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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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Pledge on Party Foundation Day Intensify Mass Movements

24th April of this year marked the 51st anniversary of our party SUCI. This day was observed in different states of our country with much enthusiasm in a most solemn and befitting manner. When the country is in the vortex of acute economic, political, social and cultural crises, the SUCI, the party founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat stands out as the only ray of hope before the people. This redeeming feature has come to light once again while observing the anniversary of the party and taking firm resolve to resolutely carry on the task history has bestowed on them. Reports of the observance of this day as received till now are given below.

ORISSA

The Orissa State Committee of the SUCI organised a mass meeting at the Saheed Bhawan, Cuttack on 24th April to observe this historic day.

Comrade Binapani Das, member of the State Committee of the party, presided over the meeting while Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee of the party and the Secretary of the Orissa State Committee was the main speaker. After Comrade Durjati Das, member, State Committee, made an introductory speech Comrade Dutta delivered his main address with deep emotion. He said : we are observing the historic 24th April, the foundation day of the SUCI at a time when the toiling people of the country are passing through a very critical juncture. The people of Orissa are passing through a severe heatwave. Last year more than 2000 people died of heat wave in this state. This year also many people are reported to have died. But the government is showing its criminal apathy toward this problem. Even drinking water is not available in many parts of the state. After 52 years of independence the people are denied even minimum requirement of life.

Comrade Dutta stressed that in the present situation the people had no other alternative but to launch powerful mass movement against the capitalist economic system and the exploiting capitalist class. Comrade Dutta repeated that the SUCI was the only hope of the people for launching class and mass struggle, because this party, the SUCI, founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was the only working class party on Indian soil.

HARYANA

The SUCI foundation day was observed in Haryana State on 25th April 99. A State Level Public Meeting was organised at Sonipat on that day. Comrade Satyawan Secretary, State Organising Committee presided over the meeting. The Main speaker was Comrade Ashutosh Bannerjee, member Central Committee. The other

speakers were Comrade Hari Prakash and Comrade Ishwar Singh Rathi, Secretary and member of district committee Sonipat respectively.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee in the very beginning discussed some essential aspects of organising a revolutionary communist party. He narrated how the SUCI was built up as a party of the working class by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh following the teachings of Marxism-Leninism.

He further discussed at length the present crisis in the parliamentary politics of the country and its causes. Parliamentary system of the bourgeois democracy can not address the problems of the people. It is the urgent need of the hour and the situation is very much favourable too to expose all types of illusion of the parliamentary politics. He exposed the treacherous role of the CPM, the CPI in the present day politics playing the role of social democracy nakedly. These parties have thrown the flag of mass and class struggles and have become the defenders of this crisis ridden bourgeois system because of which people are facing problems in each and every sphere of life. The only way is to overthrow this system. He described that the Congress, the BJP and all other parties of the bourgeoisie including the social democratic CPM, CPI were defending this moribund

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Some Pertinent Questions Before People

As the mid-term poll in September-October next has become inevitable, the people are being fed on a systematic campaign by a section of media — both in print and electronic — about the virtues of the main contenders to create systematically a public opinion to vote for a stable government so that the country is not pushed to another poll soon in the event of fractured parliament being elected once again.

That this mid-term poll has been the outcome of sheer scramble for power and pelf, having nothing to do with the people's interest, and not over any question of principle or policy between the principal bourgeois parliamentary contenders like the BJP, the Congress as also the other power brokers of different hues — be they regional or national parties like the AIADMK, Samajbadi Party, BSP, Janata Dal or the social democratic parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI, has become clear as day light. None of the parties can legitimately be called pro-people although all of them are frantically trying to make people believe that they are serving 'national interest' by which epithet they actually stand for serving the interest of the Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis, Hindujas, NRIs investors etc. This is the reality.

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Part of the procession towards Saheed Bhawan, Cuttack, Orissa
on 24th April, Party Foundation Day

CPI(M)'s Red Carpet Welcome to Enron in Kerala

Globalization-liberalization policies clamped down on the country in the interest of the ruling monopolists by the political parties in government subservient to them, are gripping all spheres of life in our country and in tune with this, restructuring is being carried out in all vital areas of our socio-economic fabric. Recent developments in Kerala's power sector is yet another step in this direction. The irony is that those who bear 'left' label are leading these out and out anti-people moves in the states where they rule.

The declaration of 'Left Democratic Front' government of Kerala that State Electricity Board will be divided into three 'profit centres' and that there will be considerable hike in electricity charges is in fact made at the dictates of the World Bank. After all, had not the government itself admitted that the hike effected in electricity charges by it shortly after it came in power was on the directive of the World Bank that 'at least 3% profit should be ensured'? This has now been followed by the most dreadful attack of globalization launched through the entry of Enron into Kerala's power sector.

In 1993, the Maharashtra government, the Maharashtra state electricity board and the Central government conspired to grant the contract to Enron for a power project in Dabhol. A strong protest developed against this contract. The anti-Enron movement became the symbol of the countrywide protests that were growing against globalization-liberalization policies at that time.

The Congress party which was in power both in Maharashtra and the Centre came under fire from all parties including the BJP. The anti-Enron movement played a significant role in throwing the Congress(I) out of power in Maharashtra and replacing it with a BJP-Shiv Sena government. Later in 1996, the BJP-led government in Delhi, during its tenure of just 13 days, ratified the counter guarantee in favour of Enron and reinstated Enron on the Dabhol project. The same CPI(M) and CPI who were critical of Enron during all these times, now leading the LDF government in Kerala, are according a red carpet welcome to Enron to the state.

The case filed by CITU demanding the scrapping of the Enron Dabhol contract is still lying in a court Maharashtra. But in Kerala, the CPI(M) leaders and *Desabhimani*, the mouthpiece of CPI(M) are busy whitewashing Enron. The way the CPI(M) leaders of Kannur are conducting this propaganda is most shameless.

In 1994, the then Congress(I)-led UDF ministry in Kerala gave permission to Kannur Power Project Limited (KPPL) whose chairman is Shri K.P.P. Nambiar, a close relative of the present CPI(M) Chief Minister Shri E.K. Nayanar, to construct a 513 megawatt thermal power station.

