

Proletarian Era

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33rd Session of Indian Labour Conference

Comrade Pritish Chanda flays U. F. Government for pursuing anti-labour policy

Indian Labour Conference, the tripartite forum of workers, employers and government met on its 33rd Session in New Delhi on 24-35 October 1996. UTUC-Lenin Sarani was represented in this Conference by three delegates, Comrades Pritish Chanda, President, Achintya Sinha and Sankar Saha, Secretaries. Comrade Chanda was the leader of the delegation. The conference was chaired by the Union Labour Minister Shri M. Arunachalam.

Before going into agenda the delegates made some general observations. Comrade Pritish Chanda observed : The UF Government is pursuing the same policies of the previous government in continuing the line of

globalization, privatisation, disinvestment in public sector units and bringing in the multinationals. Globalization means opening up of the door to foreign capital to exploit Indian material resources and manpower. What do Indian people gain in return? More poverty, high price rise and inflation, large-scale unemployment and closing down of labour intensive industries and opening of capital-intensive industries. Globalization and inroad of foreign capital have not resulted in any growth in industrialization and in infrastructure development yet. It has rather resulted in more crisis in the Indian economy in a situation where

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Bonded Beauty

People lament and decry, almost in one voice, the deep cultural malady afflicting our society ; they are appalled by the mounting atrocities on women, the growth in juvenile crimes and the grisly murders inspired by TV and video scenes, and point an accusing finger at the lack of principles, decay of moral and ethical values, etc., but when it comes to the question of why this state of things, and how to stem the rot, opinions diverge vastly and sharply. This same divergence is reflected in people's attitude and reaction to the vile culture with which they are bombarded day and night through the electronic media with growing aggressiveness. It is a culture, now being cultivated widely, that is replete with violence, vulgarity, obscenity, perversion and trash, not to speak of the consumerist outlook and attitude so cunningly and aggressively pushed now in our country. The different attitudes and reactions to this cultural onslaught among the people have been brought once again into sharp relief in the recent controversy created about the Miss World Beauty Contest in Bangalore — which has gained prominence not as an isolated phenomenon but because it has become symptomatic of a growing cultural trend in our country. While a section of people strongly opposes it and condemns its pernicious effect, another section vehemently defends it as 'modernity' and decries any criticism and opposition as an attack on pluralism and freedom, as a typical example of 'cultural fascism' — this latter accusation having been

hurled at the protest movement against the beauty pageant. There is again another section of people who seek relief from the harsh realities of life in entertainment. They opine that perhaps it is not desirable, but doesn't really make any difference, that one has to take the good with the bad, and anyway what's all that fuss about ?

UPGRADING AND MUSHROOMING OF BEAUTY CONTESTS

In this context, it may be worth mentioning that beauty contests, with their attendant pernicious effect, are nothing new even in our country, not to speak of the West where these have taken place for many years, but were confined to a somewhat secluded environment and a restricted circle of people. But the recent trend of upgrading these contests into huge social events of worldwide importance by surrounding them with unprecedented glitter, glamour and publicity, as part of globalized culture, has changed things. Even the State Government has come out in active support for the event in Karnataka. And large business houses, industries and MNCs are falling over each other in sponsoring beauty contests. Thus, suddenly we find beauty contests mushrooming throughout the country, in every nook and corner, in small towns and large cities, in one locality after another, drawing increasing crowds.

In the controversy created the proponents
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Central Committee on AP Cyclone

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee issued the following statement on 8.11.96 :

"The Central Committee of the SUCI expresses its profound pain and sorrow over the unprecedented loss of life and property caused by the devastating cyclone in the East and the West Godabari districts of the A.P. and extends its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families and deepest sympathy to all other affected people in this hour of trial in their life.

The Central Committee demands of the government at the State and at the Centre to pay adequate compensation to the bereaved families, adequate relief and proper rehabilitation on war footing together with immediate restoration of power and water supply.

While condemning the apathy of all previous governments and also the present one in taking adequate pre-emptive measures in the cyclone prone areas, the Central Committee demands construction of adequate cyclone shelters in the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh, which is, more often than not, visited by cyclones."

UTUC-LS on Privatisation of Insurance Sector

Comrade Tapas Dutta, All India General Secretary of the UTUC-LS issued the following statement on 20.11.96 :

"In order to prove that the present Government is well ahead of the erstwhile Congress Government in implementing policies of so-called economic reforms and globalisation as well as the terms of the GATT'94 and thus to demonstrate its competence to serve domestic and foreign monopolies, the UF Government has decided to introduce Bill in the ensuing winter session of Parliament for its approval to throw open the Insurance Sector to the monopoly capital in general and multinationals in particular. The UTUC-LS reiterates its strong stand to oppose such dangerous move which it considers alien to the interest of the working people and the developmental works of the country and thus calls upon the insurance employees, the trade unions and the people to come forward to develop a united militant movement to resist such dangerous anti-people move of the United Front Government."

Bonded Beauty

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of the pageant have argued in favour of modernity, and freedom of woman: they stress it is a question of beauty of woman: 'Beauty with a purpose' that is how the ABCL, the organizers of the pageant in Bangalore have promoted or rather defended it. Moreover, the supporters, that include the Karnataka Chief Minister, have eulogised the benefits accruing the State : such as boost in tourism and in India's image as a modern nation, not to speak of the tremendous inflow of foreign investment, etc.

DIVERGENT VIEWS AND THE YARDSTICK

Some people have opposed the beauty contest from traditional approach. The BJP, too, has opposed it from a conservative outlook, advocating the Hindu traditional role for women against western influences. The Left forces, in particular the CPI and the CPI(M), on their part, have argued that the event signifies commodification of women, extreme commercialisation of beauty of women and have decried the infiltration of western imperialist culture. Another argument of theirs is that such beauty contests are unwise to be organised in a poor country like India and the third world countries. From all this it is clear that the CPI and the CPI(M)'s concern over beauty contests has nothing to do with whether they conceive this event as a conspiracy hatched by the ruling class against the people or as an affront on their moral backbone.

But when judging such an event, what should be the yardstick for us, the progressive forces, who want to uphold that trend of culture that is conducive to the advancement and progress of society? Surely, to put it briefly the yardstick with which to judge such an event should be whether or not it is conducive to the development of individual character and personality; fosters a sense of duty and responsibility and a struggling spirit against injustice. Or does it, on the contrary, create a sense of apathy towards life struggle and social problems? On the basis of this yardstick, let us first briefly consider why we oppose this obnoxious practice of beauty contests. First of all, it is because these are an extreme expression, in a most vulgar and decadent form of the commodification of women that started in ancient society, i.e. the treatment of woman as a mere object, when women came under complete male domination in patriarchal society. Her sole reason of existence then centred round ensuring satisfaction of the male and ensuring family succession, which gave rise to a particular moral set of values and sense of virtue, sense of aesthetics, etc.

RENAISSANCE AND ITS EFFECT

With advent of bourgeois democratic revolution, that has provided us with a new and higher outlook and concept of life, and new and higher moral values in response to the newer social necessities, the concept of beauty in women underwent a radical change, too. The new democratic concept of life and higher morals and ethics called for the freedom and

emancipation of woman and provided sense of dignity of manhood and womanhood. It recognized the right of women to have a place in society, a role to play as partner and equal of man in the social struggle of production for the progress and advancement of society. And in the midst of this struggle flourished the development of human personality and character in man and woman alike in that given social system. And it is with this human personality and character, with the great human qualities, emotions and virtues derived from it, that society accorded women a place of honour denied in feudal society. Thus it was centring round these newer concept of life, higher culture and ethics, etc. that higher sense of aesthetics and sense of beauty evolved. According to which it is the reflection, the imprint of the individual character and personality, the great qualities, finer emotions and culture on the natural physical endowments of human beings, that go into the making, that are an important factor behind human beauty. It is this sense of beauty that provides true aesthetic satisfaction. In other words, true human beauty in woman and man alike does not depend merely on physical aspects of beauty, or rather natural physical endowments. Even if these are rather poor, when the traits of great character and personality, of finer culture and emotions leave their indelible imprints on physical aspect, or endowments, these become transformed into human beauty, which provides aesthetic satisfaction. This sense of beauty does not and can never preclude appreciation of physical beauty as natural endowment be it female or male body. But it is based on above concept that the art of the renaissance could break loose from the feudal preoccupation with physical beauty and its limitations, and create human beauty on a higher plane.

DECADENCE OF CAPITALISM

But capitalism, after advancing somewhat on this path of progress, turned more and more towards reaction, being caught in the contradictions of its own exploitative character. Far from fulfilling the ideals it had set, it started to destroy its own creations, it began to destroy moral values, ethics and culture. Today to what depth of indignity to woman it is pushing the sense of beauty in women with commercial promotion of beauty contests! By focussing and glorifying merely the physical aspects, the natural physical endowments in woman in a most vulgar way, to the stereotyped standards set by the sponsors of beauty contests, the fashion kings and cosmetic industries, etc., woman is turned into a mere object of man's enjoyment. What degradation and humiliation of woman! And the winners of international contests are played up as national heroines by our media, as bringing honour and renown to her country! As if the natural endowments could be called a personal achievement or be a ground for competition!

The promoters of beauty pageant have charged the opponents with lacking in aesthetic sense and have drawn comparison with works of art. But what kind of aesthetic satisfaction they promote? It is to those who draw

satisfaction from the vile culture flooding us, and seek yet more satisfaction merely by straining the nerves and rousing sexual passion that the promoters of this beauty contest cater to.

INSULT TO WOMANHOOD

Vulgarity and true art are poles apart: their effect on society is diametrically opposed. A true work of art, whatever its subject matter, is never vulgar and obscene, and it is the innocence or purity of the culture, sublime spirit or emotion portrayed through aesthetic beauty in a particular age that enchants and deeply moves the viewer and evokes a sense of reverence. Thus, the universal appeal of the innocence or purity of culture conveyed through aesthetic beauty in great works of art cuts across the barriers of historic epochs and different cultures. Hence great art enriches, refines and ennobles the human mind — provided that the viewer has not been totally corrupted by the constant cult of vulgarity and obscenity. Its effect and impact contributes to the development of human character and personality, to finer sense of ethics and culture, to the progress of society. Is this the effect and impact produced by beauty contests? The sponsors have defended the event as 'beauty with a purpose', and from their huge profits raked in, they donate a little for charitable works. Is that the real purpose behind their sponsoring 'beauty in women'? What are they sponsoring through this vulgar and decadent spectacle? On the one hand, by projecting women as mere objects of enjoyment of man and increasing the tendency of lust and depravity in men, they are not only heaping indignities and humiliation on the actual participants of the contests, but to women of the entire society as well. For what they are sponsoring is a most vulgar and sexist approach to women in general, thereby inflicting appalling indignities to women of our society and insult to womanhood. If women who make up half of humanity are subjected to indignity or become the victims of moral depravity then how can the society progress? Today the vicious effect is there for all to see in the steep and alarming rise in crime and atrocities on women. On the other hand, by focussing and glorifying the physical aspects of beauty and good looks with the help of fashion and beauty care, they induce a concept in the young especially, that furtherance of beauty care is the object of life, keeping them addicted to fashion and cosmetic industries and diverting their mind from the basic problems of their life.

THE CLASS DESIGN

In today's world of chronic unemployment and insecurity, it is with the lure of glitter and glamour behind these events, easy money and a job that more and more girls are being enticed into this line, becoming tools of big business houses, and MNCs to carry out their class design. Today capitalism has become rotten to the core and stands as the main obstacle to further advancement and progress of society. Rocked by most acute economic crises and producing ever growing contradictions and

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November Revolution Day Observed

DELHI

On the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the Great November Revolution, the Delhi State Organizing Committee of SUCI, organised a meeting on 8th November, '96. Addressing the meeting Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, *inter alia*, stated: For a revolutionary, it is necessary to possess dialectical materialist outlook, understanding of the proletarian ethics and an indepth study of the objective situation of his country. Lenin taught us that the essence of Marxism lies in its concrete analysis of concrete national and international situation at a given time.

This entails, Comrade Banerji continued, determining the class character of a particular state, the leading class and its allies, which are to be overthrown; and the strategy and tactics of revolution. He said: Thorough knowledge about the relations of production and the motive force of production in a given economic system of a country has to be acquired. The progressive and the dying trends in culture are also to be identified. The great November revolution under the leadership of Lenin is the most creative expression of the successful application of the above outstanding teachings of Marxism.

Continuing further, Comrade Banerji said: Applying this very essence of Marxism to the Indian situation Comrade Shibdas Ghosh determined the stage of revolution, strategy and tactics of the Indian revolution. On the basis of this very teaching of Marxism Comrade Ghosh concluded that the state power in India was held by the bourgeoisie and the stage of revolution was anti-capitalist socialist which would be accomplished under the leadership of the working class with poor peasantry, sharecroppers and the urban as well as rural lower-middle class as its allies. He proved that the production relation in the Indian economy was that of labour and capital with profit as the

motive force of production. He stressed the need to develop the proletarian cultural struggle to replace the decadent bourgeois culture. Making concrete analysis of the concrete situation in fact means that the proletariat and its party will have to equip itself with the dialectical materialist outlook, and apply it to concretely analyse the objective situation. Marx said that once the proletariat got equipped with this outlook, it would become an invincible force.

Referring to the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Banerji said: Comrade Ghosh taught that Marxism was not a mere political, economic theory, but it also equipped us with a high sense of ethics. Only he who is conscious about this ethics and along with it the laws of change in the material world and who with the consciousness so acquired, changes himself, for changing the material condition, is truly involved in the process of becoming a real Marxist revolutionary.

Lastly, Comrade Banerji concluded by saying that it should be borne in mind that with mere understanding of the philosophy and ethics, but without any knowledge about the objective material condition or with mere knowledge of the objective conditions without any understanding about the philosophy and ethics, it is not possible to conduct successfully the class struggle and revolution. If any one of these three aspects is ignored, no revolution is possible to achieve. A Marxist must attain appropriate knowledge on these aspects.

KERALA

November revolution rally was held at Kannur in Kerala on 11th November 1996. Comrade C.K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee of our party, was the main speaker in which Comrade D. Narendran, in-charge of Kannur district unit, presided. Comrade V.

Venugopal also spoke.

Comrade Lukose told that the Great November revolution was the first victorious proletarian revolution where for the first time in history, exploitation of man by man was abolished and a working class state was established. November revolution shows the great historic proof that a society freed from the present-day miseries of capitalist exploitation and oppression is really possible. The dismantling of socialism in former Soviet Union and East European countries happened because the correct and scientific course of Marxist-Leninist approach and methodology was given up by revisionist leadership ever since the demise of Stalin.

In our country, Comrade Lukose told, CPI(M) and CPI are following the very same trash revisionist politics pursued by Gorbachev in erstwhile Soviet Union and they are advocating the open reactionary opportunistic policy of class collaboration by directly heading governments in a few states and being the partner of a bourgeois government at the Centre. Only democratic mass and class struggles leading to socialist revolution can solve the basic problems of the society, he said.

The public meeting was preceded by a very colourful demonstration in which hundreds of party workers enthusiastically participated. A resolution moved by Comrade Shyla K. John, Secretary, Kerala State MSS demanding banning of the Miss World competition being held at Bangalore and hailing the movement going on there against this vulgar programme and condemning the repressive measures taken by the Karnataka government to curb the movement. The meeting started with the *Internationale* and concluded with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh presented by the DYO Music Squad.

Language Movement Takes Centrestage in West Bengal

The state of West Bengal goes through a new surge of education movement. In Calcutta as well as in the district towns or village market-places, people stand queuing up and give their signatures on copies of a charter of demands urging the state Chief Minister to re-introduce English at the primary level, to withdraw the no-detention policy at the same level and to repeal unscientific English syllabus now in vogue at the secondary stage. The mass signature campaign is going on under the aegis of the All Bengal Save Education Committee (ABSEC), a people's platform consisting largely of leading intellectuals, educationists, litterateurs, lawyers, doctors, teachers and students of the state. The volunteers of the ABSEC comprising varied cross-section of people from university level teachers to village farmers, cultivators, from septuagenarian persons to teen-aged students, have been on feet for the last couple of months to collect one crore signatures from the members of the public and submit it to the Chief Minister on 17th December, 1996 through a huge procession.

The movement, now on, has a long history. Far back in late seventies when the CPI(M)-led Left Front Government first resolved to abolish English and to introduce no-detention policy at the primary level, our party first came forward

to launch a protest movement against the policy. Later, fore-ranking intellectuals and educationists of the state rose up to the occasion to protest against it. Personalities like Dr Sukumar Sen, Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray, Dr Pramatha Nath Bisi, Dr Pratul Gupta, Sri Santosh Kumar Ghosh, Sri Premendra Mitra, were among the luminaries. It was a unique kind of movement the state ever experienced since independence. People from all walks of life came forward to join with the intellectuals — they protested, they rallied, they staged dharnas, they participated in civil disobedience and what not! From agricultural labourers to factory workers, from students to mothers and sisters, all sections of people organised series of programmes of action. Even the primary school students didn't lag behind and came out on the streets with placards in their hands: "We want to learn English." But the people's government (!) bothered least to honour the public opinion. At the very outset under the mounting pressure of the movement, they tried to confuse the people by their bogus theory that 'learning second language at the early stage of a student is detrimental to his mental development'. But when it was combated with scientific theories which corroborate that early age is the appropriate time for acquiring a second

language, they first opted to shift their stand by saying that the 'LF's intention was not to abolish English but to teach it in a better way at the higher stages'. It was shown later that it had been their pretext to hoodwink the people as the English syllabus they introduced afterwards at the secondary stage with the name *Learning English* — Step I-IV was unscientific. However, by issuance of order or threat or even torture the government could not entirely stop teaching of the language as thousands of primary schools of the state defied it emboldened by the sustained movement and continued teaching it.

The main question that our party raised at that time — after fighting the CPI(M)'s plea that English was a language of the colonialists, with the argument that it was non-Marxist to label a class character on a language — was since language was not a mere subject of study but a vehicle of thought to stifle the scope of learning a rich and modern language like English, would ultimately restrict the scope of higher education and development of thinking faculty.

However, the movement continued. The state government set up an education commission under the chairmanship of
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Scrap Anti-Labour Pension Scheme, Ceiling on Bonus and Introduce Minimum Wage on National Scale

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world capitalist economy itself is in the midst of severe crisis and competition for market. Large number of industries are being allowed to close down and unchecked entry of multinationals with latest technology has put the Indian economy under pressure of an unequal and unhealthy competition. Even the employers' organisation like FICCI and some others have already expressed their worries in this regard. We are constrained to note that the present government instead of improving the situation is leading the country into further crisis. In this context, UTUC-LS cannot but express its serious concern and protest against the total economic policy and particularly the labour and industrial policies of the present UF government where thousands of indigenous mills and factories are being closed down rendering millions of workers unemployed. They are adding to the existing army of the unemployed in the country.

Like the previous Congress government the UF government also has no employment policy. This apex body, the ILC, if it fails to resolve any other agenda should at least be capable of announcing a specific employment policy for generation of employment in the given circumstances. Consider the condition of the Public Sector copper mines which are rendering 30 thousand copper workers unemployed as a result of the policy of globalization and liberalization. Import of foreign copper with very low import duty has resulted in great disparity in prices between domestic and imported copper. As a result, nationalized Hindustan Copper Limited has become sick. Similarly, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL), the largest metallurgical coal industry, has been rendered sick and is being referred to BIFR. In this context he said: The call to the workers to increase productivity in order to increase competitiveness of Indian capital is a cruel joke. He said: The declared minimum wages at the national level based on norms set out by the 15th Indian Labour Conference 1957 supported by the recent judgment of the Apex Court of the country is yet to be fulfilled. He demanded that this conference should declare minimum wages at the national level. He said that from the notes submitted by the government it appeared that many of the states like Bihar, UP, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh had neither responded to nor implemented the decision of 31st ILC effectively creating forum for tripartite consultations and wherever such bodies were said to be constituted at the state level, UTUC-LS, although recognized as such by the Government of India, and very much functioning in those states, is not represented in such committees in Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Delhi or some other states. He said that it was not merely a question of our inclusion but of ensuring adequately representative tripartite consultations.

Comrade Chanda demanded of the government to scrap ceiling on bonus, both in terms of quantum and coverage. The particular provision of the Bonus Act of not allowing bonus in non-competitive industries damaged the interest of Indian workers severely and the policy of giving productivity linked bonus had

set in serious labour discontent and industrial unrest. UTUC-LS demanded withdrawal of such provisions from the Bonus Act and reiterated the long accepted conception of bonus as deferred wage.

He also referred to agenda item nos. 6 & 7, that was for recognition of trade unions through secret ballot and amendment to ID Act, 1947 and said that the Labour Minister had committed in the last Standing Labour Committee meeting held on 13th September, 1996 to consult the trade unions before the ILC which had not been done. He further said that the bipartite committee known as Ramanujam Committee was neither given required time and opportunity for effective deliberations nor the Committee provided given cooperation by the government by extending secretarial services. So the Committee formed in this regard had to submit its report within the stipulated time and the report as such was invariably inadequate. However, many of the unanimous recommendations of Ramanujam Committee have been disregarded by the government. He suggested that the government must accept the trade unions' unanimous demand to form a tripartite committee with secretarial help so that after further intimate deliberations a comprehensive report could be submitted to the government, which would be placed in the next ILC.

Comrade Achintya Sinha, Secretary, UTUC-LS, while delivering on the action taken agenda said that the most pertinent resolution adopted in the 31st Session of ILC was to evolve an employment policy and to adopt meaningful measures to contain erosion of job opportunities and create new jobs. But it is alarming that the successive governments have been following and implementing the employment policy formulated by the Planning Commission which was unanimously rejected by the 31st ILC. He, therefore, insisted on the government to formulate employment policy in the direction as decided by the 31st Conference. He also criticized the Central government for not implementing the tripartite agreement dated 9.4.94 regarding revival of NTC Mills. He complained that this delay in implementation was deliberate and motivated. It was aimed at pushing the NTC Mills to chronic sickness. Comrade Sinha also flayed the government for not coming with the comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers. He continued that workers' participation in management in the present situation was contrary to working class interest and movement, though others have already agreed to the Scheme of Participative Management.

Comrade Sankar Saha, while deliberating on action taken agenda on new Pension Scheme drew the attention of the Indian Labour Minister to the delegation of the W.B. Trade Union leaders who met him during his recent visit to Calcutta. He reminded the Labour Minister that to the delegation he promised to review the scheme with open mind. In this background, Comrade Saha said the present pension scheme had taken away the existing rights of the workers to contributory provident fund. He further pointed out the benefit of the scheme was insignificant compared to the benefit a

worker used to get through contributory provident fund scheme. This was a clear case of curtailment of existing right in letter and spirit of Indian Constitution and its Directive Principles and looting of workers' money. Benefit once given could not be withdrawn or curtailed. Government of India was following the policy of curtailment of social security measures as had been pursued by all imperialist capitalist countries. This scheme, inter alia, failed to link pension with price-index thereby the pension amount was subjected to rapid erosion in the era of skyhigh price rise. This scheme had been rejected by all subscribers irrespective of affiliation to central organisations.

Referring to the issue of non-payment of gratuity by the employers to the retired employees, Comrade Saha expressed his grave concern and said that the employers in general had virtually frustrated the very purpose of this piece of social security enactment by not paying gratuity to the retired employees within time as stipulated in the Act. In this connection, he referred to defaulting Central Public Sector Undertakings like National Textile Corporation, Jessop & Company Limited, Burn Standard and so many other PSUs. He demanded suitable amendment to the Act and urged the Union Government to pay the gratuity dues to the employees of the undertaking forthwith.

As regards implementation of industrial DA formula to employees of PSUs recommended by the Tripartite DA Review Committee and accepted by the Central Government, Comrade Saha said that because of non-implementation of the DA formula in respect of 30 thousand public sector engineering workers in West Bengal, their Charter of Demands could not be settled since 1st May 1995 although 23 lakh public sector employees have been given the benefit of the formula. He demanded direction of the Central Government to the concerned Ministry so that to these thirty thousand workers the DA formula effective from 1.1.89, be made available without further delay.

Comrade Pritish Chanda said that this was for the first time that the ILC ended without formally adopting any resolution on the agendas on which it was supposed to adopt resolution. It failed to decide on the pressing issue of minimum wage at the national level, removal of both the ceilings of the Bonus Act in spite of unanimous demand of the Central Trade Union Organisations.

The Small Committee nominated by the Labour Ministry for drafting the resolution did not place their draft before the ILC. But the ILC ended. Comrade Pritish Chanda lodged serious protest against such deviation in the House and loudly termed it as unprecedented. After the session, when Comrade Chanda was contacted by the Press, he commented that "in course of my participation in ILC for last twentyfive years this is for the first time I find the ILC is ending its session without delivering anything."

The view points of UTUC-Lenin Sarani on the Agenda of ILC has been handed over to the Labour Minister signed by all the three delegates of the organisation.

Assam State Committee of the SUCI on Demand Raised to Repeal Illegal Migrant (Determination by Tribunal) ACT

It is known to many that about 15 years back in Assam there had been a movement under the auspices of the AASU or All Assam Students' Union with the ostensible slogan for driving out of 'foreign nationals'. This movement which began in 1979 was nothing but a chauvinist upsurge directed against the linguistic and religious minorities who constitute a large part of Assam's population. Although the movement was said to be against the foreign infiltrators, in practice, however, it turned out to be communal flare up in which lakhs and lakhs of poor and downtrodden people, belonging to minority communities, very much Indians in origin, were uprooted, thrown into wilderness and thousands of men, women and children got killed in carnages that followed it. In 1983, the Government of India at the instance of the then Assam Congress (I) Government passed a bill in Parliament titled "Illegal Migrant (Determination by Tribunal) Bill" with the two-fold objectives of detection and deportation of clandestine infiltrators who would be found to have crossed over to Assam in a clandestine manner after 25th March, 1971 and to protect and save the genuine Indian citizens belonging to minority communities from being harassed, persecuted and labelled as foreign nationals.

Ultimately in 1985 the movement came to an end with the signing of an agreement known as Assam Accord. As a result of this agreement 1966 was taken as the cut-off year for detection of foreign nationals and 25th March 1971 was agreed upon as a deadline for deportation of foreign nationals. On the basis of this Assam Accord the said Illegal Migrant (Determination by Tribunal) Act or the IMDT Act, 1983, along with the citizenship Act 1955 was duly amended to incorporate the above mentioned vital provision of the Assam Accord. As a result of this, intentional harassment of the genuine Indian citizens was stopped to a great extent. Since then in accordance with the provisions of this amended IMDT Act, 16 tribunals are at work to detect foreign nationals who entered Assam after 25th March 1971 while foreigners entering Assam in between the 1st January 1966 and 25th March 1971 are being detected by tribunals formed under Foreigners' Act, 1946. Study of the findings of these tribunals working since 1983, clearly dismisses the contention of the chauvinists that Assam is infested with lakhs and lakhs of foreign nationals. During a period of seven and half years (i.e. from 1.1.86 — 31.7.93 which covers AGP's first four years in office) the police investigated 2,87,625 persons, screened 2,87,412 and after screening referred 25,051 persons to the existing 16 tribunals functioning in different parts of the state and the tribunals found only 8,694 persons as genuine foreign nationals. It is to be kept in mind that of the period under study, the first four years being under AGP Govt., whose one point programme was to detect each and every foreign national and for which they fully geared up the bureaucracy and police. It may be recalled here that it came as a rude shock to the AASU and other parochial and chauvinist forces who were out to brand a large

chunk of the minority population as foreign nationals, debar them from their right to vote and bent upon their ultimate deportation to Bangladesh. These chauvinist forces who remained unreconciled, were in search of some pretexts to raise once again the bogey of infiltration of lakhs and lakhs of Bangladeshis. With this mischievous intention this time they have unleashed an orchestrated campaign against the said IMDT Act which while doing its job to detect genuine foreign nationals entering Assam after 25th March, 1971 seeks to protect the minorities, very much Indians, from harassment and persecution labelling baseless and frivolous charges. While this law was enacted to deal with a very peculiar and explosive situation in which a large chunk of the population were being in a conspiratorial manner branded as foreign nationals, were at the point of being called for deportation to Bangladesh any moment, the chauvinists have brought the charge of it being applicable only in Assam. Whereas the fact is that it can be invoked anywhere in the country, whenever heavy influx of illegal migrants have occurred with the problem of clandestine infiltration. The second grievance of the AASU is that it burdens the prosecution/and the individual complainant and not the prosecuted with the onus to prove his or her Indian credential. One of the most important canons of jurisprudence, more particularly applicable in case of criminal proceedings is that 'burden of proof lies with the prosecution'. And the IMDT Act is more or less in conformity with this important canon. But this has infuriated the AASU as it stands in their way of labelling a chunk of the immigrant Muslims as foreign nationals.

The AASU therefore demands Foreigners' Act, 1946 to replace IMDT Act. As the experience goes, it is fraught with disastrous consequences as its application in Assam during the 60's wrought havoc and it frightened the entire Muslim community as many of them were in an unjust and indiscriminate manner served with 'quit India' notice. The move, however, had to be abandoned as powerful resistance developed against it.

Under the circumstances, the intention of the AASU and the chauvinists is quite clear. They now in a very cunning and subtle manner want to unsettle a settled question with respect to cut-off year, 1966 and 1971, for detection and deportation respectively as enshrined in the Assam Accord which the then AASU leadership signed in 1985 and want to make 1951 as the cut-off year by taking recourse to Foreigners' Act 1946 against which there was tooth and nail opposition in Assam during the pendency of Assam agitation.

The Assam State Committee of the SUCI, therefore, warns all sections of the people of Assam to be aware about the disastrous consequences that may arise out of such an eventuality which will again divide the Assamese and non-Assamese population of the state into two warring factions and give birth to further fratricidal killings as happened in the 80's. The State Committee of the party has appealed to the right-thinking people of Assam to assert themselves and stop AASU and their chauvinist allies from traversing this provocative and dangerous course.

November Revolution Day observed at Kharagpur and Patna

To commemorate the 79th anniversary of the November Revolution, SUCI workers and supporters of Mungyr assembled at a meeting at Shyampur, Haveli Kharagpur at Durga Mandir at 2 p.m. on 7th November last. The meeting was presided over by veteran SUCI organiser Comrade Bhajan Singh and was addressed by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, State Secretary, Shiv Shankar, member of the State Secretariat, Bhola Tanti, Pramod Kumar, Dipak Kumar and others.

Another meeting was held at Patna on 7th November to mark this historic occasion. The meeting was held at Patliputra and presided by Comrade Sadhuji. The meeting was addressed by Comrade S. Mukherjee and Comrade Rajdeo.

Hundreds of building workers attended the Meeting.

Andhra Cyclone Relief

The entire party organisations in Andhra Pradesh plunged into relief work in the cyclone affected region. The party volunteers made house to house collection for two days with mike and auto trolley. People generously contributed money and clothings. These were distributed in some villages of the affected region.

Demonstration at Angul

A massive demonstration was organised by SUCI, Angul District Committee of Orissa, before the collectorate on 28th October last demanding steps on war footing by the government to face the drought situation in the district.

The demonstrators demanded of the government to declare Angul district as drought affected, provide relief, food, and work and exempt all types of taxes. They also demanded to exempt tuition and examination fees of the students and urged the collector to provide essential commodities to all the affected people.

A meeting was held under the presidentship of Comrade Bhimsen Behera in which Comrade Sk. Quassim, member, Orissa State Committee, addressed as the main speaker. Comrade Quassim urged the people to organise a powerful movement to pressurise the government to do the needful. A memorandum was also handed over to the collector.

Protest against criminal-police politician nexus

To protest against increasing criminal activities under the umbrella of the political leaders of the big parties, Saraiya Local Committee of SUCI organised a huge meeting at Ambara Chowk, Muzaffarpur on 28th October last. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Jogendra Ram, Secretary, Saraiya Local Committee and was addressed by Comrades Shivshankar, District Secretary, Lakhichand Roy, Baleswar Rasulpuri, Rakesh Chand, Bharat Chowdhury and Prof. Jagadish Prosad Thakur.

Convention Against Campus Violence in Kerala

JANAKKEYA PRATHIRODHA SAMITHI — JPS (People's Resistance Committee) of Kerala organised a convention against campus violence on 12th November 1996 at Ernakulam, in the wake of escalating violence in the campuses ever since the ruling LDF government came to power in Kerala which took away four precious lives of students in the past five months and injured many.

The convention was presided over by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, President of the JPS, who in his presidential opening address, condemned campus violence in strong terms. Referring to a recent Kerala High Court verdict banning student politics in schools and suggesting a ban in colleges also, Justice Iyer told that it was not a nice idea to ban politics in campuses. This was because campus gave students the opportunity to understand the way a democratic polity functioned. It was also not proper to keep students who constituted a sizable chunk of the population, off the political realities. The students were entitled to hold their political views and it was not fair to deny them this right.

What Justice Iyer opposed was the lumpenisation of student politics by mainline

parties. These parties were using the students to achieve their narrow ends and this fostered violence. He noted that violence was spreading in the campuses across the state, but said banning student politics was not the best way to tackle it. In his view, a consensus among all the parties not to interfere with campus life could drastically reduce violence. "The parties should take a pledge that they will keep themselves free of violence", Justice Iyer suggested.

The discussions in the convention were based on a resolution moved by Dr V. Venugopal, General Secretary of JPS, which pointed out that the LDF Government and more particularly the CPI(M) as its main constituent was mainly responsible for the increasing campus violence. In each of the several incidents of violence in the campuses, SFI proved to be the provocateur and the common factor. So it was the prime task of CPI(M) to restrain their cadres and refrain them from vandalism being tolerant to opposite views and never resorting to violence in opposition to ideological criticism. Aggressive postures will only give scope for communal forces to grow in the state. The resolution called for all the political parties and forces to denounce violence as a means to tackle

political opponents. It demanded the government to call a meeting of all student organizations, inviting along with them personalities of character, integrity and independent nature and form peace committees at all levels. It asked the student organisations to settle disputes not through violent tussles, but by means of mediation through such peace committees.

Bishop Poullose Mar Poullose, Vice president of JPS said that the campus should be freed of the 'dirty politics' that is going on presently. A blanket ban on campus politics will only harm while the present system of campus politics has to be revamped. Bishop said what was needed was 'the meaningful politicization of the campus', so that there will be a meaningful debate on the socio-political issues which would help the youth to get integrated to social issues. He also sought 'Politicization of political parties', by which he meant the parties should take part in the democratic process in a meaningful and creative way, and not just engage in politicking.

Dr N.A. Karim, former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Kerala University and a Working

(Contd. on page 7)

Language Movement in West Bengal

(Contd. from page 3)

Dr. Bhabotosh Datta, a noted economist and educationist of the country. But the report never found patronage from the government and was allowed to gather dust as the Commission went basically against the contention of the government's language and education policy. The beleaguered 'Left Front' then set up a State Education Commission in 1991 and this time it made no mistake to put his own man at the helm — Dr Ashok Mitra, once the finance minister of the State government. But the truth can hardly be suppressed. Despite a more careful selection of members of the Commission, there are on record notes of dissent of two of its members against recommendations regarding the language policy. One of the dissenting members also resigned from the Commission opposing its bureaucratic method of functioning. In fact, the Commission deliberately failed to understand the democratic aspirations of the people and recommended to start teaching English from class IV instead of class I. It is to mention here that before the government's policy was imposed the practice was to teach English at the earlier years of primary level. However, under the pressure of the movement, the government later started English from Class V one year earlier than its previous practice of starting it from Class VI. While announcing this, the Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu admitted in the Assembly that the people of the state were not with the government's education policy and the government might start English from still lower level.

In course of this movement another development occurred, which further ridiculed the government's policy. Primary Education Development Board, West Bengal, came out under the chairmanship of Dr Sushil Kumar Mukhopadhyay, a renowned scientist and the former Vice-chancellor of the University of Calcutta and started taking examinations with

English as one of the papers, at the end of class IV, popularly known as 'Scholarship Examination' which the government had once abolished. It is already mentioned that the government did away with holding of conventional examination and evaluation system at the primary stage. In the last 5 years already more than six lakhs students appeared in the said examination. Not only did the private and government aided schools, but also the government schools enroll their students in the said examination year after year defying government circular and ignoring all threats and intimidations. It is indeed not known to us whether any government was ever so beleaguered in pursuing one of its own policies since independence!

Still the 'Left Front' is not keen on revoking its language and education policy, though its leaders indulge in double standards and hypocrisy in this regard. The fact remains that in the absence of conventional examination and evaluation system virtually there remains no atmosphere of teaching and learning in thousands of government aided general schools. The ministers and leaders of the 'Left Front' government know it and so they let their wards to be reared in costly English medium privately run schools having modern infrastructural facilities. The ministerial sermons seem to have nothing to do for their wards and are for the economically backward millions. In the process business in education sprang up. The profit seekers have found it very lucrative in investing in education, causing mushrooming of English medium schools even in the interior villages of the state, where even the guardians from lower and lower-middle class families rush for a minimum doze of education straining hard their financial capabilities. The poor and the have-nots because of losing their faith in general schools, have to go there, having no alternative. The education in the state thus goes topsyturvy. But among all these, one thing that the

'Left Front' government has successfully done and what the ruling class today frantically seeks to do is opening the gate of commercialization and privatization in the field of education. Thanks to the prudence of the CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' government, they have done it silently without actually naming it.

Today the people of the state are in a defiant mood. In course of almost last two decades they see their state, once one of the fore-ranking one in education, slipping into back — one of the reasons for this is the current disastrous language and education policy pursued by it. They are now not ready to let their wards' to be the guineapigs of a despotic and irrational government any more. They are up in arms to fight to the end to achieve their legitimate demands of education. They rally round the All Bengal Save Education Committee. They seem to be so supportive and so responsive to the cause of the movement that whenever they come across any group of ABSEC volunteers on the streets appealing to put signatures on the charter of demands, they step forward almost voluntarily and give their signatures. Some of them stand with the volunteers to help them collecting signatures while some others take the signature forms with them to collect the signatures of their friends and keens. The ABSEC headquarters at Calcutta are poured with letters from peoples from all walks of life expressing their urge to extend help and cooperation in building up this movement. The support of the people often come in surges, proving thereby if the demands are legitimate and leadership is correct, the strength of a movement is hard to be crippled by power that be. In fact, as they have taken the programme as their own with full of emotion and sentiment, the movement is rapidly gaining in strength. It is not known whether the 'Left Front' would still make it a prestige issue to revoke its policy. But it is the strength of the people's organised movement which only can make good sense prevail on the government and withdraw its anti-people language and education policy.

Bonded Beauty

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conflicts in every sphere of existence which capitalism cannot resolve, it is trying to overcome these through globalization, capture of newer markets and greater exploitation of the existing ones with the help of consumerism. Though it is the powerful imperialist capitalist countries that are taking the lead in pushing through globalization and economic liberalization with unprecedented attack on people on a globalized scale, not only in the economic-political but cultural sphere as well, this cultural attack conforms fully to the basic class design of the ruling class in every capitalist country, including ours. For they know it well that no force on earth can subdue a people with high moral values and culture; neither coercive machinery of the State nor pangs of hunger. Today the capitalist class has redoubled its attack on morality, culture and ethics which stand as a direct obstacle to the spread of consumerism, without which their market economy and growing exploitation cannot be sustained.

Hence, to succeed and dehumanize the people they bombard them with vile culture and launch deep attack on ethics, morality and culture while pushing consumerist outlook and attitude with deadly cunning and aggressiveness through advertisements, etc., and with help of models project situations with which especially the young readily identify and unnoticeably fall a prey. In this cultural consumerist onslaught, they try to mould people's mind in such a way as to create an apathy for life struggle, apathy for the struggle for solving the burning problems of life and society ; to create a mentality that is indifferent to social problems, caught up in the craze for consumerist goods, and living up to the ideals created by fashion and cosmetic industries, among others, in the hope to succeed in life, unmindful of the savage cultural and economic exploitation and enslavement to which they are falling prey. And it is precisely the growth of indifferent attitude to social problems, debased consumerist culture and obscurantist ideas — the latter being assiduously promoted by the mass media too — that provides the fertile breeding ground for emergence of fascism in the cultural sphere, besides economic and political factors favouring it.

BJP'S ROLE

The fact that BJP too has suddenly jumped into the movement to oppose the beauty contest from a diametrically different outlook, as mentioned before, has confused the issue in the eyes of many. But it must be understood first of all that they are opposed to beauty contests from fundamentalist, conservative, orthodox Hindu outlook; they want to keep the old heritage from medievalism intact and like to send women back to the kitchen. Raising swadeshi slogans against western infiltration, they are however not averse to taking western help and investment. The BJP being the largest opposition party with strong organisational base in a number of states — why has it not taken the struggle against decadent western culture to other states, if they were really serious ? But

how sincere they are in their fight against decadent culture they have illustrated once again by being party in Maharashtra, where they share governmental power, to the Michael Jackson show of extravaganza ; and the pernicious effect of the vulgarity and obscenity presented that goes in the name of music show, needs no elaboration. Where was the BJP then with its protest ? So it is clear that its sole objective is to make political capital out of the issue.

ROLE OF THE 'LEFTS'

As to the CPI and the CPI(M), they are opposing the infiltration of western imperialist culture. Yet, at the same time, they welcome privatisation, invite foreign capital, economic liberalization that is bound to invite cultural invasion, then how sincere are they when they are fighting what they themselves have invited. The fact that they all stand in defence of capitalist system and cry hoarse about it for electoral gain, is clear : for what kind of culture and moral values they foster where they are in power ?

THE TASK

The sponsors and supporters of the beauty pageant have decried the opposition to it as an attack on pluralism and freedom. But people should keep in mind that the concept of freedom has not fallen from the sky, but has evolved in the course of social struggle for progress and is conditioned by the historic development of society. Freedom is not licence to do what one likes, nor can it go against the interest of society. Moreover, ignorant and naive are those who talk about freedom, forgetting the most urgent task of freeing the society from the bondage and slavery of capitalist exploitation, from the savage rule of capital. One may find pleasure in enjoying such freedom with a blissful attitude but nobody can deny the fact that this freedom is also under the bondage of profit making interest of monopoly capitalists and imperialist multinationals. Besides, by decrying the opposition as an attack on pluralism they want in reality to gag the voice of opposition. But silencing the opposition goes against the very concept of pluralism which they apparently advocate, against democracy and freedom, it is fascistic to silence all opposition. They are guilty of the crime they accuse the opponents, the spreading of cultural fascism, by confusing the question. If the opposing outlook is wrong it needs to be exposed and fought back openly, not silenced. These are the teachings of democracy.

Though it is true that so far the debate for and against the beauty pageant has remained confined to the middle class and elite of the society, it must be realized that the effect of this pernicious cultural trend, if allowed to grow, will affect the whole society. In the class divided society like ours the toiling millions — the working class and the peasantry included — can never remain free from this menacingly pernicious attack on the cultural fabric of the society. When all these attacks are leading to all-out moral depravity and dehumanization how can the class conscious proletariat remain

oblivious of this great danger ? A true proletarian class outlook not only demands developing respectful attitude to womanhood and to many other noble things the progress of human civilization has brought along with it, but also calls for developing powerful movement, encompassing all sections of the people, on the edifice of higher culture and ethics.

BDO Office, Kanti Gheraoed

At the call of the Kanti Local Committee of SUCI, nearly two thousand SUCI workers and supporters gheraoed the BDO Office of Kanti, Muzaffarpur, Bihar to press their demands on 29th October last. Under the leadership of Comrades Shivshankar, Lakhichand Rai, Baleswar Rasulpuri and Arun Kumar Singh a big procession of SUCI workers and supporters went to the BDO office to submit a 14-point memorandum.

But the Block Development Officer got afraid to face the agitators and fled. The agitators then gheraoed the BDO Office and hundreds of women demonstrators blocked all the entrances, demanding immediate return of the BDO. After an hour, the BDO was compelled to come back and meet the 6-member delegation comprising Comrades Baleswar Rasulpuri, Mundrika Pandey, Lakhichand Rai, Bindheswar Thakdur, Ramchandra Mahato, Bachya Singh and Baby Shah. The BDO admitted that the demands were justified and assured to do his best to fulfil them immediately.

Convention Against Campus Violence in Kerala

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Committee member of JPS said that student violence was the reflection of the social reality. Violence was increasing in society, particularly in politics and this naturally spilled over to the campus. Campus unrest in the past had an element of 'divine discontent' as the students, like during the pre-independence era, stood for higher social causes.

In the view of M.V. Devan, reputed artist and adviser to JPS, intolerance to others' viewpoints and faiths fostered violence. He blamed the LDF government for nurturing intolerance and violence.

Pavanan, the reputed writer and leader of the Rationalist Movement, K. Panoor, protagonist for the cause of tribals and Advocate Mancheri Sunderraj, leading lawyer of Calicut — all leading executives of JPS, also spoke.

In his concluding address, Justice Iyer sorted out the broad consensus of ideas reached by the elaborate discussions in the convention. He summed up: "Campus violence should be resisted at all costs. But it cannot be done by a simplified prescription of banning campus politics, equating violence with politics. It is impossible to depoliticise the campus. What should come up and develop is a campus politics which is higher in ideals and based on higher values aiming at social progress."

SUCI Condemns Hawker Eviction

Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, has issued the following statement on 25.1.96 :

“The way the CPI (M)-led Left Front government brutally evicted the hawkers in Calcutta at dead of night by deploying a few thousand armed CPI (M) hooligans along with contingents of police and Rapid Action Force, reminds us of the similar strong arm tactics adopted by Sanjay Gandhi during the dark days of emergency in evicting the hapless people from the Turkman Gate in New Delhi. Thousands of stalls were ransacked and looted and with bulldozers were demolished on the plea of providing civic amenities. It was actually done under the dictation of the monopolists, multinationals and World Bank to ‘beautify’ Calcutta. As a part of ‘beautification’ Left Front is out to stop political postering and wall writing and to rename Calcutta street after British rulers instead of names of great men as chosen by first UF government. All this is done in the name of modernisation. We strongly condemn this fascist act, demand full rehabilitation of each and every hawker and adequate compensation to them.”

The evicted hawkers mostly are poor unemployed youths and retrenched workers. They could set up stalls only after paying huge money and until recently they had to pay regular donations to both ruling CPI (M) and main opposition Congress, to police and local antisocials. Today, CPI (M) conniving with Congress turned lakhs of people into beggars as required by foreign and national moneybags.

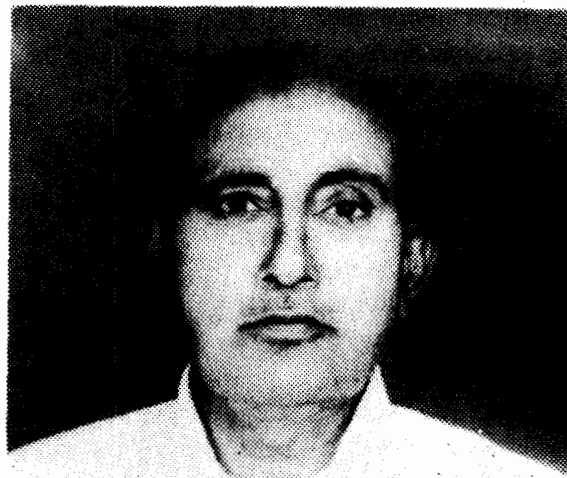
We strongly condemn this fascist act, demand full rehabilitation of each and every hawker and adequate compensation to them.

Attack on SUCI Rally in Orissa

Malkangiri, 10.10.96 : A tribal peasants' Rally was organised by SUCI at Padia Block on 8th Oct in which two thousand tribal women, agricultural workers and peasants took part in order to place their demands before the BDO. While the procession was marching along Padia Bazar, some 20 hooligans led by Naka Lachmaya ex-MLA, Malkangiri, Sk. Rajekh, Bujing Rao, Monoj, Allaya and Pullaya attacked the procession from behind, armed with chain, rod, knife and axe etc. They hit the people from behind and severely injured 12 supporters of SUCI. The wounded persons are Comrades Chinam Raju, Sk. Chattar, Sk. Jaber, Kuram Jaga of Gorakhpally, Ashi Lachha, Ashi Sitasomya, Ashi Singa of Katanpally, Sodi Rawa, Deva Madkami of Kurti and Kosa Nadkami, Bhupesh Karmakar of Kamwoda villages. They are now under treatment at NV-79 hospital.

Although police permission was obtained the incident happened in front of the police who took a silent role. After this, discipline was maintained and people took out the rally to the Block office where a memorandum was submitted to the BDO. An enquiry and immediate arrest of the criminals was demanded by Comrade Sadasiva Das, District Secretary of SUCI.

Red Salute Comrade Balwant Singh



Comrade Balwant Singh, Secretary, Haryana State Organising Committee of our party, breathed his last on 27th October 1996. He was 75. With his demise the toiling people lost a communist of high standard.

Comrade Balwant Singh previously was in CPI. But after CPI broke into two factions, as he was already disillusioned, he did not associate with any of them. Around that time, he came in contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. After having discussions with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, he was profoundly influenced and from then on with unflinching determination carried high the flag of revolution. Comrade Singh was the foremost among those who built up the party in Haryana. He went a long way in his struggle to identify himself with the cause of revolution, the revolutionary party and the working class.

Truly a man of the masses and their dear leader, he worked among different strata of people including khetmajdoors, poor and middle peasants, teachers and other rural intelligentsia and educated youth. People used to call him Masterji because of his clear and deep understanding, penetrating discussion and beauty of character.

When necessary, he never hesitated to shoulder even the most difficult responsibility. The only pain he felt was that he was not able to do all that was required. When his youth was over, when he was old, even then he did not falter to take up the stupendous responsibility to head the Haryana State Organising Committee of our party.

If, although not wanted, he did injure any comrade with his utterance, he would immediately realise it and beg pardon. He waged uncompromising battle against all sorts of orthodoxy and rituals in family, social relations, etc. He was a living example as to how to fight forces of habit.

Amidst all odds, till his last moment, Comrade Balwant Singh exhausted his energy to strengthen the party on the soil of Haryana.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE:

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party, receiving the news of the passing away of Comrade Balwant Singh, sent the following condolence message to the Haryana State Organising Committee.

“I express my profound grief at the demise of Comrade Balwant Singh, Secretary, Haryana State Organising Committee of SUCI”.

“He will be well remembered, as one, who took bold initiative to develop SUCI in Haryana State, being imbued with the teachings of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and who continued the revolutionary struggle till the last breath of his life, with high moral, honesty, sincerity, dedication, shouldering all odds and difficulties, facing attacks from class enemies and defeating disrupters to defend and expand class and mass struggles led by the party.

“I hope comrades of the state will continue to remain united and work as one man at this hour of sorrow and pay their homage by fulfilling unaccomplished revolutionary tasks left behind by this veteran revolutionary fighter.

Red Salute to Comrade Balwant Singh !”

A memorial meeting was held, on 7.11.96 at Kathmandi Dharamsala. Party activists, supporters and sympathisers paid their heartfelt homage to the revolutionary memory of Comrade Balwant Singh. Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, member, Central Committee, addressed the memorial meeting. He upheld the emulating aspects of the departed leader and called upon the comrades to stand like one man at this moment of great loss and build up democratic and revolutionary movements.