



People Celebrate Victory of Historic Language Movement

On 3rd February last a mammoth procession of over one lakh people surged through the streets of Calcutta. It was the victory march for the great success that the people won through a long nineteen year battle. The recalcitrant CPI(M)-led government bowed at last and announced to re-introduce English as second language at the primary level. In this period about 4 crore students have been victimized.

3rd February 1999 marked the anniversary of the historic Bangla Bandh held last year over this language and other education demands, which brought the whole of West Bengal to a total standstill. Such overwhelming response to a bandh call given by a single left party in West Bengal is unprecedented, even considering the surge of left-democratic movement in the days of fifties and sixties.

Recalling this historic bandh and celebrating the historic victory, waves of people passed the streets, while in the same spirit countless others flanked the streets, or watched them from rooftops, and from the doors and windows. Many people conveyed ovation to the party, many were managing crowds voluntarily — many were conveying appreciation and support through applause. These are the people who for this long period, helped the movement to grow — as a student or a guardian, a lover of education, or as a soldier carrying the flag of progress. All of them, in and out of the procession, had brightness written on their face, born of a realisation and conviction that mighty protracted mass movements under correct political leadership alone constituted the way out for the masses from tyranny, sufferings, distress and destitution. The success of a particular movement under correct political leadership depends on many factors. But our party, or any working class party at that, through such movements keeps its eye on creating the ground for developing among people, on the basis of higher cultural and ethical standard, a pro-revolutionary and anti-capitalist class consciousness. This class consciousness strengthens the unity of the working class. They recognise the friend and the foe, on which basis further mass movements grow up and the class consciousness accentuates further.

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All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)

Activities of AUCPB in present situation in Russia

[Our party requested Comrade Nina Andreeva, General Secretary of AUCPB, to send a write up on present situation in Russia and the relevant activities of the AUCPB in the present political situation there. We already published one article in P.Era dt. 15.12.98. In this issue we are publishing another article sent by her. Translation from Russian is ours. – Editor, Proletarian Era]

Presently the AUCPB has activities in all of the republics of erstwhile USSR. But the conditions under which we are working differ from one place to another and the scope of activity is also limited by the degree of reactionary character of the Constitutions of the 'sovereign' states. Our activity also depends on the intensity of protest movement of the working people and the degree of pauperisation of the population.

In all the three states of Baltic region, i.e. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Communist Party is banned. Communist activities and circulation of communist literature are considered here to be a criminal offence and deserve punishment. Our Comrade Sasha Smotkin, the editor of first Bolshevik newspaper "Internal Movement of Lithuania" in the period of Gorbachev's perestroika, has already been detained in torture chamber for eight years. All our efforts, through prosecutor's office of Russia and Lithuania, to transfer Comrade Smotkin to Russian territory, have failed. Various other efforts like picketing in front of ambassador's offices and general Consulate offices of Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia have failed. Our attempt, by appointing an advocate has also failed. Even the strong support extended on international level through petitions from progressive social organisations of Belgium, Canada and Germany also proved to be futile. In spite of recent serious deterioration of his health he is not set free.

The Constitutions of the bourgeois states, formed in the territory of erstwhile USSR, contain provisions for banning the activities of the organisations and the parties having centres outside the border of the said republic. That is why the situation in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan of Caucasus and in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan of Central Asia, so also in Kazakhstan, is very difficult for the activities of AUCPB, though the erstwhile communists and particularly the first secretaries of these Union Republics are at the helm of the power in these republics. The ruling clique keeps close surveillance on all of our activities and our activists are subjected to persecution. Two years ago one of the members of the CC of AUCPB has been killed in Ukraine. Next year, in the same place just within a day after a very powerful protest movement with participation of workers' collective in Kharkov city, one of our talented comrades was killed in an automobile accident, officially declared dead "in a mysterious situation". Two years ago, in Uzbekistan, our organisation in Tashkent was totally routed by the ruling power. Despite so many attempts for redressal through prosecutor's office, the leader of the organisation died. In Kazakhstan, our comrades, the active organisers of and participants in different active protest movements are very often put behind bars for certain period of time.

Same is the condition of our young comrades, the members of All Union Young Guards Bolsheviks (AUYGB). AUYGB works in close

contact with other patriotic and communist youth organisations.

Braving all difficulties our party is continuing with its activities in all the regions of the USSR. Our organisations are growing in Azarbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. Our Tashkent organisation has been successfully rebuilt and organisation is also developed in many other cities. Of course, we could not solve all problems, particularly we could not overcome serious financial crisis. AUCPB does not have sponsors. Those who helped us earlier, we mean the departmental heads of the enterprises and collective farms, are being threatened by the ruling regime that if their financial support to the AUCPB is unearthed their accounts would be seized.

Our principal social base is the labouring people who have lost their work; the soldiers who since long do not get their salary; pauperised intelligentsia; pension-holders who get pension which amounts to one-third or one-fourth of minimum subsistence level; refugees driven out of their motherland by bloody nationality conflicts. All our newspapers are published mostly depending on the enthusiasm of the editors and support from the local party committees. The party is yet to have its own publication base.

Our party is conspicuous from the other communist parties by the characteristics that AUCPB does not have in it any of the high echelon of the old party, meaning thereby partocrats of the erstwhile CPSU or top leaders of the All Union Leninist Communist Young League (KOMсомол). We do not have in our ranks any of those directly responsible for the ruin of the country and the party. For this particular characteristic, CPRF of Zukanov does not like us. The central leadership of the Communist Party of Russian Federation (CPRF), which represent the liberal bourgeoisie, is comprised of the top partocrats and the law-abiding members of the old CPSU, having good record of loyalty. The Communist Workers' Party of Russian Federation (CWPRF) of Tiulkin also does not like us. This party contains in its leadership middle ranking partocrats, i.e. secretaries of old party committees, district committees – the boastful and humbugs. About UCP-CPSU of O. Shenin, we should say, it is a staff of Generals without an army, something like the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU, without the Central Committee, without CPSU. Each of these organisations desires to 'grab' us – the most active force among the organisations engaged in communist movement. This is being reflected in the attempts for organisational unity of all the communists. No doubt, the unity of all the communists is a must, but mechanical unity can only lead to the rebuilding of that CPSU, a combination of different platforms, and thereby destroying the healthy forces within the unity. We suggest : in the very beginning we should strive for voluntary unity of actions among all the communist parties, then in future through the

unity of the political course ideological unity will be achieved ; and thus the organisational unity will be readily forged.

