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Fresh Attacks on Christians Sangh Parivar's Bid to Cover up Guilt

Attacks on the minorities, especially the Christians, continue unabated in the country.

On the morning of June 11, the body of a young Christian missionary was found in his house in Jalandhar, Punjab. The body had deep stab wounds and was partly burnt.

On June 12, Prime Minister Vajpayee assured a delegation of Christian leaders that the minorities were safe in India. But fresh incidents belied his assurance within a few days.

On June 17, Vijay Ekka, the cook of Brother George who had been clubbed to death near Mathura on June 7, the eye-witness to that ghastly crime, was himself killed in police custody. He had been illegally detained for interrogation by the police for over a week without being produced in a court. His body showed marks of acute torture, the signs of police "interrogation." The post mortem report said that he had been strangled. The police version is that he strangled himself with a scarf, but it is impossible for one to strangle himself with a scarf. Nobody is willing to buy the police story that this was a suicide. The fact was that Ekka was brutally tortured to make him confess that he had murdered Brother George. Failing to achieve this, the police murdered him — the only eye-witness to the crime — in custody to obliterate vital evidence. Otherwise, why did two policemen try to bury Ekka's body secretly?

Reportedly, the Prime Minister has suggested the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry to probe the incident. But the experience is that such a Commission serves to divert public attention from the matter and provides time to do away with whatever evidence that might still be intact. What the Wadhwa Commission did in the name of probing the murder of the Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons in Manoharpur is still fresh in public memory. The Report submitted by the Commission after all of five months, was not made public. The Report stressed that Dara Singh was fanatically opposed to conversions and considered to be a messiah by the people but no organisation was involved in the ghastly murders. The evidence in support of such findings was not made public. But it gradually transpired that the evidence recorded had not been verified by cross examination and so had been unsound and unreliable. Thus, the express purpose for setting up the Commission seems to have been to glorify Dara Singh and give a clean chit to the Sangh Parivar!

So, another probe now to investigate Ekka's death can only be looked at with suspicion.

A deliberate murder has been committed in the custody by the police to eliminate the key witness of an earlier murder of a Christian missionary. How can Vajpayee, being at the helm of affairs,
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To stop barbaric attacks on Christians Comrade Nihar Mukherjee calls on Left and democratic parties to launch movement

[Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party wrote on June 16, 2000 the following letter to the CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML-Liberation), RSP and Forward Bloc for launching a united movement against the dastardly Christian bashing by the Sangh Parivar]

Dear Comrade,

We feel serious concern, as you do also feel, over the barbaric and ghastly onslaughts that have come down unabatedly and in a premeditated way upon the minorities in general and the Christian community in particular, during the past three months, to be specific. All evidence and eyewitness reports have confirmed that everywhere this medieval savagery had been perpetrated by the hirelings of either VHP, Bajrang Dal or RSS — all belonging to Sangh Parivar. The Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in face of such a serious situation has been assuring of taking 'stern' measures or claiming quite shamelessly that minorities are 'safe' in India.

We refrain from mentioning any particular incident but feel seriously that all the left and democratic parties should come forward immediately to chalk out a programme for launching unitedly a protracted movement to compel the BJP government to stop these acts of vandalism forthwith.

An early reply is solicited.

With revolutionary greetings,

Sd/- Nihar Mukherjee

General Secretary, Central Committee

SUCI

GLOBALISATION — All-out Offensive Against Working People

A presentation by United Trade Union Centre-Lenin Sarani, on the occasion of 88th Session of IC of ILO (Geneva : 30 May - 15 June, 2000), by Comrade Sankar Saha, Secretary UTUC-Lenin Sarani, (slightly edited)

The 88th Session of International Labour Conference is currently in the midst of deliberation, inter alia, on the implementation status of the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work and its Follow-up. The global report on the subject placed before the Conference is not encouraging. And it is an undisputed experience and reality that

continued violation and infringement of 1998 ILO Declaration which reaffirmed the Philadelphia Declaration of 1944, favourable for the labouring class is the order of the day — in these days of so-called globalisation.

In this backdrop, we deem it imperative to deal in certain aspects of globalisation, particularly its understanding and effects, in brief,

with a view to helping develop international trade union movement in right direction in the present perspective.

Globalisation is not a new stage of development of history

The present phase of capitalism which the chieftain of capitalism-imperialism, including a section of intelligentsia and the majority of news-media, term or glorify as globalisation, is not a new stage of development of history but has come

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Attempt to use ILO as tool for implementing globalisation

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about in continuation of development of capitalism-imperialism as a latest prescription to bail it out of its insoluble crisis threatened with collapse. A critical and unbiased appraisal of the decade long experience reveals that the whole object of this so called globalisation unitedly planned by traditional imperialist countries, led by the US imperialism, is to redivide the world market among themselves, to force open the national market of the developed countries, to transfer from metropolitan countries, both plants and finance, on the basis of rights of entry and exit at will to and from the developing countries in order to exploit cheap labour power, scientist and technicians and natural resources to transfer most volatile speculative usurious finance capital for investment in stock markets of developing countries in greater proportion than that of foreign direct investment in production with the same rights of entry and exit, to bring under grip and control of native industries instead of building new productive capacity, to establish control by the MNCs on natural resources of the developing countries and last but not the least to resort to dumping commodities in order to disrupt and control developing economies.

To achieve this objectives the leading imperialist powers in the name of globalisation and integration of economies has devised two fold strategy – collaboration and subjugation. It is seen that they are roping in the developed among the developing countries in the scheme of globalisation pursuing the process of collaboration as senior and junior partnership. It is needless to mention that the developed among the developing countries are the junior partners as it is glaringly evident in the case of the countries like India which has been aspiring to emerge as a regional superpower and consolidate its position in that direction where MNCs of Indian origin have already developed. The least developed among the developing countries are being sought to be transformed into adjuncts of the imperialist powers. The whole strategy is being executed by the IMF-World Bank-WTO trio. Whether they would succeed to get rid of the crisis by means of the strategy of institutionalised globalisation is a million dollar question that haunts the international finance capital itself but it is evidently clear that for the workers, be in the USA, the UK or France or of India or other weaker nations, the consequences of globalisation are almost similar despite variation in degrees – unabated loss of jobs and exclusion of work force from work, increasing unemployment, aggravation of industrial sickness and poverty as well as violation and infringement of basic trade union rights, including ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work. It has been admitted in the global report that, “whilst trade union membership is remaining significant in many large work places it has decreased overall in the last decade.”

Effects of globalisation

The initial euphoria that was aroused in a cross-section of people including a section of intelligentsia regarding the projected success of globalisation in various fields of socio-economic and political life including the field of

international relations is already in the process of waning and the globalisation is increasingly proving itself a mirage. From our experience at home and abroad and the facts and figures, globalisation, which includes liberalisation and privatisation, have utterly failed to bail out capitalism from its crisis, as well as, to achieve its desired objectives relating to developmental aspects, real growth, alleviation of poverty and creation of employment opportunities culminating in eradication of unemployment.

This policy of globalisation taken in the context of sagging world capitalist market, as an escape route, has been proved self-defeating. The more the increase in the productivity owing to hi-tech, the more the percentage of unutilised installed capacity; the more the reduction of work forces to diminish wage cost and increased competitive power, the more the shrinkage of market. The total utilisation of revolutionary changes in technology for the welfare of the society cannot be possible under this chaos-discredited moribund capitalist system. So to use what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the departed President of our organisation, said: The capitalists are trying to get out of one crisis to be landed in more deeper crisis. Indeed, this crisis has become a daily and hourly one.

People, irrespective of nations, are increasingly hit with allout attacks of alarming dimensions in all spheres. [Besides, inequality in income and disparity in wealth and prosperity are increasing enormously. — *Ed. P. Era*] Today 86% world's wealth belongs to 22% of world population and only 225 richest capitalists in the world have a combined wealth of \$1000 billion equal to the annual income of 47% of the world's poorest population i.e. 2.5 billion people. And further to add is that OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) countries with 19% of world population have 71% of global trade in goods and services, 5% of FDI and 91% of all internet users. (Source: WFTU document, presented to the 14th World Trade Union Congress)

Now, a few words about India. A question is haunting the people's mind — have reforms and globalisation succeeded in raising the rate of employment generation? Not really. On the contrary, the average annual growth rate of overall employment, in both organised and unorganised sector, according to Union Finance Minister's own admission and available statistics, continued to decline during this period from 2.75% in the '70s, it declined to a pathetic 1.77% in the '80s and at present it is still lower than the '80s. On the other hand, the GDP has increased from 5.7% in the '80s to 6.8% between '94 and '98. Clearly the growth is delinked from job creation. It is jobless growth. It may also be noted that the industrial growth is also on the decline and is lagging behind by more than 3% than what was in 1989 i.e. 8% per annum. Nearly half a million industrial units are either closed or sick, more than 50% of which is the contribution of globalisation!

According to Planning Commission's estimate, the number of unemployed is 94 million but according to unofficial estimate it is 180 million,

which is being daily inflated by displacement of workers from various sectors. At present, every sector, including the core sectors, which were so long reserved for the public sector, are now wide open for private monopolies both domestic and foreign. Further, as the working people in the organised sector are under serious attack of the globalisation policy so also a vast unorganised sector i.e. the SSI units that employ more than 60% of work force in our country, are under severe attack of losing their jobs. The Government of India of late has declared its policy to conform to WTO norm by withdrawing reservation of commodities exclusively for the SSI units by allowing tariff concessions for commodities to be imported.

In fine, there is an allout attack on labour, their existing rights and service conditions. Thus it is seen that the globalisation has not only utterly failed to resolve or reduce the crisis but has aggravated and pushed the same to alarming dimensions. It must be understood that the crisis facing the world economy can no longer be wished away as a financial crisis of temporary nature. That it is a recession that affected not merely the so-called miracle economies of south-east Asia, including Japan, the second largest economy of the world, but the crisis spread to Europe, the USA, Latin America, Africa and other parts of the world, including the Indian subcontinent, throwing 24 million workers out of employment in Asia alone, is proved by facts. It is now evident from facts and developments that the recession in world market is drifting towards global depression.

The ILO in its world employment report had to admit, "The number of unemployed and underemployed workers around the world never have been higher and will grow in millions more before the end of the year as a result of financial crisis in Asia and other parts of the world." It further observed "the global employment situation is grim and getting grimmer." The Economist in its September 1998 issue commented, "...indeed tumbling share prices have wiped almost \$4 trillion of world financial wealth over the past two months - the equivalent of Japan's GDP." What a colossal wastage of people's money extracted from them! All these show beyond doubt that the so-called new economic order as envisaged by the protagonists of globalisation is plunged into abysmal death of suffocating crisis and such crisis is not of temporary nature, it is in its system itself. It is further seen that instead of getting integrated, the world market has got further divided into conflicting and competitive regional common markets initiated by the same members of G-7 countries. These common markets have set up protective walls of high tariff and non-tariff measures against each other ridiculing the concept and theory of free trade.

The Seattle Conference of the WTO which ended in a fiasco proved the hollowness of the claim of free trade through the GATT 1994. Consequently the unabated trade war is gathering momentum and becoming more and more bitter with all the potentialities of developing into hot war. The enthusiastic slogan of establishment of permanent peace following the end of so-called

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CAPITALIST TOOLS**SHUT `EM DOWN**
IMF, World Bank, Injustice Dept.

[We are giving below an article published in *Workers World* on April 20 last, written by Fred Goldstein, on the eve of the protest movement in Washington with the demand to shut down the IMF and World Bank. — Ed. P. Era]

They wanted the customary, quiet, respectable affair.

They wanted to pass unnoticed through the streets of Washington in their chauffeur-driven limousines, their Mercedes and BMWs, going from luxury hotels to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank conferences on 19th Street NW.

There they would emerge at the end of each day to answer polite questions from a respectful big-business media.

Instead the imperialist bankers are going to be in the spotlight of militant street protest on April 16, exposed as ruthless agents of corporate colonialist — the way the World Trade Organization was exposed on the streets of Seattle as a tool of the transnational monopolies.

Caroline Anstey, a spokesperson for the World Bank, told a Washington Post reporter April 10: "We hope we can debate around tables rather than in the streets. The problem with street democracy is that it isn't always very democratic." There are a whole lot of voices, most importantly the voices of the 1.2 billion who live on less than a dollar a day. The 880 million with no access to health care.

The 1.3 billion with no access to clean water. The 2.6 billion with no sanitation. The 850 million who are illiterate. (Figures from the United Nations Human Development Report, 1999)

Those who want to shut down the IMF and the World Bank conferences are doing so because of these institutions' role in the exploitation of the world.

