

**CONSTITUTION OF
THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF INDIA**

Adopted by
**EIGHTH CONGRESS
OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY
OF INDIA**

*Karyanandnagar
Patna, 7-15 February 1968*

COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLICATION

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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 sets itself the goal of establishing a socialist society in India and ending all forms of exploitation of man by man. Such a thoroughgoing social transformation alone will enable India to eliminate backwardness, inequality, ignorance, poverty and hunger. This historic goal can be achieved by firm and unswerving adherence to the universal truths and revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism and by correctly and creatively applying them to Indian conditions.

For building of socialism, the achievement of power by the working people and the establishment of proletarian statehood, based on socialist democracy, is essential. With unflinching loyalty to the working people and their historic mission, the Communist Party will work for the realisation of this aim and go forward to its ultimate goal of establishing a communist society in India.

After the conquest of power by the working people, the Communist Party of India shall, in cooperation with all forces working for socialism, devote itself to the building of a socialist society in which individual liberty, freedom of speech, press and association as well as the right of political organisation, including the right to opposition to the government, shall be fully safeguarded subject, however, to the socialist constitution of the country. The party shall constantly work for the expansion of socialist democracy in all spheres of the state.

In the present stage of development of Indian society, the immediate task is the completion of anti-imperialist, antifeudal, democratic revolution. Life has shown that this task cannot be fulfilled by pursuing the capitalist path or as long as the national bourgeoisie is in control of state power. For carrying out this immediate task, the Communist Party of India devotes itself to the creation of national democratic front and for the realisation of a national democratic state, which is an alliance of all anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antimonopoly forces, in which the working class plays an increasingly leading role as defined in the Party Programme.

The Communist Party of India organises itself and its work in accordance with the principles of democratic centralism based on full innerparty democracy. This together with the unswerving observance of the Leninist standards in the work and day-to-day life of the party, of the principles of collective leadership, ensures the fullest activation of the ranks of the party and builds it as a unified, disciplined, militant organisation capable of selfless, courageous actions in the service of the working people and of the triumphant cause of socialism and communism.

The strength of the Communist Party lies in its ideological purity and organisational unity of its ranks, in its conscious discipline and in its evergrowing and indissoluble links with the working class, peasantry and all other sections of the toiling people. All communists consider it their paramount duty to strengthen this unity and their discipline and to tirelessly work for deepening the party's bonds with the masses.

The Communist Party of India enjoins on all its members to guard against all manifestations of factional and group activities, combat all alien habits and influences, unswervingly adhere to communist norms and moral standards, and place the interests of the people and the party above their personal interests, cultivate the revolutionary spirit of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Imbued with the lofty ideas of patriotism and class and national solidarity, the Communist Party of India upholds the independence and sovereignty of India, fights for national unity and national integration and firmly opposes all disruptionist and obscurantist conceptions of communalism and revivalism, untouchability and casteism, religious discrimination and de-

nial of equal rights to women. It stands for secularism and freedom of conscience, for equality of opportunity for all, for the uplift of all backward sections and regions and the equal development and progress of all languages and cultures of India.

The Communist Party fights against chauvinism and bourgeois nationalism. Adhering to the principle of independence and equality among all communist parties, it upholds the commonly agreed positions of the world communist movement and strives to strengthen the unity of the world communist movement in the struggle for peace and against war, in the struggle against colonialism and neocolonialism, for the defence of the achievements of socialism and in the struggle for democracy, social progress and socialism all over the world. The party believes that cooperation and common understanding between workers and peoples of socialist and nonsocialist countries have a vital role to play in achieving the common aim.

In this new epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism, the Communist Party of India and all its members are called upon to work, with the assurance of success, for the completion of the tasks of the national democratic revolution as laid down in the Programme of the party and for preparing our people for advance to the road to socialism and communism.

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 membership.

2. New members are admitted to the party on individual application and through a party branch on the recommendation of two members. Party committees at town, taluq, district, state 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 committee concerned, truthful information about the applicant, from personal knowledge and with due sense of responsibility. All applications for 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 state level comes over to the party, in addition to the sanction of the local party committee or district or state 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 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 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 branch or unit.

8. By the end of the period of candidature, the party branch or committee concerned shall discuss whether the candidate member is qualified to be admitted to full membership. The 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 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 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 committee which has submitted the report. The district and state committees 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. If no decision to extend or cancel candidate membership is taken or no report prepared by the concerned branch even after a month following the completion of the period of candidature the candidate member will become full member.

