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**ATTACKING EVILS**

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Ref: NCCL/AHD/VKS/NBA/22/

Date: 05/09/2008

Ms. Shabana Azmi,  
Sagar Samrat,  
Green Fields, Juhu,  
Mumbai 400049.

Sub: " **Anti-Secular to Anti-Development: What next Ms. Shabana Azmi?**"

Dear Ms. Azmi,

I must recall that your statement on 17 August 2008 that '**Indian democracy is unfair to Muslims**' exhibited how imprudence in public life can harm the image of celebrities. After I wrote to you offering our help to defend your "**right to property**" if you could establish the credentials of your claims, a number of citizens have endorsed our views and have seen through the hollowness of your statement. However, you have failed to identify the builders that have denied you the right to property, thereby confirming that **you lied to the nation**.

Please note, a large section of the secular society is increasingly getting convinced that your statement harmed the Republic more than it could serve any purpose of social transformation. With that, it has become very difficult to identify you anymore amongst the **secular intellectuals** and conscience keepers of the society.

Further to this blemish, you carelessly brought another disgrace on your hitherto clean image when you shared the dais with Ms. Medha Patkar on 20 August 2008 in **Indore** to release a report that diminishes the value, importance and service of Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) to the Nation. By joining hands with those who have introduced impediments in the path of national development, you have brought upon you the stigma of ill association and the choice of anti-social voice.

How could you be unaware of the benefits of national development created by the SSP? The SSP has sustained the lives of millions of people in the drought stricken Western India and has heralded the beginning of a new era of development, peace, prosperity and opportunity to those who were under-privileged.

Please also note that at present SSP is irrigating 2.98 lakh hectares of drought prone lands in Gujarat. The project till July 2008 has generated 11,495 Million Units electricity. Many rivers of Gujarat that were dry in the past are now flowing with Narmada water. Barmer dist. in Rajasthan, which was prone to famine for centuries, has now found water and life support due to the SSP. Women from the dry lands of Gujarat and Rajasthan used to walk for 10 to 12 Kms to fetch water to their families, stand on the roadside for hours in anticipation of the Govt. tankers and had become easy prey to voyeurs and rapists until the waters of Narmada reached their villages, restoring their dignity.

Earlier due to high dependence on ground water, the water tables were falling fast in Ahmedabad city. The water supplied by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to its 50-lakh residents contained high levels of TDS, causing various diseases. But now, out of the total

requirement of 750 Million liters per day (MLD), AMC is supplying 550 MLD high quality Narmada water to its residents. More than 35,000 dry bore wells have been recharged due to flow of Narmada water in Sabarmati River.

In all, Narmada provided life sustenance and equal opportunity to millions of rural and urban population in the entire western India. At the same time, SSP's rehabilitation package had been highly lauded by none other than the World Bank itself. It is utterly disgraceful that you chose to show your opposition to such a life-sustaining project, by releasing a report of **TISS** that belittles the human efforts of national development.

It is indeed very unfortunate that the people of India heaped so much honour on you, while you always nursed such **communal and anti social feelings** inside your mind but donned a facade of innocent beauty on the exterior. You should also know that Civil Society does not sympathise with those who pursue pseudo-secular idealism and hobnob with the anti-development lobby.

**NCCL is bringing out a point-wise rejoinder that exposes the glaring misinformation promoted by the TISS report and will also hold you responsible amongst others who have perpetrated and supported the mischievous propaganda against national development.**

NCCL shall also pursue with the film industry, intellectuals, politicians and media to withdraw their support to you as **“you have slapped the people who clapped for you”**.

Yours sincerely  
For **National Council for Civil Liberties**

**VK SAXENA**  
**PRESIDENT**

c c: The Director – Tata Institute of Social Science – Mumbai.

