

Great enthusiasm marks All India Protest Day

Demonstrations sweep the country

The message has reached far and wide in the land—the message of struggle. Massive demonstrations in twelve states voiced the people's protest against the anti-people, anti-democratic policies and measures of the central and state governments which are plunging them in distress and misery in all spheres of life.

Suffering and injustice are not the destiny to which they are condemned. Exploitation and oppression are not the finality to be endured. The power of the ruling capitalist class is not to triumph for ever. The social democratic parties cannot hoodwink them and betray their cause for long. There is anti-thesis too in society—the revolutionary thought, the revolutionary power. That thought awakens the people. That power transforms them into an invincible force, force that ultimately brings down the bastion of the reactionary ruling bourgeoisie.

History is witness to this fact. And history is opening its chapter in this land today. The people are turning to the thoughts of the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The people are rallying under the banner of the SUCI, the genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh founded and reared up. Following the correct base political line and organized in ever larger numbers under the correct revolutionary leadership, the people have started their legitimate democratic movement.

These are not sporadic outbursts in despair. These are not mere agitations fanned up by the scheming bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties with an eye to reaping dividends in the parliamentary mockfight. These are democratic movements of the people built up on their legitimate demands and aiming at creating people's own political power that will pave the way to root out the source of all misery in their life.

The mass violation of law on the 15th June last year in Calcutta under the leadership of the party was the precursor to the countrywide movement of September 1-4. The 15th June movement marked a turning point in the history of democratic mass movement in the country, being organized under the revolutionary leadership. Analysing the prevailing political situation in the light of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Central Committee of the party, headed by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee called upon the people to observe the 2nd September as the People's Protest Day through massive demonstrations on 10-point all-India demands supplemented by state demands in twelve states and to lead this movement, step by step, into higher phases in conformity with organizational preparedness and response of the people. Responding to the call of the Central Committee, people in different states rose to the occasion to register their protest and affirm their resolve to lift protest into resistance in the coming days. Since 2nd September was the day

of Janmastami festival some states adjusted their day of protest in between 1st to 4th to their convenience. The news of the movement are trickling to our office and we publish below those which have already been received.

West Bengal

In almost every district, down to the Block level people of the state rallied in thousands under the banner of the party on the 2nd September to hold mass demonstrations against price-rise, increase in taxes, fares and freight, power crisis and anti-people education and language policy of the 'Left Front' government of the state.

Thousands of workers, agricultural labourers, poor peasants, youths, students, teachers, office employees and other sections of the toiling masses assembled on the day in Calcutta. A big procession decorated with numerous festoons and banners started from the Subodh Mallick Square where the rally was presided over by Comrade Sanat Dutta. Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee had read out the memorandum

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Build up Democratic Mass Movement Contribute your mite to the Central Fighting Fund

In an appeal to the people, the Central Committee of our party has said that to make the single-handed efforts of our party, SUCI, a success in building up a mighty democratic mass movement against the anti-people policies of the Central and State Governments, not only their active participation and moral support but their financial help too are essential. The Central Committee has therefore appealed to all members, supporters, sympathisers and people at large to contribute liberally to the Fighting Fund.

It may be noted that the response of the party workers, supporters and sympathisers in the states has been magnificent. Those who are employees have contributed the entire amount of bonus or *ex gratia* received and have borrowed from PF and other sources to contribute to the Fighting Fund. Many have sold even their small holdings of land to contribute to the fund; many others donated their ornaments. Party greets them warmly for setting up a glorious example in the left and democratic movement of the country.

Proletarian Era

ORGAN OF SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
(Fortnightly)

Founder Editor-in-Chief: COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol. 14.
No. 3

SEPTEMBER 15, '80
MONDAY

PRICE 40 P.
Air Surcharge 4 P.

HISTORIC STUDENTS' RALLY IN CALCUTTA

Upsurge against anti-people language policy of West Bengal Government

September 12, 1980: An endless procession—endless rows of boys and girls—all students, mostly teenagers marching through the highways of Calcutta. Only the rumble of the steps can be heard. And also the reverberating sounds of slogans—'Resist the anti-people language policy of the 'Left Front' Government, Resist, Resist!' Really very beautiful, and inspiring too!

Yes, the student community of West Bengal once more displayed on this occasion, their potentiality, registered their determination to resist the anti-people language and education policy of the 'Left Front' Government—whatever be the cost.

It was organised at the call of the All Bengal Student Struggle Committee which was formed last year from an education convention held at Calcutta, in order to conduct the struggle to resist the anti-people language and education policies of the West Bengal 'Left Front' Government. Following the footsteps of the Congress rulers from Nehru to Indira, the 'Left Front' Government has also decided to minimise the importance of teaching language at different levels of education, by abolishing English from the primary level, and making mother tongue and English

optional at the degree level. This optional paper of language will cover only grammar and composition, and no literature! And in order to pursue this disastrous policy of theirs, the 'Left Front' rulers have snatched away the freedom of all the academic bodies—the universities, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, the West Bengal Council for Higher Secondary Education, the Madrasa Board, and even the governing bodies of the schools and colleges. All of these are under administrators, or nominated bodies—manned by people belonging to the ruling parties of the 'Left Front' and mainly to the CPI(M)—whatever be their academic abilities and qualification. Corruption, and malpractices are rampant at all stages of educational administration. Standard of education is declining day to day. Students are the helpless victims of this sectarian party counter over education.

The 'Left Front' remained absolutely callous to their grievances—the sole concern being what else is there to be grabbed and how this control can be lingered and under what pretexts!

They were mistaken at one point. The 'Left Front' rulers, in the delight of their pomp and power,

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All India Protest Day

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containing a charter of 20-point demands. The procession led by Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, Secretary of West Bengal State Committee paraded to Esplanade East near Raj Bhawan where it was stopped by the police. The city's public had lined up along the entire route to watch and hear the marchers under the banner of the SUCI voice their own words: 'What is the way to break the present unbearable situation?'—they asked themselves. 'These men in procession say, movement is the way-out. It is a hard way, but I agree this is the only way. I can't see any alternative' they talked to each other.

People waited for long to see the massive demonstration at the Esplanade East. The rally of demonstrators was addressed here by Comrade Debaprosad Sarker, party's MLA and Comrade Dipankar Roy, president of the West Bengal State Committee of AIDS. The memorandum on behalf of the marchers pointed out the tremendous hardship and plight of the common people due to the anti-people policies pursued by the central and state governments during the last 33 years. It pointed to the heavy burden of taxes and increase in railway fares and freights imposed by the government of Indira Gandhi at the Centre in the recent months. It also pointed out how the Central government and several state governments were arming themselves with extraordinary powers under the PD Act and taking away the people's hard-won democratic rights.

The criminal negligence and total failure of the 'Left Front' government of West Bengal to tackle the power crisis, the systematic encroachment of this government on the autonomy of educational institutions in the name of reforms, and the indirect encouragement by it to the spread of obscenity and degenerated culture among the people were also pointed out in the memorandum. A 20-point charter of demands pressing for introduction

of all out state trading in food grains and other essential commodities and bringing down prices within the common people's reach, taking effective measures to curb inflation, withdrawal of excess fares for buses, taxis, railways, etc., solving power crisis on war footing and forming a high power committee with representatives of political parties, TU organizations, journalists and others, stopping abolition of English from primary level, withdrawal of all black Acts and ordinances like PD Act, ESM ordinance, etc., banning publication and propagation of all sorts of obscene literature, films, plays, etc. was contained in the memorandum. But despite the fact that the programme had been announced long before, the Governor and the Chief Minister to whom the memorandum was addressed did not receive the deputation which had gone to submit the memorandum. The refusal is unprecedented in the history of democratic mass movement in the state.

Condemning the attitude of the CPI (M) led 'Left Front' government and pledging to build up higher phases of movement, the procession paraded through the main streets and ended at the College Square.

In South 24 Paraganas, where peasants are waging an intense class struggle under the party's banner for long, a massive demonstration was held at Diamond Harbour. A big procession was taken out, braving an inclement weather, from the Rail maidan to the office of the SDO. A deputation led by Comrade Renupada Halder, party's MLA, handed over a memorandum containing a charter of demands to the 3rd and 4th officer in the absence of the SDO. The procession then moved to the Court maidan where a meeting was held. Comrade Yakub Pailan, Secretary of the 24 Paraganas District Committee, Comrade Renupada Halder and

Comrade Pritish Kar, member of the District Committee, addressed the meeting. At Basirhat, Comrade Prabodh Purakait, party's MLA, along with Comrades Sisir Mistri and Rajaram Mandal, important organizers of the party in the district, led a mass deputation to the SDO.

The Protest Day was observed in Midnapore in all subdivisions and at the district head quarters amid significant enthusiasm of the people. A big demonstration was held in Midnapore town. A deputation led by Comrade Soumen Bose, the party's District Secretary submitted a memorandum containing, besides all-India demands, several pressing local demands.

Demonstrations were held in observance of the Protest Day in Burdwan town, Asansol, Durgapur, Katwa, etc. in Burdwan district. Comrade Gopal Kundu, district leader, led deputation to the SDO of Burdwan to hand over a memorandum containing a charter of demands.

In Birbhum a massive demonstration was held at Suri in front of the District Magistrate's Office. A long procession started from the DSA ground where the rally was earlier addressed by Comrade Ziad Ali Baxi, member of the District Committee. The public of the town had thronged the street to watch the procession. A deputation led by Comrade Prativa Mukherjee submitted a memorandum to the D.M. who assured to take steps regarding the demands.

Demonstrations were held at several places of Nadia district, including Krishnanagar, Nakashipara, Ranaghat, Kaliganj and Tehatta.

A big procession was led to the District Magistrate of Murshidabad at Berhampur and a memorandum was submitted by a deputation led by Comrade Prangaur Basak, Secretary of the District Committee. Earlier, Com. Achintya Sinha, member of the District Committee, had

addressed the rally. Demonstrations were held in other places in the district including Jangipur. In Purulia a massive organized demonstration was led to the ADM by Kushadhaja Mandal, Durgadas Chanda and Bijoy Bauri, MLA.

In the districts of Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Malda, Bankura, Hoogly, and Howrah the Protest Day was observed holding mass demonstrations which enthused the common people and impressed upon them the need to build up higher phases of movement in the coming days.

Delhi

The capital was the scene of a big Protest March on the 3rd September. Hundreds of people from all walks of life from the city and the suburbs started assembling near Tilak Bridge from early morning at the call of the Delhi State Organizing Committee of the party. A well-decorated procession comprising workers, landless agricultural labourers, women, teachers, students, youths and others paraded along a long route of 10 Km through old and New Delhi. The festoons, banners and slogans of the disciplined marchers demanding strong and immediate measures against price-rise, inflation, police repression, torture on women, etc. attracted the public of the city who gathered on roadsides appreciating the marchers' resolve to build up strong mass movements against the government's anti-people, anti-democratic policies and measures.

The processionists welcomed Comrade Pritish Chanda, member of the Central Committee of the party, near Tilak Bridge. In a brief address, Comrade Chanda explained the historic significance of this movement at the present critical juncture. Pointing to the betrayal of the people's cause by the pseudo-left parties, Comrade Chanda urged the people to come forward to join hands with the SUCI to bear the great historic responsibility.

The procession led by

Comrades Gian Singh Prof. Narendra Sharma and Amrit Lal was stopped by the police near the Raj Niwas. A deputation led by Comrade Singh went to submit a memorandum to the Lt. Governor. The memorandum, which voiced the people's protest contained a charter of 13 demands which, among others, pressed for making available all essential commodities through fair price shops, taking effective measures to solve the acute housing problem in the state, taking effective measures to improve the city's transport system, and making available all civic amenities to all parts of the state.

The procession wound its way back to Tis Hazari Court where Comrade Gian Singh addressed the gathering condemning the attitude of the Lt. Governor and the Delhi police who had tried to cause obstruction to the procession. The protest demonstration ended affirming resolve to build the movement into higher phases in the coming days.

Karnataka

In the southern state of Karnataka, people responded to the call of the Central Committee of the party observing the all-India Protest Day on the 2nd September.

In Bangalore, a mass demonstration was organized by the Bangalore City Organizing Committee of the party. A long procession decorated with festoons and banners and attended by people from different walks of life was taken out from Mallawaram circle. Parading through different parts of the city, the procession reached the Vidhana Soudha. A deputation led by Comrade K. Radhakrishna submitted a memorandum to the Under Secretary in the absence of the Chief Minister. The memorandum drew attention to the misery gripping the people in all spheres and it underscored the anti-people policies of the government and the repressive measures the latter was resorting to

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How the 'Left Front' Government fights the price manipulators

The leaders of CPI(M) and its partners in the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal made loud claim that their government would set up a 'bright example' before the people of other states as to how to defend people's cause and interest even within the various constraints so that they may opt for this 'alternative'. But as the proverb goes the taste of pudding is in the eating so also any claim is to be tasted by concrete acts. At the present moment, to defend people's interest means defending them from the rapacity of price manipulations by the traders and businessmen who are minting fabulous profits at the cost of intolerable sufferings of the people. What is the performance of the 'Left Front' Government in this regard?

We prefer to cite a few concrete examples to show the *modus operandi* the 'Left Front' Government in the state is following so that people can judge for themselves as to whether there is any difference of it from that of other state governments as also for whom it is meant, if there is any.

Let us start with the increase in diesel and petrol prices. Even after the price hike in diesel and petrol, the Central Government imposed 60% tax increase and the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal was there not to lag behind. It also imposed 9% Sales Tax over the central imposts. How it was all in the interests of the people was further revealed in follow up measures. The Transport Minister of the state gave a public statement that after this high increase in price of fuel, it was impossible now for the State Transport Corporation to run the buses. The hint was not missed. The private bus owners demanded increase in fares. The state government asked them to wait till a cost evaluation was made when even the bourgeois dailies were showing by statistics that even after price hike of fuels there was no question of suffering loss by the bus owners, at best, the profit margin might be narrowed to some extent. But the bus owners were on strike! It continued for days so that people being harassed to impatience might accept the price rise. The government was not unaware of this strategy, rather as a Bengali journal

has published an account, not contradicted by the government, it was a joint strategy of the bus owners and the government. After a several bouts of threats—counter-threats the government announced the increase in fares including that of the state buses. The government stipulated that the increase should not exceed 25% but in the district the fare rise varies in the range of 50 to 60 P.C. and even more than that. The variation in fare rates more than compensated even the alleged shortfall claimed by the owners. The differentiation in bus fare increase was meant to obstruct a united struggle. This in short, is about bus fare rise.

Next comes the case of rice, CPI(M) leaders who claimed in their party journal even in 1973-74 that 20 lakhs of tonnes could easily be procured even allowing for the requirements of seeds and personal consumption of the cultivators did just by nominal procurement in 1978 and 1979 on the plea of flood and draught. Now, this year, the state government proposes to procure rice not from the jotedars but, as in the Congress regime, from the rice millers and for that it has announced increase in procurement price by Rs. 15 plus Rs. 5 as bonus per quintal over and above the price fixed by the Agricultural Price Commission. Similar things the Congress and the Janata in the past and now the Congress (I) governments did and even now does as regards wheat, sugar etc. and the leaders now adorning the 'Left

Front' government in the state once opposed this distribution of public money to the jotedars and traders vehemently. Meanwhile the state Food Minister has announced increase in sell price of Bangla rice through ration shops by 4 paise a Kg. Incidentally it may be recalled that, one of the 36 point promises of the 'Left Front' before the election was to ensure sell of rice at Re. 1 per kg in the market but actual retail price in the market is now Rs. 3 and above in the state.

In the case of price of bread, the State Food Minister surpassed the previous record when he said on the floor of the Assembly that he was fooled by the bakery owners. They came to the minister to ask for price increase by 25 to 30 paise a pound but the minister conceded 4 paise. It was, reportedly agreed to have further discussion on this point. Permits for their inputs were granted, they drew them and declared lockout. What the government can do! There was arbitration before the Labour Commissioner and the case was decided to be sent to one-man expert committee through which the price increase will be processed. Some people will see in it only a sophistication of method, of sharing of spoils but they are 'bad people', the 'conspirators'.

Now let us come to present rage, potato which is too hot for the tongue of the poor and middle class people. The government said after the harvest that compared to last year's, production this year had fallen. For this, the Chief Minister declared potato would be imported from outside, to make good the short fall. Thus far and no further. Potato was not imported but the message reached the traders and big producers. The price showed increasing trend and it was allowed to go up in the range of Rs. 2'20 to 2'50

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against democratic mass movements. It also contained a charter of 11 demands for solving the pressing problems in the people's life.

The Under Secretary however refused to give any assurances regarding the demands. The committee has resolved to consolidate the popular support and continue with the second phase of movement immediately in accordance with the Central Committee's call.

Madhya Pradesh

People in Madhya Pradesh gave their enthusiastic support to the all India People's Protest Day by participating in large numbers in the mass demonstrations held in the state. In Jabalpur, on the 2nd September, a deputation was led by the Jabalpur District Organizing Committee of the party to the District Collector. A memorandum containing, in addition

to the all-India demands, some other demands on the problems of irregular bus service, inadequate supply of water and miserable conditions of roads in the town was submitted to the Deputy Collector in the absence of the Collector. The official, accepting the memorandum, gave assurance to take effective steps regarding the demands.

The party's call for movement has left its mark on the public of the town, who have been enthused to give support to the party's next phase of movement.

In Bhopal a deputation was led by Comrade Harne to the District Magistrate to hand over to him a memorandum containing a charter of demands. The single handed effort of the party to uphold the people's cause in the face of the government's repressive measures has roused hope

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from Rs. 1'20 to Rs. 1'30 in the earlier part of the year. Now the state government suddenly woke up from slumber and announced that the prices for wholesalers, stockists and retailers would be fixed.

Between actual fixing of price and the declaration, there was certainly a time margin of more than a week. It was necessary for the traders! Then after everything arranged and done, the Labour and Agricultural Ministers invited the representatives of the Potato wholesalers in writers Building and fixed prices per kg Rs. 1.50 for the wholesalers, Rs. 1.60 for the stockists and Rs. 1.75 for the retailers. The next day, as usual, potato either vanished or was being sold much higher than the price fixed by the government. The chairman of the 'Left Front' asked the party cadres "to keep vigil" over potato in cold storage. The government says that there is yet a stock of 4 lakh 50 thousand tonnes and the state requires one lakh

tonne a month and so after providing for one lakh fifty thousand tonnes for seeds, there should not be any shortage in the market till new crops come in the market one or two months after. But still there is shortage in the market and the government admits that truck loads of potatoes are going out and the government pleads that it has no 'legal means' to stop that. This is the picture of a muddy affair.