In March 1996, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and KPPL signed a power purchase agreement for a period of 20 years. The LDF government which followed, entrusted the state government agency KINFRA to transfer 176 acres of land in Irinav and Pappinisseri to KPPL on the condition that 50% of the land price would have to be paid in advance i.e. before the transfer.

On 27 April 1997, another order was passed by the government waiving the condition of 50% advance payment.

Why did the government decide to transfer the entire land without collecting a penny? Why does the CPI(M) do all these, knowing full well that it is the multinational brigand Enron, against whom it has been supposedly fighting for so long, which has taken cover behind the KPPL?

Enron's entry into Kerala is raising many questions. The LDF government as well as the CPI(M) are unable to give satisfactory answers.

The most important question is the secrecy maintained in all matters relating to this contract. Why is the power purchase agreement signed between the Electricity Board and KPPL kept as a secret document? Do not the people of Kerala have the right to know what is there in this agreement?

The people, more particularly the residents of Irinav have the right to know about the thermal plant and its impact on the surrounding. Why is it that the project report is not published? It is claimed that environment impact assessment, risk assessment and disaster management studies have all been done, but the people have not seen any of these study reports. If the documents including the power purchase agreement are made public, the people would see through the game. Is it not because of this that all matters related to the project are kept such a closely guarded secret?

The KPPL is introducing Enron as an associate and projecting it as a benefactor in the construction of the Kannur Thermal Power Station. But what is the truth? KPPL has only 26% of the shares in the project. And 74% of the shares are with none other than Enron! Of course, Mr. Nambiar is given the right to be its lifetime chairman. That much faith and confidence Enron has in him! The eagerness of Enron in making an entry in Kerala is evident from an article written by Mr. Nambiar himself in the Malayalam Weekly *Mathrubhumi* (1999 March, No.3) which states: "In 1997 June Enron expressed its desire to join us as a partner in our project... In 1997 August 20, Enron wrote another letter. This was regarding the possibility of setting up a natural gas terminal near Azhikkal harbour to produce electricity using gas. This was an additional offer..."

But still then, Mr. Nambiar claims that Enron was judiciously selected from among several applicants. How is it that Enron, which is basically a company engaged not in power generation but only in power distribution and production of natural gas, has been given the contract? Why is it that Enron, which is notorious for having paid court penalties several times on account of environmental pollution and human rights violations, was selected?

Enron is a multinational company having enormous influence in the U.S. administration. They use this influence to exert control over the administrations of various countries to reap billions and billions in return. Enron is also notorious for befriending those in power by paying crores as commission/kickback.

"Enron is a company which is capable of making the administrations of third world countries dance to its tune" (*Mathrubhumi*

Weekly, Feb. '99, No.51). The level of Enron's influence can be gauged from the fact that it could manage to change the earlier conditions laid down by the Central Government and the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and obtain with ease an order to the effect that special permission from the government is not required for power projects with a foreign investment up to Rupees 1500 crore!

For Enron, running industry, business etc. are only of secondary or lesser importance. In each country where it enters, it manages to purchase some in the top echelons of power and loots the country in every possible way. Anyone who is acquainted with this history of Enron can be pretty sure that its entry here is not an innocent one. Enron knows full well that owing to the sentiment among the people against the Dabhol Project, it cannot make a straight-forward entry into a state like Kerala. Hence comes into existence a company called KPPL. And as a benevolent partner the sneaking in of the Enron too.

It is even beyond one's imagination what kind of tactics Enron would employ to gain entry into a country. It is reported that through political intrigues, it did not even hesitate to try to undermine the sovereignty of countries like Philippines, Argentina and Kuwait etc. (*Multinational Monitor*, July '95 issue).

Enron is notorious in the world as an environmental offender. Their technical competence and environmental scruples have been questioned several times. For leakage of polychlorinated biphenyl, a potent cancer causing substance from their plant in New Mexico, they had in 1990 paid fine to the tune of 375,000 dollars. From the same plant, for releasing polluted water, in 1992 they paid 125,000 dollars as fine. (*Madhyamam Weekly*, May '97) The industrial pollution caused by Naphtha, which is the fuel to be used in the Kannur project, will pose serious environmental problems (Electricity produced with naphtha would be very costly. That the price of naphtha at present is low in international market, is the only explanation Mr. Nambiar gives). Enron has proved in different parts of the world that it will not show the slightest consideration for life and livelihood of the people. It is not easy to imagine what it dares not do in Kunnur. They will not spare those who would raise voice against environmental pollution too.

"THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH has severely criticised Enron Corporation for employing private army and mafia in project areas to suppress people's opposition. In Dabhol also, they had resorted to this very heinous method." The above news item had appeared in dailies in January 1999. *Desabhimani*, the CPI(M) mouthpiece had also carried some parts of this report.

Against this backdrop the reluctance of the government in making public the deal signed between KPPL and Enron and KSEB is raising serious doubts.

More than the environmental - human rights problem, the greater danger it poses is in the political economic plane.

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CPI(M) cadres — ponder whither is your party

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What is CPI(M) doing ?

What did the CPI(M) tell earlier and what is their stand today ? In 1995-96, *Chintha*, the theoretical organ of CPI(M) carried articles with the following titles : "Dangerous Enron Contract", "Covered in falsehood, comes in the new Enron project", "Let the fire of protest in Ratnagiri spread" etc.etc.

But today the very same CPI(M) is not just silently paving the way for the octopus Enron, they have even shamelessly declared that this project, which as per them 'will usher in the overall development of the entire Malabar region,' will be protected "at any cost". The fascistic meaning of the epithet "at any cost" is being made clear almost daily by the CPI(M) particularly in Kannur and surroundings. The CPI(M) has virtually become the private army and mafia force of Enron.

In the article "The new challenges against the left" (*Chintha*, March 31, 1995), Shri Harkishen Singh Surjeet wrote : "To allow Enron, a multinational company, to make profit and take it out of the country, the Sharad Pawar Government in Maharashtra, has entered into an infamous contract for the construction of a power plant with it." In another article "Controversial Enron Project" (*Chintha*, June 25, 1995), he further stressed : "The multinational companies cater only to the needs of the affluent sections of the society. All should come forward to fight this danger. In this regard the fight against Enron is of utmost importance."

