

# Proletarian Era

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## Appeal to People on Ensuing Mid-Term Poll

*[ In a press conference held on 21st January, 1998 in Calcutta, Comrade Nihar Sukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, released the following policy statement on ensuing mid-term poll along with our list of candidates in Lok Sabha constituencies of the ten states and Assembly seats of Gujarat and Tripura.]*

Once again, within just 20 months, the country is going to face another poll to the Lok Sabha. It is known to all that sheer wrangling for power — not for any principle, ideology or concern for people's interests — among the leaders of the Congress(I), BJP, Janata Dal-CPI(M) combine, along with other regional parties, coupled with the crisis of instability of the parliamentary system of our country, have thrust upon the unwilling people this mid-term poll which will cost at least 600 crores of Rupees from the public exchequer, the entire burden of which will have to be borne by the common and poor people.

Some very important and pertinent questions cannot but haunt the minds of the people when they are faced with the question of whom to vote for and why. They think and ask themselves again and again that why even after 50 years of independence and so many five-year plans, 32 crore and 80 lakhs out of 95 crore and 30 lakhs of people (*Statesman Economic Survey, 22.2.97*) live below the poverty line? Why do they suffer from abject poverty, destitution, misery and ruination beyond description although our country has plenty of natural and human resources? Why prices of all essential commodities are soaring sky-high? Why this stagnation of economy? Why inflation and recession have assumed endemic character? Why the army of unemployed, both rural and urban, is swelling day by day? Why literacy rate of our people, according to 1991 census, is 52.2% of the total population? Why, not to speak of medical facilities, there is no guarantee even of supply of drinking water in vast areas of our countryside? Why so many millions do not have any shelter to live in?

Some other questions pertaining to cultural and moral life also haunt them. They wonder although during the period of independence struggle of our country we could take pride in the galaxy of luminaries in every field of activities — science, philosophy, art, literature, politics etc., who were really great men of international repute — why today we find just an opposite picture? Why this moral degradation and cultural degeneration? Why a good number of students and youths, bereft of any morals and ethics, are moving with aimless desperation, sinking in alcoholism and wallowing in drug-addiction?

Why incidence of AIDS is on the rise? Why prostitution, rape, gangrape beside all kinds of indignities to women are increasing so alarmingly? There are some other questions which need to be addressed now.

Be it the question of scams and corruption, particularly at the highest level, or be it the question of criminalisation of politics or of turning election into farce by unscrupulous use of media, muscle power and moneybag and administrative rigging — the picture is the same everywhere. The common people are learning from their own experience that not only their voice is not reflected through the elections but the depth and dimension of criminalisation of politics have increased manifold. Previously, the parliamentary parties utilized the services of criminals to their own ends. Today, it is the criminals who are themselves becoming MPs and ministers. It is also a sad experience that although all the contending parties made a single-point campaign against corruption during the last poll, let alone minimizing or weeding out the spate of corruption, it is increasing even more vigorously than before. Our people should ponder: how can the parties and leaders who are themselves steeped neck-deep in corruption, fight against corruption at the same time?

The promise of providing a clean administration has been given a good-bye by the previous governments. People also wonder today that when so many contending parties swear by secularism, why should then the country be plunged in communal and fratricidal bloodbath again and again? Do they really mean secular practice in educational, social and political life? How can one explain the barbarous act of demolition of the Babri Masjid which threatened so menacingly the unity and fraternity of our people belonging to both the communities? When people witness extreme instability of the political system as well as various fissiparous tendencies within the society, the contending parliamentary parties — the Congress (I), BJP, JD and the so-called Lefts — are all boastfully claiming that they will provide the country with a stable government. One cannot but ask that when the parties promising a stable government are themselves riven with factionalism, group rivalry and internecine squabbles — how can

the same parties speak of stability? Are not these promises meant only for hoodwinking the people?

Today, one can hardly miss to notice that with the announcement of elections a sudden spurt of changing party affiliation has been started by the intending candidates either after being denied nomination by the party they belong to or because of expectation of better results at the hustings by changing affiliation — both of which are aimed at petty electoral prospects with scant regard for values, principles and morals. How horse trading of MPs and MLAs has become rampant is also another grave and dismal portent. Even then these very parties are crying themselves hoarse over value-based politics in one breath while asserting

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## SUCI Calls Bangla Bandh on 3rd February

Our party has called upon the people to observe "Bangla Bandh" on 3rd February '98 demanding, among others, reintroduction of English and pass-fail system right from class one, instead of class five, which is now in vogue. Our party had to give the "Bangla Bandh" call as even after the sustained people's movement over twenty years against the State's disastrous language and education policy, the CPI(M)-led Left Front government has not conceded the demands.

Bandhs generally are called on economic issues or political issues, but a Bandh on the issue of education and culture is something new. On such issue processions, demonstrations, deputations etc. and at best strikes in educational institutions are generally organised. But state-wide Bandh on education is rather unique. In this background, this Bandh is historic not only in West Bengal, but also in entire India.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front government first had made its policy known after it was saddled in power in 1977. Since then the movement started against the policy. People initially hardly believed that English would be abolished from the primary level. A sustained propaganda campaign was started against this policy, against the attack on educational autonomy and so on. The Left Front government implemented its policy, abolishing English and pass fail system in 1981. The

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in the next that there is no permanent friend or foe in politics. All these have led the people to believe that politics is a profession of scoundrels. But they should know that although there is typically opportunistic politics of the parliamentary parties, always craving for power, which is no doubt dominant today, there is also another voice, representing the real interest of the people — the politics introduced by our departed leader, teacher, guide and an eminent Marxist thinker of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, that is based on the edifice of noble values and higher ethics and culture. Common people will have to think whom to support if they really want to get out of the present morass.

In fact, widespread prevalence of unprincipled politics is going on in the country because of the fact that the common people are not yet organised in democratic mass movements, do not have the required level of democratic consciousness and are in a state of utter helplessness, suffering from extreme poverty and ignorance and are without any educational facilities — taking advantage of which the parliamentary parties are able to deceive them again and again. This time also these parties are creating a furore about secularism and stability, besides raising other catchy slogans, and making tall claims and false promises. To find a correct and scientific answer to all these questions, it is very urgent to know and realize the standpoint and analysis of the SUCI.

Our party, from its very inception, has been placing before the people some basic analyses which we consider very relevant and fundamental in the present situation as well. Our country or the nation is not an indivisible whole. Ours is a class divided society. On one side of it there are a handful of capitalists who are amassing huge profit while on the other are the vast multitude of the exploited people — workers, peasants, agricultural labourers, students, youths, women etc. who are trying to somehow eke out an existence. Indian capitalism not only developed into monopoly capitalism long ago but it gave birth to, through the coalescence of banking capital and industrial capital, a financial oligarchy and finance capital through the export of which in foreign countries, among others, it has attained imperialist character. It has become a partner, although a junior partner, of imperialist trusts and cartels. Even in agriculture, the production is governed by the motive of earning maximum profit based on capitalist relations of production.

