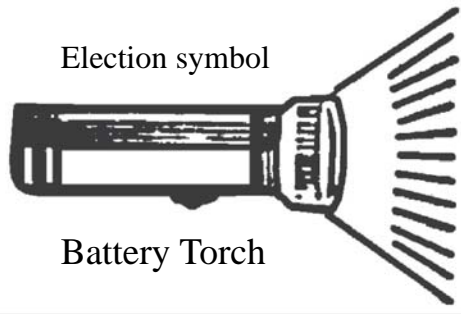


# Election Manifesto

## **Mumbai South Lok Sabha Constituency People's Candidate Suryakant Shinge**



**Cast your vote to elect Suryakant Shinge  
Press the button on Battery Torch**

Age: 41 years Education: BA Occupation: Garment worker.  
(Active member of Lok Raj Sangathan, Ladaku Garment  
Mazdoor Sangh and Ladaku Mazdoor Union; political and so-  
cial activist.)

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Dear Citizens,

I am happy to be a candidate for the coming Lok Sabha elections from the Mumbai South Constituency. Many organisations have nominated me as their candidate in their general body meetings.

**Nominated by:**

Lok Raj Sangathan, Ladaku Garment Mazdoor Sangh,  
Kamgar Ekta Chalwal, Ladaku Mazdoor Union, Purogami  
Mahila Sangathan, Hind Naujawan Ekta Sabha, and Commu-  
nist Ghadar Party

That is why I humbly declare that I am a **People's Candidate** in the true sense.

On the invitation of Lok Raj Sangathan, many organisations got together before the elections were declared and prepared a **Charter of Demands that is of the People, by the People and for the Benefit of People**. These organisations also declared that they would support any candidate who is ready for the demands raised therein.

**I have sworn to fight for the implementation of this People's Charter of Demands.**

**Organisations supporting the People's Charter of Demands**

Lok Raj Sangathan, Communist Ghadar Party of India, Socialist Unity Centre of India, Ladaku Garment Mazdoor Sangh, Ladaku Mazdoor Union, Airports Authority Employees Union, Awami Bharat, B.S.N.L. Labour and Contract Labour Union, Baandh Kaam Kamgar Sanghathana, Girni Kamgar Sangharsh Samiti, Hind Naujawan Ekta Sabha, Jagrut Ghar Kamgar Sanghathan, Kamgar Ekta Chalwal, Maharashtra Bhatkiya Vimukt Jati Jamati Sangh, Mumbai Beedi Kamgar Union, Purogami Mahila Sangathan

# Charter of Demands - Of the People, For the People, By the People

## **To keep the elected MP under the people's control:**

1. People's Committees should be constituted in every ward. The MP should be answerable to these committees, and not to the High Command of his party.
2. In the debates and discussions in parliament, the MP should express the views and opinions of the people of his constituency. For that he should maintain contact with the local committees and people's organisations in his area. He should consult them on every important issue.
3. Every MP should spend the fund he gets for his constituency in accordance with the directives of the constituency committees and people's organizations.
4. These committees should have the right to recall him if the MP does not work satisfactorily.

## **To safeguard the people in the ongoing economic crisis and to orient the economy in the interests of the people:**

5. The economy should be oriented to benefit the people, not to profit the capitalists! Stop helping the capitalists! Stop putting the burden of the crisis on the backs of the people!
6. Stop the attacks on the workers, peasants and all working people!
7. Reverse the policy of globalization through privatisation and liberalization!

**To ensure fundamental rights such as livelihood, food, clothes and shelter security:**

8. Establish a universal Public Distribution System which will supply good quality food grains and all essentials like edible oil and fuel, medicine, stationery, cloth, etc. in adequate quantity and at affordable prices.
9. The ration shops must be under the control of the local People's Committees.
10. Stop attempts to privatize water supply. Everyone should get water in adequate quantity and at affordable rates.
11. Stop demolishing people's homes and giving the land to private companies under any pretext! It is the government's responsibility to give good quality homes to everyone!
12. It is the government's responsibility to give good quality education to everyone! Government expenditure on public education has to be multiplied. There should be high quality schools in every area, which provide good education, and where facilities like pure drinking water, toilets, library, laboratories, modern instruments like computers, playing fields, sports equipment and recreation centres are available to all students.
13. It is the government's responsibility to provide good quality health care to all. Government expenditure on public health care has to be increased manifold. The number of hospitals and primary health centres has to be multiplied. Working people should be given free medicines and treatment.
14. A good quality public transport system should be available for all which will be safe as well as comfortable.

