

Press Statements

RED STAR

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Press Statements

S. A. Rawoof Expelled

S. A. Rawoof is expelled from CPI(ML) Red Flag for indulging in anti-party activities in continuation to the sectarian political positions he was pursuing for long time.

Secretary,
for Central Reorganisation Committee,
C. P. (M. L) Red Flag.

Fight Against Social Democracy

The decision of the 16th Congress of CPI (M) to concede the leadership in the struggle against the BJP-RSS-combine to Congress (I) through helping it to provide an alternative to BJP rule is a clear indication of CPI (M)'s further degeneration to social democratic positions. This drift shows that CPI (M) leadership has not cared to take lessons from its own past, especially from the political developments since 1989 Lok Sabha elections. Can the leadership absolve itself from its own share of the responsibility for helping the Sangh Parivar to come to power through the opportunist politics including the UF experiment on the shoulders of Congress (I) during this period.

It is a fact that with the coming to power of BJP government the fascist threat has intensified. The reason for this ascendance of Hindutva forces is that through communal pseudo-swadeshi slogans they could occupy the space provided by the degeneration of the Congress (I) which ruined the country in all spheres through its reactionary socio-economic and political policies, and when the left forces were continuously failing to build up a people's alternative against it with all India influence. Instead of fighting against the reactionary: liberalisation/globalisation policies accelerated by Rao government and its appeasement of communalism, CPI (M) and its allies went for continuing the very same policies through the UF governments providing the BJP the opportunity to project itself as the alternative in last elections

In present international and national context ascendancy of fascist forces is not an isolated development. It is an integral part of the growing crisis of the neo-liberal imperialist policies and intensifying neocolonial slavery of countries like India. So the growing fascist threat from Hindutva forces can be combated only when the struggle against it is combined with struggle for overthrowing imperialist dictated economic policies. In such a situation joining hands with moribund Congress (I) against BJP, as the CPI (M)'s new line advocates, means once again helping the Sangh Parivar to thrive.

History has repeatedly proved that fascist forces can be combated and overthrown only when a genuine left alternative is built up mobilising all progressive classes and sections. The CPI (M) and CPI are running away from this historic responsibility as they have altogether reduced their politics to opportunist electoral tactics, tying themselves to apron strings of discredited Congress (I) and other reactionary outfits.

The 16th Congress decision of the CPI (M) should be an eye opener to all genuine left forces. Continuing to expose their social democratic degeneration, they should struggle to building up a revolutionary left alternative for democracy and socialism, fighting against both BJP and Congress.

New Delhi
10. 10. 98

K. N. Ramachandran
All India Secretary,
CPI (ML) RED FLAG,

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EDITORIAL

Present rumblings portend mighty upheavels

The Calcutta newspaper 'The Statesman' was once called the 'Jute Press'. It was started as the mouthpiece of British and comprador jute mill owners during colonial days. Like its counterparts everywhere it still persists in serving the imperialists and the comprador state interests, faithfully. Alongwith specialisation in glamourising the latest inside stories from Buckingham Palace or Clinton's sex escapades, oblivious of what is taking place around the world and even unaffected by international reports published in its own pages, it sometimes brings out some of the dirtiest and cheapest anti-communist literature in the true spirit of Macarthian days. Misquoting Marxist teachers, demonising Stalin, vulgarising the communist movement, and erasing the line of demarcation between Marxism

and revisionism to attack proletarian movements are favourite tricks. One such 'article' is published on 13th October issue of it with the author, unaware of what is happening around, ranting like a lunatic about everything linked to the proletariat. His piece reminds one of the writings during the early 1990s when his likes were filling the pages of *The Statesman* like newspapers with horror stories of socialist days and soap-operas of liberation from socialist tyranny.

But lots of water have flown through Hoogly river after those days. Today Yeltsin, the darling and hero of HIRAK Chowdhary likes, is a hated man in his country. He does not get even five percent votes even in the so-called opinion polls. And the people are on the move.

Observe December 6 As Struggle Day Against Hindutva Communal Forces

December 6 marks the sixth anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid by Sangh Parivar forces, abetted by the then Congress government. With the BJP led government coming to power at centre, the Hindutva forces are intensifying communalisation attacking all democratic forces, toiling masses, and particularly the minorities. This is a dangerous policy to divide the working people and to weaken them for intensifying the liberalisation/globalisation policies, to sell out the country to imperialist interests, and to divert attention from people's burning problems like unprecedented price-rise, unemployment etc.

We call upon all progressive, democratic, patriotic forces all over the country to get united and observe December 6 as struggle day: *Against Agressive Hindutva communal forces and in defence of democratic rights.*

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. CPI (ML) COC Janashakti | 4. CPI (ML) Red Flag. |
| 2. CPI (ML) Liberation | 5. C.O.I (ML) |
| 3. CPI (ML) New Democracy | 6. M.C.P.I |

Support All India Strike Call on 11 December Make it a big success

We call upon the revolutionary left forces all over the country to support the call given by NPMO to observe countrywide general strike on December 11 against the anti-working class, anti-people policies of the BJP led government at centre, and to make it a big success by actively and fully involving in it in all respects.

The Vajpayee government has further intensified the unilateral moves to amend the labour laws, and to implement World Bank proposals in the education field alongwith communalising it. The employers are being given complete liberty to hire and fire, to create hurdles in formation of unions, to impose restrictions on the right to strike and to take away

once again. They are participating in mighty countrywide strike - struggles and in militant demonstrations with portraits of Lenin and Stalin. They are demanding the return of Soviet days. Seven years of outright western model capitalism have given them enough lessons. They are once again studying history and are eager to recreate history of a new socialist upsurge.

Much about these mighty rumblings have already appeared in many newspapers. They are compelled to publish them reluctantly. In spite of them *The Statesman* like papers and their pen-pushers are not tired of publishing ghost-stories about proletariat and socialism with banner headlines like "myth of the workers' paradise". They are engaged in exorcising the world from the spectre of communism.

But contrary to what they write and propagate, the toiling masses everywhere are once again getting organised slowly but decisively in the true tradition of Great October Revolution, the 81st anniversary of which we are observing on this November 7th. When the neo-liberal or neo-monetarist policies introduced with much fanfare are failing to save the imperialist system from its general crisis, when more and more people are joining the struggle for democracy and socialism everywhere, the rumblings are un-

all democratic and trade union rights won by the working class through numerous heroic struggles. Contract labour system is implemented everywhere, at all levels. In this way conditions of slavery is being imposed on the entire trade union movement.

Alongwith this permission is given to employers to close down their units and impose exit policy and voluntary retirement scheme (VRS). Privatisation of public sector units (PSUs) to the tune of 74% disinvestment is allowed, these by liquidating them and surrendering them to foreign and native monopolies. Instead of trying to revive the sick units they are being dismantled throwing out millions of workers. After Vajpayee gov-

mistakable. They portend the mighty upheavals to happen in the coming days. They are disproving all that is still propagated by the imperialists and their running dogs.

The people's upsurge that has once again started in Moscow and elsewhere all over Russia show that the days of Yeltsin's raj are numbered. Overwhelming majority of people there are raising their voice for a socialist future.

But the path ahead is going to be a challenging one for the revolutionary forces. The social democrats parading as communists are quite powerful everywhere. They are trying hard to divert the people's movements to reformist path. The imperialists will no doubt rely on these forces as their last resort to wreck the revolutionary upsurge. Like the 'Jute Press' in India, reactionary mouthpieces of imperialists and their running dogs everywhere will also intensify their hate-campaign against proletarian revolution in this situation.

In spite of all these, the dawn of the new century is bound to herald new Octobers once again. The objective situation is becoming more and more favourable for the revolutionary forces. On the 81st anniversary of October Revolution let us resolve to overthrow the rule of imperialists and their running dogs for ever. ●

ernment coming to power, out of the 30 lakhs registered units in the country about six lakhs units have become sick, and imposition of contract labour system has reached unprecedented levels. In short, surrendering to the dictates of the IMF-World Bank-WTO trio and intensifying the implementation of the privatisation-liberalisation-globalisation policies the Vajpayee government is mortgaging the country and criminally acting against the interests of the working class and all other sections of the toiling masses. The anti-people policies adopted by the Congress governments, especially the Rao government, and continued by the UF governments are now hastily carried forward by the BJP led government to unprecedented levels causing grave consequences like sky rocketing prices of essential commodities, unemployment etc.

It is in this context the joint forum of six revolutionary left organisations including CPI (ML) Red Flag led a countrywide campaign and organised an effective *parliament dharna on 15 July* with anti-imperialist, anti state slogans focussing especially on the peasants and agricultural workers' problems. It is in continuation to these efforts we are supporting the NPMO's call for general strike on 11 December.

While doing so we are not forgetting that the leaderships of the mass organisations led by the Left Front parties, especially of CPI (M) and CPI, who are in the forefront of NPMO, have gone against the interests of the working class when they unilaterally suspended its activities in 1994 even though its earlier calls for the two general strikes and Bharat Bandhs had received unprecedented response from the toiling masses. With the UF governments coming to power a moratorium was declared on all activities of NPMO, and the UF governments also went ahead with the very same anti-people policies earlier opposed by NPMO. The state governments led by the Left Front are actively implementing the very same anti-people liberalisation/globalisation policies under various pretexts. And, in this general strike call the NPMO is refusing to categorically call for the total scrapping of the liberalisation policies and for quitting WTO. The revolutionary left forces and class/mass organisations led by them should continuously expose and fight against these opportunist approaches.

At the same time we recognise the grave situation faced by the country and the people

due to intensifying liberalisation/globalisation policies, and because of the growing threat of fascism posed by the Sangh Parivar. The task in front of us is to unite all progressive democratic forces and the left masses as a whole against these twin dangers. It is in this context we call for actively supporting the December 11 all India general strike and make it a big success raising our own slogans like

- * Scrap privatisation/liberalisation/globalisation policies, quit WTO;
- * Resist and defeat sell-out of PSUs;
- * Oppose privatisation of insurance and banking sectors;
- * Oppose contract labour system, and all moves to sabotage workers' rights.

Let us make all-out efforts to unite all progressive democratic forces and left masses, and launch countrywide campaign to make *December 11 All India General Strike* a great success.

Secretary,
C. P. I (M.L) Red Flag

Cotton exports hit textile units

While textile mills are closed down all over the country and handloom units apart from thread making units are seriously affected due to shortage of cotton, government of India has given permission to export more and more quantities of cotton. The new Exim Policy has removed all restrictions on such exports. As a result big traders are cornering the cotton produced in Punjab and Maharashtra, and are exporting it in huge quantities. In spite of voices raised by workers' organisations, mill owners, organisations of handloom owners and even after protests by some state governments these exports are increasing. It leads to further crisis, closing down of many mills, and lakhs of workers becoming jobless.

On elections to the four state assemblies

The elections to state assemblies in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Mizoram is held at a time when the communal forces, mainly the forces led by Sangh Parivar has intensified their criminal efforts for fascicisation, and when the liberalisation/globalisation policies are carried forward nakedly in all fields enslaving the country in all respects. As a result, on the one hand all democratic rights are snatched away from the people, and all democratic forces, toiling masses, and particularly the minorities are coming under increasing attacks. On the other hand through intensification of liberalisation/globalisation policies the country's vital interests are sold out to imperialist forces. The jingoism spread after Pokhran nuclear tests has now given way to surrender to US dictates by agreeing to sign CTBT like unequal treaties and to opening the country for allround entry of foreign capital and MNCs following the economic sanctions imposed by US imperialists. The *Swadeshi* if Sangh Parivar is proved as nothing but total surrender to *Videshi* interests. As a result price-rise, unemployment etc. have reached unprecedented levels impoverishing the people to extreme levels.

It is already proved that Congress (I) is not only interested but also incapable of fighting the Sangh Parivar forces. It had abetted the demolition of Babri Masjid by the Hindutva communal forces. Both BJP and Congress (I) are basically agreeing on the liberalisation / globalisation policies. Similar is the case with the different regional parties and Mulayam-Laloo-BSP like forces.

So the ideas spread by CPI (M), CPI like forces that the BJP led communal forces and the fascist threat posed by them can be met by supporting Congress (I) to come to power, and/or forming a *third alternative* with DMK, TMC like forces are reflecting their opportunist politics only. Such ideas are mere illusions which will only frustrate the left masses.

What is required today is an allround offensive by the genuine left forces taking clear-cut anti imperialist, anti-feudal, anti state positions at all India level. Only such an initiative can mobilise the left masses and progressive democratic sections for building up a people's revol-

utionary alternative to fight and defeat the fascist threat from the Sangh Parivar and the liberalisation/globalisation policies.

The elections to the assemblies in four states are taking place at such a crucial time. We call upon all progressive, democratic, patriotic and left forces to fight against the communal forces and their fascicisation efforts, to resist the liberalisation / globalisation policies and to unite for building up a revolutionary alternative for basic transformation of existing social system.

- * Fight against communal forces,
Resist liberalisation/globalisation policies;
- * Build-up revolutionary alternative.

New Delhi
1 November '98

Secretary,
C.P.I (M.L) Red Flag.

CTBT: US increases pressure on India and Pakistan

US administration is happy that both the prime ministers of India and Pakistan have almost agreed to sign the CTBT in their recent UN speeches. The US Senate also voted permitting the president to lift the economic sanctions against both, imposed following their recent nuclear tests.

But Clinton has not only cancelled his trip to South Asia, but has postponed lifting of economic sanctions. US imperialists are exerting more pressure to get the two governments sign the CTBT and ratify it so that the treaty can come in to force before the September 1999 dead line.

K. N. Ramachandran

Why India Should Not Sign CTBT

The statement made by prime minister Vajpayee in the UN that India will not come in the way of ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) clearly means that his government is preparing the ground for signing it, reversing the positions put forward by earlier governments. Following this, Congress leader Sharad Pawar has also made it clear that his party is not against signing the treaty provided some of its aspects are properly clarified. These statements show that as the pressure from US administration and the nuclear club or P-5 forces mounts in coming days, government of India will not hesitate to sign this unequal treaty. This threat calls for reopening the CTBT debate so as to mobilise democratic public opinion against the move to sign it.

A reversal of earlier policies

The progressive aspect of Indian foreign policy in the post 1947 years, even while it essentially reflected the comprador character of the ruling classes, was that it called for world disarmament including total global nuclear disarmament. In the 1960s though India played a major role in pushing for and drafting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it did not sign it as the final draft represented the interests of US and UK on the one hand and the then Soviet Union on the other. Under pressure from the Nuclear Weapon States (NWSs) which included US, Russia (then Soviet Union), UK, France and China—the five permanent Security Council members or P 5—the Non Nuclear Power States (NNWSs) were compelled to accept discriminatory conditions. In return for the strict conditionalities imposed over the NNWSs preventing them from all forms of proliferation of nuclear development, under Article VI of the NPT the NWSs committed to move eventually towards complete nuclear disarmament. But the experience of this treaty finalised in 1968 and which came into force in 1970 show that the spirit of this commitment was continuously violated by the NWSs. NPT sought to reiterate two category of nations and to establish the nuclear hegemony of US and other nuclear powers.

The primary reason for Indian comprador state with its own regional hegemonic ambitions to refuse to sign the NPT was that it wanted to keep its nuclear option open as proved soon by Pokhran I in 1974. But this could not be cited as a reason for the progressive forces to opt for demanding the adoption of NPT. The NPT was totally discriminatory and its stand on nuclear disarmament was superficial. It was an unequal treaty imposing the nuclear hegemony of US imperialists and other NWSs. That is why the progressive forces, while opposing all attempts by the Indian state to develop capability of nuclear weaponisation and to conduct nuclear tests for it, supported its refusal to sign the NPT. The arguments put forward by some advocates of the so-called peace movement here, or by those who see peace movement in an abstract sense, that "the NPT still contains the only international legal commitment that has ever been made by the NWSs to carry out complete nuclear disarmament" is fallacious as these nuclear powers have not taken any steps in this direction so far. On the other hand they have only strengthened their nuclear weaponry by all available means in spite of the NPT.

Viewed in this context, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is only a concession by the NWSs that they will not go for nuclear tests for securing the permanent extension of NPT, that is for not implementing Article VI of the NPT. So, as we have stated earlier also, the CTBT is effectively a building block after the NPT, in the general direction for imposing nuclear hegemony by the US led forces in today's context. So the arguments put forward by the Indian representative to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in January 1996 that in the context of indefinite extension of the NPT it has become imperative to link a CTBT with a specific time-bound procedure for carrying out nuclear disarmament was correct. She argued that for this purpose an Ad hoc Committee should be set up by the CD to start negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament. She added that if a CTBT was to be meaningful then it should be securely anchored in the global disarmament context and should be linked thro-

the nuclear option in the name of so-called national interests, it has always fought for total global nuclear disarmament, and the hitherto Indian government policy of refusing to sign NPT and then CTBT as they are not aiming at and linking with this disarmament goal. The revolutionary left forces were in the forefront in categorically condemning Pokhran II and exposing the jingoism and frenzy whipped up by Sangh Parivar in the name of the *Hindutva* *Bcn b*. Simultaneously, they opposed all ambiguous approaches taken on this question by Congress and most of the opposition parties.

As far as the revolutionary left forces are concerned the slogan of global nuclear disarmament is a basic political slogan linked to world peace, total disarmament, and the future of humankind. The NPT, PTBT, CTBT like treaties are not going to help the realisation of this goal as the hitherto experience has proved. All of them are flawed, discriminatory, and in one way or other strengthen the nuclear monopoly of 5 nations. As a result, in spite of all disarmament talks these forces possess 20,000 nuclear weapons. That is, the world remains nuclearly armed to teeth with enough bombs to destroy the planet earth 30 times over.

If the vast majority of the governments in the neocolonies of Afro-Asian-Latin American countries signed NPT, CTBT like treaties it is under duress from the US Imperialists. It is because of the assured US nuclear umbrella that its allies, the other imperialist countries are joining these treaties. All these governments like those of the NWS are not serving the cause of world peace, disarmament or people's basic interests.

When consecutive Indian governments refused to sign these treaties as they do not constructively take up the question of nuclear disarmament the revolutionary left forces supported this stand even while thoroughly opposing the so-called peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy, and their intentions for keeping the options open for going towards nuclear armament in the name of 'national interests'.

With Pokhran II this situation has also changed. On the one hand the Vajpayee government went for nuclear jingoism. On the other, it is getting ready to surrender before US imperialists and sign the CTBT in its present form.

So it is now the task of the revolutionary

left to raise the banner of opposition to the CTBT higher, and unite all progressive forces for global nuclear disarmament. The environmentalists and the peaceniks do not realise the significance of this task as they see protection of environment, world peace and disarmament in abstract. They do not see the nuclear hegemony of US Imperialists and others as part of the contradiction between imperialism and world people. Today the struggle for nuclear disarmament, for world peace, for environmental protection and against all discriminating unequal treaties are part of the struggle against imperialist system and for people's emancipation. So the abstract calls of environmentalists and peaceniks for signing NPT, CTBT like treaties in effect degenerate to ultimately serving the imperialist system itself.

Today it is the task of the revolutionary left forces to mobilise all progressive, democratic, patriotic forces to stand for global nuclear disarmament, and as a part of it to uncompromisingly oppose the nuclear jingoism of the Vajpayee government on the one hand, and its heinous move to surrender nakedly before US Imperialists and sign the discriminatory CTBT on the other.

In this task they are sure to get active support and co-operation of broad sections of people. Following Pokhran II not only the working class and other toiling masses, large number of scientists, engineers, intellectuals and other such sections came forward to expose the pseudo claims of the nuclear-defence establishments and the Sangh Parivar. Expressing dismay, shock, anguish and bitter opposition to Pokhran II tests, they declared themselves against the discriminatory attitude, arm-twisting tactics and nuclear hegemony of the nuclear powers, and supported the hitherto Indian stand of refusing to sign NPT and CTBT like unequal treaties. All these show that unlike what is propagated by the imperialist propagandists, the comprador forces and their apologists of various brands, vast sections of people are opposed to nuclear jingoism and signing of discriminatory CTBT.

In this situation the revolutionary left forces should launch consistent struggle in continuation to the countrywide campaign they organised against the Pokhran II blasts and the chauvinist frenzy whipped up by the Sangh Parivar following it for exposing and defeating all heinous moves to make India a signatory in the CTBT.

On the Class Character of Rich Peasants, Or, Should We Align with the Rich Peasant Lobby

The question of characterisation of national bourgeoisie is a much debated one among the left forces. The positions vary from that of extreme sectarians who do not see any national bourgeoisie in India on the one hand, to that of CPI-CPI (M) like forces and the neo-Trotskyist fringe who characterise the whole of Indian bourgeoisie as national bourgeoisie, of course with many variations among them, on the other. On the early days of Naxalbari movement itself Charu Majumdar had rejected both these positions. Based on the M. L teachings starting from Lenin's Colonial Thesis the M-L Movement characterised the big bourgeoisie and bureaucrat bourgeoisie as compradors serving imperialist system, and analysed the national bourgeoisie, which has to be won over to the people's democratic front, as very weak under conditions in the countries under imperialist domination. CM had pointed out the various ways through which the national bourgeoisie is dominated by and compelled to support the comprador sections in present situation. Thus opposing both sectarian and revisionist positions M L forces stand for establishing the leadership of the proletariat in the N D R, for building up worker-peasant alliance, and for building up the P D F based on it, including sections of this national bourgeoisie through a process.

On the question of rich peasants also such a struggle had taken place and it has achieved more importance today. At the time of Naxalbari itself transformation in the mode of production in the agricultural field was taking place at an accelerated pace. The emergence of rich peasant class was noted, and in the then documents it was pointed out that a section of them can be won over to the P D F. But since the question of changes taking place in agrarian sector itself was not taken up for serious study, and feudalism was earmarked as the principal target, approach to this question was not given much importance. Under sectarian influence the whole tactical line was reduced to 'annihilation line' by mobilising landless and poor peasants against the feudal landlords.

Following the severe setback suffered by

the ML movement in early seventies itself, when the movement splintered to many groups, practically all of them took up rectification of the 1970 tactical line, of course based on different approaches. But these rectifications remained more or less superficial, or partial or confined to certain changes in the forms of organisation and forms of struggle only as there was no effort to go in to the source of the deviations in the tactical line, or to the source of the sectarian mistakes, based on a concrete analysis of the concrete situation. In addition to these basic weaknesses in whatever rectifications were taken up, the influence of the class-collaborationist 'Theory of Three Worlds' put forward in the 11th Congress of the CPC in 1977 as the 'general line of the international proletariat' by the capitalist-roaders who usurped power immediately following Mao's death in 1976 was also profound. The cumulative effect of the negative reaction to earlier sectarian mistakes, influence of the TWT, and impact of strong petty-bourgeois anarchist tendencies was that the proletarian class line was abandoned to a large extent, the importance of theoretical development according to the changes in the concrete conditions was down-graded, and influence of class-collaborationist tendencies strengthened.

The post-1947 period witnessed many changes in the agrarian sector. Zamindari system was ended and at least token land reforms were implemented bringing changes in land relations in many areas. The numerous land struggles launched by left forces compelled the ruling system to initiate these land reforms. There was another more important reason for initiating land reforms. Under imperialist dictations the *Green Revolution* was launched in India also. It called for emergence and consolidation of a landlord class directly engaged in forming utilising modern farm equipments and technology and who link production with market system. So the land reforms were not primarily based on 'land to the tiller' concept, but was aimed at the creation of a new class of landlords capable of carrying forward the *Green Revolution*, so that agricultural sector also could be brought under the sway of capital and market.

Communalising Education

The Sangh Parivar is utilising all opportunities to push through their *agenda* in all possible fields. Rather, they are in a hurry to prove to their diehard followers what they can expect from a *Rama Rajya*.

Take for example recent held state education ministers conference. Murali Manohar Joshi-Uma Bharathi team leading the ministry of Human Resources and Development had done their home work thoroughly. They wanted it to start with *Saraswati Vandana*. Then an RSS ideologue on education Chitiangla will address it as expert to teach the ministers how they should *Indianise* and *spiritualise* education. That all these agendas could not be fully materialised this time due to opposition by ministers from non - BJP states should be little comfort to progressive secular forces. Through ABVP and teachers parishad RSS has already

launched an extensive campaign in education field to *Indianise* it in the way BJP government Indianised ICHR earlier.

A major offensive is called for to expose the RSS game-plan. It can be done only if this so-called Indianisation can be exposed by showing it as a cover to implement IMF-WB dictates in the education field. Consciously the debate is diverted from the so-called literacy campaign which is already a still born child in most areas, and the DPEP started this year in 150 districts which are aimed at depriving the children from the backward sections even the little education facilities they are getting today under WB dictates, by introducing new controversies like singing of *Saraswati Vandana* etc.

The progressive forces should work hard to raise the debate from anti-imperialist patriotic positions to defeat the RSS game-plan. ●

By early 1980s a powerful class of rich peasants emerged. Rather they became the powerful section among big landlords. Along with this the contradiction between the big bourgeois-bureaucrat-big traders section mainly controlling the Indian State and this powerful rich peasant or kulak or landlord lobby also surfaced as the latter started raising their demands for more subsidies on the one hand and better prices for agricultural products on the other. It was at this time powerful rich peasant movements led by Sharad Joshi in Maharashtra, Narayana Swamy in TN, Nanjunda Swamy in Karnataka, Mahendra Singh Tikayat in UP etc. came up. As a reflection of this contradiction and utilising national sentiments in a sectarian way Khalistan like movements also surfaced.

This contradiction surfaced and got intensified from 1980s was basically a contradiction among the comprador ruling classes, with the newly emerged powerful rich peasant lobby bargaining for better share of the loot and power. As the liberalisation and entry of MNCs started this section started collaborating with them more and more.

But as a result of the influence of the various alien tendencies mentioned earlier, most of the M-L forces failed to analyse the class character of the emerging rich peasant section and the

movements coming up as a reflection of it. Both the rightist as well as sectarian trends fell victims to this mistake. Though with different interpretations, both these trends started supporting the rich peasant movements, some even trailing behind them. In this process some of these splinter groups got liquidated. Many of the former revolutionary activists got degenerated to open petty bourgeois positions, or even ruling class positions.

If this is what happened in the 1980s, today the situation is more serious. With liberalisation/globalisation reaching unprecedented levels, the changes taking place in the agrarian sector has also intensified. Land accumulation is promoted everywhere. The rich peasant class has proliferated. They are now producing not only for internal market, but more and more for international market. The big landlords are becoming predominantly comprador agricultural bourgeoisie even while feudal remnants are surviving in some areas.

But all the organisations pre occupied by their theory of 'feudalism as the principal contradiction.' have totally failed to recognise these changes. They refuse to recognise the changes in class relations, to make a new class analysis and to develop the understanding about the agrarian revolution according to concrete condi-

On Udham Singh Nagar and Uttaranchal

On the question of Udham Singh Nagar district - whether to include it in the newly formed Uttaranchal or retain it in UP - a major dispute is taking place with Akali Dal threatening to withdraw support to BJP government on it. Actually not only this issue, but the entire question of formation of so-called smaller states calls for a serious national debate. This has achieved added significance with the BJP's call for doing away with linguistic states, and even some progressive or 'revolutionary' forces extending support to breaking up linguistic states in the name of economic backwardness of some regions like Telangana or Vidarbha. All these moves are either revanchist, reformist or opportunist. They have nothing to do with the democratic slogan of right of self-determination of all nationalities and unification of India based on this principle. Often such positions are propagated by forces who even deny the multinational character of India, and who continuously strike even at the existing federal character. Udham Singh Nagar is a good example of their anti-people and opportunist approach to this basic democratic question.

This district comprises of the fertile Terai region in UP linking the Gangetic plain with Himalayan ranges. It is only 22 km in width and more than 150 km in length. This was a den of feudal exploitation for long years. And it has a history of many anti-feudal struggles led by the undivided CPI. Following Naxalbari once again Lakhimpur - Kheri became famous for anti-feudal movements. It was following this,

itons of today. As a result some of them have started trailing behind the rich peasant lobby led by Mahendra Singh Tikayat like leaders. This is a serious deviation.

Winning over patriotic sections or elements among the rich peasants alongwith genuine nationalist sections of the bourgeoisie to the people's democratic front led by the proletariat in this stage of NDR is basically different from trailing behind the rich peasant lobby as some sections are now doing. This deviation should be fully exposed and fought against.

—Karthik

In the name of rewarding the retired 'heroes' of 1971 Bangladesh War, Indira Gandhi government decided to allot large plots of Terai land to retired army officers. With this the old landlords and the new landlords occupied the whole region building up large farms fully mechanised and utilising modern agricultural methods. In this process they gobbled up the land belonging to Tharus, the original inhabitants of this area, the poor peasants, and the forest land after indiscriminately cutting down and selling the trees. While the state machinery fully supported their criminal conquest by sharing the loot, goonda forces were employed to terrorise the poor peasantry and tribals who were reduced to mere farm workers with paltry wages. Not only many bureaucrats, many political leaders of UP and Punjab are owning farms there. All land reform acts and acts concerning non-alienation of tribal lands were/are nakedly violated here. Instead of land distribution, extreme land accumulation is the ruling trend here. There is a sharp class division between rich landlords and farm workers.

The communal Akali Dal is opposing inclusion of this district in Uttaranchal because it fears its props, the rich landlords, will be adversely affected by the administration of a state which is going to be predominantly inhabited by middle peasants and aboriginal sections. Its position reflects not the interests of the people as it repeats, but of the rich landlord lobby. So the support extended to Akali Dal's demand by CPI (M) general secretary Surjeet shows to what extent this leadership has also degenerated.

While the rich landlord lobby and its supporters are very active to protect its interests, the plight of the farm workers and the aboriginals are not raised by any of the contending parties. Same was the debate about Hardwar district also. UP fought and won Hardwar for it by arguing that it has spent huge sums for the hydel projects there, and so it should get the revenue from it. On a larger scale, in the debate for Uttaranchal, its present protagonists have not explained how the formation of the new state will help the extremely backward people there, who constitute vast majority. Under the present ruling system the new state is neither going to solve the chronic uneven development which is an integral part of neocolo-

Advani to Surjeet Unite on Amartya Sen

The declaration of the Swedish Academy that Dr. Amartya Sen is nominated for Nobel prize for economics this year has elated many in India. A great effort is on to present it as a great glory for India, and that Amartya Sen is a votary of the poor. So, media, political parties and elite groups are competing with each other to eulogise Amartya Sen. In this flood of propaganda even many of the progressive forces are being led astray. So an in depth discussion on the basic outlook of this Nobel laureate on questions of ideology and political economy are called for.

Amartya Sen is an open advocate of 'capitalism with human face'. After nomination for Nobel prize he stated in an interview that he is for 'liberalisation/globalisation with social security belt'. That is, as he had written vividly in his books published two decades ago and in the articles of the past he is for monetarist policies, but of course with some form of 'human face', that is providing something to appease the impoverished masses. In short, he was and is always an advocate of imperialist economic policies,

and will not solve the basic problems of the masses. This can be well understood if we recollect that more than the uneven development and poverty of the masses, it was the proposed quota of reservation for backward sections which became the immediate provocation for Uttarakhnad agitation from the beginning of this decade.

Thus, like the formation of Uttaranchal under present ruling system is not going to be a solution to solve people's problems, the controversy raised around Ucham Singh Nagar is entirely for the class interests of rich landlords. Ultimately, in the present situation, all these measures and controversies only serve the interests of the ruling classes as they make the people confused and divided.

The reorganisation of the states should be based on the right of self-determination of all nationalities and on the protection of the democratic rights of all aboriginals. The delimitation of boundaries of states also should be in consonance with this basic approach. Instead of these, arbitrary measures for formation of new states are taken, and controversies are raked up in the interests of the ruling classes. What is repeatedly sacrificed is people's interests.

that is, basically an advocate of the political economy of the capitalist-imperialist system. The basic outlook of his theory of welfare economics is nothing different.

He was once a champion of 'Kerala model'. This was a model projected by the imperialist ideologues and social democrats. They argued that the growth of social services in Kerala show that without basic changes in the social system including revolutionisation of production relations big advances can be made in the life of people. Or it was projected as a model for the 'Third World' countries. Amartya Sen became an advocate of this position. The later developments in Kerala including the all-round crisis faced by the economic, political, social, cultural fields these have exposed this imperialist propagation of 'Kerala model'.

For Advani, the BJP leader, Amartya Sen's is a laudable outlook. Quoting him, Advani told the FICCI delegates on 25 October that there are major gains to be achieved from globalisation, if it is linked with social opportunities for the masses. This is Advani's brand of globalisation rooted in 'Swadeshi'.

On the other side, CPI (M) leadership has lauded Amartya Sen profusely for putting forward 'welfare economics'. For those like Surjeet who applaud what Dengists do in China in the name of 'market socialism', Amartya Sen becomes one among them. It is but natural.

So while theoreticians of Sangh Parivar and CPI (M) competes to laud Sen, it is the responsibility of those who oppose the capitalist imperialist system, of those who stand by the socialist alternative to expose the 'imperialist welfare economics' of Amartya Sen.

It is not accidental that he is elected for Nobel prize this year. The monetarist policies implemented during last two decades through IMF-WB dictated liberalisation / globalisation regime is under fire everywhere after the intensifying crisis in both imperialist countries and neocolonies. This year WB's *world development report* has already called for some social welfare belt to whitewash the monetarist policies. So, it is but natural that its able advocate is awarded this year, when the imperialists are trying to prolong their hegemony by confusing the masses projecting their system smartly covered by a thin veneer of welfare policies.

Balance sheet of Liberalisation-Globalisation: IMF Paints Grim Picture of Global Economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has painted an exceedingly grim picture in its latest "World Economic Outlook", which gives the unhappy news that "international economic and financial conditions have deteriorated considerably in recent months as recessions have deepened in many Asian emerging market economies and Japan, and as Russia's financial crisis has raised the spectre of default."

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) has now revised its world growth figures downward to just 2 per cent. A full percentage point less than it expected in the May 1998 projection. "Chances of any significant improvement in 1999 have also diminished and the risks of a deeper, wider and more prolonged downturn have escalated," the report said.

The latest WEO contains hardly any ray of hope. "Considerable uncertainty remains about the near-term outlook", it said. Even the revised projections are based on the assumption that financial market confidence in the Asian crisis economies will gradually return during the remainder of 1998 and 1999, as crucial reforms are implemented.

If Japan implements its planned fiscal stimulus and undertakes banking sector restructuring measures, and emerging market interest spreads gradually decline, the IMF feels it can cautiously consider a scenario in which the global economy will gradually recover in the course of 1999 and return to trend growth 2000.

But then the WEO gets cold feet and warns that "indeed, a significantly worse outcome is clearly possible: The potential for a broader and deeper economic downturn stems from a multitude of inter-related risks that make the current economic situation unusually fragile. Many of these risks are related to developments in international capital markets, including the danger of a prolonged retreat by international investors and banks from emerging markets, widespread financing difficulties, threats to international payments and associated disruptions to trade, and further declines in stock markets and other asset prices, with attendant losses of financial wealth and contraction of consumption and investment worldwide."

WEO cautions that in all countries. It is particularly important that the difficult external environment does not lead to defensive exchange rate and trade actions with negative international consequences or to market-closing measures that would threaten countries' longer-term economic prospects.....

The report acknowledges that the crisis in East Asia is unique in that it "fused a currency crisis, banking crisis and a regional financial panic into a particularly virulent strand of economic malady."

Meanwhile, the need for the IMF to engage in regular consultations with the private financial community to address systemic global financial issues as well as specific country situations was emphasised here yesterday by Mr Charles Dallara, managing director of the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

Mr Dallara was speaking at a Press conference to present the IIF's policy letter to ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors and to release IIF forecasts on private capital flows to emerging markets. The IIF is a global association of financial institutions, with over 300 members including the world's leading private sector financial firms.

The IIF proposed that the IMF should involve the private sector at an early stage when a country appeared to be moving towards crisis and when it was still possible to act to reduce the danger and avert the crisis. Further, when a crisis appeared imminent, the IMF should work closely with private financial firms to assess the prospects for private financing in support of credible adjustment programmes. Mr Dallara noted that the Bretton Woods system to open trade and capital flows was facing its greatest challenge. A major decline in net private capital flows to the leading emerging market economies was taking place.

According to IIF forecasts, the total net private capital flows to 29 leading emerging market economies—including India and China—will fall to about \$160 billion from \$240 billion last year and a record of close to \$300 billion in 1996. The Institute expects the 1999 volume to stabilise around the 1998 level. The fall reflects both the direct impact of the financial

(contd P 18)

News from States

Delhi:

Garment Workers Prepare For Struggle

With the introduction of so-called 'export oriented development' inaugurated alongwith liberalisation-globalisation policies top priority is provided to different export sectors including the garments sector by central and state governments. Numerous incentives are provided to the exporters. In all major cities and Industrial towns like Tiruppur in TN the crop of new rich sections are mainly from this class. While this class is amassing fabulous wealth whether in garments, diamonds or other sectors, the millions of workers employed under them are among one of the most oppressed, exploited and unorganised sections. A study of any area where the export units are concentrated will reveal this.

Within Delhi there are thousands of garment units most of them export-oriented. It is estimated that about 60,000 workers are employed in them. Only in few of them the workers get normal benefits enjoyed under present trade union laws. Vast majority of these workers are contract workers. Even after 7 or 8 years of continuous work they are not regularised. Minimum wages act, ESI benefits, workmen's compensation act, overtime benefits etc are alien to them. When the units get more export orders the workers are compelled to work even 16 hour even on sundays, that is without holidays, at nominal wages. And when orders are reduced they become unemployed. The established TU centres are not interested to organise them. Most of these workers do not have even any valid papers. The labour department is silenced by the managements through bribes.

After making a preliminary study of the working conditions in this sector the TUCI supporters have started establishing contacts with these workers in different parts of Delhi. As a result they have succeeded in forming the first TU unit in Raisi Garments in Western Delhi which employs 150 workers. A 19 member committee is formed with com. Rajiv as president and

com. Vednath as secretary. All 150 workers have become members of this unit which is organised under Delhi Garments Employees Union.

TUCI, Delhi Committee has decided to struggle for the general demand of abolition of contract labour system. At the same time a demand notice is being prepared highlighting the urgent and long-term demands of the garments workers. With the formal inauguration of the union in November, a campaign followed by struggle to achieve these demands shall be taken up.

The Agitation of Private Hospital Workers

Rising discontentment among the workers in the health sector over the anti-labour systems and poor working conditions is getting hardened day-by-day as more and more hospital workers take to agitation against hospital authorities and government. Among the private hospitals that have taken to open revolt are Mool Chand and Apollo hospitals of Delhi. Over 3,000 workers including nurses are on the streets protesting against contract labour system and demanding better pay packages commensurate to Fifth Pay Commission. But the attitude of the government and the hospital authorities towards the agitating workers' demands is highly deplorable and irresponsible.

The growing agitation in the private hospitals is bound to become widespread and intensive unless anti-labour practices like contract labour system is immediately abolished. Mass retrenchment, tortuous and unsafe working conditions and poor wages is rampant in most of the private hospitals of Delhi, including Apollo hospital where the government has big financial stake. At a time when the govt. has failed in providing basic medical services to millions of poor people of the country through its poorly run hospitals and public health centers, the shift in the government's interest to associate with highly expensive super speciality hospitals for the elite class cannot be justified. Mo-

reover, utter neglect towards public health system amounts to serious offence by the government of a democratic country, which is generous to offer acres of prime lands for Re. 1 to big corporates like Apollo. So is government's silence a public offence when it refrains from taking action against Mool Chand hospital authorities for the illegal closure. And it is for the government to explain to the public its anti-people, anti-worker, and anti-democratic disposition. Instead of taking action against the illegal closure and other activities of the hospital managements the state machinery lathicharged the agitating workers.

The agitations of the workers of Apollo and Mool Chand is significant as it openly resists the imperialist interventions in the health sector by saying no to contract labour system. The trade unions of the private hospitals have taken the right decision to combine their forces to voice their concern on a single platform to fight for their rights.

TUCI (Trade Union Centre of India) unconditionally supported the ongoing agitation of the workers of Apollo Workers Union and Mool Chand Workers Union. And appreciated the efforts of the unions of the private hospitals to come together to wage a common battle against the unfair labour practices in the health sector by the government and the management. It called upon the government to immediately intervene in the labour dispute of Mool Chand and Apollo hospital and to settle it in absolute favour of the workers. TUCI expressed its solidarity to all the agitating workers in their struggle against the oppressive system of the management and the government. As a part of the campaign TUCI has prepared a bilingual pamphlet in English and Hindi and circulated in thousands among the nurses, hospital workers and the common people.

Karnataka:

Protest Dharna in front of District Colloctorates

Focussing on slogans like bring down prices of essential commodities, scrap privatisation of Karnataka Electricity Board, distribute government land to landless and poor peasants, provide compensation to peasants for crop-damages etc hundreds of peasants and youth

demonstrated and organised dharna in front of collectorates at Mysore, Bellary and Raichur on 25th September under the leadership of RCSS.

At Mysore com. Somaiah Malliyur inaugurated the dharna in which large number of peasants participated. At Bellary com D. H. Poojar and at Raichur com. Hulgappa Bedigar inaugurated the dharna. The dharnas concluded with public meetings addressed by RCSS leaders in which hundreds of people attended.

Hatti goldmine workers demonstrate

On 29th September more than 200 workers of Hatti gold mines demonstrated in front of the administrative office of the mines against forcible retrenchment of workers in the name of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) under the leadership of TUCI Lingsugur taluka committee (Raichur district). The demonstration was led by comrade Chinnappa, TUCI district committee secretary. The demonstration concluded in a public meeting attended by more than 500 workers. It was addressed by com. Basavalingappa, district committee secretary of CPI (ML) Red Flag. The workers union has decided to continue the struggle against the VRS scheme.

Tamil Nadu :

Solidarity Campaign in Support of Apollo Workers

Supporting the month-long struggle of the Apollo hospital workers of New Delhi solidarity campaign was launched before Apollo Hospital, Chennai by TUCI activists. Raising slogans like Support Delhi Apollo Workers Struggle, Organise Solidarity Actions, Expose Anti-Worker Policies of Apollo Management, Down with Contract Labour System effective posterung was done. TUCI activists went to residences of Chennai Apollo workers and explained why the Delhi Apollo workers are on strike. If the management do not take initiative to settle the strike acceding to the demands of the workers, TUCI Chennai committee has decided to carry forward the solidarity actions more vigorously.

Kerala :

STRUGGLE AGAINST ENRON GETS STRENGTHENED

As a part of the struggle against the entry of the American MNC, Enron into the power sector of Kerala, Yuvajanavedi, the revolutionary youth organisation held a militant Enron March to the newly opened office of the MNC at Pallikkunnu in Kaurur on 22nd of October. The march of more than 500 comrades was blocked by police at some 200 yards away from the temporary office of Enron. While addressing the public meeting held at the spot where the march was blocked Com: K. T. Kunjikkannan, president of Yuvajanavedi declared that the Enron would not be allowed to get into the power sector of the state.

It was during the Congress led UDF regime that a power purchase agreement was signed between the state govt. and KPP Nambiar who was the sponsor of Enron. The fact that the real force behind Nambiar is the MNC Enron was kept as a secret by the state Govt. It is only after the CPM led LDF came to power in 1996 that it has come out open. The progressive forces of the state including Yuvajanavedi came forward to oppose the govt. decision to allow Enron to function in the state. As the agitation got strengthened the CPM led govt. declared that it would not permit the MNC to enter into the power sector of the state (Red Star June 1998).

But the CPM led state govt. was actually making plans to go forward with the power purchase agreement with the Enron backed KPP Nambiar in the name of finding a permanent solution to the power shortage in the state. It was in such a situation that Yuvajanavedi revived the struggle against the entry of Enron. (Red Star October 98).

Hundreds of public meetings were organised as part of the campaign. Campaign teams from 24 different centres of the state travelled throughout the length and breadth of the state and converged in Kaurur on 21st of October. A public meeting was organised there which was addressed by noted environmental activists and Yuvajanavedi leaders.

While addressing the public meeting held

after the police blocking the march Com: K. T. Kunjikkannan exposed the CPM'S stand on the issue of allowing entry to Enron. He called upon all the progressive and democratic sections to come forward to resist the entry of Enron which has a criminal record in many parts of the world. Comrades P. S. Rajagopalan, K. G. Santhosh Kumar, and V. K Balraj of KVS also spoke in the meeting.

Meanwhile some comrades who barged into the Enron office braving the police security black washed the office name board and walls. They were later arrested by the police.

Yuvajanavedi declared its programme to go forward with the struggle against the MNCs and imperialist forces joining hands with all progressive minded people and the march was an indication that the struggle against the MNC has much support of various sections of the people.

(From P 15)
crises in Russia and Asia, and consequential effects transmitted through the financial markets.

According to IIF, lending by private creditors is projected to fall to \$42 billion in 1998, from \$97 billion in 1997 and \$180 billion in 1996, net lending by commercial banks is projected at about zero this year as net repayments by Asian economies offset positive lending to emerging market economies elsewhere.

The forecasts indicate a sharp decline in net portfolio equity flows to emerging markets this year at close to collar 11 billion after dollar 25 billion in 1997 and dollar 33 billion in 1996. There is expected to be some recovery to dollar 18 billion next year

(Hindustan Times, October 1)

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Orissa

Police perpetrates a reign of injustice on the people of Gopalpur

Citizens Committee Report on Police Repression of Agitating People

The citizens committee headed by the Octagenarian freedom fighter Manmohan Choudhary which enquired into the police repression of the struggling people of Chamakhandi near Gopalpur port in Ganjam district of Orissa brought out its report in last July. The team which enquired the matter collected evidences from hundreds of villagers, police personnel and govt officials and came to the conclusion that the police and officials of the district administration have used undue force and unjustifiable means of suppression against the villagers.

The people of Chamakhandi and adjoining areas are struggling for the last three years to resist the eviction of them from their villages and fields forcibly to facilitate TISCO to install a 10m ton mega steel project and Chamakhandi.

While the Govt have given permission to TISCO to install the multicore steel project at Chamakhandi nobody bothered to discuss the matter with the people of the locality who are going to be evicted or to ensure any kind of viable and proper rehabilitation of the displaced people. The state Govt which is very much eager to protect the interests of the TISCO rather than that of the people permitted to evacuate 25,000 people belonging to 25 villages. The foundation stone of the plant was laid on 30th of December 1995. But from that very day itself people of the area, mainly farmers have been agitating under the leadership of Gana Sangram Samiti against the displacement from their fertile land yielding three crops. The total area of land proposed to be acquired by TISCO was 6,500 acres and it is one of the most fertile area of the state where mango, jackfruit, coconut, pineapple, cashew, and the most valuable keoda are cultivated besides paddy. The yield of paddy per acre of this area is the highest in the state.

Eventhough the vast majority of people of this area were agitating continuously to resist eviction and to protect their only livelihood, the fertile land, the govt. is not paying heed to their protests. Instead it is in hand in glove with the Tata company to suppress the people's agi-

tation ruthlessly. The agitation and the police suppression are continuing for the last three years. Lathi charge, firing, arrests, detention, implication in false cases, torture, destruction of crops, and forcible eviction are being resorted to by the police and administration to suppress the struggling people and to bring them in way.

In the course of this state repression the police again committed excesses and used brute force on the people of Sindhigaon on June 17, 1998. A large contingent of police pooled from various other parts of the state was used to create a war like situation in Sindhigaon. Barricades made of sand bags were erected at every possible place in the village. Armed police took position behind the barricades to make the unarmed poor villagers panic.

It was in such a situation eminent citizens from various parts of the state including the veteran freedom fighter Manmohan Choudhary, Pradyumna Bal (Editor, Pragatya), Adv: Guru Mohanty (PJCL), Gangadhar Panigrahi, Adv: Biswapriya Kanungo approached the chief Justice of Orissa High court and requested to intervene in the matter. The High Court ordered not to evict the people of the affected area without following the due process of law. A citizens team comprising the above said people was formed and it was decided to make an immediate and detailed on the spot assessment of the situation. The team visited Sindhigaon, Kalipalli, Chamakhandi, Bedaputi and other villages on 23th of June and brought out its report.

The report says that the forcible occupation of the verandas of the village houses and the village community hall on 17th June by the police was highly objectionable. Police occupied the village school by force to make their camp. The local people brought to the attention of the citizens team that the District Collector who had given leadership to the 'operation' was highly audacious to declare that they had come to perpetrate injustice and to kill.

The police erected barricades, cordoned off the village and obstructed all the pathways

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In Memory of Com. Nagbhusan Patnaik

Com. Nagbhusan Patnaik who passed away on 9th October was a leading Communist revolutionary who played a significant role in the movement following Naxalbari struggle. He was implicated in many cases and had to undergo imprisonment for long years. CPI (M L) RED FLAG expresses its heartfelt sorrow at the demise of Com. Nagbhusan Patnaik and extends revolutionary greetings in his memory.

New Delhi
11 October.

K. N. Ramachandran,
All India Secretary,
C. P. I. (M. L) Red Flag.

CPI (ML) Red Flag TN State Committee Pays tribute

Com. Nagbhusan Patnaik passed away at 10.30 p.m on October 9 in the intensive care unit of Sri Ramachandran Hospital, Chennai.

Speaking at the condolence meeting held at Chennai on 10th October, Com. L. Govindaswamy, secretary, TN state committee, CPI (ML) Red Flag paid tributes to the memory of Com. Nagbhusan.

Com. Govindaswamy remembered Com. Nagbhusan's role in the Naxalbari movement and stated that like the departure of Com. Souren Bose a year ago the passing away of Com. Nagbhusan is a big loss to the revolutionary left movement.

to end from the village. The people were prevented even from approaching the only village pond to take water. People were lathicharged, tear gas shells were exploded and the villagers were fired at with rubber bullets. More than 100 acres of land was bulldozed and the crop was destroyed. The administration was claiming that they were giving protection to the people who were willing to leave their land. The report points out that the only school in the village is forcibly converted a police camp and the teachings is totally disrupted.

Along with the naked repression, the gov't tries to divide the agitating people to make the suppressive measures more effective. The report says that no developmental programmes are implemented at the area for the last three years. Supply of essential items like sugar, wheat, rice and kerosene is blocked. It seems that the gov't is deliberately preventing the implementation of all welfare schemes. The report cites the incidents in which people were implicated in false cases and subjected to barbaric suppressive

measures. Dozens of people were arrested. Charges of attempt to murder, keeping explosives illegally etc. are used against them. The panchayat office is converted to police camp since 4th of June in spite of the opposition of panchayat committee. Instead of paying attention to the opinion of panchayat committee its secretary is implicated in false cases.

The citizens committee team said in their report that the fundamental rights of Chama-khandi, Sirchigaon and adjoining villages are grossly violated by the police and administration and it demanded the immediate suspension of the District Collector who has given leadership to the suppression. The team demanded a judicial enquiry in the matter, withdrawal of all false cases charged against the people and unconditional release of all those kept in prison in this regard. The demands include the withdrawal of police forces from the area and payment of adequate compensation to the deaths and other excesses committed by the police.

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