

Mao proved Lenin's thesis that revolution can be achieved by correct theory, correct revolutionary party and strategy of united front — NIHAR MUKHERJEE

The Centenary of Mao Zedong, the great Marxist leader, has been observed by our party through a year-long programme. The Central Committee took up the programmes with a view to cultivating the revolutionary teachings of Mao Zedong, conducive to develop revolutionary character and revolutionary movements. At the end of the centenary our party took up programmes in different corners of our country to remember the great leader of the proletariat. Exhibition of photographs of moments of the extraordinary life of Mao Zedong along with quotations from his speeches and articles were organised at Esplanade Metro Railway Station, Calcutta from 24th to 26th December, 1994 which was inaugurated by Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee. And on 26th December, the birthday of the great Marxist leader, a massive meeting was held at Esplanade East, Calcutta under the auspices of the West Bengal State Committee of our party, where our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was present as the speaker. Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee and West Bengal State Secretary, presided. The speech of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee is given below in brief.

At the outset, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said: Comrade Mao Zedong, whose birth centenary year we are observing, was not only the architect of Chinese Revolution, but also a great leader of the world communist movement. His emergence as a great leader did not come about all on a sudden. From his very childhood and early youth, he engaged himself in painstaking struggle to equip and mould himself bit by bit, and in the course of this life struggle Mao's thought and the great thinker Mao both emerged as the thought and the thinker cannot be separated. Pre-revolution China was a vast, backward, agricultural country whose people were subjected to two-fold exploitation at the hands of the imperialist countries and the feudal warlords simultaneously. By lifting up the people of the great land of China from medieval darkness — a people ruthlessly exploited and afflicted with poverty, famines, addiction and ignorance — Mao created history. And history, on its part, created him.

Continuing, Comrade Mukherjee said: Basing himself on the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism, its universal teachings, and concretising the same on the soil of China, Mao aroused the people of China steeped in

superstition and ignorance, and in order to do so he had to conduct incessant struggles within the party and outside, suffering defeats many a time but eventually going on from victory to victory. Through the Chinese Revolution, Mao Zedong concretely demonstrated the correctness of Lenin's thesis that in this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution beginning with the First World War, national liberation struggles can reach successful culmination only through fulfilling the three pre-conditions of a correct theory, a correct revolutionary party, its hegemony over the national liberation movement and the strategy of anti-imperialist united front. Not through bookish knowledge or his writings alone, but through life struggle in every sphere applying the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism in accordance with the concrete conditions in pre-revolution China did Mao concretise, develop and enrich Marxism-Leninism and arouse the masses of landless peasants, poor peasants, middle peasants and the middle class steeped in superstition and ignorance, instilling in them the advanced thinking of Marxism-Leninism. In the course of thus concretising and applying Marxism-Leninism on the Chinese soil and in the particular Chinese conditions, Mao had to face and overcome political-ideological adversaries, even from among those who professed Marxism in China — those who were recognized by the Comintern and the right and left deviationists within the communist movement in China. Mao

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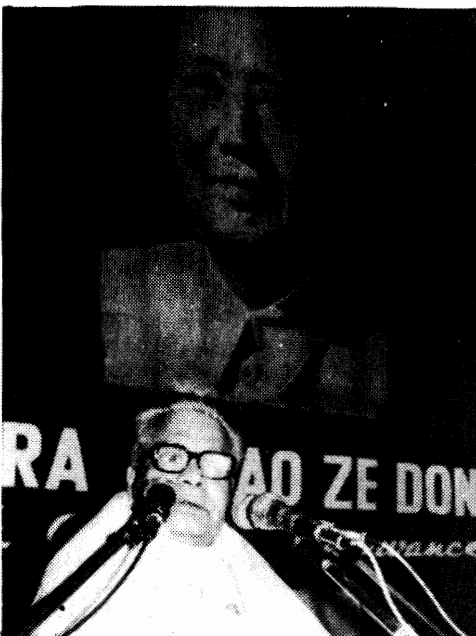
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showed that in order to concretely apply Marxism-Leninism in a country, one has to know thoroughly the history of the country, its people and their ideological world — in order to identify the tangled knots in social thinking that create confusion and complexity and tackle them concretely. This is one of the aspects of Mao's teachings that we especially revere.

Referring to the present setback in the world communist movement, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said: Today, in view of the present setback in the communist movement when the USA heading world imperialism has appeared as the biggest challenge before the people of the world, we have to learn from Mao, we have to understand deeply our country, its history and its people. Our emancipation is inextricably linked with the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in this country. We must take lessons from the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism, but unless we can thoroughly grasp the links between our struggle and the vast masses, we cannot stir them. The giant leaders of the proletariat from Marx to Mao have taught us how to arouse the masses and move towards the revolutionary culmination through traversing the path of political movement involving them. This was demonstrated in Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam. Our success will depend not on copying them or on slogan-mongering but on how deeply we can carry the revolutionary teachings within

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee delivering speech on 26th December, 1994 in Calcutta



A part of the gathering at Esplanade East, Calcutta on 26th December, 1994

On the Uttarakhand Question

The movement demanding a separate Uttarakhand state in Uttar Pradesh has added a new dimension with its own characteristics to the divisive politics of our country at a time when the narrow parochial politics has reared its ugly head throughout the country as a result of which a deep scar has been created in Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and even in Bihar and West Bengal.

This movement centring round the issue of reservation has assumed serious proportions in the hills districts of Kumaon, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Almorah, Nainital, Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Hrishikesh, Tehri Garhwal, Powri Garhwal and Chamoli in Uttar Pradesh. At present it is not confined to the anti-reservation issues only, the demand of a separate Uttarakhand state has also been added to it. The intensity of the movement has reached such a height that 14 people died on 1st September 1994 in Khatima and 9 people the next day at Mussouri in police firing as per the local newspaper account, though according to the State Government the number of deaths in Khatima was 3 and in Mussouri 6 including the death of a DSP. Apart from that, the people demanding a separate Uttarakhand State when proceeding towards Delhi to stage a demonstration were intercepted in Muzaffarnagar by the police who killed 10 people on the spot by firing, seriously injuring 10 others apart from inflicting injury on more than 100 people and even raping the women. Up till now, 33 valuable lives have been lost in this movement which erupted just after the government of Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party combine headed by Mulayam Singh Yadav announced 27% reservation for the educationally backward castes of UP. It is for the peculiar characteristics of the hills region that the demand for a separate Uttarakhand state could merge with this anti-reservation struggle of the people.

It must be admitted at first before everything else that it is the duty and responsibility of any civilized government worth the name to ensure the multi-faceted development and guarantee universal education and employment to all its citizens belonging to different nationalities, sub-nationalities, castes, tribes, religions and languages. But in this process it has to take the measures of reservation for the poorest and the most needy among them till education and employment are not possible to provide to all of its citizens. Here lies the necessity of the policy of reservation in the course of uplift of the standard of life of the people.

