

Editorial

Don't misread the mandate !

After declaration of the results of the Parliament elections, the Indian corporate media is working over time. It is doing so, to spread a message. The message is that, the mandate given to the Congress Party is the approval for it's Neo Liberal policies.

Hence, the corporate media demands that the government should immediately go ahead with the implementation of the Neo Liberal Policies. They want the government to immediately undertake reforms in Insurance, Banking and Pension Sectors. They want the Labour Laws of the country to be modified in favour of the Indian and foreign capitalists. Further, they want government to start speedy disinvestment of the PSUs. Their wish list seems to be never ending.

We should not forget that the corporate media is the mouth piece of the Indian capitalists and the Multi National Companies. They try to twist the mandate given by the people of India to the advantage of the capitalists. Actually speaking, the mandate given to the Congress Party is not for it's Neo Liberal Policies, but for it's 'pro-poor' policies.

In it's earlier term, the Congress Party had to implement certain pro-poor measures. It's National Rural Employment Generation Act (NREGA), waiving of farm loans, raising the minimum support price of wheat and rice, the Tribal Rights Act, are some of the measures that gave relief to the poor people. There is no doubt that these are the measures that have helped the congress party to increase it's seats.

Through the above mentioned schemes, the earlier UPA government gave subsidies to the people, to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees. The Manmohan Singh - Montek Singh Ahluwalia - P. Chidambaram trio were strictly implementing the World Bank Policies and were vehemently against giving subsidies to the people. However, because of the pressure of Left Parties, on whose support the earlier UPA government existed, those 'pro-poor' schemes were implemented. Those schemes were part of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) which was formulated at the insistence of the Left Parties.

Today, the government may not be dependent on the Left Parties for it's survival. If this factor encourages the Congress Party to implement the Neo-Liberal Policies, than it will be misreading the mandate of the people.