Democratic bankers?

It is sheer demagoguery for the mouthpiece of unelected bankers — who meet in utmost secrecy all year round plotting to infiltrate and strangle oppressed countries — to invoke democracy.

The World Bank and the IMF are in fact representatives of the world's 200 richest people, who more than doubled their wealth between 1995 and 1998 to over a trillion dollars. They speak for the three top billionaires, whose assets are greater than the gross national product of the 48 least-developed countries. (*Ibid*)

These bankers and corporate raiders are expanding their stranglehold on the world in the name of globalization. The process of globalization, which is supposed to bring the wonders of prosperity to the world through "free markets," is actually a process of pillage and plunder.

The IMF, the world Bank and the World Trade Organisation, all backed by the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, constitute a global apparatus of extortion that enforces "globalization" on the neocolonial peoples of the world.

When the corporations want to sell their goods in a country, the WTO (formerly GATT) goes in and forces open the markets.

When the corporations want to set up mines, factories and agribusiness in a country, the World Bank forces loans on the country for ports, roads, hydroelectric projects, clearing forests and so on — destroying the environment so that the transnational companies can get the wealth out easier.

As the national economies are undermined and the countries fall into debt, Wall Street vultures and other bankers of the world come in and make loans. When the countries can no longer pay, the IMF comes in and makes "emergency" loans at even higher rates — to meet the emergency caused by the transnational corporations.

A vicious circle

The IMF has "structural adjustment" loans in over 100 countries. In all cases it demands they sell off their national assets to the very corporate establishment that impoverished the countries in the first place.

It demands that social spending and subsidies for food, cooking oil, gasoline, etc., be reduced — so the governments can pay back loans to the very banks that helped to impoverish them.

It often demands that special "export zones" be set up, so the transnationals can come in and set up low-wage factories.

The ultimate enforcers of this system are the Pentagon and the CIA, ready to move against any regime that resists the imperialist extortion racket.

This is the real process of globalization — capitalist globalization in the age of imperialism.

Imperialism is a late stage of capitalism — the era of finance capital — in which the banks have become totally merged with industry and dominate society. It is no accident that the IMF and the World Bank are such dominant economic institutions in the expansion of neocolonial corporate power. Both represent the financiers of the world — mainly of the so-called G-7 countries.

Financial officials of the oppressed countries belong to the IMF and the World Bank and the WTO strictly by compulsion, as a matter of self-defense, in order to try to soften the blows to the imperialist countries.

It is the tiny class of super-rich finance capitalists who are the modern ruling class. When the IMF meets in an emergency to restructure the economy in Indonesia, South Korea, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria or anywhere, it first meets with the central bankers of the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan and/or with the heads of Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Bank America, Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank and the Bank of Japan to plot strategy. The banks in turn control much of the capital behind the transnational corporations.

These are the class forces behind the IMF, the World Bank and all of capitalist society.

The driving force of the current phase of globalization is the expansion of capitalist industry

and commerce into every nook and corner of the globe at the lowest possible wages. Capital lives off unpaid labour and always seeks to reduce labour costs.

For humanity the scientific-technological revolution of automating and simplifying the labour process should be an opportunity to lighten the load of the working class and the peasants all over the world and allow them access to cheaper goods.

But to the capitalist class the scientific-technological revolution and expanded globalization are just a huge opportunity to find cheaper labour and speed up the turnover of capital so they can make more and more profits.

Furthermore, it is laying the basis for future disasters.

Crisis lies ahead

In the recent "Asian crisis" — which was really a crisis of overproduction in which countries could not sell the goods from vastly expanded imperialist-financed industries — the world lost \$2 trillion in production, according to the UN Human Development Report.

This means hundreds of billions of dollars in lost wages and revenue to workers and peasants and a massive increase in poverty and unemployment in Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, Russia, Brazil and many other countries.

It is just a prelude to what will come when the Wall Street capitalist bubble bursts.

World globalization under the aegis of capitalism — that is, the private ownership of the means of production and commerce — is bringing about a widening circle of poverty and debt slavery. This poverty is not caused by insufficient productive capacity to satisfy people's material needs. It occurs because this enormously productive capacity is subordinated to the owners' needs for profit.

They will sell it or cut it back or totally shut it down at any moment when it does not give them sufficient return on capital. Remove the owners, however; and production can and should begin with human need.

Another way to look at globalisation is that more and more workers all over the world are being brought into a new, more refined world division of labour. Each product or service is created as the result of the coordinated efforts of more and more workers.

It is the expanded socialisation of the labour process on a global scale.

The problem is that under capitalism, the coordinating process and the products of labour are not in the hands of the creators of wealth — the workers — but in the hands of parasitical owners of the economy who are totally unnecessary to the process.

This growing contradiction between the expanding socialisation of the production process and narrowing ownership of the instruments of production by fewer and fewer billionaires is the greatest contradiction of the modern era. Only the socialisation of ownership — workers' ownership of the means of production — can resolve this contradiction once and for all.

Polarisation at home

This contradiction is showing more and more at home, even in the midst of the great Wall Street boom.

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Vajpayee Meets Pope to Cover up Misdeeds

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pose to be innocent or shake off his responsibility in the matter?

The attacks continue. On June 22, at least 45 graves were dug up and the crosses thereon were uprooted in a Christian graveyard at Rajahmudi, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.

The President of the All India Christian Council has announced that the total number of violent attacks on Christians between June 1998 and June 2000 in the country has been over 300; there were 400 incidents of Bible burning in Rajkot, Gujarat in 1998; and more than 35 churches in Dangs in Gujarat were burnt in December of the same year!

The "reconversion" of 72 tribal Christians at Manoharpur, Orissa on June 2 last, "presided over" by the Puri Sankaracharya Nischalananda, has now been followed by "reconversion" of a tribal Christian family on June 17 in Cuttack district, Orissa. The Hindu Jagran Samukhya has announced early in this month that it plans to "reconvert" one lakh Christians to Hinduism during the next five years in Orissa alone!

Meanwhile, what is happening to the already "reconverted" tribal Christians?

As per a report in the *Samaj*, the leading Oriya daily, in its issue dated June 14, the Secretary of the Muktimandap Sabha of Puri has laid down that those who had been converted to Hinduism from other religions cannot enter the Jagannath temple in Puri; only lower class adivasis had converted to Christianity; such converted adivasis are called "mlechhas" (those from other religions, considered outcasts or pariahs by Hinduism — Ed. *P.Era*); they are impure, and hence cannot be allowed to enter the temple even after reconversion. To solve the problem, the Puri Sankaracharya is planning to put up special "Swastik" temples where such reconverted "Hindus" may also worship.

It is clear from the above that the reconverted Hindus will become second class Hindus, inferior Hindus who will be debarred from Jagannath temple and such other temples but may worship in some special temples to be put up for them. They will not enjoy the rights other Hindus have and will not be allowed to have social intercourse and relations with the latter! Who cares about their human dignity and social justice? Not the standard bearers of Hindutva certainly. A fine example of the democracy of Hindutva at work!

An operation cover-up is on, for the purpose of underplaying or even hiding BJP-Sangh Parivar's criminal role in minority bashing and for deliberately misleading and hoaxing the people on the issue.

For example, the Prime Minister has called for a national debate on the conversion issue, but has taken no effective steps to curb the communal attacks. This can serve no useful purpose while attacks on Christians occur almost daily, but can only divert the attention of the people away from the ghastly crimes and shield their perpetrators. Moreover, what does Vajpayee seek to achieve by such a debate? Going by the Sangh Parivar's track record, it can only be to provide justification for reconversion by hook or by crook. Will not this

stoke up the Hindu communal frenzy in support of en masse forcible reconversion?

The Sangh Parivar has been trying to present the incidents of attacks on Christians as ordinary criminal offences, non-communal in nature. In the case of some of the incidents, the police and the administration took pains to present them as cases of ordinary robbery in their reports. The BJP also sought to establish the non communal nature of the attacks in UP through an "investigation" by the National Minorities Commission.

But such ruse has failed miserably. As in some of the earlier cases, the murderers of Brother George on June 7 and those of the missionary of Jalandhar on June 11 left the valuables of the murdered untouched. Very unusual robbers these! There is no way that the attacks on the Christians can be painted as non-communal, ordinary robberies. Robbers do not bomb churches just for the fun of it, nor dig up and vandalise old graves; they do not attack or even murder people only to leave their possessions intact; they do not attack persons of a particular community selectively. There is no way that the people can be made to believe the "theory" of ordinary robbery.

This stratagem having failed, the Sangh Parivar is now cultivating the conspiracy angle.

On June 9, Giriraj Kishore, the VHP vice-president, claimed that the Pakistani spy organisation ISI's "nefarious designs" were behind the recent spate of violence against the Christians!

On June 19, on the morrow of Vijay Ekka's murder in police custody, BJP and VHP went a step forward and declared that the attacks on Christian missionaries and institutions were part of a deep-rooted international conspiracy to malign the Government and the country!

Swami Ram Swaroop Sharma, BJP MLA of UP and Devendra Singh Rathore, a VHP leader, have gone even further. While Sharma has said that the Christian community "is conspiring against us by defaming the government with baseless allegations and forcing the Hindus to convert", Rathore has said that the minorities have joined hands to "attack us after our popularity over the Ram Janmabhoomi episode" (Report in *The Statesman*, 21.6.2000)

Is it believable that the Pakistani ISI is attacking and murdering Christians, bombing and torching Christian worship places at will all over the country and even reconverting the Christians to Hinduism to further increase the number of Hindus in this country? And is the Sankaracharya of Puri involved in an ISI conspiracy?

What is the deep rooted international conspiracy against the Government and who are these conspirators? Why does not the Sangh Parivar spell it out? The charge is so ludicrous that it does not merit a discussion.

Is it not preposterous to suggest that it is the minorities, especially the Christians who are the conspirators, the attackers? Are the Christians conspiring to attack and murder themselves, rape the nuns and bomb and torch churches just for discrediting the government? Is it not a ploy used by the fascists to call those whom they attack the conspirators, the attackers?

The Sangh Parivar has no answer to such questions. They cannot substantiate any of the various charges of the conspiracy they put forward.

The real conspiracy is by the Sangh Parivar against the minorities for attacking and terrorising them into accepting the hegemony of Hindutva. Today, the attacks are concentrated against the Christians who present easy targets, being very small in number and hence quite defenceless. These attacks are also meant to be a warning to Muslims as to what could be their lot unless they "behave". Tomorrow, it will be their turn. Already, on June 25 night, a bomb has exploded in an old, renowned mosque in Guntur, AP, minutes after the Muslims had left the place after offering prayer, shattering glass panes and ventilators. Further, the VHP has announced that it would step up its Ramjanmabhoomi campaign. As a part of the campaign, a large replica of the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya will be truck mounted and ceremonially carried 700 kms from Jaipur to Ayodhya and installed there near the disputed temple site where currently there is a make-shift temple. This is scheduled to be done by October this year. And the plan for installation of the actual temple will be finalised in January 2001. (Report in *The Statesman* 17.6.2000)

This reminds one of the Ram Rathajatra organised by the BJP-Sangh Parivar through different parts of the country about a decade back which whipped up such Hindu communal frenzy en route that it finally led to the barbarous destruction of the Babari Masjid in Ayodhya and its aftermath. One shudders to think what will be the outcome of the presently proposed jatra of the temple replica.

Not unexpectedly, the large scale Christian bashing has given rise to adverse international reaction. This cannot but cause concern to the Indian Government who are welcoming huge influx of imperialist MNC capital under globalisation. So, Prime Minister Vajpayee, during his current European tour, met the Pope in Vatican City, Rome on June 26, when, reportedly, attacks on Christians in India was the sole point discussed. Vajpayee assured the Pope that his Government was determined that perpetrators of violence would be firmly dealt with and exemplary punishment meted out to them (Report in *The Statesman*, 27.6.2000). Vajpayee may feel relieved that he has saved his face by this, but we in this country are well aware of the worth of such assurances, as we are familiar with the height of duplicity, his pious utterances and assurances being immediately followed by fresh violent attacks. Besides, the criminals responsible for the ghastly incidents in Dangs and other places still go unpunished.

Meanwhile, as the attacks pour on the Christians, the Government does precious little to protect them or to apprehend the Sangh Parivar activists who are the culprits. The Parivar raises hue and cry about imaginary conspiracies to shield the real culprits, to divert the attention of the people, to mislead and hoodwink them in typical fascistic deception.

It is for the people to see through this nefarious game, organise and resist.

Advani Visits Terrorist Israel to Contain Terrorism !

Lal Krishna Advani, BJP's 'strong man' enjoying the full support of the RSS and Sangh Parivar, recently visited Israel. The stated reason for the visit by the Home Minister was to have a first hand study of cross border terrorism, border and security arrangement. Can the minister sell this?

For, who does not know that Israel is notorious for all these misdeeds? In fact, the State was born with direct help and assistance of the imperialists by evicting the Palestinians from their homeland. In flagrant violation of the international laws Israel forcibly occupied and annexed the territories of the adjoining Arab States like Syria, Jordan, Lebanon. And even now it stubbornly refuses to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza as also from East Jerusalem to obstruct a Palestinian homeland to come into being. Can any sensible persons believe that the Home Minister picked up a rogue state, a terrorist state like Israel, universally condemned for cross border terrorism to learn how to combat it?

So, the reason must be different. The clue to this was provided by the minister himself in his talk on Israel radio. He said he was for cooperation with Israel in all areas, including nuclear programme. It must be known that Israel became nuclear with all the modern devices supplied by the US imperialism. Israel acts as a proxy of the US imperialism and has always been used to browbeat and subjugate the Arab people to keep the stranglehold on rich oil resources in the middle east.

Recently in Sri Lankan crisis, Israel's military help was requisitioned by the government of that country. The US, India and Israel — all have been working with perfect understanding in Sri Lanka. Advani's seeking help from Israel in nuclear programme means in reality seeking transfer of modern US nuclear technology to India. So a veritable axis of the three is clearly visible.

Advani's visit to Israel, which India did not recognise for long because of its dastardly deeds against the Arab states, rip open the change that has come in India's state policy. Gone are the

years when India championed the cause of the Palestinian movement for homeland or of the Arab States and their people against Israel's aggression. At that period, the period of Indian capital's gaining strength the Indian state policy was to be 'non-aligned' either to the socialist bloc or the imperialist camp headed by the US.

This gave it advantage in bargaining by playing between the two. To an extent it helped world peace. And peace was needed for the speediest development of capitalism in India.

But since the Indian capital was acquiring the characteristic features of imperialism, it has been coming closer to imperialist camp headed by US imperialism. After the BJP came to power, India's siding openly with the US imperialism became vivid. From the same imperialist motive and objective the BJP government has been implementing — outbidding its opponents — the policy of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. Consequent on this disastrous policy working people at large are faced with dire peril.

Sensing people's growing resentment and anticipating people's resistance draconian measures are being concentrated in the hands of the state ; muzzling of people's democratic means of protest and movement is going apace, and there is a conspiracy to overhaul the Constitution in the name of reform to foist an authoritarian rule.

The change in the state policy of joining in the imperialist camp directly under the leadership of the US imperialism, as their dependable ally and a junior partner, as also seeking friendship and close relationship with states like Israel, is against a definite context. India has emerged as an imperialist power and is now an important regional power. The aspirant Indian bourgeoisie wants it to be an important global player.

Faced with insoluble and ever deepening crisis in the economy, reflection of which is found in every field of social life, the Indian government under the BJP, in particular, is accelerating the

military expenditure while most of the people are denied the minimum condition for civilized life, Advani's befriending of Israel — the third biggest exporter of arms to this country, has a direct bearing on India's nuclear programme. Besides, a despotic state chooses another despotic one. They all serve moribund capitalism and the tottering world capitalist system under the leadership of US imperialism — a menace to civilization.

We call upon the people of India that when their long anti-imperialist stand is being reversed they cannot remain silent. They are to rise up and resist the conspiracy, the dark design of smothering democracy and people's rights by organized movement.

SUCI, Bihar Condemns Mass Killing in the State

Strongly condemning the massacre and caste violence in Bihar in general and central Bihar in particular, Comrade. Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, issued the following statement on 19th June 2000.

In recent days 90 innocent people have been killed in the massacre at Senari, Aurangabad, Apsar and Miyanpur. These massacres reveal caste and communal based politics and the failure of law and order situation in the state. Absence of left and democratic movements, dominance of anti-social elements in politics and presence of caste and communal based politics are the cause of these massacres.

We appeal to all left and democratic forces to organise prolonged mass movement in order to counteract caste and communal based politics. Our party has decided to build up a sustained mass movement in the state by organising programmes like dharnas, street corner meetings, processions, bundhs, etc.

Protest march in Delhi against crisis of water and electricity

The SUCI, Delhi organised a protest march and rally on 7th June last against the prevailing water and electricity crisis before the office of Chief Minister of Delhi.

Hundreds of protestors marched in a procession from Chandigram Akhara, Near Ring Road towards the office of Chief Minister and was stopped on the way by police. Then it turned into a protest meeting. The meeting was addressed by Comrades R.K. Sharma, Arun Kumar and Iswar Singh. The leaders urged the processionists and common people to carry on the struggle till the most basic amenities like drinking water and electricity are provided to all the localities.

Later a delegation comprising Comrades Pratap Samal, Harish Tyagi and Manager Chaurasha submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister. Also one bottle of dirty water supplied by the government's water supply department for drinking purpose was presented.

The demands in the memorandum were :

- i) To ensure immediate supply of drinking water to all the areas of Delhi irrespective of whether they are authorised colonies or not.
- ii) To set up the necessary infrastructure for uninterrupted and regular water and power supply commensurate with the increasing demand.
- iii) Uninterrupted water supply and provision of electricity to all the unauthorised and Jhugi jhopri colonies.

- iv) To make provision of drinking water in all the important chowks, bus stops and other public places by the government.



Protest March by SUCI activists in New Delhi against crisis of water and electricity on 7th June last

SHUT EM DOWN**We can build a better world***(Contd. from page 3)*

When President Bill Clinton made a balanced budget the keystone of his political programme, it was at the behest of the bankers, the bondholders and their domestic representatives — the U.S. version of the IMF — Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board.

They restructured to drive millions of people off welfare in order to pay the debt to the banks. They ended all construction of low-income public housing. They reduced food stamp benefits, instituted the hated HMO system of medicine, cut back on education spending, built more prisons, put more cops on the streets, reinstated the death penalty with a vengeance. They have unleashed new waves of racism and police brutality. Twenty five percent of children in this country and a large portion of the elderly go hungry every night while warehouses in the Midwest bulge with surplus

cheese, butter, flour and grain because agribusiness wants to keep prices up.

Low wages and super-exploited immigrant labour, often bordering on indentured servitude, abound.

Workers in cities like San Diego go homeless because rents are so high. Janitors have to struggle in Los Angeles just to get wages up to poverty level.

Workers' leisure time is vanishing. Some 43 million people are without health care.

This is all part of the capitalist class's restructuring at home in order to increase profits — just the way they do abroad. It is all the same group that tells the IMF and the World Bank what to do in the oppressed countries.

Behind the great disparity between the wealth of nations is the great disparity in the wealth of

social classes. Behind the exploitation of countries is the exploitation of one class, the working class, by another, the capitalist class. The IMF should be shut down. The World Bank should be shut down. So should the WTO. But beyond that, capitalism must be shut down.

Socialism, based on centralised planning for human need and not for profit, must be put in its place.

Globalisation — that is, the socialisation of world production — is an inexorable process. Under capitalism it is becoming a source of greater and greater misery and insecurity for the human race. But globalisation of the economy could and should be the platform for a new stage in human development that ensures the material well-being of all the world's peoples and the preservation of the environment.

This can only be accomplished under communism.

That's what we must fight for in the new century.

University Teachers Attain Victory

The recent movement led by the Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) has created a sensation in the State of West Bengal. This movement once again proves that if the cause is just and if a movement is launched and conducted with determination on a correct path, it is sure to become victorious. Success of this movement comes as a ray of hope to the people at large. The teachers who stood boldly and resolutely against all odds deserve to be congratulated.

It was a heroic battle continued for the last four months. The pressure of the movement mounted to such a height that the Governor of the State also the Chancellor of the university met the JUTA leadership twice, on 4th and 10th May, 2000, called their demands reasonable and promised to take up the issues with the "appropriate authority". On 16th June, Satya Sadhan Chakraborty, the State Higher Education Minister, met the leaders, had a talk for over an hour and a half and had to concede most of their demands. At the insistence of the leaders that until a written commitment was issued on behalf of the ministry, there was no question of reconsideration of the ongoing course of action of the movement, the minister ultimately had to agree to do so. The minister had earlier even refused to talk with the leadership unless the movement was withdrawn and the situation in the campus normalised. The teachers here had no new demands — they were demanding simply implementation of those benefits which the Union Minister of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the UGC had agreed upon under the pressure of an all India cease-work movement in August-September, '98 under the leadership of the All India Federation of College and University Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO). Here it is to be mentioned that on the wake of the implementation of the recommendation of 5th Pay Commission for the Central Government Employees, the Rastogi Committee (appointed by

the MHRD) made some recommendations on the revision of pay-structure of college and university teachers. Some serious points were raised against the recommendations and a movement was launched by the AIFUCTO. Above mentioned agreement was signed by and between the Union Ministry and the AIFUCTO on 5th September '98 after which the month-long strike was withdrawn. We covered that movement in our earlier issues.

Since education is in the concurrent list, it is customary that the state governments extend the benefits which the Union Government concedes to the teachers in the field of higher education. In fact, when the movement in 1998 was launched against the then BJP-led Central Government, the government in the state of West Bengal appeared much vociferous in favour of the movement. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu even issued statements extending support to it and wrote letters to Murli Monohar Joshi, the concerned Union Minister, appealing to respond to the teachers' cause. But following the 5th September agreement, when the state government's turn actually came to act upon, their real face became exposed. First, they took recourse to dilly-dallying tactics in issuing relevant government orders for implementation of the benefits achieved through the all India movement. Second, they refused to raise the age of retirement from 60 to 62 years — an issue of great importance for the college and university teachers of the state. And thirdly, the State Government remained silent on paying the arrears of enhanced salary of 39 months to the teachers, even after receiving a large sum of Rs.103.54 crores for the purpose from the Union Government. In this connection, it is to be mentioned that the Central Government was committed to pay 80% of the total requirement for enhancing the pay-scales while 20% was to be provided by the state. In addition to these three issues, the teachers were virtually denied of the leave salary of 8 months and were being

discriminated against in the payment of arrears of house rent allowance compared to the teachers of other universities. It is to be noted that the JUTA's demands were in fact the demands of all college and university teachers of the state.

But the issues did not remain at a mere economic level for the JUTA leadership. It became an issue affecting their self-respect. For, the course of action, formulated through a referendum to desist from all sorts of work other than teaching and conducting research, was intimated well ahead of 6th March when the movement started. It was clarified to the minister that if the impasse created by the decision of JUTA was continued for long, not only the administrative works of the university would be hampered, but the university examinations would be delayed. But the minister cared little for the warning and showed no interest in sitting with the leadership. The CPI(M) minister's stand, like any autocratic minister, was that until the movement was withdrawn there would be no talk. In fact, the minister was hoping for a natural death of the movement through the pressure of students whose examinations were being hampered. The most striking feature of the movement was that contrary to the minister's expectation the majority of the students extended support to the teachers' cause. This unnerved the minister. Then the teachers' body resolved to cooperate with holding the examinations of the final year students, on the one hand, and on the other started relay hunger strike from 29th May which ended on 10th June in two phases. After that a convention where all other fraternal organisations of the state's college and university teachers as well as leading educationists were invited was held on 19.6.2000 and a mass-hunger strike on 23.6.2000. The teachers from all universities and colleges were responding spontaneously to the JUTA's call by joining the programmes and sending letters of solidarity. Four teachers' organisations formally supported the JUTA's movement. Other organisations which failed to extend formal support as their leadership were dominated by the CPI(M), were under strong pressure from their rank and file. Thus when the situation was fast turning in favour of the JUTA leadership and even the teachers owing allegiance

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Unbridled Concessions to MNCs

On their way to 'second generation reform' the Union Cabinet of the BJP led government removed the dividend balancing scheme on 22 consumer goods, allowed easier repatriation of profit, removed the ceiling of Rs.1,500 crore on foreign participation in power generation and allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-commerce and refining on June 12, 2000.

Before this major relaxation, foreign multinationals, for repatriating their profit from India were required to earn a matching amount of foreign exchange for the government through export of their commodities. Now the same companies would be able to repatriate their earnings without any restrictions. At the moment the relaxation applies to 22 consumer goods but the government plans to extend this facility to another 100 items, as reported in the press.

Needless to say, this relaxation on repatriation of profit by the foreign MNCs will effect huge drainage of foreign exchange. And in defence of this measure the government spokesman, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Pramod Mahajan, argued that it would promote FDI and that is more desirable than imports. He said, "The choice is clear — FDI or imports" (*The Statesman*, 13.6.2000). But three months ago to the glee and satisfaction of the industrially developed and imperialist countries and to the great detriment of the small scale, medium scale and cottage industries of the country, this BJP government removed all restrictions on import of 714 items beginning from capital goods to petty consumer goods, so to say, 'from tank to toilet paper'. These items can be imported at a minimum import duty @5% and maximum @35%. And now at the time of allowing 100 per cent repatriation of MNCs' profit the government is unabashedly giving excuse of thus preventing increased import! Duplicity unlimited! The fact is that the government has succumbed to the pressure of the foreign MNCs which wanted the clause for matching export removed, besides other greater econo-political reason behind. While the profits of the MNCs are soaring the government

is relaxing repatriation of profit. The foreign MNCs' net profit jumped by 42% in one year, 1998 to 1999 (*Economic Times* 10.4.2000) although their rate of growth in sales went down and now they are entitled to repatriate the whole profit out of the country while condition of the common countrymen is sinking into abysmal depth of poverty and deprivation. This is progress under liberalisation! The Rs 1500 crore ceiling on foreign participation in power generation has been removed. The Central government is already providing counter-guarantee for profit to such foreign MNC-run power projects as in the case of Enron in Maharashtra and Congentrix in Karnataka, meaning thereby, assured hike in selling price of power to the satisfaction of those MNCs to loot the countrymen. Moreover, the government is allowing now 100 per cent FDI in refining, on the plea of production of more refined oil, i.e. petrol, diesel, kerosene and other petro-products. But since the liberalisation and globalisation i.e. new economic policy at the time of Finance Minister Manmohan Singh of the Congress, government has been drastically curtailing refining of crude oil in PSU refineries in consonance with the policy of opening up this sector to private sector, and WTO conditionalities. Thus, does the plea of more production of refined petro-products hold good at all? This is sheer deceit and falsehood. The actual object is clearly otherwise.

In defence of relaxing repatriation of profit by MNCs the government is waxing eloquent on its foreign exchange reserve which is also totally untrue. The real picture is reflected in dwindling value of rupee in terms of US dollar. Since drastically lowering the import duty in last budget, particularly withdrawing of quantitative restrictions on 714 items, drainage of foreign exchange due to surging imports is rising so much so that the exchange value of rupee is falling steadily in the market. Rate of growth in export is also not upto the expectation, rather, it is shrinking, resulting in lower inflow of foreign exchange. To cope with this alarming situation the government is frantically trying to attract FDI

giving further concession to the foreign and NRI investors. That is why the recent move in question.

Beginning right from the adoption of new economic policy of liberalisation-globalisation-privatisation in 1991 all the governments — the Congress, the UF backed by CPI & CPI(M) and the BJP-led NDA government continuously orchestrated a propaganda and would have the people believe that more and more foreign direct investment would increase the country's capability to export more and import less but now, after long nine years of liberalised FDI regime, they are recklessly liberalising import of even consumer and luxury goods. And again, when providing further relaxation to the MNCs they advance the lame excuse of avoiding import! Henceforth the MNCs will invest without any restriction, will reap fabulous profit and will send it out of the country freely. This is the benefit the country will enjoy. The net result is ruination of medium, small scale and cottage industries, closure and lock-out in lakhs and lakhs of such industries, galloping unemployment and job loss, all-out deprivation of the common masses and spiralling prices of daily necessities including food, health care, sanitation, drinking water and education. On the other hand, soaring profit of the Indian corporate houses and foreign MNCs.

The role of the Indian monopoly representatives i.e. the Chambers of Commerce and Industries is no less noteworthy. All along the FICCI, Assocham and the Indian Chambers of Commerce have been welcoming FDI and when the government went further to lift import restriction of 714 items, signalling catastrophe to medium, small scale and cottage industries they all blessed the government and demanded more withdrawal of restrictions. And now at the time of abolishing restrictions on repatriation of profit and on FDI the same FICCI and Assocham welcomed it (*The Statesman*, 13.6.2000.) Obviously all these serve also the interest of Indian monopoly equally.

In G-15 meeting Union Minister of Commerce Murasali Maran, as if sympathising with the lamentable experience of the South-East Asian countries and Mexico, most vociferously criticized the aggressive and exploitative character of the imperialist MNCs and differential and coercive treatment of WTO, World Bank-IMF, and simultaneously in his own country gives bounty of concessions to the same MNCs. Such is the character of Indian monopoly. Being the most advanced and powerful among the G-15 countries, aspirant Indian bourgeoisie, on the one hand, project itself as the champion of the causes of the G-15 countries and on the other, hobnob with the imperialist MNCs and financial institutions to extract greater concessions and benefits from them, leaving the less developed countries in G-15 in the lurch.

However, this liberalisation is nothing new. But the BJP led government after assuming the power is doing this job at a greater and speedier pace outbidding its former two rivals and betraying nakedly its pro-imperialist, particularly, pro-US imperialist character. In our pages we have repeatedly and conclusively shown that the

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University Teachers

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to the party in power were joining in support, the minister had to submit to the pressure and ultimately invited the leadership for a sitting on 16.6.2000. At this meeting the minister conceded all the demands except that for raising the retirement age. He had to even give a written commitment as demanded — an incident which is unique in the history of teachers' movement in the state.

Now the question is why the minister took almost four months to decide to sit with the teachers? Why did he make it a prestige issue? Would the minister take the responsibility of the loss to the students for his deliberate inaction? But a section of the media, without holding the minister responsible, continued to blame the teachers for harming the students' interest, though the teachers here took regular classes, conducted research and ultimately helped the

administration for holding all final year examinations. Thus the media made the students' interest an issue to weaken the movement, though the students' unions continued to support this teachers. The teachers faced heavy odds in conducting the movement apart from this motivated role of the media. There were threats from university administration for initiating disciplinary action against striking teachers. Even the minister, a CPI(M) leader, a former Executive member of the West Bengal College and University Teachers' Association (WBCUTA) and a former National Secretary of AIFUCTO, issued press statements calling the movement illegal and immoral and urged the university administration to punish the teachers. But instead of unnerving the teachers, it cemented their unity further. Congratulations to them and their leadership for their unique struggle for dignity and self respect.

Bihar AIMSS and AIDYO camp, at Ghatshila

Bihar State units of AIMSS and AIDYO organised training camp at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatshila from 6th to 8th June 2000.

The AIMSS class was based mainly on the book 'On Women's Emancipation' and the AIDYO class on 'Yuba Samajke Prati' — both speeches by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader and teacher of the proletariat.

The AIMSS class was conducted by Comrade Protiva Mukherjee and Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, President and General Secretary respectively, of the organisation.

In the concluding session of AIMSS class Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central

Committee, SUCI addressed the members and pointed to the two pronged exploitation — one from the capitalist system and the other from male domination — against which a relentless struggle is to be launched.

The AIDYO class was conducted by Comrade Hem Chakraborty, senior member of the Bihar State Committee. He dwelt on how globalisation deprived the youth of employment and how imperialist culture dehumanise the youth. Comrade Arun Kr. Singh, member, Bihar State Committee, also spoke and urged to develop youth movement. A 15-member Organising Committee with Comrades Kumud Mahato and Indradeo Roy as President and Secretary was formed at the end.

Concessions to MNCs

(Contd. from page 7)

Indian ruling capitalist class, the monopoly capital of India has long before attained imperialist character and has been a partner of imperialist trust and cartels, albeit, a junior one, and is frantically searching for foreign market, faced with serious crisis in internal market. And now in this WTO and imperialist 'globalisation' regime they have come to join hands with the foreign imperialists to have a share of the globalised foreign market on a 'give and take' basis. Thus this is the need of the aspiring imperialist bourgeoisie of the country to throw open the door of Indian economy to the foreign imperialist MNCs to jointly loot and plunder its cheap labour and natural resources ruthlessly as also the markets of other weaker developing and underdeveloped countries. This class compulsion of the country's monopoly bourgeoisie has led

to closer ties with the foreign imperialists, more so with the US imperialists, foreign MNCs, World Bank and IMF, no matter, spelling disaster to public sector, small, medium scale and cottage industries and above all to the millions upon millions of toiling people of the country.

Thus privatisation and disinvestment of PSUs, opening up the insurance and banking sector, oil exploration and refining, airways etc. to the Indian and foreign monopolists are part of the same conspiracy of the Indian ruling capitalist class. And no ruling party or parties going by whatever name or colours, as they are all subservient to the interest of the capitalist class, will never stand opposed to it. It is the common people who must come forward unitedly to resist the dangerous move through mighty mass movements. There is no other way out.

Decision to close down Six state-run industries in West Bengal Condemned

Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, issued the following statement on 21st June, 2000 :

"The decision of the BJP-led Central NDA government to close down six state-owned industries in West Bengal is anti-people and particularly anti-working class.

In the interest of the imperialist and national monopolists the BJP-led NDA government has been implementing globalisation and liberalisation of economy resulting in closing down of thousands of industries, retrenchment of lakhs of workers, abolition of a few lakh government posts and introduction of so-called 'voluntary', but in reality compulsory retirement scheme. This is a way the Central government has translated into reality the much vaunted programme of "upliftment of economy" and "jobs for the jobless".

Trinamul Congress, partner of the Central government and supporter of its anti-people economic programmes, cannot absolve its responsibility on the plea that they did not attend cabinet meeting owing to corporation election in Calcutta.

The Central government could take such a decision only due to the absence of powerful left-democratic and workers movement.

We demand of the Central government to scrap the decision to close down six industries and call upon the working class and people of this state to build up powerful movement to resist it".

Press Clippings

Price of Gimmicks

"The newly introduced Howrah-Purulia Rupasi Bangla Express and Shalimar-Bankura Aranyak Express have become a liability for the Railways.

The trains were flagged off by Miss Mamata Banerjee, Railway Minister with much fanfare on 1 and 3 April respectively. Both trains have been running almost empty daily. Only 20 to 30 per cent of the seats are occupied between Midnapore and Bankura and Purulia, Railways officials have told *The Statesman*.

Rupasi Bangla has nine coaches and 500 seats while Aranyak Express has seven coaches and 500 seats. There are air-conditioned coaches on both trains.

The Railways has already incurred a loss of about Rs. 20 lakh, officials here said, with the money spent on engineering, electricity, maintenance, operation yielding no returns.

However, in view of escalating losses four coaches were detached from Aranyak and three from Rupasi Bangla Express a week ago. Even then the losses continue to mount.

But why do passengers avoid the trains? Because of their schedule, says Mr. Arabinda Sain, president of Kharagpur-Adra Railway Passengers' Association.

Also passengers of Rupasi Bangla have to pay Rs. 10 more as "super fast" charges because till

Kharagpur the train is tagged with Howrah-Bhubaneswar Dhoulai Express.

It would be good idea to make both Rupasi Bangla Express and Aranyak trains fast passenger trains and change their schedules to suit the needs of the people. ...

The Railway suffers losses because of inadequate survey of traffic in the section before starting any new train thereby giving wrong signal to the Railway minister, he observed.

Miss Banerjee said that the Rupasi Bangla and Aranyak Express will not be withdrawn as feared.

Nor will any of them be made fast passenger trains as demanded by the passengers association."

(from *The Statesman*, 27-5-2000)

88th Session of ILO

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cold war is not supported by facts and developments.

The sharp competition between imperialist powers for retention and extension of market through trade war can in all probability be converted into hot war. The present situation reminds us of those characteristics and developments which led to two world wars. The humanity is threatened with another war, causing

devastation of immeasurable depth and dimensions.

Call of the hour

The overall situation is really grave and becoming critical every day. It is of paramount importance to the entire international community, working people and trade union movement in particular. The International Labour Organisation, though tripartite in composition, was once established with the declared objective of protecting the legitimate interests of labour. Now this too is in serious question. There is an attempt within and outside to use the ILO as a tool of implementing policies of globalisation which are out and out anti-labour and anti-people. In this situation ILO is to decide whether it should allow itself to act as an instrument of implementing the policies of globalisation to the glee of capitalist class or should cry a halt to the menacing policy that threatens the very existence of mankind and civilisation.

We, on behalf of United Trade Union Centre - Lenin Sarani (UTUC-LS), in its written representation to the 87th Session of International Labour Conference raised our voice against this policy of globalisation causing devastation on the lives of working people. In this Session too, we reiterate our call, which is a call of the hour and lastly we call upon the trade unions and working people the world over, to build up united and sustained mighty movements to force their respective governments to say NO to globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation.

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