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INDIA'S VOTE AGAINST IRAN AT IAEA

Grave danger it is fraught with

On September 24 last, the Government of India voted against Iran in the crucial meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It supported a resolution moved by the US and its European Union allies alleging that Iran, a party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), has failed on a number of instances to meet its obligations under the NPT safeguards agreement and thus has not complied with "the context of Article XIIC of the agency's statute." The resolution also mentions that there is "absence of confidence" about Iran's nuclear programme being "exclusively for peaceful purposes." These all have, in terms of the text of the resolutions, given rise to "questions that are within the confidence of the Security Council, as the organ bearing the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security" and hence the board of IAEA is empowered "to report the non-compliance to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations." Also it "will address the timing and context of the report to be submitted to the UN Security Council for possible punitive action."

IAEA Director General found no fault of Iran

While the resolution accused Iran of non-compliance with the IAEA norms and concealing facts about its nuclear activities, the IAEA Director General only on September 2, last informed that "good progress has been made in Iran's ability to confirm certain aspects of Iran's declarations." He also confirmed that nine issues out of ten had been resolved. Yet the US imperialists and their associates went ahead in framing charges of 'non-compliance' against Iran and that too of such a magnitude as to threaten international peace and security. The IAEA Board adopted the resolution by 22-1 vote with 12 abstentions including Russia, China and South Africa. Venezuela voted against the resolution.

Indian government succumbs to US pressure

Obviously, the people have expressed severe shock and indignation against this open support of the Indian government to the US led

imperialist block in fixing an independent sovereign state like Iran. There is also an apprehension that this might be a precursor to the US plan of initiating armed hostility against Iran on flimsy pretext exactly on the lines it planned and executed invasion of Iraq. India, it may be recalled, had been maintaining a cordial relationship with Iran. Iran has also been a regular supplier of energy products to India. Recently, India finalized installation of a mega pipeline project involving an expenditure of 40 billion dollars to obtain natural gas from Iran via Pakistan. Even the other day when the US rulers were pointing finger at the Iran over the nuclear programme issue, India insisted that IAEA should be the proper forum to resolve all these lingering questions and equal weight should be given to

Iranian obligations and rights.

In spite of all these, the Manmohan Singh government glaringly succumbed to US pressure to oppose Iran's nuclear programmes and drag it to the UN Security Council, which, as everyone knows, has become a rubber stamp of the US imperialists. Some have also raised the question as to what is the propriety of India which itself has embarked upon a mega nuclear armament programme, conducted six nuclear explosions, refused to sign Non-proliferation Treaty, to restrict another developing country from undertaking civil nuclear programmes. It only goes to show that government of India, representing the aggregate interest of ruling Indian bourgeoisie, an inseparable part of

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MID-TERM POLL IN BIHAR

Power tussle soars high, while people bleed white

Within eight months, people of Bihar are going to face another election entailing an expenditure of around Rs. 5 billions. Only in February last, polls were held as scheduled to constitute new state assembly. But no government could be formed not because of any act of god, but owing to the scrambling for power by the aspirant bourgeois politicians and vote-based political parties. Bihar, as is known to all, is one of the poorest states. Official government statistics indicate that as high as 42% of the state's population live below poverty line. Unofficial figure is, of course, much higher. 34% of the populace, as admitted by the government itself, have no definite source of income. Drinking water is not available to 45%. Over 80% are hutment-dwellers. There is no healthcare for 80% either. It is on these people tormented by wrenching poverty, utter distress and extreme peril, that a burden of such an expensive mid-term election has been thrust upon

by the power-hungry corrupt unscrupulous political elements.

Engineered dissolution of elected assembly

People all over the country know that though the Congress, Lalu Prasad's RJD, Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP are all constituents of the ruling UPA at the Centre, backed by the CPI(M)-CPI, they fought the last election in Bihar separately. While the Congress had an alliance with the LJP, the CPI(M) flocked with Lalu Prasad, while the CPI preferred to oppose Lalu. But when the results were out and the popular verdict, notwithstanding all sorts of rigging and manipulation, was visibly against the prolonged misrule of Lalu-Rabri, the Congress, the CPI(M), the CPI, all joined hands with Lalu Prasad and began applying pressure on Ram Vilas Paswan, who had managed to secure 29 MLAs and had

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No bourgeois party stands exception to casteism-communalism-corruption

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thus become a balancing force in the number game for ministry formation, to support Lalu. Ram Vilas and the Congress made every effort to capitalize on anti-Lalu sentiment but could not manage securing adequate number to remove him. So the Congress and the allies like the CPI(M)-CPI went the whole hog to rally round Lalu to grab the seat of power. But under pressure from the upper caste MPs and MLAs of his party, Ram Vilas could not afford to side with Lalu. On the other hand, a sizeable number of Muslim MPs-MLAs restrained him from switching towards BJP-led NDA. It was a total topsy-turvy situation. Sensing growing resentment among the LJP MLAs desperate to be in the corridor of power, the BJP entered the scene with bagful of cash and succeeded in luring a chunk of them to cross floor. At this point, the Congress, to scuttle the possibility of a BJP-JD(U) ministry, engineered hurried dissolution of the House with the help of Buta Singh, the Bihar Governor and a known Congress high-up personality. Of late, even the Supreme Court has declared the dissolution as unconstitutional.

Congress is no secular

The Congress and the CPI(M)-CPI argued that in order to keep communal BJP out of power and frustrate horse-trading of MLAs, such a step was warranted. But is any of these arguments tenable? Let us take the question of communalism vis-à-vis secularism. There is no doubt that the BJP is an arch communal outfit, political front of the RSS which needs to be fought tooth and nail both ideologically and organizationally and must be isolated from the people. But is the Congress secular either and can it be a force to combat communalism-fundamentalism as is sought to be impressed by the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M)-CPI? Right from the day of independence, the hands of the Congress have been stained with communal bloodbath. Worst riots occurred at Aligarh, Meerat, Rourkela, Jamshedpur and Bhagalpur during the Congress regime. Even a minister of the Congress openly confessed that

Bhagalpur riot was masterminded and executed by the Congress elements. In order to play communal card during Assam elections, the then Congress government at the Centre deliberately withdrew Central Reserve Police to allow miscreants orchestrate ghastly killing of the minority people at Nelli. Rajiv Gandhi himself stoked the fire of fresh communal conflagration by opening the lock of disputed Babari Masjid. At that time, the same CPI (M) even remarked that Rajiv was more communal than the BJP. Worst anti-Sikh riot in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination was also engineered by the Congress. Where is then the propriety of embellishing the Congress as secular?

Rampant horse trading

We now come to the other issue, purchase of MLAs. No doubt the allegation of horse trading against the BJP is true and needs to be condemned in no uncertain a term. But is the Congress or any such other bourgeois party free from this heinous crime and mockery of parliamentary democracy? One would recall that during Narasimha Rao's tenure as the prime minister, millions of rupees were spent by the Congress to bribe many of the opposition MPs including Sibn Soren of the Jharkhand party. Such instances are galore. So the so-called tirade of the Congress against horse trading is a mere hoax and neither Lalu nor the CPI(M)-CPI who have tied knots with him, have any moral right to fulminate against the BJP's open tender to the disgruntled LJP MLAs.

Election results hardly reflect people's opinion

People must understand that total decadence has engulfed not only the bourgeois system and bourgeois parliamentary democracy, but the bourgeois political parties as well. In order to ascend to the power at any cost, these vote-based bourgeois outfits and their corrupt and aspirant leaders, who care a fig for democratic norms and principles, are merrily resorting to false voting, booth-capturing, indiscriminate use of arch criminals and gun-trotting sword-brandishing anti-socials, and open horse trading of MLAs. Taking rebel MLAs to

hostage to prevent defection or sell-out to a better bargain, is a common feature today. Since India had gained political independence in the era of moribund capitalism, parliamentary elections here were never free and fair right from the beginning. But as the days rolled by and capitalism became more crisis-ridden, people were dispossessed of all the democratic rights including the right to vote freely and according to conscience. Whatever little scope was there earlier for reflection of public opinion in the elections is now virtually extinct. All these constitutionally granted rights have practically no existence other than in papers. Criminalisation of politics has reached dizzy heights. Rank opportunism and lust for power have been so overwhelming that even after elections the elected representatives do not have any qualms of conscience in disregarding popular mandate and shifting allegiance for occupying the hot seat. Switching of sides, reworking of combinations, changes in the pattern of flirtations and chidings are so frequent, so quick that people fail to make out as to who is with whom and who is against whom and for what reasons.

It may be recollected that Ram Vilas Paswan cast his vote against 13-month old second Vajpayee government at the centre to topple it. But after the mid-term election, Ram Vilas joined the new Vajpayee-led cabinet as a minister. In the last parliamentary election also, Ram Vilas had a pact with Lalu Prasad and even today share ministership with him at the centre as a constituent of the Congress-led UPA. So Lalu Prasad who, according to Ram Vilas, is anti-people, corrupt, swindler of public fund, patron of criminals contractors in Bihar, is pro-people, corruption-free and conscientious at the Centre. Otherwise how could both of them be part of the same cabinet? Clearly the apparent rift between Lalu and Ram Vilas is not stemming from any ideology or principle, but is born out of exigency for power. Obviously the worst casualty is the people restive for emancipation or at least amelioration of their plight. Fed up with the misrule of Lalu-Rabri, the legitimately desired to

have a corruption-free caring government. As against that they are now to bear the brunt of another election.

Capitalist conspiracy to misdirect people's wrath

Why has it happened? Because the genuine grievances of the Bihar people could not be articulated in the form of an intensified left democratic movement though the ground was fertile for that. The pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M)-CPI felt no concern for people's cause. Instead of articulating the people's discontent through a united struggle of the left democratic forces, they preferred tailism of one or the other bourgeois parties or combinations to augment of number of MLAs. The CPI(ML)-Liberation which boasts of sizeable presence in the state also stayed away from the mainstream of the left democratic movement of people and instead remained busy in increasing the number of seats by flexing a different kind of muscles or practising a sort of casteist politics. Thus an excellent scope to thoroughly expose the vile game of vote-snatching bourgeois parties went in vain. In absence of this much desired left democratic movement, people got carried by the propaganda of the bourgeois media, succumbed to the casteist-communal exhortations of the opportunist leaders and as against Lalu Prasad, elected the so-called bete noire of Lalu who are no less warped, degenerated and power-mad.

To explain the situation further, it may be recalled that way back in mid-'70s, people of Bihar launched a historic movement under the leadership of Jayprakash Narayan to end the despotic regime of Indira Congress. Once in the vortex of such a movement all the so-called differences among the Yadavs, Bhumihars, Hindus, Muslims, advanced sections, backward communities, Dalits, Rajputs went to the backburner. It was a united struggle of the oppressed down-trodden masses against an autocratic rule. The same solidarity and fighting spirit among the toiling people could be seen during the mass movements of the sixties against the Congress. SUCI wholeheartedly participated in the JP movement and tried to give it a left direction. But both the CPI(M)-CPI did not participate in this people's movement and allowed the bourgeois parties to misdirect it,

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Imperialist gangsterism is triggering nuclear proliferation

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moribund despotic world imperialism-capitalism, is bent upon to be in cahoots with the US imperialists for extracting more concessions and emerging as a regional super power to create its own sphere of influence. Such collusion and collaboration with the US imperialists is no new development. Though after independence, under public pressure, the Government of India had to adopt a foreign policy of non-alignment; its tilt towards the US-led imperialist camp never went unnoticed. The ruling Indian bourgeoisie of course tried to use its politics of non-alignment to bargain aids and favours from both the US-led imperialist bloc and the socialist camp headed by the USSR. Till the existence of the socialist camp its limitations notwithstanding, there was some restraint on India in openly siding with the US imperialists. Once the socialist camp got dismantled in the beginning of the nineties and the US imperialists, in the unipolar world began to vigorously pursue their agenda of hegemony and overlordism to bully the various countries particularly the third world countries to submit to their dictates, the Government of India, then run by the Congress, accelerated the process of developing closeness with the Pentagon regime. Further dimension was added to such efforts when the BJP-led NDA took over the reins at the Centre. So intimate became the tie that the BJP-led government refrained from condemning the criminal invasion of Iraq and toyed with the idea of sending troops as reinforcement of the invading army there. However, in the face of strong public criticism and ire, it had to retract. The Indian people, carrying a glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle, vehemently opposed the brigandage of the US imperialists and with its British ally and stood by the brave patriotic fighting Iraqi people. One to all despised the pro-US stand of the BJP-led government. Because of all these reasons, the BJP was dislodged from power and a Congress led CPI(M), CPI backed UPA government was installed.

No policy difference between Congress and BJP

But this was no isolated a development. Change of guard at

the centre made no difference to the situation. Soon the people found that there was no difference between the BJP and the Congress led governments in economic, foreign or domestic policies. The UPA government, no matter what it scripted in its most ambiguous so called common minimum programme that it and its allies often refer to, had taken upon itself right from the day of assuming power the unflinching task of appeasing the US imperialist regime. There are various instances of that. When the US installed a puppet government in Iraq by securing UN support through manipulation, the Government of India accorded recognition to that pliant regime. It even offered help to the US invaders towards training their servitors in Iraq about conduction of election. It also almost decided to depute Indian army as a part of the so-called peace keeping force in Iraq. But faced with strong opposition from people it was forced to keep such plans in abeyance. On July 18, the Indian government signed an US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement. Prior to that, it had entered into a defence pact with the US and held joint military exercises. Incidentally, immediately after signing the nuclear agreement, the Indian premier made some negative remarks about the proposed mega gas pipeline project with Iran. It is now clear that such an observation was not a happenstance, but the opening lines of a script written by the US imperialists.

Iran targeted for refusing to oblige US

Why has Iran become the target of the US imperialists? Because, after Iraq, the US imperialists were keen to take hold of the oil fields of this West Asian country as well, but much to their chagrin, Iran, particularly since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has assumed power has refused to bow down before the US decree. Earlier, Saddam Hussein dared to challenge the US regime. The US rulers immediately swung into action and cooked up allegations that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Though neither the UN inspection teams nor any other investigating body could find anything of that sort after several rounds of detailed on the spot enquiry, the US imperialists went ahead with this nefarious design. Disdaining world public

opinion, ignoring the opinion of its own people, flouting all international norms, the US imperialists with its brute military might inclusive of nuclear war machinery pounced upon Iraq, infringed on its sovereignty, killed millions of innocent people, destroyed property, made plundering raids with alacrity and forcibly occupied a foreign territory. And without even an iota of retribution, the US imperialists shamelessly admitted that they were fed with wrong information about Iraq's stock-piling of weapons of mass destruction. But the world people abhorred and denounced this lie, a damn lie, a fraud on them, a crime on the citizens of sovereign independent Iraq.

There is indication of similar machination against Iran. Already the US rulers have branded Iran as a 'rogue state' and a constituent of the 'axis of evils' of three 'hostile' countries other two being the socialist Cuba and North Korea. Now there is dumping of concocted allegations against it. Under Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, when every country is obliged not to produce nuclear weapons, it does have the right to full nuclear fuel cycle. Every sovereign country has the right to develop peaceful nuclear power as a source of energy and engage in the nuclear fuel cycle. Non-proliferation Treaty even allows all member countries to international bargain to develop uranium enrichment facilities provided they are safeguarded. Iran has made several positive proposals to reassure the international community that its civilian facilities will not be used for military purposes. But the US rulers are not ready to consider any such proposal because they are determined not to allow Iran enrich in uranium. As a part of their imperious design to subjugate entire West Asia under their jackboot, take possession of the rich oil and gas reserves and brandish the swords of world's greatest super power, the US imperialists want to strangle Iran's energy resources sector and bring about a 'regime change' in that country on the lines of Iraq and Afghanistan. Raising the bogey of containing terrorism, the US rulers are exporting 'democracy' in B-2 bombers to West Asia and 'civilizing' the people there at gunpoint. Afghanistan has fallen; Iraq has been conquered and now is

the turn of Iran. If Iran can be tamed and gripped, the gun will be pointed at Cuba, North Korea and Venezuela which are in the hit list but could not be subjected to direct military assault because of the pressure of world public opinion.

Every country has right to defend independence and sovereignty

When the brigands armed to the teeth are out on a prowl, flaunting their prowess, baring their tooth and claw and continuously resorting to nuclear blackmailing, does not any independent sovereign country having minimum self-respect and threatened of being attacked any time have the right to defend itself? It is the imperialists who first developed nuclear weapons to terrorize the world. The nuclear holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed what devastation it could bring about to the life and property of people as well as how it could cripple generations after generations with radiation-borne diseases. So the peace loving people of the world stood up and voiced demand for complete destruction of all nuclear weapons and total disarmament. But trampling the public opinion, the US imperialists and their associates are going on upgrading their nuclear armoury and asserting their might as right to show red eyes to others, asking them to surrender or kneel down before them as slaves or face the consequence. This gangsterism of US imperialists armed with latest nuclear weaponry is escalating the possibility of war, keeping the world environment surcharged and casting a spectre of horror. So there is practically a polarization between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' of nuclear power with the haves issuing open threats to the have-nots to either capitulate or perish. In such a situation, can any of the nations or countries in the hit list of imperialist despots be advised to quietly accept thralldom? No one would pay heed to that. They will rise up and fight. If pursuit of hegemony, gangsterism and brigandage of the imperialists led by US imperialists goes unabated and there is persistent threat to the independence and sovereignty of the various nations, then that will lead to fast proliferation of nuclear arms. It is thus the international despotism

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Brutal police atrocity in Meghalay against peaceful students protesters by Congress-led government condemned widely

No words can strongly condemn the incidents of brutal, inhuman killings of innocent students by reckless police firing at Tura and Williamnagar of Garo Hills of Meghalaya on September 30. On that day, at the call of the Garo Hills Students' Union, thousands of students assembled at Chanmari field of Tura and at the field in front of the District headquarter office at Williamnagar to protest against the decision of the Meghalaya Government to amend the Meghalaya Board of School Education Act, 1973 which they construed as a step towards bifurcation of the board with its only major office situated at the entire Garo Hills. Students at both the places sought permission from the authorities as Sec. 144 was clamped in the entire region. But it was refused. Having no option, the students assembled at the two places to voice their grievances. The police and the CRPF in the name of enforcing law and dispersing the gathering resorted to unwarranted police firing killing 11 students and injuring several others, the condition of many of whom was reported to be very critical. The incidents of unprovoked firing and killing have shaken the entire Garo Hills and to control the situation the Government has imposed curfew since September 30. Grievances of the students of Garo Hills are caused by the decision of the Meghalaya Government to revamp and restructure the Meghalaya Board of School Education (MBOSE) conceding the demands of the Khasi Students Union (KSU). It is true that there are strong grievances among the people over the matter of inefficient conduction of examination by the Board, leakage of question papers and serious mistakes in the results

declared by it. It is one thing to demand thorough enquiry of it, fix responsibilities and to take adequate steps to remove it. But the Khasi Students' Union (KSU) which is a parochial, chauvinist student organization patronized by bourgeois parties and which came into existence at the time of Assam movement in 1979, drawing destructive inspiration from the AASU, being continuously engaged in fomenting highly divisive anti-people activities, capitalized public grievances over it and raised parochial demand of bifurcation of the Board for Khasi and Garo Hills and setting up of an office at Shillong with equal power as that of headquarter office of the Board at Tura. The parochial movement of the KSU continued for the last three to four months. They imposed the so-called "Janata Curfew", blocked the National highway for days together obstructing the life-link of Mizoram, Tripura and Barak Valley of Assam. All this happen because of their tacit understanding with the Government. Some of the Ministers of the present Meghalaya Democratic Alliance Government were ex-office bearers of the KSU and they directly instigated the movement.

Ultimately the Government to appease the KSU, constituted a committee to recommend the steps to revamp and restructure the Board which in no time recommended for setting up a zonal office of the Board at Shillong with a Chairman and a Director curtailing the powers of the Chairman and the Director of the headquarter office at Tura and also for setting up of zonal offices at all district headquarters. The Government of Meghalaya immediately accepted the recommendations and the KSU became very pleased as their parochial demands were accepted to the maximum extent possible.

It may be noted here that Khasi Hills and Garo Hills are the two major parts of Meghalaya. At the time of formation of the State, as all Governmental head-offices were situated at the capital town Shillong placed at Khasi Hills, the then leaders of the separate State movement decided to set up the MBOSE office at Tura at Garo Hills to tackle the sentiments of the people of that region. The present decision of the Government has

naturally injured the sentiment of the people of Garo Hills, who, to their dismay, are finding that in the state of Meghalaya, which was carved out of Assam in 1972 to create a tribal state with the slogan to meet the aspirations of the tribals continuing in the state, domination of bourgeois elements belonging to the Khasi tribes is increasing day by day. Again it is also a reality that as reaction against it, some of the parochial forces of the Garo Hills, capitalizing the sentiment of the people, are also trying to raise separatist demand. At the instigation of the bourgeois Government and other bourgeois parties, the situation has become extremely volatile, the rift between the people have widened and the real issues and aspirations of the common people centering round their livelihood remain totally unfocused.

In this connection, it is worth recollecting that our party at the time of the formation of the State in 1972, while opposing the formation

of such smaller states, told the people in unequivocal term that such formation of state could in no way fulfill the aspiration of the common, downtrodden people of the region, rather the aspirant bourgeoisie of the region who were steering such movements coming to the power of the state would rob the people more ruthlessly in collaboration with the monopolist houses of the country, could further divide the people in parochial line to perpetuate their ruthless exploitation and as such the real path to fulfill the aspiration of the exploited people by building up united democratic movement of all the oppressed people of the entire region would surely suffer a setback. The present incident and situation in Meghalaya once more prove the correctness of the analysis of our party at that time and once more set a warning before the people of all regions that formation of states like this is not at all a solution of the problems of common people.

CORRIGENDUM

A line "Our party launched a movement among the working class and salaried middle class in several residential colonies, beginning with a people's convention and day-to-day signature campaign and leading upto a massive march to Secretariat" was inadvertently omitted from the text of the news item "SUCI hails victory of People's movement against power tariff hike in Delhi" in the Proletarian Era, September 21, 2005 issue. Mistake is sincerely regretted. — Ed. P. Era.

Read Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Works

- Selected Works, Vol. I
- Selected Works, Vol. II
- Why SUCI is the Only Genuine Communist Party in India
- An Evaluation of Saratchandra
- Lessons of November Revolution and Revolutionary Movement in India
- On Steps taken by the CPSU against Stalin
- Cultural Movement in India and our Tasks
- Labour Policy of First United Front Government—Its Real Significance
- Self-Criticism of the Communist Camp
- A Scientific Approach to Our Educational Cultural Problems
- The Ninth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party
- The Tenth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party
- Soviet Military Intervention in Czechoslovakia and Revisionism
- War and Peace, Peaceful Co-existence and Peaceful Transition to Socialism
- An Appeal to the Leaders of the International Communist Movement
- Cultural Revolution of China

IN HINDI

- युवा समाज के प्रति
- शरत् मूल्यांकन के प्रसंग में
- सांस्कृतिक स्तर का पतन और बेकारी समस्या का समाधान किस रास्ते
- चीन की सांस्कृतिक क्रांति
- भारत में एस.यू.सी.आई ही एकमात्र साम्यवादी पार्टी क्यों ?
- गांधीवाद : एक आलोचनात्मक अध्ययन
- श्रमिक आन्दोलन में क्रान्तिकारी दृष्टिकोण क्या हो
- छात्रों और नौजवानों का फेर्न
- मार्क्सवाद व मानवसमाज के विकास पर
- साम्प्रदायिक समस्या के प्रसंग में

National Convention of students, medicos and citizens against capitation fee and commercialization of medical education

The menace of capitation fee and commercialization of medical education in India is threatening the very core of medical ethics, 'Right to Health' and the basic principle of equality of opportunity to medical education based on merit. The National Health Policies of 1983 and 2002 openly advocate reduction of government expenditure on health and encourage private investment and 'health tourism'. The three-pronged privatization as a result of this policy in health services, particularly in medical education, has converted the Alma Ata Declaration of 'Health For All By 2000 AD' into 'Health For All Those Who Can Buy'.

Adoption of globalization, liberalization and privatization policies by the Congress, United Front, NDA and now the UPA governments has created a disastrous trend of hiking fees even in government medical colleges. In addition, different state governments have been attempting to introduce in government medical colleges reservation for NRI students ready to pay capitation fee.

Spirited resistance movements as well as legal battles by the medical fraternity, intellectuals, students, guardians and the common masses in state after state have confronted these anti-education steps of various governments. Massive fee hike under self-financing scheme was introduced in Delhi at Vardhman Mahavir College since its inception in 2001. The Government of West Bengal, after being thwarted its attempt to start 'NRI quota' of 75% seats in two newly created government medical colleges in 2004, is now treading an alternative path to commercialize medical education by establishing a completely illegal and unrecognized self-financing university 'West Bengal University of Health Sciences', which has brought all government medical institutes in the state under its purview. Government and private colleges in Karnataka are charging exorbitant fees beyond the reach of students seeking admission of UG and PG courses in medical and dental colleges. Gross irregularities were found in matters of public health and medical education in Andhra Pradesh. Privatization of government hospitals and commercialization of medical

education is becoming the common trend in the state.

It is in this backdrop that a National Convention was convened by Medical Service Centre (MSC) and All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO), the two organisations which had been in the fore of the nationwide movement, at the Convocation Hall, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, on September 23, 2005 against capitation fee and commercialization of education and gave a call to unite doctors, medical students, health personnel, students, and other citizens from all walks of life in support of all these movements.

The movement evoked enthusiastic response from students, doctors and teachers from all the medical colleges of Delhi who participated in large number to make the National Convention a grand success. Dr. Jiten Murmu, Convener, MSC, Delhi placed the resolution in the house. Shri M N Sriram, Vice President, All India Committee and President, Karnataka

State Committee, AIDSO, Dr. Asoke Samanta, Vice President, CC, MSC, Comrade Pratap Samal, President, All India Committee, AIDSO, Dr. D. Banerjee, Emeritus Professor, JNU appealed to thwart the governments' anti-people education policies. Dr Sumer Shetty, President and Dr. Amar Ranjan, General Secretary, Resident Doctors' Association, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Ms. Supriya Gupta, President, Students' Union, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Shri Jitendra Jaipuria, President Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and others from different states of the country addressed the Convention speaking in favour of the resolution and urged upon the medical and student fraternity to build up strong movement. The Convention was presided over by Prof. Narendra Sharma.

The Convention called upon doctors and health personells, medical and para-medical students, the general student community, parents and citizens from all walks

of life, to organize countrywide movements in support of the following demands :

1. All admissions should be through common entrance test conducted by democratically elected bodies and should be based only on merit.
2. Management quota should be banned and the right to fix fees and admissions must not be given to the managements.
3. Bring down tuition fees in all the professional colleges within the reach of the common men. All deficits should be subsidized by the government.
4. Capitation fee under any nomenclature should be considered as a cognizable offence.

Speakers representing students and medicos of Haryana, M.P., Assam, Kerala, UP, Orissa, Tripura, Tamilnadu and other states spoke in support of the main resolution condemning the heinous attempts of the governments on medical education and health services in general.

AIDSO launches movements in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

Patna

Demanding rolling back of the decision of introducing grading system in Secondary Board Examination, withdrawal of fee hike at all levels, especially at L. N. Mithila University, reinstatement of the previous laws regarding the IIT admission test, rescue of the kidnapped students from the kidnappers, stopping of privatization, commercialization and communalization of education, dissolution of NAAC, introduction of genuine secular, scientific and democratic education, allotment of at least 10 per cent of total national budget and 30 per cent of state budget to education, filling up of the vacant posts of teachers and professors, stoppage of unaided education policy, stoppage of allotting non-teaching jobs to teachers, making suitable arrangements for regularizing sessions in all the universities of the state, thousands of students under the auspices of Bihar State Committee of AIDSO held a huge

demonstration before the Governor on September 27, 2005. State and district leaders of AIDSO addressed the rally and a delegation met the Governor. They later submitted the memorandum. The delegation also submitted a memorandum signed by thousands of students, teachers, guardians and education loving people addressed to the PM through the Governor.

Darbhanga

Under the auspices of AIDSO, students from different colleges of Lalit Narayan Mithila University staged a dharna on September 21, 2005 before the Vice-Chancellor. It is to be mentioned that the university administration has of late increased fees by two to three times. As a result of this exorbitant fee hike thousands of students would be thrown out of the door of education, especially higher education. The dharna was addressed by Comrades Rajkumar Chowdhury, member, Bihar State Committee of AIDSO and Muzahind Azam, district in-

charge, Darbhanga. It was presided over by Comrade Sudhanshu Kumar. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Lalbabu Shah, Rahmat Khan, Tarun Ambesh Kumar, Pappu, Rabindra Kumar Jha and Rajeev.

Muradabad

Under the auspices of the Muradabad district committee of AIDSO, a Save Education Convention was held at Muradabad on September 4, 2005. Comrade Dipankar Roy, General Secretary of the All India Save Education Committee was present as the main speaker and the Chief Guest in the convention was Shri Sundhangsu Kr. Malyaviya of Allahabad University. The convention was presided over by Shri Maheswar Tripathi. All the speakers in the meeting vehemently condemned the state and central governments' policy of privatization and commercialization of education and demanded free scientific secular education for all.

Strengthening genuine revolutionaries can only end mafiadom, rank opportunism

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usurp all the credits and ascend to power by merging into the Janata conglomerate as an alternative to the Congress. Thus the ruling class succeeded in diverting people's wrath and ire towards the parliamentary end, having its own other representatives to saddle in power and ensuring fizzling out of the movement. The class also thus introduced the experiment of two-party democracy to arrest people's grievances within the parties or combinations of its choice. The CPI(M), of course, performed a somersault to suddenly align with the Janata conglomerate in the election to brighten its poll prospects and enroll itself as a player in this game of electoral manoeuvre of bourgeois two-party democracy.

Capitalism must be overthrown

From then onwards, the governmental power, both at the Centre and in the states including Bihar, alternated between two principal parties or combinations of the bourgeoisie and the bourgeois class rule was sustained. In order to ensure uninterrupted generation of maximum profit for it in this third intense general crisis of world capitalism the ruling Indian bourgeoisie squeezed even the last drop of blood out of the people, rendering them pauperized and mendicant. People should not forget even for a moment that it is decadent moribund capitalism which is breeding all evils and maladies in their life, making the society bereft of all values, finer senses, ethics, morality, culture and human essence, generating corruption in every walk of life, vitiating social atmosphere, polluting political arena and descending a sense of void in them. So long as capitalism exists, there will be no respite from this suffocation and strangulation. It is only by accentuating democratic mass movements of the people based on higher proletarian values, ethics and culture and under the correct revolutionary leadership that ultimate overthrow of capitalism will be possible. Election battle should also be fought as a part of this democratic movement. It is in the process of this democratic movement that necessary political

consciousness will dawn on the people, people's own political instruments for struggle will be created, unity and solidarity of the toiling people will be cemented rising above all petty considerations and divisive mentalities. So during the elections also, it is imperative to identify the correct revolutionary leadership and strengthen it. There should not be any muddling over this fundamental question by raising the debate as to who would win the elections. If anyone other than the revolutionary party emerges victorious, it will be a defeat of the people and triumph of the oppressors, the ruling capitalist class.

Protecting capitalist rule under two-party democracy

In order to distract people from the path of anti-capitalist revolution, the ruling bourgeoisie, on the one hand, is trying to foist two-party democracy to restrict people's electoral choice between two principal bourgeois outfits or alliances and pressing subservient media to go full throttle to project these two sides as the main contestants. On the other hand, it is making every effort to throw a spanner in the unity of the toiling people by inciting casteist, communal and such other divisive thoughts. Our party, the SUCI while building up the people's movement over the burning issues of life, has been repeatedly harping on the question of ascertaining the class character of a party before making a choice in the hustings. Even in Bihar, we have been continuously emphasizing that the people's committees, the students' struggle committees which emerged in the course of movement must be transformed into permanent instruments of struggle imbued with higher political consciousness. But our voice has been drowned under high-pitch bourgeois propaganda machine. Persons like Lalu Prasad, Ram Vilas or Nitish Kumar who are now smearing the face of Bihar with black stain of infamy, making it a hub of scandal and corruption, a feifdom of criminals and anti-socials have all made their parliamentary political career by hijacking the struggle and sacrifice of the people during the J.P. movement. In absence of necessary political consciousness, the people could not

identify their motive earlier.

Now these leaders are inundated in the mire of corruption and putrefaction, implementing anti-people policies to serve the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie and they have started falling in the eyes of the people. More these greedy putrid leaders are sensing isolation from the people, more desperate are they in capturing power by hook or by crook. Hence is their requisition for armed musclemen, brazen pandering to casteist and communal polarisation. Is there any difference among Lalu Prasad's Muslim-Yadav equation, Ram Vilas's dalit-Muslim equilibrium or Nitish Kumar's Lav-Kush equipolace? If Lalu has the muscle of Shahabuddin, Ram Vilas enjoys the services of Surajbhan Singh, Munna Shukhla while Nitish draws his strength from the notorious Railway mafias.

Casteism, communalism disrupting people's unity

Will such open flaunting of casteist communal credentials or brandishing of muscle power do any good to any segment of poor and toiling masses? When the price-line climbs to stratospheric level as a concomitant of capitalist economic law, is it that only the Hindus or the Yadavs are only affected? Do the Muslims or the Kurmis remain insulated? While retrenching workers from the factory, does a capitalist, whether Bhumihar or Kurmi, discriminate on caste-line? Is it that a Muslim peasant only does not receive remunerative price for his produces while a Hindu does? Ram Vilas is talking of a Muslim chief minister. Lalu shows his preference for a nominee from the backward community obviously meaning to Rabri Devi. As if, that is of prime importance. Bihar had chief ministers from every section of the people. Srikrishna Singh was a Bhumihar, Satyendra Narayan Singh and Chandrasekhar Singh were rajputs, Bhola Paswan Shastri and Ramsundar Das belonged to dalit community, Lalu, Rabri, Daroga Rai were from the backward sections, Karpoori Thakur had his Thakur root, Vinodanandan Jha, Jagannath Mishra, Kedar Pandey, Bhgawat Jha Azad were brahmins and Abdul Gaffar was a Muslim. Has that changed the lot of any section of the downtrodden people?

It is never like that. The brunt of ruthless capitalist exploitation is borne by all irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Caste or religion is a matter of personal belief and should never be allowed to interfere in the social or political affairs. Those who drag these things in the arena of politics do never do so for the welfare of any particular caste or religion, but to drive a wedge among the working people and create vote-banks on caste or communal lines to derive electoral mileage. At the same time, such divides over caste and religion are doing immense harm to the process of growth and development of the desired democratic mass movement.

Opportunism of pseudo-Marxists

Equally impeding has been the role of the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M)-CPI. After 2000, CPI(M), CPI, RSP, Forward Block and SUCI had formed a left co-ordination committee with a view to developing joint movement against the pernicious policies of the BJP-led central government and Congress-RJD coalition government of the state. Some programmes of movement were also carried out. But the moment parliamentary election was announced, the CPI(M)-CPI broke the left co-ordination and while the CPI(M) joined hands with the RJD-Congress combine, the CPI decided to fight against Lalu. But immediately after the polls, the CPI came back and united with Lalu to form the government. This time also the CPI has combined with Ram Vilas to take on Lalu while the CPI(M) has continued to cling to Lalu's coat-button. The CPI(M) leaders who so vociferously upbraid criminalization and communalism under media glare are conspicuously silent over the fodder scam of Lalu or his indulgence of hardcore criminal like Shahabuddin. In fact, the politics of the CPI(M)-CPI, their opportunism, doublespeak and depravity have gone to such an extent that saner democratic minded people hardly find any difference between them and Lalu-Ram Vilas-Nitish. Forsaking the path of movement and disowning any responsibility to the people of Bihar, these pseudo-Marxists are now busy in working

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Government of India must give up pro-imperialist tilt

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and brigandage of the imperialists led by the US imperialists, which is the root cause of nuclear proliferation.

World cannot be US's fiefdom

The question of Iran's self-defence has to be judged in this context. When there is hardly anybody around, the socialist camp as the citadel of world peace is not in existence, Iran, in order to survive and protect its inalienable right to defend sovereignty and freedom, will try to take adequate preparations to resist the impending attack. This can in no way be called illegitimate. There cannot be two standards for two sets of countries—the ones who have nuclear weapons and sophisticated arms and the others not in possession of the same. It is ridiculous that while those possessing nuclear teeth will enjoy unfettered right to continuously upgrade their capabilities, the others will be forcibly debarred from carrying out nuclear programmes. If all countries have to accept complete ban on nuclear weapons and total disarmament, then all imperialist countries including the US and its associates like the UK and stooges like Zionist Israel will have to do that first. The world cannot be allowed to be turned into a fiefdom of the US imperialists. The US cannot coerce Iran to capitulate to it and get away. So the freedom loving people of the world must rise to build up an intense militant peace movement to resist the launch of an US assault on Iran as has been reflected in the IAEA resolution and to stall re-enactment of another Iraq invasion on the soil of Iran.

Left democratic movement — only deterrent

The sign is ominous. Harrowing days are in store for all. One cannot be a passive bystander to such a heinous crime of the imperialists. The left and democratic forces across the country must come forward and develop a united movement against the conspiracy of the US imperialists and their associates against Iran and compel the government of India to reverse its stand on the issue. It must be borne in mind that if the move of the Indian government to side with the US imperialists is not staved off and it becomes an appendage of the US regime, then there will be increasing

interference in the economic and political affairs of the country and invasion in socio-political domain. This will vitiate the democratic environment whatever little is left and place serious hurdles before development of democratic mass movement and ultimately cause immense harm to the anti-capitalist revolutionary movement, the only course towards people's emancipation from exploitation. Only if the countrywide anti-imperialist left democratic movement is raised to the peak this catastrophe could be averted.

Despicable role of CPI(M) CPI

But what is the role of the CPI(M), CPI which are making so much noise to project themselves as the real Opposition to the Congress-led government which, curiously enough, is running on their support? They are pretending as if they are at loggerheads with the government on the issue of IAEA voting on Iran. But have they discovered only today that the Congress-led government backed by the CPI(M) and CPI is distinctly aligned with the imperialists? What were they doing all these days that they needed to waiting till today? Is there any difference between the Congress and the BJP in pursuing brazen anti-people, pro-capitalist policies? And the people have already understood that the so-called distinction created between the BJP and the Congress on the ground of communalism is a hoax, purported to hoodwink the toiling masses and buttress an altogether different motive of riding and sticking to power. Had the CPI(M), CPI really given a serious threat to the Congress-led government of withdrawal of their support, unless it gave up its pro-US tilt, could Manmohan Singh afford to strike defence and nuclear deals with the US, accord recognition to the puppet Iraq government and vote against Iran at IAEA? It is already being widely talked in different quarters that Manmohan Singh government does not do anything without consulting the CPI(M), CPI. In fact is there any reason to believe and accept the contention that spurning serious effective opposition from the CPI(M), CPI the Congress-led government, totally dependent on their support for survival, could take such a step? Unless Manmohan Singh was sure that the CPI(M), CPI would not do anything other than

pretending opposition and exhibiting a fake encounter in media glare to play to the gallery for keeping alive their 'left image', he would not have dared to endorse the US-sponsored IAEA resolution against Iran.

US expansionism must be thwarted

We urge upon the CPI(M), CPI to appreciate that it is still not too late to give up pretentious politics and take the field of struggle to uphold people's cause. Let them first prove the genuineness of their opposition to the pernicious pro-US

stand of the Congress-led UPA government by issuing an ultimatum that unless it reverses its decision to support the US-sponsored move against Iran, they will sever relation with it. Otherwise let them remember that people at least have that much of intelligence to be able to distinguish between pretensions and intentions. We also appeal to the honest rank-and-file of the CPI(M), CPI to take cognizance of the dangerous portent looming large on the horizon and assert themselves to force their leaders shun tailism of the Congress and the ruling class.

Bihar Election

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out electoral arithmetic in the Yadav-Muslim or Dalit-Muslim equation.

Suffocating rural-industrial scenario of Bihar

The plight and penury of the Bihar people know no bounds. There is mass exodus of poor peasants from the villages. Fury of flood and drought run havoc. All the existing industries like the sugar mills, Rohtas industry, small factories, Barauni thermal power and fertilizer plants, leather factories, handlooms, powerlooms, are in dire straits. Bharat wagon factories of Muzaffarpur and Mokama have been closed down. Shutters are also downed in IDPL, the only pharmaceutical unit of the state. Government hospitals are in pathetic condition. There is no doctor, no nurse, no infrastructure. Education is in shambles. The latest incident of Shahabuddin, the notorious criminal and RJD MP having a non-bailable warrant against him, appearing in LLB examination and that too through some impersonator, speaks volume of the sordid state of affairs. A reign of terror has been let loose by the utterly corrupt nexus of the politician-police-bureaucracy-criminals. Murder, robbery, loot, arson, rape have become daily affairs. In fact, kidnapping and abduction for ransom have taken the shape of an art(!) here. All these are aided and abetted by the power-that-be.

Strengthen forces of movement in the election

So long as the bourgeoisie is in

power, one or the other bourgeois force will be saddled in the governmental seat. So it is futile to expect anything positive from any of them, whether it is Lalu-Congress-CPI(M) or Ram Vilas-CPI or BJP-Nitish Kumar. Situation demands that a consolidation of left and democratic forces develops on distinct leftist line and an intense united democratic mass movement surges forth to press for the burning demands of life. What is required is an alliance of struggling forces for movement and not opportunist electoral pacts or hob-nobs. It is only through movement that the people can protect their rights, force the government to relent to some of their demands and pave the way for ultimate overthrow of capitalism. The SUCI is pledge bound to develop such movement. It views election as a part of the democratic movement and participates in it to uphold people's demands and reflect the voice of movement inside the legislature. Hence, we call upon all the democratic minded people, the saner honest rank of the CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML)-Liberation and others to ponder if elections should be fought accordingly or like the rightists and opportunists by giving up all principles and ethics and slabbering over power. The SUCI is holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism. We appeal to the toiling people of Bihar to strengthen the SUCI to add impetus to the democratic mass movement. Make the SUCI candidates victorious and in the constituencies not contested by the SUCI, extend your support to those candidates who will stand by the democratic movement.

UTUC-LS observes All India General Strike on 29 September in states

At the call of Left trade unions, the All India general strike on 29 September last evoked widespread

response of the people in general and working people in particular throughout the country. UTUC-LS alongwith our other mass organizations took active part in organizing the strike successfully in different states. According to reports so far reached, in West Bengal UTUC-LS organized innumerable processions and street meetings in Calcutta and other districts of the state in support of the strike. In Tamilnadu also, meetings were organized jointly with other Left central trade unions in Chennai and other places. In Nagpur similar protest metings were held.



(From top) Picketing in Tamilnadu, procession at Calcutta and huge rally in Nagpur in support of All India General strike.

Protest Rally of Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh students

A rally of hundreds of students from Punjab, Hararyana & Chandigarh against fee hike, commercialisation and privatisation of education was held in Chandigarh on September 10 last, by the respective state units of All India DSO. The rally was led by Comrade Pratap Samal (President, All India Committee, AIDSO), Comrade Ramavatar Sharma (Vice President, All India Committee), Comrade Inder Singh (President, Punjab State Committee), Comrade Manjit Kotra (Secretary, Punjab State Committee), Comrade Om Prakash (President, Haryana State

Committee), Comrade Ramesh Chandra (Secretary, Haryana State Committee) and Comrade J Seeta (President, Chandigarh Committee). Different leaders addressing the students during the rally, appealed to develop a strong student movement. Comrade Satyawan, Secretary, Haryana State Committee of SUCI and a renowned peasant leader, congratulated the students for organizing the protest demonstration. Thereafter a 2-member delegation comprising one each from the states of Punjab and Haryana, went to meet the Governors of the respective states.

List of SUCI candidates for Bihar Assembly Elections

Constituency	Candidate
Munghyr District	
Haveli Kharagpur Tarapur	Comrade Bhola Tanti Comrade Bharat Mondal
Banka District	
Belhar	Comrade Bhubaneswar Paswan
Jehanabad District	
Jehanabad	Comrade Umashankar Verma
Muzaffarpur District	
Kanti	Comrade Tarakeswar Giri
Para	Comrade Ramprit Roy
Sahebgunge	Comrade Jadavlal Patel
Vaishali District	
Lalgunge	Comrade Rajendra Sharma

SUCI contests Ahmedabad Municipal Election

SUCI has fielded Comrade Jayesh Patel to contest from Navrangpura Ward for the post of Corporator of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The election is scheduled on October 13 next.

Observations of Proletarian Era on VAT vindicated

While discussing the ominous consequences of introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on the pages of Proletarian Era, March 1, 2005 issue, we, inter alia, mentioned :

" Pursuant to the government policies, monopoly-owned mega-retail chains, big departmental stores, shopping malls have already captured a sizeable retail market in the urban areas. Not only national monopolists even foreign monopolists are showing increasing interests in Indian retail market. What is more, Government of India is also talking of allowing FDI in retail ... Monopoly take over of retail trade would entail charging of monopolistic prices and thereby intensify capitalist exploitation of ordinary consumers, already wretched and devastated beyond limit.

Of late,FIIs are taking lot of exposure in mid-cap stocks or shares of medium capital companies in the stock market. Retail company stocks fall under this category. FIIs, as has been observed, show interest in stocks which have wide scope for speculation. ... these shares are more volatile or provide better opportunity for widespread speculation. Scope for speculation in a particular category of stock widens if number of that category stock increases. Increase of more number of stocks means more number of companies coming in that sector. So proliferation of retail companies cannot be ruled out in view of the FIIs' growing preference for mid-cap stocks."

The Economic Times of October 5, 2005, carried a news items captioned :

"Retail's the rallying point, FDI hopes spur investors" on the front page. After giving details of how the shares of monopoly-owned retail chains like Pantaloons, Trent, Shoppers Stop have outperformed Sensex in 2005, the article mentions:

"Though the debate on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail continues unabated, the market sees tremendous potential in the sector, sending all retail scrips into the stratosphere. ... there is an ever growing interest in one of the fastest growing sectors (retail) in India."

The Economic Times of October 6, 2005 published another news item under the heading:

"Government woos Left for 49% FDI in retail," also writing in it :
"The government is all set to start consultations with the Left parties for permitting 49% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail, with a provision for 26% holding by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)."

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