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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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Fifth Central Pay Commission

Resist this Onslaught !

The Fifth Central Pay Commission submitted its report to the central government in January 1997. Besides being in line with the retrograde policies of liberalisation and globalisation introduced in our country since 1991 by the previous Narasimha Rao government as per the dictates of the IMF-World Bank duo and at the behest of the Indian monopolists

and foreign multinationals, the Fifth Pay Commission went beyond its jurisdiction on such issues like employment questions, abolition of 3.5 lakh vacant posts, cutting down number of employees by 30% in 10 years, periodic review of ACRs with a view to compulsory premature retirement on the plea of maintaining efficiency, introduction of voluntary retirement

scheme, etc. If the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission are implemented in toto, the workload on the employees would be heavily increased because of the downsizing of the staff strength and substantial reduction in holidays. The main thrust is more towards officer oriented administration by more and more curtailment of lower grade employees

Sugar Price Hike Condemned

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 10th February, 1997 :

"We strongly condemn the Central Government's decision to hike the price of sugar which would further add economic burden on the already hard-pressed people and demand of its immediate withdrawal."

and more and more perquisites to the executives. The discrepancies between the lower grade staff and the top executives are quite wide in the matter of pay

packets and perquisites and again this discrepancies between the civilian employees and those of the armed forces are wider still. While
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Administered Price Hike

UF government following footsteps of Congress

The fiscal savagery let loose both by the central and the state governments runs riot. The central government has hiked the price of wheat by 60%, i.e. Rs.3000/-per ton of wheat in open market, and it works to Rs.3 per kg. The sugar price has also been increased by more than 16 per cent. No word is strong enough to condemn such arbitrary price hike. From the way the government is being run it seems that there is no civil government worth its name. Immediately after being saddled in power the Deve Gowda government abnormally hiked the prices of all petroleum products by administrative fiat on the plea of increasing oil pool deficit. Kerosene though exempted from the ambit of price hike, has become an invisible commodity. This hike in prices of petroleum

products has pushed the prices of all commodities in a chain reaction, hitting hard the common people. But the people living below the poverty line who constitute more than 50 per cent of the population have been hit hardest. When the people in general are gasping in a suffocating situation the threat of a fresh dose of price hike of petroleum products is imminent despite contradictory statements of ministers.

Again in this game of fleecing the people all the state governments are vying with the central government, and they have increased the transport fare, electricity charges and other taxes unprecedentedly. The Kerala government has substantially increased the electricity charges, the Karnataka government has imposed a huge amount of

cess on irrigated land and the Left Front government of West Bengal has proposed to increase the price of milk by 80 percent, substantially increased the electricity charges and even after substantial hike in transport charges, has further increased the same on the fantastic plea of rationalisation of fare structure for shortage of small coins.

As a result of these fiscal savageries combinedly by the central and the state governments the prices of all commodities are skyrocketing. Though the average inflation is officially shown as 7.5%, the rate of inflation of all essential edible items is around 18 per cent even according to official figure. During this part of the year the prices in the market, particularly those of vegetables come down appreciably, but

this has not happened this year.

Coupled with this abnormal rise in market prices the people are denied access to the health care, education and other social services. Besides pursuing the policy of liberalisation and globalisation initiated by the previous Congress government, this UF government has reduced the allocation on social services on the plea of containing fiscal deficit. Instead of unearthing black money, fighting corruption in administration, pruning infructuous administrative expenses, and profligate spending of the ministers and the bureaucrats, this UF government itself is engaged in very very murky deal in importing wheat. By creating artificial scarcity condition, the government is importing wheat from

Canada and Australia despite substantial stock position, at a landed cost which is twice the rate prevailing in the country. The prime minister is reported to have bypassed the cabinet and the planning commission in a hasty deal and the quality control norms have also been bypassed resulting in import of substandard quality of wheat from Canada. When this country exported wheat even as late as October last, what prompted the UF government to such a hasty of important, shady deal and throwing asunder all considerations of the health of the people ? Is it not a criminal act on the part of the government ? Does it not demonstrate the utter anti-people character of this government?

But despite all these misdeeds perpetrated on the
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Global Encirclement with Imperialist Military Bases Condemned

Comrade President and Comrades,

I, on behalf of the Socialist Unity Centre of India, the revolutionary vanguard of the Indian working class, extend my revolutionary greetings to you all, and express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to ventilate my views on the subject on behalf of my party.

We observe with great admiration how the Cuban people under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party headed by Comrade Fidel Castro have been conducting gallant and heroic battle against the intrigues and designs of the US imperialists aimed at dismantling socialist system in Cuba. Amidst darkness and severe setback, temporary though, in the world Communist movement, the glorious battle of the Cuban people led by Comrade Fidel Castro is a ray of hope and a source of great inspiration to the toiling and exploited people of the entire world.

In a situation when Cuba is sandwiched by the imperialist imposed economic sanctions and imperialist intrigue and interference through military bases at her doorstep, and when the most outrageous Helms-Burton Law has been invoked against her, the topic of discussion, viz., Foreign Military Bases, is most apt and particularly so when it is held in Havana.

You are aware that the imperialists coined the term 'cold war' to denote the state of relation between the imperialist camp and the socialist camp in the post Second World War period. The imperialists propagated that the socialist camp was posing a threat to world peace and responsible for the tension which would lead to the outbreak of war. So, on the plea of containing communism, the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, built up military bases practically at every nook and corner of the globe. But after the dismantling of socialism in the Soviet Union and in the former socialist states of east Europe, when the so-called 'cold war' era ended, what is the present scenario? Have danger of war and threat to peace receded a step further? Or, has not the danger of outbreak of war been aggravated still further? The imperialists are proclaiming that with the end of cold war there is no danger of war and from now on

[Cuban Peace Council and "NINO PASTI" — the international foundation for peace and independence jointly held a meet against "Foreign Military Bases" in Havana in November last. The report of this meet was published in previous issue of the *Proletarian Era*. In this issue we are giving below the first part of the speech of Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff and Deputy, International Department of our Party, who participated in the Havana meet. — Ed. *P. Era*]

peace will prevail over the entire world. But what is the reality? Is it not a fact that the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists have gone berserk as the restraining effect of the socialist camp has disappeared? What does the recent blatant attack against Iraq by the US imperialists demonstrate? The local and the partial wars are going on and everywhere imperialists are pulling the string from behind.

In this context I like to point out that the world capitalist system is in the grip of a severe economic crisis. Unabated recession, massive retrenchment, widespread lockouts and closures in industry, combined

with recessionary trend in agriculture, mounting unemployment, inflation causing price-rise are haunting the capitalist countries, including the G7 countries. It is because of this severe crisis, that the contradiction within the imperialist camp has sharpened. In the changed world situation, the contradiction within the imperialist camp is playing the most important role in setting the trend of world events. The imperialists are grouping into blocs to counter one another. The growing scramble for redivision of the world among the imperialist powers in regard to the market portends far worse conflicts in coming days. It is precisely in this aggravation of imperialist contradiction that the danger of the outbreak of war lurks.

After the Second World War most of the former colonies attained national independence. But the domination and exploitation of the remaining colonies and semicolonies by the imperialist powers continue and the struggles of the peoples of these countries go on.

Again, the dismantling of socialism in a number of states, particularly in the Soviet Union has immensely contributed to the accentuation of the contradiction between the imperialist powers and

the relatively underdeveloped capitalist countries. As a result of the dismantling of the socialist camp, the non-aligned movement has been greatly weakened as the bargaining leverage that the less developed countries could play upon by taking advantage of the contradiction between the imperialist camp and the socialist camp was no more there. The imperialists are now able to resort to a more ruthless neo-colonial attack on the less developed countries without any countervailing restraint. The multinationals and financial agencies controlled by the

imperialists, like the IMF and the World Bank are spreading their tentacles menacingly over the less developed countries. These countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are asked to dismantle the tariff-barriers, abolish subsidy for agriculture, industries and service sector, privatise public sector undertakings, introduce liberal import policies and allow unrestricted entry of the giant multinationals. If any country raises voice of protest against this imperialist policy of globalization, it is doomed to face the threat of armed attack, intrigue, gangsterism and even nuclear blackmailing. The most savage and barbaric attack against Iraq, threat of attack on Libya and North Korea, intrigue in Somalia— among others all these heinous acts are conducted to ensure the control of the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists over these countries. The UNO is now being used as a rubberstamp to endorse nefarious designs of the US imperialists.

Now I like to mention here that the different developing capitalist countries do not enjoy the same position because of the differences in the degree of development. The weaker among them have been hit hard by the imperialist policy, while the more developed among them are

trying to reach a new understanding with the imperialist countries. A country like India from where I am hailing has already developed imperialist characteristics. The deployment of force in the name of peace-keeping in Sri Lanka, armed intervention in Maldives, and participation in some of the UN 'peace-keeping' activities demonstrate the growing imperialist features of India. Though these more developed among the developing capitalist countries cannot be placed in the same category with the G7 countries, which control the world resources in the main, they can to a certain extent play between the contradiction among the imperialist powers to extract certain concessions for them.

Comrades, you can realize that contradictions of capitalism have been brought to their extremes in this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. In each imperialist country a handful of monopolists control the fate of the entire people at home and abroad.

The gap between the rich and the poor has been widening at an alarming rate, and the purchasing power of the people has been dwindling, ever more squeezing the capitalist market. The scientific and technological advancement has further exacerbated the fundamental contradiction by increasing the productive capacity with much less work force. To stave off the crisis of overproduction, massive militarization of economy is resorted to. An industrial-military-bureaucratic complex has emerged in practically all advanced capitalist countries. To sustain unhindered military production, a constant war tension or creation of a war-like situation is a must for the imperialists, and in this context the military bases are used to serve that purpose to a great extent.

After the Second World War the US imperialists, on the plea of "mutually fighting Communism", grabbed much of the power and possessions of Britain and France, its war-time allies, and of Germany, Italy and Japan, its enemies in the war. The USA, by taking over the island bases of its war-time allies and enemies, has virtually turned the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean into "American Lakes". Actually, this is

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Imperialist Military Bases

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necessary to protect, consolidate and further extend the market of the US imperialists. In the bases dotting these oceans, stocks of military equipments, ammunition, fuel, food and other logistics are stored beforehand. These bases are instruments of the militarist policy of the imperialists. They are used as centres of pressure on the rival bloc in the imperialist camp, for buttressing the pro-imperialist regimes in the region and also for striking against the recalcitrant states by various direct or indirect, and overt and covert means.

The New York Times reported that the USA has military bases at 3328 places around the world. It has 70 strong nuclear-powered submarines and naval forces in seven seas, which is greater than all the naval strength of other powers taken together. The USA has naval bases in Philippines, Singapore, Japan, Australia, Indian Ocean and Kuwait and air bases in Philippines, Indian Ocean, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The largest number of US military bases are in Western Europe. The other area with major US military bases is the Asian Pacific region. Under cover

of 'joint defence' the USA has also set up bases in Latin America. The USA has declared the Middle East as the 'zone of US vital interest' from where nearly 50 per cent of total foreign earnings is received by it. To protect this 'zone of vital interest', the US has declared to take all requisite measures not short of armed force. Many other regions of the world have also been declared as 'zones of US vital interest, and to protect these zones a 'rapid deployment force' has been set up for use in 'crisis situation' via military bases installed in the various parts of the globe. Britain has also a system of military bases like Gibraltar, Cyprus, Falkland Islands etc. France, which was also a major imperialist power before the Second World War has military bases in Djibouti, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Gabon, Senegal etc.

Now the stationing of military bases on the territory of other countries goes to greatly undermine the people's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity not only of those countries where the bases are located but of the countries of the adjoining regions too. The imperialist powers in their aggressive design violate the principle of sovereign equality of

states. The imperialists intrigue and intervene when people of any state take the road of independent social and economic development which is against the imperialist interest of exploiting the people of that country. The imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, make all kind of encroachments on the territorial integrity of other countries. The imposition of 'no fly zone' over the territory of Iraq, the imperialist intervention in Afghanistan, stoking of ethnic and religious conflict in the regions of former Yugoslavia are some of the instances how the territorial integrity is attacked by the imperialists by launching attacks and intervention from the bases.

I like to draw your attention to the essence of the policy of globalization pursued by the US imperialists since mid-80's. It is that they assume the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and go to support the reactionary regime or install one such regime in any corner of the globe to defend 'freedom and democracy' and 'US vital interests'. The chain of the US military bases round the globe makes the infrastructure for pursuing the aggressive strategy of the policy of globalization.

Part and parcel of this policy is the concept of 'low intensity conflicts'. The US imperialists have learnt from their failure in Vietnam. Mr. Tyler, the US General, invented this concept. The 'low intensity conflict' operates in various forms. These are building up terrorist groups in countries and pressurizing the governments in such a way that these countries can understand the danger of not complying with the US dictates, fomenting fratricidal strifes inside the countries to create riots, destabilizing the unfriendly governments, purchasing the aspirant military and political leaders and using them as accomplices, sabotaging the economy of the countries and making them kneel before the imperialist powers, influencing the political institutions of the countries in every possible way to guard imperialist interests, building up mafia gangs, drug traffickers, etc., and thence, on the plea of combating them, entering into the countries with armed forces, killing unfriendly leaders by paid agents, encouraging limited warfare among countries and selling arms to them et cetera. The bloodshed, the protracted conflicts and strifes in countries

like Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire in Africa, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Iraq in Asia, Bosnia and Croatia in former Yugoslavia in Europe and in almost every country of the Caribbean Sea bear out this imperialist design. To enforce the policy of globalization the US imperialists intervened in Nicaragua and supported dictatorial regimes in Chile, El Salvador, South Korea etc. The military action by the imperialists to enforce globalization is thus a continuation of the economic and political means.

Though the overt colonial form is now discarded, the imperialists now resort to covert or disguised form of seizure of foreign territory. They now term the annexed territory as overseas 'department' or 'territories' and turn them into military strategic base, testing ground for latest weapons, including nuclear ones, and the bridgehead for aggression. France carried out nuclear explosion test in Mururoa Island far off from mainland France, turning a deaf ear to the worldwide protest movement against it. In 1952, the USA declared Puerto Rico as a state that has "freely joined" the USA.

Similarly Micronesia was annexed by the US imperialists. Britain annexed Chagos Archipelago which includes the islands of Diego Garcia. The military presence in a territory thousands of kilometers away from the USA is being justified as 'legitimate' on the plea of protecting the 'vital US interests'. This policy reflects the US imperialists' aggressive design in maintaining control over the natural wealth of the entire globe through the policy of interference and intervention in the affairs of the sovereign countries. This aggressive policy of the US imperialists actually creates somewhat colonial situation and obstructs national

liberation of the people not only in the territory where the military base is situated but also in the countries surrounding it.

The soldiers stationed at the military bases situated in foreign countries resort to wanton criminal activities. Assaults on women, rape, drug trafficking, prostitution and all other sorts of criminal activities go hand in hand in the areas. The rape of a minor girl in Okinawa in Japan sparked off nationwide protest movement forcing the US and Japan governments in acceding to some concessions. Resentments against crimes and social tension centring round the same are brewing everywhere in these countries where the military bases are stationed.

Thus, engaged in violating the existing internationally recognised boundaries of another state by the use of force in any overt or covert form, disrupting the political, social or economic order of other countries, overthrowing or changing their political system and causing tension among states, the imperialists are depriving peoples of their national identity and cultural heritage. The French and Belgian imperialists, who were the principal imperialist powers in the Central Africa have been engaged in inciting ethnic conflicts in countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia etc., and by using the ethnic conflict as leverage they are trying to exploit these countries.

With globalization, there is intervention not only in the fields of trade and commerce, but in the cultural sphere as well. The worst forms of individualism, consumerism, social restlessness and all such diseases associated with the degraded society of the imperialist countries are making rapid inroad in the societies of developing countries. Not only that, imperialist invasion in the field of culture is tearing asunder the moral fabric of the societies which are victims of neocolonial attacks.

(To be concluded)

State Level Convention at Panipat (Haryana) of National Platform of Mass Organisations

Panipat : A State Level Convention of National Platform of Mass Organisations was held at Panipat on 9-2-97. Various mass organisations of peasants, agricultural workers, women, students, youths, state employees, bank employees, UTUC-LS, AITUC, CITU participated in it.

Comrade Satyawan, AIKKMS, Comrade Rajender Singh, DYO, Comrade Omprakash, DSO, Comrade Chander Rekha, AIMSS, Comrade Roshan

Lal Haryana Khet Mazdoor Federation and Comrade Ishwar Singh Rathi UTUC - LS spoke in this Convention.

A resolution condemned the imposition of ESMA on striking Nagar Palika Employees and demanded the Haryana Govt to accept their demands to release them from jail.

The convention also supported the one day strike of state employees on 13-2-97.

Stand Unitedly and Reject this anti-employee and anti-people Report

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the Fifth Pay Commission is quite liberal in the matter of granting plethora of perquisites, besides handsome pay-packets to the top executives, it failed to ensure the minimum pay packet to the lowest rung of the employees as recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference. In a word, this report is a conspiratorial blueprint of restructuring the central government services in line with the policy of liberalisation and globalisation.

Going outside its jurisdiction the Fifth Pay Commission states: "Government itself needs to be restructured by closing down departments or amalgamating them, by transferring subjects and institutions to the state governments and panchayati raj bodies, by converting departmental undertakings into public sector undertakings, by encouraging cooperatives, autonomous bodies and non-governmental organisations to take over some of the functions of the state." What do all these mean? What prompted it to recommend in closing down departments or amalgamating them or converting departmental undertakings into public sector undertakings? Do all these suggestions fall within the purview of the Commission? While the Commission has failed to ensure minimum pay to the lower category employees in its zeal to provide bountiful perquisites and pay packets to the top executives, it at the same time came forward with such unwanted and highly damaging suggestions to ensure privatisation resulting in redundancy in government employment.

The report of the Commission is very explicit as to its motive when it states: "There has to be delayering in order to reduce levels and level-jumping in order to reduce delays. Large, unwieldy sections have to give way to small, business like Desks, the vast army of ministerial staff may be gradually replaced by Ex-

ecutive Assistants, with the Group D personnel being trained as multi-skilled functionaries. Automation and computerisation should be brought in wholesale, so as to cut down on paper work." Thus in order to downsize the staff strength the report openly advocates automation and computerisation on a massive scale in a country like ours where millions of unemployed youths are roaming about in the streets in the frantic search for their bare livelihood. In order to move toward executive oriented administration, the report wants replacement of the "vast army of ministerial staff" by Executive Assistants. And how is that objective to be achieved? The Commission has provided a very simple solution. In the para 15 of the report it is stated: "The Commission has advocated a multi-pronged strategy to cut down numbers. First, there is a backlog of 3.5 lakh vacant posts. These could be abolished straightway. Secondly, there could be a freeze on further employment of junior staff while a sharp cut back in intake has been advocated for the executives. Thirdly, there is need for a perspective manpower plan under which there would be a downsizing of numbers by 30 percent in ten years period." And how this downsizing is to be done? The solution prescribed by the Commission is quite outrageous. According to the Commission this could be achieved by "the usual wastage through deaths and retirements, assisted by a greater number of retirements under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme with the golden handshake and compulsory retirement of those who are found to be incompetent and corrupt." Now this recommendation of a freeze on further employment of junior staff is nothing new. There has already been a moratorium on recruitment of junior staff resulting in 3.5 lakh vacant posts which the Commission has recom-

mended for abolition straightway. Thus the recommendation of the Commission actually means continuation of the existing moratorium in recruitment of junior staff while the intake of executives will continue as before. This is simply an out and out anti-employee and anti-people recommendation of the Commission. Again, see how the Commission has advocated the Voluntary Retirement Scheme with golden handshake. This is much to the glee of the corporate houses which are very much in favour of this scheme to reduce their labour strength for maximising profit. To take the wind out of the sails of the workers' movement against Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the private sector employers will immediately cite the example of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Panel of the government in their defence. Again this 'Voluntary' Retirement Scheme is not really voluntary on the part of the employees, and there is nothing golden in the golden handshake which actually means a good parting kick.

On the question of compulsory retirement the Commission's recommendation is most damaging to the interest of the employees in general. The Commission recommends the compulsory retirement of employees for weeding out inefficiency and corruption. This scheme of compulsory retirement is likely to be implemented on the basis of annual confidential report for all the employees though the Commission has recommended periodical review of the ACR for the Group A officers only for this purpose. The periodical review of ACR of Group A staff as recommended by the Commission is highly against the interest of the middle ranking executive who will suffer from a sense of extreme insecurity because of this provision ensuring forced retirement as per whims of his superior. An employee inviting

wrath of his superior for any reason outside his official scope of work can be reported against in the ACR and thus he may be compulsorily retired for the same at any stage of his service life. On implementation of this recommendation, the concept of security and permanency in government jobs will go; and the employees will lose their rights earned through long struggle.

Most shocking is the recommendation of the Commission regarding employment on contract basis. The governments both at the centre and at the states have been continuing the most illegal and illegitimate practice of engaging casual and contract labours even for perennial nature of jobs, thus forsaking any responsibility toward these employees in the matter of pay scales or other statutory benefits enjoyed by a regular government employee. The Fifth Pay Commission not only seeks

to legitimatise the continued illegal practice of contracting out perennial nature of jobs by the government but also recommends to expand its area of operation much to the glee of the private sector employers against whom the trade unions are waging struggle for regularisation of the contract labourers. It is most alarming that this recommendation strikes at the root of the concept of the right to permanency and regularisation.

On computation of minimum salary the Commission arrived at a figure of Rs.2440.00 as the minimum salary on a basis which is quite vague. The Commission totally ignored the criteria recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference held in Simla as far back as 1958. It is to be noted that when the existing minimum pay plus 159% existing DA and the interim relief granted by the government is taken into consideration the increase in pay as recommended by the Commission is practically negligible. But in computing the maxi-

mum salary the Commission took into account the "present consumption level of senior functionaries" and "the additionality they expect", and has suggested a figure of Rs.26,000.00. In enhancing the pay packets of the higher ups in the administration, the Commission has gone to the extreme in seeking a perverse logic in justification of its move. The Commission argues, "the differential rates of neutralisation of cost of living through the dearness allowance has operated unjustly against the middle and senior management in government. While the peon's real wages increased by 53% between 1949 and 1996, the Secretary's real income was eroded to the extent of 72% during the same period." This logic is a malicious one to wilfully increase the gap between the lower and the higher groups of employees. It is an accepted fact that the inflationary pressure hit the lowest rung of the employ-

ees hardest and they are unable to meet the bare minimum of their daily life. So herein lies the necessity of full neutralisation of the increase in the cost of living index. But the government never did that. But the Commission, showing exaggeratedly the increase in wage of the peon has justified abnormal pay hike for the higher-ups.

Besides abnormal pay hike for the higher ups in administration the Commission is quite liberal in the matter of granting various perquisites to them. The Commission has recommended that all executives of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary and equivalent should be provided with a Telephone Attendant at their residence and the expenses would be borne by the government. The Commission further worked out entertainment allowance for certain specified officers. It also recommends very liberalised traveling and daily allowances and the executives are permitted to stay in posh private hotels
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Netaji Centenary Observed throughout the country

At the call of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary, the party and its mass organisations have taken up yearlong programmes to observe the birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a befitting manner. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker showed us that we have lost continuity with our rich past which responsible for the present shocking cultural degeneration. This continuity should be restored and at the same time there should be a break also, for in the change situation, a fundamentally new, the revolutionary ideology should be practiced to keep the flag of progress flying. With this objective, the centenary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is being observed by us in different parts of the country.

We give below the few reports of centenary celebration that we have received so far.

WEST BENGAL

Throughout West Bengal the All Bengal Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary Celebration Committee is observing the historic occasion through many a programme.

A meeting was held as a beginning at the Calcutta University Institute Hall, Calcutta, on 25th January which was presided over by Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University. Sri Rathin Sen, Freedom fighter, was the speaker. Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee, SUCI and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the party also spoke.

Sri Rathin Sen with a few touches painted in the minds of the audience the fiery days of freedom movement when Netaji, the living embodiment of revolution, was leading people towards freedom.

Comrade Provash Ghosh reminded how Netaji, and all great men, felt with deepest feelings the sigh of the suffering millions. This unbound love towards people worked as the source of inspiration that changed an ordinary man

into the great son of our country. He said, Congress, the then CPI (now CPI, CPI-M, CPI-ML), the then Hindu Mahasabha & RSS (now BJP) — all observed Netaji in every step, humiliated him, dealt blow against him even hatched conspiracies against him. Those very forces today were trying to obliterate that black chapter and usurp people's emotion about Netaji.

ANDHRA PRADESH

At Anantapur, the birth centenary of Subhas Chandra Bose was observed with warm enthusiasm under the auspices of AIDS0 and AIMSS. A public meeting was held on 22nd January to recall the teachings of the great uncompromising patriot.

In various schools and colleges also local meetings were participated by hundreds of students. AIDS0 and AIMSS leaders spoke in those meetings and documentary film on Netaji was shown. Common people extended help and cooperation to make the celebration successful. Almost all the college principals, school headmasters and teachers participated and helped in many ways.

On 22nd January thousands of students took out a colourful procession carrying portraits of Netaji Subhas and festoons of AIDS0 and AIMSS. The procession started from K.S.R. Government College and finally reached the Clock Tower. There, a big portrait of Netaji, installed earlier, was garlanded by Sri N. Bhushanam, Lieutenant of INA.

After the procession a massive public meeting was held at Lalitha Kala Parishat. The entire auditorium was filled with students, youths and teachers. Many octogenarian people including freedom fighters attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Govindarajulu, State Secretary, AIDS0.

Shri N. Bhushanam inaugurated the birth centenary meeting. He said, "Netaji was a legendary personality who wanted a prospering nation with dis-

ciplined citizens, but not the present state of India."

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee, SUCI, the Chief Guest on the august occasion, dwelt on the uncompromising life struggle of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He explained that in our freedom movement, there were two trends, one represented by Gandhiji and the other by Netaji. Gandhiji pursued the path of compromise with British rulers and local feudal lords and he never wanted the people come forward and participate in armed struggle, while Netaji organised people following the path of mass struggle and he never compromised with British rulers. Comrade Chakraborty recalled Netaji's criticism of the idea that the students should not involve in politics and they should concentrate on their studies only. Addressing the students community, many a time Netaji told studying academic courses and passing examinations might at best lead the students to get lucrative jobs and fat salaries, but would never make them a complete man. Comrade Chakraborty told that students and youths should fight injustice and wrong. He appealed to the young generation to imbibe inspiration from Netaji and take active part in the present-day struggles to overthrow the capitalist system and establish socialism by which dreams of Netaji could be fulfilled.

Others who spoke on this occasion were Comrade D. Ramesh Patnaik, AIDS0 State President and Comrade G. Lalitha, AIMSS State President. Comrade C.H. Prameela, State Secretary, AIMSS, moved a resolution demanding of the state and central governments to rewrite the history of our national freedom movement giving due importance to leaders of uncompromising trend like Netaji and erect statues of these great revolutionaries at important centres of all the cities and towns. The resolution was seconded by Comrade Narasimhulu, AIDS0 district president

and was unanimously adopted.

The meeting ended with cultural programmes performed by students.

At Hyderabad AIDS0 and AIMSS held a meeting on 31st January on the occasion of Netaji birth centenary. It was presided over by Comrade G. Sridhar, City AIDS0 president. Sri Qamarul Islam, INA Sub-officer, who worked with Netaji, inaugurated the meeting. He spoke emotionally about his personal experiences with Netaji and explained how INA was above cast, religious, linguistic, regional feelings. Comrade K.Sridhar, SUCI State Secretary was present as the chief guest. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, All India General Secretary, AIMSS said we were observing Netaji Centenary year to mobilise students and youths to release a new struggle to smash the capitalist exploitative system and liberate the working people.

ORISSA

On the occasion of Netaji Birth Centenary, a state level mass meeting was held on 23rd January at Institution of Engineers, Bhubaneswar under the auspices of Nikhila Orissa Netaji Subhas Janma Satbarsiki Committee. The meeting was presided over by the noted social worker Sri Shobhakar Swain. Prof. Gour Kishore Das, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University, was the honourable guest. Sri Manik Mukherjee, Editor of *Trend* and *Pathikrit* was the main speaker. Sri Sheshdev Mallick, author of *Bidrohi Subhas*, and Sri Bibudha Ranja, author of *Nikhoj Netaji*, also spoke.

PUNJAB

Netaji Subhas Janam Shatabdi Committee held a function on 23rd January at Modi College, Patiala, which was attended by more than one hundred people from various walks of life. Sri R. P. S. Pawar, Commissioner Appeals, Patiala and Ferozpur Division, was the guest-in-chief in the function. Shri Pratap Shamal was the main speaker. Prof. Gurmeet

Kaur Bhathal of Government Ranbir College Songrur, daughter of major Gurbax Singh of INA, and Prof. Aminderpal Singh of Guru Nanak College, Budhlada also spoke. The introductory note was given by Sri S.R. Sahni, Principal, Modi College, Patiala. Dr Rajinder Singh Atwal of Rajindra Hospital, Patiala and Convenor of Netaji Subhas Janam Shatabdi Committee, conducted the function.

Shri S.R. Sahni said, "We should ourselves struggle to practise the values reflected in the lives of great men and become a source of inspiration to the youth."

Prof. Bhattal shared her father's memories as to how he immediately left the British military service when he first heard the speech of Netaji at Singapore and joined the INA. She said we should live up to the expectations of Netaji to save the country from the exploitation of multinational corporations so that freedom can be enjoyed in the real sense of the term.

Prof. Aminderpal Singh said Netaji basically was a thinker. He wanted to isolate the compromising trend of Indian freedom struggle, represented by Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Pant, etc. But the so-called socialists and communists betrayed him which paved the way for the rightists to take over the Indian National Congress, the consequences of which we were facing even today.

Shri Pratap Shamal said that Netaji was projected as a fascist and an agent of Hitler. But the fact was that when Germany attacked the USSR, Netaji condemned it with full force. That was why Netaji could not get support from Germany when he fought against the British Indian Government from outside.

Shri R.P.S. Pawar upheld the secular spirit and conduct of Netaji and said that we should struggle for change in society after being equipped with Netaji's teachings.

Dr Rajinder Singh Atwal said instead of being

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Fifth Central Pay Commission

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and to avail air travel for all official journeys. House rent allowance has been recommended @ 30% of the maximum of the pay scale to all employees in A:1 cities and from 5% to 15% of the maximum in other cities. It also indirectly pushes up the pay packet of the higher ups who are mostly posted in A:1 cities while the lower grade employees will run from pillar to post in search of a roof over their head with their meagre amount of house rent allowance. The amount of advances which are taken maximum advantage of by the higher grade employees has been substantially raised for the purchase of cars, house building and for purchase of personal computers. If the liberal granting of perquisites be taken into consideration along with the increased pay packet, the gap between the lower and the higher groups of employees will be even more wide. The additional benefit to be accrued by the higher grade employees would be evident from the estimate of the Commission on the additional financial implications which come to Rs.8800 crores for one year. It has already been stated that the payrise of the lower grade employees would be very nominal if the existing DA and interim relief are taken into consideration with the existing basic pay. So it is clear that a substantial portion of Rs.8,800.00 crores will go to fatten the purse of the higher grade employees, constituting only a small fraction of the total employees.

On the question of bonus the Commission has maintained an eligibility ceiling of Rs.4,500.00 per month and the calculation ceiling has been retained at Rs.2,500.00 p.m. Besides ignoring the demand of bonus as deferred wage, the Commission has virtually debarred a large chunk of the employees from the entitlement of bonus by imposing eligibility and

calculation ceilings.

The employees need not be jubilant over the Commission's recommendation increasing the age of superannuation by 2 years. In its zeal to downsize the staff strength the government will indiscriminately resort to VRS or forced retirement scheme in line with its present policy of liberalisation and globalisation. So most of the employees might not get the opportunity to avail themselves of the benefit of additional 2 years of service. Employees attaining the age of 50 years or even less are likely to face the music of VRS or forced retirement. So this recommendation of increasing the age of superannuation to 60 years is actually a deception.

The Commission has recommended to reduce gazetted holidays from 17 to 3 and there will be no holiday on the demise of any leader except the incumbent President and Prime Minister. This recommendation is a direct affront to the employees in general as this proposal if implemented, will definitely increase the workload on the employees by increasing the working hours.

The recommendations of the Commission regarding the officers of the armed forces are quite liberal. Commissioned officers are given a higher start than the civilian counterpart, and the cadets would get Rs.8000.00 p.m. instead of Rs.1,500.00 p.m. as at present during training at Service Training Institutes. But the starting pay of an infantry soldier is only Rs.3000.00 p.m., which although higher than his civilian counterpart, is far below the norms set out by the 15th Indian Labour Conference. The Commission also recommends cash ration allowance in lieu of rations in kind in peace areas, and this also goes against the interest of the personnels as the cash ration allowance cannot ensure the purchase of the same quantity of

goods because of the inflationary pressure.

It is evident from the above discussion that the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission are grossly anti-employee, anti-people and highly biased in favour of the senior executives of the government. At the same time, as already stated, this recommendation will create a sense of insecurity in the ranks of the middle ranking officers because of the provision of the periodic review of the ACR, and many of them will have to go through forced retirement.

The Commission's recommendations also differentiate in not allowing equal pay for similar or equivalent type of job for all categories of officers in the middle level. Promotion prospect for many of them will vanish because of the abolition of many posts as per the Commission's recommendations. The recommendations clearly aim at further curtailing employment opportunities by abolishing lakhs of permanent posts, by effecting freeze on further employment, privatisation of government undertakings and introducing the most retrograde system of contract labour. When the country is confronted with the peculiar phenomenon of "jobless growth", thanks to the policy of liberalisation and globalisation, the recommendations of the Commission will further curtail job opportunities to the millions of the unemployed.

In such a situation, we appeal to all sections of the employees of the country embracing right from the Group D staff upto the middle level officers belonging to Group A service to stand unitedly to resist the retrograde and black recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and force the UF Government, committed to pursue the policy of liberalisation and globalisation initiated by the previous Congress government, to retrace its step.

Netaji Centenary Observed

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an ICS slave, Netaji jumped into Indian freedom struggle. In the end, Dr Atwal thanked the various speakers and the audience.

MADRAS

The birth centenary of Netaji was observed in Madras on 23rd January at LLA Hall, Anna Salai. This was jointly organised by AIMSS, AIDS0 and AIDYO under the banner of Netaji Birth Centenary Organising Committee.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Elangovan, AIDYO and Comrade Hochimin Thilagar, AIDS0 district in charge. The speakers were Sri Asokamitran, novelist and Sahitya Academy Award winner, Sri Prabanjan, novelist and Sahitya Academy Award winner, Sri Mu Metha, poet, Sri Gnani, journalist, Prof. Karunanandan, President, ACTA, Dr Jayachandran, Joint Secretary, TN Medical Science Forum, Sri Pukazendi, Cine Director, and Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIMSS.

Comrade Thilagar stressed the need to rewrite history of the Indian freedom movement.

Sri Pukazendi emphasized the need to learn the struggling spirit, courage and patriotism of Netaji.

Sri Gnani showed how Netaji organised the Indians abroad under INA and how the present-day NRIs were coming only to loot our country.

Sri Mu. Metha expressed how revolutionary spirit sprang from the depth of one's heart when one recalled Netaji's name.

Dr Jaya Chandran recalled how leaders like Netaji and Bhagat Singh fought for real freedom, whereas, leaders today did give lip service to freedom and actually took it away from common people.

Prof. Karunanandan dwelt at length on the uncompromising struggle led by Netaji as against the compromising role of Gandhiji.

Sri Prabanjan re-emphasized that history be re-

written based on people's struggle.

Novelist Asokamitran gave examples showing greatness and determination of Netaji in freedom struggle.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee showed that the uncompromising fight led by Netaji and Bhagat Singh was the true fight for complete freedom. The then CPI, had it been a true communist party and taken a correct stand in favour of Netaji's line, Indian history would have turned in favour of socialism and this task, she said, had been bestowed upon the present generation and especially on our soldiers.

The meeting concluded with cassette play of Netaji's 10 minute speech delivered to youths and students.

UP

Allahabad : Under the auspices of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Centenary Observance Committee a state level meeting was held on 23rd January at Chatra Sangh Bhavan of Allahabad University. Representatives from all over UP, teachers of Allahabad University, other intellectuals, students and women of the city attended the meeting. Speakers of the meeting were Prof. Lal Bahadur Verma, Dr Sudhansu Kumar Malaviya, Prof. Rajendra Kumar of Allahabad University, Sri B. L. Biswas, Comrade Achintya Sinha, all India trade union leader, Comrade N. K. Sharma, a trade unionist of Allahabad, and Comrade Vijai Pal. Comrade Raghvendra conducted the meeting.

Comrade Achintya Sinha in course of his speech said that in order to live like a true human being we must cultivate the teachings of Netaji.

Prof. Lal Bahadur Verma said that in the context of the present pitiable political and social condition, the great personality of Netaji seemed to be the only ray of hope.

Dr Sudhansu Kumar Malaviya said simply re-

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Netaji Centenary Observed

(Contd. from page 6)

calling Netaji would not solve people's problems and end exploitation. For this purpose, people must achieve a second social revolution as Netaji desired.

Comrade N. K. Sharma said there were several 'netas' in the independence movement, but people recognised Subhas Chandra Bose as the only 'Neta'.

Prof. Rajendra Kumar exhorted the audience to enter into practical struggle on the path shown by Netaji.

Sri B. L. Biswas explained in detail the differences between the ideas of Netaji and Gandhiji.

KARNATAKA

Bangalore : On 23rd morning at 9 AM hundreds of school children went in *Prabhath Pheri* with bandsets from Hundson Circle to Mysore Bank Circle. At a meeting of the students held after the procession, Comrade B. R. Manjunath, State President of AIDYO, presided. "Netaji Cultural Evening" was organised by noted film director T. S. Nagabharana.

The final meeting was held at Senate Hall on 28th at 11 AM. Comrade M. N. Sriram, AIDS State Secretary and Dr. Sudha Kamath, AIMSS State Secretary spoke on the occasion.

Raichur : Besides cultural competition and sports for women, a massive public meeting was held at Mahila Samaj Grounds. Comrade B.R. Manjunath was the main speaker. Sri Amaresh Gowda, a renowned leftist-advocate and Sri Channabasappa Betta-dooru, veteran peasant leader, also addressed the gathering.

Dharwar : Here also cultural competition was held. On 29th January a meeting was held at Vidya Vardhaka Sangha. Sri G. T. Paduki, a veteran progressive advocate, and Comrade A. Ramanjinappa, State Secretary of AIDYO addressed the gathering, besides Comrade B. R. Manjunath.

Bellary : Students, parents and public in large numbers thronged the venue of cultural competition, which was a remarkable success. The public meeting on 31st January was attended by

people with similar enthusiasm was addressed by Comrade M. N. Sriram, Comrade K. Somashekhar, SUCI district Secretary and Comrade Devdas, district AIDYO President presided.

Gulbarga : Here also Cultural-sports competitions and final programme was held. On 29th January meeting Comrade K. Uma, AIDS State President, was the main speaker. Sri Allama Prabhu Bettadooru, a renowned progressive writer, was the chief guest. Prof. J. S. Patel, Dean, Law faculty, Gulbarga University, distributed prizes. Comrade Nagammal, district Convenor of the MSS made introductory remarks. Comrade B. Bhagawan Reddy, AIDYO district president presided over the programme.

Mysore : Programmes were held at Backward Community Hostel and Siddhartha High School on 5th and 6th February. On 23rd January a colourful *prabhath pheri* with hundreds of school children was organised.

Tumkur : On 6th February a massive meeting was held at Government Polytechnic Institute.

Chintamani Town, Kolar : A well attended meeting was held at Government First Grade College. These apart, many other institutional, locality level meetings and exhibitions are still being organised.

KERALA

Under the auspices of Netaji Anusmarana Samithi, year long observation of Netaji birth centenary began in Kerala. On 16th January, 1997, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer inaugurated the programmes in a meeting held in Ernekulam. Justice Iyer told in his inaugural address that the uncompromising line which was pursued by Netaji in the freedom struggle is very much needed in the present day anti-imperialist struggle when even the so-called communists are paving red carpets for the entry of multinational into our country. He called upon the youth to take up the path of uncompromising struggle against injustice as shown by Netaji.

On 23rd January a

meeting was held in Trivandrum with Dr N. A. Karim as president. Dr. Karim said that our official history is one-sided. The uncompromising struggle represented by Netaji is erased from the official history. The values that were upheld in that struggle have to be rebuilt and spread in the society. Dr. Nandiode Ramachandra, P. Viswambheran, K. P. Kosalaramedas, Dr. V. Venugopal and a host of other speakers also spoke.

An exhibition in the life and struggle of Netaji was inaugurated in Kottayam on 13th January by Dr Rajass Gurukkal. In Trivandrum also exhibition was organised for three days.

Netaji Remembrance Committee is having Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer as its chairman and a good number of leading personalities of Kerala like R. M. Manackalath, Dr. N. A. Karim, Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse, Pavanan etc. and many INA veterans as its executive members. Comrade G. S. Padmakumar is the convenor.

HARYANA

Under the banner of AIDS, AIDYO, AIMSS, public meetings were organised at different places in the state to celebrate the Netaji centenary.

Rohtak : Dr. Surat Singh, Editor *Dastak* presided over the meeting held at Chhotu Ram Park on 23rd January, 1997. Comrade Anoop Singh, Secretary, SUCI, Rohtak district was the main speaker. Others who spoke were Dr. Nihal Chand, Master Rajender Singh, Shri Mohabir Singh Phogat, Comrade Dev Varat, AIDS, Comrade Sujata, MSS. The public meeting unanimously passed a resolution demanding (1) A research chair to be set up in M. D. University, Rohtak on Netaji ; (2) Mansarovar Park be renamed after Netaji Subhaschandra Bose ; (3) Name board be placed on Netaji Subhas Road in the town.

Rewari : The public meeting was organised by AIDYO, AIDS and INA Association at Bada Talab park. It was presided over

by Sh. Bhanwar Lal Bahmani Dutt, General Secretary, INA Association. Shri Bahadur Singh Mandi and Khushi ram both of INA and Shri P. D. Verma, Ex-Headmaster, Comrade Vijai Kumar, Secretary SUCI, Rewari, Comrade Ramesh Chander, AIDS, Comrade Sher Singh, AIDYO, were the speakers.

Naruaul : AIDYO and AIDS organised a massive campaign in the town and a public meeting held at Olympic Club premises at Naruaul. Sardar Bhajan Singh Nagar presided the function. Others who spoke were Prof. V. K. Aggarwal, Comrade Rajendra Singh, State Secretary, AIDYO, Comrade Bijender Singh Dutt, President AIDS, Comrade Ram Kumar, AIDYO.

Kurukshetra : Public meeting held at Sannihit Park organised by AIDYO, AIDS and AIMSS. Comrade Lehna Singh presided over the meeting. Comrade Shyam Sunder Dutt, Secretary, SUCI was the main speaker. Others were comrade Sudesh Kumari, AIMSS, Comrade Ompal, AIDYO.

Kaithal : AIDYO organised a public meeting at Nehru park which was presided over by Comrade Krishan Chand. The main speaker was Comrade Roshan Lal Dutt, Secretary, SUCI. Comrade Rakesh Rama, AIDYO, also spoke in the meeting.

Bhiwani : AIDYO organised a public meeting held at Nehru Park and presided over by Comrade Zile Singh Dutt, Secretary, SUCI. Comrade Ramphal Haryana AIDYO President, was the main speaker. Master Ajit Singh also spoke.

Gurgaon : AIDYO organised a public meeting at Saini Chaupal Bhawan GGM. The meeting was presided over by Principal Kehar Singh. Headmaster R. K. Verma was the Chief Guest. Main Speaker was Comrade Omprakash, President, AIDS, Haryana. Comrade Balwan Singh, AIDYO also spoke. A morning rally was organised.

Zind : The public meeting was organised by Netaji

Yadgar Committee. Shri Prem Singh, Principal, Saint Paul High School presided over the meeting. The chief guest was Shri Banwarilal, Ex-INA freedom fighter. Shri Hoshiyar Singh, ADA, Comrade Sudhir, Comrade Paul Singh, Ahri Arjun Singh, Shrimati Sohan Biran Devi spoke in the meeting.

Sonipat : The public meeting was organised by Netaji Yadgar Committee at the campus of Doon Senior Secondary School, Sonipat. Smt. Sudarshan Kaushik, Dist. Education Officer presided over the meeting. Dr. Nilima Sangla, Chief Judicial Magistrate was the chief guest. Comrade Satyawan, State Secretary, SUCI, was the main speaker. Others who spoke were Comrade Ishwar Singh Rathi. Shri Ram Bilas Garg, Principal, CRA College was the prominent guest, Shri Rammehar Chhikara, Headmaster and Shri Azad Singh, Principal, Shri Raghbir Singh Dahiya spoke to the gathering. Morning rally and Mashal rally both were also organised.

Hissar : AIDYO, AIDS and Yuwa Club organised a public meeting at Satrod Khura village on 23rd January, 1997. Comrade Somdutt Gautam presided over it. Ex-INA men and large number of students, youth and villagers participated in the meeting. An extensive poster was done throughout the state which bear Netaji photo. Quotation Exhibition was also organised.

AIKKMS Haryana observed Protest Week

AIKKMS Haryana observed Jan 10 - 16 as a protest-week against rampant price rise, corruption etc. particularly in wheat in the market. Demonstration, squading, set-in dharnas, public meetings, corner meetings were organised at Block, Tehsil and district level before Food and Supply Offices. Memorandums were submitted to the respective authorities. A large number of poor peasants and agricultural workers joined in these programme.

Revolutionary Homage to Valiant Martyr Comrade Amir Ali Halder

SUCI, West Bengal State Committee member, valiant martyr Comrade Amir Ali Halder, hacked to death by CPI(M) backed anti-socials on 11th January last, was commemorated in a memorial meeting on 19th January at Natun Hat, Baishata, in 24-Parganas district. Held at a large ground, where Comrade Halder had addressed many a gathering, the area was too small to accommodate the entire mass of over a staggering 50,000 who spread in the paddy field on the three sides of the meeting place and in the adjacent Natunhat market. Truly a mass leader who cut a niche in the heart of hearts of people of wide areas of Sunderbans, his impact on people's mind is clear by the solemnity of the vast gathering. Gloomy silence filled the whole area barring the announcement, while people and comrades in a long queue paid floral

tribute to the departed leader who was also the KKMS West Bengal State Secretary and Secretariat member of the SUCI South 24-Parganas district committee. The members of "KOMSOMOL", the young communist league, paid guard of honour to the slain leader.

Among the leaders who paid floral tribute to Comrade Amir Ali Halder were Comrade Anil Sen and Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, members, Central Committee, Comrade Mobinul Haider Chowdhury, member, Central Committee, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member and West Bengal State Secretary, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat, Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member, West Bengal State Secretariat, Comrade Protiva Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat,

Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, State Committee member and MLA and Comrade Prabodh Purkait, MLA. Comrade Yakub Pailan, member, State Secretariat and Secretary, South 24-Parganas District Committee, presided over the meeting.

Comrade Yakub Pailan, in his presidential speech said no decision could be reached on any problem without his views or suggestion. Yet he had unswerving loyalty to committee decision, collective decision.

Comrade Prabodh Purkait said Comrade Amir Ali Halder fought his whole life so much so that communal forces could not raise their ugly heads in his locality.

Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar said that the day Comrade Halder arose as the leader of peasants and workers movement in this locality, zamindars and jotedars felt danger by their class instinct. But what

Tribute of

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee

Red Salute Comrade Amir Ali Halder !

Comrade Halder emerged amidst the fire of class struggle of the agricultural labours and landless poor peasants and he constantly developed himself to higher and higher standard on the anvil of the proletarian culture. His entire life was a ceaseless struggle to acquire the qualities of higher communist character. His life struggle should be emulated by both leaders and activists.

I pay my revolutionary homage and Red Salute to Comrade Amir Ali Halder on my behalf and on behalf of the Central Committee.

they could not do in the past, CPI(M) butchers did it this time.

Comrade Provash Ghosh in his long speech highlighted the emulating ethical aspects of the life of Comrade Amir Ali Halder who became thus the beloved of countless men, even belonging to other political parties. He even met and changed those men, who attempted on his life in the past. Comrade Ghosh said that thousands of comrades' response to

the call,"Comrade Halder, we won't forget you" could be made possible only by conducting a really uncompromising struggle, on the basis of thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, against one's own drawbacks, personal interest, self-centred family feelings, and weaknesses.

After the speech of Comrade Provash Ghosh, a song on Comrade 'Amir Ali Halder' was presented. The meeting ended with the *Internationale*.

Stop Price Hike

(Contd. from page 1)

people already groaning under the heavy burden of price rise, massive taxation and acute unemployment problem, this UF government does not lack in demonstrating pro-people gimmick. With much fanfare this government has announced to supply cereals at half the cost to the families having less than Rs.15,000/-annual income. But it is totally silent about the details of this scheme. People are quite acquainted with the state of affairs of the rationing system in the urban and rural areas of the country. The supply in

the ration shops is practically nil. In such a situation one can easily visualise the fate of the proposed scheme for the benefit of the poorer section of the people. Instead of providing any succour to the poor this scheme will only add further scope of corruption and blackmarket. We like to reiterate here our previous stand on this question, and it is that only by wholesale and retail state trading in foodgrains that the problem can be successfully tackled. But instead of taking any move in this direction, the Deve Gowda government is only resorting to gimmick to

befool the people.

The UF government is propped up with the Congress support from outside. This government is committed to pursue the policy of liberalisation and globalisation initiated by the Nara Simha Rao Government at the Centre since 1991. In line with this retrograde policy, subsidies for the benefit of the weaker sections of the people are being withdrawn, public sector undertakings are privatised and the market is thrown open to the multinationals in the interest of the Indian monopolists who expect to find a niche in the international market in collaboration with them. As a result of this retrograde policy

subversing the interest of the monopolists the entire burden is shifted on to the shoulders of the common people. In this context, it is to be remembered that the CPI(M) though not in the UF Ministry is very much a constituent of the UF and so it can not absolve itself of its responsibility for all these misdeeds of the UF government. The CPI(M) is posing as if it is against some of the economic policies of the UF government and it will launch movement against them. But this is a sheer hoax to befool the people. Is it not a fact that the CPI(M) led Left Front government is pursuing the same policy of liberalisations and globalisation and extending red carpet

treatment to the multinationals and to Mr John Major, the British Prime Minister and spokesman of British finance capital? So the call of movement by the CPI(M) is only a gimmick to befool the people to ensure its vote-bank on one hand and to disrupt the process of the growth of movement from within on the other.

It is high time the people came forward unitedly to build up countryside powerful mass movement against this fiscal savagery of the UF government and compel it to take appropriate measures to check such galloping rise in prices of essential commodities.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE