

Hariharpara Carnage

A manifestation of CPI(M)'s 'police raj'

The people of Hariharpara in Murshidabad district of West Bengal have written a glorious chapter in the annals of the democratic movement of this state in letters of blood. Their heroic struggle at the cost of life and blood has tremendously shaken the people of West Bengal where in these 15 years of CPI(M)'s 'police raj' all the democratic movements were repressed with sheer brute force in the name of maintaining law and order. And the people of West Bengal have given a fitting rebuff by registering their protest through successfully observing a 24-hour Bangla Bandh on 6th of November last at the call of the 10-party combine including the SUCI.



Comrades Achintya Sinha, W. B. State Committee member, SUCI (second from left) and Debaprasad Sarkar, MLA, are seen along with other comrades near dead bodies, the victims of Left Front police carnage at Hariharpara.

In fact the abnormal price rise of all essential commodities, high rise in transport fares (doubled in 2 years and five-time high in 15 years), steep hike in electricity charges, abnormal rise in government hospital charges to make it a profit-making institution and the impending suggestion of the Asok Mitra Commission on education following the footsteps of Rajiv Gandhi's New Education Policy-1986, to enhance the cost of education beyond the capacity of common man, coupled with rising unemployment and closure of innumerable industries have cumulatively contributed to the unprecedented indignation and hatred among the masses against the government which all these 15 years have been cheating the people with newer and newer pretexts and serving the interest of the capitalists and more so of the imperialists from whose financial institution, the World Bank, it has been taking loans on the conditionality that howsoever unbearable and unprecedented the burden may be on the people the charges in the service and energy sectors must be enhanced by any means. It is worthwhile mentioning that the recent visit of the World Bank President Lewis Preston to the CITU office in Delhi and Jyoti Basu's residence in Calcutta has raised obvious questions among the political circle of our country.

Like all the despotic rulers in history the ruling CPI(M) has thrown away all the veils of democracy and nakedly exposed its teeth and claws against the people of West Bengal who wanted to resist its anti-people steps one after another. Like all the despots the CPI(M) being divorced from the people owing to its sinful deeds for the last 15 years is entirely relying on the police which has been patterned and trained to

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Orissa Govt. on warpath against Sukinda miners

Now, the Orissa Janata Dal govt. itself, after the Tata-Atwal management, has come down heavily to crush the 4-month long Sukinda mines workers.

Led by the SUCI, in the past months poor villagers, agricultural workers, sharecroppers have joined the miners' movement giving it a protracted shape. They observed Sukinda Bandh on 5th and 17th Sept and 3-day mines area bandh from 28th to 30th Sept. again. A 10,000 strong meeting was held on 9.10.92 at Jajpur. Another bandh was observed on 2.11.92 throughout the mines area. Police arrested their leader and General Secretary of the Sukinda Upatyaka Mines Workers' Union (SUMWU), affiliated to UTUC(LS), time and again but released him under movement's pressure.

Our party organised a massive demonstration on 12.11.92 in Bhubaneswar in protest against this repression in Sukinda region and similar police atrocity over the poor peasantry and tribals of Udula of Mayurbhanj district. From the demonstration a memorandum was submitted before the Governor demanding, inter alia, fulfilment of the 15-point charter of demands of Sukinda miners, arrest of Tata-Atwal management hired goon-

das, punishment to the guilty policemen, withdrawal of false cases against Mayadhar Nayak and others, judicial enquiry into police terrorism and release of all SUCI and UTUC(LS) workers.

An angry Janata Dal CM Biju Pattanayak, who has committed to make the entire Orissa a happy hunting ground of the Tatas, declared on the Assembly floor on the very 12th Nov. that he would wipe out Mayadhar Nayak and SUCI from Sukinda and from Orissa too. Com. Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee, SUCI, General Secretary, UTUC(LS) condemned in severest terms this unprecedented utterly autocratic attitude of the Janata Dal Chief Minister. What followed was a terrible story. From 13th November onwards, police swooped upon the miners and villagers, attacked village after village in the dead of night, ransacked union and party offices, looting, arresting and beating indiscriminately, even children and molesting women. Police raided SUCI state office in Bhubaneswar and took away the party's jeep besides two motorcycles taken away earlier. Despite these brutalities, mass movement continued unabated with greater determination.

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SUCI condemns Kar Seva

Strongly condemning the construction of a temple at Ayodhya on December 6, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following statement to the Press on 16.11.92.

"We strongly and unequivocally condemn and protest against the decision to construct a temple at Ayodhya by the VHP-RSS-BJP combine by organising Kar Seva, scheduled to start on December, 6, since it will highly communalise and worsen the situation further to the detriment of the democratic movement and interest of unity of the common people.

"We appeal to all well-meaning democratic minded people and Left and democratic parties and forces to come forward and organise mighty and sustained mass movement against this communal machination of VHP-RSS-BJP combine which alone can stop their heinous activities on the one hand and on the other hand, can compel the Central Government to abandon its policy of appeasement."

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's strong condemnation of proposed construction of Temple at Ayodhya.

SUCI's concern over strife on reservation issue

On the present stir following the Supreme Court judgement on reservation question, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI has issued the following statement to the Press on 26.11.92. :

"We view with grave concern that a fratricidal strife has started anew between the pro-reservationists and the anti-reservationists, particularly among the students and youths, after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict.

Needless to mention that the present fiscal and industrial policy of the Narasimha Rao Government, coupled with the continued moratorium on filling up the vacancies followed since Indira Gandhi's time, will further squeeze the employment opportunity in our country drastically. Moreover, the policy of privatisation of industry, trade and commerce as followed by the Rao Government has already rendered the question of reservation of jobs for the scheduled castes and tribes into a non-entity.

We know that under monopoly capitalism no legislation can really open up new avenues of employment, rather lakhs of people, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language are thrown out of job because of closure, lock-out, computerisation and

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CPI(M)'s 'police raj' in West Bengal

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crack down heavily on slightest protest of the people. And the more the crackdown the more the mass protest and indignation and the more grows the highhandedness of the brutal forces of law which has been vested with unbridled power to crush any movement in order to preserve the peace of the grave that the CPI(M) wants to maintain in the state. And the more the police atrocity the more recourse to falsehood and lies by the CPI(M) and its cohorts and the more dependence on the police.

As a matter of fact the 15-year rule of the CPI(M) is the history of betrayal to the people of the state who through their struggle against all sorts of injustice established a glorious tradition of democratic movement. But after assuming power in 1977 the CPI(M) in order to serve the interest of the bourgeoisie started crushing the democratic movements and other party's organisations with the help of the coercive apparatus of the state, the police. Let alone depending on the people's movement it attempted to emasculate the masses by discouraging movements and to pollute the people with the evil motive of running after power and pelf. And in the process the CPI(M) has been shielding all the misdeeds of the police and appeasing it with the sole object of anyhow clinging to power. And the police in return have been helping the CPI(M) to shield the morass of corruption, nepotism and other misdeeds that it is deeply sunk in. As a result have grown dangerously among the police the tendency of enjoying unbridled power and unlimited undue advantage of taking bribes, killing undertrials in the police custody in order to destroy evidence, rape of women even in police custody, extortion of money, dacoity, siding with the rural rich to deprive the sharecroppers and the poor peasants of their products of labour, ruthlessly crushing the peasants' movements and implicating them in false court cases etc. Whether a particular policeman is honest or good is not the main point. The police as a system have been virtually reduced to "the most organised gang of criminals licensed by the state" in the words of Justice A. N. Mullah of Allahabad High Court in his judgement in the Sixties. The police in West Bengal have turned reckless, vindictive and trigger-happy while the CPI(M) like the medieval chieftain has become despotic. Whatever they will do or say is the last word and everybody will have to abide by it with head bowed down. To go against their will means to face the iron hands of the brutal forces of law. To use the police in this way has been possible when the CPI(M) government brought absolute control on the police through its appendage police association in the name of giving trade union rights to the police to create a false notion among the people as to how democratic they are. Had they been really democratic they would not have used the police in petty party interest and would have quashed the undemocratic, authoritarian and arbitrary provisions vested in the police under Sections of the Criminal Procedure Code established by the British in their imperialist interest. Thus judged from all angles the police in West Bengal have been made subservient to party in power in flagrant contravention of the code of administrative neutrality and both are shielding each other against any sort of difficulties.

The 15-year rule of the CPI(M) in West Bengal is replete with the manifestations of barbarous, ruthless and inhuman repression with the help of the police. The incident of Marichjhampi in southern part of West Bengal in early 1979 is one such incident, when the police and CPI(M) workers swooped in the dead of night on the hapless refugees from Dandakaranya who came here with a hope to be resettled in Bengal but having refused by the government they went deep inside the riverine forest of Sunderbans infested with man-eating tigers and crocodiles and developed a habitat there. Indiscriminate firing, lathicharge and teargas shelling went on and 30 refugees were murdered and all the belongings of them including their house were set on fire.

A few years later the police resorted to indiscriminate firing on the Calcutta port workers, who were engaged in a movement centring round several justified demands, causing 5 deaths and numerous injuries. That was one of the despicable incidents in the history of the port workers' movement in which the CITU worked as the appendage of the management and betrayed the interest of the port workers.

In 1983 the police and the CPI(M) cadres like the rabid animals pounced on the people engaged in a movement under the leadership of the SUCI against the high rise in transport fares and in that prolonged movement 3 people including two of our supporters in Purulia district fell to the bullets of the police apart of numerous injured in police firing and lathis.

In mid-1990 in Bantala, Calcutta, the CPI(M) antisocials raped and killed a female official of the UNESCO and her car driver and mercilessly beat two other female officials in order to destroy the evidence of smuggling and other antisocial activities. A few days after that a gang of local CITU leaders in collusion with the police gangraped a few women residing in the roadside shanties in Birati near Calcutta.

A few years ago the police and the CPI(M) workers brutally repressed the junior doctors' movement in Calcutta. In 1990 August police and the CPI(M) workers came down heavily on the people engaged in anti-fare hike movement and killed two persons — one lady teacher, on Howrah bridge and a young comrade of ours, at Esplanade, Calcutta apart from seriously injuring hundreds of others in police firing and lathis.

On 22nd September night this year several members of the CPI(M)-controlled police association which has been ruling the roost among the policemen in West Bengal forcibly picked up a pavement-dwelling woman and brought her to the Phoolbagan police station, Calcutta, and raped her there.

The people have not forgotten the ghastly murder of several workers in the Gourisankar Jute Mill in North 24-Parganas or the death of three peasants in Santipur, Nadia district, who staged a demonstration demanding regular supply of electricity to run the pumpsets for irrigating paddy fields - all in police firing. How the protest movement recently against the Phoolbagan incident and against hike in transport fares

and hospital charges was brutally repressed by the police and CPI(M) workers is still fresh in the memory of the people. Apart from all these innumerable lockup deaths and lockup rapes, killing of other party workers including even of the Left Front partners by the CPI(M) with the help of the police have become a very common affairs in CPI(M)-ruled West Bengal.

In no case the CPI(M) chief minister and the police minister did condemn or take any effective step against the police. Rather he all along approved the action of the police and stood firmly in their defence, praised and appeased the police. The police know it well that whatever they would do the CPI(M) has no other way but to defend them because the CPI(M) has been using them in every sort of nefarious activities starting from protecting the violence sponsored by the CPI(M) to administrative rigging to help CPI(M) come to power. The elections, particularly the recent elections — both local and Assembly — speak volumes of this. Thus a powerful police-CPI(M) nexus has developed against the people of West Bengal.

The bullets, lathis and teargases of the trigger-happy policemen of the CPI(M) government could not deter the firm determination of the valiant people of Hariharpara who have been continuing their struggle with undaunted spirit and courage till their demands are fulfilled. Hats off to the people who continued their bandh for long 96 hours, i.e. 4 days consecutively and faced immense hardship for these four days and a few days later for the normalcy to be restored. The valiant people added a new chapter in the history of democratic movement of the state by socially boycotting the police who could not buy anything from the market, could not get shaved or get their uniforms washed as the barbers and washermen boycotted them. The tea stall meant for the supply of tea to the police station did not sell a single cup to the policemen and suffered a financial loss, the landlord evicted the tenant policeman in a few hours' notice. Not a single CPI(M) minister could go there without facing blackflag demonstration of the irate people, not a single high official of the police could enter the area for the resistance of the demonstration chanting 'go back' slogans. Such a peak the movement reached and such a ferment and temperament it generated. It was really a movement of the people, for the people and by the people. That is why the adamant and vainglorious CPI(M) leadership made a volte face and yielded to the demands of the people by releasing all the arrested and ordering a judicial enquiry in the incident.

It was really a submission of the government to the pressure of the movement by the people to order a judicial enquiry. If we go by past records nobody knows what will be ultimate fate of the judicial enquiries. Nevertheless it is a victory no doubt.

This movement of the people of Hariharpara has left a lesson for the people of the state that howsoever powerful and adamant the government may be if the people are determined, united and guided by the real forces of the movement having a correct line of the struggle, the people can snatch victory in the face of severe repression and their demands can be realised by the pressure of the movement. The people need to rise like in Hariharpara to put a stop to the corruption, nepotism, anti-people steps and highhandedness of the police and the government.

Comrade Shankar Singh attends International School in Crete, Greece

[Under the auspices of the Communist Party of Great Britain, Provisional Central Committee (CPGB-PCC), an International School was held in Crete, Greece, from 26th September to 2nd October last. Comrade Shankar Singh, member, Central Committee, SUCI, attended this school on behalf of the party. Speakers representing CPGB-PCC, Communist Party of Turkey (CPT), Organisation of Revolutionary Workers of Iran (ORWI) and Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) took part in the deliberations. The main topic allotted to the SUCI was "*The Situation in India and the Tasks of the Communists*". Comrade Singh was also requested to speak on the condition of Trade Union movement in India, during this school, besides the main topic mentioned above. This International School created much enthusiasm among the participants and discussions were held in a lively atmosphere. The School ended with presentation of *The Internationale*.

We give below the written part of the speech in full of Comrade Singh on "The situation in India and the tasks of the Communists" for perusal of all concerned —Editor, *Proletarian Era*.]

THE SITUATION IN INDIA AND THE TASKS OF THE COMMUNISTS

In studying the Indian situation let us start from the 15th of August 1947, the day on which the British imperialist rulers transferred political power to the Indian national bourgeoisie through compromise. With this transference the chapter of struggle for the national independence of India came to an end. The Indian national bourgeois class all through played a reformist oppositional role in the independence struggle. While being in the movement for independent statehood it always suffered from a fear complex of the Indian working class revolution. It was due to this fear complex of the working class revolution in the face of the rising tide of the working class movement in the country, in the post Second World War days, that the leadership of the Indian National Congress, representing the interest of the Indian bourgeois class, came to terms with the British imperialist rulers to have power, in hot haste, stabbing the common people's aspirations in the back and even agreeing to a partition of the country on communal lines. This could happen, particularly because the working class movement in the country, though powerful in scale and intensity, could not give birth to a genuine working class revolutionary party on the soil.

Notwithstanding its limitations and negative aspects, in terms of people's interests and aspirations, the Indian revolution, with this transfer of power, historically entered into the phase of anti-capitalist socialist revolution in which the national bourgeoisie is the main enemy of the revolution and the task to overthrow this bourgeois class from power has to be accomplished and can only be accomplished by forging a revolutionary alliance of the proletariat and the vast masses of poor peasants and agricultural workers and winning over to its side the support of the rural and urban middle class and other sections of the exploited masses under the leadership of the proletariat.

The Indian state is a full-fledged sovereign bourgeois national state distinctly different from a semi-feudal, semi-colonial one, characterised by its centralised state structure, well-knit organs of bureaucracy, judiciary, police and, above all, a highly centralised army — all of which are features of a modern capitalist state fully conforming to the economic base it serves.

The Indian national capital started accumulating long back. It could make much headway particularly during the Second World War, taking advantage of the then war ravaged condition of the British imperialists, and could achieve sufficient consolidation to give birth to its monopolistic features at a time even before

political freedom was won. With the attainment of the independent national statehood the Indian bourgeoisie is now a completely homogeneous class.

Agriculture in India is of course backward due to continued and widespread prevalence of traditional forms and patterns. But it has already been decisively converted into capitalist agriculture through (a) transformation of land into a means of capitalist production; (b) conversion of a vast majority of the poor peasants in ever-increasing numbers into agricultural workers whose labour power has already acquired the character of commodity of the capitalist national market; (c) concentration of land in the hands of a few; (d) fast transformation of the agricultural produce into commodities of the capitalist centralised national market.

True, agriculture occupies the greater part of the total Indian economy but to equate Indian agriculture with feudalism is wrong. Widespread and ever-increasing financing and control of agricultural production and marketing by monopoly banks and stock exchanges, increasing emphasis on cash cropping and replacement of the former land master-land serf or landlord-tenant relations by employer-employee relation are the clear evidence that the agriculture in India is already and decisively converted into an industry producing agricultural commodities. Even though only 2 p.c. of farmers officially own more than 10 hectares (25 acres), they own 20.5 p.c. of the best cultivable land. Conversely, though small farmers with less than 2 hectares account for 76 p.c. of cultivators, they own only 26.6 p.c. of the land.

The efforts of the national bourgeoisie to secure all-round development and consolidation of its economy with patronage, aid and protection of the state power it won started at a time when world capitalism was already in the midst of the third phase of intense general crisis of capitalist economy which gripped it following the Second World War. As a result, all attempts of the Indian bourgeois class and its state to step forward in that pursuit were, and are, historically destined to be accompanied by a shadow of crisis.

Even then, with the assistance given by and the control exercised through various five-year plans to minimise the inner contradictions and conflicts of capitalist economy, monopoly capital in India has had immense growth in both private and public sectors, and through fusion of both state capital and private monopoly capital was born the state monopoly capital. The process of merger of industrial capital and bank capital has given birth to finance capital and, in its course, financial oligarchy. It is important to take into account also the extent of concentration of capital in the hands of the monopolists.

According to reliable sources, between 1987-88 and 1989-90, the top 12 industrial houses increased their assets by Rs. 12,319 crores and earned staggering profits of Rs. 1,851 crores in 1989-90 alone.

The finance capital, thus developed by the Indian monopolists, has already become a competitor partner, albeit junior partner, of the international trust and cartel, the international organisation of the monopoly finance capitalists of different countries which fact clearly indicates that the Indian bourgeois class has, in course of its development, already attained an imperialist character. The Indian monopolists are exporting not only commodities but also capital. Apart from their wholly owned ventures abroad and their joint ventures with the state or private capitals of comparatively underdeveloped countries, they are also participating in joint ventures with the monopolists of the traditional imperialist countries to exploit the market of other countries, particularly of the underdeveloped world. Having thus been elevated to the stage of finance capital the Indian capital has already lost its national character and has acquired in its place a cosmopolitan character.

The aspirant character of the Indian bourgeois class is also clearly pronounced in the very nature of partnership of the Indian monopolists with the foreign monopolists in the home market. True to the imperialist character of finance capital, the Indian monopolists consider the home market only a part of the world capitalist market.

Consistent in general with this home policy and in particular with the objectives of the five-year plans, the foreign policy of the national bourgeois government of India is drawn up to fulfil the twin task of ensuring, firstly, unhindered development of the Indian industrial economy in a relatively peaceful international situation, utilising to its advantage the balance of world social forces, and, secondly, a market for its growing industrial economy within the world capitalist market which is already ridden with the problem of surplus production and excess capital.

The main aspect of the foreign policy of non-alignment of the Indian Government, reflecting the typical contradiction of the aspirant resurgent bourgeois class of India, was to strike a bargain to the maximum from both the imperialist and the socialist countries by playing between them, as handling to its benefit the contradictions among the imperialist countries as well as those between the underdeveloped and the western imperialist countries.

The initiative taken by India long back together with some other countries to organise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had the objectives of, firstly, attempting to penetrate into the markets of the comparatively less developed, non-aligned countries by playing on the deep-rooted anti-western imperialist sentiments in those countries and becoming the leader of the movement, and, secondly, enhancing thereby her own bargaining power in the matter of securing concessions, aid and assistance from both the imperialist and the socialist countries.

By retaining its membership in the Commonwealth the Government of India is providing the Indian

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bourgeois class a scope to avail all the market facilities that go with the membership and, at the same time, it is utilising the same to increase its bargaining power in relation to the other imperialist countries outside the Commonwealth in matters of trade and commerce.

The urge and attempt of the Indian bourgeoisie to penetrate the old markets of the traditional imperialists in the Afro-Asian and Latin American countries, its all-out drive to emerge as a competitor itself in the world arena, its attempt to pose the Non-Aligned Movement as an alternative international platform and bargaining counter for the former colonies and semi-colonies, the leading role played by the Indian bourgeoisie at different world economic and summit meets to mobilise the underdeveloped countries in favour of their persistent demand for restructuring the world economic order — all these are too glaring to be missed to note.

The pro-peace stand reflected in the foreign policy of the Indian Government is actuated by nothing else than consideration of its immediate benefit or loss. Since involvement in an immediate world war will deprive the Indian capitalist class of all advantages which can be gained from the present balance of world forces and will hinder its drive for developing itself as a powerful capitalist country, so, for this very reason it is in favour of international peace at present. This very practical necessity motivated the Indian bourgeoisie to be an advocate of "Panch Sheela" i.e. the "five principles".

The other noteworthy aspect of the Indian bourgeoisie is that it has already become imperialistic. This is well-manifested in its big power chauvinistic attitude and behaviour in dealings with the neighbouring countries as well as in its expansionist tendencies and moves. On the other hand, its attitude towards the policy of intervention, intrigue and aggression of the USA in various theatres of the world, particularly in West Asia and the Caribbean countries is increasingly softening India's military interventionist presence in Sri Lanka and the role, being played by it, under whatever pretext, is a glaring example in point.

In spite of all-out attempts to make the domestic and foreign policies conducive to a fast growth of Indian capitalism it was impossible for the bourgeoisie and its government to overcome the phenomenon of "development being accompanied by a shadow of crisis and decay". They could not ensure domestic and foreign markets commensurate with either the existing productive capacity or the need for rapid industrialisation.

It is primarily this that obstructed modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture in a big way which, along with the failure of the Indian bourgeoisie to implement the long overdue democratic land reform measures, are responsible for the low purchasing power of the overwhelmingly vast masses of rural population in India; that is the reason for the present squeezed condition of its home market. For large scale modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture simultaneous industrialisation on a scale capable enough to absorb the surplus manpower in land is also a necessary condition which is difficult for the Indian capitalists to meet.

Thousands of mills and factories faced or are facing closure. Lay-offs and lockouts have become

permanent features in almost every sector of the country's industrial economy. The lopsided emphasis on establishing capital-intensive industries, making a plea for the necessity to increase the competitive power, is leading to closure of labour-intensive industries even in the big industrial sectors. According to an estimate of the National Sample Survey, the official figure of registered educated unemployed is 191.36 lakhs, whereas the number of unskilled manual labourers is 136.40 lakhs. These two figures added together make 327.76 lakhs. Official estimates, however, put the total unemployment figure at 14 crores.

Recently the ILO (International Labour Organisation) made a survey regarding the impact of the Government sponsored structural reforms supposed to bring about increase in the number of unemployed youths. It says that 4 to 8 million people will become unemployed in the year 1992 and 4 to 10 million people more during 1993-94. The undeniable truth is that with the acceleration and expansion of pace and bounds of monopolisation of the economy, the Indian capitalist economy has been showing signs not of being healthy but of being sick. The more the monopolisation the more is the pauperisation at the lower levels of the economy. The present poor state of economy of the country is conspicuous by the ever-increasing redundancy of the productive capacity. The number of unemployed is rising by leaps and bounds.

The spiral of prices and taxes continues unchecked. The exchange value of money is falling fast and eating into the real income of those in any form of employment. Increased amounts of foreign loan-servicing is adding to the burden on the already impoverished people in the form of reduced government subsidies for public utilities, resulting in further sky-rocketing of prices, fares and taxes. Consequently, the gradually decreasing power of the people is leading to an increasing squeeze-in of the home market.

In the name of the 'new economic and industrial policies' the present Government is borrowing huge loans from the IMF and the World Bank and other imperialist dominated financial agencies with humiliating conditionalities. It is inviting imperialist multinational companies to invest and do business in India exploiting our country's cheap labour power and raw materials.

To help the capitalist economy to overcome its crisis because of a squeezed-in market the Government of India is resorting to administration of artificial stimulants. Military consumption is being continuously increased and the same is being utilised to feed the existing productive capacity. Military industries are being diversified and expanded for meeting the domestic needs, including stockpiling of arms, as well as for exporting conventional weapons to foreign countries — a trading sphere where the Indian bourgeoisie has been able to get a foothold in the meantime.

In order to strengthen its class rule and ability to suppress the people's discontent, democratic movements and revolutionary struggles at home and to acquire more power to intimidate neighbouring countries in consonance with its expansionist tendencies and to enlarge more and more its spheres of influence, the Indian bourgeoisie is engaged in building up a huge and highly sophisticated military might with all accompanying paraphernalia. To cover up its motive behind this plan for building its military might as also

to create a psychosis of national jingoism the Indian Government is raising the bogey of 'nation in danger' and 'threat of foreign aggression, conspiracy and intrusion' etc. keeping border disputes and other problems with neighbouring countries unresolved notwithstanding its posture and gesture to the contrary, with the heinous purpose to this end. All these point to the objective reality that militarisation is gradually having greater and greater role in propping up the crisis-ridden Indian capitalist economy.

The cumulative effect of these domestic and foreign policies is the inexorable slide of the Indian bourgeoisie towards fascism. In the present era of moribund capitalism that is gripped with the worldwide intense general crisis, fascism has become the order of the day for both advanced and relatively backward countries to which capitalist India is no exception. The Indian bourgeoisie has since long been laying the economic foundation of fascism in our country under a radical social democratic cloak in a bid to mobilise popular support behind its schemes.

Whatever fundamental rights were there on paper in the Constitution have been gradually and systematically reduced to naught in their effectivity in people's life. Enormously increasing the powers of the bureaucracy and the police and to that extent decreasing the powers of Parliament and other democratic institutions, introducing a tradition of doing things by administrative fiat in a calculated way, bypassing legislature and not allowing the Parliament to play its due role in matters of even serious interest concerning people's life and society, wilfully trampling with impunity bourgeois democratic norms, values and conventions making the features of relative independence of judiciary, relative neutrality of administration and broad democratic norms in day-to-day administration conspicuous by their absence, and the industrial houses-bureaucracy combine virtually reducing to a farce people's right to franchise through use of money and muscle power — such in short are how the features of administrative fascism are being built up currently in our country.

Today, faced with a situation where the intense crisis of capitalism is giving birth to severe group conflicts within the class resulting in splits and further splits in its political parties, particularly its main political party, the Congress (I), the bourgeoisie class in order to work out its grand design and motive of pushing the country further to a situation that may work as the fertile soil for fascism to thrive, is building up casteist, fundamentalist and ethnic parties and movements, encouraging, fostering and fomenting communal, casteist, separatist and other divisive parochial tendencies by unscrupulously misusing the provisions for reservation, giving concessions to fundamentalists, enacting fundamentalist laws at the cost of secular reforms even. The people in general and the downtrodden masses and working people in particular are getting vulnerable to various reactionary ideas and, as a result of the weakness of organised people's movement, they are getting entangled in casteist, parochial, communal and ethnic fratricidal bloodbaths in different corners of the country at the instigation of this or that bourgeois and social democratic parties, groups or leaders.

Since the historical truth with regard to the development of the Indian nation is that, in the course of political movement against British imperialist rule, the Indian people belonging to different nationalities,

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speaking different languages and professing different religions merged into a nation politically but due to the failure of the leadership of the national independence struggle to accomplish the tasks of socio-cultural revolutions for democratisation of the society freeing it from the impact of feudalism and religious bondage, the Indian people remained socially and culturally divided into various communities, disunited by religion, caste, language, race, etc. The leadership of the freedom movement being mainly in the hands of the bourgeoisie of some particular, relatively advanced nationalities, the leadership could never rise above big nationality mentality towards the relatively backward nationalities. This situation did, in the main, continue even in independent India. In reality, the bourgeoisie of the relatively advanced nationalities, in their own aggregate economic, cultural and political interest, which they pose as national interest, have established the dominating-dominated relationship with the relatively backward nationalities instead of equal rights between all nationalities.

To the nationalities, imbued with newly arisen nationality consciousness, the situation appeared to be one of oppression by the dominant nationality.

The communal situation is already grave. The national leaders, who during the days of British rule, condemned the heinous 'divide and rule' policy of the imperialist rulers are today themselves using the same policy to perpetuate their own class rule over the masses of our people. The bourgeois government, in the interest of keeping people perpetually divided on communal lines and consolidating its rule, has distorted the very understanding of secularism and instead of practising the principle of 'non-recognition of any supernatural entity' which secularism really means, is practising in its stead the principle of 'equal recognition and encouragement to all religions' and thereby distorting the secular character of the state, converted it virtually into a multi-theocratic state.

As a result, the democratic movement which is to embrace the tasks of social, cultural revolution aiming at freeing the people from the bondage of social and religious prejudices, demolishing the exclusive social, cultural, nationality and ethnic barriers and thereby creating the basis of real and equal opportunity of development for all, which is overdue, is yet very weak organisationally. Our party, the revolutionary party of the proletariat from the very inception has incorporated this unaccomplished task of bourgeois democratic revolution with the programme of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and is striving to carry it forward.

The bourgeois leadership, mortally afraid of the anti-capitalist revolutionary struggles of the proletariat and other sections of the masses is engaged in creating cleavage among the people, threatening even the political unity of our multi-nationality nation by giving encouragement to all divisive trends.

The bourgeois class is launching a severe attack on education, morality, culture and values through constant propagation of obscene art and literature and other means of vile decadent culture. It is making an all-out bid to develop a cultural make-up of the people on the basis of fusion of the spiritual outlook on life and social phenomena with the technological aspects of science. The scheme to this effect taken up by the

bourgeois government in the name of co-ordinated education if critically examined, will unmistakably reveal this design to build up fascism in the country.

In this bid of the capitalist class and its government to push the country systematically to the threshold of fascism for finding a way out of the present acute economic crisis as also to stave off the possible working class revolutionary movement, the most dangerous role is being played not only by those who are since long known as 'socialists' but also by many of those parties or groups who call themselves 'communists' in our country. Practising reformism-revisionism or ultra-Leftism they are doing immense harm to the process of building up the real revolutionary consciousness and struggle of the working class. By evading or undermining the question of revolutionary seizure and smashing of the state power or by shielding, under cover of many an ostensible militant struggle against imaginary or fake enemy, the real class enemy wielding the state power, professing internationalism in words but practising the worst kind of narrow nationalism in deeds, these revisionist parties do take stands always in line with the bourgeoisie, mobilise support to almost each and every bogey raised by the ruling bourgeoisie such as 'nation in danger,' 'national integration in peril', 'violation of national boundary by others,' 'high risks to nations's freedom posed by terrorism', etc. In conformity with this national chauvinistic stand they are extending support to the foreign policy of the Government of India, ignoring the fact that foreign policy of the government is only a reflection and continuation of its domestic policy.

Today when the national bourgeois class in our country is firmly entrenched in state power, when our society is already in the stage of socialist revolution, when the bourgeois state is armed to the teeth and when in the light of the established Marxist-Leninist postulate one class state cannot be transformed into another class state, these revisionist parties, in the name of 'people's democracy' or 'national democracy', are advocating collaboration of the working class with the so-called progressive section of the national bourgeoisie for peaceful transition to socialism through a so-called non-capitalist path by converting Parliament into an instrument of people's will, thus trying to reduce the working class into the tail of the ruling national bourgeoisie.

We know both reformism-revisionism and ultra-Leftism are, in the ultimate analysis, expressions in diverse forms, rather in apparently opposite forms, of the same petty-bourgeois class outlook and approach to political issues and thus essentially serve the same bourgeois interest by obstructing the revolutionary class struggle of the proletariat to develop in its correct logical course, i.e. culminating in the dictatorship of the proletariat. And from that point of view both these deviationist lines are objectively the social democratic lines playing ultimately the role of compromise between labour and capital without fighting which both ideologically and organisationally, victory of the anti-capitalist socialist revolution is impossible to achieve. This is the force against which the main blow of the ideological battle will have to be directed.

As ruling parties in some of the states in the country, these revisionist parties are acting totally as the most dependable compromising force between the working class and other sections of toiling people and

the bourgeois class. Instead of turning the governments controlled by them into instruments of struggle to help people develop and spread their legitimate democratic movements, to restrain the police from interfering in and suppressing people's legitimate struggles, to provide the workers and other toiling millions opportunity to build up and consolidate their own instruments of struggle at grassroots level, these ruling parties are discouraging working people's movement on the plea of maintaining 'industrial peace', even brutally crushing legitimate democratic movements of the industrial workers, peasants and agricultural workers, students and youths and practically all sections of the population.

The Indian working class being armed with Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thoughts will have to conduct relentless ideological struggles to expose and isolate the social democratic forces, the main danger in the working class movement, to prepare for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the main enemy, from power.

Our society today is at the crossroads. The danger of fascism is looming large over the horizon. Either the proletariat class, under the leadership of its revolutionary vanguard detachment, by rallying round it all the semi-proletarian strata of the toiling people, the vast masses of agricultural labour, the poor and lower middle peasants and rural and urban lower middle class and other sections of the toiling people will smash the present bourgeois state machine and establish a new state of the alliance of workers and poor peasants and lead the whole society gradually to victory of socialism or the capitalist class will launch its counterrevolutionary onslaughts, destroy or cripple all democratic institutions, rights and movements of the people and plunge the whole country, the whole society in the darkness of a fascist dehumanized regime. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said, "If fascism comes, it will not spare anybody. If this gravest enemy of civilisation and mankind in this era gets entrenched, there will not be many left who can be called man, because, fascism does not only dehumanize, it obstructs the very process of development of man."

To meet this danger of fascism it is imperative for us, communists, at this phase of democratic movement, to try to unite all parties and forces that can be united. This broad united forum has to be necessarily based on an agreed common programme of struggle on issues and burning problems of people's life, as well as on a code of conduct to be followed by all. It has to be necessarily based on the principle of unity-struggle-unity. While conducting struggle on the basis of the common programme differences may appear between different parties and forces on question of approach and understanding of immediate and ultimate objectives of any issue of programme and hence there will be struggle among them in the ideological sphere pertaining to those issues. But the method of conducting those ideological struggles has to be conducive to the growth of firmer unity against the common enemy, instead of disrupting this unity. It must be helpful in creating conditions where all the constituent parties and forces can play their respective role to the maximum extent possible.

Communists must not forget that nothing is absolute. The danger of fascism is also not a fatalistic inevitability. The crimson colour on the horizon beyond the prevailing darkness in the problem-ridden

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A glimpse of what happened in Hariharpara

Horrid things have unfolded in the wake of 2nd November mass butchery by West Bengal police at Hariharpara. The connivance of police-mafia-administration-ruling or opposition bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties acting with impunity is not altogether a dark secret today. But what have come out in the newspapers concerning this gory incident giving the lie to the government's concerted propaganda about police having acted in 'self-defence' cannot but strike even an uncritical mind.

The story that was dished out at the initial stage centring around the killing of 7 demonstrators including 3 of our men, their age ranging from 12 to 35, critically wounding another 17 — all 24 with multiple bullet shots piercing the vulnerable points on the upper part of their body — besides injuring more than 72, was seemingly foolproof. But there were glaring discrepancies that shed light gradually, which were responsible for making the West Bengal Chief Minister and the Director General of Police and other VIPs in administration shift their position from time to time.

Ganashakti, the organ of the Bengal CPI(M), on 3rd November printed an on-the-spot report about the repeated attacks on the law-abiding police of a frenzied mob of antisocials led by the Nagarik Kalyan Parisad, who in the name of civil disobedience programme hurled bombs, fired bullets and brickbatted — all in an unprecedented upsurge of violence. SUCI instigated them — alleged the CPI(M) very strongly. The result was a wreckage of the policemen among whom 20 received gunshot injuries and 5 of them were in a very critical condition. The police report tallied surprisingly, one wonders whether under pressure, the same which the Chief Minister and the DGP and the entire administration blared out unceasingly.

Meanwhile, untold sorrow descended over the whole of Hariharpara. Who would console a father, a mother, a wife, a son who have lost everything? Was protesting the jungle law and the police-antisocial-ruling party nexus a crime? People mourned with all these questions in their hearts and at home there was no cooking for days.

Like what is happening in different parts of our country, a rule of the diehard criminals has been raging in the social life of Murshidabad, a district with ministers, all the 3 MPs., 14 out of 19 MLAs belonging to the Left Front. The mind simply shrinks from believing how the criminals there, particularly in the eastern part, that includes Hariharpara, which has a CPI(M) MLA, for months, for years, have killed men, looted wealth and then again killed men after mysteriously getting information about people who dared report to the police. People were absolutely terrorised and sank in shame and despair for seeing before their very eyes a daughter or a sister raped and gangraped. The same happened to the housewives and school students alike. There is even such an incident of gruelling and simultaneous rape of a mother and a daughter and then their annihilation for their protesting a previous act of rape. Tales of such woes thus are unending, tears too are unending, sighs unceasing — until they turn into determination for resistance. And then a process started which ultimately gave rise to the Nagarik Kalyan Parisad. Although our Party took the initiative it is a people's platform where men of all strata irrespective of political beliefs have converged. Even the FB, the RSP and CPI, the West Bengal Left Front Government's

constituents, were on the Parisad. In the Convention, where the Parisad was formed on January 20, 1992 the CPI(M) was also present, but it opted out afterwards for reasons better known to them. One wonders whether the condition that all political parties had to fulfil, i.e. to declare in writing that they would not shelter any criminal, obstructed them from being a part of the Nagarik Kalyan Parisad.

Parisad then took up programmes boldly from mass deputations at different levels to sit-in demonstration before police station, always with the same appeal to bring a halt to the spate of criminality. But all went in vain with numbers of deaths, loots, rapes, only mounting. Our party again and again appealed to the State Government to jump to the rescue of the suffering villagers, but all went unheeded. On one instance, Shri Debaprasad Sarkar, MLA of our party, after visiting Hariharpara on 18th August last met the then acting Chief Minister on 19th and on 21st August there were 3 murders. From January '92 to October '92 alone in Hariharpara 48 people were killed and a total of 112 all over the district. So, as a higher phase of movement the Parisad called for this mass civil disobedience programme, announced one month earlier, duly intimidated the administration and the police, which ended as the worst of tragedies.

While the Government Pressrelease, the Chief Minister's allegation, DGP's statements etc. etc. took less than 5 hours to fill the media with meticulous details of the so-called violence of Nagarik Kalyan Parisad on 2nd November, it took more than 48 hours for the DGP to bring the weapons allegedly used by the mob to Calcutta, which were exhibited before the newsmen on 5th. Those included two muskets and two pistols — all rusted. When asked whether they were at all used in the last few years, police officers remained silent. There was a bow with string of jute which according to a reporter was fit for drama. Another investigative Press report later showed the weapons were with the police long before and the reporter wondered why they were not sent for forensic test.

Relating to this and other things, questions are galore in man's mind. On the fateful 2nd November, a 10,000 strong procession marched to break law. Had they been antisocials and armed and frenzied and had there been a pitched battle for long two hours the mob having fired 100 rounds, why did the BDO office remain unaffected, its glass panes without even as much as a scratch and even the bamboo fence intact? There was not a single mark of bullet or explosion on the two-storey BDO building. There was not a single police injured by gun shot or bomb — all exposing the police-shielding government lies. When the reporters repeatedly wanted to meet the 20 (later *Ganashakti* diminished the number to 15) injured policemen, officials remained vague and ambiguous. At last it was found in the FIR lodged by the police that only 2 policemen were lying in the hospital, with minor injury from brick throwing.

On the other hand police were absolutely murderous. In the evening of 1st November and morning of the 2nd police cautioned every family staying near BDO office not to come out in the afternoon. Why? Why was there no police cordon to stop the procession? Why instead were the police stationed with rifles and light machine guns on roof tops of the BDO building and a

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A FEW PRESS CLIPPINGS ON HARIHARPARA CARNAGE

Mr. A. Ghatak, Director General of Police W.B. said "As for the police firing it was retaliatory. My people had been shot. Did the bullets fall from the skies?" (*The Statesman*, 4.11.92)

A CPI(M) W.B. State Committee leaflet on 4.11.92: "20 policemen including officials were wounded."

The Chief Minister Sri Jyoti Basu, also the Minister for Police, in a musical soiree organised by the Non-Gazetted Police Union in Calcutta, commented: "...the mass deputationists led by the Nagarik Kalyan Parishad on Monday at Hariharpara, Murshidabad, attacked the police personnel with guns and other deadly weapons..."

(*Anandabazar Patrika*, 6.11.92)

Sri Buddhadev Bhattacharya Minister for information and cultural affairs told the newsmen: "Till date, there is no report as to any bullet injury sustained by the policemen in the attack of demonstrators at Hariharpara. Not for once, the government said that any police personnel had sustained bullet injury..."

Q: Then why after 2nd November different officials of the police and the administration were, time and again, saying that the police had been hit with bullets in their head?

Buddhadev Babu: I do not know who said it. The government after all didn't say. Once more, I am saying this in clear terms that never did we say the police were hit in their head.

(*Bartaman*, 12.11.92)

Conversation of Mr. B.K. Singh, Additional Director General of Police, W.B., with newsmen.

Q: How many rounds of firing police resorted to that day?

Mr. Singh: 23 rounds.

Q: In all the bodies of 7 dead and 17 wounded, bullet wounds were there, how could 23 rounds of bullets hit 24 victims?

Mr. Singh: I am unable to provide that explanation. I am telling what I have found in the report. (*Anandabazar Patrika*, 6.11.92)

"Police resorted to firing of its own. I did not issue any order", said the SDO and Executive Magistrate Mr. Kalidas Roy.

He also said: "I did not locate any pipegun, musket with Nagarik Kalyan Parishad members." Shri Roy added, "the District Police Superintendent is passing the buck of police firing on me. Just today, (i.e. on 4.11.92) I said this to the District Magistrate. But the S.P. Asim Chatterjee was thrusting the entire onus on me. He made the political leaders in Calcutta understand this.

(*Aajkal*, 5.11.92)

"In sharp contrast to the undamaged government building were tell-tale signs of death by police firing. Patches of dried blood could be seen in the fields. Parts of human skull were found on the lawn outside the BDO's office. It was learnt later that three of the eight died were shot in the head." (*The Statesman*, 6.11.92)

Movements in States Mayurbhanj Tribals defy death and police atrocity

Severe police atrocity has been let loose on our party workers at Udala, in the district of Mayurbhanj.

On September 29, one of the supporters of SUCI was killed by a gang of anti-socials but instead of arresting the murderers the local police arrested 9 of our comrades including our Sarpanch of the locality. Comrade Balam Sahoo, secretary, Orissa State Committee of AIKKMS was arrested from Keonjhar office almost after a month of the incident. He was handcuffed and tortured in the police custody. The comrades arrested so far have all been implicated in the murder case.

Movements continued against these tortures, which police perpetrated only to destroy SUCI organisation, for our party has been constantly fighting police antisocial - administration nexus there uniting the tribal people.

Meanwhile another of our party supporter has been murdered, this time by the police itself. He was shot at on 16th and expired on 22nd November last.

At Mahalpankha village, as an SUCI comrade, one of the nine arrested previously, was in jail, his wife was harvesting, when a family dispute ensued involving only 5 men. The Congress(I) and Janata Dal informed the police of the Koptipada P.S. The Koptipada police mustered forces of two other police stations, rushed to the spot, and instead of solving the trivial dispute fired from point blank range and seriously injured Com. Rama Saay who later died in hospital. To cover up the crime, police fabricated a story that 200 SUCI men attacked them with bows and arrows and critically injured 7 policemen.

The tribals are waging their just struggle defying death, torture and reign of terror let loose by police.

Karnataka MSS Conference

The two-day 2nd Karnataka State Level MSS Conference was held in Gulbarga on 18-19 September with much enthusiasm. Thousands of women of different strata marched in the morning of 18th to attend the open session.

Earlier Ms. Neelama Katnalli, Lecturer, S.S. Managol College inaugurated a quotation exhibition and Com. Chhaya Mukherjee, Convener, All India Preparatory Committee of MSS, hoisted the MSS flag. After the homage resolution moved by Dr. Sudha Kamath and the welcome address by Mr. S.S. Kummana, a renowned advocate, Prof. S.A. Sarnad, a noted educationist, inaugurated the session. Com. K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, SUCI, Karnataka State Committee, in his speech as the Chief Guest hoped that MSS would succeed in its task of liberating women from all sorts of oppression. Com. Chhaya Mukherjee called upon women to break the fetters of feudal customs, traditions and old ideas.

The delegate session was held at Veerashaiva Kalyan Mantap on 19.9.92. Com. Chhaya Mukherjee garlanded the portrait of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, whose thoughts are guiding the MSS. Among others, the draft political-organisational report placed by Dr. Jayalakshmi and the draft main resolution by Ms. Apama were discussed and adopted. The conference elected a 20-

member state MSS committee with Dr. Sudha Kamath as President and Dr. Jayalakshmi as Secretary. The session ended with a speech by Com. Chhaya Mukherjee.

Anti-bus fare hike stir victorious in Orissa

The Orissa govt. was forced to revoke its decision of hiking the bus fares under pressure of mass movement. Our party alone raised its voice of protest first and later jointly developed a statewide mass movement with CPI, Orissa Communist Party (OCP), and the IPF since 1st October, the day the government started implementing fare hike at the rate of 5 paise per km. The CPI(M) all along declined to join the joint movement.

From the beginning the SUCI chalked out various programmes throughout the state and the movement gained in strength. On October 1, rasta-rokos were held at Kuakhia, Bhandari-pokhari, Bari and other places in which hundreds of comrades were arrested. On 8th October a joint programme of street squatting was held at Bhubaneswar and Jospipur and different forms of movement continued for several days throughout the state as a result of which thousands were arrested. The State Government then temporarily withdrew the enhanced fare and declared to review the fare in Assembly on 27th October in the face of a statewide rasta-roko.

On 27th October again a joint day-long dharna was staged in front of the Assembly House and as a result the government declared withdrawal of fare hike from 1st November.

Orissa anti-imperialist convention

Bhubaneswar, 12.11.92: A state-level convention against imperialists' neo-colonial attack was held at Bhubaneswar Bhanja Kala Mandap today with the renowned poet Padmashree Sachi Routroy, in the chair. Comrade R.P. Victor, Cuban representative, was the guest-in-chief. Among others who spoke were Dr. Birendra Nayak, Comrade Dhurjati Das and Dr. Indranil Chakraborty. Comrade Bejoy Sahoo, one of the conveners, outlined the objective of the convention and welcomed the guest-in-chief and others.

Comrade Victor dealt at length about the US imperialist aggression the world over and said its only aim was to subjugate Cuba. But the Cuban people under the leadership of Fidel would not surrender.

Padmashree Sachi Routroy in his presidential address condemned the US blockade on Cuba.

Comrade Mayadhar Nayak, Secretary, Orissa UTUC(LS), handed over a cheque of Rs.25,000 to Comrade Victor on behalf of the workers as a mark of solidarity. Comrade Binapani Das, President, Orissa MSS, in addition to the medicine worth Rs.15,000 sent earlier, donated a crate of medicines.

Demonstration before Kalimela BDO in Orissa

Jeypore (Orissa): Under the auspices of AIKKMS, Kalimela Block Unit, more than three thousand tribals including women staged a massive demonstration in front of the Block office on 30th October last.

The BDO who after initial dilly-dallying received the memorandum which, inter alia, demanded declaration of the entire block area drought affected, relief on

war footing, a paper mill in the area, among others. Then a meeting was held there addressed by the SUCI organisers, Comrade Biswanath Madhi and Sadasiv Das.

Commercialisation of Education resented

On behalf of AIDS O, Madurai-Anna Districts Committee, a symposium was held at Madurai on 20th October at Hotel Arima. Many educationists, teachers, students and parents participated in it. Com. Pasumpun, District Secretary of AIDS O presided.

Prof. Sankaranarayanan, former Senate member, M.K. University, condemned the attitude of Central and State Governments for granting meagre amount on education and that too, to be spent to elitist schemes like Navodaya School etc.

Prof. Dharmarajan, academic council member, M.K. University, criticised the self-financing concept of education. Sri. Premraj Amburose, President, Madurai Bar Association called upon the students to fight donation and capitation fees.

Com. Anandhan, Secretary, S.U.C.I. Madurai-Anna districts, asked the students to build up movements against all injustices.

Among others, Prof. Elamaran, Com. S. Palanisamy, TN State Secretary, AIDS O, Prof. Balasubramanian, Prof. Dinakaran, Com. P. Maharajan, President, AIDS O, Madurai-Anna Districts Committee and Com. Gopalakrishnan spoke.

A victory: An AIDS O delegation met the Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamraj University on 21st October and submitted a memorandum demanding the withdrawal of all fees increased by the University recently in spite of huge profit by the varsity through exam. fees. Due to the pressure of the student movement in different colleges under M.K. University at the initiative of AIDS O and other organisations the enhanced fees on different heads were reduced to some extent.

SUCI's anguish over apathy to the flood-hit

Expressing deep concern for the flood-stricken people of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Pondicherry Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI on 17th November last issued the following statement to the Press:

"No word is strong enough to express our anguish for total apathy shown to the flood-stricken people of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Pondicherry.

"We strongly feel that had the governments of these states had any sense of responsibility to forewarn the people of these states regarding the oncoming cyclonic storm and consequent flood, many lives and properties worth to the tune of crores of rupees could have been saved.

"We demand of the concerned state governments and the Centre to arrange for rescue and relief work in abundance on a war-footing.

"We also demand that adequate compensation to the families of dead, missing and affected people should forthwith be paid for their economic rehabilitation."

What happened in Hariharpara

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few other houses and on trees? Why did EFR not nab a single antisocial in the last two months when they came, but fired on the anti-crime rally? Why were there bullet marks on walls of adjacent houses, cornices, on a sweetmeat shop, even on walls at two-storey height? Why, violating the usual norm of salary payment on 2nd of every month did the SDO distribute the pay packet on 30th October and making the 2nd a virtual holiday ensuring absence of the employees? Why were two doctors summoned at the BDO office — an unusual measure to be taken in a law violation programme — although the health centre was not very far.

All these questions and thousand more point at one and only one incontrovertible fact that the butchery were a planned decision, and not an excess of the district police, who, as the trend indicates, are going to be the scapegoat.

But why should a government take resort to murdering its citizens? The question is a sad commentary on the state of the CPI(M), its corruption, its dependence on police, its alienation from people. Hariharpara is a haven for the smugglers. Crores of rupees are in play here involving the criminals, vested interests, ruling party and — protector of all these forces — police. Any ruling party, if that party strives to stick to power by hook or by crook, must submerge in corruption of all sorts. The CPI(M) leaders are deep in the process, breeding besides other evils, bitter gang rivalry, resulting in deaths even among themselves. Such internecine clashes, necessarily coupled with loot and plunder, rape and murder of common people, turned Hariharpara into a veritable hell.

While the interested persons were fishing in troubled waters, common people were the helpless victims. And when they ultimately rose in bold defiance, the administration smelled danger in it. To eliminate the danger they decided to mow down the people and thus silence them.

State news

Anti-liquor movement in Andhra Pradesh

Under the leadership of MSS, Andhra Pradesh anti-arack (liquor) movement spread out in the districts. It started in the district of Nellore in April '92, forcing the closure of liquor shops.

Different voluntary organisations, youth and women's organisations and intellectuals unitedly organised a rally of 50,000 women and youth and stopped the auctioning of arack. The movement then spread out and district-wise "united action committees against arack" were formed. The state Congress (I) government then took recourse to the help of police and hired goondas to open the illicit business. This prompted five women organisations like MSS, Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samakhya, Andhra Mahila Sangham, Progressive Organisation of Women and Telugu Mahila to launch a state-wide movement and a joint rally held on 28th September '92 in Hyderabad, which was addressed by Mr. Vavilala Gopal Krishnayya, a veteran freedom fighter and Com. G. Laliha, President, MSS State Committee among others.

This is the inexorable process that manifests the class division in our society distinctly. This has been responsible for the unbridled power of the police, their adamancy against the people, their connivance with antisocials, their protection from the ruling party. The ruling party also depends entirely on police, in this case the CPI(M) who came to power in West Bengal in 1977 only after ensuring their unquestionable service for the ruling class. Could they stick to power without remaining true to the capitalist class interest? Could they remain true to the capitalist class interest without going utterly against people's interest? And in this case would not they depend more and more on police and be estranged gradually from people?

Police in turn claims its rewards. It becomes wild, vicious and uncontrollable. And above them all, the capitalist class dances for joy.

This precisely is the state of West Bengal today!

Minor girl gangraped & murdered :

The body of Nurjahan Begum — a student of Class IX and the daughter of an SUCI worker Sheikh Mamlat who was forcibly kidnapped by armed criminals yesterday night from her home in Padmanabhpur under Hariharpara P.S. of Murshidabad, was found lying on the banks of the Bhairav today morning i.e. on 25th November. She was gangraped and then killed. The AIDS called a students' strike on 27th November in Murshidabad District, demanding severe punishment of the culprits, which has been a complete success.

Just one day back, on 23rd November, another girl student of class eight of Baruipara School was kidnapped by antisocials. Besides, dacoities are going on unabated. These are glaring evidences as to how serious is the administration in eliminating antisocial activities in Hariharpara.

TUs demand arrest of Guha Neogy murderers

On 28th September last, at the call of the All India Trade Union Sponsoring Committee comprising UTUC(LS), AITUC, CITU & HMS about ten thousand workers marched through the main thoroughfares of the city of Bhopal to submit a memorandum demanding immediate arrest of the murderer of the noted trade union leader Sankar Guha Neogy, punishment of the police officials responsible for ordering firing on the workers on 1st July demanding arrest of the murderer, holding a judicial enquiry into the murder, resignation of Patwa govt. etc. The marchers converged at Jahangirabad Square and held a meeting where Comrades K. D. Sharma and J. D. Barai (UTUC-LS), Samar Mukherjee (CITU), Indrajit Gupta (AITUC) and Ms. Kamala Sinha (HMS) spoke highlighting the above demands and exposing the BJP govt.'s nexus with the antisocials and capitalists. Comrade Badsha Khan of UTUC(LS) was one of the members of the presidium.

A similar programme on the above demands was held in Sagar town.

International Forum

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social life in our country today cannot be overlooked in view of the fact that burdened by ever-increasing problems and sufferings in their life, working people are awakening and are joining militant struggles at different places in more and more numbers.

If the proletariat can be roused, armed with the invincible weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thoughts to organise and conduct, through its vanguard revolutionary detachment, the struggles of the oppressed people on their day-to-day issues of sufferings and deprivations and to organise people's own instruments of struggle, conduct and combine those struggles into one single revolutionary battle and in its wake give birth from the grassroots level to the people's own alternative political power in the form of their organisations, then the proletariat and oppressed masses through sustained militant battle can surely overthrow the capitalist class from the state power, smash the bourgeois state apparatus and replace it by a new socialist state which will be nothing but the dictatorship of the proletariat and through more and more consolidation of socialism, it can lead the whole society to the goal of communism. The task reposed by history on the communists of India is precisely to advance this way.

SUCI's concern

(Continued from page 1)

modernisation while it ensures the super profit for the monopolists at the same time.

In order to divide the downtrodden and the exploited and weaken the democratic movement the ruling class always whips up issues like reservation, as they know it well that if the people unitedly wage a struggle against the sinister design of the ruling class, it would eventually become irresistible meaning thereby the end of their class rule for ever.

Again in the field of education the New Education Policy of the Centre has further deprived the students, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language of their right to education. Unfortunately, the parties in power at the Centre and in different states foment these caste feelings to ensure their vote banks with a view to reaping rich electoral dividend.

We, therefore, appeal to all well-meaning and democratic people to come forward and stop this fratricidal menace and to close their ranks to develop a sustained, broad-based countrywide mass movement on the demand of 'education for all and jobs for all' and to incorporate the same right in the Constitution. This alone can foil the design of the ruling class and pave the way for putting an end to all sorts of inequality and injustice prevailing today with regard to the scope of employment and education."

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