

Proletarian Era

Volume 34 No. 20
June 15, 2001

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Rs. 2.00
Air surcharge : 5 P.

'DEVELOPMENT' IN WEST BENGAL

Plight of Two and a Half Lakh Jute Workers

Along with changing its steward of government, replacing Jyoti Basu by Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, the CPI(M), heading the Left Front in West Bengal, substituted 'development' as the new keyword for all its previous deployment of slogans for the masses. 'Power to the Left Front', albeit CPI(M), 'for unhindered continuation of development' was the catchword the party coined for consumption by the electorate at the recently concluded state assembly elections. But double-face, it has been well-known, is the brand mark of social democracy. In the case of the CPI(M) and its allies, what 'development' means and for whom becomes unmistakably clear if the Front's governmental policies are taken note of. Illustrations are there in every sphere; attention may be paid in the first instance, however, to a specific industry which was a major focus of working class movement for many decades till the Left Front got itself entrenched in power in West Bengal with active patronage of the ruling class in the last two and a half decades.

At present, after reinstallation of the Left Front government, around 12 jute mills are closed with around 40,000 workers retrenched. In several other mills the number of looms has been brought down and two shifts are running daily in place of three shifts, resulting in retrenchment of a further 40,000 workers. It means, about half of the total workforce of the jute industry are now out of job. Their sufferings, which rarely find mention in the media in news items like 'jute mill worker commits suicide', or 'starvation death of families of retrenched workers', mean little or nothing to the parties in power.

If the picture is distressing, the reality behind is a revelation of not only unbridled exploitation and deprivation of workers by the mill owners but of massive cheating in league with unscrupulous trade union leaders and government's labour department. Jungle law, simply the law of the jungle, is ruling the jute industry of West Bengal. The owners are flouting every law and agreement to fleec the workers. About 80 per cent of the owners are refusing to pay wage to the workers on the basis of the tripartite agreement. They are paying Rs. 60-70 per day, whereas the agreement stipulates a wage of Rs. 150 per day per worker. 50% of the workers are complement labours

who are being denied legal status for years together, with the result that they are deprived of every legal provision, including Provident Fund and ESI.

In a word, the owners are decreasing the number of workers engaged and increasing the work load on the one hand, while devising various means on the other to engage workers at much lower wages. To ensure the object, the owners are avoiding entering any tripartite industrial agreement on wage or work

(Contd. on page 7)

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Urges President's Intervention in Babari Masjid Demolition Case

[The UP High Court dismissed the case of demolition of Babari Masjid on a technical ground and advised the State Government to issue a fresh notification to remove procedural snag. Condemning the shameless refusal by the UP government to comply. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, sent this letter to Mr K R Narayanan, the President of India.]

Mr K R Narayanan,
The President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi
Sir,

All secular minded people of India are shocked to learn that the U.P. Government led by BJP has refused to issue fresh notification rectifying the earlier one as suggested by High Court.

Destruction of Babari Masjid, a sacred religious place for Muslims and a monument of historical importance for the country, was a crime comparable only with Taliban's recent barbaric demolition of about 2000 year old Buddha statue in Afghanistan.

Those who were involved in this criminal act deserve severe punishment.

But with much concern we note that both the central and the state governments have joined in a conspiracy to save the main culprits as some of them are important ministers of BJP-led government at the Centre. It is a blatant violation of all civil laws and norms and reduces the central and state governments, CBI and even judiciary into pawns in the hands of the Sangh Parivar. This is a grave danger for the country.

Under the circumstances, we urge you to intervene so that the central government instructs the state government of U.P. to issue a fresh notification on this case.

Thanking you,

Calcutta
14th. June, 2001

Yours faithfully,
Sd - Nihar Mukherjee
General Secretary, SUCI.

CPI(M)'s "Bourgeois Tendencies" Admitted by the Party

After the CPI(M) led Left Democratic Front (LDF) received serious drubbing at the hands of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Kerala Assembly poll last month and was dislodged from the government, the state CPI(M) came in for censure for its responsibility for the reverse. The Kerala State Committee of the party, in a report placed before the CPI(M) politbureau and Central Committee meeting that concluded in Delhi on June 3 last, in trying to explain the causes for the debacle, confessed that the state party "had developed bourgeois tendencies". The politbureau, in its report, admonished the state unit of the party and made the virtual assertion that it had been a sin for the state party to "compromise its communist character". (Report in *The Statesman* 4.6.2001)

The LDF government headed by the CPI(M) has been charged with widespread financial mismanage-

ment, nepotism and corruption, and rightly so. Some instances are : the state CPI(M)'s multi-crore projects

like the Kairali TV channel and the cultural festivals called Manavigata for which artistes with all-India fame were hired and flown in — wasteful shows of pomp and splendor involving huge squandering of money; construction of a large auditorium with 5 star facilities adjoining the state party headquarters; construction of multi-storied luxury buildings with flats for all the state party leaders; and reports of the CPI(M) owning multi-storied, multi-crore real estates all over the state. And all these while pension

(Contd. on page 6)

May Day Observed In Brussels

SUCI Exposes Globalisation at International Seminar

As has been done for some years past, an international communist seminar was held in Brussels from 2-4 May, 2001. This year too, our party, as in previous years participated in the seminar.

Many communist and workers parties from various countries including USA, UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Algeria, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Argentine, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Niger participated in the seminar. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff and Deputy, International Affairs, SUCI, represented our party in the seminar. Besides our party the participants from India were CPI(ML)-Janashakti and CPI(ML)-New Democracy. Comrade Wil vander Klift from New Communist Party Netherlands (NCPN) and Comrade Mobinul Haider Choudhury from Socialist Party of Bangladesh were also present in the seminar.

Prior to the seminar, on May 1, the International Working Class Day was celebrated at Sint Jansberglaam 4 through a festival. Thousands of people attended the festival. Seminars were held. Revolutionary songs were presented. In the afternoon May Day meeting was held. Comrade Nadine Rosa-Rosso, Secretary General of PTB, Belgium was the main speaker in the meeting.

The proceeding of the seminar on 2nd May started with the opening speech by Comrade Ludo Martens, Chairman of Workers Party of Belgium (PTB). The main theme of the seminar was "The world socialist revolution in conditions of imperialist globalisation", which was subdivided into 'The objective evolution of the productive forces, the relations of production and exchange' for the first session, 'The sharpening of all contradictions of the imperialist world and the necessity of the world socialist revolution' for the second session, 'Maintaining and developing the socialist road in conditions of imperialist globalisation' for the third session, 'The question of the struggle for national sovereignty, the defence of the national state and the practice of proletarian internationalism in conditions of imperialist globalisation for the fourth session, 'Experiences of popular struggles against globalisation for fifth session and 'Criticism of the political lines developed by reformist, revisionist and Trotskyite forces in the struggle against globalisation' for the sixth session.

