

SINO-SOVIET SUMMIT : SOME SALIENT QUESTIONS

After long three decades the Soviet Union and China attempted to restore normalisation of relations between the two states as well as between the two parties. The Sino-Soviet Summit held between May 15 and 18 ended with two countries reaching agreement on lessening tension on Sino-Soviet border with substantial reduction of troops and on some other important issues. It is however noted that there still persists differences in approach on Kampuchean question though the differences seem to have somewhat narrowed down.

After the summit the Soviet Union and China released a joint communique. In the joint communique the two countries exchanged views on bilateral issues and affirmed that the normalisation of relations between the two countries was not directed at any third country and would not harm its interest in any way. The two sides reiterated that China and the Soviet Union would develop their relations on the basis of the universal principles guiding state-to-state relations, namely mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence. Both sides express-

ed readiness to resolve all the disputes between the two countries through peaceful negotiations and neither side would use or threaten to use arms against the other by any means, including the use of territorial land, water or air space of a third country bordering on the other side.

The two sides agreed to take measures to cut down the military forces along the Sino-Soviet border to a minimum level commensurate with the good neighbourly relation between the two countries and work for increased trust and continuous tranquility along the border areas. The Chinese side welcomed the Soviet announcement that 75 per cent of the Soviet forces would be

withdrawn from the People's Republic of Mongolia and expressed the hope that the remaining forces would be pulled out from that country within a short time frame.

The two sides favoured a fair and reasonable settlement of the Sino-Soviet boundary question on the basis of the treaties concerning the present Sino-Soviet boundary and of the generally recognised principles of international law and in a spirit of consultation on an equal footing and mutual understanding and mutual accommodation.

The Chinese side reiterated its stand on Taiwan and Soviet side expressed support to this position of the Chinese government.

The Chinese side reiterated that China would pursue an independent foreign policy of peace and adhere to the principled position of not entering into alliance with any country.

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Panchayat Bill

A fraud on the people

On May 15 last, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced in the Lok Sabha the 64th Constitution Amendment Bill which seeks to restructure the working of the panchayats in rural India. The question that naturally arises is : why this attempt, post-haste, by a thoroughly discredited government at the fag end of its tenure, to introduce such major change likely to have wide ramifications ? The reasons officially out in justification are that the proposed measure will streamline the working of panchayats, decentralise their operation, provide them augmented financial support and thereby transfer real power to the people through the panchayats. But is this the real motive behind this measure, its true significance ?

To understand this, the issue should not be viewed in isolation. We are to remember that this government in Delhi, like its predecessors, acting in the aggregate interest of the ruling Indian

bourgeoisie, both rural and urban, has been, on the one hand, passing the whole burden of the crisis-ridden capitalist economy on to the shoulders of the common man (Contd. on page 2)



A section of the audience at Mahajati Sadan, Calcutta, listening to the distinguished speakers on May 27 '89, in the general meeting of the Save Education Committee, while thousands wait outside for want of space. (News on page 4).

Panchayat Bill

Congress(I)'s new trick to create rural votebank with public money

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in the form of ever-increasing taxes, arbitrary administered price-hikes, spiralling inflation and resultant erosion of real wage, lay-offs, retrenchment and lock-outs, rampant unemployment, utter poverty and mass pauperisation while on the other, through a host of draconian measures like the ESMA, NSA and the so-called Anti-Terrorist Act to name but a few, through attempts to create a subservient Judiciary and efforts to gag the press, is engaged in snuffing out even the last vestiges of administrative neutrality and democratic rights and civil liberties of the people. All signs of growing administrative fascism are there and the Congress(I), as the most trusted political agent of the ruling capitalist class, is engaged in taking one step after another from the government to bring about all-out fascism keeping intact the facade of parliamentary democracy in order to lengthen the lease of life of moribund capitalism in the country.

The people are disillusioned with this government, they are restless and for a change. They have seen through the trickery, subterfuges and even outright falsehood resorted to by this government — first to shield the guilty against palpable charges of corruption at the highest level centring round the Bofors gun and the HDW submarine deals and then to suppress the truth regarding the Thakkar Commission Report on the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi. The government's credibility with the masses has slumped to an all-time low. The discomfiture has heightened due to electoral reverses one after another, culminating in the wash-out of Congress(I) at the Tamilnadu elections. Dissidence in the Congress(I) from State

to State and even rebellion in some have imperilled the very political existence of Rajiv Gandhi.

So, with the next general election approaching, Rajiv Gandhi must try his best to anyhow bolster his image up and that of his party, must try to hold out the prospect of a rosy future and try to work up the masses into an euphoria of sorts for cashing on it at the hustings. His slogan of Bekari Hatao coined in the style of Smt. Gandhi's gimmick of Goribi Hatao having proved a non-starter, he has been assuring that the policy of reservation in respect of educational and job opportunities to the backward classes, the scheduled castes and tribes would continue, has been talking about awakening of the womenfolk and ensuring 30 percent representation to women in all elections and has now promised transfer of full power to the masses through the panchayats by means of the 64th Constitution Amendment!

These promises and claims are all bunkum. The policy of reservation was adopted on the morrow of independence with the avowed purpose of affording facilities and opportunities to the so-called backward classes and castes, the scheduled castes and tribes to enable them to improve their lot and bridge the gulf of disparity between them and the advanced sections so that they could eventually merge in the national mainstream on an equal footing. Pandit Nehru even said that after 10 years' time, the reservation policy would have served its purpose and would no longer be necessary. We like to ask: how is it that even after 42 years of independence during which Congress party ruled at the Centre all through

except for the brief Janata interlude, the backward castes, communities and tribes are still as backward as ever, as oppressed and downtrodden as ever? Is not Rajiv Gandhi's promise of improving their lot an utterly hollow one?

Congress(I)'s claim of working for awakening and upliftment of women is equally ludicrous and hypocritical. Besides expressing pious wishes from time to time, what have the Congress(I) governments at the Centre done to alleviate the lot of womenfolk subjected to gross indignity, ill treatment and systematic torture? Persecution on the ground of dowry, bride-burning and aminocentesis (killing of unborn female child through abortion) are rampant in the country and on the increase. What sort of attitude towards women do the Congress(I) leaders and workers reflect in their lives? A Congress(I) MLA of Rajasthan goes about scot-free even after it has been established in a court of law that killing of female children is a regular, almost institutionalised custom in his family for generations! Whenever a Congress(I) youth conference is held, what sort of regard for the dignity of women the delegates and party workers show by flocking to the local brothels? Is it at all believable that this Congress(I) led by Rajiv Gandhi will work for upliftment of women?

