

Prebudget Taxation

Fiscal Savagery by Central Congress(I) Government

True to our earlier warnings the Indira Gandhi government at the centre has now made the obnoxious practice of imposing tax burden on people by instalments both before and after the budget proper, a regular affair. This time, the hike in customs duty by 5 p.c to fetch Rs 250 crores, on the plea of fall in revenue collection by 10 p.c is another example to this crude practice and this they have done when people in seven states of our country are going through the ordeal of drought situation. Not only this, the nasty trick of showing less, artificially, the total tax burden, it has been imposing on the people through annual budget is being followed by the state governments including the CPI(M) led left front government in West Bengal. They have also declared rise in power tariff and are soon to announce rise in bus and tram fares as also price of government supplied milk. It's like an unholy competition between the Congress(I) and CPI(M) as to their competence in bringing further financial burden on the people, the plea, now not even differing. But what the common people will do? Will they be dumb spectators or organise them, as our party urges them again and again, in mighty democratic movement to repulse these onslaughts? The answer is to be immediate and in concrete action.

The central government has announced withdrawal of exemptions in custom duties on certain items and straight upward revision in the duties on some other items, cigarette being one of them. By this process of a mini budgetary exercise, the government will be able to collect further Rs. 250 crores for the present.

The reason adduced in support of this extraordinary measures by the minister is the fall in revenue collection by 10 p.c. owing to large number of court cases by the traders and businessmen that have blocked revenue to the tune of Rs 450 crores from being collected. At the meeting of the customs and central advisory committee held in New Delhi, the minister, Mr. Pronab Mukherjee thundered with a threat of taking stringent measures against the court loving business community. But it was, as in the past, move according to the rule of the

game and nothing more. The business community too knows it better.

For, at the same meeting Mr. Jain, the vice president of FICCI, the organisation of the monopoly houses, reminded the minister gently that in the interest of the community he was duty bound to look after them i.e. the business community, excise and customs should be more relaxed so as to cope with the severe recessionary condition, now prevailing in industrial sector. So, instead of being frightened, the spokesmen of the ruling capitalist class were advising their political representative as to what line should be followed by the government.

But, whatever may be wishes of the class their representatives at the political field find hard put to meet both ends. The crisis in the economy has reached such a point that people further robbed of their purchasing power have cut down their purchase and a

situation has arisen which is described by the bourgeois economists as "demand recession." It means demands has fallen, does this mean, people's minimum demands have been fulfilled? No.

Rather, people's standard of living has been steadily on the fall over the decades. In a capitalist society you are to see facts invertedly. People are being ruined, destitution, hunger stalk over the land, but still demand recession. For, in capitalism, you have no demand however much hunger torments you, your demand becomes 'effective' when you have money to purchase your need. That is why people have wants, hunger but no effective demand and the capitalists renege that their products remain unsold by selling which the maximum profit is reaped by them. The capitalists, now plead for reduction in indirect taxes so that some purchasing power revives for the sale of their stocked goods.

But their minister pleads what can he do for them in this respect? Look here if the trend of fall in revenue collection by 10 p.c goes unabated and in all probability it will, then the budgeted estimate what he presented would go away so much so that an additional amount of Rs. 100 crores need to be mopped up to bridge the gap. That is to say, even if the estimated deficit of Rs. 1,300 crore is to be maintained another dose of Rs. 700 crore is necessary!

Now, we are to know a few facts. First, the government raises its revenue mostly from indirect taxes like customs and excise duty.

Proletarian Era

Organ of Socialist Unity Centre Of India [Fortnightly]

Founder Editor in Chief: COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol. 16

January 1, '83

Price 25 P.

No. 8

Saturday

Air Surcharge, 25 P.

Eastern UP State Conference of KKMS

The Eastern UP State Conference of Kishan Khet Majdoor Sangha was held in Badlapur (Jaunpur) on 26th and 27th December 1982. The open session was held on December 26, 1982 at 2 PM while the delegate session was held on December 27, 1982. Both the sessions were presided over by Comrade Hiralal Maurya and the main speaker was Comrade Shankar Singh, the Central Committee member of SUCI. Those who spoke included Comrade Protiva

Mukherjee, President of KKMf, West Bengal, Comrade B.N. Singh and Comrade Rekha Singh.