In the first session, For a Better World, USA, CPI(ML)-Janashakti and German Communist Party presented their views on the subject of discussion. Complementary report and discussion were made by Freedom Road Socialist Organisation, USA.

In the second session, Lalkar, UK, Workers' Party of Belgium, Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism and Communist Party of Philippines presented their views on the subject of discussion. Complementary reports and discussions were made by Lenin Circle, Italy, Communist Party (ML), Dominican Republic, and others.

In the third session, Communist Party of Vietnam, Communist Party of Cuba, Workers' Party of Korea presented their views on the subject of discussion.

In the fourth session, Party for the Liberation of Argentine, KPML(r), Sweden, Jean-LUC Sallé, France and AKP, Norway presented views on the subject of discussion. Complementary reports and discussions were made by the Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI), DHKC, Turkey, Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Front, Nepal, TKP/ML, ACTUS and others.

In the fifth session, National Democratic Front of the Philippines, Danish Communist Party (ML), Samyavadi Dal, Bangladesh, presented their views on the subject of discussion.

In the sixth session, Union of Communist Parties, Soviet Union, Ray O Light, USA presented their views in the subject of discussion.

Ludo Martens, Chairman, PTB also presented a paper in the seminar on 'The War in Congo and Imperialist Globalisation'.

In the concluding session, discussions on general resolution was held. The central theme of the 2002-International Communist Seminar was decided as 'Economic Crisis of Imperialism and War'.

Below we give the paper placed by Comrade Ranjit Dhar at the seminar.

Comrades and friends,

On behalf of the people of India and, our Party the Socialist Unity Centre of India, I thank the organisers for allowing me to attend and speak at this august gathering of the International Communist Seminar 2001 at Brussels. I shall dwell upon a topic which is significant as well as intricate to the revolutionary as also the democratic-minded people of the world. Clear guidelines and excellent analyses from Marxist-Leninist authorities help us find the truth on the topic, though capitalist-imperialist propaganda machinery has been able to create confusions in mass-mind, even a section of the revolutionary rank and file, helped much by the revisionist-neo-revisionist deviations. So, I must acknowledge the prudence of the organizers in including the topic as a discussion matter in the Seminar.

Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism: long back when Lenin presented this invaluable thesis, he strengthened it with his brilliant analysis. He made it clear that this highest stage

also meant the sharpest contradictions within and outside the system itself. Thus the contradiction between labour and capital was at its height. As capitalism passed from its free competitive stage to the development of monopoly and then to financial oligarchy, increase in the strength of capital brought about more and more exploitation and resulting impoverishment of the toiling masses and fall in their purchasing power, bringing in its wake the internal market-crisis within the respective capitalist countries; the finance capital thus ventured out to the external market to exploit the labour force and raw material of the colonies-semi-colonies. But the process also enhanced the contradictions among the imperialists themselves to gain control over the market to tide over their crisis. It led Lenin further to propound that imperialism inevitably generates war. This simple yet elegant unveiling of truths was confirmed by the two devastating world wars, which were nothing but violent expressions of the contradictions among the leading imperialist

powers of the world to win control over the world market. According to Lenin "... the war was 'for the division of the world', for the partition and repartition of colonies and spheres of influence of finance capital". Side by side with these contradictions within capitalism-imperialism itself, contradictions between it and the rising social order of socialism were accentuated. Even two wars did not help the imperialists to resolve their crisis. On the contrary, the mighty Soviet Union was born, led by the great proletarian leader Lenin; Peoples' Republic of China emerged under the leadership of Mao Zedong; the Socialist Camp under the leadership of Stalin sliced off a large portion of the world from the imperialist hegemony -squeezing their market and adding further to their crisis. Emboldened by these instances and inspired by the example of socialism, surges of national liberation struggles swept through colonies and semi-colonies; the resurgent nationalist countries simply made the crisis more acute and extensive. Thus in the immediate post-War days, leave aside any resolution of its crisis, the capitalism-imperialism entered into its third intensive phase of crisis, when a boom in the morning crashed into a slump at the close of the day. At the same time the war-mongering system of capitalism-imperialism faced unprecedented rise of militant peace movement by the democratic-minded people the world over led by the mighty socialist camp. Proletarian revolution was knocking at the door of the world, so to say-as expressed Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our Party SUCI and one of the great Marxist-Leninist thinker of our era.

History however veered in a different direction when revisionism raised its ugly head in the Soviet Union and cast its influence on the world revolutionary movement. Finally with counter-revolution in the Soviet Union and the east European socialist states and collapse of the Socialist Camp, capitalism-imperialism found a breather. The proponents of the capitalist order grabbed the opportunity, resonating the global ambience with phrases like, 'it was the age of the end of the class struggle, the revolution, the imperialism, the cold war'; 'A New World Order waited to be welcome at the turn of the century'; 'It shone with prospects of peace and prosperity, guided and controlled by globalized and liberalized market economy'. The century turned, but the reality did not. Rather with the tall claims and colourful fantasies of imperialists falling through, we now stand before an urgent task! It is imperative for the peace-loving democratic-minded people of the world, not to speak of the revolutionaries, to develop a crystal-clear ideological understanding of what happened, why it happened and what to do next. Lenin pointed out the contradictions of imperialism; Marxist-Leninist authorities of the post-Lenin days elaborated and explained the subsequent concrete form of those contradictions. Have these now vanished in the blue sky? Are they not valid still today? Yes or no, what changes have followed since then? I presume we are here to probe into these queries. I shall try to present my views for

(Contd. on page 3)

Behind Globalisation Imperialist Contradictions and Danger of War Growing More Intense

(Contd. from page 2)

you to consider.

'With globalization and liberalization of market economy in the world in the absence of the socialist camp, there would be no war, not even trade war; trade will be free to all; it must be made free; no protectionism should be there to segregate narrow national market-interests—such were the thoughts aired through the phenomenally grown IT industry and electronic media. GATT, WTO etc. became the topic of daily discussion. But what was the reality, after or even when the GATT 94 was being signed? Was it not right at that moment that Sutherland, the erstwhile Secretary General of GATT 94 issued the warning: It was really the beginning of bitter trade war. Was it not a fact that before the ink on the agreement dried, the world of imperialism split into three economic alliances-cum-power centres, with US, Japan and European Union headed by Germany, leading each respectively? Even these were not permanent, as NAFTA gave way to Free Trade Summit of Americas. What was this division for? Was it not to protect the interest of this or that imperialist, individual or regional? Soon the interests clashed, as was evident in all subsequent meetings, conferences etc. of the WTO, World Bank, IMF and so on, be it in Seattle, or Washington, Davos or Prague. In these encounters the leading imperialists agreed on certain points, say, on liberalization of services, opening of markets of developing countries, but vehemently differed on opening their own market and on various other measures.