Similarly, in the present context, Rajiv Gandhi's promise to transfer power to the people through the panchayats by means of the 64th Constitution Amendment Bill is a hypocritical gimmick aimed at vote-catching in the coming Lok Sabha elections. It is known to all that in the Indian countryside, the rural poor have been exploited and dominated

for ages by the landed gentry in league with the police and administration. With the growth of capitalism in Indian agriculture, the landed gentry have been in the main replaced by jotedars and capitalist rich farmers, but the exploitation and domination continue unabated. It is these exploiters who totally control village politics with the poor rural masses at their mercy. In earlier times, they used to control and manipulate the District Board elections and elections to other rural bodies and organisations. At the present time, taking advantage of the largely unorganised state of the poor peasant masses and lack of militant peasant movement under correct leadership, it is these exploiters who totally sway the elections in favour of the party they owe allegiance to, not only panchayat election but general elections to State Assembly and Lok Sabha as well, through intimidations, distribution of money, food and clothing, booth capture, forcible denial of voting right to the poor peasantry, false voting and other manipulations. Such is the stark reality in rural India. It is these cliques of exploiters who control panchayats, and it is they who will continue to dominate panchayats in the present capitalist set-up, even after Rajiv Gandhi's Panchayat Bill is enacted. So, the 'people' to whom Rajiv Gandhi promises to transfer power through strengthening the panchayats are these very exploiters who, being thus more powerful, will grip the rural life in an even tighter vice of exploitation, dominance and oppression.

Nevertheless, taking advantage of the low level of consciousness of the people, Rajiv Gandhi through this Bill wants to put across to the masses the message: Look, how I, and only I, wish to democratise the Panchayat system and provide the Panchayats with greater financial support and power so that they are strengthened and through them the people

can exercise real power! So, come and vote for me, one and all! 'Panchayats operate close to the lives of bulk of the people who live in the villages. V. P. Singh too has realised the vote-catching potential of the Panchayat issue and lest he be caught on the wrong foot, has hastened to announce, as President of the recently formed Janata Dal, that the Bill introduced by Rajiv Gandhi is inadequate and Janata Dal would prepare a model Panchayati Raj Bill and place it before the people before the next session of Parliament.

The short-term objective of Rajiv Gandhi's Panchayat Bill is vote-catching at the coming elections but it has a long-term objective which runs deeper. The Bill provides for the devolution by the State legislatures of powers and responsibilities upon the Panchayats with respect to preparation of development plans and for the implementation of development schemes, but at the same time brings the disbursement of Central grants-in-aid to the Panchayats under the purview of the government, in Delhi. That this will seriously curb even the very limited power now enjoyed by the States becomes clear when it is remembered that 80 per cent of the funds for panchayats will come from the Centre and the remaining 20 percent from the concerned State. Henceforth, the State will be responsible for allotment of only this 20 percent while 80 percent of the funds will be directly administered and disbursed by the Centre. The Bill also provides for finance of the panchayats by securing authorization from State legislatures for grants-in-aid as also assignment to or appropriation by the Panchayats of the revenues of designated taxes, duties tolls and fees. Finance commissions will be instituted in the States every 5 years to review the finances of the Panchayats and recommend

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Panchayat Bill

People must come forward to foil Rajiv Gandhi's evil design

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principles on the basis of which State legislatures may determine the taxes to be appropriated by or assigned to the panchayats as also grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State. Instead of the State governments, the Election Commission appointed by the Central government will henceforth conduct elections to the panchayat at all the three levels. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India will be empowered to audit the accounts of the panchayats.

Thus, at one stroke, in the name of decentralizing the running of the panchayats, the Constitution, development, planning, funding and financial accountability of the panchayats will be taken out of the hands of States and brought under purview of the government in Delhi in the most centralised manner. The panchayats will be strengthened and kept under strict control of the Central government, nullifying the influence and control over panchayats exercised by the State governments now.

It should be remembered that the Central government has already announced that the new national rural employment scheme, the Rs. 2625 crore Jawahar Rojgar Yojna into which have been merged earlier rural employment schemes such as National Rural Employment Programme, and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, will be implemented through the panchayat network. So, control over panchayats will enable the Central government to exercise control over the total funds flowing into the countryside. What will be the outcome of the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna is another matter.

No doubt, its declared objective of providing at least one member of each rural family with employment for 50 to 100 days a year, totally inadequate as it is, will not be met and the Yojna will be in due course dumped on to the scrap-heap of earlier unfulfilled programmes and promises.

What long-term political objective is Rajiv Gandhi pursuing through thus gaining control over panchayats? It is not for nothing that he off and on praises to the sky the running of panchayats by the CPI(M)-led "Left Front" government of West Bengal, holding it up as a model. No doubt, in his esteem working of panchayats in West Bengal is worthy of being emulated. So, though the Panchayat Bill is an all-India issue, it is worthwhile to examine the running of panchayats by the CPI(M)-led government in West Bengal in order to understand what Rajiv Gandhi is driving at.

For long, like in other States, in West Bengal too, landed gentry and jotedars constituted the rural social support of the Congress. Till the late sixties or even in the early seventies, the CPI(M) organisation in West Bengal was, in the main, in the cities and towns. After coming into government as the major partner of the ruling "Left Front" in 1977 CPI(M) concentrated efforts to extend its rural base. It did not do so through spreading ideology or by organising peasant movements on just demands. It took to the path of extending its influence through controlling the panchayats, relying on the jotedars as its mainstay. Over the years around 50 per cent of the State budget have been spent through the panchayats but the rural people are still at the mercy of droughts and floods, without proper shelter

over their heads, without drinking water and irrigation facilities and without even rudimentary medical attention. Where have these hundreds of crores of rupees gone? Bulk of this money 'spent' by panchayats has been misappropriated to fill up CPI(M) party coffers and for personal aggrandizement of CPI(M) functionaries and the jotedar-money lender-police-administration cliques who have in the main, switched allegiance to the CPI(M) and corrupted a section of poor peasants by distributing money and other favours. Thus, a whole class of people have sprung up from top to bottom over the years, obliged to the CPI(M). They constitute the rural social support of the CPI(M), CPI(M)'s permanent election machinery, committed to make CPI(M) candidates victorious in any election by fair means or foul.

The way the CPI(M) has developed stranglehold and consolidated its permanent election machinery through panchayats in West Bengal, has been an eye-opener to Congress(I) and Rajiv Gandhi. Now, taking West Bengal as the model, Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress(I) want to do the same all over the country by exercising control over panchayats through the proposed panchayat enactment. Even in States run by non-Congress(I) governments, the Congress(I) Central government would retain power in its hands over the panchayats through financial control, to be made use of to pressurize the State governments if necessary and bring them in line.

This may serve the purpose of Rajiv Gandhi and his party, the Congress(I), but what has that got to do with the people's interest? Even after so many 5-year plans, people of the coun-

try are in the same unmitigated darkness as before. To remove the misery and squalor from rural people's life, it is the root cause that must be tackled. Permanent radical solution cannot be achieved without overthrowing the exploitative capitalist system. But it does not follow from this that nothing can be done at present towards better functioning and democratization of the panchayats. In 1978, at the time of the first panchayat elections in West Bengal under the 'Left Front' rule, the Ashoke Mehta Committee on panchayat matters instituted by the then Janata government at the Centre came to West Bengal. A memorandum containing concrete proposals was submitted to this Committee on behalf of the West Bengal State Committee of our party, the SUCI. In this document we said at the beginning that in this capitalist society, decentralisation is a utopian concept. Where production and the means of production are owned by a handful of capitalists in the cities and villages and the evil axis of jotedars - moneylenders - administration holds sway over rural life, power can never be transferred to the people in the real sense by keeping these intact. We said that if by decentralisation is meant that the ever-increasing rural population would be kept confined to small landholdings in villages, then in practice the stark reality of the subhuman existence of the half-fed, half-clad proletarian and semi-proletarian rural masses would be concealed behind the drum-beatings and fanfare in the name of democratic decentralisation. Only through radical land-reform and modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture can there be rural upliftment in the true sense.

But we said that in spite of this, panchayat system can do some good in rural life if the panchayats are run on the basis of democratic peasant movement, are made the instruments of struggle in democratic movements

by workers and peasants. We said that the government would have to bear financial responsibility for the panchayats but in order to ensure that this money does not engender corruption, people's committees would have to be formed in each locality to keep an eye on the panchayats and the people would have the right to recall the corrupt members of panchayats. We strongly opposed the panchayats levying additional taxes as this would further aggravate the plight of the poor rural masses. We proposed that to make the panchayat election fair, it should not be conducted by the State or the Central government but by State-level all-party committee to be constituted for the purpose. But neither the Mehta Committee nor the 'Left Front' government of West Bengal accepted our just proposals because their objective was not welfare of the rural masses through panchayats.

These proposals have lost none of their force and are as relevant today as then. But just as the panchayats can be given a pro-people orientation only through the pressure and backing of militant democratic mass movements, the absence of such movements exposes the rural people to grave danger, especially in view of the manner in which the panchayats are sought to be developed through the Panchayat Bill. For it is clear that the proposed enactment is not for the people's benefit. It is also clear that apart from providing a standing election machinery to the ruling party at the Centre, the centrally controlled panchayat-network in terms of the Bill will act as rural base-organisation of fascism, having a nefarious role to play in the all-out design of the ruling class to foist fascism on the country.

We wish to caution the people in general and the rural people in particular that only a militant and protracted mass movement can be the dete-

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General Meeting of Save Education Committee

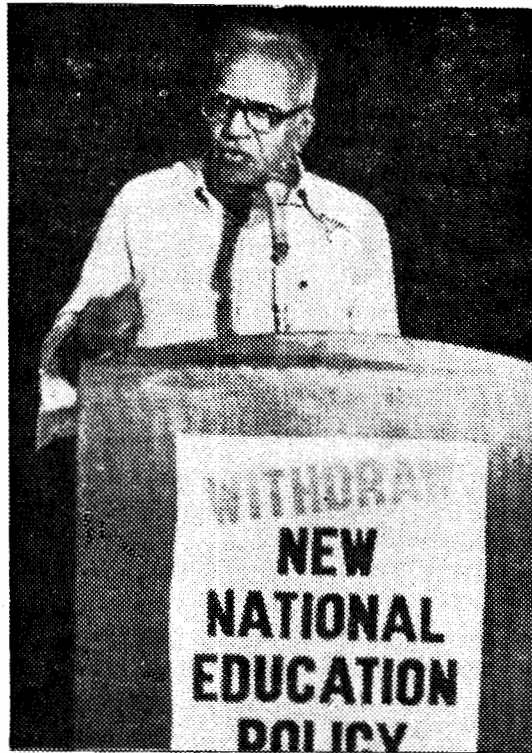
Eminent Educationists place Alternative Education Policy and call upon people to resist Centre's New Education Policy

"The first half of this century made India free, the second half of this century must make the Indians free" — this was the solemn appeal of Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer at the public meeting at Mahajati Sadan, Calcutta on 27 May 1989. He said — "That is why we shall not allow the Government, the rulers, the exploiters to take away the right of the Indian people to be educated. That is why we oppose the new education policy of the Central Government and offer our alternative policy on education."

This meeting was organised after the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the Presidium, All India Save Education Committee, held on 26-27 May 1989 at the Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad Conference Hall. The members of the Presidium had met to finalise the draft of the alternative policy on education. In this public gathering, organised by the West Bengal Save Education Committee, the members, along with Justice Iyer explained before audience why they had launched this save education movement against the NPE 1986, and what were the main thrust of the alternative education policy.

In fact, large number of education-loving people — teachers, educationists, guardians, students and youths, workers and peasants—had gathered in front of the Mahajati Sadan, long before the meeting was scheduled to be held, to see and hear, even if from outside standing on the streets — for the auditorium proved soon too small to accommodate them all — all the

respected members of the Presidium, educationists and leading personalities of the country, coming from various parts namely, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, former judge, Supreme Court of India and eminent jurist, also President of the All India Save Education Committee; Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, an eminent scientist, former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University; Dr. H. N. Pra-



Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer addressing the gathering at Mahajati Sadan.

sad, Head of the Dept. of Economics, Ranchi College and an eminent educationist of Bihar; Prof. S. Guptan Nair, a renowned educationist and litterateur of Kerala; Prof. I. K. Roy, former Director of Education, Tripura; Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh, former Dean of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University; Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta, former Head

of the Department of Chemistry, Serampore College, and former member of the Senate of Calcutta university, and Prof. R. V. Ranade, former professor of History, Nagpur University. Among other speakers were Dr. Arabindo Bose, former Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University and one of the Advisors of the All

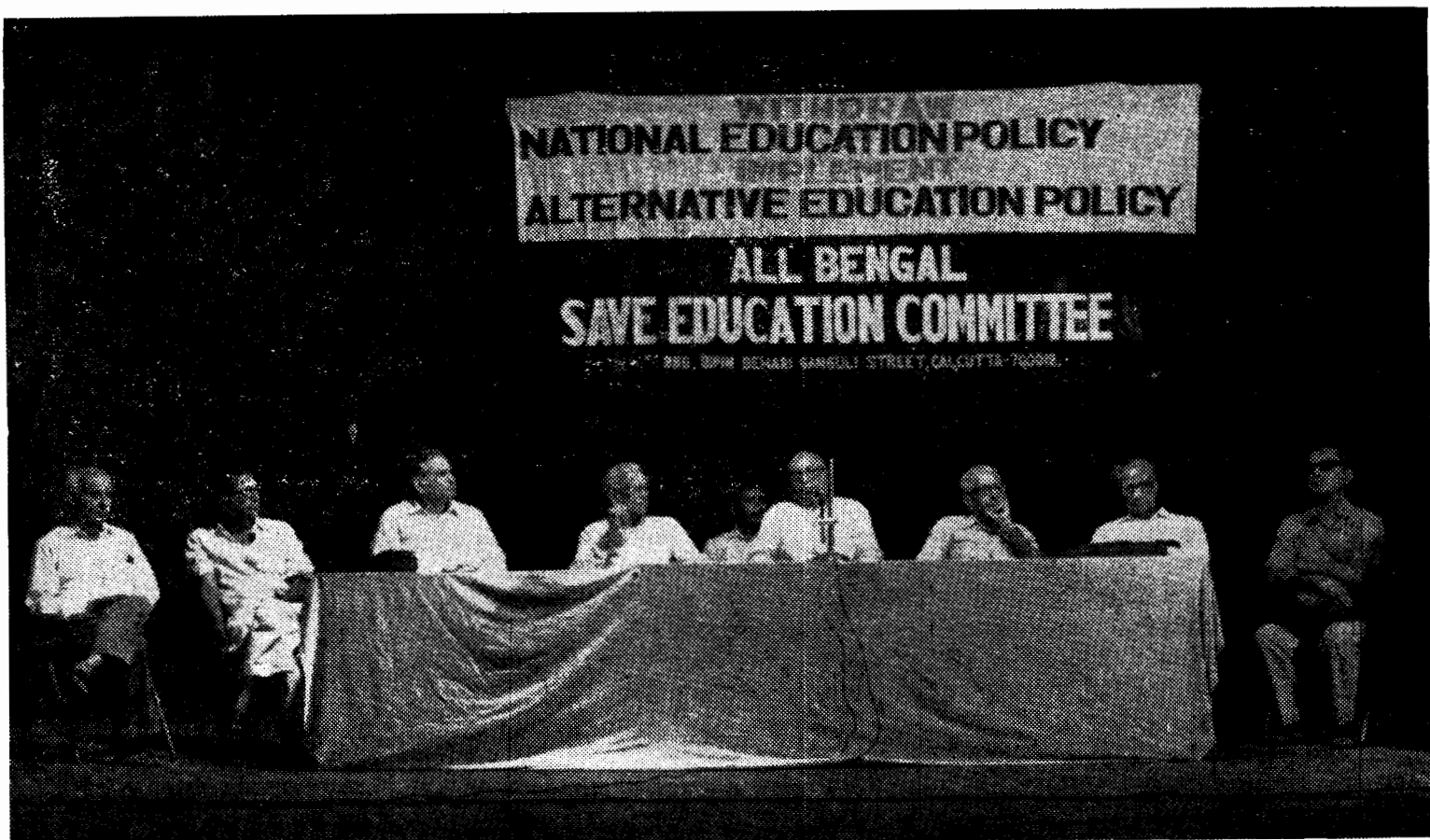
India Save Education Committee, Sri Tapan Roy Chowdhury, Secretary, All Bengal Save Education Committee, Sri Dipankar Roy, Secretary, All India Save Education Committee and Sri Kartik Saha, a leader of the primary teachers' movement in West Bengal. Dr. Ghosh presided over the meeting.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. H. N. Prasad explained the background in which this save education movement started and the way the alternative education policy took shape.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, in his appeal to the member of audience, more particularly to the students and youth urged them to come forward and take upon themselves the responsibility to save education.

Prof. Ranade, in his discussion stressed the need to develop a people's movement throughout the country powerful enough to pressurise the

(Contd. on page 8)



(From Left): Dr. H. N. Prasad, Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta, Prof. R. V. Ranade, Prof. S. Guptan Nair, Dr. Ajit Kumar Ghosh, Dr. Arabindo Bose, Dr. Sushil Mukherjee, Sri Dipankar Roy on Mahajati Sadan Hall dais on 27.5.89.

Trade Union Delegates' Visit to USSR

From 16th to 26th May, 1989 several meetings and symposia were held in Moscow and other places in different Republics in the USSR "for the friendship between the working people of India and the USSR." About 150 trade unionists and workers from the central trade unions—AITUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani), INTUC, CITU and HMS of India participated. Out of 30 delegates of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) three could not attend as the passports were not issued to them upto the last day.

The delegates reached Moscow on 16th May morning and official ceremony to mark the opening of the programme was held in a general gathering of the trade union leaders and organisers from both the countries in the evening. The Secretary of Moscow trade union council presided and Com. S. A. Shalayev, President, AUCCTU and leaders of the five central trade unions of India addressed the gathering.

On behalf of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Comrade Tapas Datta, the General Secretary spoke. In his short speech he, inter alia stated: We have come to a country where for the first time the working class has overthrown the capitalist class from power and established a proletarian state and a socialist society, under the leadership of Comrade Lenin, the great leader of the proletariat." He stressed the glorious past of the Indian trade union movement and said that the working class in India not only fought unitedly for their rights and economic benefits but made tremendous sacrifices in the anti-British struggle for independence and even now the working class in India was struggling hard for emancipation from the rule of capital as because the freedom that had been achieved was nothing but the replacement of the foreign rulers by the Indian capitalist class. So he pointed out that the emancipation of the working class was still to be achieved.

While discussing on Soviet Union Com. Datta said: "There are differences of opinion about

so many matters, but no one can deny the fact that yours is a socialist society and it has developed to a higher stage. But please don't forget that the class struggle has been intensified — don't forget imperialists still exist with its military might and armed with nuclear armaments. Please don't forget the teachings of Comrade Lenin that imperialism generates war. Local and partial wars are there in different corners of the world".

"We strongly believe friendly relation between the working class of India and the Soviet Union will strengthen the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist struggles and our struggle for preservation of peace."

There were seminars and free discussions in Moscow on 19th May on Trade Union alternatives to the solution of essential general human problems, Trade Union and Perestroika - political - economic reforms in the USSR, woman in modern world and on urgent task of Trade Unions in present day condition. Com. Gyan Singh, Com. Sanat Datta, Com. Harney and Com. D. K. Mukherjee spoke on behalf of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

Several groups visited mills, factories, schools in different Republic and cities of the USSR.

In the concluding ceremony held in Moscow on 25th May. Comrade Tapas Datta extended greetings to the heroic people of the Soviet Union, who defeated Nazi aggression under the leadership of the communist party of the USSR headed by Com.

Suppression of Lahiri Committee Report Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar assails West Bengal 'Left Front' Government

The Left Front government instituted the Lahiri Enquiry Committee to probe the allegations of corruption of the district school boards nominated by the West Bengal government. That Committee submitted report in 1986, but the government did not publish that report. On 15th May last, the contents of the report came out in the Statesman when budget discussion on education was scheduled to be held. Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, the leader of the SUCI in the West Bengal Assembly raised questions on that report again in continuation of his previous statements. But the minister and the speaker did not reply as usual and the SUCI members staged a walkout in protest. What Comrade Sarkar said in the Assembly is given below:

Attracting the Speaker's attention to the news of *The Statesman* dated 15.5.89 that brought out portions of the Report of the Lahiri Committee Com. Debaprasad Sarkar, SUCI leader in W.B. Assembly, said: This news has leaked out the Report of the "One-man Enquiry Committee" led by Sri Binoy Kumar Lahiri, which the government appointed to enquire into the corruption and irregularities regarding finance and accounts of the district school boards of West Bengal. Everybody knows that the district school boards of the state, employed to look after the primary schools, are not elected bodies.

Since long these are ad hoc bodies comprising nominated members from parties in power and are well known to be the centres of rampant party sectarianism and corruption. When public opinion grew strong against the corruption of the district school boards, the government, being pressurised, was compelled to form an enquiry commission to look into the

Stalin and saved the country and mankind and thereafter reconstructed the country. He expressed thanks to the Soviet Trade Unions for initiating programme "for friendship between the working people of India and the USSR". He further expressed hope that this friendship would strengthen world peace.

matter. In 1982 the 'Left Front' government formed the "One-man Enquiry Committee" with Sri Binoy Kr. Lahiri, former Deputy Accountant General at its head to enquire into various allegations regarding unaccounted expense from the government fund by the district school boards, diversion of funds, corruption and irregularities regarding funds coming as government aids and to make necessary recommendations to remove these faults. In spite of the government non-cooperation and many corruptions (of which there are mentions in the Enquiry Committee Report) this Committee, braving much odds has submitted its Report to the state government in 1986. But it is astonishing that although long three years have passed after the submission of the Report, let alone implement the recommendation of the Lahiri Committee, the government has not till now published the Report. For the last two years, as an MLA, I have demanded of the Education Minister to submit facts about the Report of the said Enquiry Committee on the Assembly floor. My last budget speech, zero hour speech, call attention notice etc. will bear testimony to it. Beside it, for the last two years I have questioned about it not once but consecutively four times. For everybody's information I am referring here the question numbers along with

the respective Assembly sessions in which those questions got approval from the Speaker.

Question No. 133 got approval in 1987 May session.

Question No. 197 got approval in 1988 budget session.

Question No. 11 got approval in 1988 August session.

Question No. 61 got approval in 1989 current budget session.

But every time the minister remained silent very mysteriously and he provided no reply to my question.

Not only that. To day, the 15th of May is the scheduled date for discussion on education budget. In order to properly analyse and consider the budget proposals on education on the basis of facts and with a view to discharging our responsibilities as legislators in the proper way in this respect I wrote to the Education Minister through you on 17th April last for making the Lahiri Committee report available to the legislators as an important document prior to the discussion on education budget. On getting a negative reply to my letter of 17th April 1989 I raised a motion on breach of privilege of the house against the Primary Education Minister on the allegation that hindrance was being created in discharging the duties of the legislators by wilfully keeping the Lahiri Committee report concealed from them.

So my contention is that this report has not been presented to us in spite of my repeated demands in this house in all possible ways. Yet this report has been divulged to the newspaper. The published report of the Statesman proves that.

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SINO-SOVIET SUMMIT

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The Soviet side stated that its foreign policy, based on the supreme value of peace, is to work steadfastly for real disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, its underlying principle being that the security of one country should not be ensured at the expense of another.

The two sides stated that neither side would seek hegemony of any form in Asian Pacific region or other parts of the world. Both deemed it essential to denounce the attempt or action of any country to impose its will on other or seek hegemony of any form anywhere in the world.

The two sides took the view that peace and development were the two most important questions in the world today. They also stood for enhanced role of the United Nations in international affairs, disarmament and settlement of global problems and regional conflicts. They also expressed concern at the deteriorating world economic situation, the debt burden of the developing countries and the growing gap between North and South and considered it urgent to establish new international economic order.

The two sides agreed that the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union would develop their contacts and exchanges in accordance with the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The two sides considered it necessary that contacts and dialogues between the leaders of the two countries should continue in future and the Soviet President invited his Chinese counterpart and other leaders of China to visit the Soviet Union.

On Kampuchean question the Chinese side advocated a provisional quadripartite coalition government headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk during the transitional period after complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal and prior to the end of a general election while the Soviet side maintained that the internal problems of Kampuchea including preparation of general election under international supervision should be solved by the Kampuchean people themselves. Two sides however pledged to respect the results of the general election of the Kampuchean people under international supervision.

These are the salient points of the joint communique issued by the Soviet Union and China and it seems that both China and Soviet Union are set to resolve their bilateral problems and narrow down their differences as far as practicable in a friendly way. The normalisation of relations between the two countries has been long overdue and at last the two countries attempted to bring about normalisation in state-to-state as well as party-to-party relations.

At the time when the party-to-party relations between the Soviet Union and China deteriorated centring round ideological differences, our party appealed to the leaders of both Soviet Union and China that ideological differences were to be resolved through conducting painstaking ideological struggles but that must not stand in the way of state-to-state relations which actually deteriorated ultimately to the breaking point. It is better late than never—so runs the proverb and in that respect this attempt toward normalisation must be welcomed. But it is with much pain and anguish that the genuine communists of the world noted that when

the leaders of the two giant communist parties and states met in summit in such a tense international situation, the joint communique issued by the two sides did not contain some of the most crucial events that engulf the world today nor it is reported that the two leaders discussed these issues between themselves. These events are concerning the role of the imperialists, particularly the US-imperialists who are pursuing with impunity their aggressive policy and endangering world peace. The entire imperialist camp is now confronted with intense crisis because of excess capital and surplus production capacity.

It is well known that the US-imperialists have largely militarised the economy and this process is going on in an attempt to stave off this crisis. An intense competition is going on for capture of market or for redistribution of market among the imperialist countries.

It is due to this crisis that the imperialists are engaged in creating war tension or carrying out aggression on other countries.

The US-imperialists, the leader of the imperialist camp, are blatantly violating all international norms and pursuing their naked aggressive policy in the Caribbean countries and other parts of the world. The legitimate demand of the Palestinian people for homeland has not yet been fulfilled even after a protracted and bloody struggle because of the heinous policy of the Israeli Zionist clique which is overtly and covertly backed by the US-imperialists. The US-imperialists attacked Libya without any provocation and Britain the other imperialist power can dare to carry on imperialist expedition on Falkland. Even India intervened in the Maldives and has been interfering in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. Independence of Namibia has not yet been achieved. The apartheid

South African Government is pursuing its high-handed policy and cares not a whit about the sanction of the international community because of the overt and covert support of other imperialist countries. Today imperialism is the main enemy of the human civilization. And yet the imperialists can pursue such an aggressive policy and create war tension and partial or local war, if not global war, taking advantage of the revisionist policies pursued by both the Soviet Union and China. The revisionist leadership of both China and Soviet Union have failed to grasp the revolutionary significance of the Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence and have virtually reduced it to pacifism and moreover being haunted by nuclear warphobia they have succumbed to the nuclear blackmailing of the US-imperialists.

It may be recalled that the Leninist law of the inevitability of war between the capitalist countries in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution is still valid in spite of many vital changes in the international situation. But it does not mean that war will inevitably and fatalistically break out and the forces of world peace has no role to play. At present it is possible for the peace loving people of the world to thrust peace on the warmongers if the peace movement is correctly conducted so the outbreak of war and the possibility of preservation of peace are both equally real. On the correct understanding of this phenomenon and on pursuing a correct Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence can peace be thrust on the imperialist warmongers. But the revisionist leadership of both China and the Soviet Union have failed to grasp this phenomenon and they are spreading pacifist illusion as if war can be prevented by the pious wishes of a few individual leaders. So instead of actively resisting the imperialist war-

mongers' aggression and interference on other countries and thus forcing them to pursue the policy of peaceful co-existence, the revisionists are relying more on negotiations, bilateral talks and treaties on disarmaments. The revisionists have become victims of the US-nuclear blackmailing and they fear that any attempt to resist imperialists from their aggressive acts will inevitably lead to nuclear war and thus the entire world will be reduced to ashes. The US-imperialists are taking full advantages of the situation because they know that the revisionists, the victim of the US nuclear blackmailing, will not come forward in resisting the war of aggression.

In the joint communique both China and the Soviet Union have taken the view that peace and development are the two most important questions in the world today. But how this peace and development can be ensured in a world threatened by aggressive wars by the imperialists? Unless a united face against imperialism, the worst enemy of mankind and civilization, is presented and the war of aggression and intervention by the imperialist powers is resisted the entire world will plunge into partial and local wars if not global war. But the joint communique did not spell out anything on this most vital aspect which threatens world peace and endangers human civilization.

The revisionist leadership of both China and the Soviet Union have created much confusion in the ideological field by spreading pacifism and emasculated world peace movement to the detriment of national liberation movements and revolutionary struggles throughout the world. These revisionists are following such policies and introducing such reforms at their respective countries as are conducive to the restoration of

(Contd. on page 8)

24th APRIL

(In our last issue we covered our party's Foundation Day observance news which reached our office till then. This time we publish news received afterwards.)

—Ed. P. Era.)

HARYANA :

The SUCI Foundation Day was observed in a solemn manner in Haryana on 28th April. Despite inclement weather the meeting was successfully held at Rewari. It was Presided over by Comrade Gian Singh, Haryana State Secretary of the party. A well decorated procession traversed the area before the meeting. Com. Pritish Chanda, member of the Politbureau was the main speaker, who in his speech, inter alia, upheld the supreme task of conducting the two-fold struggle, to build up powerful mass movement and true communist character at the same time.

RAJASTHAN :

In Rajasthan the party Foundation Day was observed on 24th April at Jaipur. Com. Pritish Chanda, Politbureau member, was the main speaker. Discussing the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, Com. Chanda stressed the need to build up united movement of all Left, democratic and Opposition parties to resist the menace of fascism, which the Congress(I) was trying to establish in our country.

The meeting was presided over by Com. Girijeswar, Secretary, State Organising Committee.

GUJARAT :

Gujarat unit of the SUCI observed the party foundation day and the historic May Day on 1st May at Gujarati Sahitya Parishad Hall, Ahmedabad, Com. V. K. Shah was on the chair. Com. Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee and the main speaker, condemned the toppling of Bommai ministry and imposing President's rule on Karnataka. Comrade Dwarikanath Rath, in

charge, Gujarat State unit also spoke.

ANDHRA PRADESH :

The 41st Foundation Day of our party was observed in a befitting manner in Hyderabad, A.P. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, member, Central Staff was present as the main speaker. Com. Mukherjee in her speech pointed out that it was only SUCI, which was building up mass movements conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution. She appealed to the people to strengthen SUCI, the only genuine communist party on the Indian soil.

U.P. :

41st Foundation Day of the party was observed on 29th April at Block Ground, Joya (Moradabad). Com. Gian Singh, Secretary, Haryana State Committee, SUCI, was present as the main speaker. The meeting was presided over by Com. Rajbal Tyagi, Moradabad District Secretary of the party. Com. Singh in his speech warned the working class of the danger of Glasnost and Perestroika of the CPSU, which were endangering the very socialist system.

Com. Mukesh Tyagi, member, State Committee, Com. Vijay Singh, District Secretariat member also addressed.

In the campus of Junior High School, Badlapur, Jaunpur District SUCI Foundation Day was observed with great enthusiasm on 24th April. Participants, in thousands, came from all districts of eastern U.P. Guard of Honour was presented to the revolutionary memory of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat.

Com. Gian Singh, was the main speaker. The meeting was presided over by Com. V. N. Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Committee of the party.

Historic May Day was observed with great enthusiasm throughout the country. Its news so far received is given below.

ROURKELA :

May Day was observed at Rourkela, Rajgangpur and Kansbahal with much enthusiasm. At Rourkela the party flag was hoisted by Com. Sk. Qasim, member, Sundargarh District Committee of SUCI. Meetings were held in front of the steel plant gates where Com. Satyapriya Mohanty, Secretary, Rourkela Workers' Union, Com. Ajit Nayak, Com. Ajoy Mohanty and Com. Rabi Dhal spoke among others.

At Rajgangpur meetings were held in different factories which were addressed by Com. Sk. Qasim, Edward Barua and others.

At Khansbahal a huge workers' gathering was addressed by Com. G. N. Tripathy, Secretary Rourkela Engineering Workers' Union.

1st May, the international working class solidarity day was observed on the historic day with a mammoth meeting at Melan ground, Dhanmondal, Orissa attended by the struggling workers of Konark Jute Mill and Sukinda Mines Workers along with thousands of poor peasants and other toiling people.

There Com. Tapas Dutta, member, SUCI Central Committee and Orissa State Secretary of the party and General Secretary, UTUC(LS), explained the revolutionary tasks of the working class at the present critical juncture.

In the face of Congress(I) hooliganism backed by police and administration, and the heinous moves of the INTUC, to foil the rally, the successful May Day meeting organised by the SUCI and the Dhana-mandal Shramik Sangha was a fitting reply.

The meeting was also presided over by Com. Bijay Kr. Sahoo, Vice-President Dhana-mandal Shramik Sangha, and was also addressed

by Com. Devendra Sahoo of Sukinda Upatyaka Mines Workers' Union, Com. Purna Sahoo of CPI and Com. Harekrishna Swain, Union leader.

The meeting adopted a resolution condemning police atrocities on NTPC affected people.

The song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and the Internationale were sung before and after the meeting respectively.

The SUCI, Pattamundai Committee, Orissa, observed May Day in a befitting manner. May Day badge wearing was conducted by the comrades on the occasion. In the afternoon a public meeting held at the Daka Bangala Square and presided over by Com. Khageswar Sethy, was addressed by Comrades Ranjit Swain, President, Pattamundai College Students' Union, Santanu Jena, Gopinath Tripathy, Piyusha Kanti Nayak and Dilip Dal.

U.P. :

BALLIA :

On the occasion of historic May Day a public meeting was held on 5 May under the auspices of SUCI in the village Kansu near Rajmalpur Railway Station in the district of Ballia with Sri Bhubaneswar Nath Gupta on the chair. Com. V. N. Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Committee, SUCI, addressed as the main speaker. Others who spoke included the local SUCI organiser Com. Raghavendra, and Com. Dattaji of IPF and Harivans Sanjay Rai, Niranjan Kumar Rai and V. K. Tiwari of Sramik Sangram Samiti.

ALLAHABAD :

Under the joint auspices of SUCI, CPI, CPI(M) and IPF a weeklong programme of May Day was taken up which included gate meetings and seminars etc. On 1st May a workers' meeting was held at P. D. Park, Allahabad. The UTUC(LS) also held meeting at the

factory gate of C. C. Co. in which Com. M. K. Sarma delivered his speech.

BIHAR :

PHULWARISHARIF :

The Phulwarisharif Local Committee of the party, Patna, observed May Day in a befitting manner. The comrades took up the programme on the day from the early morning and explained to the people the significance of May Day while conducting badge-wearing from door-to-door. In the evening street-corner meetings were held in six places where comrades appealed to the people to take pledge on May Day and fight against injustice and the fascist measures of the ruling bourgeoisie and their governments.

The speakers included Com. Suresh Kumar, Secretary, Phulwarisharif Local Committee, SUCI, and Comrades Arun Kumar and Mahendar Kumar, members of the Local Committee of the party. This programme created much enthusiasm among the people.

CALICUT :

At Eranhikal under Calicut district of Kerala, a public meeting was organised on May 1 to observe the day of International Working class Solidarity and take pledge anew to destroy capitalism, the source of all evils. Com. Gopinathan presided over the meeting in which Com. Shekhar, Secretary, Calicut District Organising Committee of the party was the main speaker. Com. V. K. Sadanandan also spoke.

PANCHAYAT

(Contd. from page 3)
rrent to this dangerous process. People must be alert and come forward to foil Rajiv Gandhi's evil design. The CPI(M), in its organ People's Democracy, had expressed alarm at Rajiv Gandhi's move and given a call for movement against the proposed measure. If they really mean protracted movement by this, we welcome it.

Resist Centre's New Education Policy

(Contd. from page 4)

Central Government in abandoning its harmful education policy and adopting the alternative from among the people.

Dr. Arabindo Bose, in his lucid discussion over the present condition of the education system in our country pointed out, in particular the attack on the autonomy of the institutions by the Government for political interests. He felt, the policy outline prepared by the All India Save Education Committee would go a long way to strengthen the movement.

Citing experiences of the last four decades Prof. S. Guptan Nair showed that education system has miserably failed in our society. Education for everybody, library in every village to disseminate knowledge were a far cry still now. Most of the facilities created had gone to cater to the privileged few whereas 65 per cent of the population remained illiterate and 70 per cent below poverty line.

"Slogans cannot do much to improve education" — this was what Prof. I. K. Roy of Tripura felt about the documents of the new education policy. Opposing the idea of over-specialisation and technicalisation of education he asked for a balance between technology and humanism.

Examining the NPE from different angularities Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta said that it was the blueprint of fascism, which posed gravest danger to mankind, for fascism, he warned, not only did dehumanise man, but also did obstruct the very process of developing true man. The requirement of fascism was to regiment the thought process of man and it did it by fusion of spiritualism, obscurantism and the technological aspects of science. And this was what the NPE aimed at.

Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh, who was in the chair, ex-

plained how the alternative policy on education, now being placed before the people, had been evolved through numerous seminars and convention throughout the country, through interaction with a large cross-section of the academic community. Detailing the salient points of this alternative policy vis-a-vis a criticism of the Government's document, he called for consolidating and strengthening the Save Education Committees which were organising and conducting this movement.

Earlier, the members of the Presidium of the All India Save Education Committee met in a historic meeting to give shape to a concrete education policy as an alternative to the Central Government's National Policy on Education 1986. On the basis of the suggestions for further improvement of the preliminary draft alternative education policy received from the educationists and education-loving people all over the country, the secretariat of the All India Save Education Committee had prepared a framework for a detailed and comprehensive alternative education policy. This writeup was considered, discussed and debated threadbare at the meeting of the Presidium of the Committee, which finally came out with a unanimously agreed policy document.

It was decided in the meeting that the new document, entitled "Towards A Peoples' Education Policy: An Alternative to NPE-1986" will be published immediately and will be circulated among the people all over the country. This document will form the ideological basis for the new education movement being launched by the committee. Debates, discussions, seminars at various levels — institution, university, locality — will continue to be held to make people aware of the dangers of the government's policy and to more

Com. Debaprasad Sarkar assails L. F. Govt.

(Contd from page 5)

In this connection let me mention that we have criticised the Central Government for not publishing the Thakkar Commission Report. On 15th March, 1989 we have even passed a resolution here in the Assembly demanding publication of Thakkar Commission Report. But, why does the 'Left Front' government try to conceal the Report of the Lahiri Committee, appointed by them, by not publishing it?

Whatever little portion of the Report has come out in *The Statesman* today, (15.5.89) it shows that the district school boards have squandered crores of rupees

SINO-SOVIET SUMMIT

(Contd. from page 6)
capitalism. By seeing all these activities of the revisionists one should not think that the struggle against revisionism has ceased. The anti-thesis to revisionism even within China and the Soviet Union are at work whether this comes to the surface or not. Revisionism right from the time of Marx has crept in to distort Marxism but the onmarch of Marxism-Leninism, the only scientific philosophy of mankind, cannot be halted. By seeing the distortion of Marxism-Leninism at the hand of the revisionists people must not move away from this noble philosophy and they must realise that the liberation of mankind is possible only by correctly applying Marxism-Leninism, the only scientific philosophy and the only ray of hope to human civilization and progress.

and more enrich the alternative suggested by AISEC. Finally the document, will be presented to the Speaker of the Parliament in a massive deputation, demanding to withdraw the Government's NPE '86 and to adopt in its place the 'People's alternative'.

that came as government aid. 30 crores of rupees, deducted from teachers, pay for P.F. is not deposited against them. Crores of rupees of government aid, have been lying with the district school boards, but the education department never enquires of it. Besides, this Report has published various information regarding fund misappropriation and corruption.

My question is : why does the government,

although the One-man Enquiry Committee Report has published sensational facts about the district school boards' corruption and illegal activities regarding the fund given by the government as aid, has kept it unpublished for the last three years? Does the government want to encourage such unjust acts and corruption? I demand of the government to publish immediately the Lahiri Committee Report before the people?

MAY DAY OBSERVED IN CALCUTTA

On 1st May a meeting of workers and employees was held at the Muslim Institute Hall, Calcutta. Com. Fatick Ghosh, the West Bengal State Secretary of the UTUC(LS) and main speaker at the meeting said in course of his speech: We observe May Day to take pledge for the liberation of the working class. Those who are fighting against exploitation and oppression of capitalism imperialism in different countries are really holding aloft the noble red banner of May Day. Comrade Ghosh, while explaining the significance of May Day in the context of the present international and national situation, said that the steps that were being taken by the Soviet and the Chinese revisionists were paving the way for the restoration of capitalism in those countries on the one hand and on the other these had dealt a severe blow to the working class movement of the entire world and the pernicious influence of revisionism-reformism had virtually emasculated the working class ideologically. This revisionist politics had got to be defeated through painstaking ideological struggle on the basis of correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism. In our country also the workers are victims of the policies of the Central Congress (I) government and the 'Left Front' government of the state. The Central Congress(I) government

has been enacting anti-labour laws one after another and in the name of modernisation has given the right of retrenchment to the employers. In West Bengal where a Left Front government is installed in power the picture is indeed dismal. In this state the employers have a field day and they are launching attacks on the working class in a severe way and the 'Left' Front government is using their organisation to make the workers victims to the attacks of the employers. Reminding the days of the labour movement during 1967 when Comrade Subodh Banerjee was the labour minister Com. Fatick Ghosh said that the role that a real leftist government should play was reflected in the role of Comrade Subodh Banerjee with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. Com. Ganesh Das Gupta presided over the meeting.

24th April Observed at Bhopal, MP

On 28.4.89 SUCI foundation day was observed at the park facing Women's Hospital, Bhopal. Com. Shankar Singh, C.C. member, SUCI was the main speaker. Com. Alok Pratap Singh presided over the meeting. In this connection an exhibition was held with quotations from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker.

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