APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE

The questions put to you form a part of my personal enquiry. I would like to know your own ideas about how and for what purpose, the political leaders who are in important positions in government in our country, for example, the ministers or the members of the legislatures, perform or should perform their official functions. Information on some of your personal experiences in the family during your early years is also sought. The data, the questionnaire might gather, are, it is expected, to fulfil my personal academic interest in the interaction of politics and society. I hope you will spare some time to answer the questions.

You need not write your name or any other particulars regarding your identity.
1. Do you take interest in politics?
   Yes
   No

1.1. (If 'yes' to previous question) How long have you been interested in politics?

1.2. At what age you first started taking interest in politics?

2. Do you actively participate in politics?
   Yes
   No

2.1. At what age you began active participation in politics?
   Before 15 yrs.
   Between 15-20 yrs.
   After 20 yrs.

3. Has your interest in politics increased or decreased from your initial interest?
   Increased
   As it was
   Decreased

4. Was there someone who brought you into politics or created in you interest in politics?
   Yes
   No
4.1. If "yes", who?

- Father
- Uncle
- A family acquaintance
- A local senior
- A local political leader
- Someone else

4.2. If someone has not brought you into contact with politics, what attracted you to politics?

- Faith in ideology
- Desire to make for people's welfare
- Desire to be socially acknowledged
- Personal fascination for politics

4.3. When you began to take interest in politics or actually participate in it, what was the reaction of your father/family head?

- Became concerned, occasionally punished me
- Became concerned, but didn't insist on my discontinuing it.
- Took no notice of it
- Took interest, sometimes advised me
- Encouraged my interest and participation in politics

5. The family members in different families differ on the point of level of their political interest. What was your idea about the level of political interest of the members of your childhood family?

- Much
- Some
- None
5.1. Did your father ever take active part in the affairs of a party?

Yes
No

5.2. (If yes) which party?

The Congress party
The Communist party
A Socialist Party
Any other

6. Are you a supporter of any political party?

Yes
No

6.1. Do you support the same party as your father/family head did/does?

Support the same party
Support a different party

6.2. At what age you first supported any party?

6.3. Have you been supporting the same party since you first became a party supporter? Or, have you shifted your loyalty to a different party?

Supporting the same party
Supporting a different party

6.4. Do you actively support your party?

Yes
No
6.5. If you don't support the party you chose at the beginning why have you withdrawn your support to it in favour of a different party?

Your dislike of some leaders of the party initially supported by you.

Your disagreement with the leaders of the party initially supported by you, on policy matter.

You thought that the party which you now prefer to the previous one, is more interested in popular welfare.

For some other reason, the party you have changed over to, attracted you.

7. Are you associated with any association other than a party?

Yes.

No.

7.1. How many:

One.

Two.

Three.

More than three.

8. Because you have interest in politics or participated in it, you must have some idea regarding what political leaders in important positions is government of our country ought or ought not to do. Following are some statements on such expectations. Would you say whether the leaders "absolutely must", "must", "may or may not", "must not", or "absolutely must not" do:
8.1. Allow fullest public participation in governmental decision-making even if it slows down performance.

8.2. Allow complete freedom in the pursuit of economic activities by all social sectors.

8.3. Remove all controls on industrial, trade and commercial activities.

8.4. Promote national integration even if it means forceful suppression of divisive forces.

8.5. Insist on equal income for all, even if it means economic difficulties for the time being.

9. Following are some statements which indicate some probable action of political leaders holding authority positions in our country. Would you "agree", "party agree" or "disagree" with such behaviour.

9.1. If situation demands that a political leader in authority position act against the known opinion of the people his conduct should not be censured.

9.2. If by being honest, a political leader, holding authority position ruins his and his party's chances of coming to power, his occasional deviation from honesty should be ignored.

9.3. A political leader in authority position should always support his party men even if their actions are at times unjustified.
9.4. A political leader in authority position can not be condemned if he indulges in unfair criticism of leaders of other parties, in as much as this is part of politics.

9.5. Even if it delays and hampers development of the country, strict adherence to democratic methods should be insisted on.

9.6. Even if it would require neglect of an urgent but unanticipated problem, political leaders in authority position, should act only according to the election pledge, given previously.

9.7. Even if people seem to be disinterested in politics, the political leader in authority position, must ascertain popular opinion prior to acting beyond the constitutional framework.

9.8. Political leaders should not use their authority positions to acquire a privileged position in the society, even if that would help them in future political success.

10. You must have some idea about what political leaders in authority positions actually do. Given below is a list of their probable performance. Would you say they "do", "party do", or "do not do" these?

10.1. Allow fullest public participation in governmental decision-making even if it slows down performance.

10.2. Allow complete freedom in the pursuit of economic activities by all social sectors.
10.3. Remove all controls on industrial, trade and commercial activities.

10.4. Promote national integration, even if it means forceful suppression of divisive forces.

10.5. Insist on equal income for all, even if it means economic difficulties for the time being.

11. The following questions relate to what the people in general think and feel about a number of important social and personal questions. You may find yourself agreeing strongly with some of the statements, disagreeing just as strongly with the others and perhaps uncertain about the others. Whether you agree or disagree with any statement you can be sure that many people feel the same as you do. Would you say you "agree very much", "agree on the whole", "agree a little", "disagree a little", "disagree on the whole" or "disagree very much" with the statements?

11.1. The principles I have come to believe in are quite different from those believed in by most people.

11.2. Even though I have lot of faith in the intelligence and wisdom of the common man, I must say that the masses behave stupidly at times.

11.3. The highest form of government is a democracy and the highest form of democracy is a government run by those who are the most intelligent.
11.4. Even though freedom of speech for all groups is a worthwhile goal, it is unfortunately necessary to restrict the freedom of certain political groups.

11.5. There are certain "issues" which are really the same even though those who believe in these "issues" try to tell you they are different.

11.6. Man on his own is a helpless and miserable creature.

11.7. I'd like it if I would find someone who would tell me how to solve my personal problems.

11.8. In a heated discussion, I generally become so absorbed in what I am going to say that I forget to listen to what others are saying.

11.9. If given the chance I would do something of great benefit to the world.

11.10. There are a number of people I have come to hate because of the things they stand for.

11.11. A man who doesn't believe in some great cause has not really lived.

11.12. To compromise with our political opponent is dangerous because it usually leads to betrayal of our own side.

11.13. The main thing in life is for a person to want to do something important.
11.14. It is sometimes necessary to resort to force to advance an
ideal one strongly believes in.

11.15. Of the different philosophies which exist in this world there
is probably only one which is correct.

11.16. It is only when a person devotes himself to an idea or cause
that life becomes meaningful.

11.17. A group which tolerates too much differences of opinion among
its own members cannot exist for long.

11.18. My blood boils whenever a person stubbornly refuses to admit
he is wrong.

11.19. It is often desirable to reserve judgement about what's going
on until one has had a chance to hear the opinions of those
one respects.

11.20. In the long run, the best way to live is to pick friends and
associates whose tastes and beliefs are the same as one's own.

11.21. It is by turning to our glorious and forgotten past that real
social progress can be achieved.

11.22. If a man is to accomplish his mission in life it is sometimes
necessary to gamble "all or nothing at all".

12. The following statements refer to opinions regarding some
issues about which you may agree or disagree. Would you say
whether you have "strong support", "moderate support".

.contd...
"slight support", "slight opposition", "moderate opposition" or "strong opposition" about these?

12.1. The danger to real Indian way during the last two decades has come from foreign ideas.

12.2. The best guarantee of our national security is for India to have the biggest armed forces in the area, and the nuclear weapons.

12.3. Now that India has a federal set up, West Bengal must be sure that her regional autonomy is not tampered with.

12.4. West Bengal mayn't be perfect, but the Bengali way of living has brought us as close as human beings in India can get to a perfect society.

12.5. It is only natural and right for each person to think that his family is better than any other.

13. The following questions relate to your early years; you are requested to take the trouble of remembering experiences of those years in order to answer them.

Was your family a joint family during your early years?

Yes.
No.
14. Where did you live in your early years?
   - In village.
   - In town.
   - In city.
   - Moved from rural to urban or urban to rural areas.

15. In every family there is one family head. Who was the family head in your family in your early years?
   - Grandfather/mother.
   - Father.
   - Mother.
   - Uncle/Aunt.
   - Senior Sibling.
   - Any other.

15.1. Did not your father in any way, participate in making decisions (if father not mentioned in answer to previous question).
   - Yes.
   - No.

15.2. (If yes) Was his opinion, suggestion etc. accepted and acted upon?
   - Yes.
   - No.

15.3. If no, why?

15.4. Apart from those who made decision in your family, who was the most influential person in your family?
15.5. Why was he/she influential?

16. In some families, there is usually one who keeps an eye on the doings of the children, take care of their needs, and take disciplinary action against a child, if he is found wrong in his behaviour. In certain other families, there are several persons who look after the different needs of a child. Which of the patterns fits your childhood family?

- One to take care.
- Many to take care.
- Any other arrangement.

16.1. If there was one to take care of the children in your childhood family, who was he/she?

16.2. If you needed something, for example, new clothes, book or other things, to whom would you usually go for informing about or satisfaction of your needs?

16.3. When you needed something and asked for it was your wish mostly granted, sometimes granted or never granted?

- Necessities, met most of the times.
- Necessities, met sometimes.
- Necessities never met.

16.4. (If not, 'most of the times') what kinds of need or desires were only sometimes or never granted?

- Things of acknowledged necessity.
- Things connected with games and entertainment.
- Things connected with education.
- Pocket money.
16.5. If you did something that did not please your supervisor, what kind of treatment was normally meted out to you?

- Severely punished.
- Scolded and let off.
- Advised not to do again.
- Nothing said.

16.6. Would you say that when you're a child your parents/head of family showed affection and consideration to you, "always", "often", "sometimes", "seldom" or "never"?

16.6.1. Would you say that when you're a child your parents/head of family took matters concerning you or the children in the family, "great interest", "moderate interest", "not very much interest", "little interest" or "no interest"?

16.6.2. Check which fits your experience with your parents/family head.

- Very seldom complained, liberal in praise.
- Often showed pleasure, often praised.
- Not very critical, no particular pleasure.
- Rather critical, often not pleased.
- Always critical, never pleased.

17. Did you have the feeling that your parents/head of family underestimated your demands, desires, wishes?

- Yes.
- No.
- Not certain.
17.1. Did you have the feeling that your parents/head of family found fault with you more often than you deserved and never seemed to be satisfied with what you did?

Yes.
No.
Not certain.

17.2. Did you have the feeling that your parents/head of family was/were the most admirable person(s) you know?

Yes.
No.
Not certain.

17.3. Did you have the feeling that your parents/head of family was/were the best friends you had ever had?

Yes.
No.
Not certain.

18. Following is a list of personality traits. Please mention whether you thought, in your early years, your father or family head possessed these and to what extent.

Fair. Envious.
Selfish. Affectionate.
Helpful. Understanding.
Sarcastic. Cold.
Considerate. Suspicious.
Bossy. Sympathetic.
Agreeable. Courteous.
Kind. Trustful.
19. Children in a family are frequently asked by their parents/head of the family to do certain things. In response different children react differently. Speaking from your own experience, which one of the following did you usually do?

I did whatever I was asked.
Sometimes I did, sometimes I did not.
I grudgingly did whenever I was told to do.
I did only when I felt I would be penalised if I did not do.
I simply refused to do anything.

20. Please indicate what you thought, when you were in your early years, about the discipline exercised by your father/head of the family. Would you "agree", "disagree" with or "are not certain" with the proposition that you had experienced similar discipline as mentioned below?

20.1. My father/family head tried to direct all my activities.
20.2. My father/family head always required me to tell him where I was going out and what I was about to do.
20.3. My father/family head too closely supervised my play activities.
20.4. My father/family head used too strict discipline upon the children.
20.5. My father/family head too often insisted upon my doing things his way.
20.6. My father/family head scolded the children too often.
20.7. My father/family head made me do too many chores around the house.

20.8. My father/family head expected too much of the children.

20.9. My father/family head forced the children to do many things against their will.

20.10. My father/family head constantly urged me to study harder.

20.11. My father/family head would not let me go out often enough.

20.12. My father/family head made me come home early in the evening.

21. If you were for any reason scolded by any male superior in your family and went to mother, how did she usually treat you?

Thinking that I must have been at fault, she would punish me.

Thinking that I must have been at fault, she would scold me.

Thinking that I must have been at fault, she would advise me not to repeat the mistake or offence.

She would console me with the remark that she would see to it.

She would get very angry at the person who had scolded me, believing that I would not have done any mistake or offence.

Any other.

22. Most young boys and girls want to be like some family adult, when grown up. Did you have in your childhood, similar desire?

Yes.

No.
22.1. (If yes) who?

Grandfather/mother.
Father.
Mother.
Uncle/Aunt.
Senior Sibling.
Any other.

23. In some families, the father/head of family or someone else takes decisions for the whole family. In others, decisions are taken by each person on his own. In still others, decisions are arrived at after discussion among the family members. Would you indicate which was the case in your family during your early years?

24. If a decision was to be taken on matters, such as education etc., concerning you, was your opinion ever sought?

Yes.
No.
Depended.

24.1. (If yes) would you say that what you had to say was taken into account while deciding something about it?

Yes.
No.
Depended.

25. If you felt you had been treated unfairly in some way or disagreed with something your parents/family head had said, did... continued...
you feel free to let them know about your displeasure, a bit uneasy about it or was it better not to let them know?

25.1. Do you remember ever doing this?

Usually did.
Occasionally did.
Never did.

26. Coming to early acquaintance with politics, would you say that elders of your family including your parents discussed politics in your presence?

Yes.
No.

26.1. If they did and by chance you were there, what was their reaction?

You were encouraged to be present and listen.
Your presence was ignored.
Your presence was not objected to.
Your presence was strictly forbidden.

26.2. Did your parent or any adult in your family teach you to love or admire any political leader?

Yes.
No.

26.3. (If yes) who?

26.4. How many leaders?
26.5. Did your father or any adult male ever take you to political meeting?
   Yes.
   Couldn't because no meeting was usually held in the locality.
   No.

26.6. Do you think your family during your childhood has influenced your political views or participation in any way?
   Yes.
   No.

26.7. (If yes), how?
1. How old are you?

2. Are you a boy or a girl?

3. What is your religion?

4. To which caste do you belong?

5. What has/had been the occupation of your father/family head for most of his life?

6. What was the highest level of education he reached?