In his speech Comrade Shankar Singh discussed the special features of eastern U.P. and the problems confronting the life of middle, lower middle, poor and landless peasants of eastern U.P. Analysing these problems Comrade Shankar Singh showed that the solution of these problems lies in anticapitalist socialist revolution and the crucial role of the Kishan Khet Majdoor Sangha would be to organise the peasants and build up democratic movement conducive to this anticapitalist revolution.

To be precise, both these items constitute 80 p.c. of the total revenue income of the government and in real terms, about Rs 14 000 crore is collected from these sources. And in a capitalist economy, the rise in indirect taxes is met by the capitalists by transferring its burden on to the shoulder of common people by raising prices. This easiest process of mulcting the purchasing power of the people has reached a point where, the capitalists fear, any further

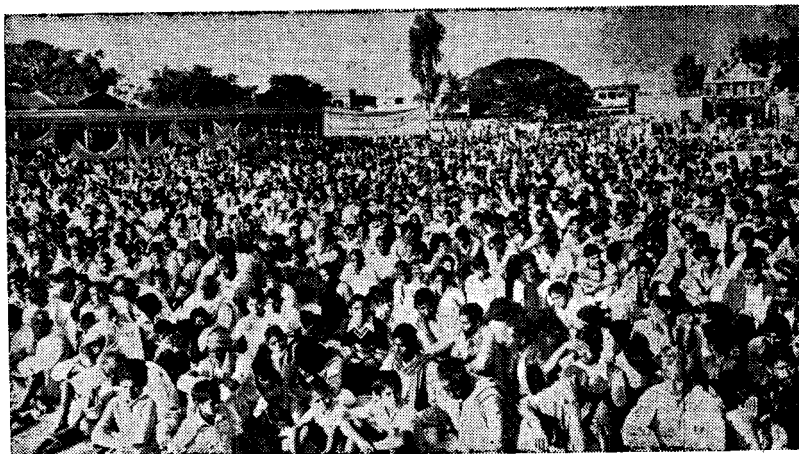
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Before the open session a colourful rally of 5000 Kishan Khet Majdoors organised by KKMS of eastern U.P. State Committee paraded the streets of Badlapur Bazar, Sorokhanpur and Bhaluali villages area covering about 5 kilometers of distance. In the delegate session 500 delegates from 18 districts of eastern UP participated.

UTUC (Lenin Sarani) WEST BENGAL STATE CONFERENCE

On January 21, 22 & 23 At Durgapur

Main Speaker : Com. Prithish Chanda



A section of the big gathering of Eastern UP state conference of KKMS

On Meerut and Baroda Riots

There is no let up in the periodic recrudescence of the communal riots in our country and the latest in the series after Meerut is the carnage in Baroda. It is rather difficult to imagine whether any administration with minimum commitment to protect the life and property of the people is working in the country and whether we can claim to live in a civilised society. Not only the ruling party but all bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties of all hues play no insignificant role in whipping up communal frenzy with the sole objective of gaining some dividend in parliamentary politics on one hand and creating rift and division in the struggling unity of the working people against the main enemy, the capitalism on the other. It is time that all right thinking people must unequivocally condemn such barbarous atrocities, isolate the communal forces and actively come forward to form people's committees in every locality of the disturbed areas to maintain communal harmony and peace.

The communal flare up in Meerut and Baroda was not sudden. As a matter of fact tension had been brewing for a considerable period between the Hindus and the Muslims and had the administration been alert and behaved impartially, the sad and shameful happenings in Meerut and Baroda could have been averted. And even when the riots broke out, if the administration put down the rioters in a firm hand at the initial stage, restored normality, thereby winning the public trust in its ability to keep the situation in grip, the casualty would have been much less in terms of life and property. But curiously prior to calling of the armed forces, the police was nowhere to be seen thus allowing the miscreants free hand in carrying out the killings and rampage without any check. This is the real state of affairs in India. Yet bourgeois leaders like Smt Gandhi and others, quite often was eloquence

on Indian democracy and secularism! These leaders know no limit to hypocrisy and double facedness.