15. Take measures such as the following to generate funds for the above:

- Confiscate black money!
- Increase the tax on the super-rich.
- Stop helping the super-rich.
- Cut back on defence expenditure.

**For the well-being and happiness of the people:**

16. Everyone who works should be recognized as a worker and given rights accordingly. Working conditions of everyone should be good.
17. Abolish the contract system and make every job permanent.
18. Every able bodied adult who needs a job should get at least 300 days of employment every year and get more than minimum wages.
19. Every worker, employee or working person should get a daily wage of at least Rs. 300. This should be increased in accordance with the rising prices, and the state should guarantee it.
20. Women employees should have crèche facilities at their workplaces. The children should be given modern, scientific care.
21. Everyone should be given social security by the state. Handicapped people should be provided a dignified employment in keeping with their capacity and should be give wages ensuring a comfortable life. It is the duty of the state to give adequate pension to the old people.
22. Rural as well as urban development should be carried out harmoniously.
23. Peasants should be assured a secure livelihood by

controlling the prices of inputs and assuring an adequate price for their produce.

24. Ensure adequate protection of the environment!
25. Put a strict limit of 8 hours on the working day.
26. Stop bad behaviour and violence against women, whether at home or at places of work or in the police station. Give the strictest of punishments to those criminals who are guilty of such acts!
27. Stop police pressure on and atrocities against small shopkeepers, hawkers, and riksha and taxi drivers.
28. Today 5 lakh of people from the Scheduled Tribes stay in Mumbai without ration cards, and with their names not figuring in the voters' lists. Give such people all rights due to Indian citizens!

**For peace and brotherhood in South Asia and throughout the world:**

29. Oppose the increasing interference of US imperialism in South Asia and elsewhere!
30. Oppose the war-mongering of both the governments of India and Pakistan, because this type of war is against the interests of the people of both the countries.
31. Fight resolutely for peace in South Asia and the world!

**For social justice, peace and brotherhood:**

32. Those who organise communal violence on the basis of caste, religion, nationality, language, region, etc. and torture people should be severely punished forthwith.
33. Repeal all black laws that deprive people of their rights.
34. Stop state terrorism!

## What will I do if elected to the Lok Sabha?

With your support as well as that of the organisations mentioned above, I will fight for the implementation of the People's Charter of Demands. I will raise my voice for them in the parliament. In my Constituency, many people live in slums and chawls. At one time, a part of this area used to be called "Girangaon". However the mills were closed and the workers lost their jobs as well as homes. Permanent jobs are being turned into contract. The condition of workers like those in the garment industry, who work on piece rate basis, is deteriorating day by day.

I want to fight for all of them so their jobs are secure and permanent; their homes cannot be taken away or demolished under any excuse; they get all dues and compensation, at least as per law. I will also wage struggle for demands of people other than organised and unorganised workers.

I will fight for water and 'safsafai' for all slums and chawls in my area. I will insist ration shops must provide enough good quality tandul (rice), wheat and rockel (kerosene) to everybody who wants them.

I will organize people against organizations and their leaders creating 'phut' (divisions) among people and creating fights between themselves. A large number of Muslims of my constituency have suffered. Recently, people from North India were targeted.

I will spend all the funds available to me after consulting my constituency members and give the account of money spent to them.

# What have I done so far

## For working people:

- ◆ Am active in various organizations like the Lok Raj Sangathan in order to establish "Lok Raj".
- ◆ Being a garment worker myself, I well understand that the condition of workers in the unorganised sector is terrible. There is very little legal protection, and the laws that are there are merely on paper. In addition to this, many workers suffer because the owner strikes deals with the union behind their backs. After some bad experiences, we workers decided to form our own Union. We founded the Ladaku Garment Mazdoor Sangh". We taught ourselves how to fight against the owners. The Union grew from strength to strength. Under the leadership of our Union, thousands of workers got their rights, including dues, wages, ESI, PF and other benefits.
- ◆ This Union empowers the members by insisting that all crucial decisions such as how to fight, when and how to compromise, etc. are taken after discussion by the general membership of the concerned unit.
- ◆ Apart from fighting for their economic demands, this Union also considers the social and political education of workers as its duty.
- ◆ Since then we established the Ladaku Mazdoor Union for workers in other branches, which is based on the same principles. Till date it has won the rights of hospital, hotel, canteen, mall employees, couriers, watchmen, etc.
- ◆ At the local level I have participated in struggles against the closure of various factories, against layoffs, unemployment and price rise, for the rights of contract workers, for the right to shelter and against slum demolitions, for the rights of workers of closed mills, for good and adequate quantity of water, against those who attack women, and so on.
- ◆ On behalf of my organisations I have participated in many joint programmes and campaigns - against the New Economic Policy, i.e. in the campaign against globalisation through privatisation

and liberalisation, in the campaign opposing the anti-people policies of the World Trade Organisation, in programmes and demonstrations on the occasion of May Day, International Women's Day and International Human Rights Day, in the struggle of the warkaris against the American multinational Dow Chemicals, in the struggles against the governments who seize farmers' land and give it to the big capitalists to establish Special Economic Zones, in the struggles against the sell-out of India's rich natural resources by the governments, and so on.

- ◆ I have played an active role in many organizations to raise the political, economic and social consciousness of people, particularly the youth, by organising various seminars, workshops, cultural and sports festivals.

As a political and social activist, I have participated in many campaigns of my organizations, such as -

### **Against imperialism:**

- ◆ Against the so-called "War on Terrorism", under which pretext US imperialism is waging wars against Afghanistan and Iraq.
- ◆ Against sending Indian troops to Iraq.
- ◆ Against US interference in South Asia and for peace; against the collaboration of the Indian ruling class with US imperialism
- ◆ Against the imperialist deeds of the Indian ruling class
- ◆ Against the war-mongering of both the Indian as well as the Pakistani governments

### **Against terrorism and state terrorism**

- ◆ Against black laws such as POTA and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act
- ◆ Against the "Divide and Rule" policy of the ruling class and its political parties
- ◆ Against massacres on the basis of religion, caste, language and region organised by the ruling class and its parties
- ◆ In the campaign to "Punish the Guilty".

## What is My Goal?

1. To put an end to all forms of exploitation, injustice, terror and oppression. To organise people to fight for such a society.
2. To put an end to the politics that divides the people, limits their role to that of being vote banks and keeps them away from power.
3. To fight for the renewal of the present political system and process, so that parties will not hold power, but people themselves will be empowered to take the decisions on all matters of importance to society.
4. **People's Committees should be elected from amongst their midst. These should select the candidates. The representatives should be accountable to them.** Through them people should have the right to propose new laws. **They should have the right to recall representatives found unsuitable.**

I want to implement this fourth aim immediately. To ensure that after being elected, my electors retain full control over me, I have signed an oath on a stamp paper of the court.

## The Important Points From My Oath:

1. I will fight to implement the Charter of Demands jointly drawn up by People's Organisations of Mumbai.
2. I will work as per the orders of the people of Mumbai South. From time to time I will present a report of my work to them. People's welfare is my first priority.
3. For the development of my area, I will act as per the decisions of the People's Committees, as to how much

money will be used for what and where.

4. I will fight along with the people and lead the struggle to ensure basic necessities - water, housing, electricity, toilets, roads, sanitation, excellent education and facilities in primary schools, ration, kerosene, cooking gas, community centre, health centre, sports facilities for the youth and cultural centres - for my area.
5. Keeping the needs of workers in mind, I will organise them and lead them in the struggle for minimum wages and basic necessities.
6. I will fight along with the people against exploitation and oppression as well as partiality on the basis of caste, religion, gender and region.
7. I will fight along with the people, against police atrocities and the targetting without adequate proof of innocent individuals and communities.
8. I will fight tirelessly, along with the citizens for an end to the contract system and for ensuring permanency to all workers.

If I do not abide by the above declarations, I give the right to the people of the Mumbai South parliamentary constituency to recall me at any time before my 5 year term is over, or to demand my resignation.

**A vote for Suryakant Shinge is  
a vote for the People!**

**Cast your vote to elect him**

**Press button on Battery Torch**