In this third phase of intense general crisis of capitalism, Indian capitalism as an integral part of world capitalism is highly crisis-ridden itself. This crisis is so deep-seated that it manages to get rid of one crisis only to be plunged into a deeper one. Besides, with a view to providing artificial stimulation to economy, Indian capitalism has taken resort to militarization by spending crores of rupees from the public exchequer. Previously, during the regime of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian capitalists, in their aggregate interest, developed the public sector by spending crores of public money, but in recent times, it has started the process of handing over these industries to the monopolists through privatisation and disinvestment schemes.

The analysis which our party made during the

introduction of the five-year plans that such planning would also be haunted by a shadow of crisis, has come true to the hilt. As an aspirant bourgeoisie, the Indian bourgeoisie is trying to emerge as a powerful competitor to the traditional imperialist countries in this subcontinent. In order to fulfil its class aspiration, the Indian monopoly bourgeoisie entered in the new GATT and the WTO after accepting the conditionalities in order to make way into the markets of other countries to boost their superprofits, whatever might have been the dictates of the World Bank, IMF and the MNCs.

If we look at the much trumpeted New Economic Policy introduced with fanfare since the time of Narasimha Rao - Mammohan Singh regime of the Congress (I), it will be clear as daylight that all the virtues claimed in favour of the NEP have been proved to be imaginary. The people have already experienced the worsening unemployment problem and further rise in prices of all essential commodities, including life saving drugs as the concomitant of liberalization and globalisation through the NEP. The prescription of the NEP as also of the GATT to progressively reduce subsidy in agriculture has already hit hard the middle and poor peasants and shot up the prices of agricultural products, affecting adversely all sections of the people, while the acceptance of the Intellectual Property Rights and amending of the Patent Law as per the desire of the WTO cannot but further hamper indigenous research in different branches of technology and science. So, however much the then Congress (I) government might have tried to befool the people by highlighting the virtues of joining the WTO — now the BJP, UF-LF leaders have also joined the chorus — it is merely for ensuring fabulous profit for the big monopoly houses of our country and opening wide the door to the MNCs to freely exploit the cheap labour power and raw materials of our vast land. And all these ruling parties are getting blessings and patronage from the foreign monopoly houses. Therefore, in place of doing any good for the people, it is only bringing disaster in their lives.

The adverse effect of this policy of privatisation, liberalization, disinvestment of PSUs coupled with abolition of all restrictions which were imposed upon the monopolists previously and opening the door of our economy to the foreign capital practically without any restriction is yet to be gauged fully. Every knowledgeable citizen knows well how this policy has brought disaster in Mexico and some countries of South-East Asia. In fact, India is getting increasingly entangled in the debt-trap which looms large. All these developments are sure to cause concern among the people about what kind of future is awaiting them. Now, it should be clear that so long as capitalism is there, nationalization of economy is not socialism. Neither the liberalized economy is a panacea for the basic problems in people's life. This is the experience in all the capitalist and imperialist countries — the USA and other advanced capitalist countries not excluded.

Since the capitalist economic system of our country is becoming increasingly crisis-ridden and since this crisis is bound to aggravate further with the passage of time, it cannot but be reflected in other spheres too. This means that the crisis in the

base is bound to be reflected in the superstructure and the more the crisis in the base, the more intense becomes the crisis in the superstructure also. Since capitalism as a system has become not only crisis-ridden and moribund but also corrupt to the core, any party serving this capitalist system is bound to be corrupt. Examples to illustrate this point are galore. Even the Gandhites of yesteryears who once had had an unquestionable record of dedication, honesty, sacrifice and simple mode of life, started being afflicted with corruption after the Congress came to power. Today the band of leaders irrespective of the parliamentary party they represent, are all wallowing in corruption. If our countrymen cannot clearly grasp this point they would sink in utter frustration and despondency. They would then surely sink into fatalism, losing faith and confidence in the strength of humanity and people's power. It should be understood that falling prey to frustration and dejection would not solve the problems, would rather help aggravate them further.

Naturally, the political immorality sweeping the country, cultural depravity all around, resorting to unethical means of livelihood, absence of any noble ideology in life, the most distressing situation in every field and whatever other forms of crisis that we are observing in the fields like education, jurisprudence, the political ethos etc. of the country are but the reflection of the crises in the economic base.

In the political sphere, contrary to the previous relatively free operation of democratic rights to the extent enjoyed by the people, these rights have been systematically squeezed and drastically curtailed with the increase in strength of monopoly capital. As a result, the hard-won democratic rights have been trampled upon and draconian acts clamped at the sweet will of the ruling class. Legitimate democratic mass movements are crushed by the coercive instruments of the police and sometimes by the use of military and para-military forces. Nowadays, instead of employing the police, a dominant trend of deploying the military and para-military forces is discernible. This is dangerous indeed. But despite all this, the security of life and property of the common people is increasingly threatened as murders, massacres, loot, arson and extortions are increasing every day. While the capitalists in the cities are grooming the underworld to terrorize the workers, the kulaks are raising their private armies to cow down the rural poor.

Administrative neutrality has been given a good-bye and administrative fascism has taken its place. All voices of protest have been gagged by various means and are finding no outlet in the mass-media. Judiciary has become committed since long even though it poses to be neutral and the saviour of the parliamentary democratic institutions when all other organs have undergone serious erosion, if not turned absolutely rotten. The recent verdict of Kerala High Court declaring bands illegal, which was later endorsed by the Supreme Court, is a glaring case in point. Another agonizing sign is also coming to the fore. Viewing the present crisis of instability of the government, some people are advocating for the presidential form of government. The presidential form of government is nothing but a variant of constitutional dictatorship which is sure to trample even more severely upon the democratic

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rights and aspirations of the people.

A deep probe will reveal that with accentuating crisis of capitalism, the Indian bourgeoisie is unable to maintain single-party rule at the Centre as before. After a continued spell of nearly thirty years, since independence, of single party rule at the Centre, Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister, leading the then Janata Party Government. The Indira Government was again installed through 1980 elections which was necessitated by the untimely fall of the Morarji Government. The ruling bourgeoisie was trying to introduce a two-party parliamentary system. But it failed with the fall of the Morarji Government because of group squabbles and personal aspiration of some leaders for power.

The main question before the ruling bourgeoisie, the monopolists, was to see which party would perform best as the servitor of the capitalist system, which was the most subservient to the interest of the monopolists. The ruling capitalists have no special fascination or love for any particular party. They prop up that party which serves them best. This explains why the bourgeoisie switched favour overnight and helped bring the Janata party in power after the Congress(I) became extremely unpopular as a sequel to the Emergency, clamped down by Indira Gandhi in 1975. In today's perspective, three contending political forces are vying with each other to come to governmental power. These are the Congress (I), the BJP and the UF-CPI(M) combine.

All these contending parliamentary parties are loudly claiming that if saddled in power, they would provide the people with a stable government which, they say, would bring prosperity as well. People should pause and ponder whether such a 'stable government' can serve their real interest. When the Congress (I) was ruling for three decades at the Centre and for a longer period in certain states, did that provide prosperity to the people? Similarly, the CPI(M)-led 'stable' LF Government, which has been ruling West Bengal for more than twenty years, has only increased the misery of the poor people. Are these contending forces — the Congress (I), the BJP and the JD-CPI(M) combine, the real friends of the people and care even a bit for the people when they raise hue and cry about stability, disregarding the objective reality? People should not fail to take serious note of this point.

These so-called friends of the people have exposed their anti-people and undemocratic character by some of the recent decisions taken in the Parliament which all of them heartily welcomed and endorsed. In the name of curbing the number of non-serious candidates in the polls they have taken a 'democratic' decision to increase by 20 times the deposit money for both Lok Sabha and Assembly seats. Whereas the amount of deposit money for contesting in a Lok Sabha seat were previously Rs. 500/- and Rs 250/- for the General and SC/ST seats respectively, these have been increased to Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- respectively. The deposit money for the Assembly election has been increased to Rs 5,000/- and Rs. 2,500/- for general and SC/ST respectively from the previous amount of Rs. 250/- and 125/-.

It is clear that only those parties and

candidates who have no dearth of financial resources, whatever may be the source of the same, have been viewed to be eligible for contesting in the elections. But any party or individual, having tangible mass support and willing to contest for projecting the voice of the struggling people have been the obvious targets sought to be kept outside the election battle. So many other measures as suggested by the Election Commission and endorsed by these parties are also no less sinister in nature. The CPI(M) and CPI are willing parties to this design. However, the people are dead against holding of elections at such short intervals again and again. They are also reluctant to bear the additional financial burden of such frequent elections. It is high time that the people understand at least some basic factors that are causing this extreme instability now engulfing the parliamentary politics of our country.

First, the contradiction between the monopoly houses for reaping maximum profit has increased markedly with the acute market crisis and ever increasing recession. Although all of them stand for the faithful defence of this moribund capitalist system they are themselves undergoing splits centring round their competition. To get their interest better served, they like to get elected to the parliament those parties who, they consider, would hold their brief quite effectively.

Second, there is contradiction between national monopoly capital and the various regional capitals since long. Here the phenomenon is of both combination and contention depending upon the given situation. That means, despite having contradiction, the national monopoly capitalists sometimes combine with regional capitalists, obviously in mutual interest. Similarly, when foreign capital has been given free hand to enter into the internal market, they combine not only with national monopoly capital but also with the regional capitals. In such situation, the regional capitalists are getting chance to make a better bargain and have their role felt more pronouncedly. Coupled with it, the phenomena of regionalism, parochialism, casteism, ethnic disunity, etc., are also acting as additional factors on which the regional parties usually thrive. It is well known that the regional parties are sustained by the respective regional capitals in the main. But added to it there is another aspect. The bourgeois, petty-bourgeois and even the pseudo-left parties are fanning up and fostering regionalism, parochialism, communalism, casteism and ethnic disunity in order to create cleavage and further disunity among the people lest they can fight unitedly against the capitalist oppression and exploitation. The regional parties obviously draw sustenance from all these. The reason for the recent spurt of the regional parties and their important role in the governments can thus be clearly understood. Lastly, the individual leaders' naked greed to anyhow grab ministerial gaddi is also taking its toll. These leaders have no qualms of conscience in satisfying personal interest even at the cost of the interest of the country and the people. There is not a single party, which is free from corruption and nepotism. All these factors, in the main, contribute much to the present instability.

Now, particularly since the last Lok Sabha poll, another theme is being harped upon regularly

to confuse the mass mind. Some people are arguing that the present UF Government formed of so many constituents is obviously more democratic. They are also saying that the era of one party rule is over and it is now the era of coalition governments. This point demands necessary clarification. There is no iota of truth in this claim for two reasons. In the first place, the track record of the UF government during its brief tenure clearly contradicts this claim. Not only the democratic rights of the people have been trampled down with no less vengeance than before but above anything else, the UF is an unprincipled combination and an unholy alliance of disparate groups, conglomerates and parties which can never be called democratic.

Secondly, since parliament is the political superstructure of the capitalist economic base and since both the base and the superstructure are tottering in deep crisis, it is naive to believe that the present form of coalition government is more stable, more democratic and can provide more relief to the people.

Now, another pet theme is very often being harped upon by some of these parliamentary parties quite enthusiastically that their struggle is to defend secularism and save the country from the danger of communalism. This claim is sheer bunkum. The so-called secular front which was formed after the 1996 polls by crafty manipulations with the Congress (I) as an important factor on whose support from outside the UF has been in power during this period, can hardly be called secular. One wonders how Congress(I) can be called 'secular'!

Giving the Congress(I) a secular credential was prompted by the nakedly opportunist parliamentary interest of the UF-LF combine to form the government themselves. And it is also on record that the Congress(I) never hesitated to indulge in the worst form of communal politics and communal violence through appeasing one community at the cost of the other and pitting the majority against minorities whenever and wherever its electoral interest demanded so in its bid to win over the people. Along with other deceptive moves, the Congress(I) is also raising slogan against BJP's communal politics and speaking about its own secular credentials. It has also not escaped the notice of right thinking people of our country that the BJP is growing today at the cost of the Congress(I)'s hypocritical behaviour of claiming to be a secular party and practising communalism. There is no denying the fact that its main adversary in parliamentary politics is surely the BJP. Although the Congress(I) was for long highly trusted by the bourgeoisie for serving its aggregate interest, today with its eroded strength and consequent inability to form a government of its own, it had to support the UF Government from outside. Even then the ruling class may not altogether reject this party, rather might provide support behind it just as one of the alternatives which, given convenient situation, may play its role in the formation of the government after the poll. Even before the poll, the Congress (I) is trying to regain its strength and rejuvenate the party by frantically projecting Sonia Gandhi only to utilise the legacy of Nehru-Gandhi family as the last resort. But people should see through the real character of the Congress (I) as arch reactionary, highly unscrupulous and corrupt to the bone and give this party a fitting rebuff with a crushing defeat in the poll.

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# All India Anti-imperialist Meet in Calcutta

On 16 and 17 November, 1997, the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum organized a Discussion Meet in Calcutta. More than thousand delegates from almost all the States of India and from countries abroad, including the USA, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka attended the Meet to discuss on necessity to develop anti-imperialist movement in the present global context, and to exchange opinions and experiences with a view to strengthening international unity and solidarity in the fight against imperialist onslaught. At the end of the two-day delegate session, in a unique demonstration of international solidarity, the delegates participated in a massive demonstration organized by the Forum at one day's notice to protest US belligerence towards Iraq and threat of military intervention (reported earlier).

Many individuals and fraternal organizations, sent messages, expressing solidarity with the aims and objectives. Such as Chen Chimutengwende, Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications of Zimbabwe and President of New Africa International Network, Zimbabwe; from Nico Varkevisser of Global Reflexion Foundation for International Cooperation, The Netherlands; The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; from the National Democratic Front of South Korea; from The Japan Communist League, ; from Asian Wide Campaign Against The US And Japanese Aggression And Domination Of Asia from Japan; from The People's Campaign Against Imperialist Globalization and BAYAN of Philippines; from The International Nino Pasti Foundation of Italy; from Dr. Ali Ghudban of the Revolutionary Committees Movement of Libya; from The Communist Party of Sweden (KPM-L-r) ; R. Nunes, Chairman, The workers' Party of New Zealand; from Professor Pao-yu Ching of USA from National Democratic Front of Philippines, A/Synechia of Greece, KKE of Greece, Workers'

Communist Party (AKP) of Norway, New Communist Party of Britain, British Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, Margarita Papandreou, Global Coordinator, Women for Mutual Security and former First Lady of Greece, Philip Agee of Germany and Mrs. Heather Cottin Gervasi, on behalf of Sean Gervasi Memorial Conference Group.

Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, former Judge of the Supreme Court, the President of the Forum, in his inaugural address stressed : people throughout the world are facing the same imperialist menace. He discussed that imperialism enslaves people and countries through three forms of control: first through infiltration in the economic sphere by corporate houses and MNCs and second by cultural control through electronic and print media and finally through political control by USA and other superpowers. Calling for international unity and solidarity to build up global anti-imperialist movement, Justice Iyer expressed his firm belief that we the people of the world shall march ahead.

Professor Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University, placed the General Secretary's Report of the AIF (All India Anti-imperialist Forum) that highlighted in brief the objectives of the Forum, the international and national situation, noting how imperialist onslaught in military, political, economic and cultural spheres are endangering freedom, peace and democracy everywhere and stressing the need to build up people's struggle against these and develop militant peace movement against imperialist war mongering. The Report listed the achievements of the Forum and summed up its activities. Prof. Mukherjee stated that in future the Forum plans to take the organization to grassroots level through a vigorous campaign to enroll members and by holding local district and state level conferences in different states of India. He frankly admitted that

the AIF suffered from lapses and shortcomings which he hoped to get over in future.

We regret that for lack of space we cannot print the speeches of the delegates. Those who took active part in the deliberations were : Professor A.P. Barychev, representing the All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Russia, Comrade Sara Flounders of International Action Centre, USA, Comrade Michael Opperskalski, Deputy Chairman of the Anti-imperialist Forum of Germany, Professor D. N. Pathak, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Gujarat, India, Professor Yashwant Shukla, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Gujarat, Professor H.N. Prasad of Bihar, Comrade Schrader Heike, representing Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) of Turkey, Comrade Lenora Foerstel of USA, North American Representative of Women for Mutual Security, Comrade Eliyathamby Thambiah of the New Democratic Party of Sri Lanka, Comrade Shyam Shrestha, General Secretary of the Anti-imperialist National Front of Nepal, Comrade Dirk de Block of the Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB), Comrade Wil van der Klift of the New Communist Party of The Netherlands (NCPN), Professor M.K.N. Potti from Kerala, Professor Narendra Sharma of Delhi, Comrade Mobinul Hyder Chowdhury of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (BASAD), Comrade Lilia S. Velasquez of USA (Women for Mutual Security), Comrade Rainer Gross, Chairman of the Anti-imperialist Forum of Germany, Also spoke briefly: Dr.P.B. Sengupta of Madhya Pradesh, Aminder Pal Singh of Punjab, Professor Srikant of Assam, Rupayan Bhattacharya of West Bengal, Professor B.N. Kakati of Assam.

In the course of the Meet six resolutions were also unanimously adopted. The first resolution cautioned that increased aggressiveness of imperialist powers spearheaded by the USA, is posing a great threat to global security and peace, and called upon all peace-loving ,democratic minded people of the world to unite and build up people's movement. A second resolution expressing solidarity with the struggle of the Albanian people condemned deployment of foreign military detachments in Albania and demanded cessation of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the country. The third resolution urged the Dutch government to grant political asylum to Professor Jose Maria Sison , a leader of the anti-imperialist struggle in the Philippines. The fourth resolution condemned increased interference by imperialist powers, esp. the USA and UK in the internal affairs of India, in particular on Kashmir question and called upon the people to resist this by building up militant anti-imperialist movement. The fifth resolution strongly condemned US belligerence towards Iraq, and the reprehensible role it is playing with illegal sanctions and by creating a war psychosis. The resolution demanded that all US troops withdraw from Persian Gulf, economic sanctions be lifted and attack on Iraq's sovereignty be stopped. The sixth resolution decried the growing political repression in Germany, in particular the 'witchhunt' and illegal prosecution of political and state representatives of former German Democratic Republic and demanded the immediate and unconditional release from prison of the former GDR Defense Minister Heinz Kessler, the former commander of the GDR-Border Troops Baumgarte, the "Agent For Peace" Rainer Rupp and all political prisoners in German jails.



*At the Anti-imperialist meet held in Patiala (Punjab) on 9.11.97 Dr. Ranjit Singh Atwal discussing imperialist onslaught on health*

## Bangalore AIDYO Conference

The Bangalore District Committee of AIDYO organised 2nd Bangalore District Conference on 21.12.1997

The Conference was started by placing wreath on the martyr's column by Comrade B.R. Manjunath, President, AIDYO, Karnataka State Committee in the morning. Subsequently the delegate session was held in UVCE Alumni Hall. In his inaugural address Comrade B. R. Manjunath explained the problems being faced by the people of Bangalore. He highlighted the need for the

youths of Bangalore to develop mighty democratic mass movement against the corrupt and inefficient administration.

The organisational report was placed by Comrade K. Venugopal. The main resolution dealing with the problems of Bangalore was passed unanimously in the Conference. Two separate resolutions stressing the need to develop mass movements in Kengeri Satellite Town and Srirampuram were also passed by voice vote. A District Committee was also elected.

# Demonstration by AIDS0

## Demonstration by AIDS0 before the UP Assembly House at Lucknow

Demanding the immediate withdrawal of the rabid anti-people, anti-student education policies of the UP State Government, the UP State Organizing Committee of AIDS0 led hundreds of students from various parts of the state in a demonstration before the State Assembly House at Lucknow.

Later a meeting, presided over by Comrade Harkishore Singh, one of the co-ordinators of AIDS0, UP State Organizing Committee, was held outside the Assembly House. Student leaders from various districts including Comrade Pushpendra Vishwakarma, another co-ordinator of

AIDS0, UP State Organizing Committee, addressed the meeting.

Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, General Secretary, AIDS0 and Comrade Jagannath Verma, Vice President, AIDS0, All India Committee also addressed.

## In Bihar

### Protest against Bus Fare hike and burning educational problems

As decided by the AIDS0, Bihar State Committee, meetings, deputations, demonstrations were organised in various district headquarters of the state on 19 Dec' 97 to protest against the bus fare hike and burning educational problems.

At Patna, a deputation was led by Comrade Kavindra Pandit, Treasurer, Bihar State Committee and a memorandum was submitted to the Patna district education department.

A massive demonstration before the District Magistrate Office was organised with hundreds of students from various parts of Munger district. Before that a huge procession traversed through streets of Munger rending the air with slogans. The deputation was led by Comrade Kamal Kishore and Comrade Putan Mala, respectively the President and Secretary of AIDS0, Munger District Committee. The gathering of students was addressed by Comrade Dipak Kumar, Secretary, AIDS0, Bihar State Committee.

A Memorandum was submitted to the DM at Banka by a deputation led by Comrade Arjun Kumar.

At Bhagalpur, Comrade Ram Narayan Bhaskar, Vice-President, AIDS0, Bihar State Committee, addressed the students assembled in a dharna before the DM office. Comrade Sadhana Mishra, member of the AIDS0, Bihar State Committee led the deputation to submit the memorandum.

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## When will these killings be stopped ?

### United Protest Against Carnage in Bihar

The unprecedented massacre at Lakshmanpur-Bathe village of Central Bihar by 'Ranvir Sena', a private army of the upper caste rural bourgeoisie on 1st December last has shaken the whole of India and has testified beyond doubt that a 'Jungle Raj' is now ruling the state. The massacre which has taken a toll of 61 lives including women, the old and infants is due to the politics of caste and gun prevalent in Bihar for a long time.

The Ranvir Sena backed by the BJP and a section of the Congress, is set to terrorize and kill the poor agricultural workers mostly belonging to lower caste.

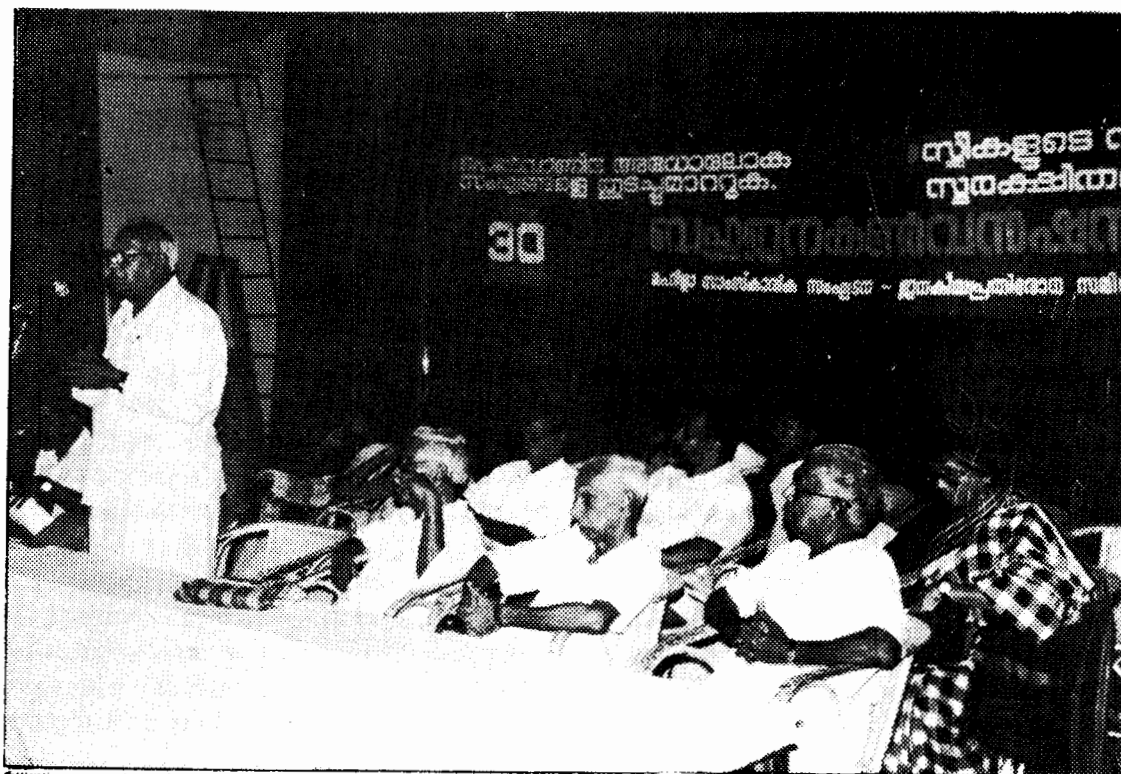
The fateful night of 1st December of Lakshmanpur-Bathe village bear its glaring testimony.

Having heard the news on 2nd December, Comrade Amriteshwar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, issued a statement to the Press and demanded judicial enquiry into the incident, exemplary punishment of the guilty and adequate compensation to the bereaved families. He also demanded immediate resignation of the Rabri Devi Government for the utter failure of its administration to provide security to the lives and properties of the people of the state.

On 3rd December, Comrade Arun Kr. Singh, member of the Bihar State Secretariat, met the Lakshmanpur-Bathe villagers. He witnessed with his own eyes that the murderers did not even spare 6 month old babies. He saw the words "Ranvir Sena" written in blood of the victims.

While condemning the killing, the seventeen political parties including SUCI, observed 4th December as 'Condolence Day' and sat in a 'dharna' in front of the statue of Jayprakash Narayan near Gandhi Maidan. The 'dharna' was addressed by the leaders of different political parties including SUCI leader Comrade Arun Kumar Singh. The parties, including ours, gave a call for a 24 hour 'Bihar Bandh' to protest against this massacre and the government's failure to ensure security to the residents of the State. Nine SUCI workers led by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh were nabbed by the police on the day of the bandh at Patna. Before the arrest, they were beaten up by the police and were dragged into the Police Van. Some other volunteers of our party were also arrested in different parts of the State.

In spite of these repressive measures taken by the police and administration the Bandh was spontaneous and a total success.



A mass convention under the joint auspices of the Kerala State Janakeeya Prathirodha Samithi and AIMSS against atrocities on women and sex racket was held at Ernakulam on 30.12.97. (Top) Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer delivering presidential address. Mr. Pavanam, noted Malayalam Writer, Adv. Balagangadhara Menon, Mr. K. Panur, Mrs. Leela Menon, Dr. D. Surendra Nath, Adv. Pouran, Dr. V. Venugopal seen on the dais. (below) a section of the gathering at the Bharatheeya Vidya bhavan Hall.

# On Ensuing Mid-Term Poll

(Contd. from page 3)

However, the distinction between secularism and communalism is getting very much blurred today in the mass mind. Although the basic concept of secularism is non-recognition of any supernatural entity, thanks to the politics of all parliamentary parties, secularism is being interpreted as giving equal patronage to all religions. Of course, the Indian state attained a multi-theocratic character during the long tenure of Congress rule. All this has led to widespread cult of religion, deep-seated habit in religious superstitions and blind faith on which the typically communal party and the menacing force like the BJP could thrive to its present stage. The BJP is unabashedly practising communal and fundamentalist politics in the name of 'Hindutva' whatever may be the interpretation of 'Hindutva', 'positive secularism' or 'integral humanism'. Today it is clear to any critical mind that not belief in religion but deep passion to anyhow grab power at the Centre has become the mainstay of BJP's politics. Their slogan of 'Hindutva' stems from the typically opportunist consideration to utilize the honest faith and belief of ordinary people in religion.

Moreover, the BJP very often boasts of value-based politics. Taking advantage of the unprecedented corruption practised by the leaders of the Congress (I), Janata Dal etc., the BJP has been able to spread a notion among a vast section of our people that as if BJP is the only honest party having cohesive organisation and principle and therefore should be given a chance. But this myth, assiduously spread in mass mind by the press and electronic media, should also be judged on the anvil of truth and reality.

The way the BJP leader Kalyan Singh, the present Chief Minister of UP, formed the government with a host of defected MLAs from BSP, Congress (I) and others and the way all the defectors were given ministerial berth including the criminals, do not leave anybody in doubt as to how baseless is the claim of its value-based politics. Moreover, after tasting power in some states, although for not too long a time, that party is finding it difficult to hold itself united. The situation in Gujarat where the BJP was vertically divided because of internal squabbles is just an example which shows how cohesive and principled this party is ! As the election is approaching, the BJP's veil of all pretensions of value-based politics has been torn to pieces when the door of this party has been opened for any person even of most dubious character on the plea that nobody is untouchable. To assuage the feeling that the BJP is minority baiter, and in its vain attempt to wash off the scar of its so many misdeeds, this party is trying to put on a 'secular' cloak to hide its real communal character. While continuing with such tactics, this party is missing no chance to thunder that Article 370 should be scrapped forthwith. But taking into consideration the latest situation in Kashmir in its entirety, it is urgently required to restore Article 370 to its original form. The BJP also argues in a way that if other parties can take to theft, why should the BJP lag behind ? Their desperate attempt of forging electoral alliance with the much discredited AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and with BJD in Orissa among others, only shows how restive this party has become in its bid to occupy

the seat of power at the Centre. Now they are getting patronage aplenty from a good section of the indigenous monopolists as well as foreign money power. In such a situation, the electorate should clearly understand the typically anti-people, downright reactionary and diehard communal character of the BJP and defeat this party at the polls.

About the Janata Dal, the less said the better. Since its very birth it had the character of a motley crowd. This party has to its credit, in addition to so many other evils, the virulent spreading of the virus of casteist politics which they euphemistically call 'social justice'. The beneficiary of this policy is, of course, the 'creamy layer' while the real sufferers — the toiling people belonging to the so-called lower castes, are left in the lurch. All leaders of this party act at their free will like political monarchs. The people can very easily see through all these things unless they develop blurred vision and become fanatically blind.

Most deceptive is the role of the CPI (M) and the CPI in this context. The politics of trickery and shrewdness of the CPI (M) has far excelled those of all other parties. The leaders of this party are running everywhere to mediate and acting as the expert manipulators in the game of patching up. They are telling that the Congress (I) is the main enemy but have no hesitation to enjoy the benefits of power, pelf and privilege as partners of the ruling UF which itself survives with Congress (I) support from outside. The leaders of this party are thundering every now and then against the bourgeois-landlord Congress (I), obviously with an eye to its electoral prospect in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, while conniving with the very same Congress (I) for exploring the possibility of forming the Central Government. The CPI (M) did not hesitate to come to an electoral adjustment this time with Congress (I) in Maharashtra. For all these reasons, the bourgeoisie finds this party as the most reliable and efficient — no matter whether it waves the red flag. True to their social-democratic character, the leaders of the CPI (M) are frantically trying to save this crisis-ridden capitalist system.

The CPI (M)-led LF government in West Bengal claims that their policy is not to send police to interfere in mass movements but during the more than two decades of their rule, they have had a black record of not only crushing legitimate democratic mass movements with brute force of the police and the RAF but have stained their hands with the blood of so many martyrs. They exhort the workers very often to build mass movements against retrenchments, lock-outs etc. while they themselves extend blanket support to the very policy which leads to these problems in their life. Murders and gang rapes in police custody have become rampant. Any criminal serving the party enjoys full freedom and protection. Most of the ministers and leaders are squandering public money and helping their kith and kin to amass huge wealth. They are in link with promoters, bheri owners and satta dons and even kingpins of the underworld. The entire police and the administration have become extremely partisan. The CPI (M) is also competing with the bourgeois parties in wooing the foreign multinationals, particularly of USA and UK. Today, in their bid to confuse the minds of

democratic minded people, they are raising anti-BJP slogans and speaking about virtues of secularism. But is it not a fact that they combined in Kerala with Muslim League several times to form the government ? Did not the CPI (M) attend the joint victory rally in Calcutta when V.P. Singh government was in power which was addressed by both Jyoti Basu and Atal Behari Vajpayee from the same platform ? Did not they allow 'Rama Rath Yatra' of BJP to pass through Purulia in West Bengal in the aftermath of which riots, killing the minority community people broke out there ? In order to confuse and mislead the democratic minded people the CPI (M), on the eve of the elections is raising the slogan of defeating both the Congress (I) and BJP, although the CPI (M) general secretary Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjit has stated that there will be no difficulty in forming a coalition government with the Congress (I) after the poll.

Against this backdrop, the people will have to decide their own course with calm, cool and dispassionate consideration. They will have to identify who is their enemy and who the friend. They will also have to understand that in place of Congress which ruled this country at the Centre practically for the entire period since independence, excepting some interludes, as the most dependable and trusted party of the monopolists, if now the BJP or the UF-LF combine comes to power, they too will follow in the footsteps of the Congress (I) to the detriment of people's interest. With crisis of capitalism accentuating by leaps and bounds and all these parties following pro-capitalist policies, they will only help to put additional burden on their shoulder. Beside the fundamental question of being ruled by a moribund capitalist system, the anti-people policies of the governments are helping only to compound the problems. There is also not even accountability of the MPs and MLAs before the electorate, taking advantage of which they are free to do anything after being elected, not only belying the hope of the people but also betraying their cause and interest. To put a check on this and curb this practice in a way that may make the elected representatives accountable to the people, it is urgent to introduce a system of "Right to recall". This may act as a deterrent to some extent. There are some other issues which should be taken up for implementation. The demands for restoration, preservation and extension of democratic norms, values and rights of the people comes first. At this stage this has assumed utmost importance for having a breathing space and removing the unbearably stifling and suffocating situation.

People should take note of the fact that so long as capitalism continues to exist, there can be no solution of the fundamental problems of their life. Because election can at best change the government but cannot change the exploitative capitalist system which can only be done with radical transformation of the society. Governments acting as the caretaker of the capitalist state machine are bound to serve it. Any government whether run by the Congress (I), BJP, or the UF-LF combine, let alone solve the basic problems of people's life, cannot provide any tangible relief to the people. Rather, the problems of unemployment, price-rise, lack of educational facilities, cultural degeneration are bound to aggravate further as the concomitant effect of ever increasing crisis of capitalism.

(Contd. on page 7)

# On Ensuing Mid-Term Poll

(Contd. from page 6)

It is our party, the SUCI, which from the very inception is engaged in the struggle on all the burning problems of people's life not only for achieving the immediate demands but for making those struggles conducive to and pave the way for ending exploitation of man by man. This warrants that the struggle should be protracted, organised and built on the edifice of higher culture. It is this higher culture and high level of political consciousness that alone can give defeat to all shameless opportunist politics going on in our country. This being the real situation, voting for the bourgeois, petty-bourgeois or the pseudo-left parties would only perpetuate the misery of the common people, and the unprincipled, unscrupulous, power-hungry, self-seeking parties and politicians would continue to use them as pawns as before. So, vote for these parties means vote against the interest of the people.

It is, therefore, necessary for the people to find out the correct path. Nobody expects ready-made solution to these problems. But if they can take to the correct path of organising protracted

democratic mass movements with the object of achieving immediate relief while at the same time paving the way for radical transformation of the society and if they can view election as part of that mass movement built on the edifice of higher culture then that is the only correct course left before them. It is also necessary that only such candidates should be elected who are honest and really dedicated to the cause of the people and tested in the fire of democratic mass movement who alone can combine both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary movements and expose the designs as also fight to thwart all the anti-people politics of the parties of the status-quo inside the legislature and thus help to strengthen the democratic movements outside — only then can the cause of the people be advanced in due course. The SUCI is that party which is upholding this line and has put up such candidates who have fulfilled these conditions. So, the Central Committee of the SUCI appeals to the people to make its candidates victorious giving defeat to the politics of trickery and treachery of the bourgeois, petty-bourgeois and pseudo-Left parties.

## Mass Demonstration and Dharnas at District Headquarters in Haryana

Our party SUCI organised a statewide campaign on the burning issues of people's life in Haryana. In every district leaflets were published in thousands and distributed among the people.

Demonstration was organised at Narnaul, District Headquarters of Mahendergarh on 6.1.98. On 7.1.98 demonstrations were held at Rewari, Shijjar, Hissar and Sonapat. On 8.1.98 demonstration was held at Gurgaon and Kaithal, and on 12.1.98 at Bhiwani. Dharnas were held at DC offices and at all these places memorandum was submitted to the Governor of Haryana through the DCs. (Photo on page 8)

## Demonstration in Sukinda, Orissa

More than 5000 people displaced for proposed Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited's steel plant at Sukinda in Orissa protested against police crackdown and demanded adequate compensation in a massive demonstration on 19th November 97, led by our party SUCI and Sukinda Industrial Area Affected People's Ganasangram Committee. The rally proceeded towards Sukinda Tehasil of Jajpur district and presented a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister of Orissa, Industry Minister, Chief Secy. of the State, M.D., NINL and the Collector of Jajpur district.

A public meeting was held in front of Sukinda Tahasil presided over by Comrade Sudhansu Sekhar Das, Secretary, SUCI Danagadi Local Committee. The main speaker, Comrade Mayadhar Nayak, Secretariat member of SUCI, Orissa State Committee, severely condemned

police brutality.

## Massive Protest Demonstration in Jeypore and Balangir, Orissa

Massive protest demonstrations of peasants, common people and tribals were held recently in Jeypore and Balangir district of Orissa against the callous and anti-people attitude of the Congress government there.

On behalf of SUCI, a five thousand strong protest demonstration comprising peasants, women, students and youth was led before the Baiparigudu Block Office on 11th December last and the demonstrators staged Gana Dharna before the BDO till 12th noon after being obstructed by armed police contingent. The BDO met the delegation from the massive Gana Dharna which placed a 12-point charter of demands before him. The movement was led by Comrades Sanja Bisoi, Goura Dalai, Kragjatimali and others.

In Bolangir similar protest demonstration was organized by the AIKKMS before the Padia Block Office on the demand of draught relief on 3rd December last in which three thousand tribal peasants took part. Here also a 12-point charter of demands, was placed to the BDO who promised to fulfill their demands in a short period.

A public meeting was also held before the Block office which was presided over by Comrade Biswanath Madhu and addressed by Comrade Sudasiva Das, Balangir District Organizer of SUCI., Comrades Chinom Kumte and Bhupesh Karmakar. In both the cases the leaders warned that the movement would be intensified if the demands were not met.

## List of Constituencies and Candidates (Lok Sabha and Assembly Election, 1998)

### LOK SABHA

Sl. No.	State	Constituency	Candidate
1.	Assam	(a) Karimganj (SC)	Radha Kanta Tanty
2.		(b) Silchar	Debasish Chakrabarty
3.		(c) Mangoldoi	Bhupendra Nath Kakati
4.		(d) Dhubri	Jaynal Abedin
5.	A. P.	(a) Secunderabad	E.P.A. Rasheed
6.	Bihar	(a) Vaishali	Lakshmi Ch. Rai
7.		(b) Dhanbad	Ram Nagina
8.	Haryana	(a) Mahendragarh	Rajender Singh
9.		(b) Sonapat	Hari Parkash
10.		(c) Rohtak	Anoop Singh
11.	Karnataka	(a) Bangalore-South	Dr. B. R. Manjunath
12.	Kerala	(a) Alleppy	Shyla K. John
13.		(b) Quilon	B. K. Rajagopal
14.		(c) Kottayam	Jaison Joseph
15.	Orissa	(a) Mayurbhanj (ST)	Sankhya Majhi
16.	Tamil Nadu	(a) Central Chennai	V. Sivakumar
17.		(b) Dindigul	R. Baskaran
18.	U. P.	(a) Machhlishahar	J. Verma
19.	West Bengal	(a) Joynagar (SC)	Tarun Naskar
20.		(b) Mathurapur (SC)	Prahlad Purkait
21.		(c) Murshidabad	Abdus Salam
22.		(d) Krishnanagar	Sk. Khoda Box
23.		(e) Bankura	Bhaskar Bhadra
24.		(f) Tamlul	Ashutosh Samanta
25.		(g) Birbhum (SC)	Brojamohan Das
26.		(h) Jalpaiguri	Sankar Ganguly

### ASSEMBLY

1.	Tripura	(a) Badharghat	Shibani Das
2.		(b) Radhakishorepur	Radha Ballav Debnath
3.	Gujarat	(a) Ellis Bridge	Damini Shah

## Bangla Bandh on 3rd February

(Contd. from page 1)

movement that started gradually gained momentum. Since the implementation of the policy the movement was strengthened with the participation of eminent teachers and other personalities, whose names adorn the history of our culture. Dr. Sukumar Sen, Dr., Nihar Ranjan Ray, Dr. Pratul Gupta, Sri Premendra Mitra, Sri Pramathanath Bishi and Sri Manaj Basu were some of them. Many of them passed away. Many renowned educationists, who joined later, despite their old age, are still at the lead of the movement. Their active participation inspired countless people to join the noble movement, creating a unique history of protracted battle of over two decades on one single issue.

The movement took varied forms. Seminars, symposiums, group meetings, street corner meetings, mass meetings, conventions, publication of literatures, children's rally, mothers' marches, sit-in-demonstrations, signature campaigns, deputations, law violations, statewide successful educational strike, mammoth marches etc., facing threats and onslaughts, were organised.

Only in December 1996 a one lakh strong mammoth rally marched through the streets of Calcutta and submitted signatures of 1 crore 12 lakh people to the Chief Minister, West Bengal Government, reiterating the demand of introducing English and pass-fail system from class one. As an impact of the movement the government to save face, has stepped back a little, introducing English from class five. But the disaster is continuing as the government education policy really remains unchanged.

People can no more accept the devastation of their children and future society. While English Medium schools with pass-fail system exist and go on mushrooming ordinary schools without English and pass-fail system remain, damaging the future of millions of children, coming from middle class lower middle class and poor families

## Demonstration by AIDS0

(Contd. from page 5)

Students from various parts of Singhbhum traversed through streets of Jamshedpur in a well decorated procession with slogans and organised a demonstration before the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. A deputation led by Comrade Jolly Das, President, AIDS0, Singhbhum District Committee, met the DC and submitted the memorandum. Later, a students' meeting was addressed by Comrade Mohan Singh, Vice President, AIDS0, Bihar State Committee.

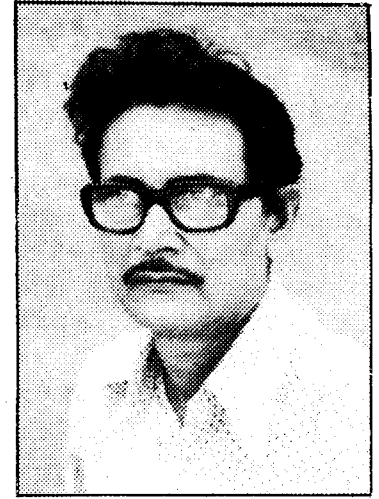
Similarly, at Bokaro Comrade Manoj Kumar, member of the AIDS0, Bihar State Committee led a deputation of students to the DC. Earlier a procession was organised which marched voicing slogans, with banners and placards, to the DC's office. The meeting outside the office was addressed by Comrade Binod Singh, President, AIDS0, Bokaro District Committee.

## Red Salute Comrade S. Mukherjee

Comrade S. Mukherjee, Secretary, Patna District Committee of the SUCI, member of the All India Council of UTUC-L.S., Vice-President, All India Continental Commercial and CICICO Office Employees' Union, breathed his last on 5th December at Indira Gandhi Ayurvigyan Sansthan, Patna, following a severe complication in the functioning of both of his kidneys. He was 55.

In the late sixties Comrade Mukherjee came in contact with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and started his work at Dhanbad. After a few years he came to Patna following a transfer in his service and joined the Patna party unit which he headed till his death as the secretary since the First Party Congress in 1988.

Comrade Mukherjee was considered a pillar of our organisation in the State. In his demise our party has lost a unique organizer who has left a deep imprint on the mind of the workers and leaders of not only our party but of the other parties also. Leaders of the 17 left and democratic parties have expressed their grief and condolence on his premature demise. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, said his death was an irreparable loss to the Party and called upon our rank and file to take lesson from his life-struggle and stand unitedly to fill up the void Comrade Mukherjee left behind.



of workers and peasants, creating two classes of citizens. Their policy is an all-out attack on education, culture, and ethics. To stop this havoc, the call has been given to observe Bangla Bandh on 3rd February.

The West Bengal Government set up an education commission led by eminent economist Late Dr. Bhabatosh Dutta, who strongly recommended teaching English from class one. As it went against the government policy, its report remained buried in the file. While a new Commission was set up under the former Left Front Minister Dr. Ashok Mitra. It recommended teaching English from class five. It is a trick, which the government resorted to as a face saving device.

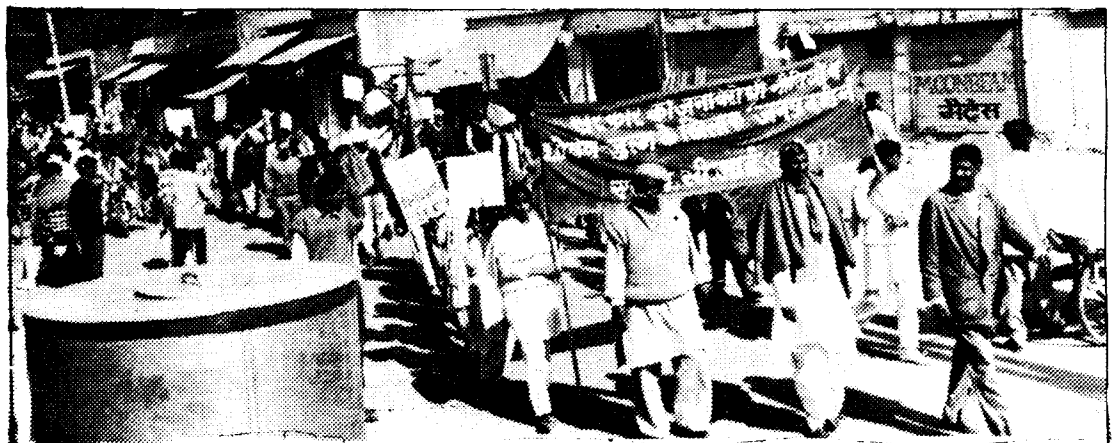
Already the call has reached every nook and corner of the state, and any man, or a union or an organisation, who is approached with the Bandh appeal is extending support to the call overwhelmingly. Already the leading lights in the field of education, art, literature, music, science, film, sports, etc. have in an appeal urged the common millions of West Bengal to make the Bandh a success. A massive procession by children and women was held in Calcutta on 20th January in support of the Bandh. A convention of the intellectuals in support of the Bandh was held with grand success on 27th January '98 at Mahajati Sadan. Newspapers are printing

editorials, articles, letters in favour of the Bandh and of the demands. All the leading hawker unions have urged the hawkers to observe Bandh on 3rd February.

Encouraging reports are pouring in the central party office in Calcutta every day. At many spots our wall-writings are being defaced by both the CPI(M) and Congress. Our West Bengal State Secretary, Comrade Provash Ghosh in a letter to both the parties had demanded of them to stop such act of gagging the opposition voice.

Lakhs of handbills have reached people. Meetings are organised every day at important junctions all over the state being attended by enthusiastic people. While fund collections are being conducted many people are on their own giving monetary help. A considerable section of the common people are actively helping the propaganda campaign. Mobile propaganda in autorickshaws, rickshaws etc. are being conducted.

Some one crore students have suffered due to this government policy. Guardians do not want any more victims. They want the policy changed. Their expectation has found expression in the call of the Bangla Bandh. This Bandh in a sense is a milestone that witnesses people who still carry the fervour of left movement, turning again towards the path of movement, that will reshape the struggling future.



Comrades Satyawan, Rajendra Singh and Balbir Singh are leading the demonstration of SUCI in Narnaul, Haryana. (Report on page 7)

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