemy.

9. Members of the CPI(M-L) dedicate their lives to the struggle for Communism. They must cherish love of the people and adopt the attitude of serving and learning from the people. They must be over vigilant about imperialist conspiracies and modern revisionist manouvers. They must be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount every difficulty to win victory.

## CHAPTER II

### NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

1. The name of the Party is the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

2. Flag : the flam of the Party is Red flag with white hammer and sickle.

3. Membership : (a) Any member of the working class, the toiling people, the peasantry, revolutionary middle class or any other revolutionary element who resides in India and has reached the age of eighteen years is eligible for membership of the Party, provided he accepts Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung's Thought as the guide to action, accepts Programme and Constitution of the Party unit and pays regularly Party membership

dues and levy as fixed by his unit according to his capacity and is ready to go to rural area for rousing peasant masses for agrarian revolution any moment when directed by the unit to do so.

(b) Membership fees will be 10 paise annually. Levy can be fixed by the unit to which a member belongs after assessing the capacity of the member concerned.

(c) Admission of the member will be on individual basis and generally through the basic unit of the Party.

(d) An applicant must be recommended by two Party members who know him well and provide the Party with all necessary information about him.

(e) At least six months' record of the work among the people for the applicants from the working class and poor peasantry, one year's record of work for applicants from middle class and middle peasant origin and two years record of work for others should be checked up before admitting one in the party.

(f) Members from the exploiting classes will not be allowed into the Party unless they relinquish their property at the disposal of the Party and have thoroughly integrated themselves with the masses.

(g) Careerists, double-dealers, bad characters and enemy agents will not be admitted.

4. Members of the CPI(M-L) should :

(a) Consantly study and apply Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought in a living way and try to become the best disciples of Chairman Mao.

(b) Subordinate their personal interests to the interests of the people and the Party.

(c) Develop initiative.

(d) Be bold in making criticism and self-criticism.

(e) Be deft at uniting with the great majority including those who have wrongly opposed them but are sincerely correcting their mistakes.

## CHAPTER III

### ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF THE PARTY

1. The organisational principle of the Party is Democratic Centralism. The democratic centralism means centralised lead-

ership based on inner-party democracy and inner-party democracy under the guidance of centralised leadership.

(a) All higher organs shall be elected except in exceptional circumstances;

(b) Individual is subordinate to the Party unit;

(c) Lower unit is subordinate to the higher unit;

(d) All units and members are subordinate to the Central Committee;

(e) Leading committees are to give regular reports to their subordinate units and promptly convey their decisions;

(f) Leading committees shall take decisions only after full considerations and on the basis of thorough knowledge of the conditions of the people and lower units;

(g) Free and frank discussions within Party units on all questions regarding Party policy and work;

(h) Every unit is free to take full initiative in working out the methods of implementing the general line given by the leading organs;

(i) Every party member must belong to a party unit;

(j) Every member of a leading committee must be assigned a particular area of struggle to which he gives particular guidance and from which he gains direct experience. Exception to this rule may be made only in case where it becomes necessary in the interest of some specific party work;

(k) Factionalism is incompatible with the principle of Democratic Centralism;

(l) Every party member is free to send his opinions, criticisms and appeal upto the Central Committee;

(m) When a party member violates discipline, the party organisation at the level concerned shall take disciplinary measures—warnings, serious warnings, removal from the posts of the party, placing on probation within the party.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### STRUCTURE

1. The highest organ of the party is the All India Party Congress.

2. The Party Congress shall be convened every five years.

Under special circumstances it may be convened before its due date or it may be postponed by the Central Committee.

3. The Party Congress will review the political situation and work of the Party, check out general line for the whole country and, if necessary, change or amend the Party Constitution; and even the Programme. The Congress will also elect the Central Committee.

4. The Central Committee will elect a Polit-bureau and set up other necessary standing committees.

5. The Central Committee is fully empowered to change the area under the jurisdiction of any State Unit.

6. The highest organ for the State is the State Conference which will elect a State Committee. In between the period of two State Conferences the State Committee is the highest organ in the State.

7. Below the State Committee there will be Regional Committee, elected by the Regional Conferences.

8. Below Regional Committees there will be Area Committees elected by area conferences.

9. Cells will be the basic units of the Party.

10. The Central Committee and the State Committee will convene their extended meetings from time to time to review the work and policy matters.