11. A 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 state, approval by the district or the state committee concerned shall be necessary.

ARTICLE V

Party Pledge

All candidates as well as full 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 and fight for 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 membership card.

2. Party cards shall be uniform throughout the country and shall be issued by the state committees. Their form and contents shall be decided upon by the Central Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Renewal of Membership Cards

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 member belongs under the direction and supervision of the state council. No party card shall be renewed in the case of any 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 membership dues.

2. A report on such renewal of party cards by a branch or committee concerned shall be sent to the next higher committee for confirmation and registration.

3. The state council and the district council shall have the right to scrutinise the list of party members.

ARTICLE VIII

Resignation from Party Membership

1. A 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 committee concerned may, if it thinks necessary, try to persuade such a member to revoke his or her wish to resign.

3. In the case where a member wishing to resign from the party is liable to be charged with serious violation of 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 members, full as well as candidate, shall pay a party membership dues of one rupee per year. This annual party dues shall be paid at the time of admission into the party or at the time of the renewal of the party card. (The member's dues may, if the state executive committee concerned so decides, be realised in quarterly or half-yearly instalments.)

ARTICLE X

Distribution of Party Dues

Party dues collected from members by branches or units shall be distributed as follows:

Ten per cent for the National Council;

Forty per cent for the state council; and

The remaining 50 per cent shall be divided among the district council, the branch and the local committee where it exists, in such proportion as decided by the state executive committee concerned.

ARTICLE XI

Party Levy

The state executive committee and the Central Executive Committee shall fix levies on members in accordance with the guiding rules approved by the National Council.

ARTICLE XII

Duties of Party Members

1. The duties of members are as follows:

- (a) To regularly participate in the activity of the party organisation to which they belong, to faithfully carry out the policy, decisions and the directives of the party, and to pay regularly the levy as fixed by the party;
- (b) To fight for the interests of the working people against all forms of exploitation and oppression of the masses, 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;
- (c) To study Marxism-Leninism and endeavour to raise their level of understanding;
- (d) To read, support and popularise the party journals and publications;
- (e) 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;
- (f) To place the interests of the people and the party above personal interests;
- (g) To fight consistently against all oppression or discrimination based on religion, caste or sex and firmly oppose such fissiparous tendencies as communalism and casteism;
- (h) To cultivate comradesly relations towards one another and constantly develop a fraternal spirit within the party;
- (i) To practise criticism and self-criticism with a view to helping each other and improving individual and collective work;
- (j) To be frank, honest and truthful to the party and not to betray the confidence of the party;
- (k) To safeguard the unity and solidarity of the party and to be vigilant against the enemies of the party, the working class and the country;
- (l) To defend the party and uphold its cause against the onslaught of the enemies of the party, the working class and the country;

(m) To deepen their understanding of the noble traditions, history and cultural heritage of the Indian people.

2. It shall be the task of party organisations to ensure the fulfilment of the above duties by 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 committees and be elected to them;
- (b) To participate freely in discussions in order to contribute to the formulation of party policy and of decisions of the party;
- (c) To make proposals regarding their own work in the party, to get work assigned to themselves in accordance with their ability and situation in life;
- (d) To make criticism about party committees and functionaries at party meetings; such criticism shall be sent to the comrade or unit criticised and the reply, if any, reported to the unit concerned;
- (e) To demand to be heard in person when any party committee or organisation discusses disciplinary action against any 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 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 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 comradesly 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 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 innerparty democracy and innerparty 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; the principle of maintaining the continuity as well as ensuring promotion of new cadres into leadership shall be continuously applied throughout the party;

(b) The minority shall carry out the decisions of the majority, the lower organisations shall carry out the decisions and directives of the higher organs or committees, the individual shall subordinate himself to the will of the collective. All 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 organisations immediately below and all lower committees shall likewise report to their immediate higher committees;

(d) All party committees, particularly the leading committees, shall pay constant heed to the opinions and criticisms of the lower 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 or district character shall be ordinarily decided upon by the corresponding party organisation. 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 importance, it shall do so after consultation with the state organisation concerned. The state 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 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 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 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 committee, every effort should be made to arrive at an agreement. Failing this, the decision should be taken by a majority vote;

(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 three years. In case of any delay due to any unavoidable reason, the National Council shall submit a report to the congress explaining the same.