Criticising the Vajpayee government which was in power for only 13 days during May-June 1996, for granting counter guarantee to the Enron project in Maharashtra, *Chintha* in its June 7, '96 issue wrote: "... Vajpayee govt. has shown extreme treachery in this matter. It is not by sneaky and subterfuge methods that a country's interests are served... In Parliament the CPI(M) questioned this..."

Lashing out at the BJP, which had once opposed the Enron project and thereby managed to secure more MLAs in Maharashtra, particularly in the Ratnagiri region, and came to power in alliance with Shiv Sena, later making a somersault to become manager acting on behalf of the Enron, so to say, the CPI(M) had posed to be the champion of principled pro-people politics.

What is the stand of the CPI(M) now ? Has it not taken a somersault too, taking recourse to the same kind of treacherous subterfuge ?

Whatever is said while in opposition is only with the aim of capturing the ministerial chairs and once in power those are to be forgotten in no time. This has been proved by the CPI(M) also just like BJP or Congress. But it becomes much more serious when a party like CPI(M) openly takes sides and audaciously serves the imperialist multinationals.

The rank and file workers of CPI(M) in whom self respect and truthfulness still remain, should read once again the article "Dangerous Enron Contract" published in *Chintha*, April 28, 1996. The article said : "The controversial Enron contract has unveiled the real face of the Rao

Govt's liberalisation and privatisation policies. The contract conditions clearly indicate that, inviting multinationals into vital sectors like electricity would lead to the plunder of the country. The Govt. of India paints this day-light robbery as a measure to encourage private investments in the electricity sector. Investigations conducted by Frontline-Businessline group (N. Ram, V. Sridhar, Peres Chandra) has brought out the secret documents connected with the contract and the facts from this are given here.

"Showing scant regard for Parliament and the people, the Government of India has shamelessly signed the condition that the contract deal and the details shall be known only to the two parties namely Enron and the government."

Is it not the same case with the contract now signed between KPPL and Enron and the power purchase agreement between KPPL and the Kerala State Electricity Board which is under a CPI(M) minister?

The article continued: "These contract conditions do not come under the purview of Indian laws. The mediation will be as per international laws and the legal proceedings are to be held in Singapore. In the event of any conflict, it is not resolved in New Delhi. Further proceedings are to be held in London."

"Yet another condition is also incorporated in the contract : The details of the contract, the facts and figures shall be kept secret. The two parties shall not transfer them to anyone else.

"This will mortgage not just the rights of individual citizens but also the people's elected Parliament.

"It has become indispensable for the country's future to raise the demand that the contract conditions should be made public not only in Maharashtra, but at the national plane itself..."

So in case of the present Kannur thermal project contract, what has become indispensable for the country's future ? What should be the demand raised ?

Enron should be packed off

As in other sectors, in the power sector too, the Central Electricity Control Commission has come into being. These commissions have been constituted with the proclaimed aim of rationalising the unscientific tariffs.

"While stepping into the 21st century, we should understand that the days of subsidies and concessions are gone. One has to earn his bread with ones own sweat" – this is the gospel mantras of these commissions, as one of its faithful servants explained. The recent moves of the Telephone Regulatory Authority to effect a hefty hike in the telephone tariffs amply demonstrates what their motives, ways and means etc., are.

Proudly speaking about the independence of these commissions, Mr. Jiji Thompson, IAS, a member of the Commission wrote in the *Mathrubhumi Weekly* (Sept. '98, No.29) : "These Commissions have the authority of civil courts and are independent of the government and party politics. They are not answerable to the concerned ministries. If the government violates the commission's directive, the secretary to the

ministry of energy is liable to be punished".

These regulatory commissions are definite instruments to create a 'new world order' based solely on the equation of profit and loss, throwing to the winds all earlier concepts about social justice, equality and people's welfare. It is better not to describe the situation that would be created by the unholy alliance of these regulatory authorities, which stand above the governments and their policies in league with the multinational monopolies like Enron. Such extraconstitutional power centres are created in the common interest of Indian monopolists and imperialism. In the above mentioned article, it is stated that Mr. Pinarai Vijayan, the former electricity minister (at present the CPI(M) State Secretary) had given assurance that similar to the Central Electricity Control Commission (constituted on July 24, 1998) an independent commission would be constituted in Kerala also, as had already been done by Orissa.

In these circumstances, what would be the future electricity charges can only be imagined. At present, at the dictates of World Bank that minimum 3% profit should be ensured, huge increase in tariff is effected every year. When a public sector unit like NTPC says that it would supply electricity only at the rate of Rs.3 per unit, what a greedy multinational like Enron would ask for is anybody's guess. In modern age, electricity has become indispensable for day to day life and ordinary people will now have to sweat it out to pay the electricity charges ("Man has to earn his bread by his own sweat" – this is the sermon given by Mr. Thompson, in his previously mentioned article). The agricultural sector in the state which is in a bad shape cannot bear the enormous increase in electricity charges. Then small scale industries will also die out, unable to bear the increased burden.

To meet the electricity needs of the state, is there no other way? The cheapest of all, the hydel projects, low and medium head inclusive – which do not affect the environment adversely should be fully explored by the authorities. Sometime back a team of Chinese experts who had visited Kerala had also opine that such small and medium range projects are most suitable for the state. The government should not be allowed to ignore it and go along a brazenly anti-people path.

It is a natural fear that the Enron wearing the mask of KPPL will not just stop with the Kannur project. In whichever country the company had set foot, it is not development but disaster that it had brought. Hence, we demand that all help the LDF government is offering to KPPL should stop forthwith and the contract/power purchase agreement with KPPL should be scrapped. Enron should not be given a foothold in the state.

We also appeal to the honest cadres of the CPI(M) to ponder over deeply in which direction their party is moving. It would be appropriate for at least those who claim to be Marxists to read the analyses made by Lenin on renegade Kautsky and the Second International.

An English rendering of an article published in a recent issue of UNITY, our Malayali party organ Published from Kerala.

Party Foundation Day in States

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capitalist system. He explained the need of fighting communalism. In this connection he described the dangerous role of the BJP which had posed a threat to the people's interest.

He attracted the attention of the gathering that it was the path of mass and class struggles which only would lead to emancipation. But this can be accomplished only under the leadership of a genuine communist Party. The SUCI is that party engaged in advancing this path through out the country along with its historic role which it is trying to discharge in the international communist movement too.

