

## Press Statements

# All India Special Conference of CPI(ML)

**THE** All India Special Conference of the CPI (ML) shall be held at Bhopal from 8th to 12th November 2009, beginning with a massive rally and public meeting on 7th November, the October Revolution Day. About 400 delegates from 16 states along with delegation of like-minded organisations in India and a number of fraternal delegations from abroad shall attend it.

The Central Committee of CPI (ML) which held its five day meeting at Bhopal decided to wage uncompromising theoretical struggle against the pseudo-left CPI (M) which has degenerated to right opportunist positions and against the CPI (Maoist) which is alienating the masses from the communist movement through its anarchist actions. It has put forward documents for placing before the Conference, explaining the intensification of the neo-colonisation of India through imperialist globalisation as part of the replacement of the policy of colonialism by neo-colonialism by US-led imperialist forces following the World War II.

The international document explains how the dissolution of the Communist International in 1943 under the leadership of Com. Stalin was a grave mistake, especially when US and Britain had already launched the blueprint for neo-colonisation through the Atlantic Charter in 1941. Failure to recognise and fight neo-colonialism led to the emergence of revisionism in the Soviet Union and China leading to their degeneration to the capitalist path. It has led to severe setbacks to the International Communist movement and degeneration of parties like the CPI and the CPI (M) to ruling class positions.

The Path of Revolution document explains how to achieve people's democracy and socialist transformation in the country through the mobilisation of the working class, launching of agrarian struggles based on the slogan of land to the tiller and by utilising all forms of struggles including the elections to throw out the rule of the big capitalists and big landlords who are collaborating with imperialism, especially US imperialism.

The Conference is taking place at a critical time when the return of the Congress-led UPA through negative votes and the absence of a strong people's alternative in the 15th Lok Sabha elections has strengthened the rightist, anti-people forces. The documents expose the lie of the so-called "development" in India due to globalisation and call for rejecting neo-liberal policies, for driving out the WB-IMF-WTO and MNCs and to usher in a self-reliant, national development policy, ensuring food, housing, education, health care and employment for all, which is eco-friendly. It chalks out plans to unite all revolutionary left and democratic forces to launch countrywide movements against the Central and State Governments.

The Central Committee meeting has condemned the expansionist policies of the consecutive Central Governments towards the neighbouring countries. It has condemned the Indian Government's role in collaboration with US in Sri Lanka and in ousting the Prachanda Government in Nepal. It calls for a resumption of Indo-Pakistan talks instead of the PM repeating the view of the US. The Central Committee condemns the devastation of the masses in Singrauli district in the name of industrialisation and vows to resist it.

The CC hopes that the Conference shall pave the way for the development of the theoretical, political positions of the communist movement, for unity of all genuine communist forces, helping the building up of a powerful All-India people's alternative against the ruling system and all ruling class parties.

The CC appeals for active co-operation and support of all progressive and secular forces for the success of this All India Conference.

**Make CPI(ML)All India Special Conference,**

**7th to 12th November 2009 a great Success !**

**Uphold Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought and Proletarian internationalism !**

**Break out of neo-colonial slavery; Advance along the path of Democratic Revolution !**

**Not imperialism, Socialism is the only alternative!**

**Kick out IMF, WB, WTO, MNCs !**

**Struggle for revolutionary land reforms,**

**Struggle for land to the tiller !**

**Down with Imperialist globalisation, which brings destruction not development !**

## **Condemn Suppression of Lalgarh Movement Through State Terror**

**LALGARH MOVEMENT** led by the *People's Committee Against Police Atrocities* broke out as a result of the neglect of the region inhabited by large number of adivasi people by the CPI(M)-led Left Front government for decades, the alienation of CPI(M) and the state govt due to the anti-people attitude of the bureaucratic and corrupt cadres and of the police and local administration. The police atrocities following the isolated Maoist attack on the chief minister convoy in last November aggravated it.

But the state government continue to take arrogant attitude refusing to solve grievances of the people. Nandigram was being re-enacted. When the few Maoists entered the scene owning up the movement in their anarchist style, the CPI(M) and the state government got an alibi to launch a massive attack by the central and state forces and commandos. The Maoists will soon flee and the people have to bear the burnt of the attack. Already there are reports of atrocities on the people and the people starving. This serious situation is created by the arrogant bureaucratic attitude of the CPI(M) and the state government. They cannot absolve themselves by merely blaming the anarchist Maoist and opposition Trinamul Congress for it.

It is increasing pauperisation of masses under neo-liberal policies and snatching away of their agricultural land and livelihood in the name of SEZs and 'industrialisation' which have led to the emerging of number of people's movements at all India level. Though the CPI(Maoist) worshipping militarism may be indulging in isolated squad actions to take credit for these, they are only harming the mass movements and are not in the leadership of most of these movements. Still to state 'Naxalism is the main danger', as the prime minister did, and to ban the CPI(Maoist) amounts to reducing a political question to one of police action in the name of eliminating the Maoists. **We condemn it, demand the withdrawal of central and state forces from Lalgarh and resolution of people's grievances there through discussion with the PCAPA. We demand withdrawal of the ban order on CPI(Maoist).**

Reminding us of the emergency declaration 34 years ago on this day by Indira Gandhi government, when people want food, drinking water and employment as in Lalgarh, the central and state governments are deploying state forces to suppress them raising Maoist bogey. We appeal to all democratic forces to recognise this government game and to struggle against it.

**25-06-2009  
CPI(ML)**

## **Presidential Speech: Neo-liberal Agenda Under the Populist Cover**

**THE MANDATORY PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS** to the Joint Session of Parliament has enlisted the policies and priorities of the UPA government's second term in power. The Policy Statement is conspicuously silent on the harmful effects arising from the unprecedented economic slowdown confronting the country such as agricultural and industrial retrogression, unemployment, price rise of essential items which are devastating the workers, peasants and broad masses of toiling people. Its basic thrust is the unveiling of the government's "road map on policy reforms" consisting of a "combination of sectoral and macro level policies" for launching the neo-liberal agenda in a more vigorous manner. However, the Policy Statement strives to achieve this under the cover of a number of populist programmes such as NREGP, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, National Food Security and so on in the name of the so called "aam admi".

The basic orientation of the Presidential Address is to lay down the broad parameters for a "re-energizing" of economic liberalization so as to complete the unfinished task of reforms in the core sectors of the economy. Among other things it envisages "public-private partnership" in the infrastructure sectors, subjecting pension and financial sectors to the vagaries of market fluctuations, disinvestment in public sector undertakings, more aggressive push towards easing FDI policy, liberalization of banking and insurance sectors, competitiveness in energy, telecom and transport sectors, etc. whose detailed blueprints are in the process of preparation. In particular, President has reiterated that reforms plan in the financial sector and disinvestment of public sector units as "priority areas of the UPA government. Of course, this is to be done in the name of "people's ownership of public sector undertakings", a euphemism for destroying state-owned enterprises.

Immediately after the Presidential Address that unveiled the “road map” on policy reforms, the sensex regained the 15000 point level after nine months as mark of positive reaction on the part of speculative and corporate sections in the country and abroad, once again pinpointing the fact that speculative capital is going to gain at the expense of productive sectors leading to destitution and misery on the part of common people.

We appeal to workers, peasants, toiling people and all progressive forces to unite against the ensuing new wave of liberalization and privatization as codified in the Presidential Address and unleashed by imperialist masters together with comprador Indian ruling classes, and fight for an anti-imperialist people’s democratic alternative for the country.

05-06-2009

CC, CPI(ML)

## Oppose the Ban on CPI(Maoist)

**OUR PARTY**, the CPI(ML) is engaged in an uncompromising ideological-political struggle against the CPI(Maoist) whose anarchist practice is only harming the revolutionary movement and the people’s struggles, just as the CPI(M)-led Left Front parties who have degenerated to implementing the ruling class policies wherever they are in power. The former following ‘left’ anarchist line and the latter pursuing right opportunist line are ultimately serving the ruling class interests. They are two sides of the same coin, as Lenin said.

The ruling classes and the central government led by Congress-led UPA are well aware of these facts. But parties like the Congress and Trinamul Congress are utilising every opportunity to expose the weaknesses of the CPI(M)-led governments in West Bengal and Kerala as they are opponents in the electoral battle there. All the failures of the CPI(M)-led governments including Singur and Nandigram in West Bengal, Lavalin case in Kerala and now Lalgah are utilised not only to weaken CPI(M) electorally, but also to attack the communist ideology, the spectre of which is still haunting the comprador ruling system.

But the very same CPI(M)-led Left Front had faithfully propped up the Congress-led UPA government for more than four years from 2004. All the ruling classes and parties very well know the degeneration of the CPI(M) from communist ideology, though they still call it communist. So the real spectre that is haunting the ruling system is the Marxist-Leninist movement or ‘Naxalism’ as it is popularly known. That is why Manmohan Singh announced that “Naxalism is the main danger”. And the ‘Maoists’ have become a useful bogey for his class and the imperialist masters to attack the Marxist-Leninist movement dubbing it as extremist or terrorist or what not and now by the banning CPI(Maoist) centrally.

After the setback and disintegration suffered by the revolutionary movement which has started from the Naxalbari uprising due to the sectarian ‘annihilation line’ it pursued and due to brutal state repression, the CPI(ML) after its reorganisation has denounced the sectarian line pursued by the anarchist groups, who are now polarised in CPI(Maoist), and it is carrying forward the revolutionary practice based on mass line. The CPI(ML) is of the view that the CPI(Maoist) should be fought ideologically and politically in which major gains are already achieved.

By dubbing the Lalgah movement as a Maoist one and now banning the CPI(Maoist) the central government is trying to justify the onslaught on the people of Lalgah. It is using every Maoist action to further the fascicisation of the state machinery. So the banning of the CPI(Maoist) and intensification of the repression of people’s movements by dubbing them Maoist should be exposed and struggled against.

The statement of the CPI(M) general secretary, Prakash Karat that it shall fight the Maoists politically and administratively is another attempt to hoodwink the masses. Everyone knows that the Lalgah movement started due to people’s resentment against the 33 years of Left Front government which neglected them and in response to police terror let loose against them in last November using an isolated attack on the chief minister’s convoy by the Maoists. The *People’s Committee Against Police Atrocities* (PCPA) was fighting for the people. Why the CPI(M)-led government failed to redress the grievances of the people even after the people started boycotting the police and local administration? Actually the Left Front government was waiting for a pretext or alibi to attack the people, which the Maoists provided. Then the shrill campaign against Maoist tie-up with TMC against the LF government was started. Discussions were held with the central government and the central and state forces with commandos are deployed to suppress the people’s movement. The banning of the CPI(Maoist) by the central government and the CPI(M) drama about ‘politically and administratively’ meeting the Maoist challenge are basically one and the same.

We appeal to all progressive and democratic forces to expose and oppose Manmohan Singh's statement that "Naxalism is the main danger" and the banning of the CPI(Maoist) aiming at intensification of attacks on all people's movements under this cover. Along with intensification of neo-colonisation, the fascist character of the state machinery is also intensified. Both should be resisted and defeated. |

23-06-2009  
Ramachandran

New Delhi  
CPI(ML)

K.N.

Secretary, CC,

## Editorial

# **Observe July 28 as All India Martyr's Day Dedicate Ourselves to Realise the Revolutionary Dreams of the Martyrs**

**IT WAS** on July 28, 1972, comrade Charu Majumdar, the leader of the Naxalbari Uprising and the first general secretary of the CPI(ML) following its formation in 1969 became a martyr in the Lal Bazar police headquarters at Kolkata. From the time of the formation of Communist Party in India, inspired by the great 1917 October Revolution and the national liberation movement going on in the country, in the numerous heroic anti-imperialist and anti-feudal struggles, including the historic Telengana and Tebhaga like movements, thousands of comrades laid down their lives for national liberation and democratic revolution.

But in spite of these great sacrifices, by the second half of 1950s the CPI leadership, failing to concretely analyse the Indian situation following the transfer of power under neo-colonisation and influenced by the Krushchovite revisionism that has emerged and usurped leadership in the Soviet Party and the state, degenerated to class-collaborationist positions. In spite of the inner-party struggle leading to the split in the CPI and formation of the CPI(M) in 1964, its leadership soon took a centrist line of right opportunism. The cause of national liberation and democratic revolution was abandoned by both leaderships.

It was in this critical juncture the Naxalbari uprising and the formation of the CPI(ML) took place pledging to continue the revolutionary struggle for the completion of the People's (or New) Democratic Revolution. Following the heritage of the revolutionary struggles of the past decades, once again thousands of comrades including Charu Majumdar and many other leading comrades from West Bengal, AP, Bihar and other provinces became martyrs in the middle of these struggles. Tens of thousands of comrades faced inhuman torture and were imprisoned for long years.

That the Naxalbari movement had suffered a serious left deviation and it fell into an adventurist line through the adoption of the 'annihilation line' and many other erroneous positions is a historical fact. The failure to grasp the concrete conditions in the country together with the influence of the erroneous line of Lin Biao, that was put forward as the 1969 Ninth Congress line of the CPC, led the movement to this serious deviation. It led to the isolation of the movement from the masses, the setbacks suffered by it and to its disintegration into a number of groups. While it calls for self-critical evaluation of this period and a basic rectification of both the line and the practice, it does not in any way minimise the significance of the Naxalbari uprising, formation of the CPI(ML) and the greatness of the martyrdom of the comrades of that period. It is the Naxalbari and the CPI(ML) and these heroic comrades who brought back agrarian revolution and democratic revolution back to the agenda of the communist movement.

Four decades after the formation of the CPI(ML), we have now seriously taken up the formulation of a *Path of Revolution* for India based on the concrete analysis of the conditions under neo-colonisation of the country. We are advancing along the path of re-building the Party uniting all genuine Marxist-Leninist forces uncompromisingly struggling against the right opportunist line of the CPI(M)-led forces on the one hand, and the petty-bourgeois anarchism of the CPI(Maoist) led forces. In this situation it is our duty to remember the martyrs and to dedicate ourselves to continue the struggle for the realisation of the revolutionary dreams of people's democracy and socialism cherished by these heroic comrades.

The Central Committee of the CPI(ML) has called on all party units to observe the All India Martyrs Day on 28 July. Let us take this task with revolutionary enthusiasm.

# Resolutions Adopted by the CC of CPI(ML)

## ON THE DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL

**THE** Central Committee of the CPI(ML) severely condemns the interference of the Indian government in the internal affairs of Nepal leading to the resignation of the UCPN(Maoist)-led government and its replacement by the CPN(UML)-Nepali Congress coalition government.

It is not a secret that neither the expansionist Indian government nor US imperialism liked the ending of two and half century old monarchy and transforming Nepal in to a federal republic through the mighty people's upsurge in which the CPN(Maoist) played a significant role. It is also not a secret that after the UN-sponsored agreement was signed with the CPN(Maoist) for ending its decade long armed struggle, for laying down arms and for its joining the bourgeois democratic process, both Indian government and the US were trying to sabotage it.

According to Agreement it was accepted that the former 'royal' army will come under the control of defence department of the elected government, the militants of the CPN(Maoist) shall be enrolled within the army and no more recruitment or appointments or extension of the service of the officers shall be done by the military chief. But the military chief, who is a firm 'royalist', did everything to delay the entry of the militants to the army, recruited 3000 more and extended the services of 10 brigadier-generals contrary to the orders of the Prachanda government. In all these the CPN(UML) along with Nepali Congress in connivance with the Indian government supported the army chief. That is why he refused to obey the orders for his removal compelling the resignation of the Prachanda government.

Meanwhile the leaders of the social democratic CPN(UML) and Nepali Congress conspired to oust this government and its replacement by one led by the UML with the support of the Indian government and US imperialists. Now the orders for removal of the army chief is reversed and implementation of the US-sponsored agreement is being reversed. These are steps which shall embolden the king and all forces of reaction to exert their control overtly and covertly. These are retrogressive developments against the interests of the Nepali people.

The CC of the CPI(ML) oppose the interference of the Indian government in the internal affairs of Nepal violating all international norms at the behest of the US imperialists. It appeals to all the progressive democratic forces to raise their voice against this expansionist and reactionary activities of the Indian government at the interest of its US imperialist masters.

## STOP MEDDLING IN SRI LANKAN AFFAIRS

**THE** CC of the CPI(ML) denounces the consecutive Indian governments for the present plight of the Tamil people and the political and social developments as a whole in Sri Lanka.

When the Tamil people's struggle against the suppression of democratic rights was a massive popular movement involving almost the whole of them and when even the democratic sections of Sinhala people had supported it, the Indira Gandhi government through RAW played a major role in converting it into a movement of the militant groups who were trained and armed. Under Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty, it was trying to increase Soviet-Indian influence in the North and East of Sri Lanka including the strategic port of Trinkomalee by utilising the Tamil people's struggle.

But LTTE had its own ideas. It was an anti-communist group which soon exterminated all other groups who had pro-left positions. When possibility for a political solution to the problem emerged, it was undermined as LTTE was not for anything short of a separate 'Tamil Eezham'. It acted against any other solution within the federal framework of Sri Lanka and turned the political question into a military question. During these developments the deployment of IPKF by Rajiv Gandhi government in the name of helping the Tamil people soon transformed into an IPKF-LTTE war compelling a shameful withdrawal of it. Without taking lessons from these, in the name of having an upper hand than China and Pakistan in that island, the Indian governments went on supplying arms and training to the Sri Lankan army. This is still continuing. It played a major role in the strengthening of the Sri Lankan army and its elimination of the LTTE.

It is not difficult to see that it is the continuous interference of Indian government first on the side of Soviet Union, then for manoeuvring for its expansionist designs under the hegemony of US which has played a major role in the setbacks suffered by the democratic movement of the Tamil people, growth of chauvinism among Sinhala and Tamil people and reducing the question into a military question bringing terrific hardships to all people, especially the Tamil people.

In spite of all these, with expansionist ideas the UPA government is supplying arms, training the army and trying to become the main interlocutor in the area. It is only going to worsen the situation further.

At a time the prime minister is going to attend the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, it will be good if some one reminds him and his government that one of the most cardinal principals of *Panchsheel* is the non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and mutual respect based on equality. But the post-1947 central governments along with South Block and its IFS *mandarins* were and are always in a hurry to act in an expansionist way as the successors of the colonial policies of the British imperialists. Presently they are acting as the main agents of US imperialism in South Asia in the name of the strategic alliance with it.

The expansionist policies are only helping the US to destabilise and control whole of South Asia. What happened is a part of this policy. The CC of the CPI(ML) demand that the Indian government should forthwith stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. The small South Asian neighbours should be left fending for themselves. It appeals to all progressive forces to raise their voice to compel the UPA government not to interfere in the internal affairs of the neighbouring countries.

### **RALLY AGAINST THE RESURGENCE OF NEO-LIBERAL POLICIES**

**WITH** the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh coming to power, the stage is set for a further intensification of imperialist globalisation policies in the country. At a time when even the imperialist governments are compelled under the guise of neo-Keynesianism to resort to some form of state interventions for bailing out their recession-hit economies, the Manmohan Singh government is bent on unleashing a new wave of downsizing and roll back of the state from the remaining strategic sectors thereby fulfilling the unfinished tasks in the neo-liberal agenda.

The President's policy statement which came in the first week of June as a prelude to this has laid down the broad parameters of the forthcoming budget which envisages a disinvestment of even profit making Public Sector Units (PSUs) including the so-called 'navaratnas'. The government's intention is to sell out 5-10 percent of PSU equities in a wide range of strategic sectors such as energy, fertiliser, shipyards, airlines, telecommunications, ports, roads, steel, etc. to raise Rs. 10,000 crores in the coming budget to be presented to parliament in the first week of July.

Liberalisation and privatisation of the Banking and Insurance sectors could not be fully accomplished on account of the stiff resistance from the employees and workers in these sectors. But in its second tenure, the Manmohan government is reportedly going to privatise 49 percent of the public sector banks along with a raising of the FDI limit in the insurance sector from the existing 26 percent to 49 percent. Under pressure from private petroleum companies, who have a dominant share in this sector, the UPA government has taken the decision to end the administered price mechanism in petroleum pricing which will further increase the prices of petroleum products and following it the prices of essential commodities.

Within a few days of its ascendance to power, the Manmohan government took the highly deplorable decision of granting approval for 10 more SEZs in various parts of the country. A more liberal attitude to foreign capital including the entry of global retail giants in the domestic retail sector is in the offing. Privatisation of pension funds, full convertibility of the rupee in the capital account, elimination of remaining restrictions to the closing down of factories, further opening up of India's arms industry to private foreign investment and above all implementation of all pending dictates of WTO are priority areas of the UPA government. All these sell-outs are being done by hoodwinking the broad masses of people with an avowed concern for the 'aam aadmi' while at the same time the process of withdrawal of the state from social security sectors is obvious.

The CPI(ML) Central Committee strongly condemns this resurgence of Manmohanomics and appeals to the workers, the peasants and all other toiling masses to come forward for a nation-wide offensive against this ever-intensifying neo-colonisation process in our country.

### **RE-OPEN INDO-PAK TALKS TO IMPROVE NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS**

**THE** Congress-led UPA government has far surpassed the former BJP-led NDA government and now going ahead in its hawkish policies to worsen the relations with Pakistan. The CC of the CPI(ML) severely condemn this and demands the immediate resumption of Indo-Pak bilateral talks to improve the neighbourly relations.

It is a fact that the Pakistan government from its very early days, especially during the military regime, had reduced itself to a pawn of the US imperialists. In order to throw out the Soviet presence in Afghanistan in the 1980s, the US imperialists and their CIA utilised Pakistan for training, arming and launching the Al Qaeda and Taliban. Again when the Taliban turned against it, in the 1990s and later Pakistan was utilised to launch US aggression to throw out the Taliban government. Now as the war against Taliban and Al Qaeda is intensified in Afghanistan by US and NATO forces and as they have shifted their activities also to Pak border areas, the US air force is bombing these areas in the name of attacking them, killing civilian population in large numbers on both sides of Pak-Afghan border.

Again the communal division of Indian subcontinent took place in the interest of British and US imperialists. From then on, the Kashmir question could not be resolved politically involving both India and Pakistan and the people of Kashmir because of the 'divide and control', 'de-stabilise and control' policy of the US imperialist with the comprador governments on both sides of the Indo-Pak border conniving with it. Even in the growth of the numerous Islamic fundamentalist militant organisations in Pakistan and across the world the CIA has played a major role. The role of US imperialism encouraging the growth of all hues of religious fundamentalism, communalism, racism, parochial divisions, etc. across the world is also substantiated through hard facts. Though the Bush regime was hoarsely shouting about the 'war on terrorism' and the Obama regime also has not put an end to it, it is not difficult to understand that it is the US imperialists who are the most heinous terrorists and perpetrators of terrorism in the world.

In spite of all these the Manmohan Singh government had signed the *Defence Framework Agreement* with Bush in 2005 and has reduced India to its strategic subservience. His government is working hard to replace Pakistan government as the main agent of US imperialism in South Asia. It is intensifying state terrorism against the people in the name of fighting 'terrorism', which means, in effect, isolating the Muslim minorities for attack, and 'Naxalism' utilising the 'Maoist' anarchism as a pretext.

Can the Manmohan Singh government claim that it is more anti-imperialist, more progressive, more anti-terrorist, more peace loving than the Pakistan government, even when Pakistan is reduced to its dangerous internal strife threatening its further disintegration due to US interferences on the one hand and comprador policies on the other? Rather it is leading India also in to a dangerous situation.

In spite of it, the arrogance shown by the UPA government towards resuming Indo-Pak talks and making attempts to normalise relations with its will only please the corporate houses and religious fundamentalists in both the countries and the US imperialists. While it gladden all the forces of reaction, it immensely sadden the people of both countries who have shown through numerous fraternal acts that how much they want friendship between the two countries.

The CC of the CPI(ML) appeal to all progressive, secular, democratic forces, the peace loving people of India to severely condemn the arrogant attitude of the Manmohan Singh government towards the resumption of Indo-Pak talks. It appeals to them to raise their voice for Indo-Pak friendship and against UPA government's subservience to US imperialism.

## Articles

# Lalgarh: Exposes CPI(M) and CPI(Maoist)

### Observer

**WHAT IS HAPPENING** in Lalgarh in West Medinapur district of West Bengal shows that the CPI(M) leadership and the CPI(M)-led Left Front government in the state have refused to learn anything from Singur and Nandigram, and from the drubbing they got in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections. What they say still are nothing but a mechanical repetition of their performance during Nandigram.

The 'first phase' of the 'Lalgarh operation', that of 'flushing out' the handful of Maoists must have been completed by the time this comment reaches the readers. But the large contingents of central forces, 'anti-Naxal commandos' like cobras' the armed constabulary of the state government along with the police will be continuing to 'discipline' the local people. Since these predominantly tribal people have created a headache to the state and since the prime minister Manmohan Singh repeats that 'Naxalism' has become the main danger to the ruling system, the forces will be ordered to make the 'disciplining' more thorough. Arrest and tortures of local youth, harassment of all people, assault and raping of women in the name of teaching a lesson to these 'rebellious' people may continue for long.

From the time of military operations in Naga areas beginning in 1947, the military operations still continuing in the North East and in Jammu and Kashmir, from the military and police operations against Naxalbari movement from 1969 to 1977 and from what we see nowadays in the 'Maoist infested area', the Indian people are well aware of the state terror unleashed to discipline the rebels and all those who are supposed to support them. Like Nandigram, Lalgarh will not be an exception.

But amidst this 'flushing out' followed by the 'disciplining of the people' through state terror what will state government in 'dealing' it, the role of the various political forces which helped the handful of the 'Maoists' to get projected as *phantom* and the plight of the people in one more area under police-CRPF raj.

## GENESIS OF THE REVOLT

Unlike what is repeated in the corporate media including the plethora of TV channels who sensationalise everything to sell the news and events, it is not only in Singur, Nandigram and Lalgarh people are revolting or waging various struggles against the confiscation of their agricultural land for 'industrialisation' and SEZs, against police, CRPF and military atrocities, etc. After the imposition of the neo-liberal policies the number and intensity of these struggles have increased manifold. The difference in West Bengal is that the revolt against the state government soon turn against attacks on the CPI(M) cadres who have become extremely bureaucratic and corrupt and are hated by the people. Though most of the leaders and activists of all the ruling class parties are hated and opposed by the oppressed sections all over India for their lording over the people, corruption and arrogance, after 33 years of continuous rule the CPI(M) cadres have by and large surpassed them in bureaucratisation and corruption, in arrogance as their party degenerated to social democratic positions. This is a micro level repetition of what happened in Soviet Union and China after their degeneration from the socialist path to the capitalist path. The CPI(M) cadres identify themselves with the state unlike those of the bourgeois liberal parties.

As in Nandigram, at Lalgarh also the people were disgusted with the CPI(M) cadres for their amassing of wealth utilising the state funds at the expense of the people, for their bureaucratic attitude which had left West Medinapur, Bankura and Purulia districts with a large number of adivasi people extremely backward. Even after voting for CPI(M) for decades and these areas continuing as Left Front strongholds, their condition did not improved. So the disenchantment with the LF rule and against the CPI(M) cadres was intensifying. Though the Trinamul Congress was trying their level best, they could not penetrate the CPI(M) stronghold and bureaucratic control as it had nothing better to offer except *anti-CPI(M)ism*. The CPI(ML) forces pursuing mass line could not enter this area in a significant way because of the social fascist attitude of the CPI(M) organisation and because of its weakness to overcome it. It was in this situation the 'Maoists' from neighbouring Jharkhand had entered the area and exploded a landmine against the convoy of the chief minister in November 2008.

What followed was similar response as in Nandigram. The CPI(M) leadership and local cadres had not taken any lessons from it. A big police force was deployed to wipe out the 'Maoists' dubbing the whole people as Maoists. The atrocities committed are well reported. The resentment of the people reached it peak. They formed a *People's Committee Against Police Atrocities* (PCAPA) and repeated what the people of Nandigram did. They barricaded and dug the roads and threw out the hated police and local administration. CPI(M) cadres were boycotted and attacked.

But a chief minister and his government once again proved that they have not learnt anything from Nandigram. They were once again satisfied with what the corrupt police, administration and CPI(M) committees repeated to them. The PCAPA was dubbed a Maoists who have joined hands with the Trinamul Congress (TMC). Thus the people were alienated further. Why these areas remained so backward even after 33 years of LF rule was not given any attention. No initiative was taken to discuss with the PCAPA and resolve the problem.

It is quite natural that the TMC and its leaders who are bent upon exposing and fighting CPI(M) shall utilise this opportunity. But in spite of their attempts the PCAPA had not degenerated as a TMC tool as the CPI(M) leadership and the state government alleges. The CPI(Maoist) have its own programme and plans to utilise all such possibilities in its dogmatic way into its 'base area' as a part of the *protracted people's war* it wants to pursue. So it tried its level best to turn the spontaneous uprising of the people to its brand of guerilla struggle.

Lalgarh once again exposes that the CPI(Maoist) has no understanding of Mao's teachings. Even when the revolutionary struggle in China turned in to a military conflict from 1927 as a big section of the Kuomintang army splitted and joined the CPC, Mao was always insisting on pursuing the mass line including the building of broad democratic mass movements. If they had any understanding of it when they got an entry into Lalgarh they could have given cover, logistic support to the PCAPA and helped it to expand to the vast region of West Medinapur-Bankura-Purulia region. It could have developed into a massive people's movement. But they are anarchists and sectarian to the core. So in spite of the PCAPA denying it, they stated to claim that it is their movement and were in a hurry to develop this small area in to a guerilla zone or base area or what not. Thus the CPI(Maoist) provided the LF government and the central government the opportune moment to dub it as a 'challenge to the country's sovereignty', 'Naxalism is the main danger', and send in the large state, central and commando forces to flush out the Maoists. Thus it destroyed the organic vitality and immense possibilities of the movement.

## PEOPLE AT THE RECEIVING END

The TV clippings of the first 3-4 days of police action in Lalgarh reveal that the people in the area are treated as extremists or militants or Maoists and subjected to extreme forms of oppression as if

they are an enemy people. As the central, state and commando forces continue their operation these atrocities are going to intensify. A people's struggle for their just demands waged in a democratic way has thus become victim of state terror firstly due to the insensitivity of the state government to discuss the issues with the people's committee and resolve it, secondly due to its dubbing of the people's struggle as a Maoist conspiracy, thirdly by slandering it by denouncing it as a tool of the Maoist-TMC alliance, and fourthly by sending a large suppressive force as the CPI(M)-led government did in 1967 at Naxalbari joining hands with the central government to destroy it. Meanwhile on the one hand, the TMC and its leader through their over enthusiasm to utilise the people's revolt for electoral gains provided a pretext for the state government to launch the brutal suppression in the name of Maoist-TMC tie up. On the other hand, in their hurry to falsely own up a people's revolt as something led by their front organisation, the CPI(Maoist) provided 'legitimacy' to suppress it.

The inter play of all these forces acting in opposite directions has brought havoc over the people. A people's movement to act against which the state government was afraid for months could be attacked in such brutal manner because of these forces not putting the people's interest in the forefront.

### **THE CONSEQUENCES**

Within a few days or weeks the Maoist squads and cadres in the area will be compelled to move out the area. They will move to other places to continue their dogmatic pursuit of anarchist actions leaving the people to face the state terror.

The CPI(M)-led state government will go on shouting hoarsely about the Maoist-TMC tie up and allow the state forces a free hand to 'discipline' the 'rebellious, Maoist influenced people' who dared to act against its cadres and officers. In this way the CPI(M) and the Left Front parties are hoping that through condemnation of the Maoists, attacking the TMC for tying up with Maoists they can win back the electoral support they lost in the Lok Sabha elections. The utterances and action of the CPI(M) and its partners show that they have not learnt any lessons from Nandigram. By treating the people as the people of an enemy country for the only 'crime' of resenting against the government's failure to meet their just demands, they are going to reap a bitter harvest in coming days.

As far as TMC and its Congress ally are concerned, by firing at the people putting the gun on the shoulder of the CPI(M) they are extremely happy for the rewards they are going to reap in coming Vidhan Sabha elections. But the people, the people alone are at the receiving end. They are going to face hard times. The Maoists have played their own anarchist role in perpetuating the misery over the people as they did in Kandhamal in Orissa.

It is easy to play the blame game. Ultimately it will be asked by the people: where are the communist revolutionaries, the CPI(ML) forces who are tirelessly talking about the right opportunist CPI(M) and the anarchist CPI(Maoist), why do they fail to strengthen the ranks and provide leaderships to such people's revolts with the long term perspective of mobilising the masses in a big way for revolutionary social change?

For the Marxist-Leninists it is once again an opportunity for introspection and plunge in the movement with revolutionary vigour.

## **Lessons From Lalgarh**

### **Babu Dutta**

**WEST BENGAL** state armed police and central para-military force started their joint offensive on 18 June 2009 to crack down "Maoist" activity in Lalgarh and surrounding areas and reclaim it.

In the post-poll scenario a number of CPI-M local leaders have been murdered or attacked by the squads of the CPI(Maoist), several CPI(M) party offices were burnt, CPI(M) supporters and their families forced to flee away from the area. Before starting of this adventure the Maoist uttered much sounds that they will resist any sort of police offensive. Maoists went to the extent of holding a press conference in Lalgarh with their spokesman armed with AK 47 and claimed proudly that they had indeed planned to kill West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on 2 November 2008 in the landmine explosion. They will punish the arrogant rulers who dare to enter in the Jangalmahal. They freshly dug and cut off the roads in several palaces, cut the trees to erect barricades, set land mines, etc.

The *People's Committee Against Police Atrocities*, which led the tribal movement expanded their sphere of activities from Belpahari, Binpur, Lalgarh, and Goaltore of West Midnapur to Sarenga of Bankura district. A good section of tribal people of those areas were supporting them actively. The

committee organized a number of mass meetings where tribal people gathered with their traditional weapons.

But when central and state forces started their joint operation, it is proved that how silly preparation Maoist had made to resist one of most organized and well trained forces. Now the innocent tribal people are in the face of real state terror. Most of the villagers flee away from the villages in fear of police terror. Joint forces are taking control one after another villages. The anarchist activities of Maoists are mainly responsible for this situation.

### **BACK DROPS**

Tribal agitation started seven months before Lalgarh and tribal dominated surrounding areas of Jhargram sub division of West Midnapur district. Discontentment among the tribal people sparked to large areas of Lalgarh after the arrest of several villagers, following landmine blast on 2 November 2008 by the Maoists targeting the convoy of West Bengal Chief Minister when he was returning after the inauguration of the Jindal group Steel Works Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Salboni of 5000 acres. The chain reactions started against police atrocities. Roads leading to Lalgarh area had either been dug up or blocked by huge tree trunks to obstruct the entry of police vehicles. Thousands of tribal men and women armed with traditional weapons held rallies and erected road blocks at several places in the area. Tribal people formed "People's Committee against Police Atrocities". All the political parties gathered behind the committee — Congress, TMC, different Jharkhand fractions and obviously, Maoists. State and district administration lost its control over vast tribal dominated areas. The tribal people are demanding immediate release of arrested innocents, immediate action against the police officials responsible for the brutal attacks, withdrawal of all police camps from the area and stop all sort of police repression.

Police atrocities are nothing new in the tribal dominate areas of West Midnapur, Bankura, and Purulia. Usually, the police harass and arrest innocent tribal people following every Maoist attack. Police start rampage in the tribal villages. Having no clue about the Maoist armed actions, police beat up brutally and arrest the villagers indiscriminately.

Tribal people are one of the most downtrodden people in India even after 62 years of formal independence. The picture is no different in western zone of West Bengal even after 32 years of CPI-M led LF rule. We can recollect starvation deaths at Amlasole. Poverty is so wide spread that the tribal people often take bamboo saplings and ant eggs. Their land and natural resources are being handed over for plunder by the monopolies and foreign capital. They have been dispossessed from their land, forests and water in the name of so-called development and industrialization. The state government did not bother to set up a SEZ with a steel plant in the forest area, endangering their means of livelihood. Thus the struggle against state repression turned into a greater struggle against corporate plunder, dispossession and marginalization.

The state government had been accusing that the Maoists are instigating the tribal people from behind the movement. But being frustrated in their efforts to confront the upsurge like situation, the state government was compelled to negotiate with the tribal people. Finally, after a month long agitation and impasse the state government was forced to accept most of the demands. It is a big victory for the tribal people's movement.

Yet Lalgarh problem was not solved. Backed by all opposition parties People's Committee against police atrocities declared Lalgarh area out of bounds for the government. Police and administration are not allowed in the area. The state government appointed a task force to develop tribal regions which could not work properly. Opposition parties tried their level best to capitalize the situation. TMC suprimo Mamta Banarjee expressed her support to the tribal agitation and Congress also tried to fish in the troubled water.

Maoists gave call to boycott the general election. They tried to prevent the security forces from entering Lalgarh for election duty. State Election Commission also agreed to hold the election booths outside the troubled area. Vote boycott took place in a handful booths. Though CPI-M candidate own the tribal dominated Jhargram ST seat, CPI-M led LF got an unprecedented defeat in the parliament election due to their arrogance and degenerations and forceful land acquisition policy. Being enthusiastic by the election result oppositions started attack on the CPI-M cadres and supporters. Several CPM offices were burnt in Khejuri adjacent to Nandigram in East Midnapur and the police were boycotted under the leadership of TMC MP Subhendu Adhikari. In this background the Maoists started their fresh offensive against the police and CPI-M in Lalgarh.

### **PRESENT EPISODE**

In post poll incidents in the recent past some CPI-M local leaders in the area have been murdered or inhumanly attacked by the squads of the CPI (Maoist). Such type of anarchic activities and acts of violence are counter-productive for the growth and sustenance of the people's movement.

Anarchist activities and individual annihilations gave way to further state terror. It is true that tribal people have just grievances against Anuj Pandey, Binpur zonal committee secretary, like corrupt CPM-M leaders and who are product of 32 years of LF rule. Tribal people ransacked and destroyed his palace like mansion.

Lalgarh is an issue that has made both CPI-M and TMC demand Central help. CPI-M urged the Centre to send para-military forces to Lalgarh. The Central government readily dispatched several companies of CRPF jawans to launch joint offensive. In the mean time, The Central government banned CPI (Maoist) using Unlawful Activity Prevention (Amendment) Act.

There have been debates and differences in CPI-M as well as in LF partners. Prakas Karat and Biman Bose and some of the LF leaders pretended to oppose the ban in the name of fighting Maoist politically and administratively. But CM expressed that West Bengal would abide by the Central Government's decision of banning CPI(Maoist). State police arrested Gaur Chakroborty, open spokesman of CPI (Maoist) using UAPA. This is another agenda where CPI-M succumbed to Congress and the Central government like globalization, liberalization and privatization issue.

Now TMC supremo and Union Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee is also wanted Central agencies to come to West Bengal. She added that if arms were not seized immediately, the situation would worsen in the state and internal security would be at a stake. Yet she pretended that she did know nothing about deployment of central forces in Lalgarh and banning on Maoists. Maoists are shocked that TMC is now opposing them and Mamta Banerjee is asking central government to declare Lalgarh as disturbed areas, though they fought jointly in Nandigram. It is clear that TMC and Congress only utilized people's protest in Singur, Nandigram and Lalgarh for their narrow electoral interest. Being the important partner of Congress led central government TMC will expose themselves more.

Lalgarh has again proved that any sort of anarchic activity is not an alternative of painstaking relentless preparation of mass struggles to build up people's democratic alternative.

## Why Lalgarh?

**Mahasweta Devi**

**BUDHADEV**, give reply, whether the government has any humanitarian consideration, whether they are humane. No, they are inhuman. Budhadev has sold out the Jangalmahal including Lalgarh in West Bengal to the big industrialist JINDAL GROUP. Understand the word 'SOLD OUT'.

Nobody, either myself, the writer of this article, or you, the readers, or the publishers, really understand the problems of the Tribal and non-tribal population of LALGARH and SALBONI.

I am saying that by hook or crook, the Budhadev Govt. will evict all the tribals from Lalgarh and Salboni. Jindal might have given Rs. 35, 350, 3500 or 35000 crores to Budhadev for getting evicted these poor tribals from LALGARH and SALBONY.

Since Jindal has given such a huge amount, he will get the tribals evicted from there for his factory, the way the white Americans evicted the original tribals, the American Indians from America. The book "BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE" by DEE BROWN is an authentic writing on the subject.

It is my desire to go to Lalgarh to see personally how the tribals are evicted from Lalgarh and Salboni by THE CENTRAL AND STATE FORCES ALONGWITH CPIM GOONS.

The central and state forces are adopting heinous ways to evict the poor tribals. To combat the guerillas the central state forces excrete all the drinking water wells of Lalgarh. All citizens of Kolkata should go to Writers buildings where the ministers are sitting and do the same.

I would ask all individuals and organization to organize protest marches to Lalgarh and fill the area with protesters. They should raise slogans like BUDHADEV GOVT. SHOULD QUIT. CPIM SHOULD QUIT.

YES, THIS GOVT. SHOULD GO. CPIM SHOULD GO.

**[Courtsey: Bengali Daily DAINIK STATESMAN, 24.06.2009]**

# 34th Anniversary of Declaration of Emergency and Intensification of Fascist Threats and State Terror

**ON 25TH JUNE** the people, especially the older generation, at least for a moment must have thought about the imposition of the internal emergency by Indira Gandhi government turning the country in to a big jail. In order to save herself and her government from the growing opposition from the people and to surmount court orders unseating her from the Lok Sabha membership, in continuation to her intensifying autocratic rule the country was pushed to black days of censorship and suppression for 28 months.

The country got rid of it through the valiant struggle of the people and the drubbing the Congress got in 1977 February elections. Following the coming to power of the Janta Party government many solemn declarations were made that India will not return to these black days. But very soon everything was forgotten, one after another new black acts were enacted, the state machinery went on becoming autocratic. The youth who sacrificed their life fighting the emergency and the hundreds of thousands thrown to the jails all over the country for fighting for democracy are almost forgotten.

The 34th anniversary of the declaration of the emergency is observed at a time when in many states the military is deployed, the draconian Armed Forces Special Power Act is imposed, the minorities are alienated and terrorised, in the name of fighting terrorists and Maoists the ban orders and black acts are resorted to by the centre and state governments, all democratic rights are snatched away in many regions, the commandos are recruited and trained to crush the people's movements. Under imperialist globalisation the working class and other toiling sections have lost the right to organise, right to strike, right to raise their voice. Even the elections as was witnessed during the 15th Lok Sabha elections are turned in to crorepati's exhibition of money power. Along with the intensification of the neo-colonisation, the right wind is becoming stronger and to serve the ruling system fascicisation is intensified in all fields.

The toiling masses are facing not only the grave threat of increasing pauperisation, but also deprivation of all basic rights. Worse days are here than the emergency days. It is high time that all the democratic forces start thinking about these and mobilising the masses to resist the fascist threats and state terror.

## Economic Notes

### On Negative Inflation

**PJ James**

**THE** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) turning negative for the first time after six decades has become a topic of serious debate among policy and academic circles. In fact the rate of inflation was 0.13 percent on May 30, 2009 and has been remaining below the one percent level for several weeks until it reached -1.61 percent for the week ending with June 6. This negative rate of inflation is arrived at with respect to the double-digit rate of inflation which stood at 11.66 percent during the corresponding week of 2008. At that time, crude oil price in India was at \$127 per barrel which is reduced now by almost 50 percent to \$68 per barrel. Following this, the fuel component of WPI which was at 16.25 last year has come down to -12.83 percent as on June 6, 2009. Moreover, during the same period manufactured goods inflation has fallen from 10.28 percent to almost zero. In fact, this is the immediate cause for the occurrence of negative inflation, according to economists. Consequently, the WPI which was 236.5 during June 2008 has been reduced to 232.7 during the week ending June 6, 2009.

Obviously, this statistical jugglery is totally at variance with the experience of the common people for whom the prices of their essential items are sky-rocketing. For instance, the prices of food items such as cereals and pulses are characterized by double-digit rates, threatening the very sustenance of the broad masses of people. While inflation calculated on the basis of WPI is in the so called negative territory, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) estimated out of retail prices is hovering very high. And the Manmohan government has already hinted at a further increase in the retail prices petrol and diesel. This will certainly raise the prices of essential items and services which enter into the consumption basket of common people still further.

Of course, one has to go behind the true undercurrents of these statistics as measured by experts but not experienced by common people. Taking the unscientific nature of the WPI into

consideration, even several imperialist countries have switched over to CPI based on retail prices as a more realistic measure of calculating official inflation rate. As a matter of fact, one reason for the weakness of WPI as true measure of inflation is the inappropriate weight given to different sectors and categories in calculating price indices. While manufactured goods and fuel together are given more than 63 percent weightage in the calculation of WPI, food items for which vast majority of the poor people spend their whole income have only 22 percent weightage in its computation. Therefore, a decline in the prices of manufactured items which are mainly comforts and luxuries consumed largely by the upper echelons of society will be more than proportionately reflected in WPI while the price increases of food and essential items will lose its significance in its calculation.

It is common knowledge that in a vast country like India having so much market imperfections, in bourgeois parlance, and diversities, there will be much discrepancy between wholesale and retail prices. The true prices paid by common people at the retail level will always be several percentage points higher than their wholesale prices mainly on account of the existence of multiple intermediaries and several centre and state taxes at multiple stages. For instance, it is estimated that 53 percent of the retail price of petrol is composed of various taxes imposed by central and state governments at multiple levels which are not reflected in the whole price index. Above all, unfettered speculation unleashed by neo-liberalism has led to hitherto unknown levels of hoarding, black-marketing and futures trade in food and essential items leading to wide discrepancy between their wholesale and retail prices. In this context, the continued use of WPI in determining official inflation is not only unscientific but an insult to common people whose experience with inflation is totally different in their micro level confrontation with market.

In brief, at a time when common people confront double-digit price levels of food and essential items at the retail level, the government's assertion that inflation and price rise have become negative is an insult to the vast majority of toiling masses in the country. Even policy decisions applicable to the whole country are taken on the basis of fictitious statistical estimates like this. Until the nineties, the government used both the WPI and CPI to estimate the levels of inflation, but with the advent of neo-liberalism in economic policy making and in conformity with its anti-people orientation, WPI became the official basis for calculating inflation thereby camouflaging the extent suffering inflicted on common people through the rightward shift in the economy. Progressive and democratic sections should come forward exposing this heinous move on the part of Manmohan government.

## Documents

# Programme of the All India Revolutionary Student Organisation (AIRSO)

## INTRODUCTION

1. Students have played an important role in the history of the world revolutionary movement. As a social strata they are both militant and energetic. Because of their specific organic qualities and because of their ability to quickly grasp and react to progressive and revolutionary ideas their role in the past history is significant all over the world. But at the same time in the absence of a correct leadership the reactionary forces have utilised the students in favour of the existing reactionary social system and for subverting progressive and revolutionary movements. However, because of their above mentioned qualities, which make them capable of playing an important role in social changes, they have quite often rallied in the struggles of the working class and other oppressed sections of the people all over the world. They are not a class, but a social strata drawn from different class background.

2. Students in our country have played a significant role in the two centuries of anti-colonial struggles. Inspired by patriotism, millions of freedom loving students have resisted the exploitation and countless suppressive acts of the colonial rule. Students have played their role both in the agitation following the partition of Bengal in 1905 and following the arrest of Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1903. By 1920s and 1930 they had started getting organised and struggling as a social strata in the anti-imperialist movement. In 1936 the all India Students Federation (AISF) was formed under the initiative of undivided the Communist Party and all other progressive, democratic forces with the task of upholding the banner of national liberation. In all the struggles against imperialism, feudalism and all other reactionary forces under the initiative of the Communist Party and the progressive democratic forces students have fought heroically and hundreds of them have become martyrs. In Telengana struggle and in the advances made by the revolutionary movement till early fifties students have played a heroic role. But after the transfer of power in 1947 in the absence of a political leadership

capable of leading the revolutionary movement forward objectively analysing the concrete situation in our country the student movement also suffered for the lack of a correct orientation and leadership.

3. For more than two centuries the proletariat, the peasantry and all other progressive sections in our country continuously struggled against British colonialists and their henchmen for putting an end to the acute exploitation and oppression faced by the people. The heroic freedom conscious revolutionary fighters and the patriots sacrificed their lives for realising their dream of a new India free of exploitation and oppression. Though the transfer of power took place in 1947 giving high expectations to the people, the Congress government which came to power following it implemented in all fields the very same basic policies of erstwhile British rulers. The Nerhu government tried to drown in blood the numerous peasant struggles and all other revolutionary struggles flaring up then in Telengana and many other places in India. Representing the interests of the Indian big bourgeoisie and the big landlords, it opened wide the doors of Indian economy for the free entrance of all imperialist interests. The comprador Indian bourgeoisie surrendered the country for the neo-colonial plunder of imperialist forces and created opportunity for further intensification of the exploitation and suppression by the capitalists and the big landlord class. This has made the life of the working class as well as the agricultural workers and landless and poor peasants who constitute about 70 percent of the population, extremely miserable.

4. The big bourgeois-big landlord rule during the last 60 years after the transfer of power created a favourable condition for the neo-colonial exploitation of imperialism. The Indian ruling classes through their economic and political policies which are dependent on imperialism have created the opportunity for the all round penetration of imperialist capital to all fields including industrial and agricultural sectors. As a result production in all fields is facing a serious crisis. The stagnation of agrarian and industrial sectors has taken the country to acute poverty and extreme unemployment of the vast masses.

5. Though more than six decades have passed after the transfer of power, no solution could be found to even the basic needs of the people like food, clothing, housing, education, healthcare and employment. More than half of the people are below poverty line. Number of illiterates are increasing. Foreign debt of the country has reached very serious proportions. Our economy has been surrendered to World Bank, IMF and other imperialist agencies. The Export-Import policies, industrial policy and all other economic policies are formulated for favouring the plunder by MNCs and all other imperialist institutions. As a result of all these, all sections of people including workers, peasants, youth and students desire a basic social change.

6. In consonance with the ever-intensifying policies of globalisation and liberalisation the process of the retreat of the state from social welfare activities that includes education is also getting intensified. These policies were implemented in the name of structural adjustment programmes being implemented by the IMF-WB combine in the Afro-Asian and Latin American countries including India. In all the poor countries undergoing structural adjustment programmes the WB had put forward micro sectoral adjustment in educational sector to regulate it. The adjustments oblige the governments to drastically cut down the expenditure on education, and cut backs in entry into the primary schools and in the teacher-student ratio as part of the new economic policies.

7. Only through an uncompromising struggle against the ruling system which serves imperialism, the big bourgeoisie and the big landlord class the crucial problems faced by the country today can be resolved and a People's Democratic India can be built up. The students as a social strata can resolve their specific problems and play their due role in social change only based on such a political consciousness.

8. But with the aim of consciously breaking the revolutionary capability and initiative of the students, the ruling classes are always trying to divide them and to divert their militancy to wrong directions. As a result today millions of students have rallied in the organisations built up by the ruling class parties including revisionist parties. Thus the militancy of students is diverted to wrong directions. And an illusion is created among them that their basic problems can be resolved within the existing system itself. Releasing the broad masses of students from the wrong influence of the ruling classes and the revisionist parties, rallying them in a revolutionary students movement uniting the broad masses of students and rallying them as a social strata for resolving the day to day problems confronting them and for basic social change are the immediate tasks before us. For fulfilling these tasks the building up of an all India revolutionary student organisation is an urgent task.

### **The Education System in India**

9. The present education system in India is only a continuation of the British colonial education system. The political and economic structure of the existing society is directly reflected in the education system existing there. That is, the content and form of the education system in a society are determined and implemented for protecting the interests of the ruling classes. They utilise education

system as a powerful tool for propagating their ideology. So it will be quite foolish to think that the education system can be basically changed by continuing within the existing social system itself. In a backward agrarian country like India, where pre-capitalist relations are still existing in the vast rural areas of the country, naturally there will be efforts to protect these interests also. The education system that existed during the long British colonial rules was for protecting the interests of imperialism and Indian reaction including feudalism which was serving imperialist interests. Then it was necessary for the colonialists to annihilate the forces coming up against the interests of imperialism and feudalism, to prevent the development of democratic consciousness, and to obstruct the growth of a scientific consciousness capable of making the people struggle against superstitions and decadent customs. It was with these aims Lord Macaulay formulated the education system for the British colonialists.

10. The main goals of the British education system were to develop slavish mentality among students, to prevent them from turning to the path of anti-imperialist struggles, to imprison them within the conservative thoughts to create a native elite class for protecting the imperialist interests and to create a large army of subordinates needed for the imperialist state machinery. Though these basic characteristics of the education system continued without much change even after 1947, by the time of the Second Five Year Plan a little more importance was given to science and technology. But the efforts to perpetuate slavish mentality through the propagation of imperialist and still surviving feudal values among the students continued. Also the efforts to breed contempt towards the common people of India among the educated sections also continued. By the end of 1970s with the intensification of the neo-colonial exploitation and with the changes like green revolution and modernisation in the agricultural and industrial fields some more changes were brought about in the education system to serve the changing needs of the ruling system. While efforts to build up education projects for creating two types of citizens in the country were going ahead, the illiteracy was also increasing with tremendous speed.

11. After the transfer of power, though the ruling classes had declared that within fifteen years primary education will be made universal, free and compulsory, not only that goal is not achieved so far, but even illiteracy is still prevalent. Ironically, the percentage of the share of education to the GDP has declined from 4.25 in 1999-2000 to 3.68% in 2004-2005. In a year, an average Indian parent spends Rs. 701 for primary education and Rs. 1281 for upper primary education of their children out of his pocket in 2005-2006 (NSS 52nd round Data). While close to 90 percent children in the 6-11 age group are formally enrolled in primary schools, nearly 40 percent drop out at the primary stage. Half of India's schools run by government and the aided schools have a leaking roof or no water supply. 35% have no blackboard or furniture, and close to 90 percent have no functioning toilets. From big capitalists to various religious fundamentalists, all the reactionaries have consolidated their influence in the education field. This has made the education system totally uneven, commercialised and corrupt. The privatisation of education system has degenerated it to a sheer business.

12. Today even the decision on text books are determined very often by religious fundamentalists and other reactionary forces. Surrendering to the pressure of these forces government, at centre and in the states are compelled to withdraw the text books which would have helped to develop a scientific outlook. As a result the education system and examination system is continuing on a most unscientific basis. While 66 percent are literate on the one hand, thousands of rupees are to be paid as bribes for entrance even to the nurseries and the primary schools catering for the elite sections on the other.

13. After 1947 with the declared objective of suggesting recommendation for educational reforms the centre and state governments have appointed numerous commissions. But the reforms so far implemented are according to the interests of the ruling classes. They did not touch any of the basic problems faced by the present anti-people educational system. Closely following the footsteps of the reforms the New Education Policy introduced by Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986 was with the overall aim of further elitisation of the education field and to adapt it to the neo-colonial policies by giving more stress to technical education.

14. The New Education Policy completely conforming to the needs of the allround implementation of the neo-colonial policies totally negated the importance of general education covering the whole section of students or children of the school going age. Accordingly financial allotment to general education was drastically cut. As a part of it subsidy to different fields of education except for research was stopped, tuition fee was raised, and education levy was introduced. Importance of education through mother tongue was also rejected. In the name of bifurcating employment from university degrees, as per the recommendations of the Adishesiah Commission a conspiracy was hatched to deny higher education to backward section.

15. In the decade of 1990, as a corollary to the globalisation/structural adjustment programme enforced by IMF-WB-WTO trio, a phased withdrawal of the state from the social service sectors such as health and education was promoted. It is to accomplish this task in the primary education sector

that the WB has devised the New Education Programme. The ultimate objective was to end government spending on primary education (except for the elite oriented English Medium stream where formal system of education will continue to prevail) and entrust this task to NGO's and local bodies who are expected to lead the system on a "self-help" basis under the rhetoric of "peoples Participation", "Community Involvement", "learner or child centred", "activity oriented", locally-based, "education". As a prelude to unleash this programme, the WB concerned a World Conference on Education in Jomtien (Thailand) in 1990. The DPEP & Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in India and similar programmes in poor countries are the direct outcome of the so-called "Jomtien Declaration". The crux of the Jomtien declaration has been the evolution of an alternative system of primary education based on "Community Participation" and the new method of "Class room instruction" with the help of temporary teacher (i.e. Shikshakarmi, Gurujees etc.) instead of Salaried regular teachers.

16. Education is no more viewed as a tool of social development but as an investment for developing human resources for the global market (ref. Ambani-Birla Report's Foreward, Government of India, 2000). The draft Right to Education Bill 2005 offers the nation a perfect recipe for implementing the market agenda of school education. The attack of the market forces on education should be recognised as an attack on the nature of knowledge itself and also as a design to control its access, production and distribution amongst the nations and the social classes. In this sense, the assault of the globalization on education needs to be viewed as an epistemological attack.

17. Raising the reactionary slogan of freeing educational institutions from politics, the ruling classes are trying to take away the functioning of college unions, students participation in university syndicated etc. As a part of this move a so-called 'protection force' in the form of police out posts in educational institutions is also introduced in many places. All these should be seen as moves to destroy the militancy of the students and to take away even whatever democratic rights they are presently enjoying. The result of the de-politicisation of the campus is the intensification of ragging like criminalisation among the students.

18. Along with the slashing of the general education at all levels, to hoodwink the people a so-called literacy campaign is started with the advice and monetary help of the imperialist institutions like the World Bank with the declared objective of removal of illiteracy through informal education. The hollowness of this policy is already exposed. In effect the overall approach of the centre and the state governments is leading to the increase in the number of illiterates in the country while scope of higher general education is drastically cut.

19. As a result of all these factors along with the crisis in the social system, the education system is also facing a serious crisis. Struggling for overthrowing this decadent education system and for building up of a democratic and scientific education system should be the task of a revolutionary student movement. And the struggle to achieve this goal of bringing about a democratic education system is part of the struggle to overthrow the existing social system itself, as the existing education system is integrally linked to the existing social system. We have to build up an education with anti-imperialist and progressive content. For this continuous struggles are to be launched against the neo-colonial and reactionary ideology of the ruling classes and against their decadent culture. Consistent propaganda of the revolutionary ideas also should be taken up.

### **ON BUILDING UP A DEMOCRATIC SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

20. The content of the new education system should be both democratic and scientific. Instead of serving the interests of imperialism and feudalism as the present education system does, the new education system should serve the interests of the broad masses of people. Through this the students as a social strata shall be able to maintain solidarity with the working class, the peasantry and other toiling sections of society. Education through mother tongue is essential for achieving this goal. Methods to destroy the ideological, political and cultural influence of imperialism in the education field, to enhance revolutionary patriotism and help the growth of people's culture should be developed. The aim of all curricula including science and technology should be the development of a high level of scientific and social consciousness. The new education should be helpful for the elimination of wrong ideas like hatred towards physical labour. As the present social order is based on male chauvinism, discrimination against women is rampant today. We should aim at putting an end to all discrimination against women in the education field. Along with this the new education system should be built up also with the aim of eliminating all discrimination based on caste, religion, race nationality etc. which are fostered or utilised by the Indian state for dividing and thereby weakening the people.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AIRSO**

21. When the Indian revolutionary movement fell into the mire of revisionism in the 1950s and with this when it became incapable of carrying forward the revolutionary tasks, the student movement also became stagnant. If we examine the later history we can see that after this till the great Naxalbari struggle of 1967 no major struggle capable of influencing the student community as a whole in a

profound way took place. Though students actively participated in a big way in the agitations for formation of linguistic states and in many other agitations of 1950s, they could not free themselves from the stagnant condition of their movement during this period. In the 1960s the mighty revolutionary advances in countries like Vietnam and Kampuchia and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) in China tremendously inspired the students in India. The role played by students in the food movement of 1965-66 and in the demonstration at Kolkata against the visit of World Bank chairman and former US Ambassador to Vietnam, Macnamara, were symbolic of the growing revolutionary movement. The great Naxalbari struggle inspired and roused the students at all India level. Thousands of students came forward to participate in revolutionary struggles and hundreds of student comrades became martyrs in these struggles. But due to the influence of sectarianism prevalent in the movement the students could not be organised as a Social strata and their mass organisation could not be formed. In spite of initial advances, the student movement suffered once again.

22. Just before the declaration of emergency in 1975 in Bihar, Gujarat and other areas along with the youth and other progressive sections students also had come forward on a large scale in the struggles against autocracy, corruption and state terror. There were attempts to organise the student movement during these years by revolutionary sections in Bihar like states. But continuing influence of sectarianism in the revolutionary movement created obstacles for making major advances.

23. When the communist revolutionaries working in different areas of our country started attempts to reorganise the movement defeating sectarian tendencies and to overcome the weakness within the movement, as a part of these efforts work in the student field was also revived. In different parts of the country student organisations were formed under their initiative. The objective of the AIRSO is the building of a powerful country-wide broad based student organisation with mass membership capable of struggling for the realisation of the demands of the students explained above.

### **Programme of the AIRSO**

1. Ensure education for all (universalisation of education). Stop privatisation and commercialisation of education. Enact central legislation to regulate fees and admission in private professional institutions and private Deemed Universities. Oppose the opening of self-financing colleges. Bring all educational institutions under social ownership and control.
2. Make allotment of 6 percent of GDP and 10 percent of central budget for education.
3. Struggle for national, self-reliant, scientific and democratic education system, promoting the mother tongue at all levels. Implement uniform syllabus, equality of opportunity and free education.
4. Stop private and foreign universities and FDI in education. Protect intellectual self-reliance and resist imperialist onslaught on education.
5. Implement reservation for SC/STs and backward classes and sections in all educational institutions, till the caste based inequalities are abolished. Increase opportunities for higher education for the students from the poor and oppressed sections.
6. Ensure democratic rights for students. Ensure free and fare college union elections and election of student's representatives to University syndicates and senates.
7. Fight against all kinds of unscientific tendencies prevailing in the field of education and all kinds of vested interests including forces of privatization & commercialisation.
8. Lead the students as a part of the anti-imperialist democratic movement to resolve scientifically all problems faced by them as a social section prepared to take up issues from the day to day problems to the problems of fundamental nature.
9. Fight for the scientific resolution of the acute unemployment among the youth and as part of its struggle for the rights of youth including right to employment and unemployment wages. Unite the students with all the forces who fight for transformation of the existing social system which deprives education for vast sections and generates unemployment, and to unite the students to play an active role in the agitations to transform the social system itself.
10. Unite and lead the vast sections of students in the uncompromising struggle against widespread corruption, nepotism, bureaucratic vices and other degenerations under the neo-colonial exploitation of imperialism.
11. Fight against the social system in which casteist and religious forces are having dominance, and in which the enslavement of women who as a social section are subjected to various oppressions including male domination. Support all progressive movements fighting for anti-caste, secular values and for the democratic rights of women.

12. Actively participate in the struggle to develop a democratic culture fighting against all kinds of cultural degenerations promoted as a part of the feudal and neo-colonial culture. Join the fight against the anti-people culture consciously spread by the bourgeois media like TV, Radio, Newspapers and periodicals and through various art and literary forms. Propagate and promote peoples art and literary forms as part of this struggle. Promote and organise seminars, symposia, exhibitions, street dramas, cinema-video-slide shows etc. as part of it.
13. Organise relief and assistance to people at times of natural calamities and epidemics, and at times of accidents.
14. Try to develop and promote sports and games in a progressive way.
15. Unite with all forces struggling for the creation of an anti-imperialist, secular, democratic India based on the self determination of all nationalities. Mobilise the students in their struggles.
16. Fight against the plunder of the imperialist forces, multinational corporations (MNCs), against the exploitation and marketing strategies employed by them to undermine the democratic cultural consciousness, and against the decadent imperialist culture.
17. Fight against the unscientific policies implemented in the health, medical, pharmaceutical sectors, to liberate them from the clutches of MNCs and imperialist agencies.
18. Promote and encourage all scientific and technological innovations which do not negate employment opportunities, which do not create ecological problems but reduce the workload. Mobilise the students to resist the liberalisation, automation policies that create massive unemployment and promote the profits of MNCs.
19. Unite the students in the struggle against the ruling classes who support and facilitate the penetration and exploitation by different imperialist forces.
20. Unite the students in democratic movements to resist the fascist tendencies getting strengthened according to the needs of neo-colonial interests, and the militarisation related to them.
21. Ensure the involvement of students in the struggles for democratic changes in agricultural and industrial sectors.
22. Involve the students in the struggles of the working class, the peasantry, employees and other progressive classes and sections against imperialism and the ruling system.
23. Expose the game plan of "elitization of education" at all levels by the central and state governments.
24. Strive hard to unite students as a whole in all the struggles for the creation of a new society free from all forms of exploitation. Make use of all possible propaganda means so as to facilitate to carry forward these difficult and protracted tasks.
25. Declare solidarity with all the anti-imperialist people's struggles and anti-war movements throughout the world, and establish fraternal relationship with movements upholding similar ideals.

## **Programme of the Revolutionary Youth Federation of India (RYFI)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As a social section youth are the most active and energetic section of any society. Because of their organic peculiarities and their capacity to respond and to be sensitive to every new idea immediately, they have played a most important role in the course of hitherto history. They were there in the forefront to contribute much in the process of building up of a progressive society with utmost dedication and revolutionary sense of sacrifice, in the history of all countries. At the same time we can see various instances where in the absence of a correct social consciousness the youth were and are utilised by the anti-people reactionary forces for serving the existing reactionary system in a big way. In spite of these negative role played by a section of the youth on certain occasions in history and presently what we can see in the main is that the youth have got mobilised themselves in the struggle for liberation of the oppressed masses all over the world.

The youth of India have played a great and glorious role in the fight against British imperialism. Thousands of them enthused by the great ideals of patriotism and independence fought against the oppression and exploitation of British Raj. Youth as a section were very much active in the agitation

against the division of Bengal in 1905 and in the struggles against the arrest of Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1908, in the early phase of the independence movement itself.

The message of freedom and liberation swept the Asian, African and Latin American countries as a whirlwind after the Great October Socialist Revolution. This helped the youth of India involved in the anti-imperialist struggle also to get a correct orientation for their struggles. The youth movement that was taking birth in India by the end of 1920s inspired by com. Bhagat Singh and other revolutionaries was capable to arouse creative enthusiasm among students and youth of India to fight imperialism and to struggle for the resolution of the issues confronted by the youth, by getting organised independently as a social section. And it was also a movement capable of making the youth play a conscious role in the process of creation of a new society. A scientific evaluation of the history of the youth organisations and groups of yester years is needed. It will help to assimilate the positive aspects of history and refused the negative aspects without compromise.

The youth movement of India that had started getting organised during 1920s under the leadership of great martyr Bhagat Singh, holding high the banner of anti-imperialist struggle was in the fore front in unleashing the initiative of youth in the struggle against imperialism upto 1942. But, in 1942, while the Quit India struggle was launched and as Germany attacked Soviet Union, the failure on the part of the revolutionary movement to make a correct evaluation the international situation, to link the international and Indian situation correctly, and to provide revolutionary leadership led to the set back of the movement. In the period after the transfer of power in 1947 irrespective of numerous struggles, there was no united and organised anti-imperialist youth movement capable of analysing the Indian realities concretely and in accordance to the international situation and to unite the youth. The absence of such a movement became conducive for the vested interests to create a situation in which the majority of the people could easily be won over and put to use for their purposes. The bourgeois national chauvinists, as a result, were able to make use of a substantial section of the youth of the country during the India-China and India-Pak wars. The casteist-religious and communal forces could also successfully mobilise a section of the youth for their arch reactionary ends.

Indian people fought against the colonial masters and their Indian lackeys for a period of two centuries and it can be easily seen that those struggles were aimed at wiping out the poverty and other miserable situations created by the colonial rule. Thousands of patriots had laid down their lives for the realisation of the glorious dream of a new India. Even though the transfer of power in 1947 gave hope to many who involved in the prolonged freedom-struggle, the Nehru Government that came to power in 1947 was not ready to make any major change in the basic approaches of the colonial rulers. Instead it made use of all powers at its disposal to suppress the people's agitations in different parts of the country including the historic Telengana struggle and joined hands with the feudal-land lord forces. It opened the doors of Indian economy to all imperialist forces. The Indian bourgeoisie which was basically submissive to imperialism and collaborating with it, led the country along an imperialist dependent path of 'development'.

The history of last sixty years show that the bankrupt politics of Indian ruling classes has only led to the intensification of various forms of neocolonial exploitation by the imperialists.

Today our country is passing through a severe socio-economic crisis. Even after six decades of the so called independence the fundamental problems related to food, clothing, shelter, basic education and health-care are remaining unresolved for the vast majority of the common people. The number of uneducated are increasing enormously by every passing year. Lakhs and lakhs of villages are still under the grip of acute poverty and famine. The worsening problem of unemployment makes the situation more frightening. As the foreign debt is getting increased to unprecedented levels the country is virtually being surrendered to foreign agencies, especially the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and WTO.

The imperialists dominate the economic and political policies implemented by the rulers since the transfer of power. It has resulted in very grave crises in our agricultural, industrial and service sectors. This is the basic cause for the stagnation in the fields of agricultural and industrial production and the frightening level of unemployment.

Due to this stagnation in the fields of production a sizeable section of our population, especially a major section of the 50 cores of youth within the age limit of 18-40 are deprived of any opportunities to take part in the production process.

More than three lakhs of large scale and small scale industrial units remain closed and their number is increasing. The ruling classes are going all out to protect the interests of imperialist capital and working under the dictates of IMF and World Bank who are behind the all-around crisis faced by the country. All the policies of unscientific computerisation, automation, robotisation, containerisation etc., implemented by the state are part and parcel of this process. Major industries are told to retrench

a sizeable amount of workers and freeze in new recruitment is being put into practice in central and state government sectors. The recent global economic crisis has worsened the situation.

All the five year plans and 'green' and 'white' revolutions like projects implemented here have failed to remove the miseries and the distress of the peasants and agricultural workers. In the name of development through Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) foreign enclaves are created. Ever increasing displacement of peasants from their land is taking place. All these policies have intensified the plunder of the large sections of the rural masses. Only big land lords and rich kulaks reap the benefits from them.

The semi-feudal production relations continue in many areas of our country even today. Even the half hearted land reforms proclaimed by the central and state governments remain unimplemented. Revolutionary land reform on the basis of Land to the Tillers is to be completed to change this situation.

The indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, various projects and the polluting industries installed and run by imperialist forces and their indigenous collaborators have caused irreparable environmental destruction and the process is continuing without any control.

The casteist oppression still continues in vast areas of our country. All the casteist forces are loyal allies of the ruling classes and the imposing fortress of casteism is being used by the rulers to retard and negate the democratisation of the society. The differences among people in terms of caste are being utilised to encourage mutual hatred and rivalry among the people.

The women comprising half of the population are subjected to the dual oppression of the anti people system as well as male chauvinism. Even the slogan of gender equality is being resisted by the ruling classes and the religious fundamentalists nurtured by them.

The sectors of health care, medical treatment and drugs and pharmaceutical industry are fully brought under the grip of the MNCs (multinational corporations). Now India is having the largest population of filarial, leprosy, and tuberculosis patients in the world. HIV/AIDS is also spreading at an alarming rate in the absence of any effective government action. Largest number of delivery related deaths, infant deaths, and death related to malnutrition also take place in our country. In this sphere, India is in a very pathetic situation and it worsens with each passing day. The status of human rights and Human Development Indices are shameful. The Human Development Rank of India is 127 at global level and is stagnant in last many years.

Even the fields of art, culture and sports and games of our country are also being transformed in such a way that it will be useful to the perpetuation and spread of neocolonial base of exploitation by the imperialist forces. Market forces are utilising cricket like sports now a days more and more for marketing their interests.

Thus we can see that the imperialist forces are deliberately implementing the neocolonial mode of exploitation consciously in our country since 1947. Against this diabolic system of exploitation it is necessary to build up a united, organised revolutionary youth movement as part of building up all class/mass organisations. But unlike in the colonial period this is a very complex and laborious task today.

In the colonial period the slogans like emancipation of the nation from slavery, 'Swaraj, ' Kick out British from India' etc., started spreading fast and they were instrumental in creating an anti-imperialist consciousness among the people. But in the present neocolonial situation more strenuous efforts are needed to recreate the scene of national liberation and democratic transformation.

All the youth organisations identifying themselves with the system are against the creation of such an anti-imperialist consciousness. While on the one hand the ruling classes, under the guise of national integration and national unity accelerate and spread neo-colonial exploitation and oppression and national suppression, on the other hand they are doing their level best to shatter the unity of youth and make them surrender before the ruling class interests.

For this, all kinds of religious, tribal casteist organisations are being promoted by them including terroristic organisations. To undermine the unity of nationalities and to divide and divert the growing anti-imperialist, anti-feudal people's struggles terroristic organisations become handy for the ruling classes. In the name of fighting and suppressing these organisations, military forces are employed in vast areas of our country and all kinds of democratic rights are suspended there. By this strategy, they are able to maintain a fascistic situation and nip all democratic peoples struggles in the bud. Imperialists are also trying to spread all kinds of divisive and sectarian tendencies among the people through voluntary agencies/NGOs and other methods. New reactionary theories in the name of dalitism, feminism, ecology, tribal, ethnic and racial problems are developed under the post-modernism and identity politics and propagated in a concerted manner. Along with these, a very nefarious effort to subjugate the youth to decadent imperialist culture is also intensified. The beauty

contests and rock shows are being conducted with big propaganda and all type of Hollywood films and TV channels are allowed to enter the country. 'Gang culture' among boys and 'beauty culture' among girls are being promoted in a conscious manner. While it is highly necessary to fight against these problems, it is also necessary to resist other reactionary ideas and trends helping the ruling class like the anarchic and apolitical ideas. All the political parties identifying with the system and the youth organisations functioning as their supporting outfits are having almost similar reactionary opinions on these basic questions. Whether it is the question of opposition towards MNCs or on the question of development perspective the government at the centre and governments under the leadership of various political parties ruling in the states are having almost the very same positions. While it is necessary to link the struggle against unemployment with the anti-imperialist struggle, what they do is to put forward some reactionary slogans like 'food for work', people's planning, Employment Guarantee Scheme etc. and extend some hollow promises of employment. Even while the ruling class parties are still capable of mobilising sizable section of the people, the present day realities are thoroughly exposing their status as agents of IMF, WB and other imperialist agencies. It is repeatedly proved that the ruling classes of this country are serving the interests of imperialism.

In such a situation the youth have to march forward assimilating the positive aspects of the anti-imperialist struggles of yester years, maintaining the continuity of those struggles, and upholding the glorious heritage of these struggles including the Naxalbari movement. At the same time we have to struggle uncompromisingly against the sectarian tendencies of the past also. Our aim should be the building up of a broad struggling youth movement capable of uniting and leading various sections of them in a scientific manner.

### **Aims and objectives of the RYFI**

The aims and objectives of the Revolutionary Youth Federation of India are to resolve scientifically the particular problems confronted by the youth as a social section and to organise them under the banner of a struggling anti-imperialist anti-feudal youth movement. The ruling classes create all kinds of impediments to check the fulfillment of this task by dividing the youth and getting them enrolled in their own reactionary and reformist organisations to serve their interests. The youth who are fragmented ideologically, politically and organisationally by the ruling classes can be united only by resisting the divisive politics and policies propagated and practiced by the ruling classes.

The RYFI proclaims that the aims of the organisation include uniting all the youth of our country against the growing fascistic tendencies and to join hands with all progressive classes and sections of the country to struggle for People's Democracy and socialism.

For centuries the ruling classes have divided the people to serve their interests by dividing them based on caste, religion, race, nationality, language etc. and these divisions are utilised for the perpetuation of their rule. The RYFI dedicates itself to fight all the divisive policies, discriminations and oppression against the people for the creation of a secular democratic society. Even while India is a multinational country the Indian ruling classes and imperialist forces employ national oppression as a part of their exploitative and oppressive rule on the one hand and encourage secessionist tendencies according to their neocolonial exploitative interests on the other. In such a situation the organisation declare that it is its duty to fight both these ruling class policies resolutely and to join the struggle for building up a secular, democratic, federal India.

The RYFI further considers that it is its duty to struggle against the existing system of education which is primitive, anti-people, and which is refusing the right of education to the majority; it is its duty to struggle to wipe out illiteracy totally and to develop a scientific and democratic system of education.

In order to realise these aims and objects the RYFI shall try its level best to seek possibilities for united activities with other RYFI having similar outlooks. The organisation is always ready to take part in united front activities with other organisations for achieving the general demands of youth and masses in a principled manner.

The RYFI will mobilise youth and unite with other progressive forces in agitations against imperialism and its neocolonial exploitation and oppression.

The RYFI proclaims its solidarity with all anti imperialist, anti-feudal, national liberation struggles and all the struggles of the working class and other progressive sections all over the world waged for democracy and socialism.

The RYFI is against all kinds of wars of aggression. It opposes all the nuclear tests, Nuclear Treaty/Accord and military programmes of imperialists and all proxy and local wars between neocolonial instigated by the imperialists and their compradors. It also opposes the tensions and civil wars unleashed within the neocolonies utilising the ethnic, racial, tribal, religious fundamentalist forces

nurtured and brought up by imperialism and its lackeys. It declares solidarity with all struggles for world peace waged with a progressive outlook.

It further aims to make the youth active participants in all the agitations and struggles of workers and other sections of the masses for their immediate day to day needs and for the transformation of the society.

### **Programme of the RYFI**

1. Lead the youth forward as a part of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic movement to resolve scientifically all problems faced by them as a social section from the day to day problems to the problems of fundamental nature.

2. Fight for the scientific resolution of the acute unemployment among the youth and as part of its struggle for the rights of youth including right to employment and unemployment wages, to unite the youth to join hands with the forces who fight to transform the existing social system which generates unemployment, and to unite the youth to play an active role in the agitations to transform the system itself.

3. Unite and lead the vast sections of youth in the uncompromising struggle against widespread corruption, nepotism, bureaucratic vices and other degenerations aggravated by the neo-colonial exploitation of imperialism.

4. Fight against the degenerated social system in which casteist and religious forces are having dominance, in which the enslavement of women, who as a social section are subjected to various oppressions including male domination, is promoted. Support all progressive movements fighting for the democratic rights of women and maintain fraternal relations with those movements.

5. Join hands with progressive students in the struggle against all kinds of unscientific tendencies prevailing in the field of education and all kinds of vested interests including forces of commercialisation in education, and to make youth prepared to take up these struggles.

6. Unite the youth to fight uncompromisingly against the reactionary ideals of casteism, communalism, religious fundamentalism etc. which have started to influence the society to a very large extent.

7. Actively participate in the struggle to develop consciously a people's democratic culture against all kinds of cultural degenerations brought up by and as a part of the feudal and neocolonial culture. Join the fight against the anti-people culture consciously spread by the corporate media utilising TV, radio, cinema, newspapers and periodicals, and propagate and promote people's art and literary forms as a part of this struggle. Promote and organise seminars, symposia, exhibitions, street dramas, cinema-video-slide shows etc. as part of them.

8. Arrange relief assistance to people at times of natural calamities, break-out of epidemics, accidents which are the creations and results of the existing social system, and lead joint activities in this regard.

9. Try its level best to develop and promote sports and games in a progressive way, when these are being subjected to a state of stagnation and deviated to degenerated paths due to the intervention of vested interests.

10. (a) Unite with all forces struggling for a secular and democratic society.

(b) As fighting against both Akhandavad and Vighatanvad are integral part of the fight for the creation of an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, secular, democratic India based on self determination of all nationalities in this multi-national country, mobilise the youth in the struggle against both these reactionary trends.

11. Fight against the plunder of imperialist forces, multinational corporations (MNCs), against the exploitation and marketing strategies employed by them to undermine the cultural consciousness of the youth and the people in general, and against the decadent imperialist culture.

12. Fight against the unscientific policies implemented in the health, medical, pharmaceutical sectors which are bringing it under the clutches of the MNCs and imperialist agencies.

13. Promote and encourage all scientific and technological innovations which do not negate the employment opportunities, which do not create ecological problems but reduce the workload. Mobilise the youth to resist the liberalisation, automation policies that create massive unemployment and promote the profits of MNCs and corporate houses.

14. (a) Unite the youth in the struggle against the ruling classes who support and facilitate the penetration of and exploitation by different imperialist forces.

(b) Unite the youth in democratic movements to resist the fascist tendencies getting strengthened according to the needs of the neo-colonial interests, and the militarisation related with it.

15. Declare solidarity with all the anti-imperialist people's struggles and anti-war movements throughout the world, and establish fraternal relationship with movements upholding similar ideals.

16. Ensure the involvement of youth in the struggles for democratic changes in agricultural and industrial sectors.

17. Ensure involvement of youth in the struggles of working class, peasantry and other progressive classes and sections against imperialism, its compradors and the landlords classes.

18. Strive hard to unite Indian youth as a whole in all the struggles for the creation of a new society free from all forms of exploitation. Make use of all possible propaganda means like periodicals, pamphlets and art and cultural forms to facilitate the taking up of these difficult and protracted tasks.

## **The Youth League in its Work Must Take the Characteristics of Youth into Consideration**

**[Talk by Comrade Mao Tsetung when he received the Presidium of the Second National Congress of the**

### **New Democratic Youth League of China]**

(This talk by Com. Mao to the Presidium of the Second National Conference of the New Democratic Youth League of China in 1953 is of significance to the party as a whole and to the cadres of the RYFI. Here Mao emphasises that like the party developing its revolutionary line based on "concrete analysis of the concrete situation", the work among the youth and students should be developed based on their concrete characteristics. Though the talk was made in the post-revolutionary years in China, its guidelines are noteworthy for developing activities among the youth and students in present pre-revolutionary situation in India. Mao's talk on youth and student problem calls for serious study and discussion - **RED STAR**)

**THE** Youth League's assertion of independence from the Party is already a thing of the past. Today, the trouble with the Youth League is its lack of independent activities, not its assertion of independence.

The Youth League must co-ordinate its activities with the Party's central tasks, but in so doing it must have its own independent activities and take the characteristics of youth into consideration. In 1952, in a talk with comrades of the Central Committee of the Youth League, I raised two questions for it to think over: first, how the Party should lead the League's work, and second, how the League should do its work. Both involve consideration for the characteristics of youth. In various places the Party committees have expressed satisfaction with the Youth League because the latter has co-ordinated its work with the Party's central tasks. Now it is time to express dissatisfaction, that is, dissatisfaction with the Youth League's failure to arrange for independent activities that suit the characteristics of youth. The leading organs of the Party and the League should learn how to lead the League in its work and, in order to organize and educate the mass of young people, they should be good at co-ordinating its activities with the Party's central tasks and taking the characteristics of youth into consideration.

Under the Party's leadership, the Youth League has been active in every field of revolutionary work and has a great deal to its credit. Our revolutionary cause, whether in the factories, on the farms, in the army units or in the schools, cannot succeed without the young people.

China's youth are well disciplined and they have fulfilled all the tasks assigned them by the Party. Now that the war is coming to an end in Korea and the agrarian reform is completed, the emphasis in our work at home is being switched over to socialist transformation and socialist construction. This makes study imperative. The Youth League must know how to lead the young people in making a common effort with older people to do a good job in agriculture in the countryside, in industry in the cities, in studying at school, in performing their duties in offices as well as in training in army units to turn our national defence forces into a modernized army.

Young people between fourteen and twenty-five need to study and work, but as youth is the age of physical growth, much is imperilled if their health is neglected. The young need to study much more, for they have to learn many things older people already know. However, they must not be overloaded with either study or work. And the fourteen to eighteen-year-olds in particular should not

be made to work with the same intensity as grown-ups. Young people, being what they are, need more time for play, recreation and sports. Otherwise they won't be happy. And in time they will fall in love and get married. In all this they are different from older people.

I would like to say a few words to our young people: first, I wish them good health; second, I wish them success in their study; and third, I wish them success in their work.

I would suggest that all students be given an additional hour of sleep. They are supposed to have eight hours of sleep, but actually they take only six or seven and generally feel they don't have enough. Young people at school are prone to nervous tension and so often find it hard to go to sleep and then hard to wake up. Be sure to make nine hours of sleep a rule. An order to this effect should be issued and enforced, there should be no argument about it. Let young people have enough sleep, and the teachers too.

The revolution has brought us many fine things but also one thing which is not so good. Everybody is much too active and enthusiastic, often getting tired out. Now we must make sure that everybody, including workers, peasants, soldiers, students and cadres, can keep fit. Of course, it does not necessarily mean that if you are good in health you will be good in study, for study must be done in the proper way.

At present the classes in junior middle schools take too much of the students' time, and it would be preferable if they were cut down to suitable proportions. Meetings for activists are too frequent and should also be reduced. Study on the one hand and recreation, rest and sleep on the other should both receive adequate attention. Young workers, peasants and soldiers learn while they work, and so adequate attention should also be paid to their work and study as well as to their recreation, rest and sleep.

We should grasp the matter firmly at both ends, with study and work at one end and sleep, rest and recreation at the other. In the past, we firmly grasped one end, leaving the other end either not grasped at all or only half-heartedly so. Now it is necessary to arrange some recreation, for which there must be time and facilities, and this end should be firmly grasped too. The Party Central Committee has decided to cut down the number of meetings and study hours, and you must see to it that this decision is carried out. Challenge anyone who refuses to do so.

In short, young people should be enabled to keep fit, study well and work well. Some leading comrades are interested only in getting work out of young people and pay little attention to their health. You can quote the above to their faces. You are on firm ground, namely, you are protecting the younger generation so that it can grow sturdily. We of the older generation were deprived of our due, for adults simply didn't bother themselves about their children. Adults had a table to eat their meals at while children had to do without one. Children had no say in the family, and if they cried they were sure to get slapped. In the new China of today we must change our approach and think more in the interest of our children and youth.

Young cadres must be elected to the League Central Committee. At the time of the Three Kingdoms, Tsao Tsao led his huge army to the Yangtse River to attack the Kingdom of Wu in eastern China. Chou Yu, who was then a "Youth League member" in age, was appointed commanding general of the Wu army. Cheng Pu and other battle-seasoned generals protested but were later persuaded into accepting his command, and in the end the battle was won. Now we want the present-day "Chou Yus" to sit on the League Central Committee, and yet people won't hear of it! For the League Central Committee only older people are candidates — very few young. Will that do? Of course, we can't judge by age alone, ability also counts. Originally there were only nine people under thirty on the list of candidates for the League Central Committee, but after discussion by the Party Central Committee their number has been increased to more than sixty, and even so that makes up only a little over one-fourth. Those over thirty still form almost three-fourths of the total, and yet some comrades complain that this number is not big enough. I think it's quite enough. Some comrades say they are not so sure whether all these sixty-odd young people are competent in every way. We should have full confidence in our young people, most of them will prove equal to their jobs. A few may prove incompetent, but there is no need to worry, they can be replaced by later elections. In this way the basic orientation will not be wrong. The young are not our inferiors. Old people have more experience, which of course is a strong point, but on the other hand their physical powers are declining, their eyesight and hearing are not so sharp as before and their limbs not so agile as those of the young. This is a law of nature. It is necessary to convince those comrades who disagree.

The Youth League organizations should give consideration to the characteristics of youth and have their own sphere of work, but at the same time they should submit to the leadership of the Party committees at the corresponding levels. This is nothing new but something of long standing and has always been a tenet of Marxism. This is to proceed from reality. After all, youth is youth, or else why bother to have a Youth League? Young people are different from adults and so are young women

from young men. Disregard these characteristics and you will alienate yourselves from the masses. Now you have nine million League members, and if you neglect the characteristics of youth, probably only one million will support you and eight million will not.

In its work the Youth League must make allowance for the majority of its members and at the same time pay attention to the advanced ones. This may not satisfy some of the advanced elements, for they want the League organization to make stricter demands on the entire membership. This is not really proper, you must try to convince them. The draft constitution of the League lays down far too many obligations and too few rights; there should be some leeway so that the majority can keep in step. You should focus your attention on the many and not just on the few.

It is stipulated in your draft constitution that a member will be considered to have automatically withdrawn from the League if he fails to take part in its regular cell meetings for four months; this is much too severe. Even the Party Constitution allows six months, can't you do the same? Don't put into the League constitution what is impossible to carry out or what is possible for only one million members, not for the other eight million. There must be flexibility in applying principles. There is a gap between what ought to be and what actually is. It takes years for some laws to be fully carried out. For instance, many of the articles in the Marriage Law are programmatic and their thorough implementation will take at least a period of three five-year plans. The article "don't gossip behind people's back", while correct in principle, need not be put into the League constitution. To combat liberalism is a long-term task, and it exists even in the Party to no small extent. You may prohibit backbiting, but actually it won't work. Don't impose too narrow limits. The essential thing is to make a clear distinction between ourselves and the enemy.

Prestige is built up gradually. There was a time when some people in the army made up ditties to abuse others. We imposed no ban nor made any investigation, yet our army was not wrecked. We had a firm grip on a few major things only, such as the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention, and our armed forces were steadily led onto the correct path. The true admiration the masses feel for their leaders derives from what they come to know of them in the course of revolutionary practice. Trust comes out of real understanding. Now the League Central Committee already enjoys a fairly high prestige. Although some people do not yet admire it, they will in the course of time. When a young man first takes office and is not rated high, there is no need to worry, for it is only to be expected that there will be some criticism and abuse. "Whispers" exist for lack of "an open outlet for views". If there is full democracy and you allow others to touch you on the raw in face-to-face encounters, then even if you want people to go on whispering, they will say they have no time for that now and want to call it a day. Nevertheless, problems will always crop up, and don't imagine that they can be solved once and for all; there are problems today and there will be problems tomorrow.

The Party's general task for the transition period is basically to accomplish socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce in the course of three five-year plans. Three five-year plans cover a period of fifteen years. Make a small step each year and a big stride every five years, and with three big strides the work is almost done. "Basically accomplished" does not mean "completely accomplished". To say it is basically accomplished is a prudent way of speaking; it is always better to be prudent in everything we do.

At this stage China's agricultural economy is by and large individual in nature, and it needs step-by-step socialist transformation.

The principle of voluntary participation must be adhered to in promoting the mutual-aid and co-operative movement in agriculture. Failure to promote it will lead to the capitalist road, and that will be a Right deviation. To push it too hard won't do either, for that will be a "Left" deviation. The movement must proceed step by step after due preparation. We are always against fighting a battle without being prepared and being sure of victory, or fighting a battle when prepared but not sure of victory. In the days when we fought Chiang Kai-shek, some people erred on the side of subjectivism at the outset, but later when this subjectivism was overcome through rectification, we emerged the victors. We are now engaged in the battle for socialism, fighting to accomplish socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce. This is the general task set for the whole nation. As to how the Youth League is to carry out this general task, you should lay down appropriate guidelines in the light of the characteristics of youth.

## **Party's Call to the Youth and Students**

**Charu Majumdar**

[This call to the youth and students was written by com. CM in August 1969 and published in the September 1969 issue of *Liberation*, the first central organ of CPI(ML). Though many changes have taken place in the concrete conditions, this call is very relevant today.]

The ruling comprador system and the imperialists, especially US imperialists, the comprador bureaucratic bourgeoisie and the landlord classes it serves along with all brands of religious fundamentalists, the communalists, the casteist and all other shades of reaction are colluding and contending to spread reactionary socio-political-cultural values to degenerate the youth and students from the path of national liberation and democratic revolution. The society is communalised, the youth are criminalised and the campuses are 'de-politicised', that is the revolutionary, patriotic, democratic values are kept away. From the very childhood they are subjected to communalisation and counter revolutionary offensive of imperialist values and culture and of feudal remnants. They are made incapable of fighting against the forces of reaction.

In this situation, it is the historic task of the Marxist-Leninist forces to mobilise the youth and student in revolutionary mass organisations, to politicise them, to make them capable of integrating with the working class and with the landless-poor peasants, agricultural workers and all other revolutionary sections so that once again they can play the significant role they had played during the independence struggle against British imperialists with redoubled enthusiasm. With this objective this article of com. CM should be studied and applied in the concrete conditions of today to assist the building of revolutionary mass organisations of youth and students - **Red Star**]

**IN INDIA**, which has been under imperialist rule and subject to imperialist exploitation and oppression for two hundred years, the students and educated youth represent the educated community. Imperialist exploitation has condemned the masses of our people to illiteracy and ignorance. Therefore, it is essential that this educated community takes part in the revolutionary movement. The youth and students are not only educated, they have also great enthusiasm and capacity to make sacrifices, and the ability to adjust themselves to every kind of circumstance. That is why it is only they who, arming themselves with revolutionary politics, that is, Mao Tsetung Thought, can spread this Thought among the broad masses of our people, and in particular, among the poor and landless peasants, and can help establish revolutionary base areas in the villages of India by integrating themselves with the masses of poor and landless peasants. They are educated; that is why they have to shoulder the major part of the responsibility of carrying Mao Tsetung Thought to the uneducated masses of our country.

At every stage of India's struggle for national freedom, the youth and students of India made enormous sacrifices, carried the call of freedom to the villages, resisted police repression, and discontinued their study and voluntarily destroyed the prospects of building a career for themselves in order to become whole-time political workers. There can be no doubt that, today, in the great new era that has begun, when imperialism is headed towards total collapse, when the flames of revolutionary struggle are raging in various countries of the world and have begun to spread in India too, from Naxalbari to Srikakulam, and from Assam to Punjab, the revolutionary youth and students in India will, as befits them, come forward to shoulder the important task that faces them, namely, the work of propagating revolutionary politics among the workers and peasants, and in particular, among the poor and landless peasants.

In their attempts to kill this revolutionary potentiality in our youth and students before it can develop, the imperialists and reactionary ruling classes have held out before them the bait of college unions. These college unions cannot solve any problem of education that confronts the students. On the other hand, the college unions fail to provide leadership to the youth and the students in their revolt against the existing education system. What the college unions hold out and advocate before the revolutionary students is basically an economist viewpoint. Thus, these unions destroy the revolutionary talent of the youth and students, and constitute a great obstacle before them preventing them from integrating themselves with the workers and peasants. Because of this, the union leadership, in most cases, is found to sink deep into the mire of opportunism and "careerism" begins to develop among them, while the temptation of staying on in leadership drags them into all kinds of opportunist "alliances" and thus destroys their revolutionary morality.

In the past also, the imperialists likewise held out the baits of 'union boards' and 'municipalities' and then of the 'legislative assembly' in order to pacify the restive Indian masses. The Indian bourgeoisie has never wanted a revolution to overthrow imperialism. That is why they readily swallowed whatever baits the imperialists held out, and deceived the revolutionary masses with all sorts of fine words.

No so-called 'leftist' leadership in India ever stood up against this bourgeoisie either. That is why they have also readily swallowed the imperialist baits.

However, today, when we have got the brilliant Thought of Chairman Mao Tsetung, the highest stage of the development of Marxism-Leninism, to guide us, it is imperative for us to judge everything anew in the light of Mao Tsetung Thought and build a completely new road along which to press on forward. We must resolutely repudiate the ugly path of the bourgeoisie—the path of capitulationism. The time has now come for us to uphold resolutely the vigorous path of the workers and peasants—the path of revolution.

The task that now faces the students and youth is to study the Thought of Chairman Mao Tsetung, to repudiate the path of capitulationism and to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants.

Hundreds and thousands of martyrs who fell in battle now call upon you, students and youth, to rise up and fight. The day has now come at last when we must settle their blood-debts, and overthrow the imperialists and the reactionary exploiting classes.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) therefore, calls upon the youth and students to go to the workers and the poor and landless peasants with the firm conviction, because only they can end the present oppression and humiliation.

Today, the Party has only one appeal to make to our students and youth: Integrate yourself with the workers and the poor and landless peasants. Integrate! Integrate!

## International Scene

# Obama's Words and Deeds: the Contradiction

Karthik

**THE** ideological background for Bush's hegemonic policies culminating with the 'war on terrorism' aggressing over and decimating Iraq and Afghanistan was the notorious 'clash of civilisations' formulation of Samuel Huntington. He had pro-nounced that with the disintegration of Soviet Union, war against communism is replaced by the war against enemy civilisation, i.e., Islam. The theoretical backing for Bush's *crusades* in West Asia to establish the hegemony over the oil wealth in the region was provided by it.

With the end of Bush's tenure the sheen of most of his utterances has disappeared. The imperialist-corporate media has started down playing what is happening in Iraq and Afghan hinterland, and the 'war on terrorism'. The background was being prepared for selling US policies with a liberal cover under Obama. So when he gave a long oration in Cairo in the beginning of June touching on the end of 'war on Islam' and corrections on US approach towards aggressive extremism, Palestine-Israel conflict, atomic weapons, democracy, religious freedom, rights of women and economic development, the US partisans all over the world, especially in the West Asia tried to underscore and emphasise them. It is repeated by the US patriots in India and all over the world. They are trying hard to present Obama as a liberal democrat under whom the US is going to change its colour!

But the US spokespersons and the imperialist lackeys and running dogs refuse to substantiate Obama's words through his actions during last six months, as there are very little of significance they can search out for it. For example, though he says that there were differing views in US on the attack on Iraq, he has not condemned it. Even while diluting the 'war on terrorism', Obama is repeating whatever lies Bush had propagated based on 'September 11'. Though Obama has stated in the beginning that he will publish all about *Guantanamo*, soon he withdrew from this commitment. Even after the CIA has announced that Iran is not having any nuclear armament plan now, Obama has not stopped the verbal offensive against Iran. Following the Iranian elections, Obama has blatantly interfered in its internal affairs taking the side of the defeated candidate in the name of democracy when the US election system is still far from democratic principles.

Obama wanted the Palestinians to abandon violence citing the example of the black Americans who according to him "suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation" and yet did not resort to violence to win "full and equal rights." He also counselled them that it was not a sign of courage or power "to shoot rockets at sleeping children, or blow up old women on a bus" because, through such acts, moral authority is not claimed but surrendered. Such an advice would have found acceptance among the Palestinians had Mr. Obama also talked about the state terrorism of Israel, particularly the recent massacre of nearly 1,500 people in Gaza using weapons procured from the United States. In comparison [according to The Israel Project (TIP)], an international non-profit organisation, which provides information about the Middle East) since Nov 24, 2001 Hamas mortar attacks killed 25 people within Israel. Yet Mr. Obama chose not to say word about the

disproportionate use of violence by Israel. May be he did not want to antagonise the dreaded Zionist lobby in his country.

Obama should have at least recognised the “surrender of moral authority” by his own country when it decimated Afghanistan and Iraq by shooting missiles at sleeping children, old women and innocent men who had done nothing to harm anybody and, later on dismissed their deaths as “collateral damage.” The Muslim world is certainly entitled to question these glaring contradictions in Mr. Obama’s speech.

While talking about Palestine-Israel conflict Obama refused to talk about Israeli aggression giving sermons to Palestinians. Either he does not know or refused to say that it is not the Palestines or Muslims responsible for the persecution of the Jews. On the contrary, in March 1492 when Ferdinand and Isabella issued the ‘Edict of Expulsion’ against the Jews of Spain, the Muslims nations welcomed them. According to the French-Jewish scholar Isidore Loeb there were about 235,000 Jews in Spain in 1492 out of which 50,000 were forcibly converted to Christianity and the rest were expelled. They migrated to various parts of the world including Europe and America with 20,000 dying en route. Loeb writes that a total of 122,000 Jews were given refuge by the Muslims of Algiers, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Turkey. And even now the Palestinians have accepted the UN Partition Resolution of 1947 which gave away more than half their country to the Jews although the UN had no right to do so. And in all fairness it must be acknowledged that the “Jewish homeland” the US so eagerly recognises has been carved out of the land belonging to a people who were totally innocent of the Holocaust.

So if Mr. Obama is serious about finding a solution to the Israel-Palestine dispute his primary concern must be to roll back the unabashedly pro-Israel Middle-East policy of his country. This is the key to the peaceful establishment of a Palestinian state.

It was openly stated by the Pak president Zardari during his US visit in an interview that the Taliban was created by the CIA and the ISI of Pakistan. When US bombers are still pounding Afghan villages and the border areas of Pakistan killing thousands of children, women and old men in the name of attacking the Taliban strongholds, when he is repeatedly ordering Pakistan to intensify attacks on Taliban to exterminate them, and when the US and NATO forces are engaged in Afghanistan for the same purpose, Obama is silent over what was stated by Zardari. If he opens his mouth he will be forced to reveal that the CIA was asked to create Taliban and Al Qaeda not only for throwing out the Soviet forces from Afghanistan but to spread Islamic fundamentalism in the whole of central Asia to destabilise the whole region and to disintegrate Soviet Union.

While talking about nuclear weapons Obama was eloquent against nuclear proliferation. He sharply attacked North Korea and any other country (which means Iran) trying for making nuclear arms. But he does not talk about nuclear disarmament. When his own country is having a nuclear stockpile capable of destroying this earth a hundred times, when Zionist Israel is having sufficient stockpile to destroy it at least once, why he is not talking about a nuclear disarmament? Instead he is threatening a small country like North Korea for possessing a small number of them. He refused to admit that it is the vast nuclear stockpiles and rocket capabilities a handful of countries including US posses and they, especially his country talk about its world hegemony which is compelling countries like North Korea to go for their own nuclear weapons and rockets to defend themselves.

During the Sri Lankan army’s war against LTTE, pretending to talk from high moral pedestals, Obama was repeating about the issue of civilian casualties in the war zone. Such cruelties on civilians are severely condemned by the democratic forces all over the world. But what right Obama has to speak about it when he has not yet condemned the massacre of hundreds of thousands of people by his predecessor? When under his own rule on this May 3rd alone in air strikes on two villages in Farah province more than 100 innocent men, women and children were killed? From the start of the Afghan war in Oct. 2001 thousands of such attacks on civilian have taken place and they still continue criminally. In such attacks in Pakistan territories now also hundreds of civilians are killed. Under Obama’s new military and air offensive in Afghanistan called ‘surge’ the casualties are bound to escalate. All these are justified as ‘collateral damage’.

Obama may speak many things trying to project himself as a liberal democrat. But like Bush, his administration is also functioning strictly under the corporate-Pentagon complex and the Zionist lobbyists. It is foolish to think that because the president changes the US policies will change. Obama’s Cairo speech is nothing but an attempt to hoodwink the world people. Under him all the fundamental contradictions at global level are bound to intensify.

# The Global Capitalist Collapse and the Awakening of the World's Workers

**OVER** the past few months, the world capitalist economic crisis has deepened everywhere. From China and India to Poland and Latvia, tens of millions of workers have lost their jobs and their livelihoods. In most of the countries of Eastern Europe, the numbers and percentages of unemployed have already reached staggering proportions. In the USA, November and December each saw over five hundred thousand new unemployed workers; and over six hundred thousand lost their jobs in each of the first three months of 2009. When the large number of self-employed and the underemployed are included, an estimated five million workers in the USA alone have been drastically impacted.

The initial response of the imperialist and other reactionary governments to the crisis has been to provide multi-billion dollar (euro, pound, yen) bailout giveaways to the wealthiest, greediest and most guilty ruling class bankers and businessmen, the very people most responsible for the depth of the crisis. This boondoggle has been squeezed out of the sweat and blood of the working class in every country. Indeed, the amount of dollars, euro, etc. involved in the bailouts will still be coming out of the children and grandchildren of those of us in today's working class, *if* we allow the system of monopoly capitalism and imperialism to survive.

In this setting, the international working class is being jolted into action – as if shaken out of slumber.

Within the USA itself, for sixty years U.S. imperialism's post World War II hegemony in the capitalist world allowed for a situation to develop in which the organized labor movement has been almost totally subservient to U.S. imperialism, and the U.S. working class has been loyal to the U.S. imperialist ruling class as it became almost completely caught up in the consumer culture. For about twenty-five years after World War II (approximately 1947-1972), the organized section of the U.S. working class was able to win wage increases (and material gains) without the bitter and bloody struggles normally associated with such working class advance. This fact of life was precisely in accordance with Lenin's teachings on the imperialist bribery of "its own" working class by major imperialist powers.

For the past thirty-five years or so, since then, the real wages of U.S. workers have not increased. Yet working people here have continued to experience significant material gains. This has been largely due to the inflation bubble and especially inflation in the housing sector on which most working class family wealth is based. In recent years the consumer spending of U.S. working people, largely on the basis of the proceeds from housing inflation, has been the engine driving much of the world capitalist system's economic production.

It is no wonder, then, that, over these sixty years, the U.S. working class and its labor movement have been almost completely won over to the "virtues" of capitalism, U.S. imperialism style.

Now this is no longer the case! The subprime mortgage crisis in the USA has led to a housing crisis which has led to a U.S. financial crisis, to a world financial crisis, and finally to a world capitalist economic crisis. The subsequent massive job loss and the wiping out of private pensions, along with the U.S. government bailout of the rich ruling class financial criminal organizations like Bank of America, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs is awakening the U.S. working class to the fact that *the system is rotten*. Certainly, if we don't yet *know* it, we feel it in our bones.

In the USA, the growing mass disaffection with the system of monopoly capitalism and imperialism is a fundamentally *new condition* that dramatically impacts every clash between labor and capital, between the oppressed and the oppressor, between the police and the oppressed nationalities, between the workers and the opportunists leading the U.S. labor movement.

This has already been evidenced by the victorious union election at the giant Smithfield hog slaughtering plant in rural Tarheel, North Carolina after a sixteen year campaign. It was shown by the UE union-led victory of the Republic Windows workers in Chicago after a six day sit-down strike at the factory, a militant workers' tactic unseen in the U.S. labor movement since the 1930's.

It is demonstrated by the deepening struggle of health care, hospital and home care workers in California in opposition to the dictatorial, sell-out leadership of Andy Stern and the Washington D.C.-based Service Employees International Union (SEIU) leadership. Stern had attempted to dismember the democratically run, San Francisco-based 150,000 member United Health Care local of SEIU led by its progressive President, Sal Roselli. But the membership and leadership of SEIU local #250 mobilized and defended its rank and file-led union and its decent contracts. In late January, after

Stern trusted the local, more than a hundred union staffers led by Roselli, in consultation with 5,000 local union stewards, resigned from the SEIU and launched the formation of the new National Union of Health Care Workers (NUHW). Thus far, while the workers in bargaining units representing almost one hundred thousand workers have indicated a majority commitment to NUHW, the U.S. Labor Department, influenced by Stern and his Democratic Party political connections, have delayed and denied most rank and file attempts to hold votes on union affiliation at this time. But, with dedicated unionists volunteering their time, the struggle continues.

The protracted and mass struggle for union democracy being carried out by NUHW, occurring in this period of economic crisis and nascent working class ferment, has the potential for helping to pave the way for class struggle-oriented, democratically-run, rank and file-led unions, capable of leading a crusade of working class organization and struggle against capital such as were born and thrived in the last Great Depression with the rise of the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO). NUHW needs and deserves our support.

In the past few months, the working class of the French colonies of Guadeloupe and Martinique have waged powerful workers strike struggles organized through their trade unions, spearheading their islands' masses in their demand for economic relief from this global capitalist crisis. The general strikes on both these Caribbean islands, with overwhelming popular support, have succeeded in winning their immediate wage and price demands and have raised the fundamental question of political power, including the question of national sovereignty vis-à-vis French imperialism. Their struggle has inspired a similar struggle with similar demands in the French island colony of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean on the other side of the world.

No doubt, too, the strong uprisings of the exploited and oppressed masses of Guadeloupe and Martinique have helped provide backbone to the increasingly independent stands of Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador in opposition to U.S. imperialism. More dramatically, the defeat of the Arena Party government in the March 2009 election in El Salvador represents a resurgence of mass anti-imperialist sentiment among the workers in this Central American country, a former center of revolutionary activity. For more than two decades, prior to this victory, the Salvadoran working people had been living under the Arena party-led state of terror.

At the same time, the French working class, inspired at least in part by their class brothers and sisters in Guadeloupe and Martinique, has undertaken massive and militant demonstrations within that important imperialist country itself, resisting the efforts of the French ruling class to put the burden of the crisis on their shoulders. Likewise, the working people of Greece, along with the students, have been staging massive protests against police brutality and in defense of popular education, also fueled by the economic crisis. The street demonstrations of the Greek masses have shaken the roots of the reactionary regime there.

The working class militancy being exhibited in oppressed colonies and neo-colonies and major imperialist countries, as well as countries in between, is a reflection of *the mass disaffection with the world system of monopoly capitalism and imperialism*. Even without the existence of a viable alternative socialist camp at this time, the toiling masses' fascination with global capitalism has been broken.

***[Revolutionary Organisation of Labour, USA]***

## **Right Wind Temporarily Prevails in the West**

**Sanjaya Singhvi**

**THE ELECTIONS** to the European Parliament held from 4th to 7th June were publicised as the largest trans-national elections ever, involving over 375 million voters from 27 countries electing 736 MEPs (Members of European Parliament). Though the number of countries has increased by 2 since the last elections in 2004, the number of seats has been slightly reduced from earlier 785.

At the same time, the voter turn-out for the elections has fallen by 2% to 42% making this the lowest voter turn-out since 1979. The results have shown a marked turn to the right. The Centre-right coalition in the European Parliament is known as the EPP, or the European Peoples' Party and broadly corresponds to the Christian-Democratic Group. They retained their pre-eminent position in the parliament winning 264 (35.9%) seats. The percentage of seats that they won was almost the same as the last parliament where they had held 36.7% of the seats. The "socialist" group includes such parties as the Labour Party of Great Britain and the Social Democratic Party of Germany. This party, known as the PES or the Party of European Socialists in the European Parliament, has won only 161 (21.9%) seats as compared to 27.6% of the seats in the outgoing parliament. In real terms their numbers have gone down from 217 seats (in a slightly larger parliament) to 161. The

“Communists” including the “Green Lefts” have also gone down considerably from 5.2% of the seats to 4.3% of the seats. All the centrist groupings, like the liberal “ALDE” (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) have also lost slightly except for the “Greens” who have shown a marginal improvement in the seat percentage. The main gainer of the lost seat is the “Others” grouping which has gone up from 3.8% of the seats to 12.6% of the seats.

The largest section of the “Others” grouping is the far-right. This includes the PVV (Freedom Party) in the Netherlands led by Geert Wilders. The BNP in Great Britain, the Jobbik Party in Hungary, the Freedom Party in Austria, the Slovakian Nationalist Party in Slovakia, not to speak of Italy and Romania. All these far-right parties had one thing in common, they were all rabidly anti-immigrant. They vowed to stop immigration and in many cases were fascistically against Islam or other minority religions.

In the Netherlands, which we generally associate with democratic centrist politics, the PVV (Freedom Party) of Geert Wilders won about 17% of the popular vote and came in second in the country. Wilders is known to say “I don’t hate Muslims, I hate Islam”. This self-proclaimed fan of Israel has promised to ban the Koran. He has professed that the present Article 1 of the Dutch constitution, guaranteeing equality under the law, will be replaced by a clause stating the cultural dominance of the “Christian, Jewish and humanist” traditions.

The British National Party, formed in 1982 as a breakaway from Enoch Powell’s National Front, has never won a Parliamentary or even a County Council seat in Britain. This time the party won two seats in the European Parliament and its first County Council seat. According to its constitution, the BNP is “committed to stemming and reversing the tide of non-white immigration and to restoring, by legal changes, negotiation and consent the overwhelmingly white makeup of the British population that existed in Britain prior to 1948”. The BNP proposes “firm but voluntary incentives for immigrants and their descendants to return home”. The party also advocates the repeal of all anti-discrimination legislation, and restricts party membership to “indigenous British ethnic groups deriving from the class of ‘Indigenous Caucasian’”. The BNP also accepts white immigrants that are assimilated into one of those ethnicities. In spite of their antipathy to brown-skinned people, the BNP is known to have links with the Hindu far-right and has had joint campaigns with them to attack Islam, the Koran and Muslims in UK.

The Jobbik party in Hungary is also against immigration. Though this party is against “privatisation” and asks for more state intervention, the party constitution calls for “stopping the massive immigration of groups unfit for social assimilation”. In an attempt to forget Hungary’s socialist past, in 2007 the party published its programme, which states that by the 1944 German invasion Hungary was diverted from the road of “legal continuity”, therefore it is necessary to create a constitution founded on the doctrine of Hungary’s Holy Crown, in order to resolve the “crisis of constitutionality” that has existed since that time. Jobbik’s profile began to rise in 2007 with the setting up of a uniformed group called the Hungarian Guard, which has been instrumental in a campaign against ‘Gypsy crime’. The party is openly anti-Roma, and its uniform is reminiscent of the Second World War Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross. The Jobbik party won 3 of the 22 seats allotted to Hungary. Its northern neighbour, Slovakia, elected one candidate of the SNS (Slovakian Nationalist Party) whose main targets of SNS ire are Slovakia’s ethnic Roma and Hungarian minorities

The ultra-nationalist Romania Mare (Greater Romania) scored over 8 per cent of the vote. In Austria, the far-right Freedom Party won two seats in Brussels, and a further smattering of extremists were elected in Finland, Denmark and Greece.

The most clear-cut example of the shift to the right is, of course, Italy. The Berlusconi Government is clearly one of the most far right Governments in Europe. Government swept to power a few weeks before the European parliament elections. Immediately after, they formed the Popolo della Liberta coalition, which includes Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of “Il Duce” and also includes the rump of the so-called post-fascist party, the National Alliance, whose leader, Gianfranco Fini, once said that Mussolini was “the greatest statesman of the 20th century.”

This swing to the right is not yet very alarming. Only about 30 of such far-right candidates have got elected so far and though only 25 are needed to form a recognised group in the European Parliament (from at least 7 countries), the fear of some such far-right group being formed is presently remote because of the animosity between such far-right parties. However, it has become a sufficiently pronounced phenomenon that we have to take note of it. The awakening of the far-right has also to be seen in the context of the attacks on Indians in Australia, as also the banning of the “burqa” by Sarkozy in France. There is a clear shift to ultra-nationalistic, fascistic trends.

This trend has to be seen in the backdrop of the economic crisis. This crisis has created a very real fear in the minds of the youth and the middle-classes of losing their jobs. One would have thought that the crisis would be a very good campaigning point for the left, clearly pointing out the non-viability

of the global imperialist system. However, due to their own class collaborationist attitude the “socialist” and “social democratic” parties - including those that call themselves “communist” have not been able to take advantage of the situation. Communist Revolutionaries, such as they exist in Europe, are still small in organisation and also have to clarify their stands on various issues. Therefore, they could not be expected to take the lead in this situation. This shows very clearly how, when the left fails to concretely analyse the concrete situation, with the deepening of the crisis, there will be a swing to the right. There is clearly a lesson to be learnt in this for Communists in India and all over the world.

## **Euro Elections and Rise of Fascist BNP in UK**

**Thomas Sebastian**

**IN THE** recently concluded European parliamentary elections, a fascist party, British National Party (BNP) won substantial votes (943,598, 6.2%) and managed to get two MEPs (Member of European Parliament) elected to the European Parliament. This would entitle them to get a large amount of money from the European government, give legitimacy and a platform to spread their ideology. The pattern of rightward shift was reflected in the results of other European countries also. The BNP campaigned with the slogan, “British jobs for British workers”. This slogan was also used by Gordon Brown in a labour party conference a year ago.

The potential left votes were split between trade unions led ‘No2EU’ campaign (153,236 and 1%, the Socialist Labour Party (173,115 and 1.1%) and the Green Party (1,303,748, 8.6% and 2 seats). These together could have gathered around 12+ percent votes and a number of seats. It was this possibility that inspired the leading Trotskyite party, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), to raise an alarm about the rise of the fascism and issue a letter to all the left and progressive forces to work together to put up common front in the next year’s UK’s general elections. But this is mere wish as the major vote gatherer on the left, the Green Party is not anti-capitalist at all. It wants sustainable development and actions against global warming along with capitalism, which is the root cause of all these problems.

It has been found the main support base of the UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party, 16.5% votes and 13 seats) is the small businessmen while the main support of the BNP has come from the working class communities who are generally the supporters of the Labour Party. Another thing that was observed was that a large number of the working class, about 3 million of them did not vote. This time there was only 35% voting, in some constituencies it being a mere 21%. This is not democracy, not even bourgeois democracy but a joke.

The BNP was able to hide their anti-people policies and highlight their policies that are to the liking of the working class like keeping the National Health Services (NHS) under the government, decent pensions, nationalisation of the public services like transport and so on. These are issues that are of great concern to the working class that the trade unions are supposed to address, but unable to do so, thanks to the collaboration of the their leadership to labour party which is initiating these policies.

The demonising of the BNP by UAF (United Against Fascism - a campaign supported by SWP), only helps the Labour Party, as it helps them to propose themselves as the real alternative to the BNP. The real threat comes from the Finance Capital and one of their leading political representatives, the Labour Party. Threat of fascism is not coming from the BNP but from Gordon Brown who also propagates similar slogans as the BNP, but gives it in the name of a party claiming to represent the working class. He gave the call ‘British Jobs for British Workers’ before the BNP did. The BNP is only the storm troopers, the real problem is social democracy. It is unable to cope with the internal contradictions of capitalism and its effort to hide this fact comes into the open in times of recession. They have made an effort to put the blame on the recent recession on the selfishness of the bankers. Unless the left is able to put forward the alternative policies before the people they would not be able to organise the people against the rise of fascism. Experience of the Europe during the interwar period has shown that as the crisis deepens social democracy willingly gives way to fascism.

**Reports From States**

## **Workers Struggle Set the Term in Lomtex Jute Mill**

**SOMETIME** around the middle of last year, leading newspapers all over the country burst into indignant outrage at the 'brutal', 'barbarous' murder of the personnel manager of a jute mill in West Bengal at the hands (allegedly) of a bunch of bloodthirsty workers. Not just the corporate media, some leaders of so-called central trade unions too were quick to denounce the workers and distance themselves from the incident. All of these media and unions were trying to conceal the real fact. What was the actual fact?

On the fateful 15th of May, *Loomtex Engineering Private Limited Sangrami Mazdoor Union* organised a meeting outside the factory gates to urge all workers to march to Mr. Shukla's office after the scheduled seven days and demand their dues. The meeting, organised with the written permission of the local police station, began at 4.30 pm. Workers who were supposed to enter the mill at 5 pm crowded round the speakers. A few minutes to five, when most of these workers had left to attend their shift in the mill and the remaining workers had not yet been released from duty, goons with their faces covered attacked the meeting with iron rods and bamboo poles. They beat up a few of the workers present, smashed the microphones and other equipment and attempted to assault the president of the union. After a hurricane rampage they fled. The union leaders immediately rang up the police and reported the incident. In the meanwhile, as news of the incident reached the mill and the workers recognized the handiwork of Mr. Shukla in the hiring of these goons, the workers put their tools down and, taking out their anger on some machines, marched outside the gates.

By that time, the police had also arrived on the spot. A few of the goons had been identified and the incensed workers wanted to hunt them down and finish them off for good. However, leaders of the Sangrami Mazdoor Union intervened and suggested that it would be wiser to march to the police station and lodge a complaint against the management and the hired hoodlums. The suggestion found favour and some 500 workers marched to the police station. The police called in a few leaders for discussion, while the rest of the workers demonstrated outside the police station. Soon the news came that a manager of the mill had been murdered by unknown assailants. Before the protesting mass had time to digest this piece of information, they found themselves facing a brutal lathi-charge. In the middle of all this chaos, the police arrested some prominent union leaders they had already marked as well as over a dozen workers at random. Their names were taken down and, the following day, it transpired that Mr. Jeetendra Shukla had filed an FIR against those very workers accusing them of the murder of the personnel manager. Mr. Shukla knew only a few of the arrested workers by name, and yet he named them all in his FIR, thanks to the cooperation of the police! The workers charged with murder most foul included a 75-year-old chronic TB patient as well as a puny 14-year-old child labour. Also among the arrested were a couple of non-worker political activists and portfolio holders of the union, who could by no means enter the mill premises. From then the mill was closed down by the management.

77 days later, the imprisoned workers were released from prison on a bail order from the Kolkata High Court. It was a minor triumph. A new struggle began on the demand that the mill be immediately reopened and all the 24 workers chargesheeted in the murder case be reinstated in service. The management tried to opening the mill on the condition that the charge sheeted workers will not be allowed to return to work. The workers resisted the move. Finally, the local Left Front MP, Tarit Baran Topdar, intervened. At a meeting in which though all workers were invited, only a few attended out of disgust, Mr. Topdar struck a deal with the established trade unions, management and owner of the mill. He assured all that if the mill was reopened immediately, he would see to it that the charge-sheeted workers were taken back in service within 10 days.

But the assurance became futile as those workers were not reinstated even after six months. The mass of the workers gradually understood that the assurance was a trick. MP, Administration, Government all of them are with the management. Management and administration wanted to frustrate those workers so that they surrendered to the management. But they failed in this. The 24 workers and vanguard workers of the mill started a new phase of movement on the demand of the reinstatement of those workers. After various types of agitation, an indefinite Dharna was started by the side of mill gate from 3rd April, 2009. Three workers and activists were going on the fast for 12 days. This dharna ended at 10th May. Sangrami Mazdoor Union lifted this dharna because the election was on 13th may. Sangrami Mazdoor Union sent a letter to the management that if this movement was not enough, then the management had to prepare for a strike at any time. The workers response was very good and they wanted a final decision. So they were agreeing with this sudden strike. At that time all the established parties who claimed to support the struggle to get vote were facing questions of the general people and workers in that locality. Many workers had already decided that they would not give the vote to Tarit Baran Topdar. At last he was defeated in the election and workers were standing more firmly with this movement. Seeing the workers attitude and wrath the management understood that it is not wise to keep the 24 workers outside. This would be more dangerous to them. So they unilaterally pasted a notice on the gate and reinstated those workers unconditionally. This is a great victory to the workers who defeated the game that only

management can set the term. Now they have learnt that workers also can set the term if they stay in the path of struggle.

## **Kerala: Struggle for Housing Right Continues**

**IN CONTINUATION** to the struggle of the thousands of families organised under the *Housing Right Struggle Committee* held on May 18 in Fort Kochi, on the third anniversary day of the LDF ministry, on May 28 members of 68 houseless families occupied the more than one acre government land at Malippuram at Vypin near Kochi and built their huts. Including women and children more than 300 people participated. The leaders of the Housing Right Committee, CPI(ML) district leaders and area and local committee leaders participated.

Within hours hundreds of policemen and women led by the RDO and DySP reached the place, forcefully arrested the people and demolished the huts. Large number of people from surrounding areas who had gathered condemned the police action and criticised the LDF government for it. Protesting against the police action hundreds of people organised a demonstration. After the release of the arrested comrades, they also joined the demonstration.

The two land struggles within a few days in Kochi and suburbs have compelled the government to announce that all houseless people in the state will be provided housing sites and economic assistance to build the houses. While seeing this statement as a partial victory, the Housing Right Struggle Committee and CPI(ML) have called on the thousands of houseless people to intensify the struggle to realise their demand.

## **Karnataka: Struggle Against Thermal Plant**

**RAICHUR** is one of the most backward district of Karnataka. Total population of district is around 15 lakhs, with Raichur city is having population of 2.7 lakhs. Traditionally it is known for its cotton industries from colonial period. After imposition of imperialist globalisation and policy of marketisation of agricultural products, all these cotton industries are closed down. But Karnataka government started coal based thermal power plants. Eight power plants were built up between 1982-2005 near Raichur. Raichur Thermal Power Plant, which produce 1760 MW. The fly ash from this plant is deteriorating environment and polluting water, air and soil. Without addressing these problems, the state government is starting three 800 MW power plant near Raichur.

To oppose this anti-people attitude of state government, the CPI(ML) took initiative to organise people. A "Save Raichur Struggle Front" is formed organising different sections of people. More than 18 organisations are part of this front. Karnataka Raitha Sangha, RYFI, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, Karnataka Rajya Vidhut Grakakara Vedike, Raichur Bar Association, Raichur Senior Citizen Forum, Teachers Association, Hyderabad Karnataka Jana Vimochana Vedike, Raichur Samudaya, Raichur Cultural Loka, Raichur Chambers of Commerce, Freedom Fighters Association, etc. are part of this front.

This front started its campaign from January through cultural programmes, painting mela, signature campaign etc. A 99 page written objection was sent to Ministry of Environment and Forest. MoEF conducted a public opinion gathering programme on 17 July at Raichur. Under the leadership of com. R. Manasayya, Shekherappa, S. Rajshekhar, R. Sivaputra, Dr. Mayur and K. Ramakrishan (reporter, Indian Express) more than a thousand people participated and opposed this power plant. This has created good impact among the masses. District committees of Karnataka Raitha Sangha and Revolutionary Youth Federation of India has played an active role in mobilising the people in save environment movement. Front has decided to intensify the struggle in coming days.

## **Release of Dr. Binayak Sen is a Victory, But Struggle against Black Laws and State Terror should continue**

**THE** release of Dr. Binayak Sen, who was incarcerated for more than two years, through the May 25 Supreme Court bail, following a continuous agitation involving large number of people from different walks of life, is a welcome development. The Chhattisgarh state committee of CPI(ML) had extended full support to the agitation for his release and members of class and mass organisations had actively participated in it. The *Red Star* welcomes his release as a victory of democratic forces.

But with the release of Dr. Binayak Sen the agitation is not over. Day by day, as the people's struggle are developing across the country, the central and state governments are intensifying the attack over them through black laws and state terror. The massive people's agitation in Jammu & Kashmir is continuing for weeks for punishing those central forces who raped and murdered the two girls, for withdrawing the Armed Forces Special Power Act as well as the armed forces themselves from the state. Even after the release of Dr. Sen the black laws (Chhattisgarh Special Public Security

Act), the *Salwa Judum* and the deployment of the central and state forces in tribal areas are continuing.

The struggle against black laws and state terror, therefore, is a political struggle against the state and its suppressive machinery. The NGOs enter these struggles not for finding a political solution to these, but for hijacking them from the political path. Exposing their nefarious game the political forces committed to struggle for democracy and socialism should take up the struggle against the state terror as part of the class struggle and carry it forward.

The CPI(ML) Chhattisgarh State Committee has called for intensifying the struggle for the repealing of the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and for dismantling the *Salwa Judum*.

## **Chhattisgarh: Com. Parida Martyr's Day Observed**

**COMRADE RAMESH PARIDA** became martyr on 31st May, 1990 in workers struggle for minimum wage and implementing labour laws. Since then TUCI is every year observing 31st May as martyrs day. This year TUCI observed com. Ramesh Parida martyr's day with a militant rally and public meeting at Abhanpur in Raipur district. Hundreds of worker from Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Bastar district gathered at *Krishi Upaj Mandi* and took out rally. After covering Abhanpur town it reached the Bus Stand where public meeting was organised. It was addressed by senior trade union leader com. Mridul Sengupta, TUCI state president com. Bharat Bhushan Pandey, secretary com. Ram Narayan Soni, CPI(ML) state secretary com. Soura Yadav, RYFI convenor com. Tejram Sahu and leader of Chhattisgarh Kisan Sangathan com. Hemant Tondan.

**Agitation by Chhattisgarh Kisan Sangathan:** Chhattisgarh Kisan Sangathan (CKS) is leading and agitation in Raipur and Mahasamund district for minimum support price for paddy. On 22 May a dharna was organised by CKS at Rajim Mandi in Raipur district in which hundres of peasants participated. On 6th June a militant demonstration was organised at Mahasamund district headquarter. Alleging state government for taking side with trades in the loot of peasants, on 9th June thousands of peasant blocked the road at Rajim Bus Stand for hours. This agitation is still continuing and spreading to other districts also.

## **All India Revolutionary Students Organisation (AIRSO) formed in Mumbai Meeting**

REPRESENTATIVES OF REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT ORGANISATIONS from different states of India assembled in a meeting on June 2nd and 3rd 2009 at Mumbai. Representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh Karnataka, Kerala and Chhattisgarh were present in this meeting. This meeting decided to form the All India Revolutionary Students Organisation (AIRSO) at national level. A co-ordination committee consisting of 6 members was formed. Com. Akshay Babu Pathak was elected as the co-ordinator. 35 students were present in the meeting.

The draft manifesto, programme and constitution of All India Revolutionary Students Organisation was discussed and adopted in the meeting. A red flag with white star in centre and AIRSO inscribed on the left side was also adopted. Following it, eight resolutions were passed unanimously by the meeting.

1.Fight Against private and foreign universities and foreign investment in educational institutions; fight against imperialist attack on education and in defense of intellectual independence.

2.To safeguard the democratic right of the students.

3.To implement Reservation in all the education institution as a democratic right.

4.To ensure education for all (universalisation of education).

5.Fees and admission issues of all the private professional and other institutions, especially in private universities should be brought under the government control.

6.Stop privatisation and commercialisation of education.

**7. Increase opportunities for the common people for higher studies.**

**8. Spend 10% of central budget and 6% of GDP on education.**

**In the coming 2 months in all the states the state committees or organising committees of the All India Revolutionary Student Organisation shall be formed from state level to the lower units in the educational institutions. Membership campaign and students struggle focussing on immediate issues shall be taken up in the beginning of the academic session in educational institutions identifying the students' problem. Such programmes shall be decided and taken up by the newly formed co-ordination committee. Along with it to strengthen the organisation at all India level it is decided to organise an all India conference within one year.**

**The meeting declared that in the present condition the India masses are suppressed under the imperialist globalisation. Education, health-care including issues of human welfare are commercialised. In such situation the students struggles have become a need of the hour. But most of the other students organisations either serve the interest of the reactionary or revisionist parties leading them and stay away from struggles. They have no solution to the students' problems and do not want to involve the students in the struggle for a social change. Hence it is necessary to involve students in the revolutionary struggle against all the forces of reaction, communalism, casteism, racism, chauvinism, parochial forces and NGOs. The meeting called for developing the AIRSO in to a strong and mighty revolutionary students organisation capable of taking up all vital issues of the students and leading them forward.**