

Make the SUCI Plenum a grand success

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary, on the eve of the All India SUCI Plenum at Cuttack, 4th-9th October, 1994, held in a Press Conference at the central office, 48, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta, on 27th September. The following is his Press briefing :

"The all India Plenum of our party will be held at Cuttack from 4th to 9th October, 1994. A Reception Rally will be organised on 4th October, 3 p.m. at the Balijatra Maidan, Cuttack. The venue for delegate sessions will be 'Saheed Durga Hembram Mandap' (Barabati Stadium), named after martyr Comrade Durga Hembram, an SUCI worker and valiant Adivasi leader murdered in jail. The delegate session will commence on 5th October morning after hoisting of the Red Flag and garlanding of martyrs' column.

Ominous developments, since 1990, beginning with the collapse of the socialist camp and realignment in global politics, have greatly benefited the US-led imperialist war camp and brought in its trail repercussions far and wide affecting India also. On all this, our party had taken clear and consistent stand. Nevertheless, our Central Committee feels an abiding necessity for the entire party to make a thorough re-appraisal of these retrograde developments — imperative for carrying out its revolutionary tasks internationally, nationally and also organisationally. With this in view, delegates representing 17 states and one Union Territory of India will attend this Plenum.

Revisionist degeneration, bringing collapse of the socialist camp, also nullified the deterrent role of the USSR, which made bold the US imperialism. Abetted further by its allies and the UNO reduced to its rubber-stamp, it went on a rampage -- intimidating Cuba and North Korea; invading Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Panama, Haiti and other weaker nations; dictating terms to others, in short, lording over the world. The USA is outpaced today, in global economic competition, by the EEC led by Germany and in Asia, by Japan. The GATT agreement has brought no solution, but only intensification, of trade war among these 'powers'. Peace and stability is therefore an anathema to the USA, particularly, and imperialism generally. Consequently, the 'new world order' holds the world hostage to

increasing imperialist intrigue, intervention and war.

But at the same time, the developing capitalist countries of the world also are doing what they can, under the present circumstances, to resist imperialist and particularly the US imperialist domination. Of course, the more advanced ones amongst them, e.g., India play a dubious role; appeasing imperialism for furthering their own expansionist designs; but also opposing it when their interests are seriously threatened.

Besides, although colonial rule has been abolished in most countries, the liberation struggles in the remaining semi-colonies and colonies are significant events. All these demand serious attention and study by those who want to see a world free from imperialist domination.

Yet more significant is the sharp increase in popular hatred and indignation in the imperialist strongholds in Europe and Asia. 'Market economic reforms' — wreaking havoc with millions upon millions — have boomeranged. In the erstwhile socialist USSR, turned capitalist through revisionist treachery, workers had already confronted the new bourgeoisie, crying: Soviet, Soviet! There are demonstrations with portraits of Lenin and Stalin and the Red Flag. These facts would not heed the imperialists' clamour that 'Socialism is doomed for ever'. History obliges not capitalist fancy. It shows the present setback to be temporary and world socialism and communism to be inevitable.

We are firm that today's supreme task is uniting all anti-imperialist forces in a broadest possible worldwide militant peace movement conducive to emancipation struggles everywhere with the communists acting as its core.

The Indian capitalist society, as part of the crisis-ridden moribund world capitalist order, had been plunged in crisis, one after another, since long — ruining the people, pushing down their purchasing power abysmally, leading to an absolutely shrunken home market. Indian big monopoly houses had long been trying, therefore, to gain a foothold in the global market.

In the changed situation, they opted for collaboration with US and other imperialist-capitals, through the IMF, the World

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Bank, the ADB, etc., etc. This brought the new economic and industrial policy, liberalisation, mechanisation, privatisation, and devaluation, hyperinflation and en masse closure, retrenchment pushing the Indian people on the verge of destitution and India into the debt trap. These have abnormally swelled fraud, speculation and corruption of all descriptions, the security scam is only the tip of the iceberg. Raging consumerism is eating away all values, virtues and finer feelings and is abnormally shooting up immorality, criminality, extreme self-centricism and apathy to social cause.

Worse, parliamentary parties of the country are all committed to the unhindered implementation of these very policies. Being part of the system and out to further their narrow parliamentary interests, they fan up all religious, caste, communal and parochial issues and provoke fratricidal bloodbath. The greatest casualty of all these has been the unity of the people.

All these with their dire consequences, internationally and nationally, are pushing the toiling Indian masses, along with the toiling masses everywhere, towards an abyss, while at the same instant, their piled up indignation is on the point of explosion. In this situation, this Plenum of our party is going to thoroughly review the entire gamut of this turnaround in order to develop class and mass struggles in India and a militant peace movement the world over by uniting all progressive and democratic parties, forces and individuals — preparing the entire party to be equal to the task".

Row over Action Taken Report reveals

Govt. and the Opposition are out to shield corruption

The three-week long political drama enacted in Parliament from 27th July to 16th August last on the theme of Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the security scam nakedly exposed the politics of consensus, utter corrupt character of the government and the heinous role of the Opposition in helping the Central Congress(I) Government to shield corruption.

Whatever may be their differences in colour all the parliamentary parties including the so-called left have become part and parcel of the establishment and are virtually translating the will of the ruling capitalist class into reality. In their inner soul they have become the confidants of the capitalists in defending the corrupt system based on injustice, exploitation and oppression. The parliamentary furore of the recent past substantiated the fact.

The drafting of the JPC Report bears enough testimony to the fact that all the political parties

in Parliament in their own respective interest are practicing the politics of consensus. So we see that the representatives of the JPC presented a report based on the policy of "give and take" with a spirit of accommodation which is nothing but maintaining the status-quo. In the name of unearthing truth what they virtually did was to suppress the truth. Whatever might be the JPC's avowed declaration if its purpose was to anyhow submit a unanimous report for the sake of unity, then its first victim could not but be the truth itself and it is destined to fail in its objective of bringing to book the culprits responsible for the share market scandal and recover the thousands of crores of public money swindled through the scam. Though some members published their opinion in the newspaper in their individual capacity. But what ultimately came out in the report was that the main culprits who committed crime against the country were allowed to go scot free and to befool the people they indicted some who only played a side role in the scam.

Why did then the JPC members took a very lenient attitude towards the Finance Minister Mr Manmohan Singh who on behalf of Rao Ministry introduced the new economic policy and liberalisation which are responsible for the serious irregularity and indiscipline in top government financial institutions and finally the security scam? That the share scandal was the direct offshoot of the Rao government's economic policy was amply evident from Mr Singh's own admission and claim on the floor of Parliament on 27.3.92 and then on 31.3.92 on the unprecedented and abnormal boom in the stock market that 'this boom was the manifestation of success of his programme of liberalisation and new economic policy'. It may be mentioned here that about two months prior to his declaration the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 31.1.92 had warned the government that 'something wrong was going on in the share market'. But strangely enough, when there was (Contd. on page 6)

Indian Army in Somalia

Imperialist design behind peace-keeping facade

The common Indian people had almost forgotten that as many as 18,000 Indian troops are deployed in far-off Somalia for 'peace-keeping' operations in that country, torn by civil war, famine and death. On 22.8.94 came the shocking news of the death of 9 Indian soldiers and grievous injury to 7 others by armed Somali militiamen. A few days later, 3 Indian military doctors were killed in mortar fire. The bourgeois print media and the government-controlled electronic media tried their best to make the people believe that the Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives for the cause of peace and prosperity of the Somalis, for the cause of India's international commitment. But no matter how best may they try, the people no longer would believe them. More and more people are questioning the real motive of the government to deploy Indian troops for 'peace-keeping' in Somalia. It is high time the people knew the real motive and the design of the Indian ruling class — which controls the Indian state and the government — in intervening in Somalia.

