

# Proletarian Era

Volume 30 No. 7  
December 21, 1996

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

Rs. 2.00  
Air surcharge : 5 P.

## New Credit Policy of RBI

### Futile Exercise to Resolve Capitalist Crisis

On 18th October last Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced bank's credit policy for the current year. The Governor of RBI has declared that the availability of credit is now being made easy in order to augment production. Now the commercial banks will provide more credit to the industrial houses and companies with the hope that the same will be invested in production. In course of declaring this policy the governor of RBI has stated that the industrial production in the current year has gone down in relation to the last years's. The reason cited is shortage in money supply or credit. So, ostensibly to minimise this shortage the credit policy is now being made easy. RBI claims that this will increase production and

bring all-round prosperity of the country. Every year during this time RBI and the Central government announces the credit policy. One can easily recall that sometimes soft and sometimes stringent — these are the two sides of the government's credit policy that generally comes in every alternate year. When the credit policy is made stringent the argument of the government runs like this : the money supply has gone up, the money supply in relation to the sum total of goods and services is more . Hence there is inflation, continuous price rise making investment and production costly, thereby hampering production. The bank credit instead of going to production is being channelised into speculative ventures, etc. etc. So the

government feels the need to make the credit policy tighter in order to squeeze this money supply.

But with the turn of the year we hear just the opposite statements from the government. It is said that the policy of credit squeeze has done much harm to the economy — for want of money capital investment and growth have severely suffered. So, to augment money supply credit policy should be made easy. Then the question of inflation naturally arises. But the government is always ready with doctored statistics to show that inflation is under control and with the increase in money supply there will not be any further inflation, just like what the

(Contd. on page 4)

## Anti-Dowry Convention in Hyderabad

The women of Andhra Pradesh who led a victorious anti-arrack movement in the past have now come forward under the banner of All India Mahila Sanskritika Sangham to put an end to the evil of dowry system. In the anti-dowry convention that took place in Ravindra Bharati in Hyderabad on 27th November, 1996 thousands of women pledged that they would fight for their dignity. The meeting hall resounded with thunderous slogans like "Down with dowry", "Fight for the dignity of women", "Long live the united struggles of women".

Inaugurating the convention veteran freedom fighter Kalapurama Padmabhushana Vavilala Gopalakrishnayya said : our society

which is plagued with selfishness and money mindedness is taking away the lives of many young brides for dowry. There is no home in India which has not seen the tears and agony of women. As our freedom movement was only confined to political power and it lacked a cultural movement age old customs and traditions are still continuing in the society. The present government and legal system can only talk but not act against these evils. For that, women have to develop a protracted movement joining hands with men to pressurize the government, he said.

The chief guest of the occasion Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, former Judge of Supreme

Court, who could not attend the programme due to ill health sent a prerecorded message greeting the participating women in the convention. It said that the womanhood was being trampled under foot by the dowry system. We should not allow our innocent and helpless daughters to become victims to this evil. Justice Iyer ended his message saying : As the legal system has no teeth women have to arise and organise themselves to fight dowry.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, General Secretary of AIMSS said : The dowry system which was only a custom in feudalism has now-a-days become a criminal practice due to the

(Contd. on page 5)



Eminent personalities at the Anti-Dowry Convention in Hyderabad

## Privatisation in Insurance Sector

# Opening up of Insurance Sector will immensely damage people's interest

Despite temporary retreat the UF government at the Centre is bent upon throwing open the Insurance Sector to the monopoly capital in general and multinationals in particular. After being installed in power in 1991 the Rao government adopted the 'New Economic and Industrial Policy'. The main thrust of this policy was to minimise the role of the public sector and to throw open the economy to the private capital, both national and foreign. It is being argued that by removing restrictions on investment of capital the urge for investment of the capitalists would increase, the flow of huge foreign capital would start and the economy of the country would develop.

It is in this context of this 'New Economic and Industrial Policy' that the government not only shirked its responsibility of establishing any new industry in the state sector but decided to privatise the existing public sector industries also.

Now in all the capitalist countries of the world the privatisation of the state sectors has been started on the plea that the state control or the state sector is an obstacle to industrialisation and so all restrictions on capital are to be removed for ushering in globalisation of capital. Rao-Manmohan Singh and their cohorts are chanting the same slogan of globalisation. Moreover, the imperialists are exerting pressure through the IMF and the GATT conditionalities. But it would be a gross error to conclude that the imperialist pressure alone has compelled the Government of India to adopt the policy of privatisation. The 'New Economic and Industrial Policy' of the previous Congress government was framed in the interest of the Indian capitalist class. And because of this not only the bourgeois parties like the BJP or the Janata Dal but even the so-called left parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI have become supporters of this policy. And that was why the Congress did not find any difficulty in developing a consensus among the parliamentary parties on the issue of privatisation. The class character of this 'liberal' economic policy is also reflected in the common minimum programme of the United Front government, wherein it has been agreed not only to continue the policy of liberalisation of the previous Congress government but also to privatise the state sector and to open up the Insurance Sector to the national and foreign capital. Moreover, the ministry of industry of the CPI(M) supported UF government has recently recommended 51 percent disinvestment of the shares of the state sectors and side by side entry of upto 74 per cent of the foreign capital. It may be noted in this context that in a capitalist state the nationalised sectors do not bring about end of exploitation, rather these sectors also contribute to the consolidation of capitalism, the root cause of all the evils in the society. Still, the nationalised sectors have some merits over the private sectors in so far as

bringing about unity of the employees under one umbrella and providing opportunity in exposing the real exploitative character of the state. That is why the demand for nationalisation of industries is raised from the platform of democratic movement.

The government initially declared that only the unprofitable public sectors would be privatised. This policy is dangerous to the national economy. Because the public sectors are mainly in the field of basic and heavy industries. Moreover lakhs of people are employed in public sector industries and as a result of privatisation the livelihood of these employees would be in jeopardy. In the face of opposition the government was forced to declare that it would look into the cases of those industries which could be made profitable.