The immediate causes for the communal flare-up in Meerut and Baroda were killing of a temple priest in Meerut and the transfer of Baroda's Police Commissioner. Though the immediate cause of Meerut riot is said to be this killing of a temple priest on September 6, last, yet it is on record that clashes between the two communities had been regularly occurring since April last. Concerned attempts were being made to fan up communal frenzy by both the sides for a long period and the contenting parliamentary parties were directly involved in this nasty game. And what is astonishing is that all these happenings occurred with the full knowledge and patronage of the police and administration. In Baroda, Mr. Jaspal Singh, the city's Police Commissioner was reported to be highly partisan and "his method of dealing with communal tension and conflicts were 'popular' tending to please the majority community" (Statesman, December 22, 82.) This highly communal approach of the Police Commissioner naturally caused distrust and resentment among the minority community and three Muslim members of the Baroda municipal corporation, including the Deputy Mayor, resigned to register the Muslim community's lack of confidence in the government's ability to protect Muslims. It is reported that Mr. Jaspal Singh was asked to be away from Baroda because of these complaints against him of hobnobbing with the Hindus, but Mr. Singh reportedly sent messages from Amedabad to students and others in Baroda that he was being shifted under the alleged pressure of the Muslim leaders and rumours soon spread that the Police Commissioner had been transferred under pressure from Muslims. Soon the crowds gathered in the street to protest against

this transfer and the city was in the grip of mob fury by evening.

The Union Home Minister admitted in a press conference held on December 20 last that the police was no where to be seen for 10 hours on December 13 until the morning of December 14 when the Army was called in. When asked the Union Home Minister quipped that what the police was doing on the night of December 13 was under investigation.

These incidents clearly demonstrate the complicity of the administration with the communal elements in fomenting communal tension. All right thinking people firmly believe that if the police were alert and maintained neutrality then all possibilities of the communal riot could have been nipped in the bud by taking preventive measure at the very beginning. Everyone can easily understand that the incidents like the killing of a temple priest or the transfer of the city's Police Commissioner can not trigger off communal fury of such magnitude. The communal riots in Meerut and Baroda are no isolated events and its cause lies much deeper.

The truth that has once again revealed in these riots in Meerut and Baroda is that not only the known communal parties took part in these communal riots but all bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties of different hues including the ruling Congress (I) actively participated in these riots by tearing off their masks of secularism, and tried to reap political dividend in the troubled water.

It is reported that in Meerut two local Congress (I) MLAs, instead of helping in restoring normality, actively whipped up communal frenzy and in consequence both the warring factions were further infuriated. The Times of India in an editorial comment wrote; — "The district administration has been weakened all over the country partly as a result of political interference".

In these riots many people were killed, hundr-

eds were injured and many houses were burnt. People are bemoaning the death of their near and dear ones and the air is thick with grief in these riot torn cities. But curiously neither the respective Chief Minister of the concerned states for any other minister of the state or the centre rushed to the spot during the riots and the Union Home Minister paid a visit to Baroda long after the riot was over. Sm Gandhi who in season and out of season claims herself to be the champion for the cause of the weaker section of the people and a valiant fighter against communalism, did not care to pay a visit to these riot torn cities. Yet it is known to all that in Meerut the riot was between Muslims and the Harijans.

But it was observed that when Sri. H. N. Bahuguna, the known political turncoat entered the arena with the crocodile tears for the riot victims and tried to win over support from the area known to be a Congress (I) stronghold and inhabited by a particular community, the leaders and workers of the Congress (I) rushed there to prevent Sri Bahuguna from taking any political advantage of the situation.

Besides Shahi Imam of Delhi went to Meerut on August last. We are not aware of the purpose of this visit of the Shahi Imam, but the outcome of this visit is very terrible and tragic and the incident following this visit bears testimony to it. After this visit of Shahi Imam, the leaders of the BJP and the RSS leader Sri S.S. Bhandari visited Meerut and everybody knows what these visits are meant for. That these leaders did nothing but stoking the fire of communalism does not remain unknown to anyone today. In this way the situation was made highly tense. It was also noted that during the riots, Sri Atal Behari Bajpayee, the BJP leader suddenly went to Meerut. The stated object was to restore normality but the result was just the reverse. The tension instead of dimini-

shing, ran high and the situation turned worse and got further complicated. When communal harmony was gradually developing at that very moment some prominent leaders of both the communities including Sri Atal Behari Bajpayee made the provocative demand of arresting some prominent leaders of both the communities including Shahi Imam.

It is claimed that the Western part of UP is under the influence of the Lok Dal and so the attitude of the leaders of this party towards this communal riot is worth noting. Sri Satyapal Mali, the Lok Dal leader made a pointed remark at this time, 'why in Meerut the riot was between Muslims and the murder of the temple priest?' Is anyone so naive as not to understand the provocation that this remark carries?

But the question is whether the behaviour of the leftist parties is beyond question in this respect. Are they equally eager to take advantage of the situation to reap political dividend? These questions are naturally agitating the mind of the people. On one hand Sri P. Rammurthi the Polit Bureau member of the CPI(M) is accusing the Hindu brand of fundamentalism in his speech in parliament while Sri Samar Mukherjee, another leader of the CPI(M) is accusing in the same parliament that the Central government is concerned only in protecting the Muslim interest. What is the reason for issuing such contradictory statements? Are they not aware that the rabbit communal elements of both the communities stoke the fire of these fratricidal riots? And this has been corroborated by different incidents. So these rabbit communal elements and organisations are to be held responsible and condemned. But the leaders of the CPI(M) did not make any statement on this line. But it is not due to ignorance that such responsible leaders made such contradictory statements. It is rather a sheer opportunistic attempt to

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Memorandum to President and Governor on Sukinda Atrocity

In our last issue of the Proletarian Era dated the December 21, '82 the news of brutal Congress(I) attack on the Sukinda Upatayka Mines workers' union in Sukinda, Orissa was reported briefly. More detailed news of the ghastly incident has come. In this regard Comrade Tapas Dutta, President UTUC (Lenin Sarani), Orissa State Committee sent a memorandum to the Hon'ble President of India and the Governor of Orissa inviting the attention to and demanding justice of this incident.

In his memorandum it has been reported that on 10th December '82 an armed gang consisting of more than one hundred hired goondas organised by one Prafulla Gharai, an Ex-Congress M. L. A. and a paid man of Mines owners, with the sole purpose of breaking the legal and legitimate trade union movement in Sukinda Mines Area, Cuttuck, launched an unprovoked savage attack, aided and supported by Congress (I), Police and administration, on common

union. Almost all the male folk of the village were then out on their respective business. The entire village was encircled and all the approaching passages were closed by the attackers. Then they set fire on the cottages including that of Comrade Raja Barick. Actually it was a preplanned conspiracy to kill the leaders of Sukinda Upatayka Mines 'workers' Union, particularly its Assistant Secretary Com. Raja Barik and local SUCI organisers. Amidst roaring

On the contrary, instead of arresting the criminals the S.P threatened the innocent people of arresting them and the police has instituted a number of false criminal cases against comrades Mayadhar Nayak, Raja Barik and other Union leaders.

This particular tragedy is not any isolated event but it is in continuity to similar incidents of the past. The registered Sukinda Mines Workers Union affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) represents 90% of the workers of the Sukinda Mines and the said Union has been fighting to fulfil every legitimate grievance of the mine workers. This union has also foiled so many malpractices of the mine owners to deprive the workers of their legitimate

trade union rights. Ultimately the owners engaged that notorious Prafulla Gharai to break the S.U.M.W.U by brutal physical force conniving with the Congress (I), police and administration. Accordingly Prafulla Gharai has been doing all these nefarious criminal activities one after another.

Firstly in 1979, the Kalarangi Mines was closed by the mine owners for about 5 months so that the old fighting workers could be replaced by new puppets at the time of reopening it. But it was foiled by the workers under leadership of S.U.M.W.U.

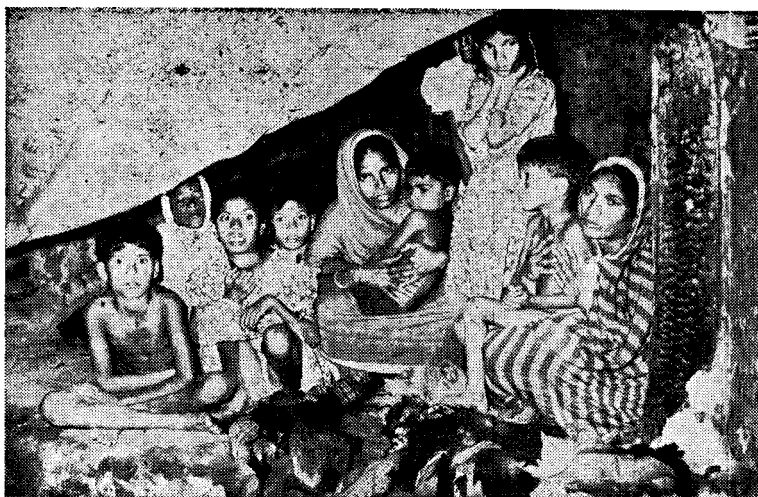
Secondly in Kamarda Mines where 100% workers are represented by SUMWU Prafulla Gharai tried to break the union by brutal physical force. This mine has been closed since 26th April 81. Similar to Gandaapal tragedy the organised hooligans of Prafulla Gharai supported by Cong(I), police and administration tried to set the hutments of poor workers, which was resisted by them but resulting in two deaths. The proclaimed murderer in this incident, Kalicharan Purty and his notorious gang is moving freely with Prafulla Gharai in broad day light and once again they have been given free hand by the police and administration to perpetrate this Gandaapal incident.

Thirdly, the same brutal tactics was perpetrated by

Prafulla Gharai and mines owners in Kalarangi mines which was closed by the owners twice for one year and seven months together in 1980 and 1981. But it was also foiled as much as the owners were compelled to reinstate all the old workers and in a frantic bid to finish the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and SUCI workers the mine owners, contractors and the Cong(I) gangsters launched physical attack on them this time also. It is not irrelevant to mention that this notorious gang of Prafulla Gharai committed murder also in Baula mines area of Keonjhar which was reported in the Oriya daily 'Samaj' on December 16, 82. Thus Gandaapal incident is the latest one in this trail of crimes.

Now, all these incidents point to only one thing, that the mine owners, O.M.C. and contractors are determined to any how smash the real and genuine trade union of the mine workers i.e. SUMWU affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and Prafulla Gharai, a turn coat politician and a so-called trade union leader is entrusted with this job. The Cong (I), specially the local Cong (I) MLA Sarat Rout, police and administration are directly assisting, supporting and aiding this criminal gang to carry out all sorts of nefarious activities.

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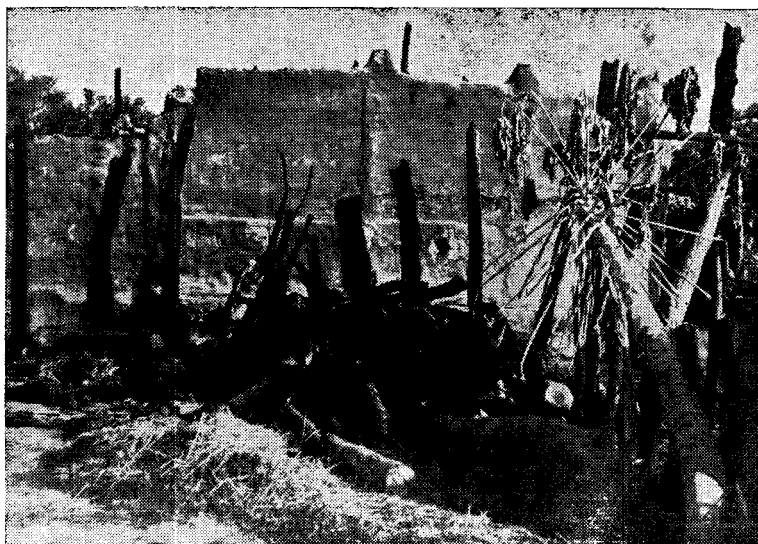