But let alone guaranteeing job and education for all the Central Government through its policies has been gradually curtailing the scope of these two basic needs. To reduce the deficit it has been reducing the allotment of funds for education. As a result let alone establishing new schools, colleges and universities, opening of newer classes for providing education to greater number of students has become impossible. Let us take the example of Lucknow University where the total number of students is 13,899 whereas the capacity of imparting proper education is only 2100. It is not difficult to understand what sort of educational standard can be maintained under the circumstances.

The new education policy of the Central Government has reduced education to a

commodity for profit making. The seats of admission in the educational institutions are being sold at a premium of lakhs of rupees in different states of the country. It has become the order in the capitation fee institutions to sell seats at a high amount resulting in dominance of the rich in the field of education. Following the Central Education Policy the Lucknow University has also announced that some seats of the university be reserved for those who would pay a fabulous amount of money.

Secondly, the Central Government has declared a moratorium on new recruitments in central jobs since the tenure of Indira Gandhi. Added to this is the impact of modernisation and retrenchment swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Within three years of implementation of the new industrial policy introduced by Narasimha Rao Government about 70,000 people have lost their jobs. Following the footsteps of Narasimha Rao Government the UP Government is now thinking to retrench a vast number of employees from Garhwal-Kumaon Development Corporation, Forest, Water and Construction Corporations. About 5,000 posts in different departments of the hills region are lying vacant for 5 years and the Mulayam Singh Government is not taking any steps to fill up the vacancy. Even the BJP government under Kalyan Singh did nothing substantial to fill up the posts nor remove the snags in the way.

Under the circumstances to raise demand for withdrawal of all anti-people policies of the Central and the state governments is a must for the sake of protecting the interest of the people irrespective of nationality, religion, region and language. To achieve these objectives the people will have to raise their voice and build up powerful and effective movements to force the government to increase outlay for education, open up newer schools and colleges, stall commercialisation and privatisation of education, remove barriers in the way and fill up the vacant posts, stall all the government plans and programmes which destroys job opportunity etc.

RESERVATION POLICY REDUCED TO INSTRUMENT OF VOTE BANK

The policy of reservation was first introduced in India in 1927 in the then Madras Presidency on the ground of development and uplift of the oppressed section of the people. But the experience shows that let alone development intended through reservation, the situation has aggravated further. Today different parliamentary parties are vying with each other to create and consolidate their vote bank by misusing the reservation policy. As a result the fruits are not being enjoyed by those for whom this policy was introduced and they remain as they were before. Rather the affluent among the reserved castes are grabbing all the benefits of the policy.

TAMILNADU

The leader of the AIADMK, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, who became Chief Minister of Tamilnadu as a result of factional feud in the DMK announced 68% reservation just before the 1982 elections. Later Mr. Karunanidhi of the DMK announced 69%, 1% more reservation, in

order to defeat the AIADMK. But all their promises of reservation got a jolt when the Supreme Court in its verdict said that in no case there could be more than 50% reservation. The Jayalalitha Government passed in the Assembly in 1994 January a resolution stipulating 69% reservation and forwarded it to Delhi for Presidential assent. The Central Congress(I) Government in July, 1994 passed this resolution in Parliament signed by all except two MPs who voted against it. As soon as this resolution was passed it became enshrined in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. It means that it has gone beyond the purview and jurisdiction of any court.

KARNATAKA

In 1976 the T. Venkataswami Commission, formed under the order of the Supreme Court to identify the backward castes of Karnataka, refused to recognise the Lingayats and Vokkaligas as the backward castes and repealed all the benefits enjoyed by these two castes under reservation. But these castes are so powerful in respect of number and political clout that in 1986 the then Karnataka Chief Minister in order to strengthen their political influence brought back these two castes under reservation declaring them backward. And in consequence when other backward castes raised a hue and cry that they were deprived of the benefits of reservation Mr. Hegde in the name of solving the problem raised the level of reservation up to 68%. After some time the Chinnappa Reddy Commission brought two castes beyond the purview of reservation and recommended 38% reservation instead of 68%. But Mr. Veerappa Moily, the Congress(I) Chief Minister, in the interest of winning elections discarded this recommendation and brought these two castes under reservation by creating 12% separate reserved class in rural areas. The result is that total reservation now came to 73%. But this also could not satisfy these two castes. They started raising questions as to what about the reservation of their urban brethren. And to raise the limit of reservation these two castes held a huge rally in Bangalore on 25th July, 94. But Mr. Moily declared 80% reservation 2 days prior to this rally keeping eye on elections. Like his counterpart in Tamilnadu the Karnataka Chief Minister Mr. Moily passed a resolution on 70% reservation in the Assembly on 20th September last and sent it to the Central government so that the Centre take similar steps as in case of Tamilnadu keeping it beyond the purview of the court and enshrine it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Mr. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, the Congress(I) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in order to defeat his political opponents through a declaration on 25th August, 1994 included 12 castes and communities with Kappus and the Muslims in the backward schedule. But these castes and communities were not deemed as backward and hence were kept beyond reservation. The Muralidhar Commission in 1982 refused to include the Kappus in the backward schedule. As a reaction to Chief Minister Reddy's steps when the poorer section of the backward castes complained to the government that by this the Kappus were grabbing all the benefits of reservation depriving others, the Chief Minister in order to

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satisfy them constituted the Puttuswamy Commission to identify anew the backward castes of the state.

MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra also does not lag behind others in consolidating the vote bank capitalising on reservation. Here also the Congress(I) government in order to fulfil its narrow political ends declared 4% reservation separately for the Dhangar and Banjar castes in 1993. But strangely enough the Banjars dominate a considerable portion of the trade and commerce in the state and the Dhangars are rich landholding castes. The well known Holkar dynasty belongs to this caste.

When again the nomadic community of Maharashtra raised protest that by this policy of the state government all the benefits of reservation were being cornered by the affluent, the government of the state in order to satisfy them declared separate reservation quota for these communities.

UTTAR PRADESH

Now in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar the Kurmis, Keoris and other backward castes are objecting to the fact that whatever benefit that is accrued from reservations is being grabbed by Yadavs because of their economic prosperity and political clout. The very backward castes even raised their voice against this in their recent demonstration in New Delhi. To further consolidate its narrow political ends the Mulayam Singh Government has announced 27% reservation for backward castes in the field of education. Immediately after this announcement the agitation in the entire hill region of Uttar Pradesh intensified. The contention of the hills people is that what is the rationale behind the 27% reservation for them when the backward castes constitute only 1.78% of the hill population. The hills people who have all along been the victim of government apathy apprehend that to fill up the 27% quota in educational institutions more than 25% of the students of the backward community from the plains would now crowd the educational institutions of the hills depriving students of the poor non-reserved community from getting admission into educational institutions in their own area. This would in turn force them to go to the plains in large numbers which would be much more costly.

