

DRAFT ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION POLICY

Educationists and eminent personalities in their respective fields placed before the nation a "Draft Alternative Education Policy" as against the unscientific and harmful National Policy on Education enunciated by the Central Congress(I) Government in an all-India Seminar Organised jointly by the Save Education Committees of Northern, Eastern and Southern regions.

The Seminar was held on 14th September, 1988 at the Assembly Hall of the Central Institute of Education (CIE), Delhi University, where the speakers, included Justice V. K. Krishna Iyer, ex-Justice, Supreme Court, Justice P. Venugopal, ex-Justice Madras High Court, Dr. Ram Chandra Sharma, former Adviser, UNESCO, Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh, former Dean of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, former member of the Senate, Calcutta University, Dr. Hiren Gohain, Head of the Department of English, Guwahati University, Mr. Narendra Sharma, Lecturer, Zakir Hussain College, Delhi, Mr. N. S. Kapoor, Lecturer, SGTB Khalsa College of Delhi, and Dr. Visvambhar Upadhyay, Member of the Rajasthan Hindi Academy.

Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Ex-Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University took the chair to conduct the business of the house.

Com. Pratap Samal, Secretary, Northern Regional Save Education Committee, introduced in the seminar the Draft Alternative Policy on Education (DAPE), prepared by the eminent

members of the Eastern Regional Save Education Committee, the Work Paper for deliberation.

Dr. B. B. Agarwal, Head of the Department of CIE, welcomed the speakers and expressed his heart-felt greetings to the organisers.

Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer in his assertive speech categorically stated that the Central Government in the name of new educational policy had imposed an elitist education policy to serve the purpose of the favoured few in our society. The emphasis was not laid on the expansion of education and universalisation of primary education, but on expensive Navodaya Vidyalaya with clear object of rearing an oligarchy to lord over the oppressed people, he said. He condemned vocationalisation of education as by it man would be made a harmless mechanised robot devoid of thinking faculty.

"Politics", Justice Iyer observed, "is the direction a nation takes. Students and teachers are the forces to decide to a large extent this direction". In this respect he cited the examples of Burma and Bangladesh where the students are playing a very remarkable role in their struggle.

He appealed to all to go through DAPE placed before the country and judge it.

Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh in his speech emphasised the need to set up a national commission on

COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE'S STATEMENT

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, has issued the following statement to the press :

"We congratulate the people in general and journalists in particular for launching such a mighty movement against the Defamation Bill that has ultimately compelled the Central Government headed by Rajiv Gandhi to withdraw the Bill totally and unconditionally."

education comprising representatives of all categories of people associated with education to hold a true national debate.

He opposed the policy of no-detention, de-linking degrees from job and the scheme of so-called autonomous colleges. He also drew the attention of the house to the paucity of teachers in educational institutions and more particularly in the primary schools.

Dr. Ram Chandra Sharma said, "It is the

(Contd. on page 5)

Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (Fortnightly)

Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol. 22 No. 4 October 1 '88 Price 60 P.
Air Charge 5 P.

Bickerings in 'Left Front' over Power and Pelf

The mutual bickerings among the constituents of the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal going on uninterruptedly in some form or other almost since its inception are a glaring instance of rotten politics of unethical bankrupt conduct presently manifesting in its ugliest form. Of late, hardly a day passess without squabbles and mud-slingsings against each other making headlines in the Press. Needless to say, their so-called struggles do not aim at upholding the democratic norms and principles, but for having a greater share of the spoil.

Against this backdrop of nasty politics, the recent happenings in West Bengal centring round the allegations and counter-allegations by the major constituents of the 'Left Front' are to be viewed.

The mistrust and suspicion between the two major constituents, viz, CPI(M) and RSP have come to such a pass that the chairman of the 'Left Front', Saroj Mukherjee, has to put an askance : 'where lies the sense in continuing the Front if the partners behave like this', obviously on PWD minister Jatin Chakravarty's insinuation that the chief minister, Jyoti Basu, was engaged in giving undue advantage to a business house being influenced by his son!

Bitter relations among the front partners can be easily gauged from some of the slanderous campaigns made out by each partner against the major constituent of the Front, viz, the CPI(M). In one of the lead articles in a journal controlled by the CPI the charge levelled against the CPI(M) runs thus : "The police that used to arrest (erstwhile) agitators now salutes the leaders of the party in power and offers them a chair in reverence. The biggest party of the front is favoured by the bureaucracy most now a days. The workers and leaders of the party pride themself

ves on this huge power. They not only look down upon other partners of the Front but also want that these partners remain perpetually weak." Perhaps after tasting the CPI(M)'s onslaughts at Kharagpur where the CPI(M) applied muscle-power of antisocials to crush the CPI stronghold in Kharagpur, the restive partner came out with such an outrage! Mr. Kamal Guha, the Agriculture Minister on behalf of Forward Bloc alleged : "Jyotibabu is partisan, I do not think I can any longer continue as a minister." The Irrigation Minister, a RSP member, went on to say : "...the CPI(M)'s high-handedness and big brotherly attitude is ruining the "Left Front". Perhaps the most unkindest cut came from the PWD Minister against the Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu insinuating him with adoption of dubious method in aid of his son. Then again, by opposing the Mass Violation of law by the Forward Bloc the big brotherly attitude of the CPI(M) came out in the open in no uncertain terms. No doubt, this amounts to denial of Front constituents' right to an independent stand on agitation. So these are some of the specimens which demonstrate to what a filthy extent the constituents of the 'Left Front' can go. But the

(Contd. on page 4)



Distinguished speakers in the seminar. Sitting from left to right : Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Dr. R. C. Sharma, Justice P. Venugopal, Dr. Sushil K. Mukherjee, Justice Krishna Iyer, Dr. Ajit K. Ghosh and Dr. V. Upadhyay.

CONGRESS(I) GAME IN NAGALAND AND MIZORAM

The sordid drama that unfolded centring round the imposition of President's Rule in Nagaland and Mizoram has once more demonstrated the utter hollowness of democratic professions of the Congress(I) Central Government.

In the Nagaland poll in November last, a Congress (I) majority was contrived through vote-purchase by use of money power on a scale unprecedented even by Congress(I) standards. Even S. C. Jamir, the former Nagaland Chief Minister, revealed sometime back that crores of rupees had been spent by the ruling party in the November poll through which the Sema ministry had been formed.

On July 30 last, 13 Congress(I) MLAs resigned from the party levelling charges of rampant corruption against the Sema Ministry, thus reducing the Congress(I) strength to 21 in a House of 60. On the same day, the 13 MLAs met the Speaker of the House who recognised the split in Nagaland Congress(I) and its legislature party in a notification and divulged the names of the incumbent MLAs. The Speaker's certification of the split was published in the Assembly Bulletin. The 13 dissidents, along with 4 independent MLAs who had also withdrawn support from the Sema Ministry, now joined hands with the 17 Nagaland National Democratic Party MLAs and the lone Nagaland People's Party MLA in the legislature. These 35 MLAs formed a new party, the Nagaland People's Council (NPC) and elected Vamuzo Phesao their leader. Mr. Vamuzo wrote to the Governor, General K. V. Krishna Rao — who was away at Imphal, staking his claim to form a new ministry.

New Delhi was determined to keep the Congress(I) Ministry in power by all means, fair or foul, and set its machinery into motion. Additional troops were deployed in the capital Kohima. Union Surface Transport Minister Rajesh Pilot and the Meghalaya Con-

gress(I) Chief Minister P A Sangma rushed to Kohima on 31st July, followed by Home Minister Buta Singh the next day. Holding the threat of impending President's Rule, they tried to cajole, bribe and even threaten the 12 dissidents into rejoining the Congress(I). Reportedly, Rajesh Pilot offered Cabinet posts to all of them and when they did not swallow the bait, Buta Singh threatened that if they did not return to the Congress(I) folds no other party would be allowed to form Government even though it enjoyed absolute majority in the House. The Speaker was whisked away to Delhi to see if he could be made to rescind his earlier stand. In the meanwhile, Hokishe Sema asserted that there had been no split in his party and that the 13 dissidents, being forcibly confined, were not free agents. He even maintained that the Speaker would soon return from Delhi and announce his new decision regarding the split.

All this while, Governor Krishna Rao, the constitutional head of the State, kept himself at Imphal away from the scene of crisis where he was needed, presumably to avoid a parading of the 35 NPC MLAs before him which would substantiate the NPC claim of a trial of strength on the House floor and to allow the Central Government sufficient time to turn the situation in its favour by underhand means. When an NPC delegation met him at Imphal, he gave a sympathetic air and dissuaded them from holding a parade of their 35 MLAs before the Lok Sabha at Delhi.

The game was now rapidly drawing to a climax. Krishna Rao arrived

at Kohima on August 6, a full week after the crisis surfaced, to deliver the coup de grace. Immediately, Mr Vamuzo sought permission to produce before him the 35 MLAs to prove his majority but Krishna Rao reportedly assured him that that was not necessary since he was already well aware of the situation from the talk he had had earlier with the NPC delegation including Vamuzo at Imphal. Instead, the Governor instructed that the dissident Congress(I) MLAs be interviewed in a bid to make them retract their stand. Accordingly, the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Kohima, went to the Tourist Lodge where those MLAs were camping and interrogated each of them. Reportedly, they were satisfied that the MLAs were not being wrongfully confined and the Chief Secretary of Nagaland in a Report certified that these 13 MLAs had not been "kept confined under duress".

All attempts to extend the life of the Congress(I) Sema Ministry by hook or by crook, having thus failed, the stage was set to translate into action the threat given by Buta Singh earlier on behalf of the Central Government. Reportedly, Rajiv Gandhi met the Nagaland Speaker who was in Delhi in a bid to persuade him to review his earlier decision and disqualify the 13 rebel MLAs. When this too failed, Rajiv Gandhi "spoke" to Governor Krishna Rao over telephone and President's Rule was unceremoniously imposed in Nagaland. New Delhi's usual assertion in justification of such arbitrary impositions of President's Rule that the State could not be run in terms of the Constitution, was given the life when the Nagaland Congress(I) President Chiten Jamir admitted: "President's Rule was the only alternative as the Congress had lost all hopes of regaining the support of the 13 legisla-

tors who had resigned from the party".

Close on the heels of Nagaland came the Mizoram episode. Here the case was the reverse of Nagaland as 8 legislators belonging to Mizo National Front (MNF) withdrew their support from the 19-month old MNF Ministry headed by Laldenga, reducing it to a minority. The dissidents formed a new party styled as MNF (Democrats) and their spokesman announced on 29th August that they had decided to form a coalition government with the Congress(I). The Congress(I) had engineered the defection, and the Mizoram Congress(I) President Lalthanawla was already in Delhi having parleys with the Congress(I) High Command about forming a new ministry in Mizoram with the help of defectors. Such was the reward meted out to Laldenga who had been installed as Chief Minister in exchange for giving up the 28-year old insurgency in Mizoram, was now close with the Congress(I) High Command and Rajiv Gandhi and had even supported Congress (I) underhand manoeuvres in Nagaland only the other day!

But what queered the pitch for Congress(I) was that Thanghnama, the Speaker of Mizoram Assembly, considered the dissidence in MNF not to be a bona fide split but a defection, suspended the eight defecting legislators and served show cause notice to them as to why they should not be disqualified from the Assembly. Had they been disqualified in terms of the Anti-Defection Act, Laldenga Ministry would continue to enjoy majority in the Assembly with its reduced strength. The Congress(I) efforts to anyhow instal their ministry having thus being thwarted and reaching a deadlock, they now settled for the next best thing for them, that is, President's Rule. Earlier, to buy time, Union Home Minister Buta Singh had assured Laldenga over telephone of "all help" from the Centre and of

the Prime Minister's help to resolve the crisis. Hiteswar Saikia, the Governor, had also agreed in discussion with Laldenga that "democratic principles should be followed to tide over the crisis". Now the same Governor took up an openly partisan position by questioning the Speaker's decision to suspend the dissident MLAs. By asking the Speaker to prove validity of its show cause notices, he virtually acted as the spokesman of the defectors. On his recommendation, President's Rule was clamped down in Mizoram on 7th September and the Assembly was dissolved only minutes before the Speaker was scheduled to modify his decision about the dissident MNF legislators which would have endured majority of Laldenga Ministry. Laldenga's pleas for a trial of strength on the Assembly floor on 14th September fell on deaf ears.

"Mr Clean" Rajiv Gandhi's Government had arbitrarily blocked installation of a Non-Congress(I) Government in Nagaland by the uncleanest means possible.

In justification, they raised a pseudo-righteous row about the "defectors" from Congress(I), but they themselves had installed the Congress(I) Sangma Ministry with the help of defectors from other parties in Meghalaya only a few months back!

And in Mizoram now when their efforts to destabilise the elected government through organizing defection for forming a Congress(I) ministry failed they shamelessly clamped down President's Rule to outmanoeuvre Laldenga.

In both the cases, the Speaker and the elected legislature were utterly disregarded. Their motto seems to be: if a Congress(I) ministry cannot be propped up, then let there be President's Rule which is nothing but Congress(I) Rule by proxy.