The Backdrop

In the late 1980s and early 1990s the Siad Barre regime lost effective control and authority over Somalia and failed to decisively manage the severe drought and the attendant famine that cost the country thousands of lives. As the central authority collapsed, anarchy and civil war prevailed. But the imperialist powers and the US imperialists in particular could ill-afford to allow the anarchy to continue for Somalia's strategic location which commands the entrance of the Red Sea and hence the Suez Canal and because of its proximity to most of the petroleum producing Arab states. After pulverising Iraq in the Gulf war and in the absence of deterrence from the socialist bloc the USA wanted to have total control over the Middle East region for its oil wealth. After the downfall of the Siad Barre regime, the USA wanted another puppet government to be installed in Mogadishu but in the civil war, forces led by Gen. Mohammed Farrah Aidede were rapidly taking an upperhand and to the consternation of the US imperialists Gen. Aidede was not sufficiently pliant.

In this backdrop, ostensibly to prevent anarchy and famine and to carry out 'God's work' and 'restore hope', the USA decided to deploy almost 30,000 troops in Somalia. To most of the Somalis, however, this was a naked aggression. Skirmishes erupted in which some US troops died. Now the real motive of the US came out in the open. The US-UN promptly 'identified' Gen. Aidede to be responsible for the death of American soldiers and put \$ 100,000 on his head. A massive manhunt was organised to capture him. In these operations, thousands of common Somalis were killed when they were fired upon from helicopter gunships and machine guns. The Somalis retaliated with all their strength which resulted in more deaths in the American camp. The failure of the interventionists to capture Gen. Aidede and the rising death toll of US soldiers sparked off strong protests of the American people, whose memory of Vietnam has not yet been wiped out. Popular pressure forced the US administration to call back the American troops.

In this backdrop, the 'peace-keeping' was taken over by mainly Indian, Egyptian and

Pakistani troops along with small contingents from African countries. India, as befitting its status, was assigned to keep 'peace' in the entire southern region. On September 1993, India sent as many as 18,000 troops along with armed personnel carriers, helicopter gunships, tanks, earth movers, etc. and set up headquarters in the southern city of Baidao.

That the Indian troops were not neutral and were acting in a partisan way can be inferred from the fact that the Indian contingent, on March 15, was involved in a skirmish with militiamen close to Gen. Aidede, resulting in 9 deaths. Moreover, the ambush in which the Indian soldiers were killed, took place when the soldiers were escorting three vehicles of the Brown and Roof Road Construction Company, a US firm contracted by the UN to rebuild roads in Somalia. Escorting an American company in a country where anything American is looked upon with hostility is partisan. Reports also indicate that the ambushes and the killings were in revenge of the killings on 15th March.

But, the important question is that: when the USA was forced to pull out its troops, why the Narasimha Rao government decided to send troops? The reason is not merely to carry out the US-imperialist interest on their behalf as some would like the people to believe.

Ruling Class Motives

Firstly, India needs to enhance its stature as a military power, so that in the changed international situation, when the Security Council expands, it can get permanent membership. In fact, the Indian Government immediately after the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union and the East European countries, has been actively lobbying for the number of permanent memberships in the Security Council to be expanded beyond the current five and the inclusion of India in the council. The UN Secretary General Mr Boutros Ghali's recent praise of 'India's exemplary commitment to UN peace-keeping operations in Somalia' would come handy at that time. The former British Prime Minister and one of the foremost proponents of 'new world order' Mrs Margaret Thatcher's recent encomiums on India as the 'greatest regional power in South Asia' and consequently its 'better' claim to a seat in an expanded Security Council are also a pointer to the Indian ruling class's aspiration.

Secondly, by showing the world that India can effectively intervene in another country's domestic disturbances, it can further consolidate its status as a regional super power. That India is a regional power is a proven fact now. Moreover, that the traditional imperialist powers accept the fact is proved by these countries' silence over India's military interventions in the domestic affairs of Sri Lanka and Maldives. By enlarging its area of intervention the Indian ruling class wants to further enhance its position.

Thirdly, the Indian government wants its share of the billion dollar-a-year-budget of the UN in the peace-keeping operations in Somalia. It has been also reported that the Indian government makes a net profit from such overseas operations by giving the personnel deployed in Somalia much less than what it gets from the UN. The important thing which comes

out from this is the fact that by such acts the mercenary character of the Indian military has become clear as never before.

Last and the most important factor is the growing economic power of the ruling Indian capitalist class which has acquired clear imperialist character. The interventionist foreign policy of the Indian state is commensurate with the growing imperialist interests of the ruling class. That imperialist economics is the deciding factor, more so in Somalia, becomes clear when one looks beyond the Somali border to the south. In neighbouring Kenya, three Indian joint venture companies, headed by expatriate Indian managers, are the largest in Kenya and controls 20% of the Kenyan economy. Pan-African Paper Mill, a Birla-controlled unit, is Kenya's biggest industry and Africa's largest integrated pulp and paper mill with current assets of about \$ 350 million. It is the largest private sector investment by an Indian group outside India. Raymond Woolen Mills, a unit controlled by the J.K. Group of the Singhanias is today Kenya's largest employer in the textile sector. KenIndia, the Indian insurance company controlled jointly by LIC and GIC, is the largest in Kenya with an annual turnover of 900 million Kenyan shillings. The company has aspirations to be the largest insurance company in entire East Africa with expansion programme in Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa. (Source : *The Economic Times*, 15.8.94) Back home, the other Indian monopolists are also raring to be multinationals. The ITC chairman Mr. K. L. Chugh's recent call to have India's own multinationals and the active lobbying of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to extract special concessions for Indian companies wanting to be multinationals from the Indian Government are clear pointers to the path the Indian monopolists are taking. Naturally, Indian finance capital would choose Africa for exploitation, for it would face hardly any competition there from the domestic bourgeoisie which is less developed because of historical reasons.

The Indian government is also actively pursuing to form an economic/trade bloc comprising the countries in the Indian ocean rim under the leadership India, South Africa and Australia. The Indian monopolists have exploited the sympathy of the Indian people for the South African people in their fight against apartheid for an alliance with their South African counterparts.

The intervention in Somalia is only a reflection of the Indian ruling class's ambition to economically exploit and be in a dominant position not only in South Asia but also in entire Africa. This explains why the Indian government conveyed its 'willingness' to Mr Boutros Ghali to participate in 'peace-keeping' operations in Rwanda and Angola besides Somalia.

True to its being the most trusted agent of the ruling capitalist class, the Congress(I) observed that such interventions as in Somalia, enhances 'India's stature' and proves that India can keep its 'commitment'. What stature and what commitment? Stature of an imperialist country and commitment to act in unison with other imperialist powers! It cannot be otherwise. The Congress(I) and its government at the Centre have ruled out withdrawal of Indian troops from Somalia.

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'Development' of Indian economy has nothing to do with people's well-being

Lot of publicity and fanfare have accompanied the introduction of the on-going new economic and industrial policies steered past by Mr Narasimha Rao. He is now at pains to make the people of the country believe that due to abject failure of the economic policies pursued so far by his predecessors, the economic prosperity as promised by them before their countrymen could not reach them. The onus thus has now devolved on him to come up with the corrective measures so as to live up to the hopes and aspirations of the people at large.

With every measure the Rao government took in implementing the 'new' policy in the economic, industrial and financial fields, the government spokesmen pompously assured the people of a brighter prospect of prosperity. The class bias of all such measures so far adopted as also the current phase of wider liberalisation become quite clear simply by looking at who are at the receiving end of all these benefits of 'economic prosperity' including the present on-going liberalisation process. Admittedly, benefits in real economic terms, accrue from the existing production system, their concentration at one end, necessarily entails deprivation of the others at the other end.

As a result, the more the liberalisation policy gets implemented in spheres after spheres, the more it is benefiting the monopoly groups and their foreign associate MNCs, the harder it is hitting the common people. Let us now peep into what the bitter experience of the people reveals, the true nature of the on-going economic and industrial policy set in motion by Rao government to the common people. With series of liberalisation being followed during the last three years, profitable public sector units (PSUs) have been privatised in part with full disinvestment of shares in the offing. Electricity, oil, transport, insurance, bank, telecom and such other vital sectors are being handed over one by one, to the top monopoly houses along with their foreign MNC associates. Share market has been allowed to become the veritable looting ground of public money by criminal share brokers and speculators of home and abroad, even in collusion with the ministers and high officials. Added with it, deregulation of trade, monopoly and prices, greater freedom for the owners and management in respect of recruitment, retrenchment, wage determination and rationalisation and so on are all have their sway in the economic liberalisation programme of Rao government. Needless to say, as a cumulative effect of reorienting the on-going capitalist economic and industrial and financial policies, the top monopoly houses of home and the MNCs abroad are out to mint evergrowing fabulous profits.

To put this trend of garnering handsome profit concretely, ITC which earned a net profit of Rs.155 crore in 1993 has increased it to a dizzy height of Rs.206 crore in 1994 whereby it could declare a handsome dividend of 85% to its shareholders this year. As against this, Reliance Industries distributed 51% dividend over its net profits to its share holders. To continue, Larsen & Toubro could increase its profits to 65% over the preceding year. Then again, TISCO has raised its

net profit to Rs.180 crore this year over the previous year's 127 crore. By increasing its sales to a staggering figure of Rs.450 crore over the previous year, Shaw Wallace Co's turnover has reached Rs.646 crore. The rate of increase in profit comes to 280% during the current financial year. Cadbury India Ltd., which made business around Rs.136.65 lakhs in 1992-93 has swelled it to Rs.1617.14 lakhs. The sales proceeds of Apollo Tyres has increased from Rs.506 crore to Rs.687 crore during the current financial year.

Giant stride for increase of assets of 38 private companies		
	1991-92	1992-93
Assets (In lakhs of Rs.)	5,28,015	7,28,949 Increase @ 38%
Sales (In lakhs of Rs.)	4,55,520	5,28,447 Increase @ 16%
Labour Strength	1991	1993
	98,372	96,249 Decrease by 2.1%

Economic and Political Weekly 14.5.94

It is easily discernible from the few selective instances mentioned above as to what a tremendous pace the sales and profits soared of these monopoly houses. Never-mind, this is not the case with hundreds and thousands of small and medium scale business units spread over the entire country! Had it been possible for these small and medium units to garner such a fabulous profit like their big brothers in top monopoly houses, the entire economic scenario of the country would have been a far worse lot. As a matter of fact, zooming profits comparable with those noted above could be earned only by 100 such selective top monopoly houses whereas about half a million small and medium business units have been rendered sick. With growing strangulation by the monopoly controlled industries a multitude of middle and small scale industries, an unheard of figure of half a million in number, have faced extinction while the surviving others would have to turn into subsidiaries of the big monopoly controlled industries to become the chief source of half-finished products and labour power obtained from the evergrowing army of unemployed or employed at a cheaper rate.

Amidst the post-liberalisation scenario witnessing a reign loot and plunder let loose by the top monopoly houses of home and foreign MNCs, startling revelation has started pouring in the print media about the outcome of post-economic liberalisation paradigm. According to the World Bank's latest development report, the Indian economy has come to occupy the fifth largest position in the world. India is behind only the USA, China, Japan and Germany as per purchasing power parity (PPP) calculation method evolved by the IMF. It is indeed an occasion for a person lacking political consciousness to be vainglorious of such a boosting dished out by the IMF/World Bank. Along with its 'sweetheart' pronouncement, the

report gives a wealth of statistics to enable one to compare their growth and levels of expenditure with other countries. They are:

- paved roads in India increased from 254,446 km in 1960 to 759,764 km.
- electric generating capacity from 5,580 thousand kilowatts in 1960 to 75,995 thousand kilowatts.
- electricity production from 20,123 million kilowatt hours in 1960 to 286,045 kilowatt hours in 1990.
- telephone main lines (number of connections) from 1,465,000 in 1975 to 5,074,734 in 1990.
- railway tracks from 56,962 km in 1960 to 75,333 km in 1990.
- access to drinking water increased from 17% of the population to 73% in 1990. (*The Hindu*, June 21, 1994).

More startling revelations very often find their place in the print media about the Indian reforms. *The Statesman* in its issue dated 26.8.94 carried to the effect that Dr Jeffrey Sachs, Professor of International Trade in Harvard University in course of addressing a meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry had to say: "Indian fears of a multinational takeover were largely unfounded. The USA is far more afraid of Indian competition than India can be of US competition. The fact that India is afraid of getting taken over by MNCs is giving a lot of credit to them."

Close on the heels of splashing of 'Indian economy fifth largest in world' in the print media by World Bank, yet another startling revelation has come in the press. This time, the Pentagon, the US military headquarters has come to pronounce that India is the third largest military power in the world, obviously taking into account the number of army divisions as well as its combined strength of military personnel. Fortunately, for the poor Indians, these eventful revelations might present themselves as the light and fury of the Autumn festivities, not too far away from now! In tune with this revelation what was purposefully missing, need be stated in passing, in brief though. A UN study as far back in 1985 revealed that India was the biggest exporter of middle order weapons among the Third World countries. The proposition is obvious that we export more arms to buy more sophisticated arms from abroad. And to do justice to its claim for regional power status, India vindicates its stand by taking over military guardianship of Sri Lanka, Maldives, etc. in the name of helping them to solve their domestic problems!

Buffeted by waves of business jargon and sundry others, the media, more often than not forget that there is another world than the one they daily report on. Surely, it is a world with people and their potential which, for all practical purposes, constitute the wealth of a nation. It is no question of commodities, financial accounts, shares and consumer durables or even not flexing of military might. It is where the human face of

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Countrywide movement by AIMSS against obscenity

Nowadays, obscenity has taken a devastating form. It is being injected in every family by means of TV, movie, magazines, posters, advertisements, etc. It is a planned move of the ruling class of our country and the multinationals to destroy the moral backbone of the whole society, particularly the younger generation, to render them impotent, in order to perpetuate their rule of exploitation.

A new chapter of movement led by the All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) has opened throughout the country. The AIMSS called upon the people to observe Anti-obscenity Week from 25th to 31st August on all-India scale. And the programme was successfully observed in most of the states with much enthusiasm and participation of people from all walks of life through demonstrations, conventions, sit-ins and deputations to respective government authorities. We are publishing the report so far reached us.

Karnataka

On 30th August a huge anti-obscenity procession, jointly organised by AIMSS, AIDSO and DYO marched through the streets of Bangalore participated by men, women, youths and students. The procession converged on the Malleswaram grounds where a huge mass convention was held presided over by Dr Sudha Kamath, President, AIMSS State Committee. Sri H.S. Doreswamy, veteran freedom fighter, in his speech said that moral degeneration and violence are growing rapidly and are crippling the minds of the younger generation. Unless man develops morality his life will be like a ship without a rudder. He added that country cannot live without morality and to fight against all sorts of injustice people have to fight for attaining a high standard of morality. And it is they who can do it because people's power is great, he concluded.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIMSS congratulated the people gathered there from different places and called upon them to fight against the sordid scheme of the exploiters to crush their moral backbone and to degrade and dehumanise the youth through exhibiting widespread sex and violence in the TV, movie, newspapers and advertisements. She lashed out at the government which is working as the tool to implement the will of the exploiting class to perpetuate its rule.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee of the SUCI, said that movements for basic needs of the people were a must but this sort of movement for attaining higher ethics and culture is most laudable. Criticising the BJP he said that the BJP which boasts of its commitment to culture is maintaining a silence on this score and is allowing obscenity to continue. Comrades Dr B.R. Manjunath, Convenor, Karnataka DYO, K. Uma, Secretary, AIDSO State Committee, Dr H.G. Jayalakshmi, Secretary, AJMSS State Committee, and Ramajinappa, a state DYO leader, were among other speakers.

A memorandum addressed to the Karnataka Chief Minister was sent from the convention urging him to take urgent measures to stop the menace of vulgarity and obscenity. The signatories to the memorandum were Comrades Dr H.G. Jayalakshmi, K. Uma and Dr B.R. Manjunath.

Gujarat

The Gujarat branch of AIMSS observed the programme through much enthusiasm.

On 26th August at Baroda a well-attended joint convention of AIMSS and AIDSO was held at the Faculty of Arts, MS University of Baroda, presided over by Comrade Bharati Parmer, Convenor, Baroda Unit of the AIMSS. The convention was held in two sessions. The main speakers of the first session were Prof P.K. Desai and Comrade Minakshi Joshi, Secretary, Gujarat MSS. Prof Desai in his speech appealed to the students, youths and particularly the womenfolk to raise their voice against the socio-cultural exploitation through spread of obscene films, advertisements and literature. He also warned the people against the coming attack of the GATT proposals and the multinationals which will take us into inhuman and degraded life.

Comrade Minakshi Joshi talked about Veer Narmad, a revolutionary poet and a social reformer, in memory of his 161st birth anniversary and said that he was the continuator of Raja Rammohan Roy and Vidyasagar and in order to fight the present attack of vulgar culture we must inculcate the teachings of these social reformers.

Comrade Tapan Dasgupta on behalf of the AIDSO called upon the students and the youth to fight for dignified life. After that Nayana Shah, a post-graduate student, read out the message of Mrs Chandrika Patel, Principal, SNTD Girls' College. In the message she was all praise for the AIMSS for taking up this bold and historic challenge and wished success for the movement.

On 30th August, the Gujarat AIMSS demonstrated before the Ahmedabad Doordarshan Kendra condemning the spread of obscenity through the TV. A memorandum addressed to the Central Minister of Information and Broadcasting was submitted to the Station Director of the Kendra by the representatives of the demonstrators.

Tamil Nadu

On 31st August a demonstration of about 500 women consisting students, teachers, housewives and working women held a dharna in front of the government guest house at Chipakkam, Madras in which Comrades Uma Nandkumar, President, State Unit of AIMSS, K. Padmaja, Jenny Rekha, Sobhana, Ponny and Sujatha delivered their speech. Besides, Ms Revati, Assistant Headmistress, Saidapet Model School and students of different schools and colleges also addressed the gathering.

An exhibition of quotations taking excerpts from great personalities like Subramanya Bharathi, Sorojini Naidu and Saratchandra as well as Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh along with the photographs of the movements led by the MSS was held close to the place. The programme evoked admiration of the people and covered well by the press.

West Bengal

The West Bengal State Committee of the AIMSS took up different type of programmes throughout the state. In Calcutta a 5-hour sit-in demonstration was held at Sealdah station, one of the crowded places in the city, and a meeting was organised towards evening under the presidentship of Comrade Usha Sen, President of the Calcutta District Committee, AIMSS.

Comrade Hasi Hore, Secretary of the Committee and the main speaker, severely criticised the Doordarshan for spreading the vulgar culture and obscene films imported from the West. She called upon the people, particularly the women, to rise against this menace.

Prior to the programme a week-long campaign against obscenity was observed through collection of signatures in the postcards addressed to the Union Broadcasting Minister Mr K.P. Singh Deo and tearing off of obscene posters and pasting of demand posters of the AIMSS in different spots of the city. All these programmes evoked wide public response.

In all, 1,70,400 postcards signed by lakhs of people have been sent to the Central Minister, on behalf of West Bengal State Committee. Besides, Comrade Sadhana Chowdhury, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, AIMSS, sent a separate memorandum to Mr Singh Deo urging him to stop the obscene programme of the TV forthwith.

Andhra Pradesh

A week-long joint programme of AIMSS and AIDSO from 25th to 31st August was taken up in Hyderabad city. On 25th a convention was held on this occasion at the Press Club and on 26th and 27th August sit-in demonstrations were organised before the State Film Censor Board and the Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra respectively. The girl students of Babu Jagjivan Ram College, Nawapalli Junior College, St. Thomas College and Indira Priyadarshini College participated in the sit-in demonstrations led by the AIMSS State Secretary Comrade Ch. Prameela and Comrade D. R. Patnaik, State AIDSO Secretary. The demonstrators tore off the obscene posters during



A part of the vast anti-obscenity convention at Malleswaram Grounds, Bangalore on 30th August.

AIMSS

the programme. On 30th August AIMSS and AIDSO staged protest dharna in front of the 'Light House' and 'Sterling', the two cinema houses which were showing obscene English movies, and forced the management to stop the show. The police pounced on the peaceful slogan-shouting volunteers and arrested 18 of them.

On September 1, a huge state level convention was organised at Gandhi Bhavan presided over by Comrade Prameela. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee was the main speaker. Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, State Unit of SUCI, the chief guest, also addressed the meeting. Film Artist Sri S.Kakarala, inaugurated the convention.

Haryana

The Haryana State Committee of the AIMSS along with other programmes held a huge protest demonstration at Rohtak on 30th August under the leadership of Comrade Chandrrekha and Comrade Sudesh. The well-decorated demonstration after parading the main thoroughfares of the city reached in front of the District Commissioner's Office and held a meeting there. From the meeting a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister was submitted to the D.C.

The memorandum demanded immediate government step to stop obscenity through TV, cinema, advertisements and posters, torture on women and female foeticide.

Assam

Under the auspices of the Assam State Committee of AIMSS, a well-attended democratic convention against atrocities on women and obscenity was held on 30th August at the hall of the Institute of Engineers, Guwahati, under the presidentship of Prof Chandrrekha Das, president of the State Unit of the AIMSS. Eminent personalities like Prof Nalinidhar Bhattacharjee, Dr Nilima Dutta, Prof Shibnath Barman, Dr Priti Barua and Prof Kalyan Chowdhury who attended the convention as invited speakers, in their speeches elaborated at length the vicious social atmosphere created due to the abundance in pornographic literatures, obscene films. They expressed strong anxiety for the ever-increasing incidents of atrocities on women and urged all to develop strong cultural movement against such evils.

At the outset Comrade Ina Hussain, Secretary of the State Unit of the organisation, explained the significance of this democratic convention held as a part of week-long all-India programme against the atrocities on women and obscenity starting from 25th August '94. Dr Renu Devi could not attend due to illness, but sent a written message.

Kerala

Under the auspices of AIMSS, AIDSO and AIDYO, 25th to 31st August was observed as anti-obscenity protest week in Kerala as part of the All India movement. Various programmes were taken like mass signature collection, conventions, protest demonstrations, march to Collectorate, etc. Obscene posters were torn up in various places and memorandum was submitted to District Collectors demanding effective steps to root out obscenity.

On August 30, an anti-obscenity convention was held at YMCA Hall, Trivandrum which was presided over by Dr N.A.Karim, renowned

Red Salute Comrade Prangour Basak



Comrade Prangour Basak, Secretary of the Murshidabad District Committee, SUCI, and a veteran State Committee member of our party breathed his last due to cardiac arrest at the age of 73 at 3.15 p.m. on 20th September last. His long revolutionary life started at his adolescence while he was in East Bengal (now Bangladesh). In his early age he started his political life as an organiser of RSP. Thereafter he settled in Berhampur of Murshidabad district. In early Sixties, he got acquainted with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He devoted himself in building up SUCI in Murshidabad district. Actually speaking, all his life and struggle was merged with the struggle of building up SUCI in Murshidabad district. Starting from 1968 unto the last, he successfully shouldered the serious responsibility of District Secretary all through these 26 years. From the State Conference in 1987 on the eve of the First Party Congress he was elected member of the West Bengal State Committee. For a long time he was a member of UTUC(LeninSarani) and was elected Vice-President and the West Bengal State Committee of the KKMS.

He played a leading role in the Goldsmiths' historic movement against the ill-famous Gold Control Act of 1962-63, food movement of 1965-66 and other numerous struggles of the Seventies and Eighties including movement for recovery of 'benam' lands. And thus being at the forefront of all left and democratic movements of the district, he appeared a most respected and beloved man of the masses. Side by side, he lived a most simple life. Naturally, his demise came as a great shock to the innumerable party activists, supporters and a great section of common people of the district.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the beloved leader, the Red Flag was kept at half-mast throughout the district for a week.

educationist. Dr Krishnaprasad Sridhar, a famous psychologist made the main speech.

On August 31, a similar convention was organised at Sahitya Academy Hall, Trichur which was inaugurated by Prof G.Kumara Pillai. Sri Vayala Vasudevan Pillai, I.M. Velayudhan Master and Dr U.Venugopal addressed. The convention was presided over by Sri Pavanan, leader of the Rationalist Movement.

Sri M. V. Devan, reputed artist inaugurated the anti-obscenity convention at Ernakulam. At Alleppey the convention was inaugurated by Prof. C. K. Bharat Varma.

Women, students and youths made spirited March to collectorates at Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Calicut and Kannur districts on 30th and 31st August.

The movement has created wide appreciation among the well-meaning people of the state.

Somalia (Contd. from page 2)

He alleged that the move was to aid the 'United States' imperialist designs'. Echoing the same line, while calling for a withdrawal, a politburo communique of the CPI(M) dated 1.9.94 stated that "Indian people cannot tolerate our government's yielding to US pressures and treating our armed forces as cannon fodder for US imperialists' designs in Somalia ..."

The CPI(M) would like the people to believe in the oversimplified theory of attributing everything, from the new economic and industrial policies to participation in overseas intervention to US imperialists' design while turning a blind eye to the imperialist design of the ruling domestic capitalist class. For the Indian parliamentary Left which has always termed the foreign policy of successive governments as 'progressive', it has never been possible to see that foreign policy is the extension of the domestic policy of the ruling class and the recent initiatives in the form of interventions are in tune with the growing imperialist aspirations of the Indian finance capital. Moreover, the CPI(M) which in recent times is so bothered about India's "endangered sovereignty" would not bat an eyelid when the Indian ruling class meddles in the internal affairs of another country.

We Can do it

The time has certainly come for the Indian people who have a glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle to think and ponder: whether they can afford to remain mute spectators and allow the Indian ruling class to continue its imperialist endeavour. The naive may point to the fact that when even Pakistan and Bangladesh are participating in such international 'peace-keeping' operations, why India should be branded imperialist? Here, one must distinguish the grain from the chaff. One must take cognizance of the relative strength of the Indian capitalist class and its ambition vis-a-vis the ruling class of such countries. The design of the Indian ruling class must be thwarted. One must distinguish between patriotism and the stature of the country based on imperialist aspirations of the ruling class, for true patriotism does not envisage imperialist exploitation of other peoples by the domestic bourgeoisie. Peace-keeping is a big hoax. Have the Indian people forgotten that in the name of peace-keeping and good governance the British imperialists prolonged their exploitative presence in India? All true patriots, all the peace-loving, well-meaning people must unite to say NO to the imperialist design of the Indian ruling class. The movement against the neo-colonial designs of the traditional imperialist powers in the post-GATT era that the Indian people are developing cannot reach its logical culmination unless it includes movement against the imperialist design of the domestic finance capital.

Let the Somali people decide their own fate. That the Indians, for that matter, peace-keepers from any other country are not welcome in Somalia was told in no uncertain terms as proved by the death of the Indian soldiers.

A strong militant public opinion has to be created so that the Indian government will be forced to pull out troops immediately from Somalia and not embark on sending troops as 'peace-keepers' to Rwanda and Angola. Adverse public opinion has forced the mighty US administration to pull out troops. And if the common people in the biggest and the strongest imperialist country could do it, why cannot we do it in India?

ATR episode : Govt. and Opposition in unison on class interest

(Contd. from page 1)

commotion throughout the country, in the print media and in all the political circles — both Opposition and the ruling — the Finance Minister to be on the safe side flatly denied any role played by either his ministry, RBI or the banks and other financial institutions in bringing about the security scam. And when the share market crashed, the danger came out in its full fury and the JPC formed he simply made volte-face and accused the RBI and his ministry for the scandal. Though the then RBI governor Mr. Venkitaraman specifically told the JPC in his deposition that at that time he had informed Mr. Singh of the ongoing irregularities in the banking sector and the share market. Mr. Singh advised him not to interfere with this matter on the eve of the Budget lest it should send 'wrong signals' to the government's economic policy ! Thus it is clear that the Finance Minister and his ministry overzealous in proving the new economic policy and liberalisation successful consciously worked in aiding and abetting the scam.

So it is clear at least from the Finance Minister's own claim, apart from his attempts to shield the then Reserve Bank of India Governor and other moves, that the new economic policy and the liberalisation introduced by his government gave birth to the stocks scam in which a handful of corrupt and dishonest brokers, bank officials, ministers and bureaucrats seated in the top rung of the administration earned huge amount of money at the cost of the ordinary innocent investors and government exchequer. Why then the Opposition members in the JPC, especially the CPI and the CPI(M), indicted only Mr Shankaranand and Mr Rameswar Thakur among ministers and virtually acquitted Mr Singh by only reprimanding him ? The answer is : all the members belonging to different political parties in the interest of their respective governments in different states wanted to save Finance Minister as he had a very strong and close like with the International Finance Capital whom they are inviting to invest in different states. Over and above, today Mr. Manmohan Singh is the living embodiment of the class aspiration of the monopolies and multinationals of both India and abroad. So Mr. Singh can in no way be held least responsible by them for this historic scam. And on this score the ruling Congress(I) and the Opposition parties are all in the same boat. And all the Opposition parties sincerely believe that the new economic policy and liberalisation introduced through Mr Manmohan Singh will really deliver some goods for the ailing economy of our country. That is why all the parties took every care to shield this very truth that the serious ailment the economy of our country suffers from is due to the moribund capitalist system of our country and to do away with all ills the only way left before the masses is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it by socialist system which alone is capable of freeing the society of injustice, oppression and exploitation of man by man. Not a single party, not even those who profess Marxism-Leninism, moved in that direction. Rather, they presented a report containing as many as 273 recommendations after reaching a consensus and which could in no way reflect justice in so far as the punishment of the main culprits for their felony against the country was concerned. And in case of that too, the government virtually did not only not take any

action but rejected some of the recommendations branding them "unwarranted" among others and submitted a paper calling it ATR. As a matter of fact the ATR should rightly be termed as Action Not Taken Report. Moreover, when the entire Opposition demanded its total withdrawal the government firmly declared that under no circumstances the ATR would be withdrawn. Why this stiff stand of the government now ?

It is primarily for two reasons that the government took the stand. Firstly, because it no longer needs the crutch of either of the Left parties or of the BJP to stand on. It can stand on its own legs as it has its own majority which it earned by engineering defection in the SJP under Ajit Singh with huge amount of money. And secondly, the Congress(I) leadership was confident that it would be able to create cleavage among the Opposition to tide over the crisis. And the later events proved it to the hilt. The question then cannot but arise as to why did the government not reject the Opposition demand of a probe into the scam ? Because it would have been absolutely impossible and suicidal for the Congress(I) to reject the Opposition demand. The odds then were heavy against the Congress(I) which was then running a minority government in a hung Parliament with the tacit support sometimes of the Left and sometimes of the BJP as the situation suited them, the leadership squabble did not settle down and thirdly from the past experience Mr Rao knew it well that whatever might be the adversity it would ultimately come out unharmed. Because a shrewd politician as Mr Rao is, he knew it well that as the JPC Report was not binding on the government he was at liberty to accept or reject it as it suited him. Further, he was confident that however united the Opposition might be at the present moment in no time he will be able to divide it once he raised the point that if the Opposition stuck to its stand no other party than the BJP will take advantage of it in the ensuing elections to the four states and on what logic the Opposition would strengthen the forces of communalism and fundamentalism like the BJP which the other day created a communal holocaust throughout the country ? So the JPC was formed with the chairmanship of the veteran Congress(I) leader Ramnivas Mirdha with wide powers to interrogate, the ministers, officials and others and to finally submit a consensus report with proper recommendations for action to be taken by the government.

In fact, all these committees and commissions are formed under severe public pressure whenever government suffers from a serious credibility crisis and as these committees are not armed with statutory powers their decisions are not binding on the government on whom ultimately depends to accept or reject the recommendations. The government also agrees to form these committees or commissions with another design in mind : to dilute the whole issue. This sort of committees works as the safety valve among the people to release their pent up hatred and wrath against the system. But what ultimately prevails is the status quo based on injustice, exploitation and oppression. And in case of the JPC exactly these things happened. All the members representing different political ideology tried their best to shield corruption in order to sustain the system.

This has been the fate of parliamentary democracy whose glory the bourgeois humanists

sang with highest of esteem. The Narasimha Rao Government by rejecting even the consensus recommendation of the JPC has no doubt insulted Parliament itself and reduced parliamentary democracy to a mockery. It is a general feature in the capitalist countries, both developed and underdeveloped, that the people seated in the high places are involved in corruption and nepotism in course of defending the anti-people corrupt system. The incidents of Watergate Scandal in the USA is the matter of not so long a past. This practice is rampant also in England, Italy, France, Japan and South Korea, etc., and for which the governments there had to resign. But perhaps nowhere like in India the perpetrators of crime against the country not only goes scot free in spite of irrefutable charges proved against them but even earn support of the Opposition to tide over the crisis and to stay in power as it happened this time.

The Action Taken Report was such an issue centring round which the Opposition could have put the government to the dock through building up countrywide mass movements against the out and out corrupt Congress(I) government. This they did not do which, if developed, could have been used as a pressure on the government. But instead the BJP and especially the so-called Lefts and others confined the issue within the four walls of Parliament in order to use this issue as the capital for election campaign in future and as a lever to bargain in running the governments in states they are in power. Bringing this issue to the people through countrywide democratic movement would mean to run the risk of shattering the myth of parliamentary democracy on the one hand and on the other exposing the corrupt practices which they themselves have been indulging in while running the governments in different states. The bourgeoisie for its own interest wants to keep parliamentary illusion unaffected because keeping the facade of parliamentary democracy it can easily hoodwink the people to foist fascism on the country.

The BJP which was so vociferous against the Congress(I) government centring round the security scam, has no fundamental difference in policy and is no different from the Congress(I) indulging in corruption. As it earns the confidence of the monopolists of our country with whose blessings it has swelled so much as to appear as the second largest party after the Congress(I), it cannot do anything that may harm the illusion about the parliamentary democracy and this bourgeois establishment. So, it wanted to utilise the whole issue as a capital in the coming elections in four states on the one hand and to get some concessions for the two state governments it is running in Delhi and Rajasthan. That was its sole aim. Neither had it the intention to expose the corrupt character of the Rao government nor to force the government to punish the culprits.

The role of the CPI(M) from the very outset also deserves condemnation. If we analyse the whole episode we would find that from the very beginning it did not take any harsh move against the government lest its honeymoon with the party in power is broken. When the Opposition decided to boycott the Autumn Session and resigned from the respective parliamentary committees it followed suit for fear of being isolated from the rest of the Opposition and being branded as the agent of the Congress (I). But later when the Rao

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Dazzling slogans of Congress(I) Govt. to hoax the people

(Contd. from page 3)

development comes in. Modestly speaking, it means ensuring survival with dignity and full security in a democratic way of life and beyond that to enable everyone to realise their full potential for well-being and achievement.

It is quite in the fitness of things that the Human Development Reports (HDR) 1994 published recently by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) deserves worth mentioning. This report contains elaborate analysis of people's life of 173 countries of the world with regard to their education, medical care, food intake, etc. On an index prepared from the minimum requirements pertaining to hopes and aspirations of the people of a country based mainly on (i) longevity, (ii) education, and (iii) decent standard of living, there are three distinct classifications among the 173 countries. In the first category comes the humanly developed 53 advanced nations, the second category covers 65 middle order humanly developed nations and in the third and last category comes the least humanly developed countries. India could find its berth in the last category, being ranked 135th among the comity of 173 nations. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Ghana, Peru, Cameroon, Myanmar (Burma), etc., are well above India in consideration of the index prepared for humanly developed countries. The noteworthy feature of this UNDP indicator for Human Development aspects of a country constructed in 1993 rests mainly not on GNP totals but on the indicators just indicated seriatim above that have been regarded as universal indicator of well-being. It has evolved a new paradigm, "...that puts people at the centre of development, regards economic growth as a means and not an end, protects the life opportunities of the present and future generations and respects the natural systems on which all life depends." It has dropped 'automatic link' between economic growth and human progress.

Each of the Third World countries has its own story in terms of human face of development. As stated earlier, India could find its place at 135th position among the 173 countries based on the indicators constructed by the UNDP. According to the Report, average life expectancy in India is 59.7 years, which surprisingly came to be 63 years for all other underdeveloped countries. In other words, India stands lowest in the table of 173 countries. Whereas literacy rate for all the developing countries came to be 69%, it is as low as 50% for India, even below the lowest developed sub-Saharan countries of Africa. In India, facilities for sanitation are available for a meagre 15% population whereas for almost all the developing countries it is as high as 56%. India has been bundled out to be the living habitat of largest number of poor people on earth (35 crore). In a like manner India came to be regarded as the habitat of largest number of illiterates (27.2 crore) as well as the highest infant mortality rate below five years (3.5 million a year). Another pathetic plight has been recorded in the Report is the rate of underweight child below 5 years which is as high as 63% as against 35% for other developing countries. A cursory glance at once tells one to find India to be the most backward country on earth on almost each and every aspect of human face of development.

A pitiable plight of Human Face of Development portrayed for India in the table below :

Out of 85 crore people in India		
1. Victims of malnutrition and under-nutrition	42.5 crore	Combined population of North and Central America (42.7 crores)
2. i) Total Blind ii) Partial Blind (feeble eyesight)	9 crore 4.2 crore	More than total population of Sweden (8.3 crore) entire population of France
3. Leprosy patients	4 crore	Slightly lower than the population of Norway (4.2 crore)
4. TB patients	10.7 crore	About the total population of Australia

Source : *The Economic Times*, 17.1.93

Having been swayed by the glare of jargons of finance, economics and accounting verbiages in the print and electronic media almost daily, very often, we attempt to measure the well-being of the people by statistical figures and technical progress. We simply begin to overlook thus the main goal of progress: progress not of any particular class or stratum or community of people, but the progress of the masses of the people as a whole. To recognise this message of modest goal of life in our present socio-economic and political set-up is to enter a different world where one has to realise that people and their potential are the foremost wealth of a nation. In other words, the mission finds its success in a long, healthy, creative and fulfilled life.

Viewed in this perspective, we find to our dismay and consternation the utter hollowness of constant fumbblings for piloting India into the twenty-first century, talk of a new industrial revolution, massive computerisation, technological innovation, modernisation and globalisation of the Indian economy associated with introduction of the present economic reform. Concrete evidence of human aspects of development proves to the hilt that Rao government's economic reform over the last four years is nowhere near solving the elementary necessities of people's life, let alone solving the basic problems. It shows that Indian capitalism cannot even develop its own economy in the magnitude it boasts of. The very fact that Indian capitalist economy is falling behind even the capitalist economies of Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Sri Lanka or Pakistan, once more delineates the actual extent of crisis it is bogged down in. Like his predecessors who traded in falsehood of 'Garibi hatao' or turning India into a 'self-reliant' one, Mr Narshimha Rao's slogan of industrial and technological advancements associated with the 'new' economic policy is also proving a bunkum. Notwithstanding all tall talks of Rao Government's different spokesmen, Indian economy could not boost up production because of the acute shrinkage of market as a result of ever-falling purchasing power of the common people. That is why, people here are

squeezed more and more savagely by retrenchment and closure on a mass scale and by giving the owning class a free hand to swindle the workers' provident fund and employees' state insurance dues, wage-cuts and increased workloads and so on and so forth.

The class conscious working class should read in between the lines of the HDR in order to prepare themselves for a conscious and determined struggle against the fierce onslaughts coming over them daily in the guise of sweet slogans for economic development.

ATR

(Contd. from page 6)

government took an outward stiff stand the CPI(M) was finding out ways in order to come to a compromise of its own and so its parliamentary leader Mr Somnath Chatterjee offered some formula of compromise. When other members of the Opposition accused Mr Chatterjee of compromising attitude, he said: "It was not a suggestion but a loud thinking". This move of Mr Chatterjee pushed the CPI(M) to a disadvantageous position to come out of which its leaders had to take great pains to convince even its workers that whatever Mr Chatterjee said was his personal opinion and not the party's. But later reports of telephonic talks of Mr Rao with Mr Jyoti Basu and the CPI(M) General Secretary requesting them to resolve the impasse glaringly exposed how anti-Congress and for that matter anti-corruption is this CPI(M). Further, that the CPI(M) does not want to come to bad terms with the Congress(I) has been quite evident from its staying away from an earlier decision of observing "Anti-Scam Day" on 23rd August jointly with the National Front and other Left parties. Their logic was, according to Mr. Surjeet "The protest day would have no meaning, "though this does not mean that the issue is dead". (*The Telegraph*, 18.8.94) This politics the CPI(M) is practising in the interest of running its governments in understanding with the Congress(I) Government at the Centre, sometimes waging a mock fight. To expose corruption by holding high the standard of parliamentary democracy is immaterial to them. Their only aim is to however stick to the *gaddi* and enjoy power and pelf.

So the last curtain was drawn to the drama when the entire Opposition which declared their boycott of the Autumn Session and resigned from the respective Parliamentary Committees joined Parliament and subsequently the Parliamentary Committees on 17th August on the assurance that the Centre would present a revised and "modified" report "as early as possible" after considering the points raised by the Opposition on action not taken or partly taken. This clearly indicated that there was no time limit to the tabling of the revised report. "The upshot of the whole exercise is that there will be no discussion on the ATR in this session and this has given the scam-tainted ministers and officials and the government, which has been on the mat, a reprieve." (*Economic Times*, 18.8.94)

This incident once again proves the total anti-people politics of the government and the Opposition, especially the CPI(M). Will the CPI(M) rank and file ponder over this?

We at the same time appeal to all the Left parties and all democratic forces to come forward to build up mighty movement of the people to force the government to punish the guilty.

UTUC (Lenin Sarani) demands**ILO must not be used as imperialist tool**

A national seminar on International Labour Organisation (ILO) and international labour standards was held on 1 to 4 September, 1994 at YMCA Cultural Centre, New Delhi, under the joint auspices of ILO and its south Asian Multidisciplinary Advisory Team (SATT). All the major central trade union organisations participated in this seminar. Issues of vital importance like adoption and implementation of ILO Standards, role of trade unions and the ILO in present international situation, controversial 'social clause' proposed to be included in GATT '94, policies of economic liberalisation and globalisation, areas of concerns of Indian trade union movement and the role of government of India, were discussed and deliberated at length. UTUC(Lenin Sarani) was represented by its all India Secretary Comrade Achintya Sinha. Participating in the discussion Comrade Sinha emphasised the following points and urged to adopt a resolution in the form of conclusion of the seminar. The points are :

- i) ILO must assert its identity as an independent international organisation and refuse to submit to the pressure of imperialist powers and multinationals. It must remain unhesitatingly faithful to the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944) and the principles laid down in the concerned Chapter of Treaty of Versailles, 1919 which gave birth to the ILO. It was then declared that, 'Labour Is Not A Commodity'.
- ii) The workers and the trade unionists note with concern that there is an attempt by some quarters to transform the ILO into a subsidiary instrument and a specialised agency to help implement the policies of economic liberalisations and globalisation which are absolutely detrimental to the interests of the working people of the world. If this is allowed, this would mark a clear departure from declared objectives of ILO.
- iii) There can be no two opinions on the necessity of evolving and finding out adequate safeguards to protect workers' rights, livelihood and employment from the devastating onslaught of GATT Treaty and globalisation. Undoubtedly, this is an area of serious concern of the ILO too. And ILO must not be failing in its duty to come forward to protect workers in this critical hour. But that can never suggest that the ILO should advocate the inclusion of controversial 'Social Clause' in the GATT. This means denial of responsibility and effort to resolve within the ILO framework and playing in the hands of imperialist powers, the USA in particular, which have suddenly awakened to the plight of the workers of the developing countries and pretending for their welfare. The UTUC(LS) proposes a special session of ILO to discuss the issue and adopt a protective convention for ratification of the member states.
- iv) ILO is required to conduct an investigation into the question as to why the USA was not ratified, as yet, the majority of the conventions of ILO and publish its findings.
- v) ILO must find out suitable ways and means to ensure ratification of at least the basic conventions by the member countries and their effective implementation.
- vi) The Government of India must ratify

ratified. In this connection, it may be remembered that National Tripartite Seminar held in New Delhi between February 3-6, 1992, also adopted a unanimous resolution in this regard.

- vii) The Government of India must ensure effective and regular functioning of 'committee on ILO conventions' as well as meaningful implementation of convention 144.
- viii) Areas of vital concerns of Indian trade union movement at present which the UTUC(LS) thinks are: (a) new industrial and economic policies pursued by Govt. of India in the interest of monopoly houses of home and abroad in the name of so-called economic reforms, liberalisation and without further delay the basic conventions like 87 (on Freedom of Association) and 98 (on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining). In addition, conventions relating to social security must also be globalisation are absolutely inimical and detrimental to the interests of the working millions of our country ; (b) GATT'94 has been signed by the government of India in desperate defiance of the public opinion and hence the UTUC(LS) demands our country's withdrawal from the agreement; (c) Loss of employment, closure, lock-out, retrenchment and alarmingly increasing contraction of employment opportunities.
- ix) Our priority is to develop united resistance battle of the workers and the people against the industrial policy and the GATT'94 and force the Government of India to retreat.

Almost all the points raised by UTUC(Lenin Sarani) were incorporated in the conclusion of the seminar, adopted unanimously in its last session.

**Mass Murder by Police at Sealdah
People observed total Bandh in protest**

Centring a dispute between a passenger and ticket checkers at Sealdah station, Calcutta on 21 September, state police, for about two hours, resorted to severe lathicharge, teargassing and firing without any warning on the thick of thousands of home bound commuters pulling down the exit shutters inside station and outside the station in order to kill. Officially, 6 died, more than 50 injured, all having bullet wounds on the upper part of the body, upto temple. Even death occurred on the flyover when police rushed beyond the Sealdah station compound and fired at that high level. Many are still missing beside the number of the dead.

Protesting this mass murder the SUCI called for Bangla Bandh on 23rd September which was a complete success. The Congress(I) tried to utilise Bangla Bandh to cover its similar misdeeds in the interest of election politics. This brutal govt.-backed murder totally discredited the CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' which was forced to institute judicial enquiry into the incident.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, demanded exemplary punishment for the police officers, adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and injured.

**Prof Samuel Mathai
passes away**

Professor Samuel Mathai, former Vice Chancellor of Kerala University, one of the most revered and eminent educationists, passed away on August 16 in Trivandrum. He remained at the forefront of struggle for the cause of education. An Adviser to the All India Save Education Committee, he was also closely associated with the Save Language Education and Autonomy Committee of India and was also the chairman of the Reception Committee of the All India Students' Conference organised by AIDSO in 1982.

On his death Comrade B.K. Rajagopal, President, AIDSO, Kerala State Committee, in a condolence message said: Professor Mathai's contributions in the field of education and language movement will be remembered for ever.

The SUCI congratulates the working class to make all India Industrial Strike and Hartal on 29th September against GATT agreement and anti-people economic and industrial policies of the Centre a success.

**Release Veteran
SUCI leader
held under TADA**

Comrade Girijeswar Singh, Secretary, SUCI, Rajasthan and a member of the Working Committee of the UTUC (LS) was arrested on 14th August last under the nefarious TADA (Terrorist And Disruptive Activities Act.). With the veteran leader, was also arrested Comrade Gaffar, who were reportedly brutally tortured by the police.

The arrest of a veteran political leader, social and cultural activist created commotion among a wide section of people.

The SUCI had severely condemned their arrest and had demanded their unconditional release and had called upon the struggling people to foil the Rajasthan government's conspiracy to destroy the sugar mill workers' and cement workers' movement in particular and trade union and people's movement in general.

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