(b) An extraordinary Party Congress shall be called by the National Council at its own discretion, or when it is demanded by the state party organisations representing not less than one-third of the total 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 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 membership from any state 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 to 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 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

1. 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. It will also consist of candidate members, their number not exceeding 10 per cent of the number of full members of the National Council. The candidate members have a right to attend the sessions of the National Council and participate in its discussions but no right to vote.

(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 create a broadbased, 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 one representative from every state;

(c) At least one-fifth of the panel of candidates shall be persons who were not members of the outgoing National Council;

(d) Any delegate can raise objection with regard to any name in the panel proposed as well as propose any new name or names;

(e) Anyone whose name has been proposed shall have the right to withdraw;

(f) 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.

2. The National Council shall have the power to coopt members to fill any vacancies from among the candidate members of the National Council subject to the condition that such cooption does not exceed more than ten per cent of the membership of the Council and shall be valid only if two-thirds of the members of the Council attending its meeting vote for the proposal.

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 shall also elect from among the members of the Central Executive Committee, the Chairman, the General Secretary and secretaries. These together shall constitute a Secretariat of seven to nine to carry on the current work of the Central Executive Committee.

5. The National Council shall elect a Treasurer. It shall also elect an Audit Commission to audit the accounts and report on the same to the National Council annually.

6. The National Council shall have the right to fill up vacancies in and remove any member from the Central Executive Committee and the Secretariat and 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 in 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 Committee. 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 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 committees;

(c) Party press and 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 Chairman, 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 Committee and shall function collectively with specific responsibilities assigned to each member. No member of the Secretariat shall belong to any state or district party organ. To handle the work of the Central Executive, the Central 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.

ARTICLE XIX

State Party Organs

1. The highest organ in the state shall be the state conference.
2. The regular state conference shall be convened by the state council once every three years.
3. An extraordinary state conference shall be called by the state council at its own discretion, or when this is demanded by party units which represent not less than one-third of the membership.
4. A regular state conference shall be composed of delegates elected by district conferences and by the conference of party units, if any, directly under the state executive.
5. The basis of representation at state conferences shall be determined by the state council.
6. The basis of representation and the method of election of delegates to the extraordinary state conference shall be decided by the state council.
7. Members of the state executive committee and of the state control commission shall have the right to participate as full delegates in the state conference, whether regular or extraordinary. Members of the state council shall attend the state conference as delegates without vote unless elected.
8. The membership from any district for which the party

membership dues quota to the state council has been fully paid shall be taken as the basis for calculating the number of delegates from the district to the state conference.

9. Functions and powers of a regular state conference are:

- (a) To discuss and act on the political and organisational report of the state council;
- (b) To determine the line of the party and mass work in the state 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 council;
- (e) To elect the state control commission;
- (f) To hear and decide on the report of the state audit commission;
- (g) To hear and decide on the report of the state control commission;
- (h) The state conference shall elect a presidium for the conduct of its business.

ARTICLE XX

The State Council

1. The state 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. It will also consist of candidate members, their numbers not exceeding 10 per cent of the number of full members of the state council. The candidate members have a right to attend the sessions of the state council and participate in its discussions but no right to vote.
2. The outgoing state council shall propose 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 but bearing in mind the general considerations under section (b) in Article XVI.
4. The election of the state council at the conference shall be governed by the same rules and principles as laid down in sections (d) to (f) in Article XVI.
5. The state council shall be the highest authority of the state party organisation between two party conferences.

6. The state council shall represent the state 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 nature but in conformity with the policies laid down by the Party Congress and the National Council.

7. The state council shall elect a state executive committee of not more than 25 from among its members to carry on the work of the state council between its two sessions. It shall also elect from among the members of the state executive a secretary to carry on the current work of the executive committee. It may also elect one or two assistant secretaries. The state council may decide, where necessary, to elect a secretariat of not more than nine members.

8. The state council shall have right to fill up vacancies in or remove any member from the state executive committee or reconstitute the same.

9. The state council shall fill up any vacancy that may occur in the state control commission.

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

11. The state council shall discuss and act on the political and organisational reports and other matters placed before it by the state executive committee. The council may take up any other matter.

12. The state council shall elect a treasurer. It shall also elect an audit commission to audit the accounts and to report on the same to the state council annually and to the conference.

13. The state council shall have the power to coopt members to fill any vacancies from among the candidate members of the state council subject to the condition that such cooption does not exceed more than ten per cent of the membership of the council and shall be valid only if two-thirds of the members of the council attending its meeting vote for the proposal.

ARTICLE XXI

State Executive Committee

1. The state executive committee shall direct the work of the state party organs during the period between two sessions.

of the state council. It shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions and the directives of the state council and higher bodies. It shall decide on any political and organisational questions as well as on the problems of mass movement and shall report on the same to the state council.

2. To carry out these responsibilities on behalf of the state council, the state executive committee shall perform the following tasks:

(a) To convene regular meetings of the state council and prepare reports and resolutions for the same;

(b) Guidance and assistance to the district councils;

(c) State party press and 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 executive committee shall normally meet once every two months.

4. The functions of the secretaries and the secretariat are to direct and carry out the current work under the various heads on behalf of the state executive committee; all members of the secretariat shall devote themselves exclusively to the work of the state executive committee and shall function collectively with specific responsibility assigned to each of them. To handle the work of the state executive, the state executive committee shall set up such party bodies and make such arrangements as are considered necessary. These bodies shall function under the guidance of the executive committee.

ARTICLE XXII

District Party Organs

1. The highest organ in a district shall be the district party conference.

2. A district conference shall be convened by the district council once every three 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 executive committee.

4. A regular district 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 secretariat or of the district executive, as the case may be, 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 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 political and organisational 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 conference;

(e) To hear and decide on the report of the district audit commission;

(f) The district conference shall elect a presidium for the conduct of its business.

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 (d) to (f) of Article XVI.

ARTICLE XXIII

District Councils

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 district 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 organs.

4. The district council shall elect a district secretariat or district executive including a secretary from amongst its members to carry on the work of the party between two sessions of the district council. It may also elect one or two assistant secretaries. The number of the members of the district secretariat or district executive is to be decided by the district council.

5. The district council shall have the right to fill up vacancies in and remove any member from the district secretariat or district executive 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 secretariat or district executive. The council may take up any other matter.

8. The district council shall elect a treasurer. It shall elect an audit commission to audit the accounts and to report on the same to the district council annually and to the conference.

9. The district council shall have the power to coopt members to fill any vacancies subject to the condition that such cooption does not exceed more than ten per cent of the membership of the council and shall be valid only if two-thirds of the members of the council attending its meeting vote for the proposal.

ARTICLE XXIV

The District Secretariat or Executive

1. The district secretariat or district executive 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 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 secretariat or district executive shall be discharged in conformity with the decisions of the district council and higher organs.

3. The responsibilities of the district secretariat or district executive 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 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. In the case of a district with large membership, the state council may allow the district council to elect a district executive committee from among its members. In such a case, the district executive committee shall carry on the work of the party between two sessions of the district council. The number of members of the district executive committee is to be decided by the district council. In such a case, the district council shall also elect from among the members of the executive committee a secretariat including a secretary to carry on the current work of the executive committee.

ARTICLE XXV

Intermediate Party Organs

1. Between the branch and district council there may be formed an intermediary local party organ such as taluka, subdivision, tehsil, block, mauza, mandalam or town council when the state 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 council shall have the right to participate as full delegates in the conference.

3. The local and branch conferences will be held every year, immediately after the annual renewal campaign, according to the schedule fixed by the respective state councils.

4. The conference of the local units, in the taluka, subdivision, tehsil, block, mauza, mandalam or town shall elect a local council and delegates to the district conference. It shall elect a taluka, subdivision, or tehsil or town council if the state executive committee so decides.

5. The local council 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.

6. The local council shall elect its own secretary, and may also elect an assistant secretary, and where necessary, subject to the decision of the state executive, a executive or secretariat to carry on the current work.

7. The local council will report on its work to the district secretariat or district executive, once every month.

8. The local council will meet at least once a month.

9. The local council shall work under the direction of the district secretariat or district executive committee and shall help the district secretariat or district executive committee in maintaining close contact with party branches.

ARTICLE XXVI

Primary Unit

1. The primary unit of the party shall be the branch.

2. The highest organ of the primary unit shall be the general body meeting of the branch.

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

4. The 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 branch is organised on the basis of the village, panchayat, municipal ward, street, mohalla, industry, individual factory, occupation and institution. The maximum membership of the branch shall be fixed by the state 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 political and organisational decisions;

(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 membership dues and levy and party finance;

(f) To draw in sympathisers and militants into the party and educate them and to help illiterate 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 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 council every two months a report on the new candidate and full members enrolled by it.

13. Where necessary a 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, standing of the candidate in the party, 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 have the right to attend all the meetings of the Central Executive Committee, with the right to vote except in cases of disciplinary actions. All members of the Central Control Commission shall have the right to attend and vote in the meetings of the National Council.

5. The Central Control Commission shall take up:

(a) Cases referred to it by the National Council, the Central Executive Committee or the Secretariat;

(b) Cases where disciplinary action has been taken by the state executive committee or the state council;

(c) Cases against which an appeal has been made to the state control commission and rejected.

6. The Central Control Commission shall bring to the notice of the Central Executive Committee, National Council or state and district councils any cases of breach of the Constitution which may come to its notice.

7. The decision of the Central Control Commission shall be ordinarily final. The Central Executive Committee may by two-third majority stay the implementation of a decision of the

Central Control Commission, and shall refer it at the first available opportunity to the National Council for final decision.

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

ARTICLE XXVIII

State Control Commissions

1. There shall be a state control commission elected by the state conference. The number of members for the state control commission shall be decided by the state conference.

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

3. The state control commission shall elect its own chairman who shall have the right to attend and vote in the meetings of the state executive committee except that he shall not have the right to vote in cases of disciplinary action. All members of the state control commission shall have the right to attend and vote in the meetings of the state council.

4. The state control commission shall take up:

(a) Cases referred to it by the state council, state executive committee or its secretariat;

(b) Cases where disciplinary action has been taken by the district council, district secretariat or district executive and in which appeal has been made by the comrade concerned;

(c) Cases against which an appeal has been made to district council or district secretariat or district executive and rejected.

5. The decisions of the state control commission shall be ordinarily final. The state executive committee may by two-third majority stay the implementation of the decision of the state control commission and shall refer it immediately to the Central Control Commission or to the state 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 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 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 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. Disciplinary action may be taken against any member either by the unit of which he or she is a member, or by any higher committee. In case he or she belongs to more than one committee, disciplinary action as under clauses (e), (f) and (g) of section 4 may be taken only by the highest committee to which he or she belongs either on its own initiative or on recommendations of the lower committee. All other disciplinary actions may be taken by any committee of which he or she is a member.

7. Expulsion from the party is the severest of all disciplinary

measures and this shall be applied with utmost caution, deliberation and judgement.

8. No disciplinary measure involving expulsion or suspension of a member shall come into effect without confirmation by the next higher committee, which will give its decision within three months or in its first meeting held after the receipt of the proposal for confirmation, if such a meeting is not held within three months. In case of suspension or expulsion, the penalised member shall, however, be removed from the responsible post that he or she may hold pending confirmation.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

12. The National Council or a state council shall have the right to dissolve or take disciplinary action against a lower committee in cases where a persistent defiance of party decision and policy, serious factionalism or a breach of party discipline is involved, after giving the committee concerned reasonable chance of explaining its position.

ARTICLE XXX

Party Members in Elected Public Bodies

1. Party members elected to Parliament, the state legislatures or administrative councils shall constitute themselves into a group and function under the appropriate party committee in strict conformity with the line of the party, its policies and directives.

2. Communist legislators shall unswervingly defend the in-

terests 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. 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. 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 and those on elected public bodies drawing salary or allowances 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 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.

Nomination of party candidates to the state legislatures or the councils of centrally-administered areas shall be finalised and announced by the state 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 councils, or in their absence by the state executive committees.

ARTICLE XXXI

Innerparty 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 organisation depending on the nature of the issues.

2. Innerparty discussion shall be organised:

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

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

(c) When an innerparty discussion on an all-India scale is demanded by a number of state organisations representing one-third of the total membership or at the state level by district organisations representing the same proportion of the total membership of the state.

3. Innerparty discussion shall be conducted under the guidance of the national or the state 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

At least 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 sorted and placed before the Party Congress.

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

Bylaws

The National Council may frame rules and bylaws under the Party Constitution and in conformity with it. Rules and bylaws under the Party Constitution and in conformity with it may also be framed by the state 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-third 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 provided that in cases of emergency and for reasons to be placed by the National Council before the Party Congress, notice may be waived by a two-third majority.