Examples can be multiplied but is there any need of that? After all these concrete examples as to how the 'Left Front' government defends people's interest, can there be any difficulty for the people to understand as to the real intention of these parties when after much calculations and deliberations they present to the people the programme of one day's Convention in New Delhi to fight galloping price rise in the country? Fortunately, people are not fools as some leaders in their arrogance think them to be.



A portion of Protest Day Demonstration at Rohtak, Haryana

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and enthusiasm among the public of the town.

Tamil Nadu

People's Protest Day was observed in the state on the 2nd September. In Madras city, a deputation led by Com. V. Premkumar along with Comrades Pugalengthy, Bhaskar, Gopal and Sekar, went to submit a memorandum containing the all India demands to the Chief Minister. As he was not available, the memorandum was handed over to his PA. Protest demonstrations were also held in Madurai and Ramnad district. Com. M. R. Pattaviraman, in-charge of Madras District unit of the party, led the demonstration in Madurai and submitted a memorandum to the District Collector Com. S. Narayanswami led the demonstration in Ramnad district.

Preparations are now under way to build up movements in the second phase.

Kerala

A deep impact has been made on the people at several places in the state by the all-India Protest Day under the banner of the Party.

In Trivandrum a massive demonstration was organized. A procession started from the party office at Kunnukuzhi and after covering the important streets of the city it reached the Secretariat. Comrade James Joseph,

Secretary, Kerala State Organizing Committee of the party, Comrade Subramani, District Secretary, Trivandrum, and Comrade Venugopal, Secretary of the Kerala State Committee of the AIDS, led a deputation to hand over a memorandum containing the all-India and state demands to the Chief Minister. In the absence of the latter, the memorandum was handed over to his PA. Thereafter, a street corner meeting was held where the significance of the movement was explained and call given to the people to develop the next higher phase of movement under the leadership of the SUCI.

Quilon was the town of another mass demonstration. A procession was taken out from the party office near S. N. College junction and parading through the important streets it reached the collectorate. Comrade C. K. Loocose, Secretary of the Quilon District Committee, Comrade Jalauddin, member of the State Organizing Committee, and Comrades Muralidharan and Badaruddin submitted a memorandum to the Collector. Afterwards, street corner meetings were held near the collectorate as well as at Chinakada in the heart of the town.

In Aleppy, a well-decorated procession marched through the main

streets and later Comrades M. Babu, Sachindra Babu and Baizu submitted a memorandum to the District Collector on behalf of the marchers. Street corner meetings were held in front of Allepy Collectorate and at the heart of the town.

Culicut was the place of another protest demonstration led by Comrade Narayanan and Comrade Vikramkumar. A memorandum was submitted to the District Collector and street corner meetings



A portion of the Protest Day Demonstration at Quilon, Kerala

were held explaining the significance of the movement and outlining the people's task.

Andhra Pradesh

A very big Protest Rally was organized in Kurnool on the 4th September to observe All-India Protest Day. The police tried to obstruct the processionists by refusing them the route they had approved earlier. The police interference caused deep resentment among the

people who had lined up to watch the marchers. A memorandum was submitted to the Officer-in-Charge in the absence of the District Collector. Comrade B. Srinivash Rao, in-charge of the Kurnool District Unit led the demonstration along with Comrades E. P. A. Rashid and Vikramsaina.

Another big protest demonstration was organized in the state at Vazianagaram on the 2nd September. The procession, led by Comrade R. Majumdar, covered the main streets and later submitted a memorandum

to the District Collector.

Orissa

At the call of the Central Committee of the Party massive demonstrations were held in the state at different places on the 2nd September to observe the all-India Protest Day.

A mammoth rally of industrial workers, employees, youths and students was held at Rourkela. Memoranda

were submitted to the Managing Director of the HSL and the ADM, demanding measures against price-rise, increase in railway fare & freight, busfare, etc. and some local problems.

Despite heavy down-pour throughout the day, an impressive procession of peasants, youths and students, decorated with banners and festoons, was organized at Balasore by the Balasore District Committee of the party. Comrades Uddhab Jena, Shyam Sundar Swain, Ramesh Chandra Mahapatra, Krishna Chandra Swain and Anil Parida were members of the delegation which met the ADM. The official had to give assurances for early completion of a bridge over the Subarnarekha river.

Thousands of peasants, youths and students demonstrated at Jajpur town under the leadership of Comrade Jagabandhu Baral. A big mass meeting was held in the premises of the SDO office with Comrade Narayan

Pati as the main speaker. The meeting adopted a resolution demanding, among other things, an impartial judicial inquiry into the incident of police firing and oppression on the mass rally organized by the Party on the 21st July last and withdrawal of all false cases instituted against 38 SUCI workers in connection with the
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 Binjharpur people's movement.

A unique demonstration of thousands of poor people was held in front of the Sukinda Block Office under the leadership of Comrade Mayadhar Nayak in demand of recognitions and assistance to two colleges, government dispensary in different places of the Block, besides the all-India demands. A memorandum was submitted to the BDO. Afterward, a mass meeting was held near Bagha Pokhari Chhak with Comrade Baishnab Behara as president and Comrade Mayadhar Nayak as the main speaker.

A mass rally of poor peasants, agricultural labourers, students and youths was held under the joint auspices of the Rasulpur Block Committee and Barchana Block Committee of the party. A delegation consisting of Comrades Baishnab Dwivedy, Mohan Jena, Harihar Swain and Nabin Jena submitted a memorandum containing 17 demands to the Tahasildar. The official gave an assurance to fulfil the local demands.

A big deputation was organized at Rajgangpur on the 3rd September. A procession started from the party office in the town and went to the Tahasildar to submit a memorandum with a 24-point charter of demands which included, besides the all-India demands, those over prevention of cement dust, construction of lift irrigation, etc. in the locality. Later, the deputationists held a meeting on the Tahasildar office ground under the presidentship of Comrade S. K. Quasim. Comrade Samar Sarkar, councilor of Rajgangpur Municipality, addressed the meeting along with Comrade S. K. Quasim. They appealed to the people to join in the Bhubaneswar demonstration to be organized by the party on the 26th September next.

At Delanga in Puri District a cycle procession

was organized by the local unit of the party under the leadership of Comrades Brajabandhu Pradhan, Gangadhar Pradhan, Adhikari Parida, Gopabandhu Parida, Trinath Behara, Pravakar Behara, Gunanidhi Sahoo and Golak Pradhan. A demonstration was then held in front of the Block office and a memorandum was submitted to the BDO.

At Pipli a big demonstration was held before the Tahasil office and Comrades Raghunath Das Arun Mahapatra and Krupasindhu Das led a delegation to submit a memorandum to the Tahasildar. A mass meeting was later held with Comrade Brajabandhu Pradhan as president and Comrade Raghunath Das, Secretary of the Puri District Committee of the party, as the main speaker.

At Baripada, headquarters of Mayurbhanj District, a massive demonstration was staged before the DM and a memorandum was submitted by a delegation consisting of Comrades Sambhunath Nayak, Bhim Charan

Mohanta, Dilip Kumar Bagudi, Gour Nayak and Pradip Choudhury. A mass meeting was also held at which Comrade Sambhunath Nayak spoke.

A big rally of thousands of peasants, agricultural labourers, students and youths was held before the BDO office of Korai Block of Cuttack District. A well decorated procession covered a wide area. Comrades Balaram Sahoo, Krishna Chandra Sahoo, Binod Sahoo and Jayakrushna Jena led the procession which was highly disciplined and impressive. The demonstrators made the BDO accept their memorandum. In the mass meeting held later, Comrade Balaram Sahoo, General Secretary of the KKMS, Orissa State Committee, spoke on the political situation.

At Sonapur in Balangir district, people from all walks of life observed the all-India Protest Day and a hartal was organized in the town on the 2nd September. The hartal was a grand success in spite of joint opposition by the Congress (I), the Merchants Association and police and administration. Students boycotted schools and colleges and shops were closed throughout

the day. In the morning a well decorated and disciplined procession of the students of Sonapur College and schools moved round the town under the leadership of Comrades Pradeep Mahapatra, Secretary of Bolangir District Committee of the party, Promode Mahapatra Sambhu Panda, Nepal Das, and Sibnarayan Panda. A memorandum was submitted to the officer-in-charge in the absence of the SDO by a delegation led by Comrade Gobinda Maharana.

In the afternoon too another procession of thousands of people moved round the town and a meeting was organized at Sonapur Town Hall ground in response to tremendous enthusiasm of the people, although no such programme was announced earlier. Comrade Pradeep Mahapatra addressed the meeting.

Bihar

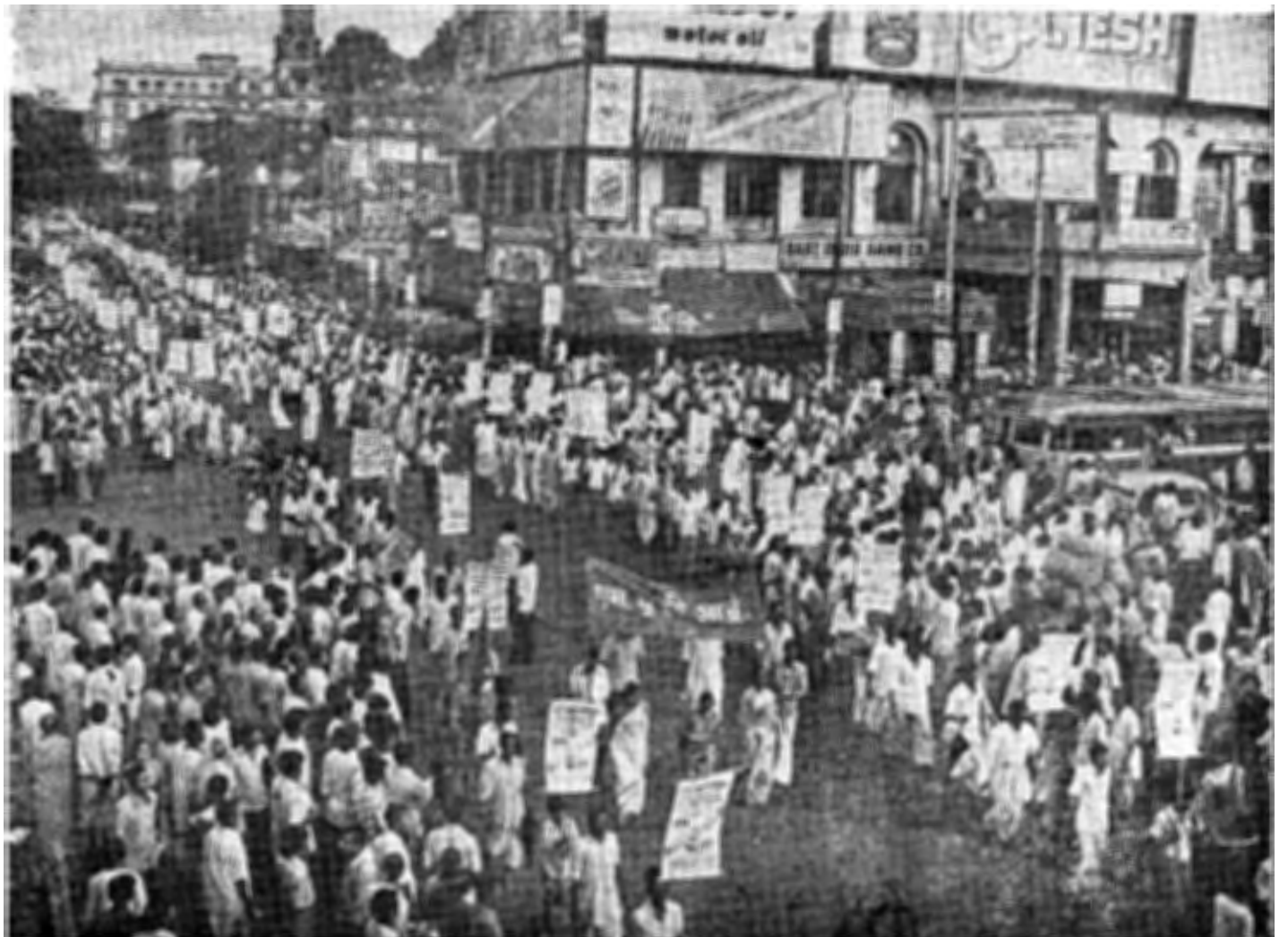
The programme of all-India Protest Day laid down by the Central Committee of the party elicited big response among the people in different parts of this state. Everywhere big demonstrations under the party's banner impressed upon the people

the need to develop organized movements on legitimate democratic demands into higher phases.

At Patna a big rally of thousands was organized by the Patna District Committee of the party on the 3rd September in front of the collectorate. Earlier, a long procession covered important streets in heavy rains. A deputation of six leading comrades submitted a memorandum containing a charter of demands to the ADM in the absence of the District Magistrate. Later, the rally was addressed by Comrade Arun Sinha, Comrade Rekha Sinha, Comrade Firdous Alam and Comrade S. Mukherjee.

People from all strata and all blocks of Muzaffarpur district participated in a massive demonstration at the district town on the 2nd September. A big procession of thousands, decorated with banners and festoons and shouting slogans, paraded a long route through the town, starting from Company Bagh maidan. Later, it reached in front of the DM's office, where a delegation led by Comrade N. R. Singh, member of the Bihar State Committee

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A portion of the Protest Day Massive Demonstration at Calcutta, West Bengal

All India Protest Day

(Contd. from page 5) and party's MLA, along with Comrade Shiva Shankar and Comrade Baleswar Rasoolpuri met the Officer-in-charge and handed over to him a memorandum. Afterwards, a mass meeting was held at which Comrade Singh, Comrade Rasoolpuri and Comrade Motiurrahman explained the historic significance of the movement and outlined the people's task as set down by the Central Committee.

The mass deputation organized by the Singhbhum District Committee of the party at Jamshedpur on the 3rd September left a deep impact on the town's public and government employees who expressed their support to the party's programme of movement on legitimate democratic demands. Thousands of people from different blocks and remote corners of the district assembled at the Railway station from where a big procession started in rains. The flags, festoons, banners, placards and slogans of the procession drew large numbers of people in Jugsalai, Bishtupur and Sakchi through which parts the processionists marched towards the court area. A deputation from the marchers, led by Comrade Durga Das, Comrade Dulal Sanyal, Comrade Bijan Das, Comrade Sarala Mishra and Comrade Sitaram Tudu, met the SDO to submit a memorandum. The SDO gave assurances to take proper steps regarding the memorandum. Later, Comrade Durga Das and Comrade Dulal Sanyal addressed the rally apprising it of the outcome of the deputation.

At Monghyr, on the 3rd September, an impressive rally was held under the party's banner. A well decorated procession was taken out amidst a heavy downpour and it passed through the main streets of the town and reached the DM's office. A deputation led by Comrade Sukhdeo Yadab,

Comrade Bhaju Singh and Comrade Yogendar Mandal handed over a memorandum to the DM. From there the procession went to the DFO and submitted to him another memorandum containing a charter of demands of the local forest labourers.

Afterwards, a meeting was held where Comrade Sukhdeo Yadab addressed.

Rajasthan

Protest Day was observed in the state amidst people's support and enthusiasm. A rally was held in Chirawa. Different speakers addressed the rally and analysed the present political situation and the local demands. A memorandum which was read out and adopted at the meeting was submitted to the Tahasildar of Chirawa by a delegation.

U. P.

At Muzaffarnagar, a deputation was led, in observance of the Protest Day on the 2nd September, to the District Magistrate to submit a memorandum containing the all-India demands and several local demands of the people.

Imposition of Sec. 144 Cr. CP stood in the way of mass mobilisation. The DM discussed the demands with the delegation led by Comrade Rampal Singh.

Haryana

People in the state, true to their fighting tradition, came forward responding to the call of the Central Committee. In Rohtak, on the 1st September, a massive protest demonstration was held under the leadership of the Haryana State Organizing Committee of the party.

The demonstration, in fact, was the culmination of a month-long intensive mass campaign conducted earlier. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and the Central Committee's analysis of the present political situation have instilled new hopes among the masses who have been subject to by the govern-

ment's anti-people policies and the betrayal of the pseudo left parties like the CPI(M) and CPI. The common people, who had earlier attended in large numbers the street corner meetings organized by the party and had contributed to the fighting fund raised by the party, were enthused by the composition and number of the people who joined the big procession on the 1st September.

The procession, led by Comrade Gian Singh, Secretary of the Haryana State Organizing Committee of the party, Comrade Balwant Singh, Comrade Satyawan and Comrade Shyam Sundar, was taken out from Rohtak maidan and it paraded through important streets and the main bazar of the town, carrying banners and festoons and raising slogans against the government's anti-people policies and measures. Large numbers of workers, peasants, women, children, youths and office employees had participated. People came out from roadside shops and residences to watch the disciplined army of marchers who voiced their own protest. They clapped as the marchers passed by and exclaimed in wonder. 'This gives us hope. We never realized the SUCI was growing so fast in this part of the country in the face of such obstruction from the owners, the government and parties like the CPI(M) and CPI.

A memorandum, addressed to the Governor of Haryana was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak on behalf of the working people of the state. The memorandum contained a 14-point charter of demands which included, besides the all-India demands, those pressing for scrapping house tax and cancelling all its arrears, scrapping chowkidara tax, giving autonomy to Panchayats, amending the Gram Panchayat Act on democratic lines, stopping use of the police in favour of the industrialists, and preventing the police from arresting and detaining people without prima

Historic Students' Rally

(Contd. from page 1)

thought that there would be no resistance—everything they desired could be smoothly carried into effect. The student community is a spent up force lost in a morass of frustration, swayed away in the tide of cultural degeneration—accentuated by the licensing of the cabaret for public show—a measure of the 'Left Front' Government, and by the spread of obscene cinema and theatre all over the country encouraged and patronised by both the Central and the State governments. They were at their glee to think that their vicious politics had been ultimately able to dissuade the students—once the active battalions in all great upheavals—from the course of any social injustice. The 'Left front' rulers, like the despots of all ages, were sure that since they were backed by the police and administration, any voice of discontent could be stifled at the point of lathi and bullet.

But they mistook the apparent inertness of the student community for a permanent impotence to oppose their ill-designed moves. All their calculations piled and the students and youths arose from a temporary slumber of inaction and aversion as soon as the call of the All Bengal Student Struggle Committee reached them. Last year on the 19th of September, just one year back, a rally of more than twentyfive thousands of students assembled at Calcutta to protest against this education policy of the Left Front Government. On behalf of the rally a deputation met the Education Minister Mr.

facie evidences.

Thereafter, a public meeting was organized at the maidan in front of the Municipal Committee office. It was addressed by Comrade Gian Singh and Comrade Satyawan, and the pledge to develop the movement into higher phases was reaffirmed.

Partha Dey and urged him to change this policy. The minister boastfully refused and said, since they were elected with public verdict, whatever they did was supported to be sanctioned by the people. The deputationists challenged him by saying that the students of West Bengal would prove by organising resistance movement with the support of the teachers educationists, guardians and all section of the people, that they did not approve this dangerous policy and would compel the government to revert from it.

The challenge was taken up both wise. The Left Front Government engaged all these forces at its command in confusing the public mind, particularly young students, terrorising them so that they do not dare build up any prolonged movement against the government. The Radio, TV and the Government publications and journals carried on a relentless propaganda against learning English and Mother Tongue. A small stratum of the teachers committed to the Left Front politics also joined this propaganda. But all in vain! The students also took up the challenge in a militant mood. Almost all the teachers, educationists, litterateurs and the guardians rallied behind and supported the movement initiated by the struggle committee.

The government yielded to the movement at least for two years, in the sense, that in spite of their early decision, they could not implement this policy in 1979 or even in 1980. Encouraged with this initial, though partial, success, the students took pledge to wage the movement not merely for the postponement of this policy, but for repealing it, for changing the entire language as well as education policies of the Left Front Government. Struggle Committees were formed at different schools and colleges, conventions

(Contd. to page 7)

ASSAM STUDENTS' CONVENTION AT GAUHATI

Gauhati, 1st August, 1980: A convention under the auspices of seven students and youths' organisations namely SFI, AISF, AIDS, PSU, DYF, AIYF and DYO of Assam was held on 1st August at Nabhin Baroloi Hall, Gauhati in demand of immediate solution of foreign national issue and restoration of normalcy in the realm of education in Assam. Nearly four hundred delegates from different parts of the State joined the convention.

The convention was presided over by a Presidium comprising of Sri Rohini Goswami (AIYF), Sri Hiren Gogoi (SFI), Sri Surotzaman Mandal (DSO), Sri Ajimal Hussain Khandkar (PSU) as members.

The convention was inaugurated by the leaders of four all-India political parties namely, Sri Promode Gogoi (CPI), Sri Uddhav Barman (CPI(M)), Sri Indrajeet Shome (RSP) and Sri Asit Bhattacharya (SUCI). In their inaugural speeches, the leaders expressed their grave concern over the situation and criticised the Central Government for its undue delaying tactics in solving the problem of foreign nationals. All the leaders expressed great hope that to bring back the democratic atmosphere in Assam this convention will pave the way. Delegates from different organisations took part in the discussion. They are Sri Bhoben Gogoi (DYF), Sri Monoj Deka (AISF), Sri Mantu Saharia (DSO), Sri Dileep Charkravorty (PSU), Sri Mahesh Dekra (DYO), Sri Kula Das (AIYF), and Sri Manoranjan Talukdar (SFI).

The Convention took some resolutions condemning the murders of the members of different organisations and observed one minute silence in memory of all those martyrs.

In another resolution, the convention condemned the brutal attack upon the leaders and members of different democratic orga-

nisations and other prominent democratic minded people.

A resolution was also adopted demanding reopening of schools and colleges so as to restore normalcy in economic life.

The convention took a resolution to hold similar conventions in districts and subdivisional levels all over the state. The convention resolved to go on a deputation to the Government of Assam demanding:

1) The foreign national problem should be solved through negotiation giving due weightage to Indian Constitution, International pact, the law of the land and national questions and not confining in repressive measures only.

2) To restore normalcy in the state and in the sphere of education. To reopen schools and colleges of Assam so that the normalcy in the sphere of education in Assam comes.

3) To safeguard the rights of religious and linguistic minorities. To ensure equal status to all the lingual and different ethnic groups of Assam and thereby to bring back the communal harmony of all the sections of the people.

4) To solve the basic problems of Assam a package deal is to be declared for industrial development and thorough land reform throughout the State.

5) Ensure the democratic rights of all sections of people.

6) Take strong measures against all the secessionist and communal forces.

7) Arrange relief to all the victimised people.

Mass consumption items worth Rs. 690 crores exported

India exported selected mass consumption items [not including the clandestine exports across the borders—Ed. Board, P. Era] worth Rs. 690 crores in the last financial year. But the figures are provisional and therefore are subject to revision....

In terms of export earnings tea heads the list with a staggering figure of Rs. 369.44 crores. Tea is followed by sugar which fetched Rs. 138.30 crores. Rice basmati and other varieties occupy the third position with export earnings amounting to Rs. 130.51 crores.

The export earnings in respect of other mass consumption items are fresh

fruits—Rs. 5.93 crores, vegetables Rs. 0.49 crores, fresh meat Rs. 9.11 crores, frozen meat Rs. 14.56 crores, fresh onions Rs. 13.07 crores, potatoes Rs. 1.07 and barley Rs. 7.34 crores.

[Economic Times, August 5, 1980]

PLIGHT OF RURAL POOR

Economic Times Research Bureau has given some comparative figures, state wise on Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural Labourers (Base 1960=100). It has also cited figures of all-India average increase in retail prices of selected consumption items computed by National Sample Survey Organisation. Caution is however to be taken that these figures do not cover

the new phenomenon of galloping inflation and secondly they do not also take into account the blackmarket price with which only common people are familiar.

It will be found that prices of all essential commodities rose steeply while it is an accepted fact that income let alone increasing either remained stagnant or decreased. In most part of the country the rural agricultural workers are denied the minimum wages because of non-implementation of the Act. That the living standard of the rural people who constitute more than 80 P.C. has been steadily falling is a stark reality. However just as indicator to the trend, the sorted figures are given below:

Consumer Price Index Number for Agricultural Labourers [Base 1960=100]

Name of States	February 1980		February 1978		P. C. Variation
	Food	General	Food	General	
Andhra Pradesh	321	306	308	294	4
Bihar	402	374	359	333	12.3
Orissa	459	415	357	326	27.3
West Bengal	384	361	309	298	21.4
Kerala	378	350	347	317	10.4
Karnataka	363	342	322	304	12.5
Tamilnadu	356	335	331	311	7.7
Uttar Pradesh	421	389	377	384	1.3
Madhya Pradesh	430	484	372	325	14.6
Rajasthan	407	375	361	334	12.3
All India	390	361	342	318	13.5 (rounded)

Assam State Committee of SUCI on the ensuing Delhi Talk

The Assam State Committee of the SUCI has, in course of a statement, issued on the 14th September '80, while welcoming the decision of the All Assam Students Union to resume discussion with the Union Government at Delhi on the 17th September on the issue of foreign nationals, expressed the hope that the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad would also join the talk and as a result of sincere efforts of all concerned, a just solution of this crucial

problem would be coming out.

Strongly pleading for adopting an objective, reasonable and flexible attitude towards the solution of this difficult problem whose crucial importance none can deny, the state committee of the party further opined that "it will have to be seen that the formula likely to be evolved from the discussions not only does remove the apprehensions of the Assamese speaking people but also does not hurt the legitimate aspirations and expectations of the non-Assamese inhabitants of the state as in the absence of such an approach if a spirit of imposition prevails that will inevitably cause irreparable damage to the cause of unhindered growth of Assamese language and culture and the interest of economic development of the state."

In order to deal with

the situation arising out of the problem of foreign nationals in another way, the Assam State Committee of the party has also urged the sponsors of the movement to vigorously press at the ensuing talk for taking appropriate constitutional measures for retaining present status of the Assamese language as the official language of the state in such a way that change in the pattern of population in no way affects its status having provided due safeguards for the linguistic minorities and secondly for specific industries in the State.

STUDENT RALLY

(Contd. from page 6) were held at the different institutions—thana, and district levels. The preparation for a sustained resistance movements went on. The struggle committee decided to hold a students' march to the Writer's Building, the Musnad of the State Government to alert it once more about the mood and spirit of the West Bengal student community.

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Correction

In our August 18 issue (vol. 14, no. 1) a report on police firing on peaceful demonstration at Binjharpur, Orissa, contained some wrong informations. The actual position is that not all the 37 persons detained in the thana lockup were tortured in a beastly manner, but 17 among them were victims. There was no case of molestation of women volunteers but they, along with others, were severely injured. We regret very much for the mistakes.

Editorial Board,
Proletarian Era.

Historic Students' Rally

(Contd. from page 7)

An unprecedented spontaneous enthusiasm was evoked among the students. The zeal that they would prove themselves worthy of the challenge they had accepted just a year earlier was writ on their face, in their eyes. Teachers belonging to the CPI(M) threatened and even beat the school students, the SF and the local workers of the ruling parties tried to terrorise the students, and obstructed them with hooligan forces when they were rushing out of the schools,—but of no avail! The strength of the student participants reached far beyond fifty thousand this year—more than double the figure for the last year. Every institution represented with a greater number of students, every district mobilised newer schools and colleges—the hesitant students became determined, the passive marchers of the last year became active organisers of the procession this time.

The rally at Calcutta University lawn was scheduled to be held at 1 p.m.

Students began to enter university campus till morning and much before the mid-noon the campus was overflowing. One after another processions from Howrah and Sealdah Stations came but could not enter into the university premise—some of them had to wait at distant street-crossings. A short meeting was held at the Calcutta University Lawn with Comrade Dipankar Roy, the Chairman of this Committee, and also the president West Bengal State Committee, AIDSO, in chair Comrade Tarun Mondal, the General Secretary of the Student's Union, Calcutta Medical College read the memorandum and Comrade Rabin Samajpati, a member of the struggle committee, and the Vice-President West Bengal State Committee, DSO, spoke in support. Comrade Dipankar Roy in his emotional and rousing address explained the ill-design of the Left Front Government behind this anti-people language and education policy to divorce the students from the world of higher thoughts and know-

ledge, close the door of higher education to the common students, cripple their thinking faculty and thus create serious crisis in the realm of thoughts, culture, and values in social life. He called upon the gathering to rise to the occasion and show utmost courage and valour in this great battle ahead to defend their right to education, to acquire higher thoughts and culture. A resolution demanding immediate relief to the flood victims, and condemning the government's callousness in flood control and relief was moved by Comrade Kunal Biswas, and supported by Comrade Salim Shah members of the struggle committee.

Then the procession started towards the Writers Building through the College Street. Calcutta the city of processions has seen many a student procession in the past, many of which are still vivid in public memory. But such a big procession?—No, nobody has seen earlier! People, standing on the roadsides and gathering at the roof top, exclaimed—really is it that there are so many students in West Benga-

who dare to build up a serious movement! This is a very serious movement, they all recognised and meant to say,—in silent approval or in open appreciation,—if you have seriously and sincerely accepted this issue, march ahead, we are all behind you, our heart felt blessings are behind!

The procession was halted at Esplanade East by the police. The marchers slowly entered the area and stayed there to attend a meeting. Many student leaders and representatives of different institutions and district addressed the gathering, among whom were, Shering Leptcha, Secretary, Students Union, Kalimpong College (Darjeeling), Pradip Mandal, North Bengal University, Pradip Das, Jirai Engineering College, Amar Chaudhury, Calcutta University, Chandan Chakraborty, Kalyani, Ashok Samanta, Calcutta National Medical College, Tarun Naskar, Jadavpur University, and others. Besides, Comrade Kartik Saha, the Calcutta District Secretary, of the B.P.T.A., Comrade Gopal Kanjilal, West Bengal

State Secretary, D.Y.O., and Comrade Sourav Bose, Komsomal, addressed the gathering.

Though the struggle committee had contacted the Ministry 15 days ago about this programme, the Chief minister, just like the erstwhile Congress rulers refused to meet any delegation.

When this news reached the gathering all the student and the masses who were waiting in the surrounding areas were roused in utter indignation. On behalf of the struggle committee, Comrade Dipankar Roy the Chairman asked the students to resolve still more firmly to organise the resistance movement in greater dimension and depth in future. An the participants went back with this militant and determined spirit.



A portion of the Massive Students gathering at Esplanade East on 12 September.
Above Comrade Dipankar Roy, Chairman, All Bengal Chhatra Sangram Committee, addressing the gathering.

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Edited & Published by Sukomal Das Gupta from 48, Lenin Sarani and Printed by him at Ganadabi Printers & Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta-13.