

Proletarian Era

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Repulse this Attack

The BJP led government intends to bring down the fiercest attack so far on the working people by robbing them of the modicum of legal protection and trade union rights, earned through decades-long hard and painstaking struggles. The moment chosen clearly reveals the fascist intention and device. It is to exploit the lull created in the trade union and democratic mass movements because of the spinelessness and treachery of social democratic forces, the forces of compromise between labour and capital, who are at the leadership of both. It has been historically proved that social democracy paves the ground for fascism, the worst menace to civilisation to raise its ugly head and that fascist design must be defeated at the very initiation.

A powerful united sustained democratic mass movement having as its content hastening the very process of organising anti-capitalist socialist revolution can alone change the situation. The leadership, the goal and the very orientation of the movement are of paramount importance if we are

not to repeat the grievous follies of the past and consequent prolongation of sufferings.

The plea

A plea is needed for every kind of misdeed. So it is with the BJP leaders who were talking about 'swadeshi' in their so-called National Agenda. They now say: "internal liberalisation first and defer globalisation." Whom they want to fool? Is internal liberalisation opposed to globalisation, a capitalist class policy throughout the globe? Internal

liberalisation started in 1991 when Dr. Manmohan Singh the union finance minister in the Congress cabinet was credited with its concrete formulation, terming it "New Economic Policy". The same class policy of globalisation-liberalisation internally and externally has been pursued by the successive governments, the Congress, the UF and now the BJP. Not only that. In fact, the very first condition to be in government power — whether at the centre

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Education Ministers' Conference

An Attempt to Saffronise Education

The spectre of fascism is looming large over the Indian horizon. Ever since the BJP-led Government's coming to power fascist attacks on minority communities are on the increase with active patronage from the State. The secular social ethos are under threat. We know that the

fusion of spiritualism and science provides the ideological-cultural base of fascism. It thrives on intolerance, bigotry, blind faith, irrationality and whipping up of people's frenzy against minority communities, among others. All this disturbing symptoms are apparent in BJP's modus operandi. The BJP and Sangh Parivar have made no secret about their anti-minority orientation. They have brazenly proclaimed that those who live in India must adopt Hindutva, be guided by Hindu values and ethos. With this doctrine slant they have whipped up communal frenzy in all corners of the country and targeted the minority communities for attack. The Sangh Parivar's hand in communal riots is too well known to be elaborated. The religious intolerance went to the extent of stopping the performance by artists' from Pakistan and threatening to disallow Pakistani cricket team to play in India. Even after the Srikrishna Commission Report indicted in clear terms Shiv Sena and its chief Bal Thackeray who "like a veteran general commanded his loyal Shiv sainiks to retaliate with organized attacks against Muslims", the BJP Shiv Sena Government refused to take any action. The Supreme Court had to issue notices to the Maharashtra Government to hand over the task of action to be taken on the report to an independent agency.

Though the main target of BJP's attack has been the Muslim community, other minority communities have also to bear the brunt. The Akhil Bharatia Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in Delhi went on a spree of burning the Bible. In Gujarat, hoodlums have attacked Christian schools and raided Churches and burnt Bibles. Inter religious couples are socially ostracized and harassed. The incidents hark back to the orgy of book burning and acts of violence against the Jews by the Nazis in Hitler's Germany. Recently,

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Protest against price rise, atrocities on women in Patna

The Bihar State Committee of the SUCI has launched a statewide movement against soaring prices, increasing number of rapes and other atrocities on women, corruption, gangsterism, complete chaos in educational set up, closures, retrenchments and lock-outs besides other burning issues of the masses. The first phase of the movement included meetings, demonstrations and

dharnas at block and district levels. It finally culminated in a massive demonstration before the Governor of the State on 7th November at Patna. The rally marked the 81st anniversary of the Great November Revolution.

It all began from the Gandhi Maidan situated in the heart of the city and which has been a

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A view of the massive demonstration on 7th November, 1998 at Patna.

NEW LABOUR LAW**'Be beggars and we assure you doles'***(Contd. from page 1)*

or in states by anyone is adherence to this class policy.

Some concrete instances will be enough to disprove that globalisation has been deferred by the BJP government. First, foreign finance capital, more of the US origin has been invited to invest with 100% equity participation in the government sponsored Rs 200 crore construction of housing complexes. Similar other instances are seen in Telecom, power plants, air services and to cap it all the insurance and banking which have been opened up without any let or hindrance. Multinational's entry in diverse sectors of the economy in our country has been more liberalised to anybody's knowledge. So the BJP is trying to outbid others in adherence to class policy. The mask is lifted when it justifies the grievous attacks on workers' rights and legal defence as means to accelerate the process of liberalisation in the country's economy started by the Congress government. In plain words the amendments are calculated to remove slightest opposition or obstacle from millions upon millions working people under the crushing wheel of capitalist rule, sinking into deeper and ever deeper crisis globally.

The amendments — real implications

At a glance the proposed amendments to existing labour laws seek to (i) make retrenchment of worker simpler by the 'hire and fire' policy, (ii) increase working hours from existing eight to twelve that too in electronic industry, (iii) encourage use of contract labour, perverting the very purpose of existing act; (iv) introduce stringent laws for recognising union; (v) link bonus to productivity, i.e. profit.

After proposing all these amendments having crippling effects on service security and service conditions of the workers, their very freedom to form as also function as trade unions, their right to agitation and movement, including strike action for settlement of just demands or redress grievances, their natural right to bonus as deferred wages, the fascist duplicity bares itself. They assure "welfare norms for the country's workforce will be implemented strictly". A cruel joke indeed! 'First be beggars and we assure you regular supply of doles', is the real meaning of this assurance.

One of the amendments to the ID Act suggested having farreaching consequences, in the mode of settlement of employees' demands through bi-partite only — meaning dialogue between the managements' and workers' representatives. The government will not involve it in any way in the workers - management dispute. So long there was conciliation machinery, like the chief labour commissioner or the regional commissioner in their respective spheres who used to preside over conciliation proceedings. The agreement hammered out bore 'tri-partite' nature meaning the government stands as guarantor for proper implementation of the agreement. Now the government abjures whatever minimum obligation and responsibility it had hitherto towards the workers. It gives signal to the capitalists to do whatever they like and assures that the government will not stand in the way of their rampaging spree.

The plausibility is worth noting. "Issues tend to get complicated when the government or management are expected to hold talks with various unions and satisfy their specific demands" — a

spokesman of the union labour ministry expressed thus as defence. The defence strikingly points out the pattern of settlement in the banking industry — bi-partite, the 7th in the series now being held. This time to satisfy the pre-condition of bi-partite probably altogether nine central bank employees' associations huddled together in a single union. The banking industry has been a sector for experiment by the government being the representative of the ruling capitalist class in their crisis and naturally very much fearful about workers' agitation and movements, including strike actions. For they want elimination of workers' struggles altogether. The social democratic leadership of big left trade unions of bank employees in alliance with those led by the branded bourgeois parties have obliged. The experiment started when Mr Morarji Desai was the union finance minister. Mr Desai wanted to foist code of discipline to be signed by any union who claims the government's recognition. It was specifically to commit that all disputes will be settled through bi-partite talks and negotiations and that strike and other forms of movement will not be resorted to. The sole union to accept it was the INBEC led State Bank employees' leadership. The unions, notably the AIBEA under leadership of CPI decried it. But all the nine trade unions including the BEFI led by CPI(M) became signatories to the agreement of the same nature, though secretly, before final seal of approval was given to the Sixth bi-partite. The pattern set in banking industry is being tried to be the only method.

The trade union movement in not so distant past usually witnessed workers' agitations, different forms of action programmes and ultimately strike actions for days to bring sufficient pressure to bear upon the recalcitrant management to shed intransigence and accept the workers' just demands long denied. The government's response was the usual conciliation proceedings presided over by government appointed labour commissioner and in case of serious disagreement the matter was referred to tribunal, whether a special one or the permanent machinery working in states according to the cases of dispute. In such state tribunals not only the individual grievances but even demands of general nature forming a charter of demands in an industry were settled. The best example that readily comes to mind was the omnibus tribunal on engineering industry because of very much association with it and leading role of our departed leader Comrade Subodh Banerjee. It was a significant award for the engineering workers of West Bengal.

The suggested amendments try to eliminate both the method of settlement as also curb the ambience of the labour court or tribunal. Amendment of regulation has been sought to confine the labour courts only to specific grievances of the employees, the nature being dues not having been received, or retrenchment. Because other than specific grievance of employee, all other matter of dispute 'should be dealt with at the management level'.

What about legal remedy even in case of specific grievance for retrenchment? A further amendment seeks to give blanket power to the management to exercise its prerogative to terminate the service on grounds of "indiscipline and poor work performance". Who will decide the validity of the charges? Will there be any opportunity to test

them through departmental enquiry — ensuring fully natural justice by accepting the right to know the charge before, i.e. show cause and then defence to charges in the enquiry — which must maintain administrative neutrality at least in consonance with the Supreme Court's various judgments in this regard?

Even if the Court allows a challenge made by the retrenched employees how much time will be required to decide the matter? The management has enough money to continue the punishment by appeals to higher courts in case it is defeated at the lower court. Will the retrenched worker have enough time to survive after his earning is lost?

A mischievous objective runs all through the move. For some years past in the Left Front-run West Bengal particularly the complaint about absence of 'work culture' has been trumpeted both by the capitalists' various organisations as also by the media. Of late the social democratic leaders joined the chorus although they are to be blamed for making corrupt practices deeprooted and endemic. Deliberately they remained silent on charges of bribes being systematically taken and other more serious monetary scandals, notable among which the fraud of big sums in the Alipur treasury with which were and still now are reported to be involved many leaders of the Coordination Committee led by CPI(M). They do not feel ashamed that during their rule even the retired teachers are to grease the palms of the employees showing allegiance to their party and even leaders in their front of government employees. People

have the concrete, bitter experience that no file moves without money being paid as premium for normal service. The employees were allowed this illicit gains with the deliberate purpose of using them to corrupt the electoral exercise by allout rigging. It is this allout rigging in elections that keep this party in government power. The corrupts do not fight corruption because corruption has become the usual thing in their life. This long practice of corrupt practices have completely destroyed minimum ethical values and norms. It has blunted class-consciousness if at any time it grew among them. So punishment to the workers on the plea of indiscipline or of bad work performance will not only be greeted by various bourgeois spokesmen, the media, but even by the common people. This is the shrewd calculation of the fascists who will use the same corrupt workforce in their favour.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could foresee the danger long long years ago. In his speech in the Conference of Engineering Workers in West Bengal, held in 1967, among other important issues, he drew pointed attention to this malaise eroding the moral foundation of leftist movement. He exposed boldly the fallacy of eulogising a worker simply because he happens to be a worker. He cautioned that a boot-licker of management, a strike-breaker cannot be called a worker simply because of his social position. By worker, he taught, is to be meant a class-conscious worker having sense of dignity of labour and self-respect. He can smilingly give up personal ease and comforts, the opportunity to lead a luxurious life. The bourgeoisie will always offer to enfeeble their very moral spine without which no real opposition, no real resistance to the most corrupt and tyrannical rule of capital can be overthrown.

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NEW LABOUR LAW**BJP trying to put the clock of history back***(Contd. from page 2)*

Today, with the crime of social democracy still continuing, not the corrupt and depraved among the workers or employees but those among them genuinely representing the revolutionary trend are threatened to be the target of attacks. And this will also be applauded by the media and the politically unaware common people. Fascism creates its field of social support thus. We say all this to show how the fascists seize opportunities from the serious lackings and deficiencies in the very mindset of those who are in trade union and democratic mass movements. Without being conscious of and serious in removing those it will be useless to fight attacks on rights and gains by slogans and slogans alone.

Restriction on trade unions

The proposed change in the Trade Union Act makes it mandatory "for shop level unions (to) have 10 p.c. of workforce as members." The existing rule provides any seven workers can form union and get it registered. Further, it has been proposed that 'outsiders' meaning those who are not actually working will not exceed 50% of office bearers selected from among retired officials and employees.

What are the objectives of this apparently innocuous amendment? First, totally disgusted and very much aggrieved with the leaders of the established unions leading the life of luxury while they perish, consciousness is dawning on the workers and employees and actual help is coming from outside to form new unions having revolutionary trend. These unions are not to be content with concessions even if achieved not by begging but by the pressure of movements. These unions talk of overthrow of the very capitalist rule, the source of all the miseries in their life. They remind the workers always the teaching of great Marx that trade unions led by the revolutionaries must be the 'School of Communism'. Trade union cannot be the centre of economism, legalism and liberal ideas about democracy. The ruling capitalist class in the morass of ever deepening crisis fear very much spread of revolutionary anti-capitalist thoughts and ideas and the actual reflection of those in militant trade union movements. It has therefore always been the endeavour of whichever party has come to power at the Centre and their counterparts in states — the Congress, Janata, the UF even the self-styled 'Marxists' as in West Bengal, to stem the tide of revolutionary idea and the struggling trend the new unions reflect. The object of putting further restriction on the very right of forming union is coming from the fear-complex of the ruling class executed through its principal agency the Union Government. Not that the previous governments did not try to check the number of associations whether in an industrial unit or the bargaining agents, the central trade unions. Only those central trade unions and its affiliates eager to defend the rule of capitalist exploitation by restricting trade union movements within the narrow confine of legalism, economism have been pampered.

Second, in a country like ours where let alone the revolutionary class-consciousness even the technical knowledge about framing charter of demands, placing it to management, fight it in tribunal or labour court, representing forcefully the case to the government besides the combative power against the class policy or misdeeds of the

management, are almost absent among the ordinary workers. The political training and adequate consciousness about the revolutionary goal of workers' struggles cannot be provided even by white collar employees if we remember Lenin's celebrated utterance: Socialism comes from without. It is not spontaneous. The principles of scientific socialism have got to be studied and grasped under a revolutionary leadership and the art of application of those to concrete situation must be learnt. Therefore, the restriction is sought to be put on outsiders who are in reality the teachers and trainers of workers and employees in any union guided by revolutionary thoughts.

Trying to put the clock of history back

Emboldened by the disarray in trade union and democratic mass movements and abject surrender of trade union leaders to vicious capitalist class policy of globalization, liberalisation notwithstanding their verbal protests the BJP to outsmart its bourgeois rivals, has come up with the insolent proposal of raising the working hours to twelve. Is it not a move to put the clock of history more than a century back? On the historic May 1, 1886, the workers in Hay Market, Chicago, America shed blood and unfurled the Flag dyed with their blood — the Red Flag protesting against inhuman exploitation and wage slavery for twelve hours demanded by them. They demanded on the other hand reduction of working hours to eight which since then has been in practice with the technological standard obtaining then, considered archaic in relation to tremendous advance in technology of today. So the justified demand from the working class is for further reduction of working hours to at least six hours as demanded by UTUC-Lenin Sarani.

Before dealing with concrete changes sought for, let us remind ourselves that Lenin called the historic event on May 1, 'the first salvo of working class' and as decided by the First International led by Marx-Engels, the historic May Day is to be observed as the day of International Working Class Solidarity. We are still observing the same.

How dare the BJP government suggest increase of working hours to twelve? The amendments suggested are (i) "electronic units should be permitted to run twelve hours instead of the existing eight hours shifts." Also, (ii) export processing units should be permitted to extend working hours for women from the present 3 PM to 7 PM to 3 PM to 11 PM. Such things cannot pass if there is any thing like working people and their trade unions in the country who all observe the May Day.

A pertinent question must be answered by the BJP government. Can development of science or technology and their fruits be the property of a tiny section of the society — the capitalist class or is it of the people as a whole? If science or technology has not become a commodity at the disposal of their owner the capitalist class, which the bourgeois democrats deny vehemently in their apparent show of attachment to humanist thinking, then why the workers will be deprived of having share in it? No invocation of the Vedas and Upanishads, be specific in answer to this.

Contract Act — proposal for reversal of purpose

The purpose of this act now said to have been 'antiquated' can be understood from the long history of trade union struggles. In our country the workers who work under contractors in whatever

form are the worst victims although their number has been on the increase thanks to different government projects as also handing over jobs by government agencies to contractors. The main obstacles faced by these workers are: (a) absence of definite pay scale, (b) absence of security of job as most of them are kept 'part-timers' to deny whatever minimum rights could be gained by the provisions in the Industrial Disputes Act and (c) absence of any safety-net like gratuity, provident fund for future after retirement, etc. That is why the purpose has been stated in the wordings of this act, like 'regulation' and 'abolition'. It was also for guaranteeing a minimum wage rate.

Now see how the proposed amendments are actually meant to reverse the very purpose of this act. The amendments seek to bring stringency in its applicability to information industry and that the employees should be given permanent status only after completion of 720 days or 2 years instead of existing 240 days or 8 months. Further, the area has been extended to loading and unloading (dock workers), gardening (plantation, floriculture workers, etc.), office maintenance and other maintenances, surely to include security jobs that for long has been introduced in banks and other sectors. Let alone 'abolition' — the ultimate goal stated in the old act, the present amendments seek to make the contract labour the growing trend and permanent feature as in the USA and other advanced imperialist-capitalist countries.

The objects are therefore clear: relieving the management from any obligation to pay salary or wage worthy of human dignity and minimum comforts and thereby further reduce wage cost and mint maximum super profit, take the bottom out of whatever service security hitherto existing and finally restricting further trade union activities and struggles.

Linking bonus with profit

The trade union movement has been fighting for acceptance of bonus as 'deferred wage' and minimum quantum of bonus for all meaning that its applicability be extended to all kinds and categories of employees. Important gains were earned since the Bonus Act in 1965 stipulated the obligation for all managements to pay minimum 5% annual bonus. The payment of bonus has been extended to government departments notably the railways, etc. To deny the natural claim of bonus as 'deferred wage' and instead linking it to profit is to intensify capitalist exploitation by pushing more and more people to near starvation level considering the unusual rate of price increase in daily necessities.

Our appeal

These are in brief the very purpose and direction of the monstrous attacks threatening the workers. The left and democratic central trade unions want to respond by organising all-India strike on December 11, and a central rally has been held in the Shihid Minar Maidan, Calcutta on November 11, in West Bengal as a preparatory programme. We have no doubt that if the central trade unions are sincere in giving a powerful rebuff to this grave onslaught on the working class, trade union movement in our country can witness a memorable event. We urge upon their leaderships to take a leaf out of a recent instance in South Korea where the workers and employees have demonstrated what can be done to roll back the class offensives if they do not lack courage and

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EDUCATION

Build up mass struggles against BJP's fascist design*(Contd. from page 1)*

there has been a heinous incidence in Madhya Pradesh of forcible entry of anti-socials into Christian Mission and gang rape of nuns. Far from condemning the act and bringing the criminals to book, a former BJP MP B. L. Sharma Prem tried to justify the dastardly attack by calling it a patriotic reaction to the conversion of Hindus to Christianity. VHP General Secretary Acharya Giriraj Kishore made a provocative statement that activities of Christian Missionaries are contributing to rise in insurgency and that the Missionaries working against the Hindu interest should leave the country. Such acts and utterances are resorted to with the purpose of intimidating and terrorising the minority communities and making them fall in line.

Particularly worrying is the combination of all these with the BJP Government's efforts to infiltrate into all sections of administration, cultural and social organisations and to mould the education system according to its bigoted doctrine. In UP in Uttaranchal 4000 schools are set up by the Kalyan Singh Government as Saraswati Sishu Mandirs to give a BJP style religious orientation to the training of the young and the very young. Text books are re-written — lives of Mahatma Gandhi or Abraham Lincoln are distorted or altogether omitted and in their place the life of the RSS founder Hedgwar is inserted. The fiasco of the UP Government's introduction of Vedic Mathematics in schools some years back is well known.

Core RSS men are inducted into important government positions to make the administration pliable to BJP's Hindutva stance. In Delhi it has been making a concerted effort to appoint committed teachers to the posts of Principal in the various colleges of the university. At the Indian Council of Historical Research, Joshi had replaced 18 outgoing members by those who are all favourably disposed to BJP. Their mandate is to re-write the Indian history according to BJP's warped outlook. There is a pattern in BJP's actions and policies which are a cause for grave concern as these are grim forebodings of the ingress of fascism in the country.

The happenings of the recent Education Ministers' Conference have to be viewed in this context. The agenda papers contained an annexure entitled "Recommendations of the Group of Experts". It turned out that the recommendations were identical with those made by Vidya Bharati, a RSS affiliate. The recommendations are blueprint for the "saffronization of the educational system". In an open defiance of the secular norms the HRD Ministry decided to start the programme with Saraswati Bandana — an invocation to the Goddess of Learning — instead of national anthem. Because of strong protests from all quarters Murali Manohar Joshi had to agree to start the conference with the National Anthem. But the Saraswati Bandana was rendered afterwards all the same, which led to walk out of a majority of the education ministers. But such protests did not deter the BJP and even after the conference the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP urged the State Government to make singing of Saraswati Bandana compulsory in educational institutions and official meetings of the Education Department. The UP Government had made

compulsory the singing of Saraswati Bandana by students in its schools and the RSS chief Rajendra Singh thundered that anyone who is not ready to pray to Goddess Saraswati could never be fit to be an education minister.

In an unprecedented move Calcutta based industrialist and BJP supporter P. D. Chitlangia was invited to make a presentation which was to advocate the promotion of the concept of Hindutva in the country's education system. Because of the staunch objection of a large number of education ministers assembled at the conference Joshi was forced to cancel Chitlangia's presentation. However, he was later rewarded with the membership of the Board of Governors of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur.

The Sangh Parivar's design is to extend their doctrine through control of education. Let us look at some of the recommendations.

It is said that, "the concept of Hindutva should find the place in the curriculum from primary to the higher levels of education." Further, the curriculum should be "Indianized, nationalized and spiritualized." This is all a part of RSS-BJP's doctrine of cultural nationalism. It amounts to promoting bigotry and religious intolerance through the education system and as a direct attack on religious sentiments of the minority communities.

Sanskrit is to be made compulsory from Class III to Class IX. In their perception English is a foreign language, while Sanskrit is the "Devbhasha," the language of the Gods without which one cannot get acquainted with the Indian tradition. In line with this, Hindu religious texts, Vedas and Upanishads are to be taught compulsorily to all students from the primary to higher levels, including vocational courses. The proposals not only smack of Hindu religious chauvinism but would put the clock back. One is reminded of Vidyasagar. The promoters of Hindutva cannot hold a candle to him in erudition and mastery over Sanskrit language and Hindu scriptures. Yet, more than a century ago, he had the wisdom to advocate teaching of English and to declare, "that the Vedanta and Sankhya are false system of philosophy, is no more a matter of dispute."

We have no reason to believe that BJP's postures arise from a deep religious belief. No religion, let alone Hinduism teaches hatred against believers in other religions. All great religious teachers have preached tolerance, love and compassion. In our times we have the examples of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, two great prophets of Hindu religion who showed respect to other religious beliefs. What BJP is doing is to cash in on the religious sentiments of the people and use this for political gains, for coming to power through elections.

A proposal accepted at the conference would promote privatization of education. It is said that private investment in primary education would be welcomed and tax reliefs would be granted for such investments. Providing education for the people is one of the primary duties of any government. Privatization would inevitably increase the cost of education manifold and would put it beyond the reach of common people. BJP's intention is to keep the people ignorant by

curtailing the scope of education so that they are not able to analyze the reasons for their plight and work out their way to liberation.

The BJP agenda presented at the conference is an affront to the secular polity of the country and even the allies of BJP could not swallow it. Facing all out opposition Joshi had to announce that the annexures were withdrawn; Chitlangia's presentation was cancelled and the debate was restricted to only the "first twenty pages" of agenda notes.

However, the people are to maintain their vigilance because BJP has not given up its plan to bring in the concept of Hindutva not only in education but also in all spheres of social and political life.

Compulsions of election politics have brought the Congress, the left and other anti-BJP parties together. But their real interest is not to advance the people's cause, but to anyhow come to power through electoral game. Congress is now waxing eloquent about secularism and is posing itself as a great champion of secularism. But the Congress Party's history is replete with incidence of pampering the communal forces for electoral gains. Today the BJP has come to power on the strength of Hindu votes. But long ago, Indira Gandhi herself proclaimed that the Congress would have to look after the interest of the majority community. The Indian people can never forget that it was Rajiv Gandhi who first paved the way for the Ayodhya agitation and the demolition of Babari Masjid, by starting his election campaign at Ayodhya with the slogan of Ram Rajya. The role of the left parties is also nothing to praise about. They have shunned the path of organising people in democratic mass movements and it is the lack of democratic movements which helped the BJP to come to power, even in West Bengal, once the bastion of left democratic movement, the BJP could make a foothold because of absence of the mass movements. The failure of the left parties to build up democratic movements cannot be glossed over. Not only that, in the states in which they are in power they are trampling the democratic rights of the people and are ruthlessly suppressing peoples' movements on legitimate demands. For example, in West Bengal, the CPI(M)-led Left Front Government is persistently resisting the re-introduction of English at the primary level in spite of universal popular demand and are promoting their narrow sectarian interest in the field of education through nepotism and corruption. By killing the initiative of the people to build up movements they are helping BJP to spread its roots. Long back in 1969 when the United Front was in power in West Bengal, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the outstanding Marxist thinker and founder General Secretary of our party had warned, "Lying in wait, on the one hand, are the separatist elements and Jana Sangh like forces, clamouring for the religious state. They are bidding time for the opportune moment to come their way. Once people's attraction towards the leftist movement, which is still there, will be undermined, these forces will raise their head. Whereas the CPI(M) leaders, holding the reins do not simply realise this situation. It is almost like the Congress that they are deceiving the people

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Comrade Pritish Chanda Memorial Meetings

Memorial meetings to pay tribute to Comrade Pritish Chanda were held throughout the country. We give below the reports of some of them.

Delhi

The Delhi State Organising Committee of SUCI organised a memorial meeting on 28th September. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, Member, Central Committee, SUCI.

Comrade Banerjee said that Comrade Chanda belonged to that generation of revolutionaries who did not expect anything as reward for their struggle. They struggled only to free the people from all sorts of exploitation. They only come to give, not to take. That is a generation which bases itself on this culture, on politics based on ethics, revolutionary ethics. And that is a great lesson for us who want to proceed farther in this path. Because politics minus culture and ethics becomes a weapon in the hands of parliamentary politicians. Today in our country, politics is infested with criminal people. This is not an accident; it is a lesson that we cannot carry on revolutionary politics by sidetracking culture and revolutionary ethics. Comrade Pritish Chanda belonged to this category of revolutionaries who fought for politics based on communist ethics.

This is why, in extreme privation, they could pass their lives. There was no comfort, there was nothing for themselves. They had to develop a mental make-up free from private property mental complex, and that became the ethics of their politics. We are sad that Comrade Chanda is no longer with us.

There can be no revolutionary who does not commit mistakes in the course of struggle and who then has to face criticism. We have to take a lesson from the manner in which they have accepted such criticism. Pritishda used to take his critics as his teachers, he never used to get upset by criticism. 'We ourselves have criticised him fiercely. It is often seen that people get upset, their ego gets hurt, an individualist resistance rises from within. Pritishda was never like that, he used to take criticism as education. It could therefore be truthfully said that he had

identified himself with the organisation. There was no difference between his life and the objectives of the organisation, therefore there was no individualistic resistance to criticism; how to look positively at criticism to learn from it for the improvement of the organisation, this was how he responded. A true man of the organisation, who could not be separated from the organisation. Pritishda was a proletarian revolutionary of such standing. It is with this angularity that we remember our leader Pritishda and pay him our respects.

Comrade Dev Ganguly, In-charge, Asia-Pacific Region, WFTU said: I had the privilege to meet and be acquainted with Comrade Chanda on many occasions. We were good friends of almost the same age. We discussed many things among ourselves. We disagreed on many occasions, but Comrade Chanda never lost his temper. His smile was always there. He never compromised on his basic concept. But he tried to understand others' opinions and accommodate them, particularly for the cause of the unity of the working class movement. I knew him through his Union activities. I have seen him here in Delhi in his Union office, seen his very modest simple life. I would say that a comrade of that nature, a leader of this quality is very much needed in the trade union movement of developing countries like

India, at the same time a comrade of the world trade union movement.

Anil Nauriya, Supreme Court Advocate and long-time friend of Comrade Chanda said: it is difficult for me to imagine a situation when Pritishda is not there. I first met him nearly twenty years ago. I was a journalist with *The Times of India* and my job was to write on state-level politics. After that we kept meeting. I left journalism and became a lawyer. We had occasions to sometimes go here and there together. The interesting thing about Pritishda was that when he spoke to a younger person he did not make you feel that he was speaking down to you. He spoke as though he was talking to someone of the same age. He established a rapport with almost anybody he would meet.

He had this tremendous inner strength and tremendous power of rejuvenation. He could come out of the worst blow, he had this tremendous capacity which is why the news of his death came as such a shock to all of us. I would like to once again pay my homage to this indefatigable comrade. I think that he realised that the real part of the struggle was the fight and not the result.

Suhas Borkar, All India General Secretary, Citizens for Democracy said: The first time I met Comrade Pritishda was after Ayodhya episode

when all the secular and democratic forces were coming together against the inroads of the fascist elements which were gaining ground. I agree with Anil that one didn't feel at all a condescending attitude in him, that 'I have seen it all and here is a young man whom I have to talk down to'. You would be at the same level when he talked to you. That urge to communicate, that is what I first saw in him: that was in January 1993, there was a meeting organised and that was the starting point of the Rashtriya Ekta Abhiyan. The first time I heard him speak at this meeting, he was saying "Let us organise something at the grassroots, let's not have these armchair meetings or be highbrow, let's go to the people with our message". It was then that in the course of some months that I became one of two non-party members of the national secretariat of 14 parties and activists.

(Contd. on page 6)

Memorial Meeting at Ghatshila

A memorial meeting of Comrade Pritish Chanda, the departed Polit Bureau member of the SUCI and the All-India President of the UTUC-LS, was held on October 25 last at the Study Center of Marxism-Leninism and Shibdas Ghosh's Thought at Ghatshila in the district of Singhbhum of Bihar. Comrade Chanda passed away at the age of 74. And the Study Centre was adorned with 74 red flags.

At 9 o'clock in the morning Comrade Ranjit Dhar, a Central Staff of the party hoisted the red flag at the Study Centre and paid his revolutionary tribute by placing wreath at the full length bronze statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Bihar State Secretary, Comrade Ranjit Modak, Secretary of Singhbhum District Committee and Comrade Moley Bose on behalf of the Study Centre offered their revolutionary red salute one after garlanding the statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Placed also were the wreaths at the portraits of the great leaders and teachers of the world Communist movement, the departed Central Committee members of the party and at the bust of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

The memorial meeting began at 2 o'clock at the Assembly Hall of the main building of the Study Centre in a solemn atmosphere. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty. The hall became full with the poor tribal people, mine workers, office employees, students, women and the party activists coming from different areas of the district.

After the songs of the district music squad the meeting started with placing of wreaths at the portrait of Comrade Pritish Chanda kept on the stage. Before the main speaker of the meeting, Comrade Ranjit Dhar delivered his address, Comrade Sitaram Tudu, a member of the Singhbhum District Committee and the General

Secretary of the Copper Majdoor Union as well as a close comrade-in-arms of departed Comrade Pritish Chanda, and two other old fighters, Comrade Durga Das and Comrade Surya Kumar Das, paid their homage through brief reminiscences about Comrade Chanda.

Comrade Dhar in his address as main speaker said, of the few compatriots with whom Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, stepped into an incredible struggle of forming a genuine Communist Party in India, the SUCI, Comrade Pritish Chanda was one. Convinced of the necessity of such a party in this country, he jumped into severest struggle in those days without shelter or resources with all his firm determination and conviction under the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, and that was the only object of his life. He acquired that highest standard of communist character which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had set for the communists in the present era of extremely reactionary individualism, and stood the test till his last breath. His pleasing manners, his deep love and affection, his inherent quality of attracting everyone, his ability to mix with anyone easily, his untiring, enterprising nature, his unceasing vivacity, his easy grasp of the different fields of epistemology, his extraordinary organisational power — all these made him a centre of attraction to many a revolutionary and mass of the people. The revolutionaries over the ages are to draw their inspiration to march ahead from the gems of teachings and rich experiences left by the leaders like Comrade Pritish Chanda through their life long struggle. These survive and live in the endeavours and struggle of the future generations of revolutionaries. It is in this sense that the revolutionaries do not die, Comrade Dhar concluded.

After the president of the meeting Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty's speech, the meeting ended with Internationale.

Comrade Pritish Chanda Memorial Meetings

(Contd. from page 5)

Comrade K. L. Mahendra, Central Executive CPI and General Secretary AITUC said : I met Pritish Chanda whenever he attended WFTU conferences. When all the trade union associates met, he used to try and chart out a path of unity. He had a special quality. Whenever several organisations sit together there is always a difference of opinion. He used to place his views and that too with great firmness, but later he would go along with whatever consensus emerged. I never saw any deviation from the consensus and this is a great quality. His second great quality was that he had to face many difficulties, made many painstaking efforts, but was always smiling. So much so that even when he knew he had cancer and what the end result of that was going to be, he continued working with a smile upto the last. Until the end, he would happily participate in the problems of revolution, of workers' movements, of politics because he knew that whatever be the immediate result, in the end we would be successful. On an occasion like this what remains for us is to renew our efforts for those ideals that Comrade Chanda fought for.

Comrade P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU said : Apart from organisational linkages, there is also a personal bond which attracts one to another. Such a bond had been established between me and Pritish Chanda. I remember that I had met him when we were trying to form a United Council of Trade Unions. An attempt to develop a joint movement was going on. Later, when the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions was set up, the role and contribution of Comrade Pritish Chanda was very great. The advancement of the united trade union movement was due to the important contribution of Comrade Chanda and UTUC-LS. I am happy that Comrade Chanda showed us a line that small differences of opinion will remain but on the main issues, the trade union movement must be united. Since UTUC-LS is following this line, the unity of our trade union movement will become stronger.

Comrade R.A. Mittal, Secretary, HMS said: Many come into the world and many leave the world daily, but the departure of some causes grief because they have some special qualities. Pritish Chanda was one of those whose departure is particularly painful for us. The position that he held in the trade union movement and the country's politics cannot be forgotten. I request all of you to follow the path that he has shown and this alone will be a true homage for him.

Comrade Swapan Mukherjee, CPI(ML) Liberation said : What impressed me greatly was his lifestyle and communist culture. The manner in which Comrade Chanda, at his age, a trade union leader of national and international renown, led a simple life and often served tea to me with his own hand, I began to feel that this is how a communist leader should be. The determination I saw in him about communist ideology and culture is highly necessary for the revolutionary movement today.

Comrade Narendra Sharma, senior lecturer, Zakir Hussein College said : From the time I became acquainted with Comrade Pritish Chanda, I felt that there was no one even in my family to whom I could open my heart as to him. I saw from my experience that Pritishda who knew and understood so much always made the other person

feel that he wanted to learn something from him. But in this very process he would also teach something to others.

Assam

Under the auspices of the Assam State Committee of SUCI, a memorial meeting was held on the 4th October, 1998 at Lakhiram Barua Sadan, Guwahati, to pay homage to Comrade Pritish Chanda.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Central Committee of the party, who addressed the gathering as the main speaker, highlighted the various aspects of the arduous and relentless struggle conducted by Comrade Pritish Chanda throughout his life. He explained how even in the face of inevitable death, Comrade Chanda faced it bravely and happily as he faced the intense struggle of revolutionary life. Being inspired by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, he took up the challenge to learn Hindi and engaged himself in expanding the revolutionary base of the party conducting working class movement and class struggle in the Hindi belt. His jovial and attractive character which drew many in the vortex of revolutionary movement, will be remembered by all who came in contact with him. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya explained how Comrade Chanda, assiduously following the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, conducted struggle embracing all aspects of life to free himself from private property mental complex and to identify himself with the mass, class and the revolutionary party and in this process elevated himself from a young freedom fighter to a communist leader of the first rank. He appealed to all comrades to transform the deep grief into firm determination for the cause the departed leader struggled throughout his life.

At the outset, Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary, State Committee of the party addressed the meeting paying homage to the departed leader. Leaders of the CPI (M), CPI (ML)-Liberation, CPI (ML) and Janata Dal also spoke paying homage to the departed leader.

Kerala

Memorial Meeting was held at YMCA Hall, Quilon on 17th October last to pay revolutionary homage to the departed leader Comrade Pritish Chanda, the Polit Buro member of the party and President, UTUC-LS. The meeting was presided over by Comrade A. Jalaluddin, member Kerala state Secretariat of the party and President, Kerala State Committee of UTUC-LS.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee and main speaker of the meeting said : by submitting happily, voluntarily and unconditionally to the life struggle inside the revolutionary proletarian party of the land, the SUCI, which is a struggle to identify one's own interest with the interest of revolution, the class and party, that Comrade Chanda could acquire such a high standard of communist character that he became one amongst the closest comrades-in-arms of our great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. It was his deep conviction in the historical law of development of society that gave him the unflinching courage and determination he showed when faced with obstacles and dangers in course of his revolutionary activities. His deep love to the oppressed gave him the exemplary ability to mix with the masses freely and attract them towards the party and revolution.

Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala

State Committee also paid revolutionary homage to Comrade Chanda.

Tripura

Held at Agartala Press Corner Club on 14th October, presided over by Comrade Milan Chakraborty. The meeting started, after garlanding of the portrait of Comrade Chanda on behalf of different mass organisations and party units, with the address of Comrade Vidhu Bhusan Hazra of CPI. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Central Staff of our party, was the main speaker. She recalled the life struggle of Comrade Chanda, its various aspects and significance which he could do being imbued with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and assimilating them, at the same time turning himself into a communist revolutionary.

At the beginning, song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was presented and the meeting ended with the Internationale

Bihar

Memorial meeting was held at the Panchayat Bhawan, Patna on 10th October last to pay revolutionary homage to Comrade Pritish Chanda. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee presided over the meeting. Comrades Anil Sarkar, Shiv Shankar and Arun Singh, all members of the State Committee spoke on the occasion.

In his presidential address Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty appealed to the leaders and cadres to rise to the occasion in this hour of deep sorrow and pain to fill the void created by the demise of Comrade Chanda and unleash a relentless struggle covering all aspects of life to become genuine communists to carry forward the cause for which Comrade Chanda fought throughout his life..

Gujarat

Held on 3rd October at Ahmedabad at the party office which was presided over by Comrade Vismay Shah, Secretary, Ahmedabad District Organising Committee. Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath, in-charge Gujarat was the main speaker. Other speakers also paid tribute to the revolutionary memory of Comrade Chanda including Comrade Thomas and Meenu Joshi.

On 29th September a memorial meeting was also held at Surat.

BJP's Education Policy

(Contd. from page 4)

with high rhetorics and sweet words of trickery, throwing aside the ideals of communism, its ideological content." With great political foresight Comrade Ghosh could sense the possible danger, and it is pathetic that the CPI(M) practised exactly what he warned against, which made it possible for BJP to make inroads. Even now is the CPI(M) helping the people's cause by turning away from movements and at the same time putting a stamp of secularism on the anti-people Congress party? The menacing danger of BJP and the onslaught of fascism can only be combated through protracted struggle involving the masses. We appeal to all left and democratic parties and progressive people of our country to be alive to this growing menace of fascism and to build up democratic movements on a higher ethical-moral base and involving the masses.

AIDSO Launches Resistance Movement against DPEP in Kerala

The primary education system in Kerala, which developed through centuries struggle has come under attack from the imperialists with their World Bank tentacles in collusion with the Indian capitalist class. September 18 was a remarkable day to the people of Kerala having concern for the education. On that day under the auspices of AIDSO a massive students demonstration culminating the first stage programme of a series of exposure movements against the World Bank schemed District Primary Education Programme was staged before the State Secretariat. In an inaugural meeting in front of the headquarter of the DPEP (shamefully enough, though this headquarter is thoroughly airconditioned, very many schools in Kerala have been languishing without even a thatched roof), the AIDSO President of the Kerala Unit Comrade Rajagopal said that the elementary education in Kerala which once topped the country's elementary education started its reverse march with the implementation of the World Bank programme which poured in 40 crores of rupees to destroy it. The demonstration march led by Comrades Sree Jith Sudhakar, Francis and Shafar Khan turned into a protest meeting after reaching at the State Secretariat. Comrade C.K. Lukose, State Secretary of SUCI addressed the gathering as the main speaker. Comrade Lukose observed: the District Primary Education Programme is a conspiratorial attack of international capitalists. For class oppression and suppression to continue, a conducive mental makeup of the people is very much important. So, they start this from the very childhood through their manufactured programme of elementary education. DPEP is an attack against human progress and civilisation. The real spirit of Kerala society is today reflected through this march to the Secretariat led by AIDSO. Comrade Jyothi Krishnan also spoke to the meeting which was presided over by Comrade B.K. Rajagopal.

Renowned Educationists Condemn DPEP at Trivandrum Convention

In an Education Convention held in Trivandrum Bank Employees Union Hall, presided by Dr. V. Venugopal, all the speakers voiced strong sentiment against DPEP floated by the World Bank.

Dr. N. A. Karim, former Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University said that in spite of the constitutional guarantee for free and compulsory elementary education, it has not been achieved in the country. The government's attempt to shirk this responsibility through the implementation of the DPEP must be resisted.

Dr. Nandiyadu Rama Chandram, noted writer described DPEP as "Trojan Horse". Mr. K. P. Kosla Ramdas, TU leader commented that the CPI (M) has given up Marx and hugged market economy.

Comrade B. K. Rajagopal, President, Kerala State Committee, AIDSO also spoke.

The resolution adopted at the convention demanded among others that DPEP be immediately withdrawn, the government must bear the financial responsibility of education, commercialisation of education be prevented and the legislature committee should invite opinions of teachers and guardians.

Orissa

Massive rally and demonstration on price rise

A massive rally was organised by SUCI on 19th September before the Collectorate, Malkangiri district. Two thousand people including 1000 youths and women took part in the rally. The colourful procession reached the Collectorate after marching the thoroughfares of the town. The processionists held a public meeting in the nearby DNK field where they were stopped by Special Armed forces. The speakers condemned the out and out anti-people policies and measures of the State Government especially

its criminally apathetic approach and attitude towards the tribal people.

After the meeting, a 12-point charter of demands was submitted to the District Magistrate. These include issuing of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) cards to all the families, withdrawal of irrigation tax hike by 250%, giving of Land-pattah to the peasants, health care, checking price rise, etc. The rally was led by district organiser Comrades Sadashiva Das, Biswanath Madhi, Broja Majhi and others.

Demonstration and Rally at Baipariguda

A demonstration was held before the Baipariguda block by SUCI, Korapur Zone, demanding 30 kg rice, BPL and APL Cards to each family, checking of acute price rise, distribution of land-pattah to the tillers and seed, fertilizer, pesticides to the farmers, waving of loans, employment of youths, construction of roads and bridges, among others. The rally of thousands of tribal peasants, agricultural

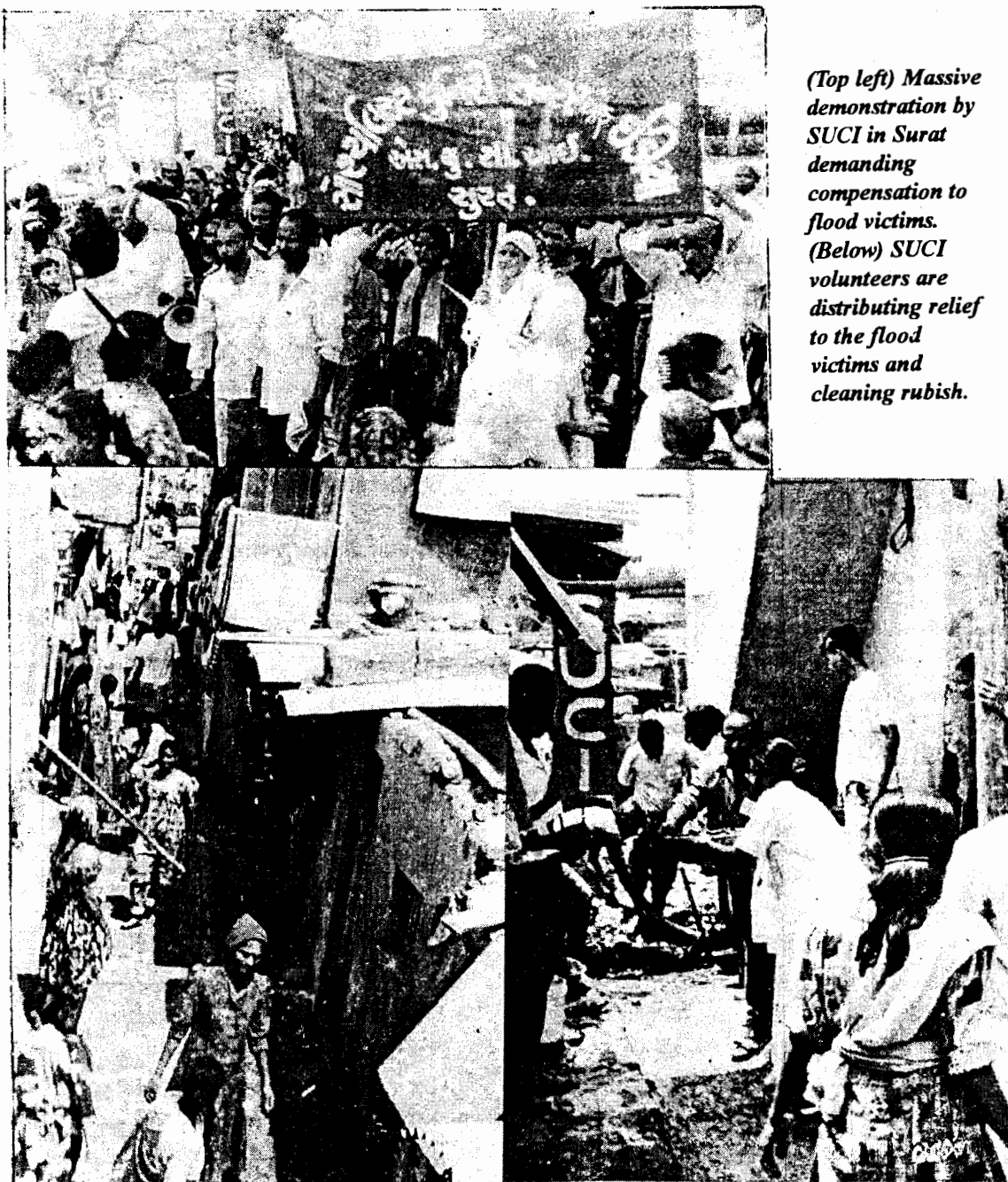
labourers, women and youths marched to the Block office, led by Sadasiva Das, Surya Bisoi, Pradeep Rai among others. The armed police stopped the rally. Then a public meeting was held. The speakers called upon the people to unite in thousands and raise their voice against rampant corruption and exploitation. After the meeting a memorandum was handed over to the BDO.

Relief Work and Demonstration in Surat

Due to excess release of water from the dam Ukai on the river Tapti, Surat experienced one of the worst kind of flood after 1994. Lives, property and livestock were lost an unprecedented scale. Party comrades from Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and volunteers of All India DSO with students from M. S. University of Baroda joined relief operation at Bapunagar, the worst affected area.

Free medical service was provided with the help of doctors. The area was totally neglected because of BJP-led governments' highly politicalised and communal attitude towards relief also.

Demanding adequate compensation for the victims a huge demonstration before the collectoriate was organised on 29.9.98 and submitted a memorandum.



(Top left) Massive demonstration by SUCI in Surat demanding compensation to flood victims. (Below) SUCI volunteers are distributing relief to the flood victims and cleaning rubbish.

Protest against price rise, atrocities on women in Patna

(Contd from page 1)

witness to many mass movements. A huge procession decorated with banners, flags and festoons began its onward journey to the Governor House at 12-30 PM. Thousands of industrial and agricultural labourers, prominent intellectuals, women, students and youths — in a word men from all walks of life, from all corners of the state — marched together in the procession. Slogans of 'curb increasing price rise', and 'take measures against atrocities on women' and others filled the air. It displayed the tremendous vigour and fervour as it traversed through the important streets of Patna and finally reached the R-Block Square where heavily armed police forces had set up huge barricades to stop the forward march of the procession. The processionists gathered to stage the demonstration there. Later, the entire gathering was addressed by the representatives from various districts. The speakers held the State and Central Governments responsible for the indiscriminate hike in prices and said that this has exposed beyond doubt their inefficiency and inability in matters of solving problems connected with the people's life. They further expressed grave concern at the growing number of atrocities on women and naked corruption, gangsterism,

educational problems, lock outs and retrenchments while severely criticising the governments' criminal negligence in the matter of taking serious steps to curb these problems. Later, a delegation led by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, Comrades Anil Sarkar, Shiv Shankar, and Ranjit Modak, all members of the Bihar State Committee, submitted a memorandum to the Governor.

The important demands were: 1) curb indiscriminate hike in prices, 2) stop atrocities on women and take exemplary measures against those involved in such crimes, 3) take permanent measures to prevent floods and provide irrigational facilities to combat drought situations, 4) provide free and true scientific, secular and democratic education for all, 5) stop privatization, commercialization and communalisation of education, 6) stop closures, lock outs and retrenchments and lay-offs; 7) open wide the doors of industrialisation to provide employment to all, 8) take stringent measures to stop corruption, gangsterism and black marketing. The meeting ended with a firm resolve to strengthen further the mass movements under the banner of SUCI.

West Bengal State Committee's call for movement

Mass Law Violation in Calcutta on 18th December

The State Committee of SUCI, West Bengal, has called upon the people to build up movement throughout the state against hoarding and runaway rise of prices of essential commodities. The people already affected by flood and epidemic, deprived of health care and education, have been hit most severely by ever growing prices. Since July, the party, on demands of relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims has been organising in Calcutta and the districts agitations, blockades and mass law violations in which more than 400 activists have been injured in police atrocities and lathi-charges. And more than 9000 have been arrested. Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee, has declared in a press conference on 30th October that the months of November and December will witness a more intense and massive movement. Comrade Ghosh has called the Central Government's plea that the price rise is due to natural calamity, a lame excuse. Negligible fall in production cannot cause such a rise. The economic policy of the Central and the State Governments, appeasements to the hoarders and systematic liquidation of public distribution system brought about this crisis. The Left Front Government of West Bengal is squarely responsible for this extortionist price rise. They have made the ration system absolutely dependent on the central government. They have shown least concern to solve the problems. While the Central Government has directly effected this price

rise by raising the steep hike in fare and freight of railways, cost of petroleum products, the Left Front government has shot the price further by imposing additional transport fare and electricity duty.

The party demands the redressal of the present plight of health and education, which are threatened by privatisation and commercialisation. The infiltration of communal ideas in education, thanks to BJP, must also be resisted, the party asserted. The movements in the district on the following demands would culminate in the higher phase through mass law violation in Calcutta on 18th December. The demands are —

1. Immediate reduction of prices, de-hoarding with stern measures against hoarders, regularisation and extension of public distribution system, and above all introduction of all out state trading in foodstuff ;
2. No privatisation and commercialisation of health and education ;
3. Solution of admission problem and repeal of fee hike in schools and colleges ;
4. Introduction of English from Class I and Pass Fail system at primary level;
5. Pending proper rehabilitation, free distribution of food to the flood afflicted people;
6. Measures to eradicate gastroenteritis and Malaria on war footing;
7. Permanent solution of drought and flood.

Red Salute Comrade Randhir Singh Nahri

Comrade Randhir Singh Nahri expired on 3rd September, 1998 in Delhi from a street accident. He was 53. He was a security guard in DTC, Delhi. Always in the midst of the movement since 1983, when he came in contact with the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Singh Nahri initiated the anti-liquor movement in his own village in the district of Sonipat. He also participated in DTC employees' movement and ECE workers' movement for which he was arrested and underwent the ordeal of torture and hardship. Even when he was removed from job as a penalty for seven years, his fighting spirit never flagged.

In him the party lost a good comrade and an enthusiastic worker of democratic movement. Red Salute to departed Comrade Randhir Singh Nahri.

Repulse this Attack

(Contd. from page 3)

determination. We urge the people to get rid of defeatist mentality.

We call upon the working people to respond to this call with all the seriousness wanted of them at this hour.

People should realise that no short and swift remedy is possible by a token programme of protest. The class offensives of the ruling class can only be successfully rebuffed by a united, sustained and militant struggle. The leaderships as well as those in struggles or those supporting it must guard against the torrent of misinformation to be let loose by the powerful media in defence of bankrupt capitalist rule.

Those who will join seriously in the movement, and we want each one of them to do so, should be particularly cautious against the compromising trend within the movement. They are to realise that for a movement of such nature, mere concessions here and there offered by the government, if accepted to create a plausible plea for its withdrawal, tantamounts to betrayal of the working people.

Two things are of paramount importance. The first and foremost is the character of effective leadership and the purpose with the attendant orientation. The movement against capitalist class offensive will not be fruitful if it is not to hasten the process of organising anti-capitalist socialist revolution. In and through the process of movement, conscious efforts must be made for the emergence of peoples' power, concretised in Peoples Committees, quite distinct qualitatively from the alternative in bourgeois parliamentary politics for reforms aimed not to bring an end to miseries in the peoples' life but for perpetuation of the capitalist rule wherefrom they flow.

The challenge of the ruling capitalist class in dire strait is to be met by the mighty hammer blow of peoples' resistance movement. 'Repulse the attacks' is our battle cry. On to struggle !

Long Live the Struggling Unity of the
Working People !

Long Live Revolution !

Long Live SUCI-Shibdas Ghosh thought !

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