While pointing out the aggressive attacks of imperialism headed by US imperialism the naked example of which is savage bombing of Yugoslavia - he explained the need of strengthening the SUCI for intensifying anti imperialist movement conducive to anti capitalist socialist revolution of the country.

Comrade Banerjee called upon the comrades to grasp the real significance of observing party foundation day, and come forward to build up democratic mass movement in the state.

The 51st party foundation day anniversary was observed by the Delhi State Organising Committee of our party. Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, was also the main speaker there.

ANDHRA PRADESH

The State Organising Committee of the SUCI, A.P. organised a public meeting on 29th April to mark the occasion of 51st anniversary of party foundation day. A big decorated procession marched from Nampally railway station and reached the Khairatabad railway station grounds, the venue of public meeting. A resolution was passed condemning the NATO's attack on Yugoslavia. Comrade Ch. Murahari, Secretary, Hyderabad District Organising Committee, presided over the meeting.

Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary of the State Organising Committee, dealing with political situation said : After the adoption of New Economic Policy in 1991 by the Congress(I) Government at the Centre, NTR's Telugu Desam then implemented it and Chandra Babu Naidu's TDP now, is doing the same despite their posture of opposition to Congress(I).

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee, was the main speaker. Explaining about the present political situation he said : The dissolution of Parliament the other day,

was not because of any difference among different political parties including CPI(M) and CPI on principles, policies, ideologies but purely because of their greed for power. Despite their different slogans, flags and vocabularies, all these parties defend the interest of Indian capitalist class. This is as clear as daylight if we see how all these parties together passed the anti-people budgets. Railway budget has been passed within 3 minutes and general budget in 15 minutes. Recalling the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh how Indian

doubt BJP is a rabid communal party.

He continued : But we should remember that Congress (I) is no secular party as painted by CPI(M). The Congress(I) practised communalism, organised communal riots overtly or covertly, directly or indirectly in many parts of the country. Painting Congress(I) as secular party the so-called left parties have done an irreparable damage to left and democratic movement.

Analysing the international situation, Comrade Dasgupta said : The imperialist



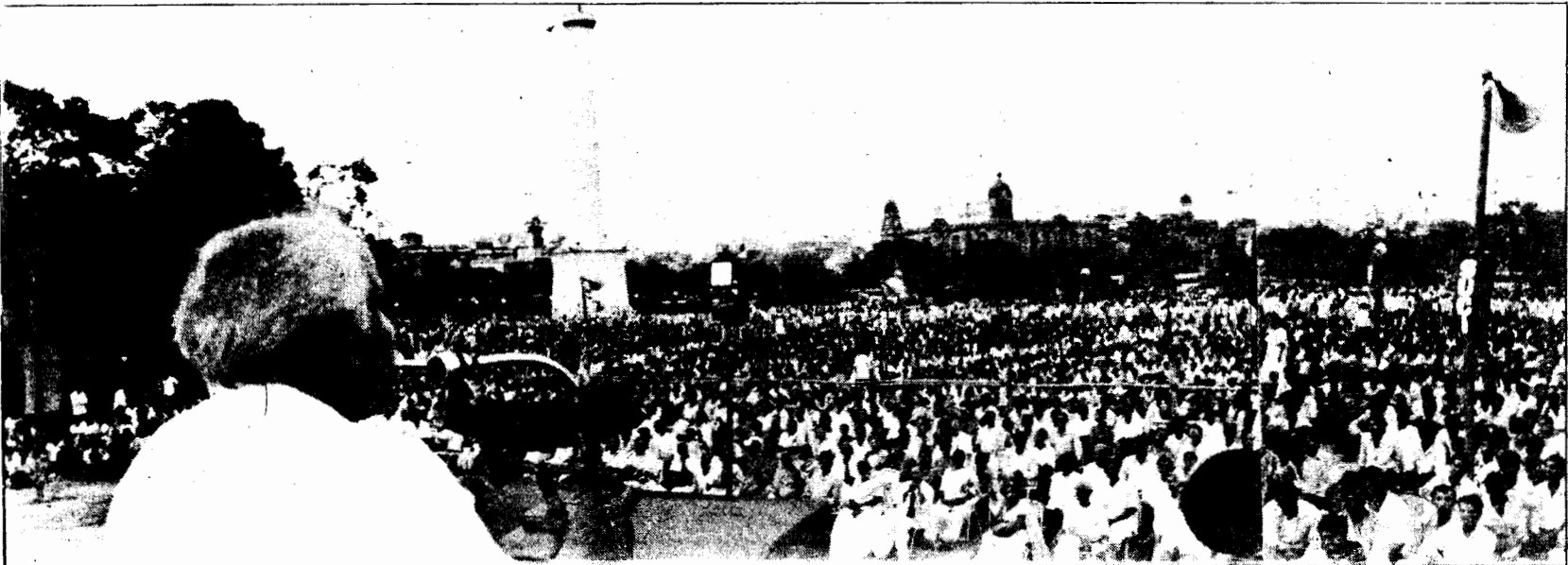
Part of the procession in Hyderabad on 24th April, '99 the Party Foundation Day

capitalism had been facing severe and all-out crisis, he showed that the present instability of Central Government was due to the severe crisis in the capitalist economic base. The Indian capitalists are severely competing for market among themselves and this is aggravating instability in superstructure.

Exposing the baseless propaganda carried on by monopoly controlled print and electronic media about the honesty of Shri Vajpayee, Comrade Dasgupta showed: The heinous attempts made, foul means employed by Vajpayee to rope in e.g. Jayalalitha of AIADMK, the "queen of corruption" against whom number of cases are pending in courts, Chandra Babu Naidu's TDP and Mamata Banerjee of Trinamul Congress prove beyond any doubt how much honest Vajpayee and his party are. In his 13 months' rule, Bibles were burnt, churches were destroyed and Christians were killed, nuns were raped. No

ideologues and revisionists claimed that after the dismantling of socialist camp there would be war free world. But the facts proved that the number of local and partial wars were increasing without any check after the dismantling of socialist camp. The US imperialists who shout about human rights violation from roof tops are trampling upon human rights throughout the world. They have bombed Libya and Iraq killing thousands upon thousands of people. Now they have been bombing Yugoslavia killing countless civilians. There is a bitter trade war between the USA, Europe and Japan posing danger to world peace. All these happenings once again confirm the teaching of Lenin that so long as imperialism is there the danger of war exists. He stressed the need to organise democratic mass movements conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution and also develop powerful, militant anti-war peace

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A section of the huge gathering at Saheed Minar maidan, Calcutta on 24th April '99. Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee and Secretary West Bengal State Committee is addressing.

Party Foundation Day in States

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movement conducive to revolutionary struggle of the people of the respective countries.

WEST BENGAL:

A massive meeting was organised at the Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta, on 24th April. Comrade Sanat Datta, member of the State Secretariat, presided over the meeting, while Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee of the party and West Bengal State Secretary was the main speaker.

Two resolutions, one demanding halt of savage attacks on Yugoslavia by NATO and the other demanding scrapping of death sentence on Mumia Abu Jaamal, leading activist of anti-



Procession in Ghatshila, Bihar on Party Foundation Day

racist movement in the USA were moved by Comrade Sanat Datta and adopted unanimously in the meeting.

In his speech, Comrade Provash Ghosh said that capitalism had aggravated not only the economic miseries of the people but completely demolished the sense of values in politics once practised even by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties.

Comrade Ghosh pointed out that when the parliamentary system was tottering, when the bourgeoisie were riven with internal strifes and when the bourgeois parties were trying to strangle one another, it was the right time to strike at the bourgeois system with the upheaval of mass movements. But the CPI(M) and the CPI let alone striking at the capitalist system, came forward as its saviour like the other bourgeois parties.

Referring to the crisis of the world capitalist system, Comrade Ghosh said that capitalism today could not deliver any goods to the society as it was no longer a progressive force and had turned out and out reactionary. He said that today the only way of emancipation of the society lied in anti-capitalist socialist revolution whose ideological

weapon was Marxism-Leninism. Deviation from and wrong application of Marxism-Leninism created problems. Comrade Ghosh said that by abandoning Marxism Russia today had turned into a begger country. But so long as Marxism was correctly applied under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, Russia marched ahead. Comrade Ghosh said that emergence of the thought of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, and the SUCI had developed on the basis of the thought of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

ASSAM

Addressing the 51st anniversary day meeting held on the 24th April, 1999, at the District Library Auditorium, Guwahati, under the auspices of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member of the Central Committee of the party observed, in course of dealing with the latest political situation of the country, that the fall of the arch communal BJP Government at the Centre neither meant the end of the anti-people misrule of the BJP government nor did it bring in its wake the end of its present communal politics. Comrade Bhattacharyya severely criticized the CPI(M) and the CPI for deserting people's movement and hobnobbing with the capitalist class parties like the Congress in their present bid to test and share power with them.

Pointing out the fact that taking advantage of the weakness of the people's democratic movement in Assam, the bourgeois government of the country raising the bogey of secessionist movement had practically imposed martial law in Assam as a result of which not only the fundamental rights of the people but the atmosphere of democratic movement is today totally absent. Comrade Bhattacharyya also appealed to the leaders of the Ulfa movement to take a fresh look at their strategy and tactics.

Earlier the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution strongly opposing further vivisection of Assam..

Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary, Assam State Committee of the SUCI also addressed the meeting.

GUJARAT

This day of the party was observed in Gujarat in full enthusiasm. The state level meeting was held in Surat City on 24th April in the Kanjibhai Desai Hall at Chowkbazar. The main speaker of

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Part of the procession in Surat, Gujarat on 24th April, the party foundation day.



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member Central Committee is addressing the meeting at the Kanjibhai Desai Hall, Chowkbazar, Surat on the occasion of party foundation day anniversary



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Party Foundation Day

the meeting was Comrade Krishna Chakravarty, member of the Central Committee. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Vismay Shah, Ahmedabad District Organising Committee Secretary.

Before the meeting a rally of 600 women and men started from the Surat Rly Station and passed the busiest road of Surat. Seated on the dais were Comrades Kanu Bhai Khadadiya, Damini Shah, Bharat Meheta, Jayesh Patel, Ram Bharat Maurya and the State in charge Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath, besides the main speaker and the president.

Comrade Rath in his speech dealt with the misrule of BJP Govt in Gujarat and its failure in all fronts.

Comrade Krishna Chakravarty in his more than one hour long speech dealt with the current national situation. He explained how the Congress, the BJP and even the CPI(M) had come forward to subservise the ruling capitalist class from the crisis. Comrade Chakravarty blamed the Congress for overtly and covertly fomenting communalism, parochialism and regionalism. The BJP had taken the cue from the Congress to play the Hindutva card. He characterised the BJP as a fascist party.

Criticising the CPI(M), he said that due to the CPI(M)'s opportunist role the Congress was again trying to come to the forefront and posing itself as democratic secular party in the country. Comrade Chakravarty called upon the people to strengthen the SUCI in all possible ways.

On 18.4.99 Party Foundation Day was observed in Ahmedabad in the Himavan Hall in the evening. Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath was the main speaker and Comrade Vismay Shah presided over the meeting.

Baroda

On 24-4-99 this occasion was observed in Baroda Sardar Patel Hall. Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath was the main speaker and Comrade Tapan Dasgupta presided over the meeting. Diverse cross sections of the people attended the meeting.

MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai

On behalf of Bombay-Thane unit of the SUCI this historic day was observed through a public meeting organised at the Dhuru Hall, Govind Ranaday Marg, Dadar (West) on 24th April last. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Anil Tyagi and Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff of the party, was the main speaker. Comrade Yogendra Kumar Kulshreshtha also addressed the gathering.

In his main speech Comrade Ranjit Dhar explained various points e.g. why without a real communist party working class revolution cannot be achieved, present character of Indian state, the crisis of world capitalism vis-a-vis Indian capitalism, the role of parties who are in power including the CPI(M) and the CPI, how to identify a real communist party etc. He also spoke on militarisation of economy and the cause of cultural degradation in the society. He showed how the private property mental complex was standing in the way of building up a real

communist party. He stressed the necessity of organising mass movement on the burning issues in the life of the people.

Nagpur

The foundation day was observed in Nagpur through a public meeting at the Rashtrabhasa Prachar Samity Hall on 28th April last at 5 p.m. Comrade Madhab Bhonde, Nagpur unit incharge of the SUCI presided over the meeting while Comrade Ranjat Dhar, the Central Staff, was the main speaker.

In his speech Comrade Ranjat Dhar interalia said: Whoever came to power did not pay attention to solve the basic problems of the people in the country and so it is high time to expose their true character and make the people understand that their lot would not change unless there is protracted mass movement on the burning problems in their life, on the basis of higher ethics.

Comrade Dhar asserted that the CPI(M) and the CPI were not genuine working class parties, and it was the SUCI built by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, which emerged as the genuine communist party on Indian soil.

Others who addressed the meeting were Comrades Pramod Kamble and Debashis Roy. The meeting was conducted by Comrade Rabindra Sakhare.

TRIPURA

On the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the Party a meeting was held at the Agartala Music College on 27th April where Comrade Shibani Das spoke on the present situation in Tripura. Comrade Malin Debbarma presided over the meeting while Comrade Protiva Mukherjee, the eminent mass leader was the main speaker.

In her speech Comrade Mukherjee said that the SUCI came into being in continuation of the national freedom movement. She said that the undivided CPI failed to emerge as a real communist party as it did not follow the correct process for the formation of a working class party. As a real revolutionary party, the SUCI has been building up movements in different states of the country.

She said that the greed for power of all the parliamentary parties had again pushed the country toward mid-term poll. The parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) were also very much in this game. But the change of government has nothing to do with the interest of the people. People's interest can be protected only by united mass movement. She appealed to the people to strengthen the SUCI, the only instrument of mass movement.

UTTAR PRADESH

The 51st foundation day of the SUCI was observed at various places in UP. Protapgarh, Sultanpur, and Jaunpur districts combinedly observed the day at Patti on 24th April last in the maidan of Ramlakhan Chowrashia High School.

More than a thousand party members, supporters, sympathisers and common people

participated in a rally which started from remote west side near Vraidih Bridge Chawk of Patti and paraded through the whole Patti Tehsil before reaching the venue of the meeting. Comrade Bechan Ali, Secretary, Protapgarh District Committee and member, UP State Committee presided over the meeting.

Comrade Bechan Ali gave a brief presidential speech. Others who spoke were Comrades J. Verma, Secretary, Sultanpur District Committee and Dinesh Kant Dubey, member, Jaunpur District Committee and UP State Committee. Comrade V. N. Singh, Secretary, UP State Committee was the main speaker. Comrade Singh in his main speech dwelt on the present national and international situation. He urged all those present to make the SUCI strong to fulfill the task of anti-capitalist socialist revolution a success.

This day was also observed in Kanpur, Moradabad and Allahabad.

In Moradabad a meeting was held on 25th April at the Town Hall. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Sheel Kumar Singh and Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, Secretary, AIDSO was the main speaker.

In Kanpur, Comrade Raj Boli, Secretary, District Organising Committee presided over the meeting and Comrade Sharad Kumar Sharma, was the main speaker. Comrade Dharm Deo, member, State Committee also addressed the meeting.

BIHAR

24th April was observed with due solemnity in various districts throughout Bihar.

Patna, Red flags were hoisted at the Party headquarters by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI. Later, a meeting was organised by the SUCI Patna District Committee where party comrades, supporters and sympathisers gathered to observe the 51st anniversary day of the party. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Govind, member, Patna District Committee. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty was the main speaker. While speaking on the national situation, Comrade Chakraborty pointed out as to how all the parties except the SUCI are at present busy in the rat race for power. Comrades Madhur Kumar Sinha, Suresh Kumar, Shivrul Prosad and Mohon Singh, all members of Patna District Committee, also spoke.

Singhbhum

Red flag was hoisted at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism and Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts, Ghatshila. Comrade Malay Ghosh on behalf of the Study Centre, Comrade Ranjit Modak, Singhbhum District Secretary, Comrade Rabin Samajpati, Bihar State Committee member garlanded the statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In the evening, a meeting was held at the Study Centre. Before that, there was a procession. Despite scorching heat, local adibasi people, mine workers, peasants, teachers, women participated in it. It started from Ghatshila Rly Stn and traversing through the main spots of Ghatshila converged into the meeting at Study Centre.

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Party Foundation Day

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Comrade BB Das, District Committee member and veteran trade union leader, Comrade Ranjit Modak addressed the gathering. The main speaker Comrade Rabin Samajpati said: Today, the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is not only providing guideline in India, but also is being studied with interest in different countries. The SUCI may be relatively small, but it never bends in front of the capitalist class. In this struggle, we have lost many valuable comrades, but our party has never compromised.

Muzaffarpur

In Muzaffarpur, 24th April was observed in the Party office premises. Comrade Shiv Shankar, senior member of Bihar State Committee presided. Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, State Committee member was the main speaker. Putting forth his views, Comrade Singh stressed the need of strengthening the SUCI which had emerged as the only fighting force in the hands of the toiling masses. Comrades Baleswar Rasulpuri, Lakhichand Rai and Jogender Ram, all state committee members, also addressed the meeting.

M.P.

Durg, this occasion was observed at Durg, MP on 24th April. A group meeting was held on this occasion where Comrade Badshah Khan, a senior organiser of the party, was the main speaker. Comrade Khan recalled the grim and determined struggle initiated by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, along with a handful of his compatriots to build up the SUCI as the real revolutionary party of the working class. He also dwelt on the present social and political situation of the country. He condemned the policies of privatisation, commercialisation and communalisation of education and appealed to make the Save Education Movement a success. He concluded urging all to build up mass movement and strengthen the SUCI.

Sagar

Under the auspices of Sagar District Committee, the occasion was observed through a public meeting on 27th April at Yadav Colony. Comrade UP Biswas, a leading organiser, was the main speaker. Comrade Ram Avatar Sharma, District Secretary, presided over the meeting.

Bhopal

The occasion was observed on 25th April at the Party office. Comrade JC Barai, presided over the meeting and Comrade UP Biswas was the main speaker. Comrade Biswas stressed the life struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and his compatriots for developing the genuine Marxist-Leninist party. He explained the real meaning of class outlook and class struggle and urged comrades to build up their character accordingly. Comrade Asit Mohanty also spoke.

KARNATAKA

On the occasion of 51st Foundation anniversary of SUCI the Bangalore Dist. Committee of the party organised a public meeting on 25.4.99 at Devaiah Park, Malleswaram. The Bangalore District Secretary Comrade B. R. Manjunath presided over the meeting and Karnataka State Secretary Comrade K. Radhakrishna was the Main speaker.

Comrade B. R. Manjunath in his presidential address explained about the arduous struggle conducted by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the process of building up of SUCI.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna, State Secretary of Karnataka in his speech dwelt on the present political situation. He explained how all bourgeois political parties irrespective of their sign boards shamelessly approved the most anti-people budget proposed by the BJP government, unanimously. He specifically dwelt on the role of CPI(M) in bringing down Central government, painting Cong(I) as a secular party. He vehemently condemned BJP and Singh Pariwar for its attacks

against minority community in Gujrat, Orissa and in other states. He explained only by building up democratic movements on burning issues of people's life we can fight communal forces today.

Gulbarga

In Gulbarga city a public meeting was organised by Gulbarga Dist. Committee of the party, where Comrade B. R. Manjunath, Member of the party's state committee was the Main speaker and Gulbarga Dist. Secretary Comrade. H. V. Divakar was the president. Large number of people gathered in the meeting. Meetings were also held at Raichur District, Bellary Dist and Yadgir Taluk, belonging to Gulbarga District.

KERALA

The 51st Anniversary of our party was observed befittingly in Kerala. Under the auspices of the Kerala State Committee of the party, a state level rally and public meeting was held at Quilon on 24th April. The meeting was presided over by Comrade A. Jalaluddin, member, Kerala State Secretariat of the party. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee was the main speaker. Comrade V. Venugopal, member, state secretariat, also spoke.

Comrade C. K. Lukose in his speech, said: the present political crisis in the country is nothing but the crisis of the ruling capitalist class. The ruling class is painting it as a national crisis to hoodwink the people. Not only the branded bourgeois parties like the Congress and the BJP but so-called communists like the CPI(M) and the CPI also are practising this bourgeois class politics. This once again exposes the true class character of them, whatever be their claims. The CPI(M)-led governments in West Bengal and Kerala are practising anti-people and pro-capitalist policies of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. The very same CPI(M) which was vociferous against Enron project in Maharashtra in now bringing that hated multinational to the energy sector of Kerala to the detriment of people's interest.

Comrade C. K. Lukose concluded his speech with a fervent appeal to the people to rally behind SUCI which is striving hard to build up mighty democratic mass movement on the correct base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

TAMIL NADU

The Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee of SUCI observed this day by organising a public meeting at Chennai on the day of occasion. The Meeting was presided over by Comrade Elango, member, District Organising Committee.

Comrade S. Narayansamy, Secretary, District Organising Committee delivered the main speech. He said that the present crisis in the national politics was the outcome of the intense crisis in the economy. At the same time, the general recession in the capitalist-imperialist world plunged them into a deep trade war and now into the war in Europe. Strongly condemning the US led NATO attack on Yugoslavia, he said, our party Plenum rightly and scientifically concluded and present events confirming that building up anti-imperialist movement throughout the world need of the hour. He concluded by appealing to all the party activists to elevate themselves by intensifying the rectification and elevation struggle, a call given by comrade General Secretary

School of Politics of AIMSS, West Bengal at Ghatshila

The school of politics of the AIMSS, West Bengal State Committee, held at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatshila, Bihar, on 2nd, 3rd and 4th April last, was educative, emotional and inspiring.

On 2nd April it was dusk as all the participating comrades gathered close to the statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader and teacher of the proletariat, when amidst thunderous slogans Comrade Sukomol Dasgupta, member, Central Committee, SUCI, hoisted the Red Flag. As the Red Flag was flying high the AIMSS volunteers presented the Guard of Honour, paying revolutionary homage to the great Marxist leader. Among the AIMSS leaders present there were Comrades Prativa Mukherjee, All India President, Gayatri Dasgupta, Vice President, Menoka Basu Roy, West Bengal President and Sadhana Chowdhury, State Secretary.

Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, at the start of the session, explained the objective of the school, Tribute then was paid to Comrade Surekha Jha, member, WB State Council, AIMSS, a struggling character, who passed away recently.

Participants from allover WB, in all 350, many from utterly poverty stricken background,

had been preparing themselves, discussing, exchanging views for last two months on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's invaluable discussion *On Marxism and Development of Human Society*. Now in the first sessions they debated and discussed energetically on historical materialism, dialectical materialism, and other issues dealt in this book relating to problems of life. Comrades were deeply involved.

In the next two sessions, keeping in view all the deliberation by comrades, Comrade Sukomol Dasgupta elaborately explained different aspects of Marxism and dialectical materialism that created an indelible impression in every mind present there.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee and State Secretary, SUCI, discussed in the concluding session on organisational questions.

The last session was a completely different experience for all Comrades present. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's somber voice was heard on electronic device, delivered in 1974 after the demise of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, Central Committee member, urging all comrades to grasp the nobility of revolutionary politics.

Build up Democratic Mass Movement to prepare ground for Radical Transformation of Society

(Contd. from page 1)

People should not miss to take serious note that a section of the press is working overtime to create an impression in mass mind that the BJP government ought to have been given time and should not have been pulled down the way it has been done. Added to this, a particular trend of propaganda campaign has recently come to the fore that stresses that Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee is an honest man, a man of immense virtues and ability and the BJP is the party that can serve the people best, if elected in the next election. There is a good section of paper-reading people in the country who are made to believe that Vajpayee is a 'messiah', people in whose memory the typically anti-people, corrupt and unethical policies of the Congress governments of the past are still fresh and who refuse to accept the UF governments led by Deve Gowda and Gujral as really secular and pro-people and have no illusion about the rule of the CPI(M), CPI, etc., in three states.

May we ask them a few questions? Was the BJP saddled in power with absolute majority? Or had not that party resorted to anyhow roping in some 'allies' to stay in power and prove majority of the government? The allies were so many and some of them tied up with the apron-string of the BJP even on the floor of the parliament such as the TDP — the party which was offered the post of Speaker at the last moment nullifying the previous agreement with the Opposition that P. Sangma would be the unanimous speaker, besides other ministry and post offered to the party.

Those who speak in praise of Vajpayee expecting a clean administration from him should do well to recollect some incidents of not so distant past. Who does not know how Jayalalitha, the AIADMK leader and supremo, called "the queen of corruption" by Vajpayee himself, forged an alliance with the BJP government and who changed her stance and placed newer and newer illegal and unscrupulous demands although most of these were conceded by Mr Vajpayee helping Jayalalitha in all the cases of corruption pending against her to her advantage. The soft, unprincipled and even unscrupulous decisions of Vajpayee only to appease the AIADMK leader are sufficient to prove the 'virtues', "principles" or "values" for which Vajpayee stood for during the last thirteen months. One may argue that all these were "principled", because these were necessary to maintain stability of government in order to avoid mid-term poll! By this type of argument, are we not subjecting our sense of values, and principle to abominable erosion? By the same token one will have to call pro-people the most corrupt and anti-people Congress regime led by P. V. Narasimha Rao who managed to stay in power for full five years' term, first by skillfully paractising "policy of consensus" and then by bribing some JMM MPs: This also proves that the stability of any government does not, ipso facto, prove that it is pro-people. We should all ponder over this point seriously.

The unprincipled politics of manoeuvre and manipulation practised by the Congress of Sonia Gandhi and constantly helped and encouraged by the CPI(M) and the CPI, in fact, have provided the BJP with an unexpected chance of proving the party innocent and after losing by one vote only, it

has been argued that the party is made a 'martyr' at a time when the Prime Minister was taking up seriously the Bofors case in particular. In fact, the BJP should be thankful to both Sonia Gandhi and Surjeet for gifting it this golden opportunity.

People of our country will surely be happy if the Bofors scandal in particular (or for that matter any other scandal like Hawala and Fodder scam, etc.) is unearthed and the real culprits are brought to book. It is time to prove whether people's expectation will come true. But may one ask what was being done during these thirteen months about the Bofors case? It may be argued: better late than never. But was it not a fact — a fact which also came out in the press — that a tacit understanding was arrived at between Mr Vajpayee and Mrs Sonia Gandhi that the latter would not disturb stability of the BJP government for at least three years and the former assured that the Congress leader was not to be annoyed over the Bofors case. But now that Jayalalitha's withdrawal of support from BJP government turned it into a minority one and particularly after the result of the confidence vote came — Bofors has now been made a hot issue by the BJP. Unless blinded by bias, anybody can see through this game.

Another important point has now come to light more clearly than before. There is nothing unusual that all the parliamentary parties like BJP, Congress, Janata Dal, S.P., CPI(M), CPI, etc., will be engaged in a mad race prompted by greed for power and pelf. But one point came out very sharply during all this hullabaloo: although the mid-term poll is inevitable, the moot point was which party would conduct that poll? Under whose administrative control would the election be held? That the bone of contention for both BJP and Congress was any how to stay in or come to a position to act as a caretaker during the next election became quite palpable. This surely poses a dangerous portent. Curiously enough, the BJP which claimed earlier that the election should be held in June now the same BJP is insisting — after Sept-Oct schedule has been fixed finally — that Election Commission should not issue the official notification before August in any way. This shows that apart from sorting out internal problems and finally deciding upon the nature of coalition etc. — this party is very much interested to use and influence the central administration as much as it can to work in its favour. It is clear that when Sonia Gandhi claimed to have a majority, which she failed to prove ultimately, she knew that even if she could form a government that would surely be short-lived and there was no escape from a mid-term poll. If this could be shaped out, she was very interested in it, for the prime consideration that, in that case, she could influence the administration to her advantage. The hurry and flurry of activities which our country has already witnessed through removal and transfer of a number of key administrative cadres under the Centre is a glaring testimony to it. What happened in Bihar under de facto Chief Ministership of Laloo Prasad as also so many administrative changes taking place in West Bengal ruled by the Left Front Government of Jyoti Basu bear a commonness — all the governments claimed that these are nothing but 'routine' transfers.

All this in fact points to the single aim of administrative rigging at the behest of all the contesting parliamentary parties and if they come out successful ultimately in the competition they would surely claim the result to be the "people's verdict". It shows clearly once again that election results are decided by administrative rigging, muscle flexing, money bag, media support, etc., but not surely by the democratic verdict of the people. This sordid and unbearable situation is being repeated now because all the parliamentary parties are taking advantage of the utter helplessness of the unorganised poor people, who lack even the minimum standard of consciousness necessary in the present situation. But at this moment of crisis of capitalism it was a very favourable situation for building and developing mighty protracted democratic mass movement — had not the left parties like CPI(M), CPI, etc. shunned this path and veered round to the corridors of power and the labyrinth of nasty power politics, winning the support of the ruling class through earning its confidence.

People should know that through the change of government, the basic problems of their life cannot be solved. Naturally, for preparing both the ground for radical transformation of the society through anti-capitalist socialist revolution as also for achieving their most legitimate demands on the burning problems of life — they should strive developing protracted mass movements on the edifice of higher culture — build up people's committees — form volunteer corps for strengthening this movement and to set up such candidates in the election who are honest and firm believers of this line so that the voice of extra-parliamentary struggle can be reflected in the parliament and the assemblies to pave the path for emancipation.

Save Education Movement in AP

As per the call given by the second state level Save Education Convention held on 23rd January 1999, the A.P. Save Education Committee took up the programme of submitting a memorandum to the Governor and the Chief Minister against commercialization of education and restructuring of courses at degree level with the signatures of hundred prominent personalities in the state. There was a good response from the intellectual community. They expressed whole-hearted support to the movement. The memorandum was signed by good number of professors from all the universities of the state and renowned advocates, writers, and other personalities.

On 26th April 1999, a delegation consisting of Dr. P. M. Bhargava, Ex-Director, CCMB, Prof. Hara Gopal, General Secretary, A. P. Save Education Committee, Prof. D. Narasimha Reddy of Hyderabad Central University and Dr. M. Thimma Reddy, Sri M. V. Rama Rao, Sri K. Lakshminarayana, all secretariat members of A.P. Save Education Committee met the Governor, Sri Ranga Rajan and submitted the memorandum. The Governor assured to discuss the matter with VCs.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE