APPENDIX - II

SUPPLEMENTARY MANIFESTO ISSUED BY THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE ON THE EVE OF ELECTION TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EXTRACT)

The Congress at its session at Lucknow resolved to take steps to reject the New Constitution in its entirety...... All legislative activities of Congressmen should, therefore, be directed towards identifying themselves with the masses and their interests.

In this view, the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee appeals to the people of Bengal to send those men only to the legislatures who have already adopted or are prepared to adopt the creed of sacrifice and service in the country's interest.

In doing so, it draws the particular attention of Congressmen to the following problems of Bengal which require immediate relief. Congressmen in the Legislatures should take early steps to relieve the appalling distress in the province caused by floods, famines, disease, poverty and unemployment. For this purpose, they should draw up a scheme of what is called planned Economy, for the elimination of exploitation of the masses, proper survey and utilisation of the country's resources for strengthening the Nation's manpower and opening out new avenues of employment for our younger generation. For this purpose, measures should be taken for securing:

1. Revision of the system of land tenure in the interest of the peasants.
2. Reduction of indebtedness of the cultivators.
3. Reduction generally of rent and revenue and of the burden of taxation.

4. Increase in the productivity of land and the value of agricultural production.

5. Improve the credit facilities for the cultivators.

6. Development of small industries and arranging for the proper marketing and transport of their products.

7. Organisation of the education of the people on National basis.

8. Building up of all industrial and commercial ventures on National lines so that the financial condition and efficiency of the workers may be improved along with the development of the industries.

9. Development of waterways and irrigation of canals for the benefit of agriculture and sanitation of the province as well as for providing cheaper methods of transport.

It is recognised that many of these measures will involve increasing financial obligations on the State. Therefore, Congressmen in the Legislatures should attempt to reduce the cost of administration wherever and whenever possible, and utilise the surplus so obtained for the nation-building programme.

The realisation of the programme indicated above is not all the Congress representatives in the Legislatures will attempt. They cannot be unmindful of the reactionary legislation enacted
during the past few years ..... They will take steps to emphasise that while the Congress repudiates terrorism and violence, it cannot be a party to detention without trial ..... 

The communal decision of Mr. Ramsey MacDonald has given rise to opposition ..... The Bengal Provincial Congress Committee endorses every word in this (All India Congress Committee) manifesto and asks Congressmen inside the Legislature to adopt the courses laid down above. The Executive Council of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee have resolved as follows:

"That in as much as the communal decision (apart from being an All India Problem) is one of the greatest and most vital problems affecting the province of Bengal and is a barrier to the progress of the province, this Council declares that it is the duty of the Provincial Congress Organisation which represents the people of this province belonging to all communities and of all Congress organisations subordinate to it to carry on agitation both in and outside the legislatures for the rejection of the communal decision and communal problem on the basis of joint electorate and adult franchise or any other agreed basis and consistent with independence and principles of democracy. That this Council is not concerned with or affected by any agitation either against or for communal decision by non-Congress organisations or one-sided organisations".

The Bengal Provincial Congress Parliamentary Committee feel that a formula, such as this educative programme in favour of
joint electorate will be acceptable to the Bengal Hindus and Muslims and therefore call upon Congress inside the Legislature to take all necessary steps to replace the present decision of the above formula.

The Congress Parliamentary Party will miss no opportunity of reconsidering such national service, be they big or small ...