One question may naturally arise in this context. That is, why the private owners would show any interest in purchasing the unprofitable industries. But the answer was readily available when it was seen that the shares of such important and profitable sectors like the ONGC were being sold out and that too, at a nominal price. Not only that, oil drill of the Bombay high, Bailadila mines of Madhya Pradesh, etc., are being sold or leased out at a throwaway price. The private sectors are given the opportunity to loot such sectors like Telecom. The rampant corruption of the Telecom minister Sukh Ram and the departmental bureaucrats is today exposed. And again the money received through disinvestment is not used for the betterment or modernisation of these public sector industries but is being used to meet the deficit in the budget.

Two things are clear from this. Firstly, the monopolists are given the opportunity to loot and plunder the public sector industries which have been built up with the money of the people. Here this opportunity is provided not only to the native capitalists but also to the foreign multinationals. Secondly, the money received through disinvestment is not spent for new industry or for development of the existing public sector industries but for meeting the deficit in the budget. So it is clear that by disinvesting the public sector industries, the basic and heavy industry will be in jeopardy.

To build up the exploitative capitalist economy in India on a solid foundation the state came forward to build up the basic and heavy industries in which the private capital is shy because of the necessity of huge investment and long gestation period. The insurance sector was nationalised with the same objective.

Prior to nationalisation in 1956 the insurance sector was under private ownership. The rampant malpractices of the insurance sector at that period was nothing unknown though the government spoke about the security of the public money and social security, the real aim of the government was to mobilise capital

for the state. After nationalisation the lion's share of the money from the insurance sector has been invested in the 'priority sector' determined by the government. The GIC was also nationalised later with the same objective.

After the adoption of the policy of liberalisation in 1991 the question of privatisation of the insurance sector was raised. But it became difficult for the government to brand this sector as unprofitable. So the government raised the question of providing better services to the policy holders. The government has been posing that the privatisation is necessary for this purpose. It is to be noted that on the question of privatisation of the insurance sector there is pressure not only from the foreign capital but also from the monopolists of the country, who are eager to enter the insurance sector. The government appointed the Malhotra Committee on the question of privatisation of the insurance sector. This Committee recommended the privatisation of this sector.

The policy of liberalisation in Indian economy started from 1980 and in 1991 this took a full fledged form. The discussions on Uruguay Round of the GATT were going on during this period. The main objective of these discussions was to force open the markets of the third world countries in the name of free trade. The adoption of the policy of liberalisation by the Government of India was in the interest of the Indian monopolists who have got the opportunity to be partner of the imperialist multinationals, thus paving their way in the global markets in lieu of throwing open the Indian market for loot by these imperialist multinationals.

According to the GATT provisions service sectors like telecom, banking, insurance sectors, etc., are to be thrown open. It means that all member countries of the GATT, now WTO, must throw open the service sectors. As a result of the crisis of the world capitalist market on the one hand, and dominant role of the modern technology in production process on the other, the service sectors have gained added importance, as these sectors ensure easy profit with small investment. And so there is a scramble to grab the service sectors.

It has already been stated that the main aim of the nationalisation of the insurance sector was to mobilise capital for investment in basic and heavy industries and infrastructure development for consolidation of the exploitative capitalist economy of the country. In the first three years of the Eighth Plan the LIC alone invested Rs. 28,310 crore. So it is clear that the insurance sector has played a major role in building up basic and heavy industries as well as in developing infrastructure. Now if the insurance sector is thrown open to private capitalists, they will be

(Contd. on page 6)

# People's Conference Against Imperialist Globalization in Philippines

Since the debacle of socialist system in erstwhile Soviet Union and East European Countries, the advanced imperialist powers that have long divided the world amongst themselves — the USA, the leading states of the European Union and Japan — are colluding more than ever despite fierce imperialist contradictions. In this path of collusion and contention they connive, using the MNCs and TNCs for exploiting more ruthlessly the people, the toilers and the resources of the underdeveloped countries and former Soviet block, and their own common people too. But in the intensifying rivalry, each power plots to penetrate and take over others' domains and redivide the whole world. With this aim the major imperialist powers have harnessed various institutions like the IMF-world Bank tandem and its nefarious structural adjustment programmes of economies of the developing and underdeveloped countries and the GATT, lately restructured as the World Trade Organisation. They have floated 'globalisation' meaning mainly imperialist economic offensive involving forcible, greater integration of economies into the global system of monopoly capitalism that is now camouflaged as free market economy. The object of 'globalisation' is opening up the whole world further for imperialist pillage, opening up the global market further for translational penetration and control, restructuring economics of developing countries further and increasing the power and role of the market to serve the demand for more raw materials and cheap labour power and sell more imperialist products.

With these aims in view in the post-GATT period i.e. after the formation of WTO, the imperialist powers are developing and using free trade blocs — principally the European Union, the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation etc., — to reap maximum advantage of market and take guard against other imperialist blocs. Under the slogan of globalisation, liberalisation and free market the imperialists with these trade blocs are resorting to more and more ruthless economic, political, cultural and military onslaughts. The heads of states of the member countries of the APEC, headed by the USA, assembled in November 1996 in Manila, Philippines.

In face of this situation, the toiling and patriotic people's organisations of the region organised People's Conference Against Imperialist Globalisation from 21st to 23rd November last in Manila and led an International People's Caravan Against APEC on 24-25th November from Manila to Dinalupihan, Bataan.

A vast number of delegates from 35 countries in Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Africa, North America and Europe representing people's organisations, non-governmental organisations, solidarity groups, movements and eminent individuals like William Hinton, Joan Hinton, Dr. Pao-Yu Ching and others

participated in the conference to confront the common danger and respond to the common challenge of 'globalization'.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar represented the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum in the Conference.

Public opening of the conference was held in the morning of 21st November 1996 moderated by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, Chairperson, Gabriel President, St Scholastica and addressed by Crispin Beltran, Conference Co-convenor and chair, Bayan and KMU. Detailed discussion on imperialist globalisation and the APEC was made in the 3-day conference where distinguished personalities from the field of mass and social movement, educationists, writers, jurists, etc. of Philippines, USA, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Belgium, Greece, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Switzerland, India took part in lively deliberation on topics like Dismantling Global Corporate Rule : Umasking the Role of TNCs in APEC and Globalisation, APEC and Imperialist Globalisation, Demystifying APEC, Can Dragons Swap Pearls with the Dragon God of the Sea ? etc.

In the morning session of 23rd November several workshop's on Globalization, APEC and Migration of Asia Pacific People, Heighten the Workers' Struggle Against Imperialism, Landlessness and Imperialist Globalization, Globalization : Displacement, Commodification and Modern Day Slavery of Women, Globalization : Impact and Implications on Indigenous Peoples and Environment, Impact of Monopoly Capitalist Globalization on Education, Imperialist Globalization and the US-Japan Security Agenda in the Asia-Pacific were held and separate resolutions on every workshop were adopted.

On behalf of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, the paper on Imperialist Globalisation placed by comrade Ranjit Dhar was circulated among the delegates.

In the afternoon of 23rd November the conference unanimously adopted a resolution and a declaration against imperialist globalisation.

In its resolution the Conference equivocally denounced the APEC leaders' declaration as nothing but a prescription for Asia-Pacific people's greater pauperization under a deepened imperialist economic hegemony. The resolution strongly declared, inter alia, that the APEC leaders' claim to accelerate open trade and greater investment liberalisation will only intensify US and Japanese hegemony in the region through giant translational corporations while further marginalising small producers and small entrepreneurs and exploiting the toiling people more ruthlessly. On the whole, the People's Conference stood unequivocally against APEC and its slogan 'globalisation' as a harbinger of more miseries, poverty and exploitation for peoples of different regions.

As the conference ended the participants vowed to organise international anti-imperialist movement and resolved to meet again in Canada, host of the next year's 5th APEC summit.

24th of November was the day of the historic International People's Caravan Against APEC. It was a gigantic protest march against APEC and 'globalisation'. The People's Conference's "International People's Caravan" led by Bayan successfully overcame at least 10 blockades of garbage and fire trucks, phalanxes of combat-ready military, police, paramilitary and sugarcane trucks and other obstructions set up by the government en route from Manila to Dinalupihan, Bataan. Braving rains caused by the air force's cloudseeding and the barricades, the protesters marched from San Fernando, Pampanga along the north expressway to their Bataan destination where they converged with contingents from Nuava, Ecijia and Tarlac who had been stalled due to similar blockades.

From the very beginning the reactionary Ramos government of Philippines resorted to nefarious means to foil this People's Conference and Caravan Protest. The government harassed the organizers and the participants by detaining the foreign delegates at airport, even deporting a few of them. At the start the police authority refused to allow the Caravan march at all, but succumbed to public pressure. They even tried to incite mobs against the Caravan, but in vain. On the contrary, enthusiastic people surcharged with fighting spirit against APEC and globalisation greeted the Caravan on its way towards Subic bay.

A meeting was held at Bataan after the end of the Caravan on 24th November 1996 where, among others, Comrade Ranjit Dhar, read the following solidarity message on behalf of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum :

I first express my warmest gratitude to the fighting people of Philippines for their struggle against imperialism.

Imperialists of the whole world under the leadership of US imperialism have combined to bring down most barbaric exploitation on the already exploited workers, peasants, students, youths, women i.e., on all sections of common people of the whole world. This, in particular, has necessarily compelled the oppressed people of the whole world to unite in their all-out fight to resist and defeat all the savage machinations of the world imperialists. No power of the imperialists with all their modern weapons in their reserves in combine can stop the victory of the people against imperialism.

I, on behalf of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, express firm solidarity with the struggling people of the Philippines and of the whole world in their fight against imperialism.

**Long live international solidarity !**

## New Credit Policy of RBI

# Monetary approach can not resolve basic contradiction of capitalism

(Contd from page 1)

government is saying today. In this 'period of economic liberalisation' the magic of government statistics is doing miracles. When there is continuous rise in the prices of essential commodities the government's index amazingly shows continuous fall.

People are realizing this from their experience in daily market.

However, the fact remains that in spite of this alternate change in credit policy i.e. through easy and tight money supply economy fails to come out of its crisis in production. There was a time when despite crisis we could see both boom and recession in turn. But now boom is almost absent. Sometimes boom is shown by manipulating statistics or by some artificially stimulating measures. But the reality cannot be kept secret for long. The bubble bursts. This happened in the Indian share market in 1994 from where the share market has not yet been able to recover. That is why in this year's credit policy the RBI has directed the commercial banks to invest in share markets. The recession that follows artificial boom always prolongs. While announcing the credit policy the RBI Governor had to confess about this recession in Indian economy for which his solution is increase in credit supply.

But is this crisis in production due to lack of capital? If so then why did the government so long pursue the policy of credit squeeze. Then why earlier the policy of credit squeeze was taken recourse to? Again, why is there inflationary trend with additional supply of money? Then can there be any real basis for the claim that production increases with the increase of money supply?

After 1991 the scope of raising capital from the market for the capitalists has been made wide open and this is true not only in case of internal market, the big monopoly houses of our country have even raised huge amount of capital from European and American sharemarkets. But where has this huge amount of capital gone? How many new industries have been opened or old ones modernised? Can the government provide a correct account? Every year the portion of 'other income' in net profit is on the rise. Sometime back, some questions were raised about the 'other income', but now there is all round silence. In many companies as much as 60% or more of net profit comes from other income. This 'other income' comes from sources other than production and related business i.e. from speculation. So, production does no more depend on the availability of capital or increase in money supply. Today, the capitalists are fulfilling their lust for profit by various other means. But why in spite of the increase in the supply of money and capital do not industry and production develop matchingly?

Since 1991, the word 'market economy' has been marketed in India with much fanfare. Through people's long and bitter experience of life the word 'capitalism' has become so much

hated that capitalism needed a mask to hide its real face. But bourgeois pundits have nothing new to offer. So the age old word 'market economy' was brought in and by placing the word 'free' before market economy, an area was created as if a completely new system had come down from the 'heaven', the name of which is 'free market economy'! Here much stress was put on the word 'free' to mean that production is being freed from all controls which itself will usher in rapid industrialisation and there will be no problems in the country. To many this make-believe propaganda appeared convincing. They did not bother to think who are being 'freed' and from what.

In capitalist economic law, the entire production system is run from the standpoint of the interest of the capital or capitalists. So 'free market economy' means removing all obstacles that stand in the way of reaping superprofit by the capitalists.

The exponents of market economy claim that if all ways and means to reap super profit are made free then there will be no industrial crisis. For, capitalists will be eager to set up industries and to produce to reap super profit. Only what will be necessary is continuous supply of capital. But we have shown that despite increase in supply of capital and opening up of capital market, capital is not going for productive investment. So we see that production does no longer depend on the unhindered scope for the capitalists to reap profits. Infact it depends on the purchasing capacity of the people. In capitalism or market economy it is not the real needs of the people but their capacity to purchase that are considered as demand or market. Now the question is, does the removal of control over production and profit of the capitalists result in increase of the purchasing power of the people? Market economists say: yes. 'Free market' helps the expansion of the market or the increase of the purchasing power of the people. But neither theoretically nor statistically they could substantiate the claim. Rather, throughout the capitalist world, the votaries of this 'theory' are proved wrong. Not only this, it is seen that more the market is free, more the concentration of wealth, more the inequality in income in society, more the pauperisation of people and consequent lowering of the purchasing capacity. Thus the result is further contraction of the market and consequent intensification of crisis in production. It proves that the law of superprofit is at the root of market crisis from which market economy cannot come out. When the market economy itself is the root of all its problems, then how market economy can solve them?

The crisis in the Indian domestic market or in the purchasing capacity of the people is no more a secret. That is why the 'modern' exponents of the 'free market economy' started saying that no matter if there is not enough internal market, by exporting to foreign markets, Indian industries will flourish. By formal logic

this argument may appear as very much acceptable. So, an euphoria was created over 'export led growth'. With Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh on the driver's seat, the chariot of progress was run by the capitalists and their media. Under this din and bustle any other point of view was suppressed. But alas! only a few days back the finance minister Mr Chidambaram the devoted follower of Mr. Manmohan Singh, while speaking in the World Economic Forum admitted that Indian imports have risen, not the exports. He had criticised the Western developed countries for not showing a friendly attitude by importing more from India. The fact is this, under the present 'free world economic order' it is the economically more powerful countries that have gained in their exports, not the relatively less developed. like India. This is nothing astonishing. It is only inevitable. Though the Indian ruling class does not admit it. Because that will prick the balloon of industrialisation or development. But if, say, India increases her export, but does it mean that purchasing power of people will increase by that? The 'free' market pundits claim like this, though. They say that wealth in the upper strata would trickle down to the common people. This 'trickle down effect' theory initially created euphoria among many who thought at last they have got something to counter Marxism 'with theory'. But within a few years the hollowness of their claim got exposed. Barring few of the middle strata, millions upon millions of people haven't got anything from the accumulated wealth of the upper strata. They have become further impoverished. Not only in our country, it is happening in all the so-called developed countries of the world. USA, the paradise of free market economy, is no exception. With increase in their exports, the number of poor people are not coming down, rather going up. The inequality in income is widening.

Hence in capitalism or market economy, even if there is increase in industrial and agricultural production, that does not mean social development or development in standard of the living of the people. That is why the government's promises to give employment to the unemployed by augmenting production are proved as hoax time and again.

With every 1% increase in production there will be new employment of, say, 0.25% of the total employed force. But this does not happen in reality. For, even if production increases, it is an outcome of modern technology and many such other factors, which generate nil or very insignificant employment. When this insignificant employment is compared with extensive retrenchment owing to capital intensive industry and sickness of industry, it becomes absolutely meaningless. So a new term has appeared — 'jobless growth'. This very term proves that this development is not meant for the millions. All these are natural consequences of capitalist system or the market economy. People cannot be freed from this by keeping market economy intact.

## Anti-Dowry Convention in Hyderabad

(Contd from page 1)

negligent attitude of the government, corruption in police and administration and increased selfishness, craze for money and consumerism among the people. In this 'largest democracy' there is no protection to women any where. Atrocities are being committed in public places, hospitals, trains, universities and even in police custody. Dreading the future of the girl child some parents are resorting to female infanticide and female foeticide. If the plight of the women who constitute fifty percent of the population is like this how the society can progress, she questioned.

Marriage is needed not only for women but also for men. The society as such needs marriage. But somehow to get married should not be the aim of a woman's life. Marriage should be based on mutual respect and love. She said that a movement based on higher moral and ethical values is required to spread this message.

Comrade Krishna Chakrabarthy, member, Central Committee of SUCI addressing the Convention as a special invitee said : Every minute atrocities are being committed on women. With the help of the corrupt administration and police the dowry criminals are going scot free. As a result dowry killings and atrocities on women are growing rampant. As the leadership of our freedom movement

failed in democratizing the society by fighting uncompromisingly against the feudal habits and cultures, the evil systems like dowry are still continuing. As the class that usurped power after independence is an exploiting one it is spreading the same exploitative culture in the society. Corruption, selfishness, craze for money, moral degradation are all symptoms of this exploitative capitalist system. The feeling of insecurity that haunts millions of our people is also a by-product of this class divided society. Women have to come forward to struggle along with men against all injustices perpetrated in this system. They should fight for the establishment of socialism, where all exploitation of man by man will end and the emancipation of women can become a reality.

Comrade Chakrabarthy continued : Women who are in no way inferior to men so far as the power of thinking is concerned should not mortgage their dignity for the sake of marriage. They should not accept parasites as their husbands. They should marry men who possess dignity and human values. Then only this dowry system will end. Women can and should play her equal role in all fields. For that she will have to fight against this patriarchal society which imposes all types of restrictions on her. Her fight is not for some privileges that the men in this patriarchal society enjoy. Women has to fight for the right to exercise her role equally

with man for the social progress. He appealed to women to develop this socio-politico-cultural and legal movement for the emancipation of women on the scientifically correct path. He concluded his speech wishing that this convention would be a platform to initiate such a movement.

Comrade H. G. Jayalaxmi, State Secretary of Karnataka AIMSS and a number of principals of various colleges also spoke on the occasion. Comrade Ch. Pameela, Secretary of AP State Organising Committee of AIMSS presided over the Convention. The main resolution carrying the following demands moved by Ms. G. Lalitha, State President AIMSS of AP, was passed unanimously in the Convention.

1. Mete out exemplary punishment to those who are guilty of dowry harassment and dowry deaths.
2. All the cases related to dowry should be settled within six months.
3. During post mortem the complainant's doctor should be permitted along with the government doctor.
4. The complainant must have the right to get the specimen sample tested.
5. The advocate of the complainant must have the right to know the details of the case from time to time.
6. Special court should be formed to deal with dowry harassment and dowry killings.

## For Reintroduction of English and Examination System at Primary Level

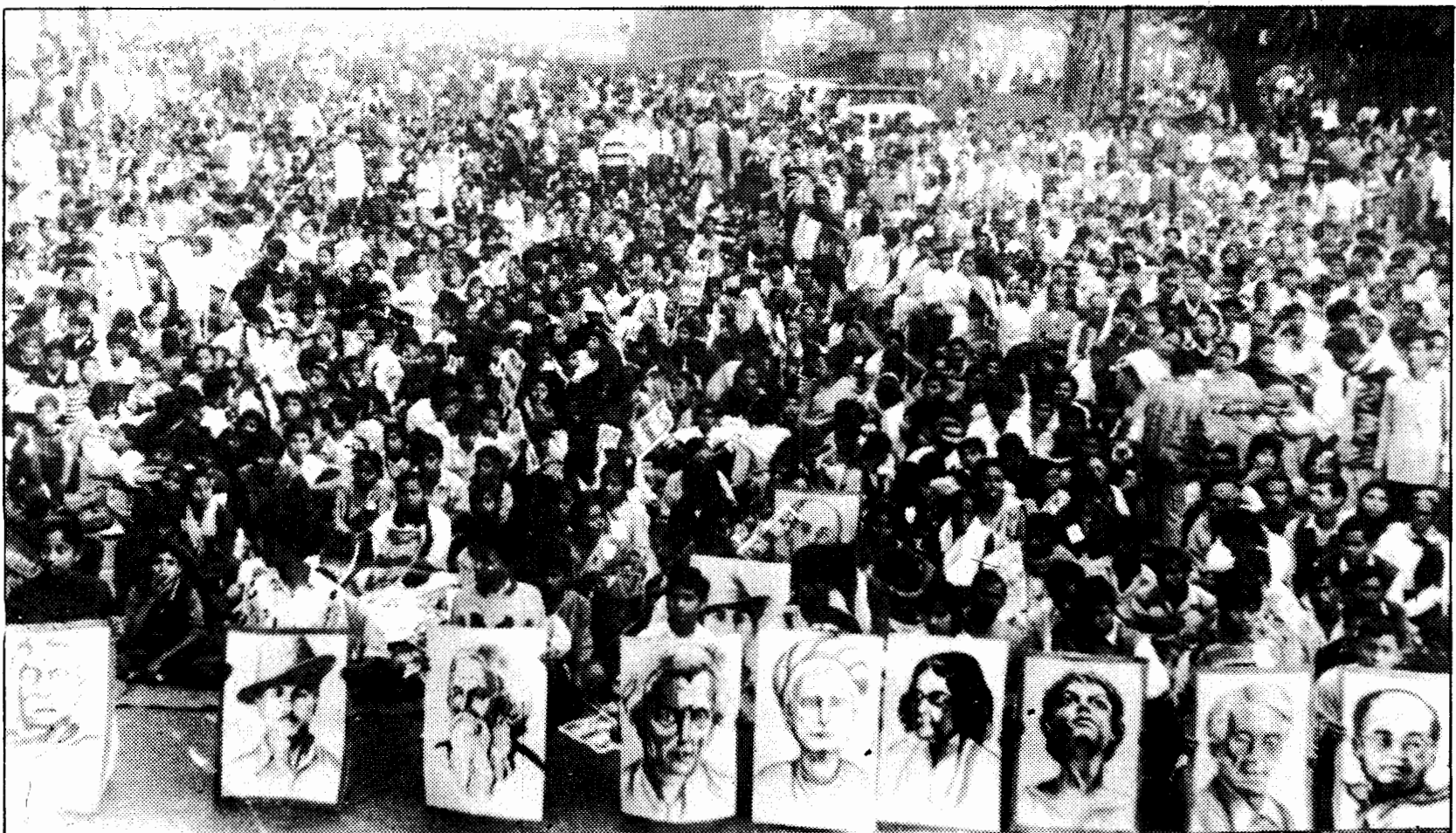
### Mammoth Rally in Calcutta with over one crore signatures

Demanding reintroduction of English and examination system from class I, and withdrawal of ineffective secondary English syllabus a mammoth procession of over 50,000 people traversed the streets of Calcutta on 17th December last. Against the language and education policy of the CPI (M)-led LF government, this procession under the auspices

of the All Bengal Save Education Committee, was a higher phase of the historic movement that is now on its 18th year. The disciplined, decorated, fervent procession carried with it about 1 crore 40 lakh signatures in 4 matadors, collected from people all over West Bengal. Children and women, students and young people, physicians and advocates, teachers and

professors, peasants and workers, walked in thronged waves raising slogans for education and culture. Led by Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukhopadhyay, former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, Dr. Arabindanath Basu, former Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Advocate Geetanath Gangopadhyay, Prof.

(Contd. on page 7)



A section of the mammoth rally at Esplanade East on 17th December, 1996. (Another picture in page 8)

## Privatisation of Insurance Sector Treachery of CPI (M) and CPI stands in the way of developing effective movement

(Contd. from page 2)

deciding the area of investment of the capital which will be raised from the market. And that area must be in the zone of superprofits, and surely not in basic industries.

In the insurance sector disinvestment is not done by selling shares. But this sector is thrown open to the private capital, both national and foreign. It means that the nationalised sector will run side by side with the private insurance industries. The spokesmen of the liberalised economy argue that by such arrangement there will be competition which will increase the efficiency providing better service to the policy holders. But the national and foreign capital is not seeking entry in insurance sector to provide better service to the policy holders. The track record of the British and the US companies which are trying to get entry in Indian market is indeed black enough creating serious doubt about the security of the savings of the policy holders. The same is true about the Indian counterparts. So the better service to the policy holders is only a myth. The only aim of these companies is to loot and plunder the policy holders.

The fate of about two lakh employees of the LIC and the GIC will also be seriously jeopardised. The private insurance sector with latest technology will have much less employees. On the other hand, on the plea of competition there will be largescale computerisation in the LIC and the GIC thus shrinking the employment opportunities in these companies. Again if there is largescale entry of private insurance companies it would not be surprising if the nationalised insurance sector is declared sick.

It is clear that by opening up the Insurance

Sector neither service to the policy holders will be better nor will there be new employment opportunities in the country. On the other hand the process of mobilisation of capital through the nationalised sector will be hampered and in consequence of that the development of basic industries in the country will be affected in the long run. It means that there will be deindustrialisation. As a matter of fact through this policy of liberalisation the process of deindustrialisation is being rapidly started in the less developed capitalist countries, like India.

Today the capitalist class of the country has no other consideration than earning superprofit and for that purpose it is eager to sell the wealth of the country in lure of dollar. It is however observed that a section of the monopolists has expressed reservation against free flow of foreign capital. But this reservation is not for the welfare of the country. Their only concern is to have an equal share of the loot and they are demanding an equal playing field to loot and plunder the wealth of the country along with the foreign multinationals. Thus through the policy of liberalisation, an arrangement for uninterrupted loot of the wealth of the country is being made for the national and foreign capital while the leaders and ministers of the ruling parties as also the bureaucrats are getting kickbacks in lieu thereof. And the people are bluffed with the myth of industrialisation.

Is not the role of the CPI(M) and the CPI anything but treacherous on this question? These two left parties have attributed the term UF to the 13 party conglomerate at the Centre. The CPI(M) and the CPI were directly involved in framing the common minimum programme (CMP) of the UF, and they are projecting this

CMP as pro-people. But knowing full well that the mask of the CMP will very soon fall, the CPI(M) has created a myth about its difference with the economic programmes of the CMP. This party often poses as if its support to the CMP is issue based. But it is not at all true. The CPI(M) and the CPI support each and every line of the CMP. Thus the show of better opposition and criticism against the policy of opening up of the insurance sector by them is nothing but a trickery. Sri H.D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister, has pricked the balloon of this position of the CPI(M) and the CPI. In the Surajkund Convention of the Janata Dal he said that no importance should be given to the criticism of the constituent left parties of the UF, as those are meant only for the cadres of their parties, and not for any real opposition.

As a matter of fact it is because of this treachery of the CPI(M) and CPI that no effective movement involving the employees of the insurance sector, the policy holders and the common people can be developed against the policy of opening up the insurance sector, despite possibility of such a movement. The non-left trade unions of the Western capitalist countries are also resisting privatisation, but in India the trade unions controlled by the CPI(M) and the CPI are not even doing that much. They confine their opposition only in parliamentary politics. The reason is not far to seek. After the red carpet treatment to the foreign multinationals in the states of West Bengal and Kerala by the CPI(M)-led governments they are not in a position to come forward to develop any effective movement.

The entire country is today confronted with a grave danger. The danger posed by the policy of globalisation is once again clear by the attempted move for opening up of the insurance sector. It is most urgent not only for the employees of the insurance sector but also for the people in general to build up resistance movement against these moves.

## Victorious Movement against fare-hike in Water Transport in Alleppey, Kerala

SUCI workers of Alleppey and Kuttanad areas of Alleppey district were plunged in mass movement recently, when people of the area came out against steep rise of Water transport

fares brought in by the LDF government along with bus fare hike. A people's committee was formed to draw the course and lead the movement. Many social and cultural organisations joined the People's Committee.

Step by step movement proceeded with demonstration, dharnas, relay hunger strikes, Boat Bundh, etc., when LDF police made brutal attacks on the movement. But that only hastened the course of mass movement. Ultimately the authorities were to bow down and several of the demands were conceded.



Boat Blockade in Alleppey. Comrade V. Venugopal, Kerala State Committee member of SUCI, addressing

## Peasants' Movement in Srikakulam

The people and agricultural labourers organised road blockade on November 20 last at Rayon town in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh with the demand for early completion of the Maddu Valasa Reservoir Project. Two thousand people participated in this movement organised by the local unit of the AIKKMS and a struggle committee was formed for this purpose. This road blockade programme was conducted as a continuation of two year long agitation on this demand.

The drought situation has been acute in the Srikakulam district for the last five years and the agricultural labourers could not find work even for 100 days in a year. Even the middle class peasants could not sustain themselves. When the prices of all inputs for agriculture are increasing the farmers sustain heavy loss due to the uncertainty in crop production, and the assured irrigation can only ease the situation to a certain extent. But it is due to the out and out anti-people policy and criminal neglect of the government that this irrigation project whose foundation stone was laid in 1976 could not be completed even in 20 years.

People, having lost faith in the governments of different parties, responded to the call of the AIKKMS to build up movements to press the government for early completion of the project. This movement started in February 1995 and during this period of 21 months the movement grew from strength to strength. Processions,

conventions, etc., were organised, and owing to the pressure of the movement the government was forced to increase the allocation from 1.5 crore of rupees in 1994-95 to 4.5 crore of rupees in 1995-96 for this project. But on the plea of financial stringency there has been substantial cut in allocation. So in March 1996 a Rasta Roko was organised by the AIKKMS and in July 1996 a massive peasants rally was organised in front of the district collectorate with the demand for completion of the project within four years with immediate allocation of 15 crore of rupees.

On 20th November last when the peasants organised the Rasta Roko, the collector was forced to send RDO to appeal to the agitating peasants, and the said RDO assured the assembled peasants to carry the message of the movement to the appropriate authority in the administration and do all at its command to ensure allocation of fund for the project. After this assurance the Rasta Roko was withdrawn and a public meeting was organised. Comrade Ramesh Patnaik, member state secretariat of our party, SUCI and Convener of the struggle committee presided over the meeting. Comrade V. Appalanaidu, local organiser of the AIKKMS, Sri C. Jagannadha Rao, Sri Venunaidu, Sri S. Mahesh, Sri Reddy Appala Naidu, Sri Rango Rao, the organisers of the movement addressed the gathering. It was decided to intensify the movement until the demands are realised.

## Victory of Movement in Bellary

The Bellary District Committee of the SUCI organised Rasta Roko on 25th and 26th November last with the demand for immediate repairs of the badly damaged roads of the city.

On 25th November the Rasta Roko was organised on K. C. Road-Bangalore Road circle, one of the most important roads of the city. The people gathered at the site of this Rasta Roko and heard the thunderous slogans raised by the SUCI volunteers. The gathering was addressed by Comrade H. V. Ganapathi, District Committee member and K. Soma Shekar, Bellary District Secretary. This Rasta Roko was called off after one and a half hour and a procession marched to the municipal

office and a memorandum was submitted to the concerned engineer.

On 26th November another Rasta Roko was organised near Durgamma temple. The public support was quite visible. The people, assembled there were addressed by Comrade A. Ramanjinappa, District Committee member and Comrade A. K. Soma Shekar.

After two hours the police arrested the leaders and broke the Rasta Roko forcibly.

The movement however forced the administration to start repair works of the road under bridge, the most important road of Bellary from 30th November, thus signalling initial victory of the movement.

## DYO Staged Massive Youth Rally before Orissa Assembly

Bhubaneswar, 21.11.96 : A massive youth demonstration was organised in front of the state Assembly under the auspices of Democratic Youth Organisation. Youths who travelled all the way from almost all districts of the state to the capital came in a colourful rally from the Railway Station with banners and festoons in support of their demands to PMG Square where a protest meeting was held under the presidentship of Comrade Dhurjati Das. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Purna Behera, Biswabasu Das, Bhimsen Behera, Ajoy Mohanty and Bhaskar Jena among others. Comrade Shambhunath Naik, SUCI MLA also spoke in support of the demands of the youths. The speakers sharply criticised the state government for its failure to fight the drought

situation in time and on war footing. They also demanded declaration of the entire state as drought affected. The meeting also demanded work for all through establishment of state owned and labour intensive factories in the state. The speakers urged the government to immediately stop obscenity and vulgarity in print and electronic media and stop world beauty pageant being held at Bangalore. The government was also flayed for its failure to provide health care for all.

Later a delegation led by Comrade Dhurjati Das met the deputy Chief Minister and discussed drought and other related matters with him. The meeting ended with a call to develop powerful mass movement to force the government to concede their demands.

## SUCI holds Rally at Korkunda, Orissa

Jeypore, Orissa 12.11.96 : A massive rally was organised at Korkunda Block on behalf of SUCI on 7th November, 1996. More than three thousand tribal peasants, agricultural labourers, women and youths took part in it. The demonstrators demanded irrigation in 'Rabi' season through Tamosa main and Satiguda Left canal, supply of 30 Kg. rice to each family, consumer cards to check rampant corruption in the Block office, 4 months work for 15000 working hands, seed, fertilizer and agricultural loans to the farmers, drinking water to all, roads in each panchayat, opening of a college at Korkunda with two high schools — for boys and girls by H & TW Dept, an oil based industry, opening of four dispensaries inside the Block, etc. People assembled before the Block office and a public meeting was held there. Comrade Broja Majhi presided over the meeting. District organiser Comrade Sadasiva Das addressed the gathering. Others who spoke were Comrades Biswanath Madhi, Mukunda Padiami and Bhupesh Karmakar. After the meeting a delegation met the BDO and placed the demand charter. BDO assured the delegation to concede the demands within 3 months. There was wide appreciation from the public on this movement.

## Mammoth Rally in Calcutta

(Contd. from page 5)

Sunanda Sanyal, Prof. Dr. Subhas Chakraborty, Prof. Subir Basu Roy, Prof. Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee and others this mammoth procession is the living expression of millions' hopes and aspiration.

The procession was stopped at Esplanade East, but its tail remained at about 1 Km distance, the whole area remaining thick with processionists flanked by eager onlookers. That was literally a sea of humanity.

A brief meeting was held where educationists urged to advance the movement till demands were achieved.

The 5-member delegation met the Labour Minister of West Bengal Sri Shanti Ghatak. He received the memorandum and took over the whole lot of signature forms on behalf of the Chief Minister.

JUST OUT

**Labour Policy of  
First UF Government  
Its Real  
Significance**

**Shibdas Ghosh**

Price Rs. 3/-

**IN WEST BENGAL****CPI (M)-led Left Front Evicts Hawkers in a Fascist Way**

The CPI (M)-led Left Front government recently evicted hawkers from Calcutta pavements. At dead of night of 24th November, a large contingent of police, RAF, Calcutta Corporation employees and above all armed CPI (M) hooligans crushed hawkers' stalls to dust at different parts of Calcutta. Bulldozers and payloaders were extensively used while victimised hawkers were lathicharged, many arrested and goods were looted. From that day eviction is continuing till date in the rest of the city and also in different parts of West Bengal. This reminded people of the barbarity committed at Turkman Gate, New Delhi, during the dark days of emergency. All of a sudden many thousands of hawkers were deprived of their livelihood. The government has plotted to evict over one lakh hawkers from Calcutta itself.

CPI (M)'s propaganda orchestrated by all leading newspapers justifying this barbarity is an exercise in grand deception. Pedestrians' difficulty, slow movement of vehicles, possibility of accidents, environment pollution, water logging, etc., are among many arguments put up against the hawkers. We call it an exercise in grand deception because the real concern of the CPI (M) is not at all civic amenities of the citizens. Had it been so then the government could look after it long ago. But years after years the stalls have been allowed to be erected on pavements with open political patronage of the ruling parties at the Centre and in the state.

It is nobody's point that hawkers will occupy pavements for ever. The joint hawkers' organisation itself stated that all hawkers would leave the occupied place, but only after rehabilitation. Everybody rightly wants free pavements, jam free roads, speed of vehicles, etc. etc. But common people did not want this inhumanity. They did not want it at the cost of hawkers' livelihood throwing lakhs of people in absolute uncertainty and darkness. It is really a tragedy that the eviction process, christened 'Operation Sunshine' has really brought deep darkness in their life.

The CPI (M) posed that it was going to actually rehabilitate the hawkers. But it is going to become a hoax, like what happened to its other promises in fulfilling people's interest. CPI (M) has said in its organ "People's Democracy" that LF government was for rehabilitation and not eviction of hawkers. CPI(M) is expressly irritated over the use of the term 'eviction'. The CPI (M) organ is of course silent about the total support of the monopoly press and the media that has worked overnight to justify the barbarity of a government known as 'leftist'. It is also silent as to what for bulldozers and payloaders were pressed into service — for eviction or for rehabilitation ?

The move of the Congress in this connection is not really surprising. Initially it raised a hue and cry, a leader even threatened to flow 'rivers

of blood' if hawkers were evicted, but all ended in a whimper. While the eviction was continuing, suddenly Congress-led INTUC declared a 12-hour Calcutta Bandh against eviction, keeping the entire transport out of its orbit on the pretext of not causing inconvenience to the spectators of India vs. South Africa Cricket test match at Eden Gardens. Deliberately the bandh was made a flop stabbing the cause of the hawkers. Amidst eviction, the transport minister, a big CPI (M) leader, invited a fire spitting Congress leader who engaged themselves in a mutual discussion over rehabilitation. Even after this meeting, eviction continued without further formal opposition from the Congress.

For last 20 years hawkers were allowed to settle on footpath in lieu of money illegally extorted from them. Many hawkers had to sell their last belonging and lend money for getting a place on pavement. Till the last day they had to pay money on weekly or daily basis to party leaders, both of CPI (M) and Congress, anti-socials and police. Now, all of a sudden they were evicted. Why ?

Why are not the hawkers first rehabilitated and then stalls dismantled ? Because in that case the government would not have the dictating terms enforced on the hawkers now thrown in the lurch. Hawkers now are at the receiving end of dictation or pity thrown by the government. If there is some rehabilitation, and then if anything is left after the privileged section is benefited first, then in all likelihood those are going to be distributed on strict conditionalities and criteria, set by the ruling Left Front.

What may be the real reason behind this inhuman move of the government ? Doesn't CPI(M) need hawkers for election purpose or big rallies anymore ? Don't they need money what they were used to get regularly ?

The fact is that CPI (M) now no more

requires this petty prop and petty money. After gaining full confidence from capitalists due to its naked support of the Congress's new economic policy, the policy of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation, the CPI (M) now is after big money. Ruling now in 3 states and being a partner of the 13 party steering committee of the UF government at the Centre, with its background of friendly relations with the capitalists, now it is not impossible for it to grab big money. Already a staggering Rs. 23,000 crore is on the way for the Calcutta megacity project. The lender is no other financial institution, but the World Bank. It is at the World Bank's terms that the hawkers are evicted. How can capitalist and multinational masters, who will move on Calcutta streets, tolerate shabby stalls and wretched hawkers ?

CPI (M) no longer requires people's support for its survival as the ruling party. For long it is getting capitalists' blessings and they now are completely dependent on them. People have least role. So people's life and livelihood is not that important to them.

Surely, this naked message has reached the hawkers by this time, who now realise the mistake to accept CITU as their own trade union organisation. But only this realisation will not help the helpless hawkers. A powerful movement alone can compel the LF government to rehabilitate each and every hawker.

Already news of suicide of one hawker and death of three others have reached everybody. Already news of hawkers begging on streets have hit the headlines. More tragedy will be awaiting if people allow CPI (M) to continue to ravage. All oppressed people must rise up to the occasion. The situation demands that the hawkers should build up and strengthen their own struggling committees and build up resistance under the banner of Joint Struggle Committee. It is thus that the hawkers can win their legitimate demands and live with dignity and respect.



*A portion of the mammoth march on 17th December, 1996, at Calcutta*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE**