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Stalin on Specific Features of LENINIST PARTY



In the prerevolutionary period, the period of more or less peaceful development, when the parties of Second International were the predominant force in the working-class movement and parliamentary forms of struggle were regarded as the principal forms, the Party neither had nor could have had that great and decisive importance which it acquired afterwards, under conditions of open revolutionary battle...in the days when the opportunists of the Second International were in the ascendancy, it was not the party but its parliamentary group that was the chief political organization of the proletariat. It is well known that the party at that time was really an appendage and subsidiary of the parliamentary group. It goes without saying that under such circumstances and with such a party at the helm there could be no question of preparing the proletariat for revolution...

...Hence the necessity for a new party, a militant party, a revolutionary party, one bold enough to lead the proletarians in the struggle for power,

sufficiently experienced to find its bearings amidst the complex conditions of a revolutionary situation, and sufficiently flexible to steer clear of all submerged rocks in the path to its goal.

Without such a party it is useless even to think of overthrowing imperialism and achieving the dictatorship of the proletariat.

This new party is the party of Leninism.

What are the specific features of this new party ?

1. *The Party as the vanguard of the working class.* The Party must be, first of all, the *vanguard* of the working class. The Party must absorb all the best elements of the working class, their experience, their revolutionary spirit, their selfless devotion to the cause of the proletariat. But in order that it may really be the vanguard, the Party must be armed with revolutionary theory, with a knowledge of the laws of the movement, with a knowledge of the laws of revolution. Without this it will be incapable of

directing the struggle of the proletariat, of leading the proletariat. The Party cannot be a real party if it limits itself to registering what the masses of the working class feel and think, if it drags at the tail of the spontaneous movement, if it is unable to overcome the inertness and the political indifference of the spontaneous movement, if it is unable to rise above the momentary interests of the proletariat, if it is unable to elevate the masses to the understanding of the class interests of the proletariat. The Party must stand at the head of the working class ; it must see further than the working class; it must lead the proletariat, and not

follow in the tail of the spontaneous movement...

...Only a party which realizes that it is the vanguard of the proletariat and is able to elevate the masses to the understanding of the class interests of the proletariat - only such a party can divert the working class from the path of trade unionism and convert it into an independent political force.

The Party is the political leader of the working class... No army at war can dispense with an experienced General Staff if it does not want to be doomed to certain defeat. Is it not clear that the proletariat can still less dispense with such a General Staff if it does not want to give itself up to be devoured by its mortal enemies? But where is this General Staff? Only the revolutionary party of the proletariat can serve as this General Staff. The working class without a revolutionary party is an army without a General Staff.

The Party is the General Staff of the proletariat.

But the Party cannot be only a *vanguard* detachment. It must at the same time be a detachment of the *class*, part of the class, closely bound up with it by all the fibre of its being. The distinction between the vanguard and the main body of the working class, between Party members and non-Party people, cannot disappear until classes disappear; it will exist as long as the ranks of the proletariat continue to be replenished with newcomers from other classes, as long as the working class as a whole is not in a position to rise to be level of the vanguard. But the Party would cease to be a party if this distinction were

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The US President Bill Clinton, the leader of the imperialist camp is coming to India on March 20 next. The imperialist motive behind this visit is quite clear. President Clinton is coming to this country to further rope in India in the grand design of the US imperialists for global dominance.

CLINTON GO BACK

True to its past record the BJP, the political successor to the Jan Sangh and the Hindu Maha Sabha, is going to extend red carpet welcome to this Clinton, the enemy of mankind and civilisation. In keeping with the aspiration of the Indian capitalist class the BJP-led government at the Centre is opening up the internal market of this country for ruthless plundering by the imperialist multinationals through joint ventures with the Indian counterparts. When vast multitude of the Indian people are facing acute-unemployment, lack of nutrition, basic health care and even formal education, when majority of them face destitution, poverty, hunger and death and when 40 per cent of the world poor are Indian, one can well imagine what the plight of the Indian people would be after further ruthless plundering by the imperialist multinationals. The attack is not restricted only to the economic field ; the BJP-led government is giving scope to the US imperialists for cultural invasion. This government is privatising education and allowing even foreign capital in the field of education, opening thereby the scope of infiltration of vile and decadent imperialist culture in the society. Even before coming to the governmental power the BJP maintained close rapport with the US imperialists, and now being installed in the governmental power the BJP wants the US imperialists as its close ally in serving the interest of the Indian capitalist class. The US imperialists, on the other hand, want India's support in their global diplomacy and military strategy. In return of this support, they are willing to help India if this country stands by their diplomatic and military manoeuvres in establishing their global hegemony, and further open up Indian market by pursuing the policy of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. In its desire to serve the interest of the aspirant capitalist class of India for further penetration in world market and further exploitation of the same and to emerge as an undisputed superpower in this region with the US backing, the BJP is ready to go in collusion with

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(Contd. from page 1)

widened into a gap, if it shut itself up in its own shell and became divorced from the non-Party masses. The Party cannot lead the class if it is not connected with the non-party masses, if there is no bond between the Party and the non-Party masses, if these masses do not accept its leadership, if the Party enjoys no moral and political credit among the masses. ...

...The Party is an inseparable part of the working class.

"We", says Lenin, "are the Party of a class, and therefore *almost the entire class* (and in times of war, in the period of civil war, the entire class) should act under the leadership of our Party, should adhere to our Party as closely as possible. ... No sensible Social-Democrat has ever yet doubted that under capitalism even the trade union organizations (which are more primitive and more comprehensible to the undeveloped strata) are unable to embrace the entire, or almost the entire, working class. To forget the distinction between the vanguard and the whole of the masses which gravitate towards it, to forget the constant duty of the vanguard to *raise* ever wider strata to this most advanced level, means merely to deceive oneself, to shut one's eyes to the immensity of our tasks, and to narrow down these tasks." (See Vol. VI, pp. 205-06)

2. *The Party as the organized detachment of the working class.* The Party is not only the *vanguard* detachment of the working class. If it desires really to direct the struggle of the class it must at the same time be the *organized* detachment of its class. The Party's tasks under the conditions of capitalism are immense and extremely varied. The Party must direct the struggle of the proletariat under the exceptionally difficult conditions of internal and external development; it must lead the proletariat in the offensive when the situation calls for an offensive; it must lead the proletariat in retreat when the situation calls for retreat in order to ward off the blows of a powerful economy; it must imbue the millions of unorganized non-Party workers with the spirit of discipline and system in the struggle, with the spirit of organization and endurance. But the Party can fulfil these tasks only if it is itself the embodiment of discipline and organization, if it is itself the *organized* detachment of the proletariat. Without these conditions there can be no talk of the Party really leading the proletarian millions.

The Party is the organized detachment of the working class.

The conception of the Party as an organized whole is embodied in Lenin's well-known formulation of the first paragraph of our Party Rules, in which the Party is regarded as the *sum total* of its organizations, and the Party member as a member of one of the organizations of the Party. The Mensheviks, who objected to this formulation as early as 1903, proposed to substitute for it a "system" of self-enrolment in the Party, a "system" of conferring the "little" of Party member upon every "professor" and "high-school student," upon every "sympathizer" and "striker" who supported the Party in one way or another, but who did not join and did not want to join any one of the Party organizations. It need, hardly be proved that had this singular "system" become firmly entrenched in our Party it would inevitably have led to our Party becoming inundated with professors and high-school students and to its degeneration into loose, amorphous, disorganized "formation," lost in a sea of "sympathizers," that would have obliterated

STALIN ON LENINIST PARTY

the dividing line between the Party and the class and would have upset the Party's task of elevating the unorganized masses to the level of the vanguard. Needless to say, under such an opportunist "system" our Party would have been unable to fulfil the role of the organizing nucleus of the working class in the course of our revolution. ...

...But the Party is not merely the *sum total* of Party organisations. The party at the same time represents a single *system* of these organisations, their formal amalgamation into a single whole, with higher and lower bodies, with subordination of the minority to the majority, with practical decisions binding on all members of the Party. Without these conditions the Party cannot be a single organised whole capable of exercising systematic and organised leadership in the struggle of the working class.

"Formerly," says Lenin, "our Party was not a formally organized whole but only the sum of separate groups, and therefore, no other relations except those of ideological influence were possible between these groups. Now we have become an organized Party, and this implies the establishment of authority, the transformation of the power of ideas into the power of authority, the subordination of lower Party bodies to higher Party bodies (See Vol. VI, p. 291.)

The principle of the minority submitting to the majority, the principle of directing Party work from a centre, not infrequently gives rise to attacks on the part of wavering elements, to accusations of "bureaucracy," "formalism," etc. It need hardly be proved that systematic work by the Party, as one whole, and the directing of the struggle of the working class would have been impossible if these principles had not been adhered to. Leninism in the organizational question means unswerving application of these principles. Lenin terms the fight against these principles "Russian nihilism" and "aristocratic anarchism," deserving only of being ridiculed and swept aside....

3. *The Party as the highest form of class organization of the proletariat.* The Party is the organized detachment of the working class. But the Party is not the only organization of the working class. The proletariat has also a number of other organizations, without which it cannot properly wage the struggle against capital: trade unions, cooperative societies, factory organizations, parliamentary groups, non-Party women's associations, the press, cultural and educational organizations, youth leagues, revolutionary fighting organizations (in times of open revolutionary action), Soviets of deputies as the form of state organization (if the proletariat is in state power), etc. The overwhelming majority of these organizations are non-Party, and only some of them adhere directly to the Party, or represent its offshoots. All these organizations, under certain conditions, are absolutely necessary for the working class, for without them it would be impossible to consolidate the class positions of the proletariat in the diverse spheres of struggle; for without them it would be impossible to steel the proletariat as the force whose mission it is to replace the bourgeois order by the socialist order. But how can single leadership be exercised with

such an abundance of organizations? What guarantee is there that this multiplicity of organizations will not lead to divergency in leadership? It might be argued that each of these organizations carries on its work in its own special field, and that therefore these organizations cannot hinder one another. This, of course, is true. But it is also true that all these organizations should work in one direction for they serve *one* class, the class of the proletarians. The question then arises: who is to determine the line, the general direction, along which the work of all these organizations is to be conducted? Where is that central organization which is not only able, because it has the necessary experience, to work out such a general line, but, in addition, is in a position, because it has sufficient prestige, to induce all these organizations to carry out this line, so as to attain unity of leadership and to preclude the possibility of working at cross purposes?

This organization is the Party of the proletariat.

The Party possesses all the necessary qualifications for this because, in the first place, it is the rallying centre of the finest elements in the working class, who have direct connections with the non-Party organizations of the proletariat and very frequently lead them; because, secondly, the Party, as the rallying centre of the finest members of the working class, is the best school for training leaders of the working class, capable of directing every form of organization of their class; because, thirdly, the Party, as the best school for training leaders of the working class, is, by reason of its experience and prestige, the *only* organization capable of centralizing the leadership of the struggle of the proletariat, thus transforming each and every non-Party organization of the working class into an auxiliary body and transmission belt linking the Party with the class.

The Party is the highest form of class organization of the proletariat. ...

...That is why Lenin says that the Party is "the *highest* form of proletarian class organisation," whose political leadership must extend to every other form of organisation of the proletariat. (See Vol. XXV, p. 194)

That is why the opportunist theory of the "independence" and "neutrality" of the non-Party organizations, which breeds *independent* members of parliament and journalists *isolated* from the Party, *narrow-minded* trade unionists and cooperative-society officials *grown smug and philistine*, is wholly incompatible with the theory and practice of Leninism.

4 *The Party as the instrument of the dictatorship of the proletariat.* The Party is the highest form of organization of the proletariat. The Party is the principal guiding force within the class of the proletarians and among the organizations of that class. But it does not by any means follow from this that the Party can be regarded as an end in itself, as a self-sufficient force. The Party is not only the highest form of class association of the proletarians; it is at the same time an *instrument* in the hands of the proletariat *for* achieving the dictatorship when that has not yet been achieved and *for* consolidating and expanding the dictatorship when it has already been achieved. The Party could not have risen so high in importance and could not have overshadowed all other forms of organization of the proletariat, if the latter had not

(Contd. on page 6)

Constitutional review on the plea of stability

— BJP's sinister design

The BJP has been clamouring for stability of government. Seeing that the fractured polity is returning hung parliaments, giving no possibility for a single party to have parliamentary majority it is now for a 'constitutional review' for the ostensible purpose of stability. The party, for some time, was airing the view that a government, once formed, must run for the full 5-year term. It has been trying to win the support of the people by pretending concern for their hardships because of frequent elections. It is fairly well-known to all that the BJP was no less unscrupulous to anyhow stay in government by placating AIDMK, its partner, the leader of which was accused of high corruptions and for that lending the Centre's backing to obstruct the due process of law.

At first the BJP was toying with the idea of presidential form of government which was hawked in the past also by Sm. Indira Gandhi. They suggested this in the agenda for the Review Committee through a 'background paper' prepared by the saffronite intellectuals, as reported in the press (*The Statesman*, 30 January).

The issue caused sharp conflict of opinions between the President Mr. K.R. Narayanan and the Prime Minister Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee at the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Constitution on the Republic Day. Some of the national dailies have questioned the propriety of the President's behavior of openly opposing the government's viewpoints represented by the Prime Minister, who spoke first. In the editorial comments they point out that deformity of the Constitution can be brought about by amendments or reforms as was shown by the Congress under Sm. Gandhi's leadership in 1975 when the emergency rule was clamped denying even the right to life not to speak of freedom of speech and of the press. They however admit that but for the constitutional position of the President, Mr. Narayanan was well within his legal and constitutional rights to differ from the proposal of 'constitutional review' agenda in the Election Manifesto of the BJP-led NDA; initiated and argued by Mr. Vajpayee the Prime Minister at that Jubilee celebration.

It was never questioned as to whether the Jubilee celebration of the Constitution was the proper forum or place to hawk what was in the agenda of the ruling party in the election manifesto. Secondly do these dailies suggest that if deformity of the Constitution could be effected by the Congress before, by amendments or reforms, why should the BJP be opposed to do this by the 'Constitutional Review' by Mr. Narayanan, the Head of the state?

Where they differed — where they agreed

The main thrust of Mr. Vajpayee's speech was on stability. The plausible reason for misdirecting the people was urgent necessity for speedy economic development. The people have grown impatient because of deprivation for long. It was not spelt out that the speedy development held out was on the line of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation that has caused closure of more than five lakh factories, throwing into the streets millions of working people and poses danger of job security to many more millions in banks, insurance, iron and steel, power

and other sectors. The other compelling need alluded to was removal of regional and social imbalances. Mr. Vajpayee, the Prime Minister did not forget to assure that "basic structure and core ideals of the Constitution" would be maintained. He might have shown his awareness of the Supreme Court's judgement in the Keshavananda Bharati case of 1973 but would he be able to make the people forget the experience of emergency rule in 1975, despite this judgement and the sorry spectacle of the highest court found helpless to remove the gross perversity of the emergency rule.

Mr. Narayanan, on the other hand, preferred parliamentary system to continue as it provides "vent for discontent and frustration." His advice, correctly interpreted, was so long the people remain under the misconception that change of government will change their lot, they would rather wait for bad government to fall shortly than thinking about social upheavals. And all their 'discontent' and 'frustration' will be vented through ballots. His main thrust was 'responsibility' and 'accountability' instead of a system "which prefers stability", mentioning specifically the presidential system.

The point of agreement was the restiveness of the working people facing ruination due to ever mounting attacks of moribund capitalism because of unprecedented all round crisis, insoluble within the system. The point of difference was what was the better means to keep millions upon millions of exploited and oppressed enchained in the old and outgrown capitalist system the fountainhead of all the evils tormenting their lives.

The Congress had no reason to oppose other than maintaining the show of parliamentary opposition nor had it any moral right after putting to test emergency rule, 'committed administration' and 'committed judiciary' etc. Still it saw in it the move to "saffronise and communalise the political system". The CPI(M), CPI and all others came in support of the President's viewpoints.

Subsequent developments

As a subsequent development, the Union Law Minister, Mr. Ram Jethmalani tried to diffuse the tension at his press conference, the next day, 27th, by holding that the conflict between the President and the Prime Minister was the creation of the press and that there was unanimity between the two as to the need of constitutional reforms. As per his announcement, later under the presidentship of the former Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice M. N. Venkatachalaiah, a 11-member constitutional Review Committee has been decided to be formed to submit to report by one year. In order to reconcile with the views of the President it has been asked to confine its findings "within the framework of a parliamentary system". That is to say, the original idea of a presidential type has been presently abandoned. Secondly, as the press report goes (*The Statesman*, 2 February, 2000) mention of "socio-economic development" caters to the President's observation that the social content is one of the most significant qualities of the Constitution. Obviously there is a tactical manoeuvre to keep the President in good humour

as also to rope in the support of the Congress for maintaining two-thirds support at the House.

The hint from the Congress was that it was not averse to review, provided specific areas were delineated and there was no "hidden" agenda. One of the spokesmen of the BJP has said: "It is clear they (the Congress) have realised the need for amendments after a thorough study and review". (*The Telegraph*, 5 February)

The plea of stability — what for ?

The people need to understand the real reasons for instability of government at the Centre. It lies in the ever-growing instability in the economic base of moribund capitalism. The world capitalist system is struck in the morass of deepening recession. To get out of it, the policy of globalisation has been resorted to. Instead of abetting the crisis this policy accentuated it. By accelerating loss of jobs and earnings in lakhs the crisis of market is being made more complex. The severe instability of market has grounded industrial investment almost to a halt. The highly technology based production requiring high cost of production has made adequate return on capital very much uncertain. As a natural sequence, when investment of capital entails high risk, excess capital had become speculative and usurious in nature.

This is bound to reflect in the political field. Single party rule has become a thing of the past in the country. Coalition with disparate parties and forces, somehow to form a government, resorting to most unscrupulous politics has become the pattern of the day. The growth and assertion of regional capitals, in conflict and collusion with monopoly capital for larger share in regional or national market get reflected in the regional parties which have become important partners of such coalition. Pulls and counterpulls between the coalition partners for the government's fiscal resources, extorted from the people, and for share in market for respective capitalist groups and the division of the monopolists into different chambers of commerce, each a pressure lobby of a particular group, for the same purposes carry the seed of instability. No amount of constitutional reforms other than a constitutional dictatorship can bring the much trumpeted stability of government.

Further, stability of government in a moribund capitalist order that has proved its incapability to solve let alone the basic problems but even to provide urgent reliefs cannot be any solace to the long deprived exploited and oppressed multitude. It only ensures stability of their wretched condition, dire poverty and utter helplessness.

BJP's call for stability — mischievous motive behind

In this background, the BJP's constant harping on stability of government and the eagerness for a 'constitutional review' will have to be judged. The people have learnt from their hard experiences that the governments of different political parties have come with promises galore but not an iota of their burning problems has been solved, rather those have become more unbearable. So, the BJP has other motive when it

Stability of government NO solace to oppressed multitude

(Contd. from page 3)

tells that the government's exercise on constitutional review is above board and that those who oppose are peeved because the present coalition wants to usher in some significant changes. But it fails to dispel the suspicion of discerning persons including a large section of the legal world.

We hold it is a deliberate move to dupe the masses to win their support, adopting the fascist means and method. The infights within the coalition reflective of sharpening of rivalries between the monopolist groups as also of other group interests of the capitalist class in the context of worsening condition in moribund capitalist system does not assure a full 5-year term of the government, however much BJP wants to stay in power to work out its agenda. So, the BJP's motive should not be missed. If they do not succeed immediately to have the two-third majority in parliament, it wants to create a support base among the people by propaganda, the media have taken up zealously. This support of confused and misdirected masses will be capitalised for parliamentary benefits. The BJP's motive is not restricted there. It is raising the slogan of a 'strong state' instead of the present 'soft' one. This is actuated by a design. The ruling monopolist class is mortally afraid of the

upsurge of people's indignation finding concrete shape in organised movements on urgent demands. Fascist method, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us, is not simply naked repression. It has a dual face. It starts with persuasion and ends with repression when a large sections of people find in the latter nothing objectionable, join in it with the false notion of being a necessary means for their salvation. It means creating illusion and a dangerous illusion at that of finding solution of problems in their life within the moribund capitalist system, gasping for life.

Parliamentarism cannot, only the mass movement can show the way

We would urge the people to ponder deeply over the justifiability of their reliance on parliamentary solution of their problems. They are to be reminded, parliament grew up as the political superstructure at the competitive stage of capitalism. It earned honour and prestige because of its role in social changes. Today, at this stage of monopoly finance capital and unprecedented all out crisis of capitalism it has become a facade, a showpiece of bourgeois democracy. The much vaunted pluralism has been reduced to representation of only those who stand in defence of the status quo and of set pattern of thinking. The voice of the exploited and the oppressed has

no place. Legislative deliberations have been curtailed and made a routine one. The electoral system, severely tailored, allows even to contest at high cost, possible for those blessed with the support of blackmoney. And the electoral process is riddled with unspeakable corrupt practices. Capitalism, tossed about by the nature of crisis inconceivable before cannot ensure justice to the people even from the highest judiciary of the land. All the organs of the capitalist state, the executive, the legislature and the judiciary stand committed to guard and preserve it. Centralisation and fascisation of power have become the usual feature. The BJP's ultimate aim to bring about fascist rule through the means of constitutional dictatorship is being covered up by its insistence on constitutional review to befool the masses.

We call upon the people, in this concrete context, to shed their parliamentary illusion. They have for them the only course left, the course of united militant country-wide sustained movement on their concrete demands. On them rests the responsibility to guard, preserve and extend further the democratic rights and practices.

We hope, the rank and file members of all the left and democratic parties and forces will prove their devotion to people's cause when it is under most fierce attack and join the people's movement to make it irresistible. We trust all right thinking freedom-loving democratic minded persons will take up the cause with the sincerity, it deserves.

Rise up against fascist vandalism!

What happened in Varanasi to stop shooting of the film "Water" directed by Deepa Mehta should be a matter of shame to every Indian who has a democratic conscience. The script of the film got the clearance of the censor board, some portions of which had also to be deleted to appease the Hindu zealots. It means the union government should not have any objection to its shooting and filming. The theme is said to be the deplorable condition and indignity of the widows who passed their lives in Varanasi during the 30's. What right had the fascist vandals of the RSS and the VHP to disturb shooting, humiliate the actors and actresses and even to threaten their lives — is the most pertinent question. The BJP both at the Centre and in the state must answer to prove its claim to governance. What could be the cause of anger? Was the film pricking the bubble of the claim of superiority of a particular religion when that very religion and the sanctity of the holy place like Varanasi become the instrument for heaping indignity on widows?

No sensible person can support obscenity in any form in a film or media. The point to be noted however, is that these Hindutva zealots were never seen to oppose systematic dissemination of obscenity and vulgarity in films and all other mediums of information although this is destroying the moral fibre in the society.

The duplicity was clear and open. The UP government under the BJP showed up 'benevolent neutrality' up to a point, i.e. disturbance of shooting for fifteen days causing financial loss to the tune of about Rs.3 crore. "And finally ordered the company to pack up on the ostensible plea of law and order".

In the words of a national daily: the politics of fascism threatens the rule of law. (*The Statesman*, 8 February)

While all such barbarities were being perpetrated, the police stood by and watched when it was incumbent on them to come in active help of the victims — the film company and all those associated with it. The police made them chargeable on count of abetment under section 306 of the IPC. How could they dare doing that without clear assurance from the state government with impunity.

It is, therefore, a grave affront not only to cultural and artistic freedom

but to the very practice of democracy, understandable to a civilised mind. The Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh has offered his state for shooting of the film under full protection from the attacks of the Sangh Parivar outfits. Deepa Mehta is willing to complete the remaining shooting at Maheswar in Khargone district. The Kashi Sanskriti Raksha Sangharsh Samiti (KSRSS) a nomde plume of the fascist outfits has threatened to carry its vandalism there. Mr. Gaurishankar Shegwar, the BJP leader in Madhya Pradesh Assembly brought the dirty move to light by saying: "By daring the RSS, VJP, Bajrangdal and the BJP... Digvijay Singh is actually provoking them to agitate and stop the shooting". How can he be in a legislative assembly? It has come to the press, that in the coming Bihar assembly poll, number of criminals as candidates is the highest in the BJP. It seems, the process started long before. Those who are criminals by their acts and behaviour dare claim the right to govern the country. Would the people allow this? Who can forget similar affront on culture and artistic freedom that took place during the Congress regime which Mr. Singh, tries to hide by his act of sympathy for the film people. We warn the people against the trap of calling the Congress good and the BJP bad. It is petty politicking for parliamentary benefits. We call upon the people to be alert about the fascist danger raising its head with disastrous consequences, if not nipped in the bud. Now is the time to unite and demand and do everything to stop fascist vandalism. Now is the time to question the very fascist move of removing ban on joining the RSS by the government employees as was done in Gujarat. It is obviously to raise fascist force to perpetrate the dastardly deeds, they have been doing to tarnish the image of the country to community of nations since the BJP came to power.

The BJP's duplicity of fascist technique is now crystal clear. Let the people rise up against the fascist design. Don't allow the fascists to act as 'super censor', the guardian of morality, the arbiter of law and justice. Let them strengthen the faces of sanity, democratic norms and values demanding of the union government to guarantee democratic rights and freedom. Else it must go. The country and its people cannot be allowed to be held at ransom by the fascists on the rise to defend moribund capitalism at its worst sort of crisis.

CLINTON GO BACK

(Contd. from page 1)

the US imperialists. The Congress had started this policy in the interest of the capitalist class but the BJP is doing it more speedily and more intensely. In lure of playing this role and also for getting some scum from the US imperialists the BJP-led government is going whole hog to welcome this chieftain of imperialism — the arch enemy of mankind and civilisation by riding roughshod over the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people. The BJP is even shamelessly trying to project President Clinton as the sentinel of democracy and peace, taking advantage of absence of countrywide powerful democratic mass movement. A section of the intelligentsia, the hired columnists and the electronic media are dishing out misinformation to help the BJP in this game. But nothing could be further from truth. The naked truth is that imperialism, headed by the US imperialism, is the gravest enemy of mankind and civilisation.

Since the end of the second world war the US imperialists have been striving to establish their supremacy over the entire world by all possible means. In this game the Pentagon and the CIA are pressed into service in intrigues, interferences and subversions in the internal affairs of the sovereign countries. The Pentagon has directly been intervening in the Latin American countries, in Southeast Asian countries, in the Middle East and other parts of the globe. The Pentagon had directly overthrown duly elected governments and installed puppet regimes in a number of countries. The US imperialists have been fomenting and inciting local and partial wars in different parts of the globe. But after the dismantling of the socialist camp whatever restraining factor was there has become absent and the US imperialists have gone berserk.

Since his ascendancy to the post of the president of the USA Clinton, representing US imperialism, has been engaged in worst form of criminal activities one after another. He is behaving like a bull in China shop among the countries of the world. He is bullying and attacking other countries which are resisting to toe the line of the US imperialists. He launched murderous missile attacks on sovereign countries like Afghanistan, Sudan and Libya on the plea of annihilating terrorist activities. It is indeed a cruelest joke since the US imperialists have been aiding and abetting terrorist groups and nurtured terrorism in different countries to further their imperialist interest. This terrorism so long tenderly nurtured by the US imperialists has now become Frankenstein in some cases. Pointing out such cases, the USA is trying to pose itself as a champion to fight against terrorism. This posture is only to confuse the people. The reality is, the USA is a number one terrorist state.

Every now and then Clinton is threatening socialist Cuba besides continuing inhuman economic sanction against that country. Socialist Cuba is subjected to the US intrigues and subversions. President Clinton is threatening socialist North Korea with dire consequences. He despatched a marauding army in Somalia which

murdered, tortured and raped innumerable Somalian people. The US imperialists have arbitrarily imposed no fly zones over the sovereign state of Iraq and they have been periodically bombing that country causing death and destruction to the Iraqi people and their property. The US is responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children for want of baby food and medicines which Iraq has been debarred from importing as dictated by the inhuman economic sanction imposed on that country by the imperialists headed by the US after the Gulf War. The US imperialists used the UN as rubber stamp for waging war on other countries as in Iraq and in Kosovo, it totally bypassed the UN.

Clinton's hand is stained with blood in the war against Yugoslavia. He pursued burn-all, destroy-all and kill-all policy in Kosovo. He has made thousands of children orphans, killed and maimed thousands of people, and made tens of thousands of people shelterless. Hospitals, educational institutions, churches, residential complexes and even embassies were not spared from bomb attacks in Kosovo. The US imperialists are fomenting and fostering ethnic conflicts, nationality conflicts and strifes and in the plea of peace they are intervening in the internal affairs of the sovereign countries. Taking advantage of the situation created by them they are selling arms to both the warring groups.

The US people recently got a bitter experience of the barbarity of this monstrous Clinton administration during the last ministerial conference of the WTO in Seattle. The police of the Clinton administration pounced upon the demonstrators there with severest ferocity. They used batons, bullets, grenades, teargas shells, irritant chemicals and unconventional gases medically affecting the demonstrators. The arrested persons were beaten and tortured in jails by the police of the Clinton administration by throwing all norms of human rights to the wind. Finally emergency was clamped in Seattle. Even in his own country Clinton is a most hated person.

Wherever he goes outside the USA he faces hostile demonstration and he could not stay in Athens because of hostile anti-US demonstration by more than 40,000 Greek people. But the crude joke is that this chieftain of imperialism the epitome of death and destruction, in season and out of season sermonises on virtues of democracy and human rights. In the era of imperialism and moribund capitalism bourgeois democracy has lost all progressive role and has become out and out reactionary and rotten to the core. Today Clinton epitomises the true form of bourgeois democracy, a facade to hide the naked face of fascism.

The role of the US imperialists in this Indo-Pak subcontinent is equally heinous. The US imperialists are pursuing such policies by which bitterness is created between governments and people of India and Pakistan. They are inciting India against Pakistan and at the same time supporting Pakistan in its aggressive design. During the last Kargil war President Clinton got a scope to meddle in Kashmir affairs and took full advantage of the situation. The real motive of the US imperialists is to keep alive war tension in this subcontinent in order to create a permanent arms market in both the countries. During his visit to India the US President would meddle on Kashmir question as definitely indicated by Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State. This is most outrageous to the anti-imperialist sentiment of the Indian people.

In this situation it is the bounden duty of every well meaning and patriotic Indian to voice strongest condemnation and register all-out protest against this visit of Clinton, the number one war criminal and build up militant anti-imperialist movement. The people throughout the length and breadth of the country, in every nook and corner of India, in farflung villages, on every roof top of cities, in streets and roads of all towns and villages must raise the slogan "Go back Clinton, the butcher of humanity".

SEMINAR ON COMMUNAL HARMONY

A seminar was organised at the Students' Hall in Calcutta on 25th January by All Bengal Communal Harmony Committee. The subject matter was "Infiltration of fundamentalist thought will destroy secularism and democracy". Rupam Choudhury, one of the Joint Secretaries of the Committee, explained the significance of such a type of seminar in the present situation. Syed Mustafa Siraj, the noted litterateur initiated the discussion. In his long speech Syed Mustafa Siraj said, *inter alia*, that in order to create division in society religious fundamentalist thought was being infiltrated in narrow political interest. From his own experience of life he said with serious concern that religious fanaticism in place of secularism was being encouraged. In this context he referred to the name of Hitler in Germany. Justice Mukul Gopal Mukherjee, the Chairman of the West Bengal Human Rights Commission spoke next. With serious concern he said that attempt to infiltrate religious fundamentalist thoughts in education was extremely damaging.

Prof. Tarun Sanyal cited certain instances of barbarity during Hitlerite regime and warned against the danger of fascism.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, SUCI leader made a detailed analysis regarding the factors contributing to the emergence of religious fundamentalism. He said that old thoughts and

values became inadequate at a certain stage of development of society and at that particular stage new thoughts emerged. If we could not be free from the influence of the old thoughts, it would lead to the birth of fundamentalism, and the rulers lengthened their oppressive and exploitative rule by making use of this fundamentalism. He said that by increasing the educational expenses and through infiltration of fundamentalist thought in education a big blow had been dealt on culture and thought. He asked the Communal Harmony Committee to take greater initiative to fight fundamentalism in the field of education and culture.

Others who spoke in the Seminar were Debasish Bandyopadhyaya, journalist, Bachchan Singh Saral and others. Prof. Sunanda Sanyal, a noted educationist was present at the seminar. Dr. Asit Bandyopadhyay, the former head of the Bengali Department of C.U. sent a written message.

Keshwar Jahan Kader, a prominent social worker, conducted the seminar.

Corrigendum :

In the last issue some mistake crept in on page 6, Col. 1, line 23. It was put 'increased to the tune of Rs. 6434 crore' which should be read as 'increased by Rs. 6434 crore.' Error regretted. Ed. P.Era.

“The party as the embodiment of unity of will, incompatible with the existence of factions”

(Contd. from page 2)

been confronted with the problem of power, if the conditions of imperialism, the inevitability of wars, and the existence of a crisis had not demanded the concentration of all the forces of the proletariat at one point, the gathering of all the threads of the revolutionary movement in one spot in order to overthrow the bourgeoisie and to achieve the dictatorship of the proletariat. The proletariat needs the Party first of all as its General Staff, which it must have for the successful seizure of power. It need hardly be proved that without a Party capable of rallying around itself the mass organizations of the proletariat, and of centralizing the leadership of the entire movement during the progress of the struggle, the proletariat in Russia could never have established its revolutionary dictatorship.

But the proletariat needs the Party not only to achieve the dictatorship; it needs it still more to maintain the dictatorship, to consolidate and expand it in order to achieve the complete victory of socialism. ...

...Now, what does to “maintain” and “extend” the dictatorship mean? It means imbuing the millions of proletarians with the spirit of discipline and organisation; it means creating among the proletarian masses a cementing force and a bulwark against the corrosive influences of the petty-bourgeois elements and petty-bourgeois habits; it means enhancing the organising work of the proletarians in re-educating and remoulding the petty-bourgeois strata; it means helping the masses of the proletarians to educate themselves as a force capable of abolishing classes and of preparing the conditions for the organisation of socialist production. But it is impossible to accomplish all this without a party which is strong by reason of its solidarity and discipline.

“The dictatorship of the proletariat,” says Lenin, “is a persistent struggle - bloody and bloodless, violent and peaceful, military and economic, educational and administrative - against the forces and traditions of the old society. The force of habit of millions and tens of millions is a most terrible force. Without an iron party tempered in the struggle, without a party enjoying the confidence of all that is honest in the given class, without a party capable of watching and influencing the mood of the masses, it is impossible to conduct such a struggle successfully.” (See Vol. XXV, p.190)

The proletariat needs the Party for the purpose of achieving and maintaining the dictatorship. The Party is an instrument of the dictatorship of the proletariat. ...

5. *The Party as the embodiment of unity of will, incompatible with the existence of factions.* The achievement and maintenance of the dictatorship of the proletariat is impossible without a party which is strong by reason of its solidarity and iron discipline. But iron discipline in the Party is inconceivable without unity of will, without complete and absolute unity of action on the part of all members of the Party. This does not mean, of course, that the possibility of contests of opinion within the Party is thereby precluded. On the contrary, iron discipline does not preclude but presupposes criticism and contest of opinion within

the Party. Least of all does it mean that discipline must be “blind.” On the contrary, iron discipline does not preclude but presupposes conscious and voluntary submission, for only conscious discipline can be truly iron discipline. But after a contest of opinion has been closed, after criticism has been exhausted and a decision has been arrived at, unity of will and unity of action of all Party members are the necessary conditions without which neither Party unity nor iron discipline in the Party is conceivable.

“In the present epoch of acute civil war,” says Lenin, “a Communist Party will be able to perform its duty only if it is organized in the most centralized manner, only if iron discipline ‘bordering’ on military discipline prevails in it, and if its party centre is a powerful and authoritative organ, wielding wide powers and enjoying the universal confidence of the members of the Party.” (See Vol. XXV, pp.282-83)

This is the position in regard to discipline in the Party in the period of struggle preceding the achievement of the dictatorship.

The same, but to an even greater degree, must be said about discipline in the Party after the dictatorship has been achieved.

“Whoever,” says Lenin, “weakens ever so little the iron discipline of the party of the proletariat (especially during the time of its dictatorship), actually aids the bourgeoisie against the proletariat.” (See Vol. XXV, p.190)

But from this it follows that the existence of factions is incompatible either with the Party’s unity or with its iron discipline. It need hardly be proved that the existence of factions leads to the existence of a number of centres, and the existence of a number of centres connotes the absence of one common centre in the Party, the breaking up of the unity of will, the weakening and disintegration of discipline, the weakening and disintegration of the dictatorship. Of course, the parties of the Second International, which are fighting against the dictatorship of the proletariat and have no desire to lead the proletarians to power, can afford such liberalism as freedom of factions, for they have no need at all for iron discipline. But the parties of the Communist International, whose activities are conditioned by the task of achieving and consolidating the dictatorship for the proletariat, cannot afford to be “liberal” or to permit freedom of factions.

The Party represents unity of will, which

precludes all factionalism and division of authority in the Party. ...

6. *The Party is strengthened by purging itself of opportunist elements.* The source of factionalism in the Party is its opportunist elements. The proletariat is not an isolated class. It is constantly replenished by the influx of peasants, petty bourgeois and intellectuals proletarianized by the development of capitalism. At the same time the upper stratum of the proletariat, principally trade union leaders and labour members of parliament who are fed by the bourgeoisie out of the superprofits extracted from the colonies, is undergoing a process of decay. “This stratum of bourgeoisified workers, or the ‘labour aristocracy’,” says Lenin, “who are quite philistine in their mode of life, in the size of their earnings and in their entire outlook, is the principal prop of the Second International, and, in our days, the principal *social* (not military) *prop of the bourgeoisie* for they are the *real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class* movement, the labour lieutenants of the capitalist class, real channels of reformism and chauvinism.” (See Vol. XIX, p.77)

In one way or another, all these petty-bourgeois groups penetrate into the Party and introduce into the spirit of hesitancy and opportunism, the spirit of demoralization and uncertainty. It is they, principally, that constitute the source of factionalism and disintegration, the source of disorganization and disruption of the Party from within. To fight imperialism with such “allies” in one’s rear means to expose oneself to the danger of being caught between two fires, from the front and from the rear. Therefore, ruthless struggle against such elements, their expulsion from the Party, is a prerequisite for the successful struggle against imperialism. ...

...Our Party succeeded in achieving internal unity and unexampled cohesion of its ranks primarily because it was able in good time to purge itself of the opportunist pollution, because it was able to rid its ranks of the Liquidators and the Mensheviks. Proletarian parties develop and become strong by purging themselves of opportunists and reformists, social-imperialists and social-chauvinists, social-patriots and social pacifists.

The Party is strengthened by purging itself of opportunist elements.

“With reformists, Mensheviks, in our ranks,” says Lenin, “it is *impossible* to achieve victory in the proletarian revolution, it is *impossible* to retain it. That is obvious in principle, and it has been strikingly confirmed by the experience... In Russia, difficult situations have arisen *many times*, when the Soviet regime would *most certainly* have been overthrown had Mensheviks, reformists and petty-bourgeois democrats remained in our Party... On the eve of a revolution, and at a moment when a most fierce struggle is being waged for its victory, the slightest wavering in the ranks of the Party may *wreck everything*, frustrate the revolution, wrest the power from the hands of the proletariat; for this power is not yet consolidated, the attack upon it is still very strong. The retirement of wavering leaders at such a time does not weaken but strengthens the Party, the working-class movement and the revolution.” (See Vol. XXV, pp.462,463,464.) (Excerpts from

The Foundation of Leninism)

Lenin Memorial Day at Sagar

On the occasion of death anniversary of Lenin a memorial meeting was organised by Sagar Dist. unit of party in M.P. at Yadav colony on 21st January. At first Comrade Ramavatar Sharma, Dist. incharge of the party, paying revolutionary homage to Lenin’s portrait said that Lenin took Marx’s theory as guide to action, not as dogma and for that he could concretise Marxism in Russia. He stressed that it was our duty not only to understand this revolutionary science but also to realise in our life and advance the cause of Indian socialist revolution. Dr. D.S. Atri presided over the meeting. Other party activists also participated in the deliberations.

Vajpayee's Cover-up of Fascist Face of RSS

The lifting of the ban by the Gujarat BJP government — followed by UP government — on government staff participation in RSS activities, has alarmed people in general and the secular minded people in particular. More alarming still are the words of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, characterising the RSS as a non political, mere cultural-social outfit. A mere glimpse of certain historical facts will be revealing.

An official publication of the RSS highlights the realisation and objective with which Dr. K B Hedgewar set out to found the RSS: "...While wishful thinkers pretended not to see the writing across the national political firmament, the realist in Dr. Hedgewar refused to dream up wishy-washy dreams. The truth was out. Only Hindus would free Hindustan and they alone could save Hindu culture. Only Hindu strength could save the country. There was no escape from the logic of facts. Hindu youth had to be organised on the basis of personal character and absolute love of the motherland. There was no other way. The agony of the great soul expressed itself in the formation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh... The great day was the auspicious Vijaya Dashami day of 1925." (C P Bhishikar, Keshav Sanghnirmata, 1979, p. 25). Can these be termed as objective of a cultural-social organisation? What is the answer of Prime Minister Vajpayee?

When even village club libraries, or any social organisation of India jumped into the patriotic freedom struggle, the RSS stayed away. In none of the freedom movements did the RSS participate, not even in the historic civil disobedience movement of 40-41, the Quit India struggle of 42. And when the Azad Hind Foj, under the leadership of Netaji, was engaged in a historic battle against British imperialism the RSS did not care to support it. Again when some brave INA war prisoners were put on trial the entire country rose in their defence and demanded their release, even at that time the RSS did not find it necessary to support them. Again when the historic naval revolt had shaken the foundation of British imperialist rule in '46, the RSS did not support it. Is it accidental? Definitely not. Why did the RSS not join support in these glorious freedom struggles? The answer can be found from the words of Golwalkar, the late *parichalok* of RSS: "The theories of territorial nationalism and of common danger, which formed the basis for our concept of nation, had deprived us of the positive and inspiring content of our real Hindu nationhood and made many of the freedom movements virtually anti-British movements. Being anti-British was equated with patriotism and nationalism. This reactionary view has had disastrous effects upon the entire course of the independence struggle, its leaders and the common people." (*Bunch of Thoughts*, p. 142-43).

So, according to RSS view the freedom struggle led by C R Das, Tilok, Lala Lajpat, Gandhiji, Netaji and others — the freedom struggle that produced the great martyrs, starting from Kshudiram, Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Surya Sen, Pritilata, Asfaquulla Khan and many others, was not at all a freedom struggle and cannot be termed as patriotic. And certainly Vajpayee will be declaring these words of the RSS *Guru* Golwalkar as non-political and reflection of mere social-cultural outlook.

Nowadays the Sangh Parivar's literature are

full of propagation of idea of 'cultural nationalism', i.e. Hindutva nationalism and Prime Minister Vajpayee perhaps will feel pride if he is reminded from whom their mentor Golwalkar took the inspiration of the models of cultural nationalism. According to Golwalkar: "German national pride has now become the topic of the day. To keep up the purity of the nation and its culture, Germany shocked the world by her purging the country of the semitic races — the Jews. National pride at its highest has been manifested here. Germany has also shown how well-nigh impossible it is for races and cultures, having differences going to the root, to be assimilated into one united whole, a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by. ...From this standpoint sanctioned by the experience of shrewd old nations, the non-Hindu people in Hindustan must either adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and revere Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but the glorification of the Hindu nation ... in one word, they must cease to be foreigners or may stay in the country wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment, not even citizen's rights." (*We and Our Nationhood Defined*)

Can these utterances be accepted as merely cultural-social talks, as Vajpayeeji wants us to believe? Or does it not express the real fascist face of the RSS, masked by 'cultural-social' camouflage? It is also to be recollected that these utterances from Golwalkar came in 1938 when the entire world civilisation was faced with the danger of destruction by fascist Germany and great personalities like Romain Rolland, Bernard Shaw, Einstein, Rabindranath, Sarat Chandra and a great number of luminaries were engaged in a noble movement to mobilize world opinion against this menace of fascism.

Since 1920, till today, there were many riots in India. There was not one single riot without the RSS's direct involvement: sometimes it took the initiative to organise them and got the Muslim League involved, and sometimes the Muslim League took the initiative and the RSS became involved. From 1947 onwards it is the RSS who is the main initiator. No one can deny it. Even government appointed judicial commissions of inquiry unequivocally indicted the RSS for their criminal role in riots. A social-cultural organisation indeed!

People are well acquainted with the popular term Sangh Parivar that comprises the BJP, VHP, Bajrang Dal, BMS, etc. — and who is the head of this Parivar? Like all traditional Hindu joint families there is a head. That is RSS, and that is why it is called Sangh Parivar, i.e. a Parivar led by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. When late Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Jan Sangh, RSS took active part in it, although Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was not a RSS man. This Jan Sangh, along with RSS cadres, exploited the anti-Congress movement, known as JP movement right up to proclamation of emergency. And they took full advantage of absence of big left parties from the movement to reap its harvest and come to power by combining with Congress (O) and others by forming the Janata party. When controversy arose over the question of dual membership by Jan Sangh people in Janata party and the demand arose in it asking the former to forsake RSS membership, Vajpayee, Advani and others refused to give up

RSS membership which led to the eventual break up of Janata party. How deep was the link with RSS, what kind of blood and flesh link was there that they went to the extent of breaking down the government, but could not abandon the RSS membership. That the RSS is the founding father of BJP — the successor of Jan Sangh — is known even to a layman. While the offspring BJP, is political, its founding father is not political but merely a social-cultural organisation — can anyone with even minimum element of common sense believe it?

It is also common knowledge that BJP workers are RSS cadres. In answer Vajpayee says they are members as individuals but not as an organisation. The members of a 'cultural-social organisation' work as political cadres of a political party — does it not eloquently tell what kind of mere 'social-cultural' organisation the RSS is? Is it not known what Kalyan Singh — the same Kalyan Singh, who, being deputed by the BJP took initiative in the demolition of Babri Masjid when he was BJP chief minister in UP has said: "I was a member of the RSS since my childhood and I have closely known its functioning. The entire political system of the BJP is controlled by the RSS. This includes all activities such as allotment of the party ticket and appointment of ministers." (*The Times of India*, 9.2.2000)

It is also known that Vajpayee became three times Prime Minister. Each time the first thing he did was to undertake the noble task to take the blessings of RSS and guidance and instruction for cabinet formation and any necessary changes in the cabinet. It is also known that in any internal conflict of the BJP it is the RSS that acts as guardian to mediate and resolve it. And still the Indian people are to believe that the RSS is a cultural-social organisation since the PM describes it in that way and he feels the Indian people are all fools.

It has to be recollected that Ram Mohan Roy initiated the Indian Renaissance which was a noble beginning to free thinking faculty, cult of knowledge and search for truth from religious bondage. Following his footprints Vidyasagar advanced further, and broke completely with Vedantic Shankya tradition, terming it 'a false system of philosophy' and called for introduction of scientific thoughts and rational knowledge from the West to free the Indian mind from age-old religious thinkings and traditions. Jyotirao Phoolley also did the same thing in Western part of India along with his fight against casteism. Afterwards Rabindranath, C R Das and even Lala Lajpat who believed in religion, opposed religious approach in politics and education. Netaji Subhas Bose even exhorted: "Politics should be totally freed from religion. Religion should be a mere individual matter. People must have the freedom to choose whatever religion they like to follow as individuals. But politics should not be conducted on the basis of religious or super-natural ideas; politics should be conducted alone on the basis of scientific, political, economic outlook."

"Slogans are heard to make Hindu raj in India as Hindus are majority here. These are all idle thinking."

RSS the 'cultural-social organisation' is out to debase whatever relics of Indian Renaissance and freedom struggle are there and creating the ground for dark rule of fascism. It is the sole 'social-

(Contd. on page 8)

“Hard Decision” Indeed !

Just after assuming power at the Centre after the last general elections the BJP Prime Minister Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee called upon the people to be ready for ‘harsher decisions’ in the coming days. The PM and his government have kept word. From the very beginning subsidies on the common requirements of the poor and middle class people have been withdrawn, subsidies on food items in the PDS have been cut inflicting mounting miseries on their lives. The government has declared reduction of beneficiaries of the PDS. Prices of petrol and particularly diesel have been hiked with cascading effect on rising prices of consumer goods. Prices of medicines including life saving drugs have been enhanced to meet the greed of the pharmaceutical lobby. And now severe attack on the middle class and lower middle class people has come down through slashing the interest rate on small savings by 1 per cent. The government has taken this heinous step on the plea of meeting its unprecedented fiscal deficit because of generous subsidies, subventions, tax exemption to the corporate houses, import duty cut on luxury and consumer goods, drainage of public money through institutional corruption including scandals in defence establishments which the government now can no more deny altogether. All these have pushed this year’s deficit to as much as one lakh twenty five thousand crore of rupees (including 25 thousand crore for small savings) ! Now it is the common people who are to bear the pernicious effect of all these fiscal ills. By this interest cut on small savings, it goes without saying, middle class and lower middle class retired persons and their widows will be worst affected as they are the bulk of the investors in small savings and they get their living expenses from its interest which has been the target of attack. The government has stooped so low that the ministers are arguing that for such interest cut small savings will not dwindle as the small investors will have no other option but to keep money in such government schemes for security reasons. It is clear that the government is shamelessly exploiting the helplessness of the poor people.

It is worth mentioning that this cut in the small savings interest rate is a prelude to bringing down bank interest. Of the total bank deposit in the country nearly 80% comes from the common

public and only 11% comes from the corporate sector and bulk of the bank loan goes to business men and corporate houses. Thus now on the one hand interest to the common dispossitors will be reduced and at their cost bank loan will be provided to the industries and the monopolists at lower rate of interest. That is not all, bank money will now be more and more invested in share market, venture capital, mutual fund etc. for speculative purposes at lower rate of interest. In a recent meeting of the FICCI the Union Finance Minister announced that the interest rate on bank advances to the corporate houses will be reduced. Where would go these huge bank money ? Certainly to the high-risk high-tech and high-valued sophisticated sector at lower rate of interest for they need plenty of capital to cover the market risk of their high valued products in the crisis-ridden and increasingly shrinking capitalist market. And the common investors with lower rate of interest from the bank, will pay for all

these benefits of super-profit for the financial sharks. Thus economic reform of the BJP government is nakedly growing more subservient to the monopoly interest.

On this count, i.e. cutting interest on small savings, the role of the state governments, particularly the CPI(M) led ‘Left Front’ government of West Bengal is all the more dubious. This government is crying hoarse against this fiscal savagery of the Central Government — but it is doing so on the plea that it will lead to lowering of revenue income of the state from small savings. Thus they are more concerned about their own revenue income than about the most anti-people attack on the small depositors. And these parties also talk of peoples’ interest !

Actually no parliamentary opposition party of state government will stand against such heinous attacks on the common people. They, themselves must come forward to resist these attacks on their living. United people’s movement can alone frustrate these nefarious moves of the anti-people government.

Historic Language Movement Recalled

The long protracted battle for 19 years led by the SUCI compelled the CPI(M)-led Left Front government of West Bengal to introduce English at the primary level. In this historic battle 3rd February stands out as a milestone, for on this day in 1998, in the entire West Bengal life came to a standstill responding to the 24-hour bandh call of our party against the disastrous language-education policy of the Left Front government. How the dream for education could bind millions of minds together into a granite unity transgressing communal parochial provincial borders, 3rd February is a glaring example.

This year the SUCI observed the 2nd anniversary of the victory of the language movement on the historic 3rd February at Esplanade. Thousands of people present there listened with rapt attention to the leaders who stressed building up of the sustained mass movements on burning issues of life. The presence of overwhelming number of students and youths is particularly remarkable.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee. Speakers were Comrade Manik Mukherjee, and

Comrade Gopal Kundu, State Secretariat members, SUCI.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee in his long speech showed that the Left Front Government only implemented the past Central Congress government’s policy of ‘Abolish English’. Narrating the history of the protracted battle against the abolition of English and pass-fail system at primary level he said, as a sequence of organised mass movement, the clarion call of Bangla Bandh on 3rd February ’98 turned a total success. The government was compelled to introduce English. But pass-fail system has not yet been reintroduced, on which movement will continue. Exposing privatisation-commercialisation and saffronisation of education Comrade Mukherjee said that education would go beyond the reach of the common people and simultaneously it would be poisoned with obscurantist ideas leading to fanaticism. He referred how the BJP had removed eminent historians and educationists from different important educational committees and included its yes-men on those bodies in order to mould history with fundamentalism.

Comrade Gopal Kundu reminded that in the past the social democratic forces alone could foist fascism, but at present the right reactionary forces are conspiring to bring fascism using fundamentalism as its weapon. BJP’s moves to destroy the kernel of education and communalise it was a part of this conspiracy.

President Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, *inter alia*, elaborately explained the conspiracy of the Central government behind its DPEP (District Primary Education Programme). He recalled Rajiv Gandhi’s policy of eying education as an ‘unique investment’, expounded in NPE’86. BJP Govt.’s education policy and DPEP were in line with this current. Comrade Dasgupta informed that it was the brain work of Britain based organisation run by the World Bank and its money. 124 Asian countries would implement DPEP. It would find light in 10 districts of West Bengal. According to the propounders of DPEP, this programme was a necessity for the new world order. What did they mean ? Their design was to shape young minds in favour of capitalism-imperialism. Finally, Comrade Dasgupta called upon the people to build up powerful movements against DPEP.

The meeting ended with the *Internationale*.

Cover-up of Fascist Face of RSS

(Contd. from page 7)

cultural’ activity of RSS.

The RSS has become successful to place BJP in power with the blessings of national and foreign capital to fulfill its own design. That is why the BJP to satisfy its masters has opened up Indian market to be robbed further by foreign multinationals who are in league with national monopolists and accelerated the momentum of scheme of liberalisation, privatisation on the one hand, and on the other, they are out to introduce religious teachings, Vedantic thoughts in education, starting from primary up to highest level, distorting history to provide Hindu oriented version to fulfill its fascist design, that is, inculcating in the students spiritualistic beliefs and developing unscientific bent of mind.

It is an undeniable fact that the RSS has been penetrating governmental administration, i.e. bureaucracy, judiciary, police and even military since long with its camouflaged ‘cultural-social’ mask, in spite of legal bar. What is now being done

is nothing but legalising this penetration. Apparently it is being told from now on that there will be no legal bar of any employee joining the RSS. But what remains untold is that allegiance to RSS will be objectively a pre-condition in getting governmental service. It is true, starting from the Congress upto CPI(M), all parties placed in governments indulge in their party domination over the government employees. They utilise government employees in their narrow party interest and party politics, to gain electoral advantage in their scramble for retaining power and pelf, throwing to the wind the declared policy of administrative neutrality. But this conspiracy of RSS control over administration does not remain confined merely to these limits. It is something more dangerous, that is fascisation and saffronisation of the entire administration, following the path of Hitler.

The people must rise to resist this dangerous attack before it is too late, otherwise like German people they will live to bemoan their fate.

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