

To
The Editor
The Telegraph
Kolkata

Dated 30/04/2006

Through email : ttedit@abpmail.com

Respected Sir,

In regard to the article, **“Graffiti and the EC” on 28/04/2006** by Mr Ashok Mitra can be classified as a one eyed view in this present context. With a very little knowledge of mine, I will try the best to raise some points in aspect of the article.

(1) Examples have been given of **“Greek and Roman times”**. It should be kept in mind that in those days the Greeks and the Romans was highly enriched in cultural terms, where as in Bengal we find that as days are coming by our minds have been decayed day by day in terms of culture, thus erasing our own cultural and ethnic values from our lives by the adoption of the *so called* westernized modern culture!. Should not we try the best to preserve and develop our culture and values as like the Greeks and the Romans ? or we should give the only example of the practice of Graffiti by the Romans. (2) **“Especially for the Humbler species”** the dictionary meaning to the word **humbler** is unimportant and **species** is - a group of animals which are alike in most ways. This statement had created a conflict of views in my mind that whether Mr Mitra wants to draw a line of division into two classes ? The first one is certainly the Politicians or the Political Party Members as the higher class and secondly the **“Humbler species”** thus the common people as the lower class ?. (3) **“graffiti expand the frontiers of knowledge the perfect mode for electoral campaigning in a poverty-ridden country”** and **“ commission’s whims have raised substantially the poll expenses for a candidate”** which means that even if, we are unable to *provide a bowl of rice* to those **Humbler species** in a poverty-ridden country like India, rather we should concentrate our thoughts by providing them a vast knowledge of facts, data’s and boring lectures. (4) As Mr Mitra mentioned about the violations of the Article 19 which gives freedom of speech and expression of views that doesn’t mean that we (The political Parties and others) have every right to pollute our cities by crafting graffiti which leads towards the colour blindness in the eyes of our citizens, also remembering my past experiences, where we have seen that all the political parties was involved in making quarrels in regard to capture the every inch of the wall even by the usage of violent means. At present which had completely stopped by the decision of E.C. which is certainly a good sign of healthy environment. (5) The imposition of ban on Graffiti by the Election Commission in State of West Bengal but not in the other states of India, raised doubts in Mr. Mitra’s mind in regard to **“The fundamental right of equality”**. It’s very unfortunate that he had missed out to mention the fact that such ban is done on the basis of the West Bengal Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1976 which is applicable only in the State jurisdiction of West Bengal. (6) Mr Mitra also gave examples of the neighbouring Bangladesh election procedures, as per my own personal experience is concerned as well as it is also known to others, that in the elections of Bangladesh Bullets, Violence and Anti-India slogans is widely practiced., as like as during the Naxalite period in Bengal the common slogan was **“THE GUN IS THE SOURCE OF POWER”** should we refresh our minds with this kind of thoughts and belief ?

I hope that we should come out from the old unrealistic and unjustified traditional views with a replacement of new realistic and justified views by practising modern means of political canvassing instead of Graffiti, Sticking of Posters, etc.

Lastly with all my respect to Mr Mitra, I would like to state that the political parties especially the Left Front have a day to day activity and interaction among the common people, so the Graffiti and other means is not very much needed in Bengal since the people are much more politically conscious in comparison to the other states of India. My own believe is that the Left Front has all the love and moral support of the people of Bengal, **due to which we the people of Bengal have handed out our State West Bengal undoubtedly for a period of 99 years in the safe hands of the Left Front.**

Thanking you with warm regards

M. Dewanji

**Manabendra Dewanji
Hony, Secretary, W I N
& Member of Amenesty International.**