The anomalies of the policy of the government is such that in some places very few seats are meant for the majority community whereas seats are being dumped on the minority. The objective of the reservation policy can never be such that through its operation a particular community will gain depriving the other. The operation of policy of the reservation ought to be such that people who have been deprived of education since ages should now have the opportunity to get themselves educated. Simultaneously, adequate care must be taken so that by such a policy other section of the people is not deprived of the opportunity to get education. But the Mulayam Singh Government, far from addressing the problem, is toying with the idea of increasing reservation

up to 62% to consolidate its vote-bank. The Laloo Yadav Government also in Bihar is actively advocating to push the percentage to as high as 80% keeping in view the above objective.

WHO GETS THE BENEFIT OF RESERVATION

It is true, when the students from the hills contend that the admission fees and education expenses are so high that there are 22 such schools in Dehra Doon the doors of which are virtually closed to them even though Dehra Doon is situated right in the hills. The number of students from the hills in those schools are negligible; the overwhelming number of students are from affluent families of the plains. Can the students from poorer section of the backward castes ever have entry into these schools even after reservation? The benefit definitely will go to the students of affluent families of such castes who now are spending fabulous amounts on the education of their wards long before the reservation policy was announced.

Can students of poor families of backward castes ever dream of admission paying lakhs of rupees as fees in capitation fee colleges which offer professional courses in medicine and engineering? The children of such families who need education more than others can never get entry into such colleges even if the policy of reservation is applied to these colleges. The benefit, whatever is there, will be grabbed by a rich few of reserved community.

Once again, let us take the example of Lucknow University. In the First Year B.A. where 324 seats are reserved for backward castes only 155 seats were filled up; as many as 169 seats remained vacant. Likewise in B.Com., 69 seats are filled up out of a total 81 seats, 12 seats remaining vacant. Even the seats which were filled up were by students coming from affluent families of such castes. The poor families who do not have means of even imparting primary education to their children can hardly think about the intricacies of seat reservation of a university.

RESERVATION AND THE SITUATION IN UTTARAKHAND

The economic situation in the hills of Garhwal and Kumaon is precarious and the people have hardly any scope for employment. Only 8% of the total area is cultivable and the average land holding is only half-an-acre. For this reason, in 1962 the entire area was declared backward. But successive central and state governments have not taken any concrete steps for the uplift of the area. The governments never cared to allot adequate investment for developing the entire region. As a result, the hills people in large numbers migrate to the plains in search of job. Almost 12 lakhs people from the hills are employed in sundry jobs in Delhi. In Lucknow this migratory population is around 1 lakh. A sizable number of the people in the region work in the armed forces of the country. The remittance of the people working in the plains is the major source of economic assistance of these families. The economy is so much dependent on these remittances that it is sometimes called a 'money order economy'.

The development of transportation system is a pre-requisite for any region's development. But the government has not yet taken any preliminary step in this direction. The climate of the hills is conducive to the growth of electronic industry whereas the government has not taken any such step. The area due to its location is also ideal for sheep rearing and the development of related industry, viz., making of woollen yarns, woollen garments, blankets, etc., hydel power in abundance can be harnessed from the rivers and rivulets of the area which have strong currents. Minerals can be obtained at minimum of costs. The land is also congenial for horticulture and above all, because of the scenic beauty of the area, tourism industry can really thrive. The development of all these sectors could have generated enough employment prospects so that the hills people were not forced to migrate to the plains in search of livelihood.

The Government endeavour for spread for education is minimal. Most often, schools lack permanent structure and even if there is a structure it hardly remains open. The hills people complain that most of the teachers hail from the plains who do not understand the language and culture of the local people nor do they try to imbibe the same. As a result, they remain absent from the schools and spend most of their times in their homes in the plains. Moreover, the schools are located as far away from the villages that it becomes almost impossible for small children to traverse difficult terrain to reach them. The number of junior high schools and colleges for higher education is abysmally low. Consequently, the percentage of educated persons is also very low. The students who want to get proper education have to go to the plains.

The state of communication is so precarious that even the seriously ill persons cannot always be shifted to hospitals, which anyway are very small in number. And like the schools and their teachers the few dispensaries that are there hardly remain open for patients. And doctors and other medical staff most of whom belong to the plains hardly remain in the hospitals.

This long standing apathy has resulted in a deep-seated feeling of deprivation in the minds of hills people who naturally think that the plains people are lordling over them. As outsiders, plains people are thought to have no attention over the development of the hills. The cumulative effect of all these is the bedrock of the growth of hills-subnationality psyche. This feeling motivates the people to raise their voice demanding a separate state of their own for their own development.

Successive government apathy towards development of the hills and at best deceptive lip service for development has added fuel to a fire of hills-subnationality feeling and in a way strengthened it. For example, at one point of time the government started giving contracts for felling of trees. As a result, thousands of trees were felled every year. These contracts which continued for years deprived the hills of their tree cover whose deleterious effect on the environment was almost immediate. The region faced a lot many landslides. To prevent the denudation of the forests the people of the region-- the womenfolk in particular-- undertook a militant movement which has become famous in history as the *Chipko* (tree hugging) movement. No amount of repressive

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actions of the government could defeat the movement. But government's policies which swing between the two extremes now became so rigidly environmentalistic that it suspended developmental works, the construction of roads in particular, when even a single tree has to be cut to build a road. This abrupt suspension of developmental works in the name of protecting the environment has only caused wrath and indignation among the local people.

Likewise, when the womenfolk protested against the government's decision to allow the sale of liquor in the hills they had to face the batons and bullets of the police. After a protracted militant movement the womenfolk succeeded in stalling the government's decision. But the government in its greed for more revenue and in the interest of the liquor mafia has again issued directives for the sale of liquor in the region. Now the government has invited industrialists to set up five-star hotels in the region by giving them land at 20% less than the market rate. The hills people who never witnessed theft, murder and such other vices apprehend that the new tourism policy of the government in its wake would invite all the concomitant evils of a consumerist five-star culture like ostentatious life-styles, alcoholism, cultural degradation and anarchy which would destroy the serene, plain and simple life-style of the hills people and make the hills a centre of decadent pleasure of 'eat, drink and be merry'. The hills people demand for such a plan as would boost tourism while keeping their culture and life-style unaffected.

The government's decision to demarcate panchayats within an area of 10 km radius with a population of one thousand voters has further agitated the minds of the people. The hills people complain that this panchayat model which is suitable for the plains is being unjustly imposed upon them because there are few places in the hills having a population of ten thousand voters as hills villages consist of hardly five to ten families and the voter-population is restricted to 20 to 50 voters. Therefore an area having 1000 voters may spread over many villages, the aerial distance between which may be 2 to 3 km but by foot they may be more than 8 to 10 km away from each other. Thus in the hills from the angle of communication a panchayat within a radius of 10 km is not a feasible proposition. A panchayat constituted by such a parameter cannot function effectively in the hills. The hills people had declared to boycott the panchayat elections scheduled to be held in October 1994, which however, have since been postponed.

