



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्री  
भारत  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
INDIA

8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Dear Chief Minister,

I am writing to you in connection with the recent avoidable controversy surrounding the exercises carried out by Indian Army's Eastern Command in West Bengal and other States under their jurisdiction to collect information on movement of heavy vehicles at toll gates during 01<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016. This exercise is being carried out by all formations of the Army throughout the country for many years as per the dates convenient to them in consultation with concerned agencies of the State Governments.

I have been deeply pained by your allegations as reported in the media. If only you had enquired with the concerned Agencies of the State Government, you would have come to know of the extensive correspondence between the Army and the state agencies including the joint inspection of sites carried out by them.

Indian Army is one of the most disciplined institutions of our country, dedicated to the safety and security of the Nation. The country is proud of their professionalism and apolitical conduct.

Your allegations in this regard run the risk of adversely impacting the morale of the country's armed forces and the same were not expected from a person of your standing and experience in public life.

The Army Authorities were forced to put the record straight in the matter by presenting evidence of their communication with the concerned State agencies including rescheduling of the data collection operations on their request.

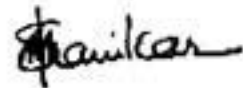
Cont'd..2.

Political parties and the politicians may have the luxury of making wild and unsubstantiated allegations against each other but one needs to be extremely careful while referring to our armed forces. I am sure you would appreciate this.

As Defence Minister, I thought it appropriate and necessary to bring to your notice the feeling of our armed forces and the people at large for your consideration.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(ManoharParrikar)

Ms.Mamata Banerjee  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Government of West Bengal  
Kolkata