For instance, EU stood firm on not opening their agriculture or textile sectors; US was reluctant to open its shipping market; Japan its fish and forest sectors. EU wanted investment and competition policy reviewed, USA did not. Again on the Kyoto Treaty to negotiate on greenhouse gases that cause global warming, the USA, the largest producer of such gases stubbornly rejected it, whereas EU was the prime mover on this. Poorer countries too, did not fall back; they differed from the richer and more powerful ones, on issues affecting their own interests; for example, they fought in Seattle on non-trade issues, viz., linking trade with labour standards and environments. These differences and conflicts were not merely verbal; they even went to the extent of breaking down conferences (for instance, at Seattle). Even when there was consensus, decisions were made not by vote; it meant there was backroom arm-twisting to rope in some rebellious weaker nation, if needed.

What do these conflicts and differences arising every day reflect? Are they not the sharpening contradictions among the imperialists or between the more powerful capitalist-imperialists and the less powerful ones? Do they have any semblance of weakening trade wars, or do they betray the bitterness and heat to protect and enhance their own respective interests? Do not this bitterness and heat place the world on the brink of a third World War? Are not hot wars already taking place? In fact peace has turned out to be elusive in the "New World" which witnessed the prolonged sanction against the tiny but resolute socialist Cuba, the ferocious Gulf War

and subsequent economic sanction against Iraq that took its toll in death, starvation, disease and misery of the population, particularly the children; the world saw the barbaric arrogant transgression, of national sovereignty of Yugoslavia, ravaging bombardment on the country, intrigues and interventions to disintegrate that Balkan country into a multitude of states; the world was shocked to know that US spy planes fly as far away from their country as China Sea or over Peru, and killed a Chinese pilot and an American missionary with her baby in their planes, respectively; the world found fomentation of ethnic and racial enmity and resulting bloodbath in a series of countries in Africa, sanctions against Libya, interventions or aggressions in Haiti, Colombia, Indonesia and so on and so forth. And who were the culprits, the aggressors, the shameless perpetrators of international crime of transgressing sovereignty of nations, trampling of humanity, unleashing of reign of terror and corruption. It was none but the imperialists, headed by the most bellicose of them, the US imperialists, the so-called protagonists of peace in the New World.

Furthermore, such hot wars do not remain the monopoly of bigger imperialist-capitalist countries. Wars in this or that part of Africa are the cases at hand; we in India too, have gone through these, like the Kargil War with Pakistan. Now what for are these hot wars, armed conflicts or war-like situations? Do they attest to stability, political or economic? Are not all these trade wars, armed wars, war-hysteria or war-psychosis nothing but expressions of acute crisis of capitalism-imperialism, which led Lenin to conclude that imperialism generates war? They thrive on a militarized economy and militarization of economy is a prop with capitalism-imperialism to stave off their crisis.

With the twentieth century technological growth, the capacity for production, that is the productive force has increased manifold. But, as already stated, acute disparity and deprivation are inevitable in capitalism; high-tech growth has brought more lay-offs, mergers, closures and unemployment; even in agriculture high-tech boom causes less work for more people. The crisis has thus merely deepened further. In fact, the severe crisis has pushed capitalist countries, big or small, weak or strong, to develop a military-industrial complex itself, in which the military; or in its name, the government, places orders to the industry and buys back the produce. So the more the pauperization of masses, the more is the market-crisis, and to overcome it the higher is the military budget, the stronger is the military-industrial complex. But it has its inherent contradictions too. Increased production of military hardwares and armaments can find only one way to keep production alive, and that is by using them in war. Thus creating war-psychosis and war-incidence is a necessary course for capitalist-imperialist countries to minimise stockpiling of arms and stagnation and thereby to artificially stimulate the economy.

Even in the New World Order of the globalized and liberalized market economy, this remains a truth. Thus the Gulf War temporarily revived the US economy from the recession of the

late seventies; the Yugoslavia War proved that the crisis recurred fast and was unavoidable to the imperialists, headed by the US imperialists. These also prove that in this New World Order, the imperialists have shed all semblance, all modicum of rationality, legality and humanity. They are out to ravage a country going across its sovereignty; they are heartless to bomb hospitals, schools and residences; they are cruel to the extent of destroying agricultural fields, natural environments and natural resources like oil fields etc., of the weaker countries to make them kneel down before their big brothers. This has been amply demonstrated in the recent past in all the local or regional wars waged by the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists.

Equally illusive was the prosperity in the new century in the so-called New World Order. Poverty, unemployment, lay-off, closure, merger of MNCs and TNCs, swallowing of smaller ones by the bigger ones—all these bringing in their wake more loss of jobs, and finally the bubble-bursting of globalized and liberalized market economy in one country after another and slowing-down of economy with even the much-pampered, much-hyped IT industry and electronics faltering before a chasm—even the imperialists and their revisionist-neo-revisionist hirelings know it at the bottom of their heart that none of these speaks of prosperity.

High-tech development, specially of the latest quarter of the last century, based particularly on IT industry and electronics, has been one of the most significant means in the process of globalization and liberalization of market economy; it has also been used as a panacea by the capitalists-imperialists to allure people. The myth is already devastatingly shattered. It is true that this hi-tech growth brought the global market closer; it increased productivity stupendously; at the same time, inherently capital-intensive, it hastened up capital concentration beyond limit. Now to the dismay of the protagonists of hi-tech, all these brought in crisis.

Globalization not only makes market global; it makes poverty and unemployment global too. Thus American workers start losing jobs, as American corporates, their TNCs and MNCs find it more rewarding, in terms of superprofits, to run their industry in a developing country with cheaper raw materials and labour costs. And in the latter, on the other hand, giant corporates nullify scores of local enterprises, throwing thousands out of job and instead setting up high-tech capital-intensive industries with less labour.

Undeniably productivity soared to the sky with high-tech; but side by side there was an extremely rapid concentration. Here are some figures: Richest 20% of the world enjoy 82% of the shares of exports of goods and services, middle 60% enjoy 17% and the poorest 20% just 1%; MNCs' foreign affiliates accounted for an estimated \$ 9.5 trillion in sales in 1997, up from 5% in the mid-1980s. By 1998 the top 10 companies in pesticides controlled 85% of a \$31 billion global market, top 10 in telecommunications controlled 86% of a \$262 billion market, in commercial seed 32% of a \$23 billion industry,

(Contd. on page 4)

Globalisation not only makes market global — it makes poverty and unemployment global too

(Contd. from page 3)

in pharmaceuticals 35% of \$297 billion, in veterinary medicine 60% of \$17 billion, in computers almost 70% of \$334 billion. (Update, Sr2, January 2000). But then the question was : who was to consume this production? As concentration of capital went fast with more production, the same old story was repeated; it increased disparity, impoverishment, loss of purchasing power of the masses, hence loss of demand, more stockpiling, stagnation, inflation, economic slow-down or bubble-burst. So we now find IT sectors admitting that the e-com did not work upto the expectation, that the growth inherently bore the risk etc. etc. But capital cannot and does not sit idle. As stagnation, inflation and the corollaries bring industries to a grinding halt, to a recession, capital finds its own way of survival in speculation. As it may appear, that remains the easiest way to earn fabulous profit without any responsibility and commitment to industry, market, demand, worker or the society even. With rapid concentration following high-tech growth, the immensely powerful capital of the capitalist-imperialist world plunged into the business of speculation. And we know the result. On March 24 last, the US stock market lost three trillion dollar in values, more than the entire gross domestic product of India, the latter a country fairly firmly set among the developing countries; we can well imagine the picture with respect to much poorer countries of Africa and Latin America. And mind that, this took place in a globalized market. Hence the loss shook up the whole world. London, Tokyo, Berlin, Hong Kong creaked under the weight of running feet ; there was a universal stampede. So this is the crisis and contradictions hi-tech supported globalization and liberalization have pushed imperialism into.

Once capitalism brought mankind out of the shackles of feudalism. In this course of history, capital grew from usurer's capital to its mercantile form and then to industrial as well as banking capital. Nowhere in this course, did capital lose its exploitative essence. But even then, during its early stages of growth, it helped society to develop; it provided jobs for the social beings; it fulfilled some commitments to society and its progress. But in this era of imperialism and particularly today, when phenomenal growth and acute crisis have brought in unprecedented recession, the capital assumes a global usurious role, though distinct from the earlier one — transgressing national limits and without any social commitment.

Herein lies a dangerous aspect of the crisis, that develops a tremendous contradiction between a heartless, socially or nationally unattached, utterly non-committal imperialism and the humanity longing to survive and develop on the wealth of civilization so far acquired. This aspect of crisis is manifested in the global imperialist onslaught on culture, an attack that is headed, virtually single-handedly by the US imperialists. As UNDP reported in 1999, 'The single largest export industry for the US is not aircraft or automobiles, it is entertainment... Hollywood films grossed more than \$30 billion worldwide in

1997'. And what is that culture, which the US imperialists export? It is the putrid, obnoxious brand of culture stinking with vulgarity, sex, violence, meaningless excitement, aimless desperateness, utter selfishness and unashamed social callousness, that has permeated into the life of the masses the world over. It is the culture that dehumanizes mankind creating the ground ripe for fascism to grow. For fascism, built on the base of ruthless exploitation of crisis-ridden capitalism-imperialism, requires to rob the masses of all shades of rationality, morality and humanity as also to inject them with narrow selfishness, mechanical approach to life and blind faith and allegiance, with a view to paving the way for exploitation to continue unquestioned, unabated and unopposed. Added to these are the imperialist designs and intrigues of fomenting racialism, communalism, ethnic violence etc. bringing disunity to the masses, of fanning up national jingoism and fundamentalism and so on, that act as ideological vehicles to bring in fascism itself. In these ways the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists have unleashed a severe attack on the toiling people of all countries, including theirs, to disarm them ideologically-culturally and morally to ensure their rule and exploitation to continue.

But the contradiction between progress and reaction cannot be eliminated by any sweet will, even of the all powerful imperialists. Globalization of market economy is nothing but vigorous all-out expression of the cosmopolitan character of capitalism in its stage of imperialism, that Lenin envisaged long back. In its present day form, the more the market is globalized, the more it leads to globalization of poverty, hunger, ruination, privation, on one hand, and amassing of huge wealth and profit by the MNCs, TNCs and corporate sectors on the other. All these lead also to further sharpening of class contradictions between exploiters and exploited, between the capitalist-imperialists on one hand and the vast majority of toiling masses on the other. This is already evident in massive protest demonstrations in different parts of the world, from Seattle to Davos, from Nice to Seoul. Here the demonstrators, cutting across the boundaries of countries, creed or status protest against the meetings of the WTO, World Bank etc., raising slogans and demands against globalization, liberalization, privatization of service sectors and other industries; there they rise against the anti-people, anti-worker policies of this or that government. The latest of these was the impressive militant anti-capitalist, anti-globalization demonstration at Quebec City before the Free Trade Summit of the Americas, led by the US President. The self-proclaimed leader of the world, the US imperialists do no longer find a red carpet welcome for their crass arrogance; on the other hand, as happened in Greece, their much-hyped President had to arrive under the cover of night and leave the airport stealthily by a bypass. Iraq, the victim of war-mongering policies of the US imperialists wins wider support in its favour, to lift sanction against it. The NATO, led by the US, earned the hatred of peace-loving people of the world. Opinion

against US domination rises every day, being particularly evident in the field of culture. Imposition of Yankee culture that creates cultural depravity, sex-trafficking, violence to an alarming limit, at the cost of rich treasures of national heritage and culture of different countries, has given rise to severe reactions among saner people of all sections of the society.

The objective situation is thus rife for an anti-capitalist revolutionary change; the rising class contradictions can only be resolved through accomplishing socialist revolution; what is lacking, is the subjective preparation. The time is now ripe for us to realize that the task of socialist revolution can be achieved only by releasing an intense ideological struggle against all confusing propaganda of the capitalists-imperialists that try to allure people to an imaginary bright future as also against revisionism and neo-revisionism that acted as a poison from within the revolutionary movement and corroded the socialist economy slowly but surely.

Thus we must realize that *the crisis and contradiction associated with the stupendous technological growth can only be resolved by freeing the productive system from the motive of reaping maximum profit and by establishing in its place a socialist economy, the object of production of which will be to meet the material need and cultural satisfaction of the people.* Thus realizing the necessity of socialist revolution is the prime task, if we really wish to free the high-tech growth from stagnation and recession and use it for the benefit of the majority of people all over the world; the urgency of this task must not be undermined in any way.

We should also make it a point that however sincerely we may look ahead for a healthy culture, fighting the obnoxious brand of imperialist culture, we cannot attain our goal, without releasing an ideological, cultural movement on the strength of a higher culture-philosophy and outlook of life of greater nobility. *Marxism-Leninism remains that philosophy and the culture on its basis, the avowed form, which alone can imbue the toiling masses with the strength of cultural-moral-ethical values that can resist any and every kind of imperialist cultural onslaught.*

However hoarse the reactionaries may cry, the dismantling of the Socialist camp does not prove in any way that Marxism has become invalid today. Rather the debacle itself proves that only Marxism-Leninism, and not any brand of revisionist- neo-revisionist deviations, is the only weapon to save and emancipate mankind from all sorts of exploitation— political, economic, social and cultural. *The sharpening contradictions of the present day in all walks of life can only be resolved in this way of developing class struggles on the strength of Marxism-Leninism.*

I must add one more vital point to end my deliberations. In this so-called New World the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists hanker for a global hegemony. But, as I have briefly indicated earlier, the crisis and contradictions they have plunged into, have brought forth surges of resentment, protest, even

(Contd. on page 6)

NATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**UTUC-LS Warns Against Danger of Globalisation**

[Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, President, UTUC-Lenin Sarani while representing UTUC-LS at the thirtyseventh session of National Labour Conference in Delhi on 11th, 12th and 18th and 19th of May, 2001 sharply denounced the government's globalisation policy in presence of the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister. Here we reproduce the summation of the points raised by Comrade Banerji.]

Impact of Globalisation on industry, labour and employment

Globalisation presupposes integration of national economies all over the world. But this integration is nowhere to be seen. Rather, the world is divided into so many regional common markets, protectionist in nature, protected by high customs duties, and non-tariff walls, like sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

USA itself has built up NAFTA. Now, it has initiated a scheme to build the biggest common market, comprising northern and southern American countries, except Cuba. Actually, globalisation has meant prizing open the markets of debtor countries by the MNCs based in creditor countries. Indian export trade is also facing anti-dumping laws and duties apart from high tariff and non-tariff walls, in the creditor countries. India is countering it with the same means. So where is that illusory integration?

Globalisation demands disinvestment and liberalisation

Can Indian economy stand without a strong public sector? It cannot. Because, majority of the basic, heavy and infrastructure industries are in the public sector and private sector has refused to invest capital in these sectors. Neither Indian economy can stand without government's intervention in the forms of control and regulation.

In early nineties, the Controller of Capital Issues Department was abolished. Immediately, followed the Harshad Mehta scam. To counter such situation, SEBI was formed, but without much power. Now, Ketan Parekh's scam has occurred. And the government is planning to invest SEBI with some regulatory and penal powers. This phenomenon proves that Indian economy cannot stand without government's intervention.

The policy of disinvestment has resulted in stagnation in investment. Due to this policy the government is withdrawing from business.

Consequently, the government has stopped investment, to generate new productive capacity in industry, particularly in heavy engineering and basic sectors, has stopped giving contracts to private sector to construct various parts of a

National Labour Conference

Comrade Shankar Saha, Secretary, All India Committee, UTUC-LS, also attended the Conference. He worked in the Social Security Group.

While emphatically demanding for larger coverage of Provident Fund, Pension Scheme, ESI Scheme, Gratuity Act, etc., removing altogether the ceiling imposed in these Acts, he urged for unemployment benefit to be granted not only to them who are once employed but subsequently retrenched but also to all those who are unemployed or under-employed. He called for Social Security Scheme, in the form of Medical Care, Old Age Pension, Invalidity and Survivor's Benefits, Family Benefits, Maternity Benefits, etc., to be extended to unorganised sector which constitutes 90% of employable persons in India.

project in public sector. The extent of withdrawal from business also entailed lesser quantity of materials being purchased by the government, of course, except defence department.

As previously mentioned, the private sector, looking for short term maximum profit, has not come forward to invest in heavy and basic sectors, where gestation period is longer, entailing delay in earning return.

Cumulatively, this has resulted in stagnancy in heavy, basic and infrastructure sectors.

Now, the government has been forced to bear the responsibility to construct infrastructures, that also for the benefit of consumer industrialists.

This situation definitely calls for the scrapping of the policy of disinvestment of public sector enterprises.

Globalisation has brought in stagnancy in investment in private sector

It is on record that investment in organised private sector is decreasing. Even periodical cuts in bank rate of interests, making credit cheaper, has failed to generate new investment, cuts in and relief from taxes and duties have not boosted fresh industrial investments.

On the other hand, bank credit, even corporate funds are being diverted more and more to the secondary share market. Cooperative banks are also involved in such diversion.

The latter phenomenon is the inevitable consequence of liberalisation in the bank business. Among many liberalised measures in banking sector, the one directly related to diversion of bank funds to broker firms in stock exchanges is the decision to allow the banks to accept shares as collateral against lending funds to broker firms. Also, the decision to allow the banks to directly indulge in trading shares in the secondary share market has proved disastrous.

Apart from diversion of funds to non-productive speculative business this liberalised measures has resulted in scams in stock market, and has allowed bank funds to be used to rig price of shares for the benefit of a particular company at the cost of small share holders. In fine, the situation definitely demands scrapping of the latest liberal measures in the banking sector.

Base of production is getting narrower

Opening of markets has led to cut-throat competition. Large corporate houses, who had spread their manufacturing capacities in various branches of industries are now unable to sustain the same. Being unable to withstand competition, the corporate houses are hiving off the non-core manufacturing units, and concentrating only on the core manufacturing capacities. Thus, the base of production of large corporate houses is getting narrower and narrower.

Negative generation of new productive capacities

Moreover, the rising phenomenon of hiving off manufacturing units by some, acquisition and take over of units by some other, and merger of some units are only resulting in transfer from one house to another house. Consequently, these processes are

not leading to generation of new productive capacities.

More monopolisation and erosion of small industries

These processes are undoubtedly resulting in consolidation and monopolisation of capital and business in respective core sectors, obviously on a narrower base of production. Side by side, due to de-reservation of small industries sector and entry of monopoly finance capital in this sector, small industries are either closing down or being swallowed by monopolists or becoming its subservient ancillary units.

Also, it is on record that removal of quantitative import restrictions from 1400 items has grievously hurt the small sector. The manufacturers have now been transformed into retail sellers of the same imported items. These are, in fine, some of the harmful impacts of globalisation on Indian industry.

Impact of Globalisation on Labour and Employment is disastrous

It is a recognisable fact today that one of the main objects of globalisation is to curtail the labour rights and to eliminate job security.

With this aim in view, the Budget 2001-02 has declared the government's intention to curtail job security by amending two labour laws -- Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act and Industrial Disputes Act.

Contractorisation of jobs shall result in total insecurity in job. And the amendment of ID Act will empower the majority of factory owners, employing 1000 or less workers to fire them at will.

This is being done on the basis of an argument that the labour laws have become archaic and a hindrance to industrial growth. In USA reforms in labour laws have been accomplished. The power to hire and fire have been given to employers.

In spite of it, the US-economy is now in deep recession. It shows that cause of negative growth in capitalist economy does not lie in labour rights.

So, the proposal to amend these two laws are misconceived and should be scrapped.

We want the government to take note that not only the rights of the working class are being curtailed, but also the middle class employees are losing work rights.

Our organisation demands immediate withdrawal of all the proposals to cut labour rights. On the contrary labour rights should be expanded and protected.

Globalisation presupposes restructuring of industries

Restructuring of industries has become synonymous with retrenchment of work force. Restructuring also means negative to minimum growth of employment.

Consequently, unemployment has become the primary problem before the working people. We are all aware of the policies of downsizing of the employed work force initiated by both the government and employers.

But we are not aware of any employment policy of the government. We have repeatedly demanded that the government should come up with a comprehensive employment policy in the situation of accelerated growth of unemployment. But to date government has failed to formulate

(Contd. on page 7)

While Serving Capitalism CPI(M) Cannot But Take to Bourgeois Vices

(Contd. from page 1)

cheques issued by the government to the retired elderly people and widows are bouncing !

Not only this. The CPI(M) pampered casteism and communalism during electioneering and even struck an opportunistic electoral alliance with Indian National League, a communal Muslim organisation. Moreover, there was fierce, open infighting between two opposing groups within the CPI(M) with the former chief minister E. K. Nayanar and the state secretary P. Vijayan on one side and the chief minister designate V. S. Achutananthan and the CITU circles on the other.

Such corruption and malpractices are damning enough and deserve to be condemned. But it is idle to pretend that a particular state unit of the CPI(M), that of Kerala, had somehow just strayed into bourgeois vices, but now that this has been detected and duly reprimanded by the politbureau, the state party would mend its ways and regain its communist character, and all would be well again!

The point is that even the undivided CPI failed to grow up as a true communist party because of its pursuit of non-Marxist-Leninist process of thinking, process of organisation and methodology ever since its inception. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader and teacher and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, showed this by repeated incisive analyses. Following the course of the undivided CPI, its two off-shoots, the CPI(M) and CPI, had grown up as social democratic parties engrossed in parliamentary politics and they have nothing to do with Marxism, revolution or Communism. With passage of time their anti-people, social democratic character is being more and more nakedly revealed. They serve the ruling capitalist class of the country from governmental seat and in this era of crisis-ridden corrupt capitalism with its all-round degeneration, whoever serves capitalism is bound to become corrupt and degenerated. Under the present globalised economic dispensation, a new dimension to corruption has been added by such parties through their hobnobbing and lobbying with the foreign multinationals to curry their favour. Lenin termed the social democrats the agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement and it is no wonder that social democratic parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI would take to all bourgeois vices like the fish take to water. That is why these parties are steeped in corruption and resort to unethical practices of all sorts and their leaders and workers indulge in corrupt, unethical livelihood and are afflicted with bourgeois vices — not only in Kerala but everywhere they operate. It is only that their malpractices and corruption show up more where they are in government, because of the proximity to power and pelf.

Corrupt, unethical living and all the attendant bourgeois vices have become the way of life for the CPI(M) leaders and the workers for long. Pampering communalism and casteism for making gains in election, groupism and infighting within the party are also bourgeois vices. The CPI(M) is no stranger to these. During every election in Kerala, the CPI(M) has moved on communal and caste lines to make petty gains. How is it then that an issue has been made this time of the bourgeois vices of the Kerala CPI(M) which are well-known

and of long standing ?

This is because, like any bourgeois party, success in election is the be-all and end-all for the CPI(M) as well, although it calls itself communist and waves the red flag to confuse the people. The state CPI(M) is quite upset at its dislodgement from power, and in the heat of charges and countercharges being levelled by the rival groups against each other, the unpalatable truth has come out.

It is but natural that those who serve the bourgeoisie will take to bourgeois ways, bourgeois vices. The CPI(M) politbureau's pretence that such vices are unthinkable and unheard of in their party is sheer hypocrisy. Its posture of righteous indignation is meant to hoax the people. But nobody would be taken in by such trick.

It is being made out that the people of Kerala, discontented with the CPI(M)'s corrupt ways and misrule, voted against it and hey presto, out goes the CPI(M), in comes the Congress and Kerala gets a new government ! Such notion betrays ignorance about the functioning of bourgeois parliamentary democracy in the country, about the reality of the situation. Elections in country have for long ceased to reflect the people's will. Parties and combinations can enjoy governmental power only at the pleasure of the ruling capitalist class, by serving it. When pursuit of anti-people policies by a government at the behest of the ruling class antagonises the people and they become restless and pine for a change, the ruling class sees to it that another party or combination subservient to it sweeps the poll by backing it up with money and orchestrated propaganda fanfare in the media in its favour, thus providing the people with an "alternative" within the capitalist system. This is how the bourgeois two-party system of governance works, keeping the people confined to the orbit of parliamentary politics so that they do not seek their own alternative, the revolutionary alternative.

It is in this way that the people of Kerala have been provided with a new alternative, a new government. But take the case of west Bengal, where assembly elections were held at the same time as in Kerala. The CPI(M)-led Left Front, during its uninterrupted 24-year rule in West Bengal, has been guilty of every imaginable unethical conduct, mismanagement and corruption and of wholesale terrorisation, repression and

even annihilation of political opponents with the help of police and armed anti-socials and cadres. If anything, the West Bengal CPI(M) is much more tainted with bourgeois vices than its Kerala counterpart. This is well known to the people of the state and the vast majority of them have been pining for a change. And yet the CPI(M)-led Left Front won a two-third majority at the polls. How this happened ?

The ruling class was quite aware of the widespread mass discontent at CPI(M)'s misrule and, upto certain length of time, toyed with the idea of Mamata Banerjee heading the Trinamul Congress - Congress combine as the alternative as was evident from the spree of her image building resorted to by a section of the monopoly press. But as the election approached, there was a growing realization in the industrial and trading circles of the state that the social democratic CPI(M), with its "communist" look and verbiage, was the better bet for controlling West Bengal where the force of mass movement is relatively strong.

After all, over the years, the CPI(M) had been acting as a powerful tool in the hands of the ruling class, disrupting from within, where it could, mass movements arising out of people's discontent, crushing mercilessly the mass movements where these developed nevertheless and emasculating the working class movement in the state of West Bengal, once considered to be the bastion of left movement in the country.

The CPI(M), too, sensed this, and its chief minister-designate Buddhadeb Bhattacharya sat in numerous parleys with the chambers of commerce to gain their confidence. Once this was done, the monopoly press engaged in a hectic spree of refurbishing the CPI(M)'s tattered image and harped on the virtues of the "new look" Left Front and the "polite, reasonable" Buddhadeb Bhattacharya. Strengthened by media and fund support, the Left Front outdid its opponents, the Congress - Trinamul combine in widespread rigging of polls with the tacit support of the administration and came out victorious.

The CPI(M) leadership has nothing of communist character in Kerala, in West Bengal or elsewhere. The CPI(M) leadership only exploits the emotion for communism of their activists, supporters and the toiling masses to serve the capitalist class.

International Seminar in Brussels

(Contd. from page 4)

resistance in different parts of the globe, against the policies and measures related to the globalized and liberalized market economy. Here we should note that each country of this capitalist-imperialist world is a link in the chain that puts shackle of exploitation on the mankind. Each link needs be torn apart, as also the shackle broken. Thus we must wage our struggle against the exploitative system of each country, big or small; at the same time we must coordinate all the anti-imperialist struggles and build up the broadest possible unity of toiling people, with communists at the core, to develop a militant global wave of anti-imperialist peace movement. Only in this way, can we build up a massive contingent of struggling people to stand against the monstrous minority of the

capitalists-imperialists. History has proven time and again that people armed with noble ideology, culture, and morality as well as organized on a correct base political line, is an invincible force that builds history itself. Capitalism-imperialism may be enjoying sunshine for a while; but the inherent contradictions of their system is dragging them to their grave. Lenin termed imperialism not only as the highest stage of capitalism; he did not fail to indicate that it is also the moribund stage, shivering with its crisis and contradictions. What we need is to realize and muster our own strength, to recognize the enemies within and without. History will again be ours. Thank you !

Long live Socialist Revolution!
Long Live Marxism-Leninism !

Build up United Movement in Jute Industry

(Contd. from page 1)

terms. They are resorting to lockouts to enforce on workers anti-worker bipartite agreements. As a result, lockout situation is developing in different mills in turn, because when the management of a mill successfully enforces a bipartite agreement to pay lower wages, or to increase the workload, or to engage contract labours, other mill owners take the advantage to declare lockouts in their own mills to enforce similar anti-worker agreements. To counter this practice the UTUC-Lenin Sarani has demanded of the government creating pressure on the owners for tripartite industrial agreements on these burning issues.

But while there is lack of demand in the market in many other industries, there is no such lack in the case of the jute industry. Production is continuously rising in this industry. In the 60s the total production of jute goods in West Bengal was around 12 lakh tons. In early 70s it increased to 13-14 lakh tons, further increasing to 15-16 lakhs in late 90s. Production figure has reached 17 lakh tons this year, and the entire production is getting sold out. There is not only no unsold stock, even government orders cannot often be met by the mills. On the other, every year owners are resorting to lockouts and pleading for declaring the jute industry a sick industry.

Facts may help to understand better the situation on the jute industry front. On 5th May of 1971, the total number of daily workers engaged in 55 jute mills was 2,50,848 (source : *Annexure of 1984 agreement*). During the emergency period in the seventies the employment figure was reduced by 46,148. The annual production per worker was 3.18 ton in 1951, in 1978 it increased to 4.82 ton per worker (Source : *Report of Workload Committee*). Calculated on the same basis of the Workload Committee the present annual production per worker works out to around 11 ton. Going by the JMDC's calculation, whereas previously it took 47 workers to produce 1 ton, at present 37-40 workers are made to produce the same amount.

But the anti-worker policy of the mill owners is not limited to reducing the workforce or increasing the workload only, the owners have appropriated several crores of rupee by denying workers their legal and rightful due of gratuity payments. The owners have not made their obligatory provident fund contribution to the tune of Rs. 150 crore and ESI contribution to the tune of Rs. 91 crore. The fact is that most of the jute mills are at present under the management of manipulators who are illegally appropriating huge profits and on paper trying to show that the mills are sick units.

Raw jute being an agricultural produce, it gave scope for rampant speculation, creating problems relating to supply to the mills. Workers' movement led to setting up by the government the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) for buying jute. But the JCI is not buying jute from the market in the last several years. The owners of the closed mills are laying blame on non-supply of raw jute, or on high price of jute in the market. But the present labour minister of the Left Front government, Md. Amin, informed at a meeting with workers' representative on 28 May last, that there was no shortage of raw jute. The owners, on their part, are busy to anyhow conceal the enormity of their greed for profit, the real cause behind closing the mills and artificially creating a crisis in the industry. They

are also laying blame on the workers, saying that workers are producing less and that is the reason for closing the mills.

The state government, and also the central government, are in collusion with the mill owners against the workers. These two governments are not only siding with the owners, the state labour directorate and labour ministry have no inclination to ensure legal provisions for the workers. On the contrary, they are advising workers' representatives to undertake direct negotiation with the mill management, which is nothing short of forcing the workers to settle their issues on the terms and dictation of the owners. When the owners violate agreement or directives of Labour Tribunal, the government refuses to take action against them, making a plea of the bipartite agreement between owners and workers.

The role of most of the trade unions in the face of this anti-working class onslaught of the mills owners, in league with the state and central governments, is most despicable, TU leaders at the mill level are entering into anti-worker agreements in different mills. The role of a section of the central leadership of the TUs is nothing short of treachery to the workers. For instance, with the expiry of the 1998 tripartite agreement in the jute industry, a general strike was called in demand of a new tripartite industrial agreement. Just after the first day of the strike, CITU jute industry leader

Niren Ghosh and INTUC leader Subrata Mukherjee met some jute mill owners at the CITU office and entered into a bipartite agreement with the owners to break the ongoing strike. It helped the owners to mount fresh onslaughts on workers, leading to engaging workers at much lower wages in different mills. This naked treachery is a major reason behind the fact that at present owners of several mills of West Bengal could declare lockouts.

So, that is a face of 'development' which the CPI(M)-Led Left Front in West Bengal means to 'continue unhindered' now that they are saddled in power again. Against this, the jute workers find themselves caught between mounting onslaughts of the owners and naked treachery by the leadership of some major trade unions. As a result, deep resentment and despair have seized them, and any time this situation may lead to unorganised, spontaneous outbursts. Nationalisation of the jute industry can save the workers from the speculator sharks in the industry. In these days of privatisation and disinvestment resorted to by the central and state governments in the interest of the owners, only a united and militant movement of the jute workers under correct leadership is the way out. The reality is that united movement is absent today in the jute industry, whereas the situation demands that jute workers' rally on a broad base and launch resistance struggles on a massive scale.

NATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

(Contd. from page 5)

any employment policy in concrete terms.

Unemployment as the outcome of Globalisation

1. Primary problem — Unemployment

Rate of growth of unemployment is greater than the rate of growth of employment. This is the general trend — Revealed by *Economic Survey, 2000-01*.

Unemployment Rates by Current Daily Status

Status	Sex	1993-94	99-2000
Rural	Male	5.6%	7.2%
	Female	5.6%	7.0%
Urban	Male	6.7%	7.3%
	Female	10.4%	9.4%

Distribution of workers by employment status

MALE

	1977-78	1999-2000
Rural		
Regular Salaried	10.8	9.0
Self-employed	62.2	54.4
Casual	27.0	36.0
Urban		
Regular Salaried	47.2	41.9
Self-employed	N.A.	N.A.
Casual	12.9	16.9

FEMALE

	1977-78	1999-2000
Rural		
Regular Salaried	3.7	3.9
Self-employed	56.3	50.0
Casual	40.0	46.1
Urban		
Regular Salaried	30.8	38.5
Self-employed	42.2	38.4
Casual	27.0	23.1

Distribution of Workers by Sector

	1977-78	1999-2000
Primary	71.1	53.8
Secondary	12.6	18.4
Tertiary	16.3	27.8

Document supplied by Labour Minister.

The data indicates —

1. Lesser salaried employees in 1999-2000.
2. Lesser self-employed in 1999-2000.
3. More casualisation of workforce in 1999-2000.
4. Decrease in primary sector employment in 1999-2000.
5. Increase in secondary sector employment in 1999-2000.
6. Increase in Tertiary sector employment in 1999-2000.
7. Extremely low growth of employment in organised sector in 1999-2000.
8. On the other hand — cuts in employment is more in organised sector in 1999-2000.
9. Declining rate of employment in high-tech electronic industries sector in 1999-2000.
10. Moreover, recently, the trend of downsizing of staff strength is well-marked in electronic sector.
11. Govt run Rozgar Schemes, numbering 9, are all self-employment oriented, which are already showing declining capacity to absorb the unemployed.
12. Policy of disinvestment and withdrawal from business in heavy and basic sectors of industries have led to negative investment, leading ultimately to redundancy among workforce.
13. Downsizing, nowhere in the world, has been able to make business competitive and profitable. On the other hand it has led to less purchasing power of the people; consequently recession and growth of greater unemployment. India is now in recession.

We demand, that to touch even the fringe of the problem of unemployment a radical about turn from the concept of Globalised economy is necessary.

May Day at Theni, TN

May Day was observed at Theni Party Office, Tamil Nadu on 29th May. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Chinna Sathiya Moorthy, Madurai District In-charge. Comrade Anavaradhan, member, T.N. State Organising Committee, was the main speaker.

Paying rich tributes to the great leaders of the world proletariat, he explained the basic difference of observing May Day by a revolutionary party like the SUCI and other organisations. He deplored that the demand of the May Day for 8-working hours a day is yet to be achieved. He urged his audience to raise the necessity of strengthening the hands of the party of the Indian proletariat, the SUCI, who is the only force in the country to extend and safeguard the cause and interests of the working class.

Comrades Venu Gopal, Chinnaraj and Voltaire also spoke.

AIDSO Movement in Jharkhand

Ranchi, 3 June: The Jharkhand State Organising Committee of the AIDSO launched a strong campaign against the anti-people educational policies of the state government. At the same time, it also condemned the central government's educational policies. Amidst this extensive statewide campaign, protest programmes were taken up in various towns of Jharkhand.

On 3rd June, the effigy of the Chief Minister was burnt at Firayalal Chowk, Ranchi. This was preceded by a procession taken out from the Shaheed Chowk. Students marched past main thoroughfares chanting slogans demanding withdrawal of high rate of fees in schools and

colleges, increase in budget allocations for education, holding students' union elections in universities, introduction of secular, democratic and scientific education, etc. Worth mentioning is the fact that the BJP-led Jharkhand state government, in tune with the central government has already announced its plans of privatising education. At the same time, it has declared to accord government recognition to *ojhas*. It has allocated comparatively a small and insufficient fund for education and has started appointing IAS officers as VC-s in the universities. The campaign is continuing vigorously throughout the state. Also, a seminar is scheduled to be held on 17th June at Ranchi to be followed by a dharna on 18th June.

Anti-Obscenity Day by Orissa AIMSS

At the call of the Orissa State Committee of the AIMSS, 'Anti-obscenity Day' was observed at different parts of the state on 10th April. To mark the Day, protest demonstrations, sit-in-demonstrations and seminars were organised by different AIMSS units.

In Cuttak, hundreds of women led by Comrade Binapani Das, President, AIMSS, Orissa State Committee took out a procession from Rly. Station and reached Cuttack Collectorate. On the way to the Collectorate, women tore down obscene posters and hoardings and pasted posters containing anti-obscenity slogans. Street corner meetings were organised at different spots and AIMSS leaders called upon the well-meaning people to come forward to fight against the menace of obscenity. Finally, a Memorandum containing 6-Point charter of demands was submitted to the Collector, who, assured firm action in this regard.

SUCI builds up school for quake-hit Bhachau

The Gujarat state organising committee of our party despite numerous odds is continuing with its post-quake relief, rehabilitation, educational and movement programmes.

Now in the second phase Gujarat party has taken up the task of construction of school no. 4 in Bhachau, which was run by our volunteers in tarpaulin sheds. After much hardship permission was received, which allows only a semi-permanent construction for temporary schooling. The fund came from Cochin Refinery's Employees' Union (Rs. 30,000), Calcutta based Breakthrough Science Society (Rs. 30,000), Baroda based ORG Company's Employees' Union (Rs. 1,25,000), Ms Nisreenben residing in Mumbai (Rs. 2,00,000-collected amount), daughter of Prof. Abid Shamsi, member, Movement for Secular Democracy (MSD) and from other sources. Dr. Raghu Tanrajan, member, MSD is also trying to arrange funds.

Simultaneously, Forum of Concerned Citizens for Quake Affected People is building up movements for relief and rehabilitation.

Our party distributed an open letter to the Prime Minister in all three major towns of Kutchh, namely Bhuj, Anjar and Bhachau centring his visit to Kutchh on 3rd and 4th June. Demonstrations were held in Bhuj under the leadership of Comrades Kanu Khadadiya and Jayesh Patel, members, state organising committee. Our party also joined protest-dharna in Bhuj organised by senior citizens of Kutchh.

Educational Camp for AIDSO, Delhi

A three-day educational camp for AIDSO activists of Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh and Guna (MP) was held at Faridabad on May 13-15. It was conducted by Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, Central Committee member of the SUCI. Comrade Pratap Samal, All-India President of AIDSO was also present. The first two days were devoted to a study of history to show that the basis of development of human civilisation rests on labour and production. The conscious struggle to develop production, and to understand and solve natural and social problems, was the basis for development of science and art. Thereby a vast storehouse of human knowledge was generated. Education involves learning from and applying this storehouse of knowledge.

Students, therefore, need to appreciate that knowledge cannot be imbibed being separated from society. The individual can, therefore, acquire knowledge only by involving himself/herself with social developments.

The last day of the camp was devoted to discussions on specific problems of education and organisational issues of AIDSO. Students resolved to strengthen AIDSO further and develop students' movement against the anti-people educational policies of the central and state governments.

In conclusion comrades sang *Comrade Shibdas Ghosh* and the *Internationale*.



(Above) RKS leads peasants and agricultural labourers to Rajbhavan, Bangalore against WTO, New Import Policy, etc., on 15 May, 2001. (Below) Demonstrators burn an effigy symbolising WTO.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE