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Remembering Mao Tse-Tung

[On the occasion of the 22nd death anniversary of Mao Tse-Tung on 9th September, we are recalling some of his valuable teachings. — Ed. P. Era]



What is knowledge? Ever since class society came into being the world has had only two kinds of knowledge, knowledge of the struggle for production and knowledge of the class struggle. Natural science and social science are the crystallizations of these two kinds of knowledge, and philosophy is the generalization and summation of the knowledge of nature and the knowledge of society. Is there any other kind of knowledge? No. Now let us take a look at certain students, those brought up in schools that are completely cut off from the practical activities of society. What about them? A person goes from a primary school of this kind all the way through to a university of the same kind, graduates, and is reckoned to have a stock of learning. But all he has is book-learning, he has not yet taken part in any practical activities or applied what he has learned to any field of life. Can such a person be regarded as a completely developed intellectual? Hardly so, in my opinion, because his knowledge is still incomplete. What then is relatively complete knowledge? All relatively complete knowledge is formed in two stages: the first stage is perceptual knowledge, the second is rational knowledge, the latter being the development of the former to a higher stage. What sort of knowledge is the students' book-learning? Even supposing all their knowledge is truth, it is still not knowledge acquired through their own personal experience, but consists of theories set down by their predecessors in summarizing experience of the struggle for production and of the class struggle. It is entirely necessary that students should acquire this kind of knowledge, but it must be understood that as far as they are concerned such knowledge is in a

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Unleash Countrywide Movement to Resist Price Rise

Sky rocketing price rise this year is shattering the lives of millions as never before. Soaring price rise is a regular feature of the crisis ridden capitalism, but the devastation it is causing this year is without any comparison. The inflation rate has crossed 8 per cent from just over 4 per cent since the BJP-led government has assumed office. The rupee is tumbling against the dollar. The BJP, at the head of the central government formed with partners no less corrupt, has pushed the whole country into the fangs of the profiteers, national and international, who reap profit over super profit by exploiting the toiling millions. All the state governments, run by parties belonging to the

capitalist hierarchy, even the so-called lefts, play the same role of stabbing the toilers in the back.

Why has the perennial price rise taken such a crazy course after BJP's ascendancy to power? The BJP and other parties thronging the corridors of power, all serving the exploitative capitalism, are desperate to save the moribund system. In a situation of heavily crunched market, they allow the prices of essential commodities to jump because, committed to the capitalists, it is the only guaranteed market that can be and must be utilised for the ruling class. The market is guaranteed as people cannot simply exist without the essentials of life.

And the situation has come to such a pass that the people are compelled to drastically cut even bare minimum of the basics of life like food, medicine, electricity, etc. It is simply a subhuman existence for the poor millions. The rationing system too now is on the verge of extinction, thereby encouraging the blackmarketeers to hike price at will, with impunity. The BJP led central government has further made life difficult by resorting to hike in administered prices, all avoiding Parliament. Despite substantial profit the central government has mopped up an extra Rs 450 crore by freight and fare hike in rail budget resulting in further price rise. The general budget, through many of its measures, has helped swell the prices. About Rs 110 crore is being mopped up through hike in postal charges from 1st September next. Despite having 40 ministries, above 100 departments, involving expenditure of about Rs. 30,000

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US Missile Strike on Sudan and Afghanistan Condemned

Strongly condemning the US air-strikes carried out in Afghanistan and Sudan in flagrant violation of all international laws, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, said in course of a statement on 22.8.98 that this barbaric act resulting in deaths of many people perpetrated in the name of combating terrorism, by itself was nothing but an act of state terrorism, which again showed that the imperialist rulers today considered themselves to be the overlords of the whole world, free to overturn sovereign countries at the slightest pretext in total disregard of all international laws, norms and conventions. He therefore urged all freedom loving people of India and of the whole world to rise up in arms against this monster regime of the US imperialist.

Comrade Pritish Chanda's Health Condition Critical

The Central Committee of the SUCI, in course of a statement on 21st August'98, stated :

Comrade Pritish Chanda, a member of the Politbureau of SUCI and a veteran Trade Union leader, is in a critical condition and at present is being treated at Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital, Salt Lake, Calcutta, by a team of eminent doctors. Comrade Chanda, the President of UTUC-LS was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of stomach (poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma of the pylorus) on 15-01-96. He was operated on successfully by a team of experts on 22-01-96 at Woodlands Hospital, Calcutta, and subsequently he received 6 cycles of anti-cancer chemotherapy uneventfully.

During the period of chemotherapy and thereafter Comrade Chanda was able to lead an active political and organisational life till he

suffered from recurrence of cancer for which he was again operated by a team of experts on 10-05-98 at Bellevue Clinic, Calcutta. The cancer mass could not be removed at this operation due to medical reasons and so multiple gastro-intestinal bypass was done as palliative measure. The patient recovered, but with a persistent intestinal fistula. He was administered multiple drug, anti-cancer chemotherapy as an added palliative measure but without the desired effect.

A Medical Board was held on 16-08-98 and after reviewing the situation the board concluded that Comrade Chanda has been treated in the best possible manner for the last two and a half years. In spite of all efforts, the condition of Comrade Chanda has been deteriorating rapidly over the last week and he is now in a very critical condition.

Remembering Mao Tse-Tung

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sense still one-sided, something which has been verified by others but not yet by themselves. What is most important is to be good at applying this knowledge in life and in practice. Therefore, I advise those who have only book-learning but as yet no contact with reality, and also those with little practical experience, to realize their own shortcomings and become a little more modest.

How can those who have only book-learning be turned into intellectuals in the true sense? The only way is to get them to take part in practical work and become practical workers, to get those engaged in theoretical work to study important practical problems. In this way our aim can be attained.

What I have said will probably make some people angry. They will say, "According to your explanation, even Marx would not be regarded as an intellectual." I say they are wrong. Marx took part in the practice of the revolutionary movement and also created revolutionary theory. Beginning with the commodity, the simplest element of capitalism, he made a thorough study of the economic structure of capitalist society. Millions of people saw and handled commodities every day but were so used to them that they took no notice. Marx alone studied commodities scientifically. He carried out a tremendous work of research into their actual development and derived a thoroughly scientific theory from what existed universally. He studied nature, history and proletarian revolution and created dialectical materialism, historical materialism and the theory of proletarian revolution. Thus Marx became a most completely developed intellectual, representing the acme of human wisdom; he was fundamentally different from those who have only book-learning. Marx undertook detailed investigations and studies in the course of practical struggles, formed generalizations and then verified his conclusions by testing them in practical struggles — this is what we call theoretical work. Our Party needs a large number of comrades who will learn how to do such work. In our Party there are many comrades who can learn to do this kind of theoretical research; most of them are intelligent and promising and we should value them. But they must follow correct principles and not repeat the mistake of the past. They must discard dogmatism and not confine themselves to ready-made phrases in books.

There is only one kind of true theory in this world, theory that is drawn from objective reality and then verified by objective reality; nothing else is worthy of the name of theory in our sense. Stalin said that theory becomes aimless when it is not connected with practice. Aimless theory is useless and false and should be discarded. We should point the finger of scorn at those who are fond of aimless theorizing. Marxism-Leninism is the most correct, scientific and revolutionary truth, born out of and verified by objective reality, but many who study Marxism-Leninism take it as lifeless dogma, thus impeding the development of theory and harming themselves as well as other comrades.

On the other hand, our comrades who are engaged in practical work will also come to grief if they misuse their experience. True, these people are often rich in experience, which is very valuable, but it is very dangerous if they rest content with their own experience. They must realize that their

knowledge is mostly perceptual and partial and that they lack rational and comprehensive knowledge; in other words, they lack theory and their knowledge, too, is relatively incomplete. Without comparatively complete knowledge it is impossible to do revolutionary work well.

Thus, there are two kinds of incomplete knowledge, one is readymade knowledge found in books and the other is knowledge that is mostly perceptual and partial; both are one-sided. Only an integration of the two can yield knowledge that is sound and relatively complete.

THE QUESTION OF CADRES

A great revolution requires a great party and many first-rate cadres to guide it. In China, with a population of 450 million, it is impossible to carry through our great revolution, which is unprecedented in history, if the leadership consists of a small, narrow group and if the Party leaders and cadres are petty-minded, short-sighted and incompetent. The Chinese Communist Party has been a large party for a long time and it is still large despite the losses during the period of reaction; it has many good leaders and cadres, but still not enough. Our Party organisations must be extended all over the country and we must purposefully train tens of thousands of cadres and hundreds of first-rate leaders. They must be cadres and leaders versed in Marxism-Leninism, politically far-sighted, competent in work, full of the spirit of self-sacrifice, capable of tackling problems on their own, steadfast in the midst of difficulties and loyal and devoted in serving the nation, the class and the Party. It is on these cadres and leaders that the Party relies for its links with the membership and the masses, and it is by relying on their firm leadership of the masses that the Party can succeed in defeating the enemy. Such cadres and leaders must be free from selfishness, from individualistic heroism, ostentation, sloth, passivity, and sectarian arrogance, and they must be selfless national and class heroes; such are the qualities and the style of work demanded of the members, cadres and leaders of our Party. Such is the spiritual legacy handed down to us by the tens of thousands of members, the thousands of cadres, and the scores of first-rate leaders who have laid down their lives for the cause. Beyond any doubt, we ought to acquire these qualities, do still better in remoulding ourselves and raise ourselves to a higher revolutionary level. But even this is not enough; we must also regard it as our duty to discover many more new cadres and leaders in the Party and the country. Our revolution depends on cadres. As Stalin said, "Cadres decide everything."

WHERE DO CORRECT IDEAS COME FROM ?

Where do correct ideas come from ? Do they drop from the skies ? No. Are they innate in the mind ? No. They come from social practice, and from it alone; they come from three kinds of social practice, the struggle for production, the class struggle and scientific experiment. It is man's social being that determines his thinking. Once the correct ideas characteristic of the advanced class are grasped by the masses, these ideas turn into a material force which changes society and changes the world. In their social practice, men engage in various kinds of struggle and gain rich experience, both from their successes and from their failures.

Countless phenomena of the objective external world are reflected in a man's brain through his five sense organs — the organs of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. At first, knowledge is perceptual. The leap to conceptual knowledge, i.e., to ideas, occurs when sufficient perceptual knowledge is accumulated. This is one process in cognition. It is the first stage in the whole process of cognition, the stage leading from objective matter to subjective consciousness, from existence to ideas. Whether or not one's consciousness or ideas (including theories, policies, plans or measures) do correctly reflect the laws of the objective external world is not yet proved at this stage, in which it is not yet possible to ascertain whether they are correct or not.

Then comes the second stage in the process of cognition, the stage leading from consciousness back to matter, from ideas back to existence, in which the knowledge gained in the first stage is applied in social practice to ascertain whether the theories, policies, plans or measures meet with the anticipated success. Generally speaking, those that succeed are correct and those that fail are incorrect, and this is especially true of man's struggle with nature. In social struggle, the forces representing the advanced class sometimes suffer defeat not because their ideas are incorrect but because, in the balance of forces engaged in struggle, they are not as powerful for the time being as the forces of reaction; they are therefore temporarily defeated, but they are bound to triumph sooner or later. Man's knowledge makes another leap through the test of practice. This leap is more important than the previous one. For it is this leap alone that can prove the correctness or incorrectness of the first leap, i.e., of the ideas, theories, policies, plans or measures formulated in the course of reflecting the objective external world. There is no other way of testing truth. Furthermore, the one and only purpose of the proletariat in knowing the world is to change it. Often, a correct idea can be arrived at only after many repetitions of the process leading from matter to consciousness and then back to matter, that is, leading from practice to knowledge and then back to practice. Such is the Marxist theory of knowledge, the dialectical materialist theory of knowledge. Among our comrades there are many who do not yet understand this theory of knowledge. When asked the source of their ideas, opinions, policies, methods, plans and conclusions, eloquent speeches and long articles, they consider the question strange and cannot answer it. Nor do they comprehend that matter can be transformed into consciousness and consciousness into matter, although such leaps are phenomena of everyday life. It is therefore necessary to educate our comrades in the dialectical materialist theory of knowledge, so that they can orientate their thinking correctly, become good at investigation and study and at summing up experience, overcome difficulties, commit fewer mistakes, do their work better, and struggle hard so as to build China into a great and powerful socialist country and help the broad masses of the oppressed and exploited throughout the world in fulfillment of our great internationalist duty.

[Source :

Rectify the Party's Style of Work, Feb 1, 1943.
Win the Masses in Their Millions for the Anti-Japanese National United Front. May 7, 1937.
Where Do Correct Ideas Come From ? May, 1963
— Selected Writings, Mao Tse-Tung]

Sri Krishna Commission Report Reveals more than Meets the Eye

What has finally happened to the Justice Sri Krishna Commission's findings in Maharashtra is now generally known. But not known are all the skeletons which are still dangling in the cupboard. They need be ruthlessly exposed publicly.

Mumbai went into the flames of a vicious communal riot on the very day the Babari Masjid was pulled down, on 6th December, 1992, wrecking havoc in the city and around, taking officially, no less than about a thousand lives, mostly Muslims. Who were responsible for it is public knowledge. In January 1993, the then Congress State Government of Sudhakar Rao Naik appointed a one-man commission of Justice Sri Krishna to conduct a probe. In March 1995, the BJP-Shiv Sena formed the state government and in January 1996 it summarily wound up the Commission. Understandably so! In May 1996, the then Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee, troubled over the uncertain life of the BJP Central Government, which indeed lasted a mere 13 days, urged the BJP-Sena Maharashtra Government to revive the Commission, which was needed — understandably again.

And now that the Commission, after six long years' work, has, on the strength of hard evidence, pointedly identified the organisers of the riots as the BJP, VHP, RSS, Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena — PM Vajpayee has suddenly turned mute, letting slip not a single word on such a judicial indictment of his own party. However, this also can be understood, as an accurate measure of criminal irresponsibility, cunning and hypocrisy of a bourgeois politician at the highest rung of the bourgeois party and the bourgeois government of the land, now headed by BJP.

However, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi — accused, along with the Sena Chief Balasaheb Thackeray, of personally instigating the riot — has come out with daggers drawn against the Commission. He brusquely swept aside the finding with a logic that is not merely communal but diabolical: "it is biased and anti-Hindu and pro-Muslim." His chief, Thackeray, made it further clear, asserting "Joshi is not the Chief Minister of Pakistan or Bangladesh that he should accept the report." Clear. Not even categorical and proven judicial indictment can touch them so long as the BJP-Sena government rules Maharashtra and the BJP-led Central government provides it tacit support. The Joshi government took note of the tacit allowance in central Home Minister L.K. Advani's comment that the Maharashtra government had "the right to reject the Commission's findings" though he could not explain the grounds. Thackeray therefore admitted unblushingly of having written inflammatory and provocative editorials in the Sena mouthpiece, 'Saamna' — ground on which the Commission indicted him — which fuelled the riots. He philosophized, "It all depends upon the situation"! (So does Joshi, in asserting that not communal but only national spirit guided him and his vandals in those dark days, in shouting, "*Ish desh me rahena hoga to Vandemataram kahena hoga*" (You must chant Vandemataram if you want to live in this country) ! However, Thackeray, Joshi and Co have undoubtedly openly bared their fangs and have left no one in any doubt about what Hindu Rashtra would be like

— if at all, some day.

Vajpayee, Advani and other national 'leaders' of the BJP cannot dare attempt be so open — not just now — as they are less secure in Delhi now than is Joshi in Maharashtra. Therefore, with the BJP's silence and Shiv Sena's loudmouth patronage and protection, the 'condemned' criminals of the 1992 Mumbai riots roam free and unfettered. Sri Krishna Commission thus exposes once again, the BJP's hollow talk of 'Swaraj' (Good governance) and its hypocritical, and even, criminal intent camouflaged as Hindutva. Does it stop there only? No. It goes further to show that the monster forces created by the 'sacred' and 'sacrosanct' parliamentary democratic system of India are daily reducing the very system and its institutions — the legislature, the administration and the judiciary — to sheer mockery and that the system cannot prevent, rather breeds such anachronism. The BJP and the Shiv Sena — though they cannot be exonerated on this ground — are but the products of this capitalist system, just as are the opposition parties, who are playing the same game in their own distinct ways.

The quandary of the BJP has offered 'opportunity' on a platter to these contending parties — Congress, RJD, SP, AIADMK, MGP of Vaghela, etc., and last but not least — CPI(M). It is known that following the tabling of the Sri Krishna Commission report on 6th August 1998 at the Maharashtra Assembly, demand for resignation of Chief Minister Joshi was raised by the opposition parties like Congress, RJD and SP, etc. On 16th August, the Rashtriya Loktantrik Morcha led by RJD leader Laloo Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav met, together with the Congress, at Mumbai. They 'resolved' to restore 'democracy' in Maharashtra — by forcing Joshi to resign!

It is not difficult to understand the calculation and the timing. Success in cornering the Shiv Sena, and especially the BJP, in a flank attack in Maharashtra, precisely at a time, when the BJP government in Delhi is having to badly cope with the serial frontal attack of Jayalalita, would be capital for the Rashtriya Lokatantrik Morcha in Maharashtra and the neighbouring states: in weaning away Muslim votes. The RLM-Congress meeting of 16th August and its battle cry against Joshi government assumed significance, therefore. The prompt action by the Centre, resulting in CBI raid and 'discovery' of disproportionate assets at Laloo Yadav's residence on 20 August, shows that the BJP indeed finds problem with the Maharashtra developments.

Naturally, the Congress is trying to cash in on it, too. The move since the humiliation of the BJP in Maharashtra would help it in Delhi too. Waiting for the much desired natural — or engineered, if possible — fall of the central BJP government, why should it let this chance go by? Sonia Gandhi therefore speaks scornfully of the Joshi government's rejection of the Sri Krishna Commission Report as being "Perhaps first such instance". It is not, in substance. That credit goes to none but the Congress itself. Did the Narasimha Rao government act according to the findings of the probe into 1984 anti-Sikh carnage in Delhi? He did not. And where does the Congress stand in the light of Sri Krishna Commission findings itself? The Commission held Sudhakar Rao Naik, the CM of

the Maharashtra Congress Government in 1992, guilty of "inaction" even as Mumbai was burning. The attempt of Congress General Secretary Oscar Fernandez to draw a fine distinction between "inaction" and provocation is the mere trick. "Inaction" was the Congress policy during 1992 — aiding and abetting the BJP to engulf the country in communal fire, right from Ayodhya to Mumbai. The BJP and the Shiv Sena were marauding and murdering; the Congress was merely in "inaction"! The anti-Joshi, anti-BJP crusade of Congress and RLM is thus the other side of the bourgeois hypocritical and unscrupulous politicking — no less condemnable therefore.

No sane person, let alone a genuinely democratic party would lend this force support — and thus credence. However, the 'Marxist' CPI(M) has! But it has done it 'intelligently', with a garb, unlike the RJD or SP! On 16th August, Sonia Gandhi met Harkishen Singh Surjeet who advised her: "The Congress under your leadership should be seen doing something positive to economically uplift the poor. If you do this, we shall be with you." Who would not heed such 'astute' counsel. And the CPI(M) would claim it gave principled 'support'! The real face of such 'principle' was shown on that very day. The CPI(M) General Secretary Mr Surjeet met Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav at his residence and expressed support for the Morcha-Congress move to remove CM Monohar Joshi. But the CPI(M) did not attend the Morcha-Congress meeting in the evening! Hunting with the hound and running with the hare — 'principled' indeed for social democrats like the CPI(M).

The foul play of not only the Hindutva parties and the Congress but also of the CPI(M) exposes their hypocrisy to the hilt — but even more of the system that produced them. The developments over the Sri Krishna Commission Report revealed it all and well.

SUCI demands exemplary punishment to oil adulterators

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following statement to the Press on 29th August 1998:

"Death toll of around 26 people and hundreds falling ill in Dehli due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil is another glaring example as to how the BJP-led Governments have given a free hand to the profiteers and blackmarketeers to play with people's lives.

We demand exemplary punishment to all the adulterators, adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and the ill and stringent government measures against profiteers, blackmarketeers and hoarders."

Hike in postal rate decried

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement on 29th August 1998:

"Hike in postal rate is another severe attack of the BJP-led Central Government upon the people who are already knee bent due to tremendous price rise.

We condemn this anti-people decision and demand its immediate withdrawal".

22nd Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

[In the previous issue of P.Era we published the reports of observance of memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh from several states. More reports from different states have been received later on and these are given below. — Ed. P. Era]

Delhi

On the occasion of the Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Delhi State Organising Committee of the SUCI organised a public meeting on the 4th August 1998 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, Delhi. Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, member, Central Committee, SUCI, the main speaker on the occasion, stated that observance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day was not a ritual but an occasion to learn from the ceaseless revolutionary struggles waged by Comrade Ghosh till his last breath. Comrade Banerji recalled those days of pre-Independence period of 1945-46 when Comrade Ghosh with a handful of comrades-in-arms was in the midst of a difficult and painstaking struggle to build up the genuine working class party. Without any financial backing, fame or shelter, the handful of comrades under the undaunting spirit of Comrade Ghosh participated simultaneously in the freedom struggle, the struggle to build up the real working class party and to attain the real communist character. He recalled how they used to frown upon getting arrested during the movement as that would isolate them from the masses and cripple their activities. To dodge the British police and intelligence, they used to work and organise during nights and take rest at places where the day dawned for them.

Comrade Banerji went on to say that Comrade Ghosh detested scholasticism. He used to say that communist character was attained through tortuous and painstaking struggle to free oneself from the vile influences of feudal culture and bourgeois individualism. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that in our country thousands of dedicated and honest youths sacrificed their lives by taking part in revolutionary movements. Getting inspired by Marxism-Leninism, they came forward to give away everything for the cause of revolution but still despite 75 years' long history of left movement, revolution could not take place. This was solely because they could not fight bourgeois individualism, the dreaded enemy of proletarian culture. This was also why they could not develop the real Marxist-Leninist outlook and were incapable of applying and concretising the general principles of Marxism-Leninism to the Indian conditions. Citing instances from the life and struggles of Comrade Ghosh, Comrade Banerji showed how the driving force for Comrade Ghosh to become a Marxist revolutionary was his extreme love and feelings for the exploited and suffering people of the country.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade J. Sinha, member of the Delhi State Organising Committee.

Assam

The 22nd death anniversary of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed on 5th August at the Guwahati District Library Auditorium. Comrades from different parts of the state attended the meeting to pay their homage to this great leader and also to take firm pledge afresh to develop themselves as revolutionary soldiers following the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, member Central Committee of the party was the main speaker. In his speech Comrade Bhattacharya while explaining the valuable teachings of Comrade Ghosh, pointed out that Comrade Ghosh not only concretised the Marxist concept on Indian soil and developed the only genuine communist party, the SUCI, but also greatly contributed to the treasurehouse of Marxism-Leninism, analysed the feature of uprising of modern revisionism and social individualism in the then socialist countries and paved the path to fight all these in post-Lenin period. He also pointed out that not only in our country, but many workers and communist parties of the world were deeply attracted towards the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

In the context of national political scenario, Comrade Bhattacharya while expressing grave concern over fast growth of communalism, fundamentalism, parochialism and chauvinism all over the country which were striking at the very roots of the oppressed people's unity, charged the BJP government at the Centre and said that within a short span of their rule they had nakedly exposed its pro-capitalist class character and in doing so, it had earned the wrath of the common people who were bearing the burn of the capitalist exploitation everyday. Under such a situation, the BJP took the heinous move to divert the people's attention from the real issue and had resorted to developing national jingoism and in the process had exploded nuclear bombs at Pokhran. Not only that, by delivering irresponsible and provocative statement, they were jeopardising the relation between the neighbouring countries, thereby giving birth to war psychosis with a view to militarising the Indian economy so as to impart a fresh lease of life to the moribund capitalism in our country.

Presiding over the meeting, Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, a veteran trade union leader and the member of State Committee of the party urged the oppressed people of Assam to forge greater unity with the oppressed people of the rest of the country so as to advance their struggle for emancipation from the rule and exploitation of capitalism.

Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary, Assam State Committee also addressed the gathering paying homage to this great leader of the proletariat. Earlier, a resolution was unanimously adopted urging the government to desist from planned killing of arrested persons in military custody or police custody under different pretexts.

Tripura

The memorial meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, was held at the Music College Hall, Agartala on 12th August last. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Milan Chakraborty while Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, the Central Committee member of the party was the main speaker. At first Comrade Shibani Das highlighted the dismal situation obtaining in the state at present. In his long speech Comrade Bhattacharya said that it was not

possible to express how much painful the demise of Comrade Ghosh was. His teaching imbued us to have deep sense of responsibility amidst profound grief. In order to fulfill his unaccomplished task of socialist revolution in the country we must pledge to build up necessary organisation, and develop ourselves as true communists. Comrade Bhattacharya said that Comrade Ghosh not only showed the absence of a real communist party in the country but he discharged the responsibility of establishing the SUCI, the real communist party in India. Comrade Ghosh threw new light not only on political and economic field but also on art, literature, culture, morality and in the matter of building up communist character. The assessment of international communist movement by Comrade Ghosh was coming today to be true to the letters. Comrade Bhattacharya said that the present BJP led government at the Centre was following the footsteps of the past Congress and the UF governments. Not only that the BJP had openly been inciting communalism and creating tension in the subcontinent by detonation of atom bomb. As regards the situation in Tripura Comrade Bhattacharya said that the wrong policies of the ruling parties had created the present situation marked by individual killings and division.

Ahmedabad

The Gujarat state unit of SUCI observed the 22nd death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in a befitting manner. To mark the occasion the memorial meeting was held on 14.8.98 in H.K. Arts College. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee was the main speaker. Comrade Vismay Shah, the District Organising Secretary of Ahmedabad district presided over the meeting. Sri Yashwantbhai Shukla, an eminent citizen of the state attended the memorial meeting.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty dwelt at length on the present political situation of the country. He elaborated and exposed the opportunistic-unethical and deceptive measures of the BJP led government. In this context, he exposed the design behind the Pokhran nuclear test which was aimed at creating national jingoism and diverting the mind of the people from real issues of their life. He warned the impending danger of fascism from BJP and its mentor RSS and the Sangh Parivar. He explained how the Sangh Parivar taking advantage of the BJP rule was out to communalise the society in its bid for a Hindu Rashtra. He equally blamed the Congress for the present state of affairs and emphatically said the Congress, too, was no different from the BJP. He called upon the people to defeat the fascist menace of the BJP and urged all left, democratic, secular minded people to come forward in a common platform.

The State in-charge Comrade Dwarikanath Rath also addressed the meeting.

Hyderabad

A meeting was organised at Hyderabad on 8th August '98 at our party office to observe 22nd death anniversary of the great departed leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee, was the main speaker.

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5th August Observed in States

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Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, State Organising Committee also addressed the meeting. Comrade Ch. Murahari, in-charge, Hyderabad city presided over the meeting.

The meeting started with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty paid floral tribute to the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on behalf of the Central Committee. Comrade K Sridhar, garlanded on behalf of the State Organising Committee.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, in his speech dwelt at length on the stupendous struggle conducted by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in building up the SUCI as a genuine communist party. In the process of his struggle he developed revolutionary theory covering all aspects of life. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh emerged as the collective leader of the party, as Lenin emerged in Russia, and Mao Tse-Tung in China. Comrade Chakraborty explained that collective leadership is not committee functioning. Collective leadership is personified expression of the collective knowledge and experience of the party through a leader in the highest committee of the party. Collective leadership emerges through the collective struggle of the whole party. Comrade Ghosh not only emerged as the collective leader in our party but also as one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era. Comrade Ghosh's thought is being increasingly appreciated by the communist parties of other countries.

Referring to the style of work of the party Comrade Chakraborty told that no comrade should take party work casually. They should give primary importance to party work and that too in a planned and systematic way.

Referring to nuclear tests conducted by the BJP government, he said that not because of any threat from either Pakistan or China, but for their political reasons to continue in power and more so in the interest of monopoly houses of India that they conducted those tests. To develop national jingoism and communalism is another subtly hidden fascistic design behind these nuclear tests.

Comrade Chakraborty called upon the comrades to expose this fascistic game plan of BJP and take the thoughts of Comrade Ghosh to

people, develop mighty democratic mass movements on the burning issues of the people.

Nagpur

Death anniversary of Comrades Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh was observed in a befitting manner at Nagpur SUCI office on August 5, 1998.

Central Staff member of SUCI, Comrade Ranjit Dhar was the main speaker. He said, inter alia, to really pay respect to the great leaders, one must strengthen the revolutionary party, the SUCI, and develop powerful mass and class struggles. Mr Waman Rao Belurkar, veteran social activist, presided over the function. Comrade Madhav Bhonde also spoke.

Comrades Ravindra Sakhare and Shailesh Janbandhu rendered revolutionary songs. Comrade Rabindra Sakhare conducted the proceedings. Comrade Bhimrao Humne also spoke. Large number of people were present on the occasion.

Bombay

The memorial day of Comrade Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed at Dattatraya Hall, Goregaon (West), Bombay on 8th August in the evening. Comrade Anil Tyagi presided over the meeting. The main speaker was Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff member, SUCI. The other speakers were Comrades Yogendra Kumar Kulshreshtha and Om Parkash Maurya. Comrade Ranjit Dhar discussed in his speech, why we observe the memorial day of these great communist leaders, why the SUCI was founded in 1948 in spite of the existence of other parties like the CPI, the RSP, etc. He also spoke on why Indian capital is inviting in its own interest foreign capital in the changed international and national situation after independence. Comrade Kulshreshtha spoke on the role played by the CPI in the Independence struggle in favour of compromising trend because of non-Marxist methodology of the CPI. All the speakers condemned the biased stand taken by the BJP-Shiv Sena government to force out the Bengali people particularly the Bengalee Muslim workers from Bombay.

UP

In UP Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Meeting was observed districtwise.

Badlapur (Jaunpur)— On 5th August, the memorial meeting was held at Shri Narsingh Sabhagar in Saltanat Bahadur Inter College. Party comrades from different parts of Jaunpur gathered in Sabhagar. Comrade Jagadish Chandra Asthana, Jaunpur District Secretary, presided over the meeting. The speakers were Comrades Surendra Nath Maurya, Hiralal Maurya, Dinesh Kant Dubey. Comrade V.N. Singh, UP State Secretary was the main speaker.

Kalkaganj (Sultanpur): On 7th August, the memorial meeting was held at Kalkaganj High School Maidan. The meeting was presided over by Comrade J. Verma, Secretary, Sultanpur District Committee. The meeting was conducted by Comrade Jayprakash, AIDS leader, Sultanpur.

The speakers were Comrades T. N. Uppadhyay, J. Verma. Comrade V. N. Singh was the main speaker.

Patti (Pratapgarh) — On 9th August the memorial meeting was held at Sabhagar of Ramlakhan Chaurasia Shish Gyan Mandir High School. Patti (Sultanpur) Sabhagar was fully packed. About a thousand party workers, supporters and sympathisers were present in the meeting. Comrade Bechan Ali, Secretary, Pratapgarh District Committee, SUCI, presided over the meeting. The speakers were Comrades Ram Singh, Ram Kedar Verma, Chakraborty Vishwa Karma. All the meetings were addressed by the main speaker Comrade V. N. Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Committee of the party.

AIDSO's Protest against Cancellation of +2 Supplementary Examination

The AIDS, Orissa State Council held a massive dharna of hundreds of students in front of Orissa Assembly at Bhubaneswar on 24th July. Addressing the students' rally the State Unit President Comrades Chhabi Mohanty, Secretary Rajendra Burma, Vice-President Ajaya Kumar, Nirakar Pandav, Kaustuv Manna, Subash Swain and others alleged that government was trying to curtail education through cancellation of the +2 Supplementary Examination. A large number of students, who fail to appear for some unavoidable reasons or cannot succeed in annual examination for financial, physical or any such problem would suffer due to this unjust decision as they will have to wait for another year. They called upon the students community to oppose this anti-student policy of the State Government. Addressing the rally SUCI MLA Comrade Sambhunath Nayak criticised the government policy and assured to put the point on the floor of the Assembly. Later a students' delegation led by Comrade Chhabi Mohanty met the Higher Education Minister of the State and submitted a memorandum to him on this demand. (Picture on page 6)



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing the memorial meeting at the H. K. Art College, Ahmedabad

Statement on Mayadhar Nayak's Resignation

Bhubaneswar, 16.8.98 : An emergency meeting of the SUCI, Orissa State Committee held today under the presidentship of Comrade Tapas Dutta, Secretary, SUCI State Committee and member of the Central Committee, has released the following reaction regarding the resignation of Mr Mayadhar Nayak from the party.

Mr Mayadhar Nayak since long has deviated in process from the revolutionary ideology, culture, ethics and the path illumined by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder of the SUCI and failed to inculcate them in personal life. He also failed to discharge the responsibility entrusted by the party to organise workers and peasants and build up their organisations and virtually isolated himself from the masses of Sukinda. Since last few years, he in process gradually dissociated himself from the struggling course pursued by the SUCI and preferred to lead a comfort seeking livelihood in Jajpur Road Rest House maintaining a close link with the mines-owners and contractors. This deviation of him raised innumerable questions regarding his integrity and honesty within the workers and sympathisers of the party, as also amongst the well-meaning people of Sukinda.

Long before Mr Nayak started his political activity, the strong edifice of SUCI was built up in Sukinda through historic struggles and glorious sacrifices by many dedicated SUCI activists and organisers who never got, neither sought any media publicity under the guidance of the state leadership of the SUCI. Unfortunately, instead of appreciating this reality, Mr Nayak endeavoured to grab all these glories of the party to build up his individual political career. Due to this consistent effort of Mr Nayak for mere self projection and directionless adventurist political activities, the high prestige of the SUCI in the mass mind of Sukinda was gradually eroding.

Isolating himself gradually from the revolutionary political activities, Mr Nayak in the name of literary pursuit engaged himself in writing obscene and tasteless novels devoid of any literary value. In the name of depicting the livelihood of poor *adivasi* people his so-called literary work inflicted deep injury in the sentiments of *adivasi* masses.

In this prevailing situation, the mine workers of Baula being disillusioned of Mr Prafulla Ghadei for his utter anti-worker role and having deep attraction for the SUCI's struggling tradition were eager to forge ahead real workers' movements under the leadership of the UTUC-LS and the SUCI. Stationing at Jajpur Road Rest House, a safe distance from Baula mines area, Mr Nayak instead of organising those workers in a correct direction, in his usual style only incited them for adventurist action. Taking advantage of this situation, the local BJP leaders were able to divert the workers and engineer vandalism in utter detriment to the workers' interest. Consequently, more than a thousand of innocent workers were thrown out of job, hundreds of workers were implicated with false and serious charges of murder, attempt to murder and various other criminal cases. They were also placed helplessly in a reign of police terrorism and harassments. Four workers sustained grievous injury due to open firing of management's security guards.

Successful movement at Haraginadoni village, Bellary

The people in Bellary were hard hit by drought since last year and are still experiencing the same misery.

After the successful Bellary city water movement by our party SUCI, people from all corners realised the strength, spirit and determination and sought the immediate help and leadership from the party. People from Haraginadoni village came in hundreds, including women, aged and children and went in rally on 13.7.98, giving voice in protest against the government's failure to provide drinking water.

After the procession reached the Zilla Panchayat Office people demanded of the Z. P. President to make a spot-visit to find out whether the sanctioned amount of Rs. 12 lakhs was properly spent or swallowed by the authorities.

Later, yielding to the pressure of the people and the party's leadership, the Z.P. President, Vice-president and engineers visited the spot and found out that water was not drinkable.

The authorities then yielded and promised to provide good water without further delay. And within the next two days two bore-wells were laid and fixed with electric pumps, and promise to correct the scandal in Water Project, was made.

The movement was led by the District Committee of SUCI, Bellary. Comrade Soma-shekar, Secretary, spoke to the people.

Comrade Ramanjinappa, District Committee member also gave a call to unite and resist anti-people policies and to thwart all corruption and scandals.

Anti-Imperialist Forum condemns US missile strike on Sudan and Afghanistan

Reacting the recent missile attacks of USA on Afghanistan and Sudan, Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, the General Secretary of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum have issued the following statement :

"The All India Anti-Imperialist Forum condemns in strongest terms the unprovoked US attacks in Afghanistan and Sudan violating all norms of diplomacy and international laws. This

amounts a naked aggression on the sovereignty of nations. The USA brazenly announces that it has the right to take preemptive military action against any country on the plea of containing terrorism or whenever it feels that such action is called for. This is nothing short of an act of piracy and state terrorism. We call upon all peace loving people of the world to rise up in protest and force USA to desist from committing such acts of aggression."



Sit-in-demonstration by activists of AIDSO, before the Assembly in Bhubaneswar. (News on page 5)

Astonishingly, Mr Nayak even at that critical moment did not feel any obligation to rush to the spot, neither he protested such brutal actions. Even he did not issue press statement in protest of the brutal actions against the workers.

Party leadership repeatedly tried to rectify him, but instead of rectifying himself, Mr Nayak apprehending organisational disciplinary action for his anti-party activities took recourse to baseless, false and motivated slanderous campaign against the state leadership of SUCI, which was brought to notice and he was severely criticized in the State Committee meeting.

Under the circumstances, Mr Mayadhar Nayak found no other option but to dissociate himself from a revolutionary working class party like the SUCI without caring for any counsel of the party and preferred to plunge himself totally into a luxurious and mere self propagandist life style in self isolation from the masses — the State Committee observed.

Sit-in-Demonstration in Tripura

A mass sit-in-demonstration was organised under the auspices of the SUCI Agartola District Organising Committee, on 21 August in front of the Assembly building from 10 am to 5 pm with the following demands.

1. Guarantee to the life and property of all sections of the people
2. Unprecedented price hike must be curbed.
3. Introduction of state trading on all essential commodities
4. Introduction of Essential Commodities Acts.

More than one hundred people from Udaypur and Sonamora participated. Comrades Shibani Das, Babul Banik, Subrata Chakraborty and Sanjoy Choudhury spoke in favour of these demands and denounced the role of the central and state governments.

BE ON GUARD !

Kashmir is hotting up again. A proxy war is on. Kashmir remains unresolved because the rulers of India and Pakistan want it as a readymade weapon to stir up communal passion and frenzy whenever the internal situation in respective countries becomes pressing requiring a diversionary device.

So, machinations for building up war psychosis or war-like situation to cause disaffection among the principal communities, the Hindus and the Muslims, are afoot. This is happening when working people of both the countries are bled white by capitalist exploitation best reflected in awesome increase in prices of daily necessities. Life of ordinary citizen of both the countries has become unbearable. The conspiracy of the ruling class backed up by imperialist and other interested forces is against them. If it passes what can be the result ?

First, people will be deluded to give topmost priority to so-called 'national defence' no matter whether they have the wherewithal for a bare human living or not, thanks to the service the media will provide.

Second, the money extorted from them in the name of fiscal measures like tax, duties and other levies like hike in administered prices will go to war industries, the direct beneficiary of which will be the capitalists in dire need of market. Instead of being used for the modicum of relief to the people, they will be further fleeced under the cover of 'national need' only to raise the height of mountains of profit of the exploiting class.

Third, the worst casualty will be peace and amity among deprived and deceived people belonging to the principal communities. Communal hatred, insensible killings among them will spell doom to the unity of the oppressed classes and to the democratic atmosphere essential for building up united democratic movement with the help of which alone can the exploited and oppressed hope to earn a breathing space even.

The ordinary working people, those who have a democratic conscience, modicum of patriotism and a sense of history must tell the conspirators a roaring 'No'. No, they cannot participate in self-annihilation, cannot push their future to the darkness of mad fury. Bigotry and religious fanaticism being whipped up in both sides of the border must be fought resolutely by well-meaning democratic minded people. We must tell them in no uncertain terms that we firmly oppose making religious fanaticism to be the staple food of politics. The urgent needs of the people are to be addressed and met without any excuse or pretext.

Moreover, can we allow the imperialist powers and others interested to infiltrate and dominate our mutual problems? We won't allow them to fish in troubled waters.

We appeal to you — don't be dumb spectators to the wily moves of the ruling class and its various aides; don't fall prey to media propaganda pushing you to senseless self-destructive activities. Reason, not blind emotion should prevail in your mind.

Meanwhile, let us organise ourselves in thousands, in millions against war-like tension demanding at the same time essentials for human living.

The grossly denied people of both the countries do not want war psychosis, war like tension, any extraordinary situation contrived by the ruling class as an escape route. They want food, employment, shelter and a living worthy of human being.

Victorious Medical Students' Movement Against Fee Hike

Recently, the Karnataka Government had exorbitantly increased the annual tuition fees in the Government Medical Colleges. The decision to enhance the fees for final year medical students from Rs. 2,000/- plus to a staggering amount of Rs.19,400/- came as a bolt from the blue.

AIDSO, which has allthrough been at the forefront of students' movement in the state, organised the aggrieved students. To give shape to organised movement, an All Karnataka Government Medical College Students' Action Committee was formed, including representatives from all the 4 government medical colleges of the state. Under the guidance of AIDSO and Medical Students' Action Committee, various action plans were drawn.

Accordingly, massive procession and a protest demonstration was organised in Bangalore, the state capital on 1st of August 1998. Hundreds of Medical Students from all the government medical

colleges participated in the programme. The procession culminated in Mysore Bank Circle. Veteran Freedom Fighter Sri H.S. Doreswamy recalled the struggles of students during pre-independent India and called upon them to continue the movement till the end. Ex-President of AIDSO, Dr. B. R. Manujunath, spoke on the occasion. Comrade M. N. Sriram, AIDSO State Secretary, was present. Student leaders from all the 4 medical colleges spoke.

Later a delegation of students with Comrade M. N. Sriram, met the Medical Education Minister and then the Deputy Chief Minister. Both these Ministers assured them of positive action.

This movement could generate such a pressure on the government that it had to exempt the fee hike for the final year students and the newly joined House Surgeons. The victory created tremendous enthusiasm among the students and instilled great confidence about AIDSO.

Convention against atrocities on women in Karnataka

Thousands of women representing different sections of society on 21st July last gathered in front of Town Hall in a protest demonstration against atrocities on women. Later they converged to Town Hall for a state level convention against atrocities on women. The convention was organized by the Karnataka State Committee of AIMSS.

Justice N. D. Venkatesh in his inaugural address expressed his sympathy for women who were victims of violence. The convention was proof of their growing efforts to protest injustice and develop their personality. Women's emancipation lies in their own conscious effort, he said. He concluded by asserting Swami Vivekananda's words that those who do not respect women can never progress. The main cause for the degradation of this nation are perversion of religion and underestimating the role of women, he said.

Smt. H. S. Parvathi, renowned Kannada writer, called upon the gathering to develop an independently thinking mind and use their mental and physical energies and potential for all round growth. She stressed upon the need for education and employment for women which would give them self-confidence. No amount of social legislation

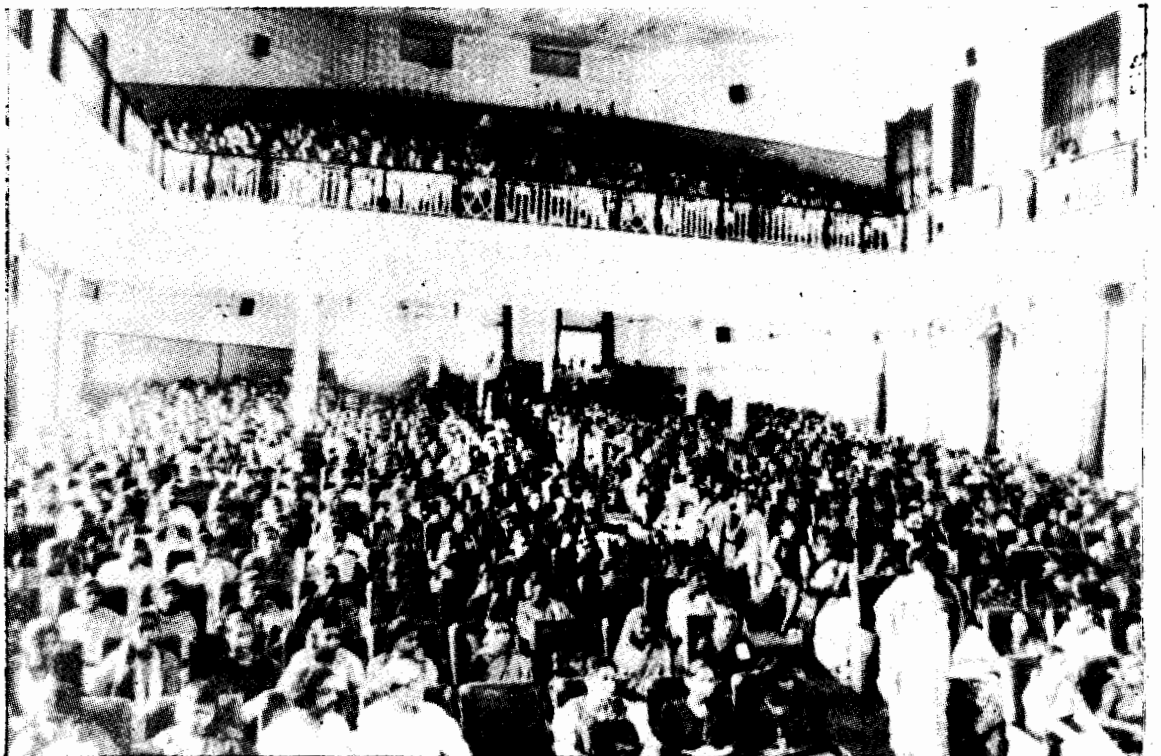
would help unless girls became bold, she said.

Sri G. K. Govinda Rao, Social Activist, vehemently criticised the glorification of *Sati* and the attitudes of erstwhile prime ministers and the present chief minister towards women. He condemned all men who perpetuated mental and physical violence against women. Criticising the nuclear explosions he said that it was anti-life, and the radiation would effect women and future generations the most. He called upon the women to give a new direction to their thinking when they return from the Convention.

Dr H. G. Jayalakshmi, secretary, AIMSS, Karnataka spoke of the necessity to organise protracted movement to fight all problems. She called upon the women to give a decisive turn to history by halting the wheels of criminalisation and reaction.

Dr Sudha Kamath, President, AIMSS, Karnataka who presided over the Convention called upon the gathering to rise up in bold protest against all crimes against women.

A resolution demanding action against criminals and calling upon women to develop organised protest was unanimously adopted.



Public meeting against atrocities on women at Town Hall in Bangalore

Hiroshima Day observed

Hyderabad:

The Hiroshima Day was observed at Hyderabad on 6th August last. An effigy of nuclear bomb was burnt at Koti (near Osmania Medical College), Hyderabad for condemning the nuclear arms race throughout the world in general and India and Pakistan's recent nuclear tests in particular.

Addressing the people, Comrade Ch. Murahari, member, State Provisional Committee, All India Anti-imperialist Forum, called upon the people to expose the game plan of the BJP government. The BJP government conducted tests not because of any threat either from Pakistan or from China, but only to save its governmental power from the threat of its allies. To develop national jingoism and communalism is another fascistic design behind these tests and also to divert the attention of the

Corrigendum

In the last page of the previous issue the CPI(M) was mentioned as a participant in Hiroshima Day programme in Vajaywada through mistake. It was the CPM, and not CPI(M) which was one among the seven parties participating in the programme. The error is regretted. —Ed. P. Era

people from their real problem.

A memorandum has been submitted to the President of India.

Tamil Nadu

Virudhunagar District Committee of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum organised a demonstration in front of Sivakasi bus stand on 23.8.98 against nuclear bomb blast and war machinations. In the inaugural speech Shri K Thilagar, advocate, member Anti-Imperialist Forum questioned the rulers of India and Pakistan about the necessity of nuclear blasts when the people of both the countries we suffering from unemployment and extreme poverty. Doctor E R J Paul in his main speech highlighted the war machination of capitalist-imperialist countries, and in particular of India and Pakistan. He further elaborated class design of militarisation of economy of both the countries and appealed to the people to resist the policy of atomic war by building up powerful peace movements. A good number of people attended the demonstration raising slogans against nuclear programmes of India and Pakistan.



Effigy of a nuclear bomb being burnt in Bhubaneswar on Hiroshima Day



Demonstration on Hiroshima Day at Shivakashi, Tamil Nadu



A united demonstration against Central government's anti-people policies at Bangalore on 14.7.98.

Resist Price Rise

(Contd. from page 1)

crore, it is contemplating even another ministry — ministry for infrastructure. All capitalist laws coupled with the deep-rooted corruption among the high ups are causing havoc in people's life.

The BJP and all henchmen of capitalism could wreak such havoc only because mass movement is absent in the country. Some outbursts are taking place here and there, but sporadic outbursts are unable to bring the government to book. The government is a well organised force which can be combated only by well organised protracted mass movement. Government is frightened of real mass movement, for which it is out to mould the mass mind against democratic movements. The treacherous role of social democratic parties, particularly the CPI(M) and CPI, has helped the capitalist class to somewhat create an anti-politics mental make up of the people.

But we are to keep in mind the fact that out and out anti-people politics of exploitative capitalism, represented by BJP and Congress etc. and politics of social democracy of CPI(M), which is synonymous with treachery, corruption, opportunism, are different from the real politics of leftism, and politics of socialism that uphold organised protracted people's movement, that uphold responsibility towards toiling millions, a real ethical cultural character. Our party the SUCI, wherever we are, has a place of love in man's mind for its role of building up organised movements on the burning problems.

But mass movements really capable of compelling the governments, need people's participation on a grand scale. People are the real force who should come forward in these days of hardship and build up waves of mass movements throughout the country against price rise and other problems.

That is the call of the hour.

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