On the eve of the 81st anniversary of Great October Revolution, AUCPB has taken initiative to organise demonstrations and pickets in many cities and other localities. But due to unfavourable situation in many regions, everywhere we shall not expose our activists. To us, it is the programme that matters, not the gorgeous show of it.

Main forms of our activities are, as in the past, to organise propaganda work and agitation among all strata of people, explain to them the causes of crisis and show them the right way out. We hold that rebuilding of our motherland is possible only by destroying the capitalist system and bringing the country back on the course of social progress. This we can achieve only through socialist revolution. It is impossible to establish socialist system through hollow debates in parliament, conducted by the deputies who receive fat payment from the ruling regime, or through substitution of one bad President by a good one, in other words, through struggle under red flag for a place in bourgeois state institution.

Publicity of the activities of AUCPB is by all means being suppressed by the information ministry of bourgeois state. Many a time TV people have taken our photographs, filmed many action programmes with our participation, our pickets near the factories, our discussions with peasants, but very few of them found place in the telecast. Hence, I personally deduce that these interviews have been kept in archive.

As soon as AUCPB in its plenum in March '94 had adopted the programme of Bolshevisation of communist movement, a stricture on telecast and other forms of publicity blockade was imposed on AUCPB by A. Yakovlev – an ideologue of Gorbachov's Perestroika. The other communist parties have now adopted slogans first raised by us in those days and now follow our method of work. Had there been no AUCPB many of the communist parties would have bogged down in the swamp of social-democracy and opportunism. We have prevented it by making them to accept the call of the hour and fight for dictatorship of the proletariat, which was not in their programme. Here also lies the significance of our party in communist movement.

Now a few words about the changes that are taking place at the top of state power and the consequences of it.

Due to continuous deterioration of country's economy, political struggle is becoming sharper and sharper, and that is the real threat to the continuation of capitalist rule. So counter-revolution is changing its tactics. The already bankrupt "democrats" are handing over the responsibility to fulfil the call of Gorbachev on social democrats, like Primakov, Gerashenko. Masliukova is also with them. Will this substitution bring any change in the political course of the country? No, not at all. Because all of them, former partocrats, presently called up to serve counter-revolution, have taken oath of allegiance to the "course of reform", a plan to

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Pre-Budget Fiscal Savagery by BJP-led Government

Following the footsteps of the Congress and the UF governments, the BJP-led central government which has failed on all fronts in the governance of the country, has now resorted to price hike of fertiliser, rice, wheat, sugar and LPG through administrative fiat in a most undemocratic fashion, bypassing parliament just before the budget. The foreign postal charges have also been hiked and it is understood that the domestic postal charges within the country are also going to be increased. Moreover, when the price of petroleum has plummeted in the world market, the government is making necessary preparation to increase the prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products by imposing cess on them. The myth of 'patriotism' and 'swadeshi' which the BJP tried to project before the elections is getting nakedly exposed. The BJP-led government is contemplating to hand over the roads, bridges and other infrastructure development to the private sector, and as a result the people will have to pay for all these things. The telephone charges are also to be hiked in the near future. One can easily realise that the price hike will be enormous and quite horrible. As a result the life of the middle class, lower middle class and the poor of the towns and villages will be extremely miserable. The union finance minister has said that he has increased the prices to meet the budget deficit. What an argument indeed! He has not attempted to cut down administrative expenditure, military expenditure or to unearth the huge black money. He has targeted the common people.

But what are the reasons for this price hike? There are three main reasons for this. Firstly, the huge fiscal deficit which exceeded the budgeted target, secondly, the government policy of reducing the subsidy on welfare measures and thirdly the conditionalities of the IMF and the WTO, which the government has agreed to abide by. The union finance minister has said that the deficit has reached such a point that the burden of subsidy has to be reduced, and so the price of rice, wheat and sugar supplied through the PDS and that of LPG are to be increased. The fiscal deficit of the BJP-led government was shown as 91 thousand crore of rupees in the budget of '98-'99. Again it is being observed that in order to show less fiscal deficit the central government had been motivatedly projecting higher revenue income in the budget. The targeted revenue income has not been earned because of this higher projection on the one hand and recessionary pressure in capitalist economy on the other. The finance minister has said that already 12 thousand crore of rupees has been received less as revenue. Following the footsteps of the Congress and the UF government the BJP led government has also increased the military expenditure, and a huge sum has been spent on nuclear research programme. The union finance minister has stressed that he would not make any compromise on the question of the security of the country. But he and his cohorts in the government are least concerned about the hungry people of the country, for whom so elaborate security measures are being made. The allowances of the MPs and their secretaries and their other perquisites have been lavishly increased, and the question of budget

deficit was not raised at that time. Moreover, the burden of external and internal loans are being constantly increased and as a result 75 thousand crore of rupees are spent for interest payment alone. In a word, the expenditure incurred on the luxuries of the ministers and the bureaucrats has not only not been reduced but has been lavishly increased. The government has not made any attempt to curtail administrative expenditure. The actual revenue receipt has been less because of higher projection of revenue income in the budget, and recessionary pressure in the capitalist economy as already stated and the people of the country are not at all responsible for this less revenue receipt. But the central government has been thrusting this burden of fiscal deficit on to the shoulders of the common people. The BJP-led government is not thinking even to touch the thousands of crores of rupees of black money which is running a parallel economy in the country. To serve the interest of the capitalist class the BJP is betraying an out and out anti-people attitude and so it fails to see any other way to reduce the deficit other than curtailing the welfare measures or reducing subsidies. Along with this there is pressure from the IMF and the conditionalities of the WTO. One of the conditions of open market economy and globalisation is that the government must not maintain reduced price level through subsidies in the internal market of the country. In the conditionalities of the IMF it is clearly stipulated that the government must reduce expenditure through curtailing subsidies. All these conditionalities of the IMF are so much anti-people that the government does not dare to publish them before the people. But it is known now that the government has accepted to make the prices of commodities supplied through PDS equal to the market price, as demanded by the WTO. Sri Kusabhai Thakre, the BJP President has clearly stated that all subsidies are to be withdrawn within 2002. But the withdrawal of subsidies are being done in steps so as to "reduce the distress" of the people. As a result of recession in world oil trade, the price of petroleum has been constantly decreasing and so the import cost of petroleum has been drastically reduced, resulting in surplus to the tune of 17 thousand crore of rupees in oil pool fund. But the people of the country did not get any benefit for that. On the contrary the government is contemplating to impose cess on petrol and diesel to mobilize thousands of crores of rupees. About 5 thousand crore of rupees will be mobilized by increasing the prices of commodities supplied through ration shops. The government is trying to reduce the deficit within the limit prescribed by the IMF by mobilizing 20 thousand crore of rupees from the common people before the budget. The votaries of the Hindutva have least concern for the resultant agony and pain of the common people of the country.

Sensing popular discontent and resentment against the price rise, the Congress and even the junior partners of the central government are ventilating their protests in the media. The CPI(M) has also issued protest statements. At the call of the central trade unions a 24 hour bandh was observed in West Bengal on 8 February last.

It is no doubt urgent that in order to compel the central government to retrace its steps of hiking the prices of essential commodities a countrywide united democratic movement is to be built up. But the question is whether the parliamentary opposition parties are really wanting to develop such a countrywide democratic movement to defeat the anti-people steps of the government.

The Congress is protesting against the price hike. But has this party any moral right to do so? In the past when the Congress was in governmental power, it increased the prices through administrative fiats, bypassing parliament itself, and the BJP which was in the opposition at that time cried hoarse against that. Moreover the common people of the country are quite aware that the Congress is protesting against price hike not out of its concern for the plight of the poor and the middle class people, but for election politics and for capturing the seat of power at the Centre by hoodwinking the people. This is known to the BJP, and so, in order to blunt the edge of criticism of the Congress, the BJP is saying that it is only following the footsteps of the Congress. The partners of the BJP at the central government, who have supported a fascist party like the BJP to be installed at the Centre with calculation of power politics, are now issuing verbal protest against price rise in order to shirk their responsibility in this respect, while continuing to extend support to the BJP-led government. These partners of the BJP are trying to keep option open to join with the Congress in case of any exigency. So their opposition to price hike has nothing to do with the people's interest.

It is also painfully noticed that the parties belonging to the Left Front are also no different. The only difference between them and other parliamentary opposition parties is that they speak of mass movement much more loudly and organise meetings, demonstrations etc. routinely. The CPI(M)-led Left Front governments in states like Tripura, W. Bengal and Kerala are also increasing the prices continually. The Left Front government in West Bengal has hiked the electricity charges in an unprecedented way — not once but a number of times. All sections of the people are to bear its burden. This government has increased the price of milk. The price of LPG is hiked further by Rs. 2 in West Bengal because of the tax of the West Bengal government. Despite the decrease in the price of diesel the Left Front government has not conceded the demand of our party to reduce the bus fare. The increased fare structure still remains in vogue. The Left Front government is increasing the fees in educational institutions, hospital charges. Side by side this government led by the CPI(M) is brutally crushing the legitimate democratic movements led by our party. When such is the anti-people attitude of the CPI(M), is it really serious in building up movement against price hike?

As a result of severe crisis of capitalist economy, factories are closing down their shutters throughout the country. Thousands of retrenched industrial workers are being added to the rank of millions of the unemployed. And they are on the verge of ruination. The poor and the oppressed

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PWG showered bullets on SUCI Activists

People's War Group (PWG) has unleashed a reign of terror in the Malkangiri district of Orissa and the SUCI activists have become its target. On 6 February last PWG workers armed with AK 47 rifles made a brutal attack on local SUCI leader Comrade Biswanath Madhi at the dead of night. After intruding into his house at Kandaguda village under M.V. 79 of the district they started indiscriminate firing. While Comrade Biswanath and his daughter Raje Madhi (25) received bullets in their legs, his wife Moti (50) and son Rama (20) got bullet-hit on the chests. The injured were admitted to Malkangiri hospital. Later Moti and her son were shifted by the police to Berhampur Hospital in Ganjam district.

On the same day another group of PWG

attacked the village No 15 under Tatiguda of Kalimela Block of that district and seriously injured 15 SUCI supporters.

It may be recalled here that in Nov. '98 the same group attacked Tatiguda SUCI office and abducted 8 activists to nearby jungle and beat them mercilessly, injuring a leading Comrade Bhupesh Karmakar, making him immobile. Later on a State Committee member of the party met the State Chief Minister and the Director General of police who assured him to depute special armed force to contain the barbaric activities of the PWG.

But till date no security measure has been taken. As a result attacks on SUCI supporters by the PWG continues unabated while the custodians of law remain unmoved.

Victory Celebration of Language Movement

(Contd. from page 1)

This language movement is, in reality, a battle between the downtrodden and the power-that-be, between members of the upper crust who want to control education only for the few and towards their class interest and the members of the toiling millions who want to win access to education, knowledge and truth.

At the helm of the procession were walking some comrades with a massive red flag, the flag of the SUCI, the flag of the working class of India, symbolising the direction of this movement and urging to build up other movements on correct path of class outlook. The Komsomol members in full uniform followed. Then were walking Comrades Anil Sen, Sukomal Dasgupta, Provash Ghosh, Asit Bhattacharya, Krishna Chakraborty, all Central Committee members, and Comrades Manik Mukherjee, Ranjit Dhar, Protiva Mukherjee, Chhaya Mukherjee, all West Bengal State Secretariat members. The leaders were being followed by thousands of women members of the party and its mass organisations. Following them were peasants, agricultural labourers, workers, teachers, writers, artists, scientists and people of different professions. Nineteen tableaux were moving in the procession depicting the history of 19 years of struggle till victory has been achieved in 1998. It conveyed the history of the language movement which has in its past a far longer history that started since 1948, when our party was formed under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. It is a chronicle of strenuous struggle that has gone down in history which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh waged to fight capitalism-imperialism and tear the mask of social democracy and keep flying the flag of uncompromising class struggle and mass movement!

The victory march, with its discipline and decoration, rousing slogans and songs and call, conveying the glory of mass movement, was greeted by students of Manindra Chandra College at Shyambazar five point crossing, by the struggling evicted hawkers at Hatibagan, by students of Presidency College at College Street, by Calcutta University students at the university gate, by educationists-intellectuals including Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Dr K P Ghosh, Prof Sunanda Sanyal, Prof Ramaprosad Dey, Rathin Sen, freedom fighter, Dr Tarak Mohan Das, scientist on behalf of the All Bengal Save Education Committee, at Esplanade, and by students of Jogamaya Devi College and Muralidhar Girls' College at Hazra crossing.

As the procession approached Deshapriya Park, darkness descended with the approach of evening, street lights were lighted, and young Komsomol members braving the fatigue of long walk proceeded, as all the other participating children and youngsters, young students, young people and the aged, women of all ages, and many of whom had travelled for over 24-hours to reach Calcutta, came to the end of their long journey. For all of them, for all the toiling people the journey is unending, the journey to build up united movements, to build up people's committees, people's real alternative power, that guarantees sustained movement, which will develop more and more with mighty force. This message they spread of the victorious historic language movement.

Present situation in Russia

(Contd. from page 2)

finish off the USSR and Russia. But now the process is going on relatively slowly. Remembering the famous biblical example of the prophet, who led his people for thirty years through a desert until the last man of the old generation died, our rulers are waiting till the last man having the memory of the livelihood in the socialist state is dead. Of course, they are trying to accomplish it in less time than the prophet. But they are confounded

The situation is against them. To contain the people they take resort to different forms of swindle and deceit. They are trying to create an air as if they are bringing back those things which the Soviet people so desire – Soviet festivals, Soviet emblems, songs of Soviet days etc., the Soviet mode of life.

The latest campaign to deceive Soviet people and to cash in by using their sentiment, is the grand programme to observe the 80th anniversary of KOMSOMOL on October 29. This programme has been taken at the initiative of Russian Duma and the Communist Party of Russian Federation conducted under the patronage of "red governors", sponsored by businessmen, directors of banks etc. who were the former KOMSOMOL and party leaders. Thus we see

future cadres for the destruction of socialism come from the ranks of the nomenclatures, the top leaders of the party and KOMSOMOL.

On this day, in Moscow, Cadets, Cossacks and military cadets marched to the drumbeat on Pokalon Hill, followed by a prayer to God at the church on the same hill. The former KOMSOMOL and the party leaders, enthusiastically making the sign of cross and holding candle in hand tried conjure up the magic power of father Sergei for the essential task of putting an end to communist ideology forever. In this way, 80th anniversary of the Young Communist League was observed with a view to deviating from ideology, turning the communist organisation of youth to a non-communist one. But all were done under the cover of forms and customs of the Soviet period. This reflects the character of new social democrats of Russia.

We, the Bolsheviks, firmly believe that the victory will be ours, we work for that, we believe that in our Soviet land socialism will triumph. Because that is the inexorable course of history at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century.

3rd November 1998
City: Leningrad

N. ANDREEVA
General Secretary
CC. AUCPB

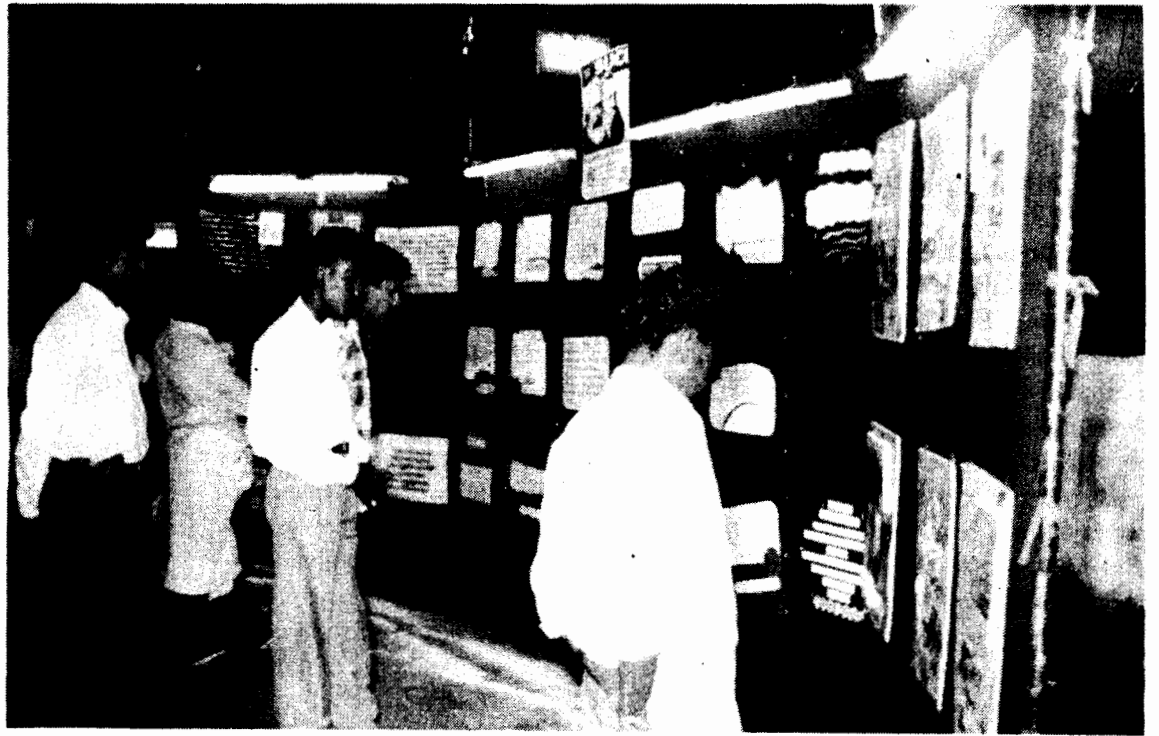


National Platform of Mass Organisations held sit-in-demonstration in Chandigarh on 3.2.99

150th anniversary of Communist Manifesto observed in Chennai

The local Organizing Committees of Central and South Chennai of our party, SUCI, organised a public meeting on the completion of the 150th anniversary of the Communist Manifesto on 23rd January at Five Lights, West Mambalam, Chennai. The meeting was presided over by Comrade K. Chandran, Secretary, South-Madras Local Organizing Committee, SUCI. The speakers were Comrades Jawahar and Elango, members, District Organizing Committee of Chennai.

The public meeting began with garlanding the portraits of Marx and Engels. In his presidential address Comrade Chandran referred to the analysis of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party, by pointing out how the world events took the course of development as predicted by the Manifesto 150 years ago. Comrade Jawahar, in his speech asked the people not to regard the Communist Manifesto as something related to trade union movement for achieving better economic benefits but to regard it as a scientific philosophical world outlook related to even finer aspects of life. Explaining several points from the Manifesto in the context of present situation he called upon the people to strengthen the mass struggles conducted by SUCI, the only genuine communist party in India, following the path shown by the Manifesto.



Quotation Exhibition held in Chennai on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Communist Manifesto

Comrade Elango who was the main speaker said in his address that many of the people of middle class claiming to be educated do not read this small book which turned world history. He added that this masterpiece is a product of life

struggle of the giant leaders, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. He appealed, to the sympathizers, supporters and party workers to intensify their life struggle in order to reestablish the truth envisaged in the Manifesto.

Protest Demonstration against Communal Attacks in Bangalore

The Bangalore District Committee of SUCI organised a massive protest demonstration on 29.1.99 near Mysore Bank Circle in the morning against the brutal attacks on minorities and the barbaric murder of Graham Steine and his two children by communalists. Hundreds of students, youth and women from all walks of life took part in the demonstration.

Addressing the gathering, District Secretary of SUCI, Comrade B R Manjunath severely condemned attack on minorities and more recently the heinous murder of missionary, Father Graham Steine and his two children. He said: "Instead of taking stringent action against the criminals, the BJP Government is engaged in giving character certificate to the criminals. It is a matter of shame that the Home Minister Sri Advani met Sri Thakre to pacify him, who is trying to 'blackmail' the country. People of the country need not learn patriotism from BJP, whose very top leader Mr Vajpayee became an approver to the British Government during the freedom movement. BJP is a communal party. That is why, they are diverting the people's attention from the real burning problems and are creating communal frenzy throughout the country. People should isolate these forces". He also cautioned against Congress which is in no way different from the BJP in pursuing anti-people policies. He called upon the people to organise movement against burning problems of people's life that alone can act as a check against communalism.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade V Gnana Murthy, member, District Secretariat of the party.

A symbol of communalism was burnt amidst thunderous slogans. Later a delegation led by Comrade B. R. Manjuath met the Governor and submitted a memorandum.

Protest Rally in Haryana

Against the anti-people policies of the state and central governments a protest rally and a sit-in-demonstration were held on 4 February at the call of the SUCI, Jhajjar District Committee before the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jhajjar. A memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister of Haryana was submitted. District and state leaders of the party and the AIKKMS spoke before the gathering. Comrade Satyaban, the State Secretary in his speech criticised the BJP-led central government for its role in amending the patent law which further opens the scope of looting the country by the MNCs. He held the policies of the governments at the Centre and the state responsible for rising of prices of sugar, urea, gas and others. Comrades Anup Singh and Rupchand, District Secretary and member of the District Committee, respectively, also spoke on the occasion, as well as Comrades Kartar Singh and Ramprosad of the AIKKMS.

Sit-in-Demonstration in Chandigarh

At the call of the national platform of the mass organisations a mass sit-in-demonstration was held at Chandigarh on 3 February last. A large number of people from all walks of life, including students, peasants and workers took out a procession on that day against spiralling prices of essential commodities including medicine and electricity and against unemployment and other burning problems of life. The procession was barricaded by the police near 'Naya Sachibalaya' of Chandigarh where the processionists sat on the road. The organisers held a meeting there which turned out to be a large mass gathering. The meeting was conducted by a Presidium comprising the leaders of different mass organisations. Comrades Satyaban and Hariprokash spoke before the gathering on behalf of AIKKMS and UTUC(LS) respectively. Others who addressed represented CITU, INTUC, Bank and LIC workers' unions.



Symbol of communalism being burnt in Bangalore

Save Education Conference in Madhya Pradesh

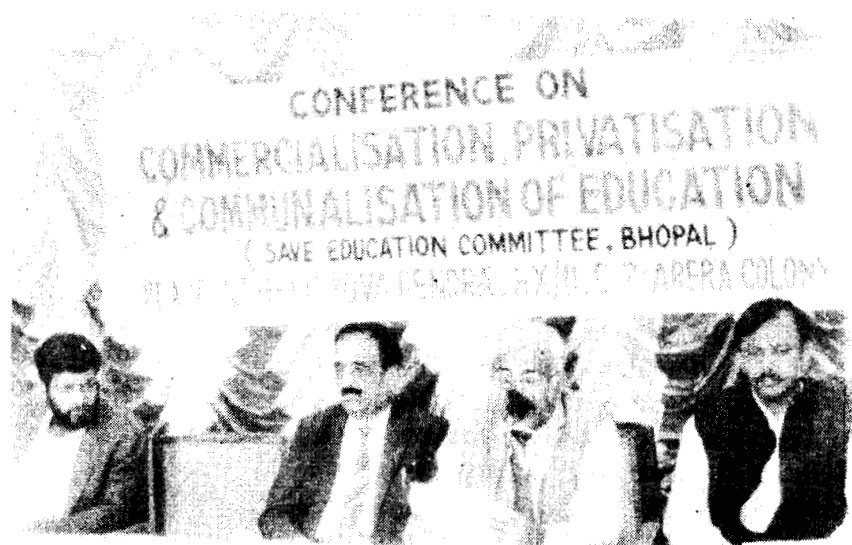
The Bhopal Unit of the All India Save Education Committee organised a conference against commercialization, privatisation, communalization of education

In this programme participants were Dr Goutam Gyanendra (HOD, Sociology, Barktullah University, Bhopal), Dr. Puran Batria (Ex. DGP, Columnist, Ex. Prof.) Prof. Ashok Ganguli (Dept. of Math, GSTI College, Indore) and AIDS0 President Comrade Pratap Samal.

The largely attended meeting was presided over by Prof. Ashok Ganguli. In his speech he strongly criticised privatisation, communalization and commercialisation.

Dr Puran Batria strongly opposed the BJP government's education policy and opposed imposition of Saraswati Bandana in schools. He strongly opposed privatisation of education and said that everybody should get education and education should be scientific. It is the duty of the government to provide education to all.

AIDS0 President Comrade Pratap Samal expressed deep concern over the present education policy. He pointed to the New Education Policy of 1986 introduced by Rajiv Gandhi government and followed by the present one and showed how dangerous it was for the students. He condemned BJP's communalization of education and said that religion shouldn't get entry into education. He stressed that in present day society students cannot acquire adequate values of life, ethics and morality through religion. In this context he cited the glorious example of the great patriot and revolutionary Saheed-e-Ajam Bhagat Singh who was an atheist. Dr. Goutam Gyanendra also placed his view points.



Conference in Bhopal against commercialization, privatisation and communalization of education

Demonstration Against Communal Attacks on Minorities

The Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee of the SUCI held a demonstration on Feb 5, '99 evening at Esplanade, opposite the Kuralagam Complex, in Parrys to protest against the growing incidents of attacks on the minorities in the country. A large number of people from all walks of life joined the demonstration. They raised slogans against the communal path being pursued by the BJP and its Sangh Parivar.

Addressing the meeting, Comrade R Baskaran showed how the country was witnessing a spate of brutal, barbaric and systematic attacks against the minority communities, particularly against Christians and their religious institutions in recent times. The latest such ghastly incident was the brutal burning to death of an Australian Christian missionary Graham Stewart Steine and his two minor sons in Orissa.

With the BJP in power at the Centre, these dark fascist forces of the Sangh Parivar and similar organisations are indulging in such premeditated inhuman acts with impunity, causing heavy injuries and humiliation to the minorities, and bringing further divisions among the toiling people on religious lines.

The BJP government, instead of quelling these barbaric acts with a strong hand, is, on the one hand going out of its way to shield the culprits and, on the other, spreading totally baseless and motivated stories not only to cover up these heinous crimes but also to justify them.

He said that there is a clear programme to foster religious fanaticism and fundamentalism with the evil design to bring about cultural fascism throughout the country, to destroy people's united movement against the onslaughts of the ruling capitalist class, and to bolster up the BJP's electoral prospects by playing the communal card yet again.

People's attention was also drawn to how the BJP government, despite its hoarse swadeshi slogans, was faithfully and systematically implementing the anti-people industrial and economic policies of previous governments. The BJP was bending over backwards to serve the ruling capitalist class by allowing free play to the forces of globalisation, liberalization and privatization, while taking policies that made huge amounts of public money available to the capitalist while depriving the common man of even basic needs of

life, cutting down expenses on social welfare measures and attacking one by one the hard-won rights of the working people, and doing nothing to control the continual price hikes which were driving common people to the extremes of despair.

The SUCI called on all people and other like-minded parties and forces to come forward to wage a powerful sustained movement throughout the country demanding an immediate halt to this sinister BJP design of dividing the Indian people on communal and religious lines.

Demonstration Against Hike in Property Tax and Poor Sanitation

The Otteri-Kosapet area units of West Chennai Local Organizing Committee of SUCI built up movements against the poor sanitary conditions prevailing at the areas and against the recent steep hike in house property tax.

Stagnation of sewage water and contamination of drinking water due to mixing of sewage water pose serious health hazards to the local people, who also suffer from lack of basic amenities for long. The local unit of SUCI took up these problems. To start with, signature campaign was conducted throughout the area. Series of street corner meetings were organized in an effective manner on 4 and 5 of January '99, which culminated in the form of a protest demonstration near Corporation office on 7 January '99 in which considerable number of local people, including women and children, participated. The demonstrators raised slogans demanding complete withdrawal of house property tax, to equip the corporation hospitals with necessary facilities, to repair the sewage lines and to build adequate number of public toilets.

Comrade S. Jawahar, the secretary of West-Chennai Local Organizing Committee, SUCI, addressed the gathering. In his speech he said that in spite of collecting crores of rupees as taxes every year, the corporation continuously fails to pay due attention to the burning problems of the people and to allocate sufficient funds to improve the sanitary conditions. Finally he demanded that the government hospitals should be equipped with all the necessary facilities.



Demonstration by SUCI activists in Chennai against communal violence on minorities

Fight against Communalization and Commercialization of Education : Call of A. P. Save Education Convention

Inaugurating the State-level convention on Education held in Gandhi Bhavan organised by Andhra Pradesh State Save Education Committee, Padmabhusan Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah in his inaugural address said that a system of education was introduced by the British in order to create educated people in India who were subservient to them. But he has also felt that some of them who took that education went on to lead freedom struggle. He lamented that at present the education system was only able to produce people with slavish mentality and highlighted the need to restructure education in such a way that would produce thinking youth who would not forget their role in the society. He said that neglect of the basic sciences, both social and natural, would lead to erosion of humanism and spread of violence and barbarism. Prof. K Chakradhar Rao in his presidential address said lack of resources could never be the cause for backwardness in the field of education. They spent crores of rupees on defence and police but not on education. Prof. Balasubrahmanian, former director, CCMB, who participated in the convention as the Chief Guest, highlighted the importance of education in all round development of a country. He said that a comparison of seven South Asian countries in terms of Human Development Index showed that Sri Lanka is on top of all other countries. The reason for this progress, he said, lies in high investment in primary and secondary education. He also explained that in Mauritius we do not

come across people dying from malaria, cholera, dengue fever and such other communicable diseases because of its required investment in education. He explained that education is power, that is why politicians fear to provide education to all.

Dr. Adapa Satyanarayana Reader in History of Osmania University dealt with dangers in distorting history. The present BJP leaders are trying to rewrite the history, they are out to communalize education. They are propagating religious intolerance and they are describing minorities as aliens and instigating violence against them. Distortion of history leads to revolts and upheavals and this is proved by the Nazis of Germany and fascists of Italy, who also tried in the past to distort history and were overthrown ultimately.

Dipankar Roy, General Secretary of All India Save Education Committee said : Education builds men, builds character. It holds light to emancipation. Education should be in possession of entire humanity and the people should have free and direct access to knowledge. In the name of privatization and commercialization efforts are made to deprive the people of access to education. Nobody has the right to restrict scope of knowledge. Another objective of education is to broaden civilization to break down all barriers and show that all humanity is one. But the present BJP government is trying to divide the people on communal basis. He called upon all students,

teachers and intellectuals to take cudgels against it.

Sri A. Narasimha Reddy, a prominent teachers' leader spoke about the need to establish a proper balance between natural and social sciences and humanities. Mr. Balakrishnamma, another prominent teachers' leader lamented the neglect of education by the successive governments and asked the people to join the movement to fight against the neglect of education.

Mr. D. Ramesh Patnaik, Secretariat member, APSEC, spoke about the danger of the vocationalisation of education. Earlier the convention condoled the death of Chaganti Somayajuly, noted writer, Dr. Shatrugna, V. R. Gopalakrishna, renowned journalists who are actively involved in the work of save education movement. Three resolutions were introduced on restructuring of Degree courses, on para teachers and school education committees and on the need to launch a mass signature campaign against the restructuring of the courses, on para-teachers and school education committees in the state. The new State Committee was formed with Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy as President, Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah, Prof. Balasubrahmanian, as Vice-Presidents, and Prof. G. Haragopal as General Secretary. Mr. M. V. Rama Rao welcomed the gathering and Mr Laxminarayana proposed the vote of thanks.

Protest March against attacks on Christians and Price hike in Patna

Protesting against the attacks on the Christian community, burning Bible copies, destruction of Churches and the recent announcement of the BJP-led central government to increase the price of foodgrains, sugar, urea and cooking gas, the Bihar state committee of SUCI organised a protest march on 6th February in Patna.

A meeting was held at Patna Junction and it was addressed by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, member of secretariat, SUCI, Bihar State Committee and Comrade Suresh Kumar, member, Patna district committee, SUCI.

Movement in Haryana

On 6th February dharnas, street corner meetings etc. were organised at Rohatak and Bhiwani in Haryana to protest against the BJP-led central government's action of hiking the prices of rationed sugar, wheat, rice fertiliser and cooking gas.

A dhama was held at Rohatak before DM's office and Comrades Anup Singh, district secretary of the party, Ram Prasad of KKMS, Rajkumar of DYO, Jeley Singh of KKMS and Kartar Singh of UTUC-LS addressed the demonstrators.

A meeting was held at Bhiwani and it was addressed by Comrades Jeley Singh, the district secretary of the party, Ramphal, member, state organising committee of the party and Rajkumar district secretary of the DYO

Save Education Convention in Chandigarh

The Save Education Committee organised a Save Education Convention on January 24 at Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Sector 15, Chandigarh to generate awareness among the public in general and teachers, educationists, intellectuals and students in particular in the northern states, to discuss all aspects pertaining to the present crisis in education. It was attended by persons from all walks of life. The main speaker Prof. Narinder Sharma, from Delhi University, gave thrust against privatisation, commercialization and degradation of education system. He warned if the education system was not taken care of, the degeneration of the society would not be stopped. He also emphasized the need to inculcate moral ethical values among the students.

The programme was chaired by Prof. H. S. Mehta, an eminent educationist and activist who stressed that our constitutional obligation still remains to be fulfilled in spite of many extensions in various five-years plans. He also emphasized that teacher-students ratio must be maintained at 1:20 and the funding must be provided by the state.

S. Baldev Singh, retired principal, stressed the need for redefining the education system as a whole. Dr Rama Rattan, an eminent social activist, said that the education system as a whole had deteriorated beyond repair, therefore the whole education system should be built up anew so that society could be saved from degeneration. Among other speakers who placed their views

were Prof. P. P. Arya, Dr. P.S. Gill, Prof. Aminder Pal Singh, Mr. S.S. Suri. The organisers gave a call to students, teachers and parents to take part in the national-level Convention going to be held on February 8-9 1999 at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi to build up a nation wide movement which is the need of the hour.

Pre-Budget Fiscal Savagery

(Contd. from page 3)

people are finding no way out. In the given situation everybody is wanting protest movement and militant movement against price hike. The parliamentary opposition parties are trying to divert this discontent into the blind alley of parliamentary politics. The CPI(M) leadership is regrettably treading the same path. If the CPI(M) leadership were really serious, they would have responded to the call of our party to build up united democratic mass movement against all the anti-people policies of the BJP-led government.

We firmly believe that building up of a countrywide left and democratic movement against all the anti-people policies of the government is the only way in the present situation, and it is only through development of a powerful left democratic movement that the anti-people policies of the government can be somewhat resisted and some relief to the people can be ensured.

UTUC-LS on 8th February Bangla Bandh

These days certain things have assumed definite patterns and certain events do occur — rather recur almost routinely. Hiking the administered price of essentials before and after budget every year is one of them — no matter the colour and creed of the party or parties in power. In unfailing adherence to the line of its predecessors — the Saffron Brigade too, as part of pre-budget exercise — faithfully carried out the annual ritual of announcing fresh hike in prices of rice, wheat, sugar and cooking gas hitting, as usual, the weaker millions hardest.

True to its class commitment the UTUC-LS voiced strong protest against this anti-people decision, demanding its immediate withdrawal. Wasting no moment the UTUC-LS, in a general call, alerted all its units throughout the country to prepare the workers at all levels — shop, floor, plant and industry alike — for a forceful movement against the heinous design. Efforts were also initiated by UTUC-LS to explore possibilities of a joint movement with other central trade unions.

On 1.2.99 West Bengal unit of INTUC gave, somewhat abruptly, a strike call on 8-2-99 on this issue. On the same day a similar call for a one-day strike on 12-2-99 — roughly on the same issue came, now from the West Bengal unit of the Congress party.

In this background, all left trade unions of West Bengal, more correctly the constituents of the National Platform of Mass Organisations — met on 2nd February '99 to decide upon a broadbased movement programme aiming at maximum participation. With this overriding importance of a larger movement in view the W.Bengal INTUC, too, was invited to the meeting. It need be mentioned here that since seventies in West Bengal, the INTUC — though not always — have joined joint-movement on common issues with the left trade unions and has emerged as a special phenomenon here. In the joint meeting of 2nd February the INTUC shared the view of the left trade unions in building up a wider joint movement. Expressing unanimity with the general view of the left trade unions that a joint-movement on a larger scale alone can bring the right amount of pressure to bear upon the government, the INTUC agreed to be its co-sponsor. Under the changed condition created by the new combination of participants — a question came up for a consensus date, other than 8th February, declared earlier by INTUC as part of its own independent organisational decision. The INTUC did not take the point amiss and was not averse to a change in favour of a common agreed date. However, when stock of the situation was taken from all angles and other relevant points were duly weighed the constituents unanimously decided to leave the date of 8th February unaltered.

A point is worth noting here. During the discussion in the joint meeting on 2nd February, a CITU enthusiast, referring to the strike call on 12th February, by the West Bengal Congress, made a point that if an all-India strike against the central government could be initiated under the call of Mrs Sonia Gandhi all would extend their support to it. Comrade Sankar Saha, State Secretary of

the UTUC-LS attending the meeting, stood in protest and emphatically opposed the view. With pointed reference to the bitter experiences of the past, he held that the Congress was the very party responsible for dislodging and systematically dismantling the entire structure of public distribution mechanism true to the spirit of new economic policy launched by it and provisions of new GATT. It was again the Congress which was the first to introduce the practice of pre and post budget hikes in administered prices of essentials gradually imparting to it a routine regularity bypassing even the Parliament. "Can they have any moral right to oppose a thing which is the result of their own doing and should we support

UTUC-LS was concerned. Pointedly and unequivocally he re-iterated that the Congress which was at the root of all the evils, we see manifesting today, had no moral right to have any say or do anything against the BJP which is only carrying out the Congress-brief with their predecessors' practised case finding it fitting in well with their own agenda. He did not mince words to make clear that CITU might by having its own reasons to feel encouraged towards the Congress but that is absolutely not the position with the UTUC-LS. The press took due note of his rejoinder and covered it well in their reports next morning.

An excerpt from the Telegraph dated 9-2-99 read, "Before he could finish Sankar Saha, a spokesman from the SUCI-controlled UTUC-Lenin Sarani shouted back 'The Congress which has ruined the country with its economic policy, has no moral right to call an All India strike.' Saha refused to be stopped by others at the conference." "It is simply not possible to go along with the Congress for a joint movement against BJP". Comrade Saha was quoted saying. The Statesman, too, reports: "Mr Sankar Saha (mis-quoted Guha) of UTUC(Lenin Sarani) immediately reacted to the suggestion by saying that his trade union would not join a strike sponsored by the Congress which 'has no moral right to organise a strike against hike in prices of essential commodities'".

The UTUC-LS, no doubt, advocates the line of maximum participation in the joint movement but it, at the same time cautions, that does not mean sacrificing its accepted working class political line to the detriment of cause and interest of them. It is this confusion that has led many struggles into the blind alley. The workers must be on guard on this fundamental.

President's Rule in Bihar Condemned

Strongly condemning the imposition of President's rule in Bihar, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 12.2.99.

"No doubt repeated murders of dalit agricultural workers by landowners gentry, Ranabir Sena, is a cruel crime continued unabated under the regime of RJD government, which deserves severe condemnation and demands strong measures to stop this barbaric murders.

"But on this plea imposition of Article 356 is a brazen violation of democratic norms by BJP-led central government. We oppose imposition of President's rule in Bihar and demand positive steps to stop ghastly murders of the agricultural workers and severe punishment of the criminals."

the pretensions of a party ... responsible for the sin!", he wondered. A section of the press reported, though very briefly and casually, UTUC-LS's opposition to the CITU stand, holding brief for the Congress.

However, in playing its due role in the joint movement, the UTUC-LS took all initiatives possible within the brief span of time to actuate the workers towards an all-out participation at every level of their collective existence, viz., floor, shop, factory, plant and industry levels — exposing not only the anti-people character of the BJP as inherent in all these anti-people measures but explaining therewith how in methods and goals — both the BJP and the Congress are but the two sides of the same counter-feit coin. It called upon the workers to make the strike a grand success. Successful — really it turned out to be for which UTUC-LS congratulated the people of West Bengal.

The state leadership of the constituents of the joint movement met the press on 8th February when an euphoric president of West Bengal CITU went back to the refrain of an all India strike under Mrs Sonia Gandhi's call with all central trade unions supporting it. Comrade Sankar Saha, representing the UTUC-LS reacted sharply to the statement absolutely ruling out any joint movement with the Congress in it insofar as

Joint programme of Left parties in Bihar

Seven left parties, namely the SUCI, CPI, CPI(M), RSP, FB, MCPI and MCCI assembled against the indiscriminate hike of prices of foodgrains, cooking gas and urea in Patna on 9th February. A joint procession was organised on the occasion from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Park near Gandhi Maidan. The procession marched through the Exhibition Road, Fraser Road, Dak Banglow Square before reaching the Patna junction where a day long dharna was organised in front of the railway station premises. State level leaders of the abovementioned parties who led the procession addressed a meeting on the spot. On behalf of the SUCI, Bihar state committee, Comrade Arun Kumar Singh and on behalf of the SUCI, Patna district committee, Comrade Suresh Kumar delivered their speeches.

Comrade Arun Kumar Singh severely condemned the anti-people policies of the central government and firmly asserted that fascist designs cannot be thwarted simply by the formation of a non-BJP government at the Centre. Instead, it is incumbent upon all well-meaning people to unite and launch powerful and sustained mass movements against anti-people and fascist onslaughts.

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