The two episodes once more confirm our earlier analysis, oft-stated, that in its bid to anyhow maintain Con-

(Contd. on page 6)

Nelson Mandela : Symbol of South African Freedom

(The South African people's struggle for freedom has reached the final stage under the able leadership of Nelson Mandela, the source of inspiration to his millions of countrymen fighting against the apartheid Botha regime. This article is an evaluation of the role played by Mandela in the backdrop of the short history of South Africa and its people's struggle for equal rights and privileges.)

August 5, 1988 marked the 26th anniversary of the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the South African movement against the apartheid colonial regime. A few years back when the Botha Government, to hoodwink the world opinion, offered to release Mandela under the condition that he would not participate in any political movement, Mandela disdainfully rejected the racist proposal saying "I cannot and will not give any undertaking at a time when I and you, the people, are not free. Your freedom and mine cannot be separated."

After 26 years of his incarceration, his life is still working as the beacon light of inspiration to millions of his countrymen engaged in day-to-day life and death struggle. Today when reports of his serious illness are pouring in and when a fresh move is afoot to free this uncompromising and undisputed leader, we also demand his immediate and unconditional release from the clutches of the racist Botha regime.

From the very birth he inherited a society which was racially divided with White domination over economy, land system and scope of education etc. The naked racial discrimination made him restless and pushed him to the path of life-long struggle and revolt and made him the unparalleled leader of South Africa.

But the struggle, which had been launched against racism and aimed only at earning equal rights for Blacks as enjoyed by the Whites, has undergone a basic change. A brief discussion on the history of South Africa will be relevant here in tracking this change.

The history of his country is the history of subjugation, oppression and exploitation by the minority Whites on one hand and of relentless, uncompromising and protracted battle by majority non-Whites on the other. From the very foundation of South Africa in 1910 as the

youngest of the British dominations, the Whites, constituting only 20 per cent of the total population, set steam-roller of oppression over the 80 per cent non-Whites. For smooth extraction and deportation of huge amount of gold and diamond lying underground, which led them to the utilisation of cheap African labour, they made legislation one after another and threw the Africans out of their conventional livelihood of cattle-breeding and crop-raising. Thus the Africans were forced to hand over as much as 90 per cent of the land to the White settlers and were pushed to work under their new White masters.

The Native Land Act of 1913 thus made them landless and forced them to go to seek jobs in the "Devil's Pits" by mine owners and in other ancillary industries. In the mines or factories they were not offered any skilled jobs and were meted out inhuman treatment of the Middle Ages. To counter the growing discontent among the people, the despotic rulers used to adopt stringent legislative measures one by one and unleash brutal atrocities. The Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 was such that made it clear, by denying the rights of workers including that of joining in the registered trade unions, that the Africans working in industries were servants, not workers. In the Second

World War a large contingent of the Africans were recruited in the Army and they were used only for auxiliary works like digging trenches, transportations etc. In the front they were disallowed to carry arms and were thrown at the mercy of the Nazis.

The long-time destitution, deprivation and denial of the minimum human rights made them united and pushed them gradually into the vortex of militant movement. The post-War South Africa witnessed increasing militancy and sustained resistance, with the African National Congress (ANC) taking more and more active part. Nelson Mandela came into the surface in this period, formed the ANC Youth League, became its first secretary and chalked out some programme of action. About one lakh African mine workers with a demand of a guaranteed minimum wage of ten shillings a day went on a week-long strike and received brutal onslaughts from the armed security men.

The parliamentary elections of 1948, through which Nationalist Party assumed power, brought in a drastic change in the African society. The entire world was shocked to note that the South African Government legalised the ever nasty and hated policy of apartheid to counter the mass upsurge. In Afrikaans 'apartheid' means "separateness — segregated, separate existence and development." The protagonists of apartheid, in the name of divine providence, raised the slogan of pre-ordained way of life and path of development for each race. In pursuance of their line of thought, some derogatory and humiliating legislations came into force subsequently. By one enactment the government created some provinces called 'Bantustans' or 'homelands'. Whatever may be the government's propaganda, these 'homelands' were actually some scattered, poverty-stricken fragmented lands.

By another legisla-

tion, a system of passes were introduced for the Bantus. The argument was that the Blacks were the 'potential criminals' and so it should be compulsory for them to carry passes while moving from one place to another. It is a common practice of harassment to any Black by the White officials. Thus Africans have turned foreigners in their so-called 'homelands'. What more disgraceful a law may be!

As every autocratic regime has to curtail the scope of education and restrict the cultivation of modern philosophy and science, so also South Africa followed suit. Raising the slogan that the fruits of Western civilisation should be enjoyed only by the Whites and the Africans should stick to their traditional tribal system, they introduced the Bantu Education Act of 1953 and the Extension of University Education Act of 1959. These Acts denied the Blacks the access to English language, the subjects of modern science or any university meant only for Whites. What an ignominious treatment meted out to the Africans in their motherland!

With every passing day the anti-apartheid movement gained momentum and assumed militant character. Side by side the government reciprocated with more and more brutal measures treating the fighters like cats and dogs on the streets. In 1955 when the ANC formulated a "Freedom Charter", which in its preamble declared: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and White, and no government can justify claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people", the government in a pre-down swoop all over the country arrested hundreds of leaders and activists on the charge of high treason.

In 1960 in Sharpville and Langa the police massacred 300 peaceful demonstrators protesting against the 'Pass System'. The UN Security Council adopted a condemn-resolution against apartheid. To relieve itself of the world pressure, it with-

drew itself from the Commonwealth in 1961 and in a hectic move in the same year it proclaimed itself a White Republic. A country with 20 per cent White population thus became a White Republic and thus more tragic consequences befell the majority non-White people.

As a result of this strong indignation was aroused among the Africans and Mandela rose up to the occasion, formed a National Action Council and a Three-Day Stay at Home and a country-wide mass demonstration programme were declared. In response, the government, through an emergency legislation banned the ANC and put about 10,000 people behind the bars.

During this period the ANC shunning the path of non-violence took to the path of armed insurrection and thus "Umkhonto We Sizwe" (The Spear of the Nation), the armed wing of the ANC, was formed to spearhead the armed struggle with Nelson Mandela its Chief Commander. But after a few months on August 5, 1962, he was arrested, declared accused No. 1 in Rivonia Trial along with 7 others and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Since then he has been languishing inside the dark cell for long 26 years.

During his long imprisonment the people's resistance grew many times stronger. Today, in South Africa all his writings are banned, quoting him is treasonable, printing or painting his portrait is illegal and even meeting with his wife, Winnie Mandela, the most worthy successor to his ideals, is considered highly seditious by the government. But all this could not erase him from the hearts of his millions of countrymen. The majority of youths, the vanguard of the present movement, even never saw him. Still the resistance movement is gaining in strength with every passing day. No single day passes in South Africa without witnessing a heroic battle on the streets and no single day

(Contd. on page 6)

Bickerings in 'Left Front'

(Contd. from page 1)

most amusing part of this sordid drama is that despite plethora of vituperative campaign by the constituents against each other none of the constituents feels this acrimonious relationship among themselves will in any way break the unity of the Front. Because, though on the one hand these small partners at times come out in the open itching for a showdown with the big brother, the CPI(M), they at the same time know it for certain that their coming out of the Front will mean political suicide.

From petty parliamentary considerations, which have become summum bonum to them, each of the constituents knows very well that in the context of West Bengal political setup, there is a wide appeal of the banner of a joint platform in the mass minds without which none of them dares to face the electorate singlehandedly. This is equally true for the CPI(M) as well. That is why, this party too had to digest vituperative attacks from its minor partners more often than not. This is reflected in utterances of Mr. Saroj Mukherjee, the Chairman of the 'Left Front' even at the height of his annoyance, despite the dilemma so created. Confronted with such a confused scene, the people begin thinking what actually the 'Front Unity' means. Does it really reflect the nature and character of a united front emerged out of an objective reality? If not, what should be the actual nature and character of it? These questions are agitating the minds of the people.

Quite likely, in this context, the questions of emergence of a genuine united front come in. It must be understood that the task of developing the democratic struggle can only be fulfilled by the formation of a united front of all Left, democratic and Opposition parties and forces with a

common agreed minimum programme against the common enemy, the Congress(I). Again it is to be realised that the united front is not a brain-child of any subjective thinking, but is a product of an objective reality of struggle. It is for this alone that the serious people strive for this powerful instrument to lead the struggles against the common enemy, the Congress(I) and other vested interests. It is our considered opinion that the root cause of all the crisis in all aspects of life lies mainly in the present exploitative system. It is illusory to think to end this with palliatives only keeping this system in tact. On the contrary, it is incumbent on the revolutionary party to provide the people with a united front with a view to developing a countrywide democratic movement complementary to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution with the burning problems of the people's life. And in the process with the intensification of the struggle the role of the different bourgeois, petty-bourgeois and social democratic parties will be exhausted and the people will be freed from their influence and ultimately the revolutionary leadership will be established over them.

Now in the midst of this struggle the revolutionary party has to handle two types of contradiction: *firstly*, with the main enemy against which the united struggle is conducted and *secondly*, contradiction amongst the constituents, having diverse political opinion and economic programme but agreeing to the minimum common agreed programme, by waging an ideological struggle based on the principle of 'unity-struggle-unity'.

A proper objective situation for achieving this aim is created only through the involvement and active participation of the people along with these parties in ideological struggle that is bound

to be generated in the united platform of action. The people then after becoming well conversant with the politics and ideologies of the Front, can distinguish who is right and who is wrong; and being enriched with **higher consciousness** and maturity can they ultimately free themselves from the influence of wrong politics and ideology.

In the circumstances, it is scientific to conclude that ideological struggles between different parties cannot be ruled out. On the matters of principle and ideology there can be no compromise. Every party in the UF is free to propagate its own ideology. To stop ideological struggles between the parties in the UF in the name of maintenance of unity or on any other plea means to put an embargo on free flow of thought, ban struggle and interaction of ideas and objectively surrender the right of the exploited masses of the people to expose the rottenness of bourgeois ideology that are polluting the people culturally and obstructing social progress.

Many of us experienced in the past that some of the big Left parties of the united platform apprehending lest their social democratic character might be revealed, tried to arrest these ideological struggles by concealing the differences with the ulterior motive of deceiving the people and utilising the united platform for achieving narrow, petty party end. But since such a position can never be materialised in reality, whether they like it or not, the struggle is bound to appear. And when the struggle begins, it takes the form of reciprocal revilings violating all norms and forgetting even the fact that they are united on a common platform to fight against their common enemy. So it is for the sake of the united struggle and unity that ideological struggle should be conducted following certain norms and conducts and none under any circumstances should try to malign others by concocted

lies or exhibit big brotherly attitude and try to dominate over others. As we know, science teaches us that mere presence of cause does not automatically lead to its effect under all conditions. Cause leads to effect under favourable conditions only.

Viewed in this perspective if we turn back to the hey days of mass movements during the Fifties and Sixties, significantly two currents were perceptible in the then mass movements. One is a social democratic line pursued by the undivided CPI and subsequently **both the CPI and the CPI(M)** and its allies and the other is a genuine, uncompromising revolutionary trend pursued by our party, the SUCI. It is also a history by now how our party then fought uncompromising ideological battles against each and every opportunist tendency and trend of the Front in general and domineering attitude of the CPI(M) in particular without impairing in any way the unity and cohesion of the Front. Neither did we cease to take initiative to mount battles unitedly against the main enemy, the Congress. We also severely criticised when our party was shamelessly deprived of adequate number of seats or ministerial portfolios. But never did we resort to slander campaigns against the major constituent of the front violating the democratic norms and principles. Then again during mid-Seventies when people were bursting forth against the misrule of Indira Congress regime in Gujarat and Bihar, we, on behalf of our party wanted to develop a mighty mass movement in the State under the leadership of Left and democratic parties. At that time a Left-democratic combination was also existing in West Bengal. But not only did the CPI(M) resist our effort, but worst of all, they did not join the JP movement then sweeping north India on the flimsy plea of Rightist participation and suddenly decided to organise a one-day convention in West Bengal on demands of civil liberty

jointly with P. C. Sen, former Congress Chief Minister, who earned the notoriety for his out and out anti-people policies. The objective of the CPI(M) to anyhow frustrate any move against the Indira Congress vis-a-vis keeping contact with the Rightists in West Bengal and the JP movement, was to gain advantage at the next election by bargaining with Indira Gandhi. So also, in today's context the only meaning of similar politics of election manoeuvre with Jan Morcha or others and dissociating itself, at the sametime, with any efforts to forge the broadest possible united platform against the fascistic onslaughts of Rajiv Government is to create a posture to gain its increased bargaining power with Rajiv Gandhi in the polls. We, on principled ground protested against this move of the CPI(M) and carried on an ideological fight through a booklet against this rank opportunism. The CPI(M) unable to fight us ideologically levelled our consistent political stand as disruptive and 'slander' and even tried to strip us of the right to conduct ideological struggle by dictating terms which meant putting ban on ideological polemics. Since by then the CPI(M) turned its face away from movements and became engrossed in parliamentary politics in the face of our insistence on developing mass movements unitedly against the Indira government, the CPI(M) broke unity with our party. Needless to say, asked specifically to show vividly, the CPI(M) leadership could not provide any proof of slanderous expression in our campaign against them.

