



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

COMRADE ASHOK MITRA PASSES AWAY

With profound grief, we report the demise of Comrade Ashok Mitra, a noted economist and an outstanding columnist, the Finance Minister (1977 – '87) of the Left Front Government of West Bengal, a relentless crusader against the neo-liberal economic regime and an Ex-MP, at a Kolkata Hospital last morning, 01st May 2018; he was 90.

Born on 10th April 1928 in Dhaka (now in Bangladesh), did PhD thesis, in 1953, under the guidance of Nobel Laureate Jan Tinbergen from the University of Rotterdam. After brief stints as a Professor of Economics in a number of the Universities/Institutions in India and abroad, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Agricultural Cost and Pricing Commission; in 1970, he was appointed as the Chief Economic Advisor to the then Prime Minister Srimati Indira Gandhi, a post he resigned from in 1972; he was also a fierce critic of the Emergency proclaimed by the then Central Government in 1975.

An eloquent orator and a prolific writer, both In English and in Bengali, Comrade Mitra was known for his razor-sharp and critical analysis of the society and politics; he won the Sahitya Academy Award for his contribution to the Bengali Literature.

A communist till death, Comrade Ashok Mitra was always vocal, whether as an academician or a parliamentarian or an administrator, for the working class and the downtrodden people; he also made significant contribution to the debate over Centre-State relationship that led to the constitution of the Sarkaria Commission.

Comrade Ashok Mitra was very closely associated with BEFI and enriched us through his erudite deliberations in a number of Conferences and Seminars both of this Federation and its Units.

While conveying heart-felt condolence to the members of his family, BEFI dips its banner in respectful homage to the memory of Comrade Ashok Mitra.

LONG LIVE COMRADE ASHOK MITRA



(PRADIP BISWAS)
GENERAL SECRETARY