

Proletarian Era

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Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
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In name of Dalit interest Bihar in Cesspool of Electoral Politics

The President's rule imposed on Bihar in 12th February last was withdrawn on 9th March. Rabri Debi came back to power again as Chief Minister with Laloo Prasad Yadav pulling the strings from behind. Atal Behari Vajpayee, disappointed at the treachery of the Congress for not extending support to President's rule ultimately, has accused the party of being anti-Dalit. Sonia Gandhi and her Congress, having expertise and a track record in applying President's rule, suddenly became vociferous against this undemocratic act. The Janata Dal and the left parties, too, particularly the CPI(M), those who supported whole-heartedly the dismissal of the Kalyan Singh Government of UP only the last year, have asserted this time that they never could support the imposition of Article 356 in this manner.

Background

Recently in Jehanabad district of Bihar, Ranabir-Sena, the Jotedar-led mercenary gang, killed 22 people of Harijan community. Clashes between Harijans and Bhumi-har-Rajputs are taking place in this region since long. Naxalites, particularly the CPI-ML(Liberation), on the basis

of caste division have built up their influence and organisation among the Harijan community. On the other hand, the higher castes, particularly the Bhumi-hars under the stewardship of Brahmeswar Singh, have built up the dreaded private army in order to counter the Naxalites. Bhojpur and other
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NATO Strikes on Yugoslavia Condemned

Condemning the NATO air strikes on the Yugoslav people, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 25-3-99 :

"No word is strong enough to condemn the last night bombing by NATO air crafts on Yugoslav people trampling down the sovereignty of an independent nation. We call upon the peace loving people all over the globe to raise their voice of protest against this barbaric and heinous attack and stand by the side of the Yugoslav people in this hour of their grave need."

Call of 24 April

The 51st foundation day of our beloved party is going to be observed on the 24th of April next. The founding of this party by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, along with a handful of revolutionary compatriots is of immense historic significance. Comrade Ghosh realized that although the bourgeois democratic revolution ended, in a truncated and half baked way, with the transfer of power on 15 August 1947 to the Indian bourgeoisie, the question of emancipation of the people from all sorts of exploitation and oppression remained unachieved. For emancipating the Indian people from the yoke of capitalist exploitation and oppression the only correct course was to lead the toiling people towards accomplishing the task of base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution under the leadership of a genuine communist party. This follows from the correct understanding of the inexorable law of social development. Dialectical and historical materialism has clearly shown that the scientific course of social development will lead mankind to the classless society of communism through the transitional phase of socialism under the dictatorship of the proletariat. The bourgeois class which was most progressive during the hey day of bourgeois democratic revolution turned out and out reactionary with the advent of monopoly capitalism in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution and it is the working class which is the most progressive and
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DPEP

Dangerous Design

In an international educational conference held in Thailand in 1990, sponsored primarily by the World Bank, it was declared that universal education would be instituted by the year 2000. In 1992, the then Congress government of India, in consonance with this declaration, modified the New National Educational Policy to adopt a programme of action. This is the DPEP, the District Primary Education Programme. This programme is funded by foreign bodies like the Department for International Development (UK), an organisation entrusted with implementing the World Bank programme in South-East Asia. The World Bank is arranging a fund of Rs.40 crore per district under a scheme providing for repayment of this money along with interest.

What are the objectives of the DPEP ? In Chapter 8 of the 1996 World Bank Development
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Effigy of Bill Clinton is being ignited by Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Vice-President of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum in front of US Consulate in Calcutta on 27.3.99 during a demonstration to condemn bombing of Yugoslavia

So-called flagbearers of backward people contrive to keep them within narrow bound of casteism

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districts of Bihar have thus become the hot-bed of murderous conflicts between Ranabir Sena and Harijans or Dalits over the last few years.

Kulaks and private army

As in other states, the character of agriculture in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is capitalist, but due to the absence of land distribution there exist big landholders in good numbers. These land owners are rural bourgeoisie who control the economy in the countryside. Due to the weaknesses and limitations of the Indian freedom struggle—consequent upon reformist oppositional character of the leadership, Bihar and such other backward rural societies were least democratised. In these areas, as a result, jotedars behave like the zemindars of the middle ages. These kulaks always extend help to the big bourgeois parties, while these in turn count and depend upon the dominance and authority of the jotedars in the rural areas. This is because these forces constitute the rural bourgeoisie who at the same time act as tools for bringing the parties of the ruling class to victory at the hustings.

For a long time these jotedars have been ruthlessly torturing the poor and trampling their rights. The unorganised people often fail to exercise their right to vote even. Police and administration in many cases remain either silent spectators or are direct instigators of such tortures. Police, administration and judiciary in our country, though subservient to the capitalist class, have to abide by, at least to some extent, the existing rules and laws. But the private armies raised by the jotedars have no such compulsion. These serve two purposes : (1) Jotedars can continue torturing at will the poor and thus the ruling party or the administration can disown direct responsibility. (2) As and when needed administration can handle and pressurise this or that private army to work in favour of the ruling party.

Congress, BJP, Laloo Prasad

Like the Congress and the Janata Dal, in the past, Rastriya Janata Dal and BJP too, move in close links with the kulaks and work as the protector of the rural bourgeois class interest. Since the Congress regime till the present RJD rule, the scourge of the private armies continues. Laloo Prasad projects himself as the messiah of the Dalits, yet during his rule several times common people belonging to the so-called lower castes were massacred in Bhojpur, Jehanabad etc. Laloo's administration was silent spectator, as it is well known that police, administration was directly behind the Ranabir Sena killings. So, whatever might be the pretensions, Laloo Prasad in reality represents the jotedar class.

Here exploitation of Harijans by Bhumihars and Rajputs on the basis of casteism is in reality nothing but capitalist class exploitation. On the other hand, the resentment of the so-called backward class people that often comes in waves is also nothing other than poor people's spontaneous protest and resistance against class exploitation and torture. Thus, in it is latent an element of class antagonism. But for that to

define the caste battle as class struggle would be wrong. Although comparatively less in number, there are poor people among the Brahmins and Rajputs, so also there are jotedars among the backward people like Kurmis and Yadavs. In such a situation, only by tearing apart the casteist cloak real class battle can develop.

The so-called flag bearers of the backward people contrived to keep them within the narrow bounds of casteism, so that agitation and class hatred among the poor proletariat and the semi-proletariat people might never turn into class battle. By this the so-called messiahs protect the kulaks as a class irrespective of caste. During Karpuri Thakur's rule in the past and Laloo Prasad's reign at present, kulaks from the OBC ranks have surfaced who are permanent accomplices of the RJD miscreants. But it does not mean that the ruling parties have relations with only one particular community of kulaks. For example, Karpuri Thakur known as the champion of the policy of reservation for the Dalits in Bihar, used to win in elections from constituencies with upper caste majority. It is the capitalist classes design to project a person competent to carry on the policies of class collaboration in the name of caste struggle. Capitalist class has evolved it as tactics to misguide the backward people. So despite the catchy jargons by Laloo, exploitation and torture of poor people, even during his regime, go on unceasingly. Nothing surprising. The mass massacre in Pipili village, Mungyr district, was committed by the Laloo backed private army of the Yadavs. Thus, the Congress, the BJP or the RJD whoever are in the corridors of power, always give support to private armies in the interest of jotedars. This very background explains the phenomenon of Ranbir Sena.

Wrong politics of the Naxalites

The Naxalites are pursuing a wrong politics. They consider caste politics as class battle, while they use casteism to spread their organisation among the backward people. In this way, they have ensured Assembly seats from this region. In the last Bihar Assembly, the Naxalites have seven MLAs. They won the seats contesting Laloo Prasad's Janata Dal. When afterwards due to floor crossing of MLAs Laloo Prasad government was about to fall, he blamed it as a conspiracy of the upper caste against the lower caste. And everybody has witnessed how three out of seven Naxalite MLAs joined Laloo arguing in the same vein. Naxalite's politics of 'class battle' could not deter those MLAs from leaving their party. Actually, as Naxalites' struggle is in reality caste battle, their MLAs had no difficulty in joining Laloo. In this connection revolutionary activists should understand a few questions. It is right that in these caste clashes there remains latent the hatred of the backward peasantry. But it is one thing to turn it into movements conducive to revolution under the guidance of correct revolutionary leadership, while it is a different thing to glorify such outbursts as revolutionary uprisings. Of course, a revolutionary party will attach to it due importance and will try to turn it into a mass movement by freeing it from all casteist narrowness while trying to imbue it with

revolutionary consciousness.

We like to recall in this connection a teaching of the great Marxist thinker, Comrade Lenin. Comrade Lenin said, "...we know, there have been peasant revolts against the landlords, their stewards, and the government officials who support them. Well-known are the agrarian killings, revolts, etc. ... Well-known is the fact of the growth of religious sects and rationalism among the peasantry; political protests in religious guise are common to all nations at certain stage of their development, and not to Russia alone. The existence of the revolutionary elements among the peasantry, therefore, is not open to slightest doubt. We do not in the least exaggerate the strength of these elements; we do not forget the political backwardness and ignorance of the peasants, nor in the least wipe out the difference between "the Russian revolt, senseless and ruthless", and revolutionary struggle; we do not in the least forget the endless means which the government has at its disposal for political deception and demoralisation of the peasantry. But from all these there follows only one thing that it would be senseless to make the peasantry the *vehicle* of the revolutionary movement, that a party would be insane to *condition* the revolutionary character of its movement upon the revolutionary mood of the peasantry..." (A Draft Programme of our Party, Vol 4 CW) Thus it is clear from Leninist thinking that : 1. If there is resentment among the peasantry, it may find expression through old religious values or through caste conflict owing to backwardness of the peasantry. 2. But such resentment can never be termed revolutionary. Although there exists a fighting mood among the peasants in this resentment, revolutionaries should not exaggerate it. 3. Thus, it would be insane to consider this mood of the peasants as revolutionary awareness and constituting a programme of a communist party on its basis.

But what did the CPI(ML) do ? It did not try to free the peasantry from casteism. On the contrary, it is trying to show the caste battle as class struggle and by that it is virtually helping in keeping capitalism, the real target of attack, unharmed. Because jotedars belong to both upper and lower castes, so class irrespective of caste is to be sharply identified for developing class struggle. By terming the caste battle as class struggle the CPI(ML) is actually obstructing the development of real class struggle through creation of confusion and thus virtually helping the forces of status quo.

We like to discuss here some other aspects. First, to develop real class battle, class correlation in rural areas should be correctly understood and allies and enemies should be defined. By this they would have understood that class is an economic category. Then they would also understand that contradiction is not between Harijans and Brahmin-Rajputs, but between jotedars and poor peasants-agricultural labourers. And as jotedars come from among the Rajputs, Brahmins, Bhumihars, so also they come from backward castes. This battle over land is not a battle for overthrowing a system. It is a democratic battle of the poor peasants, agricultural labourers against

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Caste politics obstructs class battle and helps forces of status quo

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capitalist exploitation. May be under correct leadership this movement will lead towards revolution. But that is a different question. And revolutionary battle is the organised conscious uprising of the people. In that battle many may perish. But is there a relation between a revolutionary uprising and politics of individual assassination ? Organised battle against onslaughts of the jotedars is one thing, but individual assassination in reaction to private armies of jotedars is quite a different thing. By this people are pushed away even from democratic movement, not to speak of revolutionary movement.

One more thing. Numbers of people killed and weapons used do not characterise a movement as revolutionary or militant. In this country and abroad many rightist and revisionist parties conducted many mass movements where weapons were used, resulting in many deaths. This does not make a movement militant and revolutionary. A movement is really a revolutionary one when it is guided by correct class analysis, choosing on its basis friend and foe, while it is spearheaded against the state machine. This is a long, arduous process through which is formed a wide United Front of left and democratic forces. But what are the Naxalites doing ? They have virtually denied the existence of the Indian capitalist state machine and raised the slogan of anti-feudal peasant revolution. While doing it, they have used medieval casteism and made the casteist politics as their weapon. On the other hand, resorting to revenge killing they are destroying the democratic environment. Although many of them are honest and have dedication for revolution, they are pursuing this line due to lack of understanding of the class correlation in India. In this connection, what Lenin said about the then socialist revolutionaries, who were victims of such wrong politics, is worth mentioning here. He said, "Firstly, this party, rejecting Marxism, stubbornly refused (or, it would be more correct to say, was unable) to understand the need for a strictly objective appraisal of class forces and their inter-relations before undertaking any political action. Secondly, this party considered itself to be particularly 'revolutionary' or Left because of its recognition of individual terrorism, assassination, which we, Marxists, emphatically rejected. (*Left-Wing Communism an Infantile Disorder*)"

In this way, these forces are destroying the potential of democratic movement. Moreover, this politics of individual assassination is being directed even against parties conducting democratic movements. In the same manner, in Orissa Naxalite PWG group assaulted and grievously injured SUCI activists several times. And different Naxalite groups are applying this politics of individual assassination even against one another. This is only strengthening reaction as the ruling class on the plea of law and order is deploying police and para-military force against poor peasants and their movements. Taking advantage of the situation, both BJP and Laloo Prasad are fomenting casteist feelings to appear as the saviour of the Dalits.

Ranabir Sena and the role of different political parties

CPI(ML) opines that Ranabir Sena is gaining strength due to the direct help it gets from BJP and Laloo Prasad. BJP leader Sushil Modi considers Laloo Prasad as the protector of the 'Senas' while Laloo asserts that 'Senas' belong to the BJP. Ranabir Sena chief Brahmeswar Sinha says: 'We do not belong to any political party. All are with us, Bhumihars, Rajputs, Yadavs, even the rich among the Harijans.' It is clear, the Senas are backed by jotedars. Now, can a private army operate with impunity in the highly centralised Indian state without the help of the government and administration ? No, it cannot. So whatever be the arguments of BJP and the RJD how can they deny their connections with the Senas ? We have shown above that these parties have been installed in power by the jotedars and for representing their interests. In that case, it is most natural for them to have connections with Ranabir Sena. And BJP, whose communal politics hinges on the supremacy of upper caste Hindus, is naturally close to Rajputs, Bhumihar jotedars. Also, as Congress, not in power now, is keeping closeness with Laloo as he now has a hold on Dalit vote-bank while competing with the BJP to get a slice of the upper caste vote-bank, is it not natural for this party to have connection with Ranabir Sena ?

President's rule in Bihar and its withdrawal

Many were surprised to see the BJP, representing the upper caste all of a sudden, becoming champions of the Dalits while the Congress, who, applying Article 352 proclaimed the Emergency, virtually stalling the entire parliamentary system, overnight became a staunch opponent of Article 356. Behind it works the contention and collusion of the two main parties of the capitalist class in parliamentary politics. Both the parties have two interests — one is immediate, the other long-term. The moment Vajpayee appealed to the Congress for support, Sonia Gandhi with Manmohan Singh met Vajpayee at his Race Course residence. Why was Sonia suddenly so eager ? According to political observers Sonia wanted to squeeze some concessions regarding Bofors case ; on the other hand, Vajpayee wanted that Congress raise no hullabaloo on the case of Vishnu Bhagwat. As no consensus was arrived at on the issues, both the parties played their own game. What did BJP want ? Severe economic crisis and political instability are continually pushing the government run by BJP and its allies towards near-downfall. On the other hand, the activities of Sangh Parivar are gradually isolating the BJP government. Under the circumstances, for BJP it is a political exigency to make itself somewhat acceptable to minority communities and backward people. Also, if BJP can ensure its position in Bihar politics, it can appear as the alternative to the RJD, as also its dominance can be established in the Hindi speaking region. So this sudden love for Dalits.

Congress' and its leader Sonia Gandhi's design is also clear. They think that in case of an election Congress has brighter possibilities. So

they are trying to take such methods that may endanger BJP and bring all anti-BJP forces under its umbrella. So they are keeping contact with the higher caste rich people through the ex-Congress chief minister Jagannath Mishra and doing the same with Laloo Prasad, keeping in mind the vote-bank of the scheduled caste people. Again, as he is in power from behind, Laloo Prasad has created a powerful, vicious, corrupt clique, comprising the rich sections of the Yadavs, Kurmies, etc., which has caused resentment not only among the common masses but even among the Congress. So Congress leadership does not take any clear steps. Once they are saying, 'the Rabri government has no moral right to be in power', in the next breath they are saying that they are supporting the Rabri government to deter the RSS. It becomes clear when Rajesh Pilot of Congress in an interview with Star TV confesses that it is a political decision. It is true that Congress opposed President's rule in Bihar, but it is also true that without the signal from the Congress BJP would never have taken this step. And BJP leadership, trying to take advantage of Congress's bitter relation with Laloo resorted to this trickery. BJP wanted to do it with the help of the Congress. But the parliamentary interest of the two principal bourgeois parties stood in the way.

Opportunist and immoral acts of CPI(M)

The CPI(M) leadership poses as if they are dead against applying Article 356. They also are explaining in what circumstances Sarkaria Commission approves to apply Article 356 which in this case was overstepped. Now the question is — are they against proclaiming Article 356 or they are against doing it in the present circumstances ? People's memory is proverbially short as the saying goes and the CPI(M) thinks it so. In 1977, Janata government dissolved 8 Assemblies applying Article 356 and the CPI(M) whole-heartedly supported it. When the last UF government, in the same manner, dismissed Kalyan Singh government of UP, the CPI(M) supported it too, with much gusto. So, how far are they honest regarding their opposition to Article 356 is a question.

Another point. Exposing the application of Article 356 as undemocratic is one thing, but opposing Article 356 in the interest of the jotedars in Bihar and supporting all evil acts of Laloo Prasad is a different thing. Had CPI(M) only opposed the Article 356 and initiated movement against it, then it would have had some meaning. But not only the CPI(M) is not doing it, they are opposing Article 356 to become close to Laloo Prasad. So, in October during CPI(M) Party Congress, Laloo was declared as an untouchable, but now he is a 'democratic' force. This is nothing but election politics. They hope to share power in Delhi. So forgetting the slogan of their Third Front, CPI(M) now is after the central power by helping Congress to be installed in Delhi.

And in this way, BJP, Congress, Naxalites and the CPI(M) brought back to power Laloo, the faithful representative of the rural capitalists and helped reinforcing the exploitation and tyranny by the jotedars on the poor peasants in Bihar.

Call of 24 April

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rising force in this era. Comrade Ghosh deeply realized that in order to discharge this historic role of the working class what was of utmost importance was to build up a genuine communist party, a party founded on Leninist model based on democratic centralism emerging through the process of fusion of proletarian democracy and centralism. Since Comrade Shibdas Ghosh came to the firm conclusion based on the correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism that the then CPI, despite the sacrifice of their leaders and cadres who did not lack in honesty and sincerity, failed to develop as a genuine party of the proletariat, the arduous task to build up the same fell on none else than Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who laid the foundation of the SUCI brick by brick. It was not at all an easy task at that time. Those who had come forward to build up the then CPI had honesty, dedication and sincerity. Today those who cherish revolution, at least a section of them, can easily see the rotten and out and out anti-people character of the leaders of the CPI(M) and the CPI. But such was not the case at that time. But Comrade Ghosh penetratingly analysed the class character of the then undivided CPI on the anvil of Marxist methodology. In judging a revolutionary party Comrade Ghosh stressed that leadership of a revolutionary party must develop a revolutionary theory which must be a complete epistemological category developed through dialectically coordinating the understanding and experiences of different branches of knowledge and science covering all aspects of life. A party which claims to be revolutionary must be judged by examining very carefully whether its political theory correctly reflects the objective process of revolution and its complexities that exist in the particular society. He also stressed the culture and ethical standard of the leaders and the rank and file members of that party in their mode of life and day to day conduct, habits and practices in all spheres of their activities. In judging a real revolutionary party of the proletariat Comrade Ghosh provided the guideline thus, "...in judging the class character of a party, not only the political theory of the party has got to be tested on the anvil of Marxism-Leninism and dialectical materialism, but with that yardstick the methodological approach, outlook and culture that the leaders and members reflect in their day to day behaviour have also got to be tested in order to come to a correct conclusion. Because without acquiring the proletarian culture which is much superior to and nobler than the bourgeois humanist culture, one can neither attain the capability to grasp a revolutionary theory properly, nor apply it correctly."

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh laid utmost emphasis on the question of culture. As the influence of vile bourgeois culture is dominant in the society, so the leaders and rank and file members of a real revolutionary party of the proletariat must be constantly engaged in struggle to fight the penetration of this vile culture within the party. The leaders and members of such a party must be free from egocentricism, vulgar individualism, double talks, dogmatism and blindness. Critically examining the undivided CPI on this Marxist-Leninist yardstick Comrade Ghosh concluded that this was not a working class party but a social democratic party representing the petty

bourgeoisie. The moment he concluded this he embarked upon building up the SUCI with a handful of his compatriots. The task was stupendous and it seems almost impossible in a vast country like ours. But with grim determination and revolutionary audacity Comrade Ghosh along with his compatriots started from scratch. The SUCI is the greatest creation of Comrade Ghosh through his arduous lifelong struggle. In building up the SUCI he concretised Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil, enriched it and brought its understanding to a new height. Analyses made by the party since inception till today on all international and national questions have been proved to be correct. Comrade Ghosh's thought is today getting appreciation more and more in the international communist movement. The activities of the SUCI are now spread in almost all the states of India, difference in strength from state to state notwithstanding. It proves to the hilt that when a party is armed with a correct base political line under a correct revolutionary leadership the onward march of such a party is irresistible.

This year the 24 April is going to be observed amidst a grave international and national situation. Accentuating worldwide economic crisis since the dismantling of the socialist camp, but more so in the recent years has completely shattered the myth of supremacy of capitalism over socialism.

The dark cloud of a great depression much bigger in magnitude than that of the 30's is looming large in the horizon. In USA, Japan and countries of European Union giant automobile, computer and other companies whose workers could get, the other day, the assurance of lifelong jobs are retrenching millions of workers. The lay offs and closures are causing havoc in the life of the people. It has recently been reported in the press that entire families committing suicide have come to be of frequent occurrences even in a country like Japan. The working conditions in all the capitalist-imperialist countries are deteriorating. The wages are plummeting and the rights enjoyed previously by the workers are rapidly under severe attacks. The unemployment, pauperisation, destitution and homelessness are taking an alarming dimension. The social welfare measures are drastically curtailed in all these countries. As the cumulative effect of all this, the masses are now increasingly awakening to the grim condition obtaining today in all these countries. The time is now ripe for bringing to them the true Marxist-Leninist realisation of the concrete analysis of the concrete condition.

The 'new world order' dictated militarily by the USA in league with other imperialist powers upon North Korea, Cuba, Bosnia, Somalia and so blatantly upon Iraq and now on Yugoslavia has brought all sane people across countries, and within the USA itself, in open condemnation of imperialist war design.

The latest in the list is the severe pounding with bombs for days together on Yugoslavia by NATO, at the instance of the US President, Bill Clinton, in particular. The fangs of the votaries of the 'war-free' world stand naked and exposed. One fails to understand if the world is 'war-free' as claimed by them where remains the justification of not only existence but also extension of military organisations like NATO? On the role of UNO, the less said the better.

Again the imperialist countries headed by the US imperialists are ruthlessly thrusting 'market economy' on the third world countries through globalisation and liberalisation. While these capitalist-imperialist countries are trying to force open the market of the less developed capitalist countries of the world, they themselves are pursuing protectionist policy. It has caused such disaster in Latin America and in so many Asian countries that it triggered off a chain reaction, undermining Japan's economy, weakening the US dollar, gravely declining world trade and bringing about a massive global depression, recession and unemployment. Side by side this longlasting global recession has increased the inter-imperialist conflict to such a height that imperialist Europe led by Germany now guards its own market against the USA and has floated its own currency 'Euro' challenging the supremacy of dollar. This bitter conflict is sure to grow more bellicose with worst possible consequences. However these crises have brought to the street the working class and the labouring masses first in the former socialist and the third world countries and now, in the advanced imperialist countries, too.

In the national sphere an all pervasive crisis has engulfed the economic, political, cultural and social life of the country. India, already turned imperialist and junior partner of all imperialist global schemes and institutions like GATT, WTO etc. is bound to suffer the present capitalist imperialist global crisis and with necessarily greater torment. Indian capitalist state's adoption of the 'New Industrial and Economic Policy' has allowed imperialist MNCs and private capital fair access to and fabulous profits in key sectors of economy and infrastructure, and a boost to Indian corporate houses, through collaboration with these MNCs, throwing millions out of job, pushing prices up and heavily cutting down social service expenses. But this Congress-introduced economic policy was faithfully toed also by the UF government enjoying 'left' support, and is being equally faithfully continued by the BJP led present government. This alone shows how all these contending parties, the CPI(M) and the CPI included, contend only on servility to capitalism.

Again the deeper the capitalist crisis the darker becomes their power politics. If today this debased bourgeois politics is best expressed in the fascist portent of the BJP's nakedly communal 'Hindutva', its relentless attempt to keep alive blind fanaticism and to subtly twist education on Hindu religious lines so as to systematically inculcate bigotry and superstition, which is undoubtedly a grave menace today, then, it also owes a great deal to decades of the Congress' 'covert' communalism and also to the complete absence of any organised mass resistance movement, thanks to the treacherous indifference of the pseudo left forces corrupted by parliamentary opportunism. This treachery now stands fully naked in the move of the CPI(M) and the CPI to remove the communal BJP government by supporting to power the Congress, which is a sordid betrayal to leftism, secularism and people's cause. It only means keeping the masses away and aloof from today's urgent task of building up a countrywide united democratic mass movement against not only the overt communal menace but also its covert fascist portent, thus leaving unharmed the communal forces while settling their petty score over power and pelf through narrow parliamentary gamble.

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International Women's Day Observed in States

The 8th March is observed as International Women's Day since 1857 when women workers of Textile Industries in America shed their blood on roads on demand of reducing working hours from 16 to 10 a day

Calcutta

AIMSS organised a crowded convention in the University Institute Hall at Calcutta on this great occasion on 8th March, demanding solution of three main problems of people's life – the onslaught of fundamentalist forces on education, culture and minority community, unprecedented price-rise and atrocities on women along with obscene shows in mass media.

The convention was presided over by Comrade Menoka Basu Roy, President of State Committee, AIMSS. The motion calling upon a broad-based movement on the above demands, was moved by State Secretary Comrade Sadhana Choudhury and seconded by Comrade Shyamali Mukherjee, member, State Committee.

The overcrowded meeting in the well-decorated hall was addressed by Justice Mukul Gopal Mukherjee, Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission, Justice Dilip Kumar Basu, renowned writer Maitreyee Chatterjee, Keshowar Jahan, Prativa Mukherjee, President, AIMSS and Bhabesh Ganguly, Advocate, Legal Service Centre.

Gujarat

Ahmedabad

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Ahmedabad Unit of AIMSS organized a public meeting at Lal Darwaja Traffic Circle. Ms. Sarupben Dhruv, author and activist, in her speech spoke about the historical importance of the 8th March in the present context. Another speaker Ms. Suvarnaben, author delivered her speech mainly on communalism, religion and women. Comrade Bharati Parmar, President, Baroda Unit, AIMSS and Comrade Kusum Chauhan criticized the Gujarat government's New Grant-in-Aid Policy which would bring threat on girls' education directly. On the basis of this new policy the state government is trying to introduce tuition fees for girls also, which is totally free today. The principal of the St. Xavier's College, Father Francis Parmar also addressed.

The Convener of the AIMSS, Gujarat unit, Comrade Damini Shah called upon women community to be aware of the imminent attack on girl's education through state government's new grant-in-aid policy, communalism, price hike and government's attitude to minimise and dilute the historical importance of the International Women's Day by showing such programmes like beauty contest on the media.

At the end of public meeting a massive demonstration was held.

Baroda

Baroda unit of AIMSS organized a talk on 'communalism and women' on 6th March at M. S. University, Baroda. Comrade Meenakshi Joshi addressed the meeting.

Lastly, the resolution condemning the Miss Universe Contest in M.S. University was also adopted in the meeting. Comrade Bharati Parmar, President of Baroda Unit, AIMSS conducted the meeting.

Bhubaneswar

To observe the International Women's Day on 8th March a massive rally was organised at Bhubaneswar by the AIMSS, Orissa State Committee. About 4000 women from all walks of life and from almost all districts of the state marched in a colourful procession from Bhubaneswar railway station. It passed through the main thoroughfares of the city to reach the Rabindra Mandap Square. Armed police obstructed the processionists at that point where a protest meeting was held. The meeting which was presided over by Comrade Shanti Panda, a member of the State Secretariat of AIMSS, was addressed by Comrade Binapani Das, President of State Committee of AIMSS. Later a five member delegation led by Comrade Binapani Das met the Chief Minister and handed over to him a memorandum with five-point charter of demands. The demands included exemplary punishment for tormentors of women, setting up of special courts to try offences against women and total ban on display of women's body for commercial purposes etc. The Chief Minister assured the delegation to take appropriate steps to met the demands.

Nagpur

On 8th March'99 International Women's Day was observed at Nagpur. On the occasion, a rally was organised under the joint auspices of the AIMSS and the AIKMKS, which started from University Chawk, passed through Maharajabag Chawk, Thaharayti Chawk and ended at Bidharva Rashtrabhasa Prachar Samity. There a meeting was held, which was presided over by Comrade Kausalya Bai. Among the speakers were

Comrades Nandini Bai Bhonde, Kusum Panday, Shabana Sheikh, Saraswati Bai Uhat, Gobardhan Umreokar, Sanjay Sonekar, Kabita Manday, Madhab Bhondey and Jayashri Konak.

Chennai

The West Chennai Local Organising Committee of AIMSS held a seminar at Chennai, in MKT Mahal on March 8, in the evening, to observe International Working Women's Day. Comrades Shobana, in-charge, West Chennai Local Organising Committee, AIMSS, presided over the programme. The AIMSS music squad started the seminar with a Bharathiar's song. Comrade Jayanthi, Vice-President of Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee, AIMSS, delivered the inaugural speech.

In the seminar Comrades Ajitha, Shanthi Priya, Panmozhi and Thangam spoke on various aspects of women's problems in today's society.

Comrade Padmaja, Secretary, Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee, AIMSS, spoke about how AIMSS approached the question of women's emancipation.

The Chief Guest was Prof. Prema Swaminathan, Head of the Department, Geography, Bharathi Women's Arts College.

The main speaker, Comrade Chandrasekar, In-Charge of North Arcot District Organising Committee, SUCI said that women's emancipation was not something gifted to them. Women should attain their emancipation themselves through struggle and without the emancipation of women, the whole society would not be freed. He called upon men and women to participate in the socio-political, economic and cultural movements against the present capitalist system, which is the main obstacle to the solution problems in all spheres of life, including women's emancipation.

Hundreds of women, including housewives, working women and students participated enthusiastically in the programme.



Convention in Calcutta on 8th March by AIMSS

DPEP — A Sinister Attack on Education

(Contd. from page 1)

Report, "From Plan to Market", it is stated "Governments have to adopt tricks to restructure education and health sectors in fulfilment of the needs of the new world order." And further: "It will be fruitful that enrolling more and more kids and making changes in the sphere of education in tune with the swift changes taking place in job market." The idea is to strengthen the belief, "...that business has a vital role and profit making is the driving force of progress." And to "make them aware that they themselves have to take up responsibility for acquiring education, job and life-style." In line with this, "philosophy", "DPEP would not invest money for incentives like mid-day meal, free uniforms, etc."

Such "philosophy" of education, dictated by the World Bank, is to be adopted by all countries as a condition for grant of loan. Not only in India, such educational programme has been or is about to be instituted in 130 developing countries of the world. This programme is already on in 14 states of India including Kerala, and has also been taken up in West Bengal.

For India, a committee of 7 educational experts headed by the World Bank chief educational expert Lockwood has submitted a report titled, "Primary Education in India". This Report clearly states: "Bear in mind that DPEP is not at all a scheme (that) goes forward by financial aids. On the contrary, (it is) a programme aiming at creating cost-effective, continuously replicable and sustainable systems." The aim is to "... Develop a wider revenue base to improve resource mobilisation" and to "... avoid economic responsibility of government for publishing books."

Now, what are the "tricks" specified by the World Bank to be adopted to re-structure education? The first is "...decentralising education by making it in accordance with the local needs ... teacher and students should be given choice to select text-books." (From "Primary Education in India"). It is spelt out that the "local needs" include the "need" to adopt local dialects as media of instruction. Such decentralisation of syllabus and priority to "local needs" will have the effect of fanning up regionalism and parochialism in the country. Instead of development of a unified national education system, a heterogeneous, piece-meal educational structure with diverse curricula and media of instruction in the form of local dialects will foster narrow regionalism, and isolationist outlook will grow all over the country in the name of education.

The second, "trick" is replacement of pass-fail system at the primary educational level with a system of automatic promotion whereby there will be continuous evaluation of the pupils! No pupil will be allowed to be kept in the same class for two years. Why? Because "... failing students in the classes will add financial loss." "And one can question all promotion system in the light of educational science, but it is a method to avoid repetition of classes... it is a measure to reduce per head expense of the child. If repetition is stopped, you can flow the children with less expenses through the school." (From 'Primary Education in India')

The third "trick" is a novel teaching

arrangement called "multigrade teaching". In this method, while the teacher simultaneously teaches two classes out of the usual total of four classes (say, classes I & II) in the class room, students of the other two classes (classes III & IV) are outside under the charge of a monitor. Again, when the teacher conducts teaching of class III & IV together, classes I & II are looked after by a monitor elsewhere. The teaching is to be conducted mainly with the help of maps, pictures and models with the number of books kept to the minimum (vide Teaching Aid - DPEP).

The teaching method adopted is also novel. It is stressed that a child would learn in its own style and by its own effort through putting its own experience to use— in a joyful atmosphere. This has been called child-centred education. It has been laid down that a child should learn by its own method; its first education starts through objects and senses; it is through the senses that a child gathers experience; from experience comes concept; the concept gradually assumes the form of knowledge; this is education without regulations and this forms the basis of primary education. (Vide Teaching Aid — Modules I & II).

The outline of DPEP that emerges from the above is alarming. In the name of providing universal primary education, the real object of DPEP is "to create a transitional mechanism for providing financial and technical assistance to build state and district capacity during a period in which states are both implementing new forms of decentralised management in education and undergoing fiscal adjustment and reform." The "fiscal adjustment and reform" is aimed to do away with the financial aids to education so that it becomes "cost-effective" and self-sustaining. As the first step, the practice of providing free mid-day meals and uniforms, etc. will be done away with and the government will shake off the financial responsibility for publishing books.

This means privatisation of primary education, making it an area of private investment to reap profit. In practice, the DPEP, if successfully implemented, will make education costly and out of the reach of the vast majority of

the people in the countryside and lead to a drastic curtailment of education.

The condition of primary education in the country is not good at all, and the need is for an all-round improvement. But the abolition of pass-fail system and its replacement with "continuous evaluation" (because "...failing students in the classes will add financial loss"), and the "multigrade teaching" are sure to do away with whatever education is being imparted now. Use of local dialects instead of a standard language is sure to hit at the roots of language teaching. Attractive names like 'child centres' or 'child oriented education' cannot hide the fact that the proposed teaching method without any regulations can only lead to anarchy. In the Teachers' Hand-Book issued under the DPEP Scheme in Kerala, there is a picture depicting a joyous classroom scene: the pupils are throwing stones at one another, jostling and fighting, flying kites in a joyous atmosphere, but the teacher is a silent spectator because interference by her is forbidden! (Teachers' Hand-Book, Class III, p-146).

The whole idea is of "enrolling more and more kids and making changes in the sphere of education in tune with the swift changes taking place in job market" and to "flow the children with less expenses through the school." This is the crux. The real aim is to provide cheap labour, educated only in name, as grist to the mill of imperialist-capitalist globalised economy. It would not do for them to develop the thinking faculty or to question. The virtue of capitalism is to be impressed on them through imparting the philosophy "... that business has a vital role and profit making is the driving force of progress." In effect, the DPEP will create two classes in the society: one, the vast majority of docile robot like literate creatures for serving imperialism-capitalism and the other, the elite, educated in costly privatised public schools acting as protagonists and social props to imperialism-capitalism, who will pass orders to the former.

Thus the DPEP is a blue print of the sinister design of the World Bank, complementary to the

(Contd. on page 8)



Justice V R Krishna Iyer is inaugurating Peoples' Convention against DPEP at Gandhi Park, Trivandrum. On dais (from left to right) Dr. V Venugopal, R Bhaskaran (Tamil Nadu), B K Rajagopal, N Subramanian, K Panoor, Pavanan, Dr. D Surendra Nath and N Sriram (Karnataka)

Demonstration against Central Government Budgets in Chennai

The Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee of the SUCI organised a demonstration on 10.03.99 at 5.30 p.m. in front of Kuralagam condemning the Railway and General budgets of the BJP Central Government. The demonstrators demanded the Central Government to withdraw the increased railway freight and fare, hike in postal charges, diesel price and other taxes. They also demanded the government to allot more funds to people's welfare schemes and education.

While addressing demonstration Comrade S. Jawahar, a member of the Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee, SUCI, said the BJP government, like all other previous governments, was shifting the burden on to the shoulders of the common people.

Comrade S. Elangovan, a member of the Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee, SUCI, condemned the practice of raising prices using pre-budget administrative method. He appealed to the masses to raise their voice and build up powerful movement against the anti-people budgets.

The hike in the telephone tariffs was also severely condemned.

Signature Campaign Against Communalisation of Education

On 23rd March '99 the people of Calcutta witnessed an unique incident when the front-ranking educationists of the country took to the street for collecting signatures of the people for the cause of education. They include, Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, and an internationally famous scientist, Prof. Arabindo Nath Bose, former Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University and Prof. Sunanda Sanyal, a noted linguist among others. This was the curtain-raiser of the country-wide programme of collecting 5 crore signatures against commercialisation, privatisation and communalisation of education aided and abetted by BJP-led government at the Centre. This programme, resolved in the 2nd All India Save Education Convention held on last 8th and 9th February in New Delhi, was the part of the all-India programme of action against the renewed attack on education by the present ruling party at the Centre. The programme created much enthusiasm among the people as they stood in queue to put their signatures on the charter of demands addressed to the Prime Minister. The target is 5 crore signatures by September 2000 and those will be submitted to the Prime Minister through a mammoth rally at the capital.

Great Martyrs' Remembered in Mumbai

SUCI Mumbai Thane Unit observed 67th Shahadat day of Saheed-e-Azam Bhaghat Singh, Rajguru and Sukh Dev on 23rd March '99. A meeting presided over by Comrade Kedar Nath Pandey was held at Pathore Hall, Charni Road, Mumbai. Comrade Anil Tyagi was the main speaker. Other speakers were M. Shette, eminent journalist and a leftist and Sabha Narayan Tiwari of Aatm Manthan Group.

Another meeting to observe martyrs' day was held at Kandivali Damu Nagar slum area under the auspices of joint front, Lok shahi Jhopadpetti Sanghathana. Comrade Balraj of Lal Nishan

Party presided and Comrade Y K Kulshreshtha, SUCI was the main speaker. Among others who spoke included Comrades Viswa Karma, Anil Tyagi and Bansode.

On 24th March martyrs' day was observed at Goregoan under the auspices of AIDYO, Goregoan. The meeting presided over by Comrade Ramanand Choube was conducted by Comrade Om Prakash Maurya while Comrade Y K Kulshreshtha was the main speaker. Comrades J Viswa Karma and Karamtullahji were other speakers. A cultural programme was also held.

Education Movement in Ahmedabad

The BJP controlled Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation leased out on 2nd October '97 the primary school No.20 of Mithakhali locality to a French organisation 'Ideal Foundation' at a lease rent of only Rs.100 per year, throwing out hundreds of poor students. The municipal authority has leased out the landed property of the school measuring 1357 sq.mt. valued at Rs.4 crore at current market price. The French organisation has taken the prime land on lease at this nominal rent for the purpose of setting up of an 'International School' which will cost every student eleven thousand rupees per year to study there.

At the initiative of Comrade Bismay Shah, a leading SUCI organiser, Comrade Joyesh Patel, Gujarat State Secretary of AIDS, MSS leader Comrade Damini Shah and with the active support and under the leadership of Dr. Yaswant Shukla, an eminent educationist of Ahmedabad, veteran and respected social worker Chinubhai Vaidya, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of Sourashtra University Prof. D D Pathak, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith Prof. Ramlal Parekh, Gyanpith laureate litterateur Manubhai Panchali, veteran journalist Prakashbhai Shah and others 'Save Mithakhali No.20 School Committee' was formed to wage resistance against this attack on education. People are enthusiastically and massively participating in programmes like citizens' convention, mass signature campaign, protest demonstrations, mass violation of law,

local bands one after another. More remarkable is the participation of the primary students in street dramas voicing protest against the anti-education policy of the BJP government and running 'footpath school' as a parallel of the evicted school by local youths and teachers with participation of the eminent educationists like Yashabanta Bhai Shukla, Prof. D. N. Pathak and others taking classes days after days. To express his support towards this movement eminent scientist and ex-Chairman of University Grant Commission Dr Yashpal took class in the 'footpath school'. Realising the significance of this anti-education episode and deeply moved by the movement, built up by the local people against the BJP government's acts, he opined that it was a nasty crime on the part of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation to deprive the common students of education in the interest of foreign agency. Justice V R Krishna Iyer, President, All India Save Education Committee has also vehemently decried the authority's policy and supported the on-going movement for restoration of the primary school.

The movement against this anti-education deal of the BJP government which is a part and parcel of its policy of privatisation, commercialisation and saffronisation of education is gaining momentum with bigger participation of education-loving and democratic minded people. Local people are confident of thwarting this nefarious game of the authority.



International Women's Day observed in Chennai on 8-3-99

Call of 24 April Anti-DPEP Movement in Kerala

(Contd. from page 4)

History repeatedly confirmed it, in every country, that the real possibilities of mass movements and mass upheaval were always frustrated by the social democratic pseudo-left forces. Without defeating them ideologically, politically and organisationally, even when moving in united struggle with them, it is impossible to educate and organise the democratic movements of the broad masses with a revolutionary perspective which alone rids them of casteist, communal, regional and all such deep seated prejudices, and helps them move forward to the ultimate victory in anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

It has got to be realised that in this class divided society, every party is a class party. In this acute phase of crisis of capitalism all the parties serving the interest of the capitalist class cannot but be anti-people. The revolutionary working class party alone can uphold the cause of the people. People will have to identify that party. Today there is widespread frustration among the people by seeing the activities of all the parliamentary parties serving the interest of the capitalist class. By seeing the activities of all these parties so many people have come to the conclusion that politics is a nasty game. It is undoubtedly true that the politics practised by all the branded bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties is out and out anti-people and nasty and corrupt to the core. Yet there is another variety of politics too, a nobler variety. In India, only the SUCI, founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has been struggling since inception to uphold higher values and ethics in politics and nobility of communism. The SUCI has emerged through this struggle to free the noble ideology of communism from the social democratic vulgarisation by the CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and other factions. Through the past 51 years it has established itself as a force, the only trusted and dependable force of people's struggle, in all the four corners of the land. The SUCI exists and grows through assiduously organising on the edifice of higher proletarian culture the class and mass struggles of the people — sometimes realising the specific demands and sometimes not — but persisting always in its singular object of building up people's struggle committees as their own instruments of struggle to finally give birth to people's alternative political power, which through the revolutionary seizure of power, will ultimately destroy the present capitalist state machine. Hence, without the SUCI mustering decisive organisational strength to influence the political life of India, the exploited and oppressed masses of India, too, will not acquire the power to fight for and win their cause.

The identification of people's cause with that of the SUCI is thus a truth of history. For the very same reason the growth and development of the SUCI both organisationally and ideologically advance the international communist movement and its ideological level also. We can accelerate the process if we elevate ourselves to be equal to the task through rectification and elevation struggle while conducting class and mass struggles. Only with this conscious and firm realisation of our task and their constant practical application, the observance of the 51st foundation day can be really meaningful and purposive.

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ruthless economic exploitation of globalised imperialism-capitalism in the educational sphere. It is an all-out attack against education, culture, ethics and civilization which must be resisted at all costs.

DPEP was first introduced in the country in Kerala. It was started there in 1995 and it is now being implemented in all the districts. The CPI(M) calls itself communist and Marxist. But the government led by it in Kerala has been implementing the imperialist-capitalist scheme faithfully and diligently. Their 'success' has been praised in a World Bank report thus: "It will be wonderful if any state crosses Kerala in DPEP" (Mrs. Barbara Spain, World Bank Inspector). Within the short span of three years, the result has been that in Kerala which was the most advanced state in education with practically no drop-out, drop-out of students from schools has become a regular feature. The standard of education in government schools has gone down.

Secondly, numerous English medium schools have sprouted up where the cost of education is high.

Thirdly, the DPEP announcement was that it would enhance the teaching capability of teachers. But in practice, the teachers face retrenchment as the number of students in government schools has gone down.

Fourthly, the DPEP had talked about universal education, but in reality the government schools face the danger of being closed down.

Fifthly, only those who lack the means to study in private schools now continue to be in government schools. Against this anti-people DPEP, movement is being initiated and gaining strength from state to state of the country.

The people of Kerala have not taken this lying down. Anti-DPEP movement is on there and gaining strength. A milestone was reached on 20th February last when an educational convention was held in the Rajdhani Auditorium, East Fort, Trivandrum, attended by distinguished educationists, jurists and public figures and 1500 delegates representing all parts of the state. The convention was organised by the Janakeeya Prathirodha Samithi (JPS — Peoples' Resistance Committee).

At the convention, Dr K Soman, the former Commissioner of Educational Research, said: The DPEP is a treachery committed on the people in the name of education. Through distorting the educational theories like 'study through play', 'learning to learn' and so on, an intellectual minority and a puppet like majority will be created, the former dictating terms and the latter, devoid of logic, thinking capacity and value consciousness taking orders. The DPEP has damaged the teaching and learning of Arithmetic and languages. Instead of a standard language, dialects are being taught. In justification, they are misquoting the famous linguistic expert Noam Chomsky.

Justice V R Krishna Iyer, the president of JPS, who presided over the convention, said that the DPEP was a US product. He expressed anguish and shame, as an Indian, to witness the Indian education being controlled by the World Bank representing the interest of multinational

monopolies.

Dr K P Godhakumar introduced a resolution calling upon the people to reject debates aimed at the furtherance of the DPEP. The resolution stated, inter alia, that the result of many harmful aspects of the DPEP would be the polarisation of education into two compartments — one being private school education creating an elite minority and the other being an informal education creating a large workforce with localised skills and consumerist culture violating all democratic traditions, bring about cultural, anarchy and implanting the decaying values of market economy. Such was the declared objective of the World Bank.

Advocate Mancheri Sunderraj introduced a resolution calling upon the teaching community to become alive to their responsibility towards society and education and to come forward to form the vanguard of the anti-DPEP struggle being conducted by the JPS.

Another resolution reminded the peoples' representatives that the Keralian people had not given them mandate to become silent spectators to the disaster that was now sabotaging the education of the children, the Malayalam language and culture and urged them to mount pressure on the government inside the Assembly forcing them to withdraw the subversive DPEP scheme.

Dr V Venugopal, the General Secretary of the JPS, introduced an 'Action Plan' in the form of a resolution to achieve the demands raised by the convention.

The former Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Kerala University, Dr N A Karim, said that the sudden and abrupt syllabus changes under the DPEP were doing immense harm to education.

Dr A Sukumaran Nair, the former Educational Research Commissioner and ex-Vice chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi (MG) University, Pavanam, a renowned leader of the Kerala Atheist movement, K Panoor, B K Raja Gopal, AIDS State president, O V Usha, famous poetess, Dr A K Rama Krishnan of the Dept. of International Relations, M G University and leaders of teachers organisations spoke at the convention supporting the movement and the resolutions.

A memorandum was drawn up for submission to the Kerala government demanding among others i) total withdrawal of DPEP, (ii) re-introduction of old curriculum and text-books, (iii) initiation of fresh steps for necessary reforms in the prevailing system including curricular reforms and (iv) repeal of all educational agreements with the World Bank. The memorandum was signed by Justice V R Krishna Iyer and a host of academicians, educationists, critics, writers, poets and other distinguished personalities.

In the evening a mass meeting was organised at the Gandhi Park. Justice V R Krishna Iyer and the other distinguished speakers reiterated the resolve to continue and step up the struggle against the anti-people DPEP.

The struggle continues. On March 4, the JPS demanded that the government publish full details of its contract with the World Bank, refuted the Kerala Education Minister P J Joseph's claim that the World Bank had no control over the school curriculum of Kerala and charged that he was misleading the people on the issue.

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