This long practice of indifference and negligent attitude of the government has crossed the limit of all endurance of the hills people. Besides being oppressed economically, socially, culturally, government apathy towards developing the local Kumaoni and Garhwali dialects has also hurt the sentiments of the people. Under the veneer of anti-reservationist movement lies the people's genuine grievance of unfulfilled longstanding aspirations. Therefore, not only the students and the youths but the old people, womenfolk and even children are participating in the movements. The people who have rallied round the idea of hills-subnationalism and nationalism have given a

strident call to first give them the Uttarakhand State after which the issues of reservation and development could be settled. This hills-subnationality psyche has slowly but steadily grown from strength to strength due to the actions of the Centre and the state government. The feeling has since attained an explosive state and whenever there are people from the hills, they are participating in the movement often risking their lives. The driving force of the movement is the war cry of a separate Uttarakhand State.

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

To all the parliamentary parties, be it the Congress(I), BJP, Samajwadi Party or Bahujan Samaj Party, the main aim remains the same, to somehow create a vote-bank and consolidate it. All these trusted parties of capitalists are vying with each other and trying their best to serve the interests of capitalism which today is the stumbling block against the all-round development of human society. The creator and perpetrator of all the evils in people's life is capitalism itself. And all these parliamentary parties out to save capitalism from the inherent crisis are diverting people's attention by creating fake and fabricated problems which again, of course, help them to create vote-banks. Reservation is also such an artificial problem created and abetted by the parties of the ruling class in different states and at the Centre to bolster their vote-banks.

The Congress(I) which for long years has been ruling at the Centre and ruled the state of Uttar Pradesh has done precisely little for the hills except paying lip service. Now when the prospects of the party in the state has become miserable it has become a champion of anti-reservation movement in the hills, but at the same time in the plains it has remained an ardent advocate of reservation. As far as the BJP is concerned, it projects an anti-reservation image in the hills to rally round it the people of the so-called higher castes to consolidate a majority in the hills, predictably in the plains where the so-called backward castes form the majority, the party tones down its anti-reservationist stance. Further, it poses as the saviour of the backward castes in the plains. The BJP which ostensibly supports the formation of a separate Uttarakhand State, during its own rule in Uttar Pradesh, did precisely little except adopting a resolution in the State Assembly favouring Uttarakhand and forwarding the same to the Centre. Far from doing anything concrete for the development of the region, the BJP government, for the first time, devised a policy to sell alcohol three times more in the hills than before.

This party, the BJP, does not lag behind any other political party in the practice of murder, intrigue and conspiracy but is two steps ahead. From the beginning the leaders of the party were blamed for creating a situation which resulted in police firing in Khatima and Moosouri. Now, the party's hand in the barbaric police firing in Muzaffarnagar on October 2, has come out in the public. Conscientious observers and analysts are now of the opinion that it is most unlikely for the Mulayam Singh government to confront the people going to join a rally in Delhi demanding

Uttarakhand. The observers feel that the Mulayam Singh government which is not opposed to the concept of a separate Uttarakhand State, would not, in all probability, do such as would strengthen the position of its detractors. The reality has come out from the statements of the District Magistrate of Muzaffarnagar Mr A.K. Singh and the ADM Mr V. K. Pawar. According to the statements of the ADM, the Delhi administration had directed him not to allow any of the Uttarakhand supporters into Delhi without a proper search. In his interview on October 11, on the television programme *Newstrack* the DM has reiterated the statement of the ADM in still clearer terms. From the statements of these two high officials of the district administration it becomes clear that the BJP through its state government in Delhi has utilised the district administration of Muzaffarnagar to perpetrate such a heinous crime against the people demanding Uttarakhand. The conspiracy was profitable for the BJP since it expected that the consequent indignation of the people against the police high-handedness would undermine the Mulayam Singh Government and would give it a scope to fish in the troubled waters. The party to get political mileage even tried to capture the dais of the Delhi rally through its goons, to which the general public had reacted sharply. The BJP leaders allowed the Delhi administration, run by them, to treat the rallyists with teargas, water canons, batons and bullets. The crocodile tears the BJP sheds are directed only to consolidate the party's vote-banks.

Look at the role of the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party which openly boast of their practice of caste politics for which they do not feel an iota of shame. They are going whole hog to unite people of all scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward castes so that they can control of reign of power and administration. These two parties talk of uplifting the lot of the people belonging to the backward castes by imparting social justice for them. To end caste division by practising casteism is ridiculous for, can one remove filth by filthy means? These parties have a morbid fear of cleaner methods. They know very well that caste division cannot be obliterated by practising casteism. On the other hand, these dirty practices will only intensify hatred of one caste against the other. These parties favour polarisation between the so-called backward and forward castes as an electoral strategy and misuse the reservation policy towards this end. The SP-BSP State Government following the footsteps of the Congress(I) Central Government is introducing modernization, computerization and privatizing public sector units which results in the retrenchment and unemployment of thousands of people. They, however, are quite aware that privatization and computerization do not distinguish between castes. Their responsibility towards the development of the hills area has not gone beyond passing of a resolution in the State Assembly in favour of a separate Uttarakhand State and its subsequent forwarding to the Centre. After forwarding the matter to the Centre, the SP-BSP State Government has coolly washed its hands off. The government thinks its move worthwhile to organize riots on the issue of reservation, thereby consolidating its vote-bank. From the methodology of administration and planning of the UP State

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Anti-Congress(I) Outburst Confined To The Class Design of Foisting Two-party System

The recently-held elections to 4 state Assemblies have struck a severe blow to the Congress(I). It secured a mere 35 and 26 seats in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively and cut a very sorry figure in Sikkim and Goa. The results were the manifestation of how strong and deep-rooted the wrath and indignation the people have against the Congress(I) and its misrule. However, it has somehow managed to form a minority government in Goa in a hung Assembly with the hope of securing majority by engineering defection in the Opposition rank with lure of money and ministerial berth quite befitting the Congress(I) culture.

However, as the election results of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are far more important politically, naturally its impact on national political scene is far greater. The dismal failure of the Congress(I) have brought to the fore other than the strong indignation of the people against it the bitter infighting and group rivalry at all levels of leadership starting from the Central down to district. Leaders at different levels are engaged in trading charges and countercharges accusing each other responsible for the debacle.

WHY THIS CONGRESS(I) DEFEAT

The Congress(I), the most trusted agent of the ruling capitalist class, through its long tenure of office have made the life of the common people miserable by its anti-people policies and steps while granting various kinds of subsidies and subventions to the capitalists in the name of national interest thereby giving them more scope to reap fabulous profits to swell their pockets by flinching the people. The new economic policy, i.e. liberalisation, privatisation, modernisation and globalisation by opening the doors to the multinationals to rob the cheap raw materials and labour force of our country -- all in the interest of the monopolists--added fuel to the fire of exploitation. The exploitation, oppression, misrule, maladministration, nepotism, favouritism, bribery and rank corruption in the highest echelons of central and state ministries like the security scam, sugar scandal, Harshad Mehta-Narasimha Rao episode involving a bribe of one crore rupees caused a deep hatred among the people about the Congress(I) and its rule.

The bitter infighting and squabbles in the Congress(I) not over any principle or ideology but over power and pelf resulting in the setting up of rebel candidates in many constituencies were the order of the day. In Karnataka the group rivalry reached such a proportion that Mr Bangarappa, the former Karnataka Chief Minister, formed a separate organisation named Karnataka Congress Party (KCP) which took away a good chunk of Congress(I) votes. Added to this was the alienation of the Muslim voters who have en masse turned their faces away from the Congress(I) whose government at the Centre virtually allowed the Hindu fundamentalists to demolish the Babari Masjid before the very eyes of the custodians of law and order creating a deep scar in the Muslim psyche. All these factors caused strong hatred among the people against the Congress(I) and cumulatively contributed to its defeat.

VICTORY OF TELUGU DESAM PARTY AND THE JANATA DAL

The elections clearly indicate that the victory of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (JD) was not the culmination of the people's movement against the Congress(I)'s anti-people, corrupt and pro-rich policies and steps but the result of negative voting of the people in favour of those parties against the Congress(I). The people, whatever may be their political consciousness, voted en masse in favour of these parties to somehow dislodge the Congress(I) from power. And in this exercise the people did vote for such party or candidate as would be capable of dealing a crushing blow to the Congress(I). That is why we see that in Andhra Pradesh where the TDP could show a united face and run the hustings as a cohesive force in combination with the CPI and the CPI(M), the voters overwhelmingly voted for it and helped it to achieve a landslide victory and hence the BJP in spite of its best efforts could not make a dent there. Whereas in neighbouring Karnataka in the Janata Dal, which was torn by group rivalry headed by Deve Gowda and Ramakrishna Hegde, the people could not find a cohesive force. And the results reflected this factor as the BJP utilising the strong anti-Congress(I) feeling of the people bagged as many as 40 seats this time - 10 times more than it secured in the last Assembly elections.

CAMPAIGNING OF THE PARTIES

All the parliamentary parties like the JD and TDP which are contesting the elections have no basic difference with the Congress(I), not even with its economic and industrial policies. Rather, they directly or indirectly support these policies enunciated by the Congress(I) on a national scale meant solely for the interest of the monopolists of our country. Naturally most of their electioneering centred round some populist gimmicks. Though they vehemently criticised corruption, bribery, misrule, maladministration, favouritism, nepotism and factional feud of the Congress(I) and its government, it is everybody's experience that the same very parties indulge in all these evils whenever they are in power. But the people's hatred and wrath against the Congress(I) reached such a height that they forgot all these and mobilised behind all the gimmicks and cheap slogans of these parties. In Andhra Mr N T Rama Rao promised to supply rice at Rs.2 a kg and total prohibition of liquor if elected to power and these were the main planks of TDP's election campaign. The media, serving this exploitative system in the interest of developing and consolidating a two-party parliamentary system also at the state level, highlighted these slogans. The peculiarity of Andhra Pradesh is that it is inhabited by an overwhelmingly poor population and the rising prices of rice, the main cereal of the people, were beyond the reach of the common people. And to add insult to injury, was the liquor menace which ruined the families of the poor, lower middle class and the middle class. People who once during the TDP rule were supplied rice at Rs.2 per kg, were easily lured again with this catchy slogan. Secondly, the powerful movement against the liquor menace developed

at the initiative of the people and Mr Rama Rao took advantage of this movement led mainly by womenfolk and undertook a campaign touring extensively throughout the state against this social evil keeping eye on the ensuing elections.

To revert the hopeless situation in Andhra Pradesh, Mr Narasimha Rao, claiming himself as the genuine *Telugu Bidda* or son of the Telugus appeared on the scene to campaign for the Congress(I). To counter the slogan of 'rice at two rupees a kg' Mr Rao even promised to supply 10 kg of rice free of cost to each family of school-going children. But that did not click. If the level of political consciousness would have been a bit high, they could have put the Telugu Desam on the same footing as the Congress(I) because the TDP has no difference in policy and programme with the Congress(I). But their level of consciousness is not that low as to believe the promises of the Congress(I) which only promises to get over the elections and not to keep them. As a matter of fact, both the Congress(I) and the TDP were vying with each other to lure the electorate with false promises in which the TDP won the race.

In Karnataka in spite of factional rivalry between Deve Gowda and Ramakrishna Hegde and despite popular apathy towards the Janata Dal for various reasons the people voted it to power. Unlike the TDP, Janata Dal had no such organisational strength and earned more bad name when it was in power. It won riding the strong anti-Congress(I) wave. The Congress(I) riven by acute internal feud long back sensed its very bad election prospects much earlier and hence to tide over the crisis tried to woo the Muslim minority by starting news telecast in Urdu which they had to abandon ultimately. But it proved counter-productive on two counts. Firstly, centring round the issue, the BJP in collusion with other fanatic Hindu fundamentalist forces whipped up communal passion resulting in the death of 18 persons in communal riots in October in Karnataka. Secondly, it helped the BJP to win over a considerable section of the Hindu voters, the traditional vote-bank of the Congress(I). It may be mentioned here that the BJP which always capitalises the religious feelings of the Hindu voters to gain in elections also for the same purpose engineered communal riots in Hubli on 15th August last year. Another reason for the BJP's success is that in some constituencies the Janata Dal put up such candidates as were deemed by the voters not capable of defeating the Congress(I), their main target. So to defeat the Congress(I) they chose the BJP. This is the real story behind the BJP's success. However loud the BJP leaders may clamour for their performance is it not a fact that the BJP this time contesting in almost all the seats in this state could secure only 27% of votes, 2% less than the last time? Their total number of votes decreased whereas the seats increased ten-fold for these reasons.

THE EUPHORIA IS BOUND TO WITHER AWAY

So the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal came to power riding the crest of anti-Congress(I) wave not created by any sort of
(Contd. on page 6)

People's Resentment Must be Channelised to Develop Democratic Struggles Conducive to Revolution

(Contd. from page 5)

anti-Congress(I) movement but as a natural corollary to the utter anti-people policies and steps of the Congress(I) governments and their corruption, bribery, misrule and factional feud. It is to be seen how far they keep the promises and honour the people's verdict. But it is an undeniable truth that change of government through elections cannot bring real relief to the people because so long as this exploitative capitalist system remains in tact, all the basic problems of the people will go on accentuating, late alone being solved. In no time, the hopes of the people are bound to be belied and it may so happen that the people being frustrated will bring back Congress(I) to power again to teach these parties a good lesson. This is the vicious circle of parliamentary democracy in which the ruling class of our country is trying hard to arrest the people. To provide rice to the people at Rs.2 a kg the Rama Rao government has either to burden the people with more tax or curtail money allotted for health, education and other social security and public utility services the brunt of which again will have to be borne by the people. Further, what almost all the parliamentary parties are practising is nothing but bribing the people with this or that facility. Rice at Rs.2 or 10 kg of rice free of cost is nothing but the alms thrown away to the people in disgust like the vainglorious rich do is no doubt an insult to the people.

After assuming office Mr Rama Rao has ordered prohibition. But can he wipe out alcoholism which is the off-shoot of this society? Can he stop selling liquor in black market that thrive in collusion with police and administration? Can he stop selling of liquor in the hotels, the places of pleasure of the rich? Will not these sources trickle down to the lowest stratum of the society who will buy liquor paying more money thereby ruining their families? Already on 29th December '94 the TDP government through an ordinance, to be effective from 15th of January '95, prohibited liquor but allowing *toddy* and restricted permission of liquor to the tourists both Indian and foreign.

Further, both Mr Deve Gowda and Mr Rama Rao the newly elected Chief Ministers supported the economic policy of the Congress(I) and invited the foreign multinationals to invest in their states. That means they are on the same line with the Congress(I) and out to consolidate this exploitative capitalist system at the cost of the common people of our country.

THE ROLE OF CPI AND CPI(M)

These two parties have been elated to see their increased strength in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. They achieved it being the appendage of the TDP. They are not interested in developing and did not develop any movement of the people. In West Bengal, where they are in power, they are ruthlessly crushing whatever movement is developing with the help of the administration and party workers. The only difference in other states where they are not in power is that they sometimes give a posture of movement only to win the support of the people. In spite of our best efforts to unite all the Left and democratic forces of the country to develop people's movement against the

anti-people policies of the government they virtually remained indifferent to it. Rather, in order to gain some seats in elections they come to understanding with this or that party throwing principle to the four winds. Whatever may be their apparent postures from these steps of their, their various moves in Parliament and their recent utterances in support of the new industrial policy and the industrial policy adopted by the West Bengal Government bear enough testimony to the fact that they want to serve and not to disturb the present system of exploitation. They want to befriend the class enemies and reactionaries who have been making the life of the people unbearable.

After the victory of the TDP and the JD and its better result in Andhra Pradesh the CPI(M) is now dreaming of reviving the National Front-LF combine. In Orissa they are out to stealthily come to an understanding with the out and out anti-people and corrupt Biju Patnaik government and dissociate themselves from the 7-Party combine, which has emerged with the object of building up mass movement, on the plea that in case of opening of a third front, a strong possibility of Congress(I) comeback will be there. They are following the same policy everywhere keeping eyes on the parliamentary gains only. There is nothing of people's interest in all these moves of theirs.

CONGRESS(I) IN VERY BAD SHAPE

The defeat in four states has severely affected the Congress(I) psychologically and organisationally. The whole Congress(I) from the leaders down to the workers are a demoralised lot. The defeat has accentuated the contradiction and conflicts at all levels. The Human Resources Development Minister Mr Arjun Singh has already resigned. And before that the Congress(I) High Command to maintain the unity of the party and give a show of anti-corruption step made the scandal-tainted ministers B.Shankaranand, Rameswar Thakur and Kalpnath Rai tender their resignation. Mr Narasimha Rao who himself is accused of taking bribes from Harshad Mehta and also is allegedly involved in the security and sugar scams is passing his days in agony. To free it from deep morass the leaders of the Congress(I) are devising various means like pro-poor policies, anti-corruption measures, lenient budget and apology to the Muslims for Babari Masjid demolition to refurbish its image. Some are even thinking in terms of introducing pro-poor new economic policy, etc. The crisis, conflict and contradiction are the manifestations of crisis of capitalism erupted at the political level. Whatever may be the steps these are meant to hoax the people again in view of the ensuing elections to 6 state Assemblies.

THE SESHAN EPISODE

The media of our country have started painting these elections as fair and free because of the steps and means adopted by the Chief Election Commissioner Mr T.N. Seshan. But the reality speaks outwards. Contrary to the propaganda this election was not also free from the influence of money, media, muscle power and administration. In a large area of Andhra Pradesh and in some pockets in Karnataka the

voters could not exercise their franchise freely and without fear as elections there were marked by violence. As regards flow of money, the less said is better. Unending flow of money were the features of these elections. Almost all the parties indulged in these heinous and unethical means. Even liquor in pouches were supplied to the voters in order to purchase their conscience. Could Seshan stop these? He can stop the spending of money in the open but the undercurrent of money can in no way be checked if the resistance is not put up by the politically conscious voters. The media remained silent as if they did not see all these evils. If the ruling powers in collusion with the administration indulge in silent administrative rigging in order to bring to power its party or combination of parties of choice what is the prescription of Mr. Seshan regarding that? And practically this thing has been going on in the country since long. Then why are the media so vociferous about T.N. Seshan painting him as the messiah of making the elections really free and fair?

Because, highlighting Seshan as a saviour has a far sordid design of the ruling capitalist class who in order to perpetuate the rule of capital wants to maintain the myth of parliamentary system in tact as long as possible. And in that case, elections are indispensable. The ruling class has found out that for violence, rigging, booth-capturing, role of money power and muscle power, etc., the elections are fast losing their credibility among the masses. And this is a danger signal for the capitalists. Because if the people begin to think that they cannot change their lot through elections then it will pave the way for revolution which means the end of their class rule. The capitalists cannot allow this thing to happen. So in order to refurbish the credibility of elections in their own interest, the ruling class of our country through various means and media propaganda is trying to create a halo around Mr Seshan in order to regain the faith of the people in the elections and arrest them in parliamentary politics.

It is true that some parliamentary parties are vociferous against some steps of Mr. Seshan. But their anti-Seshan stance in turn has been helping him become more and more popular among the masses who have developed a strong hatred and indignation against these parties who to win elections have been unabashedly and nakedly abusing government power and using money and muscle power. It is also a clever ploy of the bourgeoisie to build an image of Mr. Seshan. It does not necessarily mean they do not have any contradiction with him. They come in conflict with Mr. Seshan when a particular step of him creates problems in fulfilling their particular end in the polls. It is a contradiction between the general and the particular and it has nothing to do with making the elections free and fair. No parliamentary party will expose this heinous design of the ruling class because they want to sustain this system.

It is in the interest of the people that this nefarious game of the bourgeoisie must be laid bare thoroughly. And to do that, a strong united movement of the people centring round the burning problems of their life must be developed under the banner of a genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat.

Opponents of revolution are mere paper tigers

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the masses. The advanced level to which the concepts of dialectical and historical materialism, Marxism-Leninism have been brought by the great leaders Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh — everything depends on how far the organizers and workers have been able to master it in life to attain communist character. Those who will organize revolution in the country must have to grasp correct revolutionary theory, strategy and base political line, but only this will not suffice. These are very important no doubt, but by practice of revolutionary theory Lenin meant a comprehensive socialist movement in the society and later on Comrade Ghosh stressed the struggle covering all aspects of life in order to integrate the fundamental teachings of Marxism-Leninism with practice in every sphere, in the lives of party leaders, workers and the people — so as to bring about a cultural revolution. This is what Lenin meant in his saying that cultural revolution precedes technical revolution.

Continuing, Comrade Mukherjee said: Mao showed that the opponents of revolution who are in state power and armed to the teeth are tigers only so long as the masses are not aroused, but in the face of historical force embodied in conscious revolutionary masses, they are impotent and mere paper tigers. But Mao also held that it was far more difficult to protect, consolidate and advance the revolution subsequently than to organize it in the first place because after the revolution the class enemies do not confront you directly and cannot be identified and pinpointed so easily. Force of thinking and habits of old society persist within the people and the fight assumes the nature of one against an unseen enemy, so to say. Such hangover from the old society persists in even the party workers and leaders. Capitalist-roaders, actual or potential, exist in society, among the people and within the party itself. Cultural revolution concerns itself with the whole political-ideological-philosophical superstructure of the society — combating old reactionary thinking and habits, a legacy of the past, remoulding the party leaders, the rank and file and the vast masses of the people. As a process, it is ever on-going. That is why Mao spoke about the necessity of a series of cultural revolutions as the sure guarantee for protecting the fruits of the revolution, consolidating and advancing the revolution throughout the period of onward march to Communism.

Regarding the present situation in India, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said: The question of how to secure two square meals pervades the contemplation of the bulk of the people — hunger tends to drive away social thinking. Besides this, there are the machinations of social democracy, the compromising force between labour and capital, to confuse the masses and lead them astray. The attack on the people is not only in the economic and political fields. The economic exploitation embodied in the GATT is not the only thing. There are the strong remnants of feudal superstition in the society. To extend its lease of life, moribund capitalism is distorting philosophy, hatching conspiracy in the superstructure to confuse and mislead the people and embroil them in fratricidal strifes. The spurt in cultivation of revivalism taking advantage of the ideological vacuum in the country and the

danger posed by the communal politics of BJP are parts of this design of the ruling capitalist class of the country. The more the mask of the bourgeois parliamentary democracy is being torn off revealing its barbarous essence, the more are the attempts to gloss it over, to hoax the people by various means. What is the force that can counteract all these attacks, machinations, hoaxes, confusions? Lenin said that education brings about consciousness, consciousness brings about revolution. It is our task to bring the light of knowledge into the masses — not bookish education but true knowledge. We have to know minutely about the natural world, history, society, economy, politics and state structure in order to grasp the hidden laws which operate in and govern these spheres and to strive accordingly to accelerate these law-governed processes to bring about evolution or change. It is not sufficient if only the leaders know and learn all this. The party workers too must acquire this knowledge and spread it among the masses. Knowledge becomes invincible when the vast masses are imbued with it. However difficult it may be, our task is to instill consciousness in the masses even if they go hungry, so that they may be able to grasp the root cause of the basic problems afflicting their lives and find the way out. Our success depends on how quick they can grasp this. The responsibility rests upon us to disseminate knowledge, to dispel superstitions, to make the people conscious about the historical course of social development and to organize them on correct base political line so that the present exploitative capitalist system can be historically exhausted in all aspects and we can move towards anti-capitalist socialist revolution. To achieve this, first of all, the party leaders and workers must educate and train themselves to attain the requisite standard. A teaching of Mao, which he adopted from Marx, is very significant in this context. Marx had said that the educators of the working class should have to be educated first. Mao put it like this that to be a good teacher, one should be a good pupil first.

Continuing, Comrade Mukherjee said: End of our party's one year programme to observe Mao Centenary Year does not mean end of our study and cultivation of Mao's thought. What we have achieved in this one year is precious little. We have to continue study of different aspects of Mao's life struggle, thought and teachings in greater depth to learn what Mao achieved and how. For example, the historic Long March. It was not merely a glorious strategic retreat unparalleled in history but through it Mao created a new revolutionary stir and atmosphere in the whole of China. During the tortuous Long March of several thousand kilometers across China, Mao and his revolutionary army crossed en route many a natural barrier of river and mountain and in the face of travails, hardships, hunger and death fought many a bloody battle against the Kuomintang Army and armies of the feudal warlords on the one hand, while on the other they spread the message of revolution, created a new stir and hope arousing the masses wherever they passed through, becoming identified with the vast masses of China. Without this, the subsequent setting up and preservation of the liberated regions in the face of ceaseless attacks by the armies of the Kuomintang and the warlords would not have been possible. The form of Soviet organization that Mao adopted, taking into

account the specific features of Chinese condition — a pre-capitalist, self-sufficient localized agricultural economy — those organizations not only managed the economic activities but developed the people politically, looked after their education, health and culture, bringing about all-round development of the people under their

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Uttarakhand

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Government, it becomes clear that the SP-BSP combine is the trusted agent of the capitalist class in the state and it can undertake any sordid means for the sake of its vote-bank.

The activities of all the parliamentary parties make it clear that they are taking full advantage of the people's gullibility and the low level of political consciousness to brighten their electoral prospects. These parties are now eager to take advantage of the hills-subnationality psyche of the people. The State Government can now divert the attention of the people by saying that the ball is now lying in the Centre's court because according to the Indian Constitution, a separate state can be created by the Centre only. But just creating yet another state will not lead the people anywhere. The Centre has to allocate enough resources for the comprehensive development of the area. To remove the sense of neglect and deprivation from the minds of the hills people, it is essential to elevate the people economically and educationally by establishing industries, schools and colleges, promoting horticulture and animal husbandry, developing tourism, keeping in view the local needs and ensuring medical facilities, drinking water and electricity for the people. Side by side, the Kumaoni and Garhwali dialects must be developed.

It is essential to keep in mind that for people of all regions, castes, language and belonging to different regions who are engaged in different economic activities, be they industrial workers, sharecroppers, poor peasants or agricultural labourers, the root cause of all their problems of life remains the same. There is in fact no contradiction whatsoever in this regard between the poor working people of the so-called backward caste with that of the poor working people of the so-called forward caste. The prevailing capitalist order of the country has cast its poisonous spell on every field of social life of poor and working people belonging to every caste.

To remove these poisonous consequences from their lives and to open up the vista of all-out development of society, the working people must unite to uproot the root cause of all these, i.e. capitalism. And this unity is essential since the ruling capitalist class is using, and will be using, the lack of unity among the working class to perpetrate its oppressive rule. Therefore, it is imperative for the working class now to discern that the root cause of all the malaise of the society, their common enemy, is capitalism. To destroy this monster the working class has to stand like one man. It devolves upon the working people of the so-called higher castes to take the task of improving and strengthening their bonds with the working people of the so-called lower castes and in the process assimilate with them. The abolition of casteism and social stigma like untouchability should be the primary task of the working people of the so-called higher castes.

Let people examine the lifestyle of our cadres, organisers and leaders without sparing even topmost leaders

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charge. The people were mobilized, men and women alike on equal footing, and trained to manage their own affairs. Without this, awakening could not have come among the vast half-fed, half-clad masses of China, nor the revolutionary vitality and enthusiasm of the people released. Thus, even while forced into the strategic retreat of Long March traversing several times the distance between the Himalayas and the Kanya Kumari, Mao succeeded in consolidating and strengthening the forces of revolution opening up the path to revolution even amidst grievous losses. Mao succeeded not just because of his brilliant political acumen and wisdom and leadership qualities but because of his deep knowledge of China — its history, geography and society, because of his deep insight of the Chinese people, their mental make-up. The essence of the Long March was that it steered the masses into organizing themselves as masters of their destiny. It was, in effect, the emergence of people's own political power. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us that successful culmination of revolutionary movement could come about only through generation of people's own political

power as their own alternative. Comrade Ghosh showed that in the concrete conditions in India we have to develop widespread and protracted mass movements, build up the people's struggle committees as the people's own instruments of struggle and a strong volunteer corps to guide the mass struggles to higher and higher stages through twists and turns in order to pave the way for emergence of people's own political power. This is the cardinal task.

In conclusion, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said: We have to heighten our consciousness. We have to heighten the consciousness of the masses, to educate and train them to create a comprehensive atmosphere of socialist movement in the country covering all aspects of life, establishing intimate links with the masses at all levels. We invite criticism by the people. Let our philosophical and political stand and mode and style of organizational work be examined and criticised. Let the lifestyle and conduct of our cadres, organisers and leaders be examined without sparing even the topmost leaders — whether their life and conduct are in accordance with Marxist-Leninist principles. A

decision of our Plenum held at Cuttack in October last was to unleash a countrywide struggle for elevation and rectification within the party. This is the surest means for maintaining and improving the party's health. In course of the New Democratic Revolution Mao Zedong had to conduct several rectification campaigns within the Chinese Communist Party. Our struggle against deviations of all sorts is going on in the 18 states and centrally administered regions of the country where we operate, and this will continue. In order to meet the present challenge of the attacks on the people of the world being perpetrated by imperialist forces headed by US imperialism, we have to build up a strong worldwide anti-imperialist movement and to generate through this a militant peace movement all over the world conducive to the people's struggle for emancipation everywhere. The present setback to socialism is a temporary phenomenon. The historically determined course of social development from feudalism to capitalism and then from capitalism to Communism through the transitional phase of socialism between the two, is ever valid. There is awakening from country to country; people in the countries where counter-revolution has succeeded for the time being, are coming out in thousands on the streets with red flags and portraits of Lenin and Stalin in hand. The wheels of history will turn forward again.

AIMSS Movement Attains Victory

Humanity is absolutely degraded in modern society and most palpable in its dealing with our womenfolk. Molestation, torture, sale, rape, killing, etc., have now become the order of the day. The nauseating picture is true in every province of our country whether run by Congress(I), Janata Dal, BJP or the pseudolefts. The AIMSS is building up movements against every sort of humiliation on women in every state according to its organisational strength.

Around Calcutta the AIMSS through movements has been successful to bring some positive results against such criminal acts. They are stated below.

Lalto (22) and Lolita (18) belonging to a poor family of south-west Calcutta were lured in the name of giving jobs and were sold by an old woman at Sahjahanpur in UP. Despite general diary at Taratolla P.S., the police did nothing about it. After a few days Lalto managed to flee and reached Calcutta. Women along with common men of the locality started movement against the police inaction and pressed by mass movement the Police, from their headquarters Lalbazar, went to Sahjahanpur along with Lalto and saved Lolita. Police also were compelled to arrest the culprits.

Ajmera Bibi, inhabitant of Akra locality under Maheshtala PS, also was kidnapped and sold at Gwalior. Here too, under pressure of movement built by AIMSS the police arrested the culprits and rescued Ajmera Bibi from Gwalior. But urged by a leader of the 'Left Front' government police freed the women traffickers. The AIMSS again started movement and the police were compelled to arrest the culprits again.

The incident of Akhtari Bibi is another instance. A mother of four she was a poor vegetable vendor. Another vegetable vendor with the help of criminals burnt her face with acid and she turned blind. Her father was a supporter of the ruling Forward Bloc. He sought help from his party and also from CPI(M). But to his dismay he saw how the ruling parties made allout attempts only to save the culprits. In this case also the police remained inactive. The AIMSS started movement, gheraoed police station, gave deputation to the chief secretary of the WB Government. Our MLA Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar raised the issue and two photographs of Akhtari Bibi, one before and another after her face was deformed by acid, were produced in the court. Under pressure of sustained movements the police arrested the culprits, Rs. 10,000 was given to Akhtari Bibi and the government was forced to take the responsibility of her treatment and her sons' education.

In the same locality, the husband of Putal was moving freely after burning her alive. The police remained inactive in spite of complaints. In this case also the police were compelled to arrest the murderer after a movement was built up by AIMSS.

In Behala PS, adjacent to Maheshtala PS, Manasi Kundu was burnt with acid by a criminal who fled and moved the court for anticipatory bail. The women led by the AIMSS demanded not to grant anticipatory bail to such a criminal and in consequence the culprit was arrested.

In the Regent Colony, in Tollygunge, Calcutta, a housewife was tortured and the AIMSS stood by her side and compelled the police to arrest the culprits.

18-year old Sonia had to leave for her father's abode with her 8-month old child as a result of torture on her in her father-in-law's

house. The AIMSS movement forced her father-in-law to give back all the huge dowry which they took in marriage.

Shanta Bhattacharya mysteriously disappeared from her father-in-law's house since 24th November last. The police initially didn't take any step. In this case also the AIMSS built up movement. The police came down heavily on the struggling women, as a result of which there was a commotion and common people along with the women put up a road block. The result was that Shanta Bhattacharya's husband and his brother were arrested. Shanta still remains untraced while AIMSS is continuing its movement.

AIMSS is continuing movement in the locality against widespread anti-social activities like torture on women, drug trafficking, exhibition of blue films, etc. Of late the AIMSS has taken initiative to build up a legal aid forum to help the tortured women and their families free of cost. To bring the incidents more to the public notice the Calcutta District Committee of the AIMSS invited newsmen to a Press Conference at the AIMSS office on 2nd November last in which the tortured women were present and they described their harrowing experience to the Press. In this meet were present AIMSS State Vice President Comrade Gayatri Dasgupta, State Secretary Comrade Sadhana Chowdhury and Calcutta District Secretary, Comrade Hasi Hore.

AN - ANNOUNCEMENT

The price of the *Proletarian Era* will be Rs. 2.00 per copy from the current issue. The rates of Yearly and Half-Yearly subscription will be Rs. 52.00 and Rs. 26.00 respectively. We are compelled to do this for acute crisis and abnormally high price of paper.
—Editor

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