Thus, the CPI(M) leadership who then labelled our consistent ideological criticism as 'slander' which, according to them, endangered the unity of the them 'Front', paradoxically, do not feel any qualms to say that despite their mutual vituperative slander campaigns, catching daily headlines in the Press and which, they themselves

(Contd. on page 5)

'LEFT FRONT'

(Contd. from page 4)

ves, are now terming as 'slander', do not damage the unity of the 'Left Front' now. On the contrary, according to them, despite presence of such malicious offensives against each other, the front unity rather will become stronger day by day.

Viewed in this perspective can any saner person claim that the so-called struggles, which each of the constituents of the 'Left Front' claims to be centred on 'principled ones' in any way be described as the healthy ideological struggles conducted within the Front? Surely, everyone will say that it had nothing to do with principled battle centring round people's burning issues of life and hence the question of defending of 'people's interest' does not also come up. These are not struggles centring round ideological differences but squabbles and bickerings centring round the distribution of spoils, power, position and pelf.

Has anyone ever heard of any constituent of the Front engaged in bitter conflict among themselves centring round any principle of struggle against the Centre? No not at all.

From this point of view, one can well understand how the present 'Left Front' has emerged bereft of any principle, Code of Conduct and norms, without which a genuine platform of united struggle against the common enemy, can serve the historical necessity of a Political United Front to lead the democratic movements to a higher phase paving thereby the birth of alternative political power of the people.

Last but not the least, one must remember that today any party trying to handle governmental power as a part of the bourgeois design to stabilise the system is doomed to become cor-

rupt and unprincipled and become instruments of exploitation. That is why we observe utter greed, lust for power and self-centred individualism in the party leaders and cadres enjoying the governmental power resulting in the consolidation of the exploitative system on the one hand and the loss of faith among the people in the Left and democratic forces on the other. In such a complicated situation the people are at a loss to understand whether their sufferings will go on unabated or where is that genuine pro-people force to lead them to the victory against this system.

During the 11 years of their stay in power the partners of the 'Left Front' have conclusively proved that they are capable enough to strengthen the hands of the exploiters and reactionaries and they least bother for the tears of the people turned pauper day by day. That is why they do not sound any word of struggle against this system with a view to pleasing their masters—the capitalists and rural jotedars. That is why we see them opening industries in collaboration with the multinationals in West Bengal, we see the Chief Minister assuring the capitalists in the State and elsewhere in the meetings of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and also see them serving the interest of the jotedars as against the peasants and agricultural labourers.

Under this circumstance, SUCI, guided by the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is trying hard to stem the rot by holding high the banner of Left movement and with its limited strength is developing mass-movements complementary to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution all over the country in order to develop a nationwide alternative platform of action against this present impasse.

Delhi Convention

(Contd. from page 1)

bounden duty of the government to provide education to every child."

Dr. Visvambhar Upadhyay felt that the DAPE did not propose any fundamental change of the social structure without which education cannot be made pro-people.

Justice P. Venugopal said in his speech that the first and foremost object of education should be to fight out communalism, casteism, separatism etc. to achieve the complete democratisation of society.

Com. Sukomal Dasgupta while supporting the draft highlighted the basic difference of outlook between the NPE and the DAPE. The DAPE approaches education as a medium of man-making and character building whereas the NPE views the purpose of education to be production-oriented and information-gathering in which the role of the teachers will be no more than a class-manager, he said. Refuting the false logic provided by the government he emphasised that it was the capitalist system not the education system which was responsible for unemployment problem.

Prof. Hiren Gohain, exposing the elitist and capitalist class bias of the slogan of production-oriented education in the present setup, described it as "actually designed to cater to the capitalist production system." He stressed the moral sense of duty to be cultivated by the teaching community. He criticised the discrimination in the allocation of funds to the universities by the Centre.

Mr. N. S. Kapoor was of the opinion that the educational atmosphere in most universities was against the very concept of secularism. He felt that the proposed NPE would help develop blindness in the name of 'value based education'.

MOVEMENTS IN STATES

Muzaffarpur Peasants' Struggle

The agricultural labourers of Vidyajhamp Panchayat under Sakura police station of Muzaffarpur district are on continuous strike for over 2 months under the banner of Kishan and Khetmazdoor Sangh. While the minimum wage for agricultural workers is Rs. 15.85 announced by the government, they get only Rs. 5/- for a day's labour or wheat or maize of 1 kilo and 250 gms in kind.

On August 21, a negotiation talk between the representatives of the labourers and landowners was held in presence of the Circle Officer but the landowners even refused to pay Rs. 10 a day as ultimately demanded by the labourers and thus the talk failed.

During this period police camped in the village to protect the interest of the landowners on the plea of maintaining law and order and on 24 the August they withdrew from the village.

On the morning of August 27 the landowners all of a sudden attacked the striking agricultural workers with firearms in which 2 workers received gun shot

Mr. Narendra Sharma branded the NPE as fascist comparing it with the government's new economic policy. Hospitals Bill, Trade Unions Bill and Defamation Bill etc.

Mr. Gurbachan Singh discussed at length the language problem and felt the necessity of retaining English for a long time to come.

The seminar evoked wide response among the people and earned wide coverage in the media. Dr. Sushil Kr. Mukherjee in his speech thanked the organisers and warned the people of the danger posed by the NPE and appealed to build up a national debate on the DAPE.

wound and were removed to the Muzaffarpur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The landowners also forced two of the workers at the point of revolver to set fire to the house of Shiv Chandra Das, their leader, and other houses, and severely assaulted others. The culprits were roaming in broad daylight in spite of reporting against them to the police who instead arrested two organisers of the peasant movement, Rajkishore Misra and Samvodh Thakur.

On September 3 again a negotiation talk was held in the presence of the SDO. But local landowners refused to pay more than what they were giving earlier. But the strange thing is that the local police are threatening the labourers that they will be put behind the bars if they do not yield to the offer of the landowners. The labourers rejected the offer outright.

The agricultural workers are continuing the strike which was declared illegal by the landowners who are bringing labourers from the adjoining villages. In protest, there was a massive demonstration of agricultural workers who covered a distance of 15 to 20 km on foot with a firm resolve to the implementation of Minimum Wage Act announced by the government.

Roadblock in Dhanbad

On 22nd and 23rd August last, SUCI party workers and the people put up a road-block on the only road under Chandankeyari P.S., Dhanbad, that connects this districts with Jharia. The road has been in a damaged state for a long time and is very hazardous for vehicles and even for the pedestrians.

SUCI organisers and people's representatives had met from time to time the District Magistrate, B.D.O.C.D. and

(Contd. on page 8)

NELSON MANDELA

(Contd. from page 3)
passes without newer enrolment of youth volunteers. One notable feature of this countrywide movement is that the well-meaning and democratic-minded Whites are joining the ANC to strengthen the hands of their Black brethren. As a result, the whole administration is reeling under the surging movement. The apartheid regime has lost its control over a vast stretch of the land and most of the local administration has been turned inoperative and are replaced by the People's Committees.

Today, on the occasion of Nelson Mandela's 70th birth anniversary, when the people of his country is striving hard to raise the pitch of the movement at the cost of life and blood, when the world opinion is more and more consolidating against the racist regime, another heinous and sordid game is played simultaneously by the USA and Britain. While the entire world censured the South African Government and a growing popular demand is raised the world over to sever diplomatic relations with the racist regime, these two countries, boasting themselves most democratic and civilized in the world, are maintaining overtly or covertly the trade relations with it. About 126 US business establishments invest in South Africa and in the period 1961-1981 they have multiplied their investment from 49 crores of dollars to 260 crores of dollars. The Thatcher Government also made itself a party to it and refused to comply with the Commonwealth countries' proposal for a total economic sanction against South Africa.

The role played by India, the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, (NAM) having enjoyed prestige and weight in international politics is very much frustrating and conspiratorial. While it honoured Mandela with the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1979

and utters anti-racist jargons and vocabularies, it showed an out and out callous attitude towards this problem. Neither it withdrew itself from the Commonwealth to create a pressure on Britain, nor it launched an effective movement with its NAM colleagues to put pressure on Pretoria. The reason is not far to seek. India is more or less playing the role like that of Britain and USA. Otherwise, how can the Union Government allow its Hindustan Diamond Corporation to continue diamond trading with South Africa? This dual politics of India requires to be properly explained here.

The most important question is how the Botha Government, being a minority one, can dare continue this barbarous oppression ignoring the strong world opinion. The answer is that the Botha regime enjoys full support from the US imperialists, the Anglo-US multinational capital and above all the governments of Reagan and Thatcher. So the present movement of South Africa is not only against apartheid, it is also interwoven with anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggle.

To track down the India government's role its internal situation and its foreign policy should be properly understood. In fact in its own soil it pursues the same policy of divide and rule on the basis of caste, creed, religion and nationality etc., fanning up all sorts of fundamentalist, parochial and obscurantist ideas, while at the same time it arms itself to the teeth with Black Acts to vitiate the democratic atmosphere in the country. Crushing of legitimate mass movements in a fascist way by police, killings inside the police custody or prison, confinement without trial year after year—all these are the regular feature of our society. Under the facade of parliamentary democracy it is out to establish fascism.

With this background how can it sincerely stand by the people of South Africa engaged in a

life and death struggle? How can it extend its real support to the causes the South Africans are fighting for? Internationally, it wants to show a radical gesture and that is only to maintain its tie with the African countries, to save its position among its NAM counterparts and to be the champion of the cause of African struggle, with an ultimate design to gain more and more bargaining power with the imperialist camp with the vast African market under its control.

But the most tragic part of the story is the so-called Left and Communist parties of our country who have taken it as their noble duty to extend unquestionable support to and launch a popular campaign for this stand taken by the Indian Government. In pursuance of their political line that India's foreign policy is progressive while the internal policy is a reactionary one, which is anti-Marxist, the CPI and the CPI(M) hailed India's policy on South Africa and branded it as complementary to the aspirations of the people of South Africa. By this they are not only betraying the cause of South African people, but also at the same time deceiving the Indian working class groaning under ruthless oppression by the capitalist class and its helmsman the Indian government.

Our party, the SUCI, could never subscribe to these views of these parties and as in the past our party's MLAs in West Bengal Assembly could not put their signature in a unanimous resolution demanding the release of Nelson Mandela while at the same time praising the role played by Indian government. While we support the demand of the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, we at the same time cannot but condemn the role of the Indian government which is maintaining overtly or covertly trade relations with South Africa like its big brothers Britain and USA while mouthing slogans of release of Mandela. It is our firm opinion that it will be an utter be-

trayal to the South African people and the Indian working class if we extend our support to the foreign policy followed by the Indian Government, which is nothing but the extension of its utterly reactionary and anti-people internal policy of exploitation and deprivation of our countrymen. That is why our Party leader in the West Bengal Assembly, Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, moved an amendment to the resolution to drop the part of India Government's role. But as it was not accepted, we desisted from putting our signature to it.

The movement of the South African people has reached such a stage that it is a matter of time how early they will achieve their victory. But before that we want to clinch one point here, that is, the understanding of leadership. The leadership cannot be abstract, it must be concrete. It is the personified best expression of all the experiences of the struggle. We always should keep it in mind that in course of a long-drawn battle, the leader may go behind the bars or may face death. But his teachings and his struggle act as the guideline before the people under all adversity and obstacle for the time to come. The forces of compromise within the movement may try to confuse or belittle the role played by leadership sometimes by raising the slogan of cult of individual or another and thus may cause irreparable damage to the movement. But whatever may be the propaganda, without the proper role of a leadership no battle can ever be victorious.

Nelson Mandela has emerged as such a imitable personality before the struggling millions of his country. In spite of his long incarceration he has been successful in setting different patriotic forces—the nationalists, the communists and others—in unison to wage a fierce battle of no-return against the racist regime. Today his name carries inspiration, his memory bears encouragement and he enjoys the unparalleled

Nagaland

(Contd. from page 2)
gress(I) hold in the States, the Central Government tramples upon all democratic norms and rights of the legislature as a matter of course with full complicity of the Governors in the States appointed by it who, instead of their task to serve and uphold the Constitution, for whatever it is worth, have virtually reduced themselves to paid agents of New Delhi. Instances of this are too numerous to be recounted here. The shameful role of the Tamil Nadu Governor in engineering blatant manipulations following the demise of MGR is still fresh in public memory. Even the government-appointed Sarkaria Commission was constrained to comment that out of the 76 instances of imposition of President's Rule till then 51 had been in the direct interest of the ruling party at the Centre. This shows that these are not isolated occurrences but part of the all-out fascist design of the ruling class which makes a mockery of parliamentary democracy.

The remedy for this, as well as the other flagrant violations of democratic rights and civil liberties being perpetrated by the Governments at the Centre and in the States all the time, lies in sustained democratic mass movements on the basis of aroused social conscience for restoration, preservation and extension of democratic rights and civil liberties.

position in the leadership of the movement. The forces of reaction are on the retreat and the day is not far off when the writings on the wall will come true in spite of the intrigues and conspiracy of the US and British imperialists and other reactionary forces the world over who are hand in glove with the Botha regime. The day is not far off when the Blacks made foreigners in their own land will be the masters of their own destiny and enjoy the rights and privileges they are deprived of for ages.

MAHILA SANSKRITIK SANGHA

Nationwide Programme of Protest

So that we may never rise up in protest, the capitalist rulers of our country inflict upon us the curse of obscenity, to instigate in us animal instinct, unbridled in absence of sense of reason and honour. So comes the drug addiction. So is encouraged indignity to women. And bride burning. Keeping in mind the teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that even in dire distress a nation can stand up, resist and fight if its moral backbone remains intact, the Mahila Sanskritik Sangha (MSS) observed a protest week from 1st September. As a culmination of the week-long programme in the different States, 7th September was observed as the all-India protest day against pornography, dowry system, torture and indignity on women and the drug menace, with a view to building up a widespread movement against these social evils. We give below some of the reports that are still pouring in from the different States.

ORISSA

The Orissa State Committee of the MSS observed the week through campaign on the above issues, meetings, group meetings, mass deputations and mass dharnas in the districts. All these enthused people in general and women in particular.

On 7th September, a large number of women under the MSS banner staged a central protest march at Bhubaneswar. The colourful demonstration, raising slogans, started from the Bhubaneswar Railway Station and wended its way through Rajmahal Chawk Bus Stand, and Patel Marg. It was stopped by the police near Sachivalaya Marg, since section 144 was in force there. Then the procession turned to the P.M.G. Chawk, where a dharna was staged followed by a meeting.

Com. Binapani Das, State President, MSS, presided over it. Com. Lily Das, the General Secretary, in her speech, explained the significance of the protest week to the gathering.

Com. Binapani Das in her speech said that in the present-day class divided society the capitalists and their chief political agent, the Congress(I), were encouraging decadent culture in a planned way. She said, the beating, torture and killing of women going on in the country was a shame for a civilized society.

She pointed out that in order to finally root out the malaise the existing capitalist system must be overthrown and preparatory to this, both men and women were to conduct progressive cultural movements. In conclusion, she called upon all sections of the people to raise voice against the evils.

Comrades Sakti Panda, Tarulata Behera, Basanti Swain, among others, also addressed the gathering. During the dharna the PA to Chief Minister came with police force and received the memorandum.

A telegram containing the demands made in the memorandum was sent to the Prime Minister.

KERALA

At the call of the All India Preparatory Committee of Mahila Sanskritik Sangha, a week-long programme was adopted in the State from 1st September culminating in a Mahila Convention and Dharna in front of the Trivandrum State Secretariat on 7th September in which hundreds of female comrades and MSS workers took part.

On 1st September, a memorandum including the demand for a stop to the burning of women was submitted to the District Collectors in different districts. In Quilon a Collectorate March was organised in which a good number of women took part. Com. Lalitha

Mathew, president, State Preparatory Committee of MSS, and Com. Kunjumol, in-charge, Quilon District, addressed the gathering before proceeding to submit the memorandum to the Collector.

State-wide walling poster and propaganda campaign was made extensively and a good number of women enrolled themselves as members of MSS.

On 7th September a Mahila Convention was held for the first time in the State at Trivandrum Hotel Hall in which Com. Lalitha Mathew presided. Besides MSS State Secretary, Comrade Usha, Comrades Anitha (Palghat), Latha (Calicut), Preetha (Trichur), Satyabhama (Ernakulam), Shyla K. John (Kottayam), Kunjumol (Quilon) and Rathamani (Alleppey) also spoke. Com. V. Venugopal, State Secretary, AIDYO, also addressed the gathering.

Later, hundreds of women took out a colourful procession from the convention and parading the main thoroughfares of Trivandrum converged at main gate of the Secretariat for dharna where Com. Shyla K. John made an introductory speech and invited Com. C. K. Lukose, State Secretary of the party, to formally inaugurate the dharna. In his speech Com. Lukose showed how the MSS movement added a new dimension to the women's movement in the State. The problems of women cannot be separated from the social problems created by the capitalist system and so they must join in social movement for ending all sorts of exploitation, he explained.

A delegation headed by Comrades Lalitha and Usha then went to meet the Chief Minister and submitted the memorandum to his Special P.S. in his absence. The memorandum included the demand, among others, to withdraw unjust increase in the charge of

buses, electricity, water and building tax, textbook price etc.

KARNATAKA

The Karnataka State Committee of MSS, organised various programmes from September 1 to 6 in Bellary, Tumkur, Gulbarga and Bangalore districts culminating in a Protest Rally and Public Meeting on September 7th in Bangalore as a State level programme.

For the first time posters of the programme were pasted at prominent places and near women's colleges by MSS members and this drew the attention and the admiration of the people. So many seminars were held in women's colleges involving hundreds of girl students and lecturers. Street corner meetings and discussions were held in different localities and hostels. This created a new atmosphere in the districts and created awareness about the problems faced by women in our society today. Posters demanding banning of obscene movies, magazines and advertisement posters were pasted by MSS organisers over the obscene posters displayed at the theatres in the heart of the Bangalore City. Hundreds of people witnessed and expressed their admiration and support and applauded the courage of the women.

Along with these programmes memoranda demanding strict measures to check the spread of obscenity of all sorts and closing of the liquor shops, bars and restaurants in residential areas were submitted to the Commissioner of Police and the District Commissioner.

On 7th a telegram was sent to Prime Minister to take immediate measures to check all these problems. On September 7 a thousand-strong demonstration of women from Bellary, Gulbarga, Tumkur and Bangalore marched from Chicklabbagh to Vidhana Soudha where a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Heavy rains did not dampen their spirit. They sat determine-

dly at the water logged Central Junior College Grounds, the venue the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Sudha Kamath, President MSS, Karnataka State Committee. She congratulated the women for their seriousness amidst a heavy downpour and called upon them to organise themselves to take this movement to a higher phase. Memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister was read out by Com. Jayalakshmi, Treasurer, MSS, Karnataka State Committee and assurances of the Chief Minister about the measures to solve the problems was placed by Com. Sheela, Vice-President, State Committee. In-charges of Bellary, Gulbarga, Tumkur and organisers from Bangalore Com. Hema, Com. Lalitha, Com. Bhagya and Com. Nagarunal discussed in brief the problems faced by women. Resolution against Defamation Bill was also passed unanimously at the meeting.

The main speaker, Com. Chhaya Mukherjee, delivered her speech in English and was later translated in Kannada. She explained the plight of our women in this democratic country which has offered to women dowry death, Sati, atrocities and indignities. She called upon the women to fight for equal rights and equal status and to free themselves from both slavish mentality and ultrademocratic attitude and join hands with the people to overthrow this exploitative capitalist system, the root cause of all the evils.

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh State Committee of the MSS observed a week-long programme in a befitting manner. The organisers collected more than one thousand signatures from different strata of women including the teachers of schools, colleges and universities and bank employees in support of the demands and submitted it to the Chief Minister's personal secretary in his absence. They also held a women's rally in the Bhopal Railway (Contd. on page 8)

Movements in States

(Contd. from page 5)

other officials of the administration demanding repairing of damaged roads but in vain.

So, on 22nd August a road blockade was put up by our party workers and common people and signatures collected. Nobody from the administration turned up the whole day. The blockade was resumed again in the next morning. At about 1 P.M. the police O.C. came and met the demonstrators. Com. Ramlal Mahato, Secretary, Chandankeyari Local Committee and Comrade Tapan Mitra, on behalf of the demonstrators, talked to the O.C. but in vain.

It had been resolved that the blockade would again be resumed unless immediate repair to the road is undertaken.

Protest by Andhra UTUC(LS)

The Andhra Pradesh Unit of United Trade Union Centre (Lenin Sarani) organized on 22nd August last an impressive, colourful and well disciplined demonstration to protest against "Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill."

The procession started at 12.30 P.M. from Nampally and paraded through the main streets of the city. A delegation headed by Com. Sridhar, Secretary, State Organizing Committee of the party, submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

The memorandum said that this Bill was anti-working class and the provisions of the Bill would make it impossible for the working class to take up any legal struggle against the management. The memorandum demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Bill.

Munger quake-victims' march to DM

Under the auspices of SUCI Munger District Committee, Bihar, a committee to protect the interest of the quake-affected people was formed under the banner "Bhookamp Pidit Gramin Committee", in Hasanpur, the worst affected village of the district. It organised a huge demonstration of quake-affected people before the office of the District Magistrate.

Students, youth, workers, peasants, including old men and women with kids in their arms and even children numbering more than five thousand from Lachhmi-pur, Tarapur, Kharagpur, Sangrampur, Kharkhara, Amarganj, Shampur, Jamalpur and other places of Munger district covered a long way on foot and converged in front of DM's office demanding immediate and adequate relief for the people affected by the recent earthquake.

Com. Sukdev Yadav, member, Bihar State Committee and Secretary Munger District Committee, SUCI, led a delegation to the Magistrate and demanded before him adequate relief measures for the people.

Addressing the huge rally before the DM's office, Com. Yadav accused the government of criminal callousness towards the victims of the natural calamity of such a dimension in spite of its tall claim of carrying on relief and rehabilitation measures on war-footing propagated through the media. He called up on the people to develop a movement powerful enough to force the government to take up immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. Speakers among the

quake-affected people also addressed the gathering.

The rally voiced the following demands: (1) Immediate alternative shelter and rehabilitation; (2) Adequate supply of potable water and medicare to all the affected villages; and (3) Relief to each and every affected person to be distributed through People's Committee.

Karnataka Students Achieve Victory

Recently, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) arbitrarily clamped down the decision to punch the bus passes issued to the students in Bangalore. This meant that the students there could henceforth travel up and down just once a day on their passes. The AIDS0 took initiative in building up a students' movement on demands of repeal of this pass punch order and in protest against other inconveniences to travel by students and the rampant corruption in KSRTC. The movement generated great enthusiasm. On 30th August last, a massive students' demonstration of thousands led by the AIDS0 marched on the streets of Bangalore, and submitted a memorandum to Mr. Siddaramaiah, the Transport Minister, who was forced to declare postponement of the restrictive bus pass punching order till the Government had examined it in detail. This created a sensation and unleashed enthusiasm of the students in Bangalore and the whole of Karnataka. The AIDS0 has given a call for continuing the movement till complete victory.

MSS

(Contd. from page 7)

Colony on September 4 and also organised a poster exhibition depicting different aspects of the plight of women in our society. Several hundred women participated in the meeting and witnessed the exhibition which evoked wide appreciation. Com. Ramesh Singh, Convenor, Bhopal Unit of the MSS, who was the main speaker, in her speech called upon the women of our society to build up a sustained movement to frustrate the evil designs of the exploiters. She also called upon the women to create a social consciousness so that the evils like torture of women, dowry system and obscenity are nipped in the bud.

The MSS also submitted the copy of the memorandum to the owners of the press and cinema halls, who help propagate perversion in various forms.

WEST BENGAL

In West Bengal the MSS protest week was observed with enthusiasm. Here the demands against anti-people education and language policy of the Central and State Governments, soaring price rise and adulteration in food were also integrated into the movement. 15,000 copies of the bulletin *Nari* exhorting the women to rise up and play their due role in this regard, were sold out. The response to the appeal made in the bulletin was remarkable. Extensive postering was done and 10,000 badges on the occasion were worn by the people.

In different districts street corner meetings, street parading, dharnas, deputations and conventions were held. Large number of women actively participated in these programmes.

On 7th September, mass squatting was observed at Esplanade East, Calcutta, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Despite heavy rain and dislocation of train services, thousands of mothers and sisters

from all the districts of West Bengal, including flood affected North Bengal and Murshidabad attended the rally which was presided over by Com. Manju Deb Ray.

The meeting started with a condolence resolution on the victims of recent earthquake and flood and a minute's silence was observed in their memory. A resolution condemning the Defamation Bill was also adopted.

Com. Gayatri Dasgupta, West Bengal State Secretary, MSS, in her inaugural speech made an appraisal of tremendous response from mothers and sisters towards the movement. A heavy shower interrupted the schedules of the programme and Comrade Pratibha Mukherjee, a renowned mass leader, could only address a short speech through which she called up on the women of the country to come forward and develop a protracted movement in support of their demands.

Amidst heavy down-pour the demonstrators, fully drenched up, waited but no minister of the so-called pro-people 'Left Front' government did feel any concern to meet them. The chief minister, it was informed, was 'busy'. After three hours they were informed that Sri Benoy Chowdhury, minister for land revenue, had condescended to meet the demonstrators! The MSS rejected this proposal.

Dr. Tarun Mandal addressed the rally as the guest speaker. Dr. Arati Dey of Indian Medical Association (IMA) was present at the rally. The secretary, IMA, West Bengal, in a letter conveyed their support to the movement.

A thought-provoking exhibition on the role of women was held with excerpts from Rammohun Roy, Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Nazrul, Com. Lenin and Com. Shibdas Ghosh. There were also posters depicting the dowry deaths as per government statistics.

Editor-in-Chief—COMRADE NTHAR MUKHERJEE

Edited and Published by Sukomal Das Gupta from 48, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta 700 013