The members of a family of Gandaapal village at the Place where their houses stood. This house along with dozens of other houses was burnt by Congress (I) gangsters.

innocent people and particularly the leader and workers of the Sukinda Mines. Workers Union affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) in broad day light in Kuhuha weekly Market first and then attacked the village Gandaapal. After ransacking the Kuhuha market this armed gang led by notorious criminals and professional murderers like Kalicharan Purty, Chandu Majhi, Gopal Patra, Fakira Nayak, Dinabandhu Nayak etc against whom there are a number of criminal cases, even under section 302 IPC pending, proceeded towards Gandaapal village where reside a good number of mine workers and a few leaders of the aforesaid

fire they went on arsoning, looting, molesting women folk in all possible inhuman way for more than an hour. They even did not spare the old and the children who were also seriously injured. People of neighbouring villages were prevented from extinguishing the fire. The whole village Gandaapal was thus burnt to ashes while the miscreants shouted slogans like 'Congress (I) jindabad' 'Kill Raja Barik, burn Gandaapal' etc.

The nearest police station was informed severally but to no avail. The S.P, D.S.P and I.G of police were asked over phone for help but in vain. The collector and S.D.O were also informed but to their deaf ear.



Burnt houses at Gandaapal village in Sukinda Tehasil. These were burnt by Congress(I) gangsters

Communal riots

(Contd. from page 2)
pacify both the sides by making such contradictory statements. They can provide explanation to both the communities as and when necessary according to their sweet will. And all the pros and cons of the ensuing elections in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura were taken into consideration before making such contradictory statements.

Again it is also worth noting that the person who is so much critical about Hindu brand of fundamentalism, won the Rajya Shaba seat from Tamil Nadu with the support of AIDMK, a highly communal and parochial party. There should be a minimum democratic norm even while fighting in an election. The CPI(M) speaks of democracy and socialism and opposes communalism in fiery speeches; but while contesting the election this very party does not hesitate to combine with any communal or parochial party like DMK, ADMK, EJP, Akali Dal, Muslim League etc etc.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the government has set up an one man minority commission which is issuing different questionnaires and suggestions to different organisations. One of the suggestions of this Commission is that the workers of the political parties should maintain a code of conduct for preserving communal harmony. But what code of conduct the workers and leaders of these parties are maintaining? There is a competition between the ruling Congress(I) and the other opposition parties including CPI and CPI(M) in fomenting the divisive and communal forces with the sole object of vote catching. Sm. Gandhi's hobnobbing with the Akalis and the Assam agitators has helped in further accentuating tension in Punjab and Assam. She did not hesitate to align with such communal and parochial forces like Muslim League in Kerala, DMK in Tamil

Nadu and the TUIS in Tripura. In this context it may be remembered that in our country the rightist parties have all along been capitalising on casteism and communalism for political dividend and as against this politics of casteism and communalism the people have been reposing confidence in the leftist parties. Everyone can understand that in a country like India with multinationality character, the unity of the working class is essential for revolution and this task of cementing the unity of the working class can be done by a real Marxist Leninist Party. The CPI and the CPI(M) claim themselves to be Marxist Leninist parties, but if we analyse the present and past activities of these parties it will be clear that their behaviour has never been conducive to cementing unity of the Indian people.

During the 1977 election, the CPI(M) was making electoral alliance with Janata which was formed with the merger of parties like the Jana Sangha, a rabbit communal force. But during 1980 when the Janata government's fall was imminent, the CPI(M) did not hesitate to withdraw its support by discovering communal forces like the Jana Sangha and the RSS within the Janata party and in consequence Sri Charan Singh formed the minority ministry. To day the CPI(M) is again eager for alliance with the BJP. In People's Democracy, the organ of the CPI(M) it is published 'Care can be taken to avoid the mistake of helping the Congress(I) to win by opposing the BJP in seats where it is strong' (3.10.82) This is sheer opportunism. If this be the standard of politics, if the politics is devoid of ethics and morality, if the responsible political leaders resort to contradictory utterances with the sole opportunistic object of vote catching by placating both the communities, in such a situation the recrue-

descent of communal riot is nothing unusual.

In this context the role of the national news papers must be reviewed. The newspapers have a major responsibility of creating public opinion for preserving communal peace and harmony in the country. The news papers must not display news in such a fashion so that the communal tension flares up and peace is disturbed. But can the big national dailies vouchsafe that they are discharging this most important responsibility diligently?

The root cause of the disunity of the Indian people on the basis of religion, language caste etc is due to the fact that the task of democratisation of the Indian society through social and cultural revolution remain unaccomplished Comrade Shibdas Ghosh the great leader of the proletariat showed through his illuminating analysis the historical reasons why the national bourgeoisie, in the latter half of the nineteenth century when India was emerging as a nation could not accomplish the task of social and cultural revolution and thereby democratisation of the Indian society because of its fear complex of revolution in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. That is why Comrade Ghosh stressed the urgent necessity of accomplishing the task of democratisation of the society through social and cultural revolution by incorporating the same in the programme of socialist revolution. This teaching of Comrade Ghosh must be remembered to-day, when the dark shadow of allout fascism is looming large in the horizon and fascist design of keeping the people disunited is at work. All democratic minded saner section of the people must bear in mind that if the bourgeois design of imposing allout fascism in the country succeeds, democracy, right, liberty etc will be reduced to nothingness. So is it not the time that the people must be an guard to maintain the unity of the

Prebudget Tax

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dise will be counter productive. It will mean further fall in demands for the accumulated goods. That is to say as the Economic Times writes (December 22, '83):

"In the short run, the hikes may give the authorities a little elbow room in its battle against the widening budget deficit.... (but) will strengthen the tendency towards a slackening of demand and therefore postpone the day of recovery from the current recession."

Secondly, hundreds of crores of money that are being extorted from the common people, are not being used in what is called 'developmental' purposes but in non-developmental, wasteful administrative purposes which go on increasing. The government at the centre pleads that it is to meet the huge amount of overdraft of the states which now reaches about Rs 1,500, crores. It also pleads that in this much advertised 'year of productivity', industries are now running much below their productive capacity and therefore revenue instead of picking up is falling.

These concrete facts reveal the depth and dimension of the crisis in the economy, and poisonous effects of all this spreading all around in the body politic.

All told, people are asked to bear the burden of Rs 250 crore over and above Rs. 500 crore that came through the budget, last March. Meanwhile, by raising prices of petro-

working people against all sorts of provocations by the communal forces as well as by these bourgeois and petty bourgeois political parties playing nasty games with the communal parochial forces? We appeal to the people to rise to the occasion, to defeat the politics of these contending parliamentary parties and develop mighty democratic movement which alone can cement unity of the people.

leum and other oil products, railway, and postal tariff, prices of steel, coal, power tariff etc, all at random and in instalments, thousands of crores of rupees being raised, bypassing the normal procedure of parliamentary sanction, this government is showing not only its scant regard for public accountability in fiscal and financial matters but is evincing a totally anti-people authoritarian outlook that can be found only in a fascist rule. Actually, the whole motive of the governments both at the centre and in states is to bypass the principle of accountability by imposing tax burden without having the parliamentary sanction. At the very first instance when such imposition was made by a mere executive fiat, we warned against the danger of further centralisation of powers in the hands of the administration, revealing the distinct signs of fascistisation of administration, robbing the powers and functions of legislature. This can be the feature not of a democratic but of a fascist rule.

In reality, a fascist rule has been foisted on the people, slowly, surreptitiously making an end to all vestiges of democratic norm and principles. It is hightime, all democratic minded, patriotic sections among the people unite if the word 'democracy' is to have any meaning in the country. Our party SUCI, urges upon them not to lose time in addressing to this solemn and urgent task.

Sukinda

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But however much be their beastly attack and conspiracy, the fighting workers are least frightened. They, as in the past, are undauntedly repulsing all these attacks and conducting ever more intensive movement under the banner of UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

In his memorandum Comrade Dutta has demanded inter alia a high level judicial enquiry punishment to the guilty officials, compensation to the victims etc.

Editor-in-Chief—COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE