

Proletarian Era

Volume 30 No. 1
August 25, 1996

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Rs. 2.00
Air surcharge : 5 P.

Culmination of Death Centenary of Frederick Engels and 20th Death Anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh **Countrywide Memorial Meetings**

5th August, 1996 stands out as the culmination of death centenary of **Frederick Engels**, the great leader and teacher of the world proletariat. 5th August also marks the 20th death anniversary of our beloved departed leader, teacher and guide **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, Founder General Secretary of our party. This day carries a deep significance. It is with great solemnity that our party, the Indian contingent of international communist movement has observed this occasion in a befitting manner on the basis of its commitment and obligation towards revolution.

Below we give a report of the meetings held on this occasion in different states, addressed, among others, by members of the Central Committee of our party and beloved General Secretary, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee.

JABALPUR, MP

Commemorating the 101st death anniversary of Frederick Engels and 20th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a meeting was held on 5th August, '96, at the Makhanlal Chaturvedi Bhavan at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Comrade Ashoke Ganguly,

member, MP State Organising Committee, presided over the meeting. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the main speaker, covered a wide range of issues. We here publish a brief summary of his speech.

The purpose of remembering the great leaders of the proletariat like Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is to learn from their teachings and exemplary life struggle. It will facilitate our own struggles for shaping out the

The assertion of the bourgeois philistines that Marxism has become obsolete is not tenable ; for science never becomes obsolete
— Comrade Nihar Mukherjee

anti-capitalist socialist revolution in India. We are learning Marxism as a philosophy of life in order to revolutionise our own lives as a precondition of revolutionising the society. Only Marxism-Leninism can properly direct us in this struggle for it is the only philosophy which is also a science and can, therefore, discover truth in any sphere of nature and society. It can do so because it has coordinated and generalised the particular truths discovered by the particular branches of science and has thus emerged as the science of all sciences. Because it is a science,

the assertion of the bourgeois philistines that Marxism has become obsolete is not tenable; for science never becomes obsolete. The conclusion that this science reached, after a thorough study and analysis, was that the historical law of development of society is inexorably pushing it towards a classless communist society. This frightened the ruling bourgeoisie of all lands. They want to turn backwards the wheel of history. Hence their malicious canard against Marxism. But it will get them nowhere. The bourgeoisie was the most pleased after the erstwhile socialist countries went capitalist. But already

there are signs of mounting discontent of the masses of these countries against their ruling classes just as it is in the other imperialist and capitalist countries.

In 1845, Engels, still a young man, published his profound study, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. In this book he portrayed not only the misery of the English proletariat as did others before him, but also showed, for the first time, that the root of their untold misery lay in the capitalist system. Engels was
(Contd. on page 2)

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party sent an open letter to the Rashtrapati demanding the withdrawal of the undemocratic Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act. The text of the open letter is given below :

To
Sri Shankar Dayal Sharma
The President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi

Sub : Withdrawal of undemocratic Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act.

Sir,

I, on behalf of our party, like to draw your kind attention to the retrograde and anti-democratic provisions in the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill passed in the Lok Sabha on 30th July last.

In the said Bill the amount of security deposits has been raised to Rs. 10,000/- and 5,000/- for the general seats of the Lok Sabha and the assembly respectively. This hike is 20

times of the previous amount. You can well imagine that this abnormal increase in security deposits will debar a good number of candidates to contest the polls, despite those candidates being otherwise suitable and qualified for contesting the elections. This retrograde provision goes against the democratic spirit and also against the spirit of the Constitution.

In the said Bill the poll campaign period has also been reduced from 21 days to 14 days ostensibly to reduce the electoral expenses. But it goes without saying that this measure will not in any way reduce the role of the black money which plays a major role in determining the election results. It is now a known fact that the elections in our country are controlled by the money power and the muscle power and do not generally reflect the voice of the people. So instead of taking any positive measure to curb the influence of the money power, the poll campaign period is just being reduced, and thus the candidates who have no access to electronic media will be the worst victims while the big parties enjoying easy access to the media will enjoy the benefit.

Again it is proposed that each independent

candidate must have atleast 10 proposers. This provision is a sure impediment to the candidate's desire to contest the polls, and is totally unnecessary.

It is to be noted that this highly retrograde and anti-democratic Bill has been passed just prior to the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. I apprehend that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will genuinely be suspicious about the real motive of this Bill, and the danger of their further alienation from the main stream will be real, and the solution to the Kashmir problem will be further complicated.

In view of the position stated above this Act will definitely go against the interest of the people in general and the Kashmiri people in particular. So, I, on behalf of the party, request you as the head of the state to use your good offices for withdrawal of the Act in the interest of the democratic norms and principle.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely
Nihar Mukherjee
General Secretary
S U C I

12th August, 1996

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh emerged as the personification of collective knowledge of the Party

(Contd. from page 1)

a disciple firstly of Hegel and then of Feuerbach just as Marx too had been. But like Marx's, Engels' search for truth made him soon realise the falsity, or limitation, of the philosophy of Hegel and of Feuerbach as well.

Dialectical materialism — on which Marxism stands and which dealt the final blow to the metaphysical point of view of not only Hegel and Feuerbach but of all old philosophies, and declared for the first time that hitherto all philosophies had only interpreted the world whereas the point was to change it — was mainly the creation of Marx but Engels, too, contributed to it richly. Marx and Engels co-authored the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* in 1848, which provided the guidelines for the world communist movement. There they said that the communists disdain to conceal their conviction and openly proclaim that they want a radical rupture with the old society which is to be achieved through a people's upheaval and not, as was held earlier, through conspiracy even though state repression may at times oblige them to work in secrecy. Marx and Engels showed that the proletarian revolution is unique in that it would be the first in human history to represent the interest of the immense majority whereas the earlier revolutions were all in the interest of the minority.

Engels, the lifelong compatriot of Marx, defended and elaborated Marx's thinking during the latter's lifetime as also after he was no more, against the opportunists and vulgarisers of the theory of scientific socialism. Engels' celebrated book *Anti-Duhring* epitomises this struggle. He stood by Marx not only during the latter's struggle in the spheres of philosophy, politics, economy, working class struggle and communist movement but also in his daily struggle against poverty and starvation. For long Engels managed in a firm of his father in order to support the Marx family. But for such selfless service of his trusted compatriot, much of Marx's labour might have come to nought. After Marx died, he finished the monumental work of editing and publishing the second and third volumes of Marx's *The Capital*. After Marx, Engels became the undisputed leader, teacher and guide of the international proletarian movement.

Lenin, the worthy continuator of Marx and Engels, correctly grasped the essence of their teachings when he said that they laid the cornerstone of Marxism which, since it was a science, required of the communists the effort to develop it continuously in all directions. Those who succeeded in developing Marxism thus — men like Lenin, Stalin and Mao — also conducted the revolutionary battles in their own country successfully thus giving a fillip to the revolutionary struggles and anti-imperialist liberation struggles worldwide.

In India, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, who had been an uncompromising fighter in the anti-British independence struggle, grasped Marxism and founded the SUCI in 1948. He emerged as a foremost Marxist thinker of this era. Lenin said that there are three prerequisites for revolution: the revolutionary theory, the revolutionary party and the united front, united struggles of all sections of toiling people. Comrade Ghosh had fulfilled the first two conditions and so long

as he lived he led the party in organising and conducting the class and mass struggles. From the vortex of this all-embracing struggle he emerged as a thinker, leader and teacher of the proletariat. He stands as a rare communist character in the annals of the world communist movement — whose life cannot be separated from the building up of the party — and whose entire being was completely and inseparably integrated with the political and organisational struggle of the Indian proletariat and its party. In the process, he concretised, elaborated and also enriched the science of Marxism-Leninism further.

Before him it was customary for Marxists to think that the collective knowledge of the party is reflected in the wisdom of the central committee of the party. Comrade Ghosh showed that when the collective knowledge of the party becomes personified in the best way in a leader in the highest organism of the party so that he becomes the leader as also teacher of the entire party, only then it can be said that collective leadership has been truly established in the party. Without the appearance of such a leadership there is no guarantee of the proper functioning of democratic centralism which is vital for a communist party. In course of his arduous struggle to build up the SUCI as a genuine communist party, he emerged as the personification of the collective knowledge of the party. His example inspires and will inspire us for a long time to come.

Let us draw lessons from the invaluable teachings and exemplary life struggles of these great leaders in order to remould ourselves adequately for accomplishing the anti-capitalist socialist revolution of India and also for fighting back the growing onslaughts of imperialism, upholding the noble banner of communism and proletarian internationalism.

BIHAR

On 5th August, thousands of the SUCI workers and supporters from all over Bihar converged at Sreekrishna Memorial Hall, Patna. Incessant rains and severe statewide flood could not deter them. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Sivshankar, member of the Bihar State Committee. A resolution condemning the callous government attitude towards the flood-stricken people was moved by Comrade A.K. Pandey, member of the State Committee and supported by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Bihar State Secretary, cited examples from the lives of Marx, Engels and Shibdas Ghosh and called upon all the workers and leaders to struggle for achieving higher standard of ethics and morality to fight out all sorts of individualism and revisionism — the great dangers before the communist movement of the world.



Comrade Nihar Mukherjee addressing

Comrade Pritish Chanda, member of the Polit Bureau of the party, while addressing the gathering as the main speaker, said: Marxism-Leninism, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thought is a science, an outlook, a philosophy which can act as a guide in every aspect of life and all problems of society. Engels contributed a lot in developing and establishing Marxism as a science. But he repeatedly said that Marx was his leader and teacher. This is the real communist character from which we all have to take lesson. If we want to accomplish revolution, overthrow the petrified capitalist regime, we shall have to pay much attention to eradicate individualism and ego-centrism.

History is not created by leaders alone. It is created by the combined efforts of the ordinary masses. The society has advanced through numerous class struggles. Leading individuals have, no doubt, played their role effectively in historical struggles. Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Shibdas Ghosh were such personalities.

For each struggle a teacher, an authority is required. But we are against authoritarianism which contradicts science. Not blind acceptance, but dialectical relation should be there between the leader and the led, between teacher and the taught. A bourgeois party runs on the basis of individualism while in a working class party there is no room for it and a continuous struggle is to be conducted to fight it out.

In Bihar, as in India, many parties are there. A number of them like the CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and its numerous groups call themselves revolutionary and communist. But they were not formed in the Leninist way as the real communist parties do. In spite of honesty, dedication and sacrifice of many leaders and cadres of these parties, as they pursued the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois thought process, none of them ultimately could develop as a genuine revolutionary party. Dedication, honesty and sacrifice — all these are very important, but to a Marxist these are not all. Marxists emphasize greatly the correct process of struggle that leads to the making of a genuine communist party.

The road to revolution is a long and tortuous way — full of thorns and ups and downs. But we are to tread it. An individual may die, but the entire human society shall not die. A revolutionary may die but the revolutionary movement lives on.

We may not taste immediate success. But ultimate victory will be ours. Take the instance of Marx and Engels. Though they could not succeed in organizing a revolution, do we say that they failed? The success of Marx lies in the fact that Marxism has become an invincible weapon in the hands of the working class all over the World.

Today in every field we are witnessing degeneration of moral and ethical values. All have to decide whether they will lead a dignified life or not. If they wish to live a dignified life they are to tread the path of revolution. Shibdas Ghosh had said that without removing the sorrow of crores of parents we cannot, in the true sense, remove the sorrow of our own parents. Hence, even for true love and affection, we need revolution and for that we need to learn from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao-

(Contd. on page 3)



Comrade Prithvi Chanda and other state leaders are seen at the dais at Patna

Zedong, Shibdas Ghosh. The failure to adhere to and constantly enrich Marxism-Leninism led to the setback of socialism in the erstwhile Soviet Union and East European socialist countries. They succumbed to revisionism. Revisionism is a major problem today. There was in the past the old revisionism. Today newer and newer forms of revisionism have emerged. Revisionism means spreading bourgeois thoughts within the working class movement. If our leaders, cadres, supporters, sympathisers do not stand as one man and through collective struggles be conscious about revisionism, we shall be unable to conduct a successful battle against it.

We have learnt from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that the capitalist state alone is not our enemy. Today we have to face enemies like individualism as well as revisionism. To fight these we have to understand the principles of Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts, and practising these principles in our daily life we have to conduct a relentless battle against individualism — the enemy within us. This enemy is, in a sense, more dangerous than the one outside, namely, the capitalist state machine. And the process by which we are to free ourselves from this individualism is by conducting unabated criticism and self-criticism. He who runs away from criticism and self-criticism is not fit to be a revolutionary. We have to remember that no test is final as long as we are in this struggle. A revolutionary should conduct this struggle till his last breath. Till his last moment he has to give the test that would decide his communist character. I am perhaps the oldest among all present here. Simply being the oldest or being one among those who initiated the formation of the party doesn't mean that I have passed all tests. I too have to give the test till my last breath. One who refuses to follow this norm will end up in degenerating himself. His downfall is inevitable.

Capitalism-imperialism is creating numerous obstacles on our paths. It is dividing the toiling

masses on questions of caste, creed, race, language, religion. This country is not only for the Hindus, it is for the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains as well. Socialism too is for all. It aims to develop all languages, all dialects, and in no way suppresses anyone's dialect or language. Socialism aims at the upliftment and advancement of all communities. The bourgeois parties are creating rifts among the working class on the basis of caste and religion in our country. They are fanning up caste and religious fanaticism. Some of them clamour in favour of building the temple ; some speak about reservation for the backward castes and tribes, some speak about caste struggle. Ultimately, each of them aim to guarantee their vote bank. Caste struggle and class struggle are not one and the same. On the contrary caste struggle stands as an obstacle on the road to class struggle. In reality the fight is between the capitalist class and the toiling people. Will the building of the temple or mere reservations or the demand for separate states solve the problems of the toiling masses ?

Ethics and morality are virtually absent from the political scenario today. Parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) who fought elections for decades against the Congress and had branded the Congress as the main enemy of the people, have now sought the support of the very same party for the United Front government at the Centre. They have done so in the name of fighting communalism and preserving secularism. But, in this way this unprincipled alliance will neither be able to defeat the communal politics of the BJP nor be able to uphold the banner of secularism. It is already toeing the Congress

line and in every aspect it is doing what the Congress did. This government has got passed an anti-people budget. The burden of tax on the poor people, the increase in prices of petroleum products and the hike in railway fare and freight can find its resemblance in the Congress budgets of the past years. Is this not worst kind of opportunism ?

Our party under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, armed with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, while exposing this bankruptcy of the sham left politics, is trying to build up movements in different parts of the country and is determined to conduct a battle to its end against all sorts of individualism and revisionism acting as obstacles to the onward march of the revolutionary movement. The need of the hour is to strengthen the SUCI, the genuine revolutionary working class party on the soil. Long Live Revolution !

ORISSA

A public meeting was organised at Shaheed Bhawan at Cuttack on 6.8.96 under the auspices of the Orissa State Committee of the Party.

Addressing the huge meeting Comrade Tapas Datta, Orissa State Secretary and member of the Central Committee, said : Society like nature is law-governed. It is for the revolutionaries to grasp law of the society to change it. The lives and struggles of Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and their teachings are a beacon and powerful weapons in the hands of the class-conscious proletariat.

Commenting on the international situation, he observed : The setback the revolutionary process suffered in recent years is temporary. Progress of society cannot be stopped for ever in its objective path of history. The revolutionaries the world over are again rising in revolt as capitalism-imperialism, crisis-ridden as it is, is tottering on its last legs. It is time the working class, throughout the world, redeems itself with the call given to it by Marx and Engels 'Workers of the World — Unite !'.

Analysing the Indian situation, he observed : The crisis faced by the ruling capitalist class has never been as severe as it is today. Year after year the ruling class is passing the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the working class and the common people. Still then the crisis is getting deeper day by day. In such a situation it is urgent to strengthen the SUCI, the vanguard detachment of the Indian proletariat, so that the Indian society may be relieved of the burden of exploitation and oppression being perpetrated by the ruling capitalist class.

HARYANA

The memorial meeting was held at Patwar Bhawan in Chandigarh. The meeting place overflowed with the participation of peasants, khetmazdoos, women, youth and students. Comrade Balwant Singh, the State
(Contd. on page 4)



Memorial meeting at Shaheed Bhawan in Cuttack. Comrade Tapas Datta addressing the gathering while Comrade Suresh Dasgupta is seen seated at the dais.

Individual's Emancipation is Impossible without Emancipation of Entire Society

(Contd from page 3)

Secretary presided over the meeting. Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, Central Committee member, was the main speaker. Others who spoke in the meeting included Comrades Satyawar and Anup Singh.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerji said in course of his speech that the importance of memorial meeting of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was that the present day problems of the society could be solved only through assimilating their teachings and applying the same in solving the present problems. He said : Marxism is not a mere economic analysis, it is a process of thinking. Engels again and again stressed the necessity of life-long struggle against the opponents of Marxism with this process of thinking. Whatever we see or hear is not truth. If we cannot analyse the on-going contradictions within a matter or an incident, we cannot have a proper understanding of that matter or incident. The individual ego also creates hindrance in having this proper understanding and this is dangerous for the revolutionaries. To be guided on the basis of guessing or fanciful thinking is completely alien to the thoughts of Marx and Engels. It is a completely wrong process. By this a lack of confidence and disbelief in the leaders and the party are generated. This wrong process of thinking must be shunned. We have to understand the character of the contradiction. We have to differentiate between the antagonistic and non-antagonistic contradictions. We have to search the cause in every incident and in this way we are to arrive at truth.

Comrade Banerji appealed to develop powerful movements of the peasants and the khetmazdoors against the onslaughts of the different governments on the agricultural economy of the country. The meeting ended with the *Internationale* after the presidential speech of Comrade Balwant Singh.

DELHI

A three day Study Class was organised by the Delhi State Organizing Committee from 15th August at Faridabad, a bordering town of Delhi. The class was inaugurated by Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, member, Central Committee. The role of individual in history, the Leninist model of party, imperialism and its meaning in the present context constituted the subjects of this study class. Inaugurating the study class Comrade Ashutosh Banerji said : These issues have attained utmost importance today in the national and international communist movement and because of confusions cropping up among communists centring round these issues the party rank and file should strive to develop a Marxist-Leninist understanding about them.

He emphasized to kept it in mind that the philosophical, political and economic teachings of Marx-Engels had not remained static, but been further developed by Lenin in course of applying and concretising in the context of concrete situation and newer problems of life. Stalin, after Lenin, had correctly interpreted, defended and further enriched this science. In concretising and applying Marxism-Leninism on Chinese soil, Mao-Zedong further elaborated and developed this philosophy. Similarly, in concretising and applying Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh too enriched it further in the context of the present-day problems confronting the working class movement today.

Comrade Banerji also highlighted that we should never forget that the correct way to study the fundamental principles of Marxism was inseparably linked with their practice by co-relating these ideas with the contemporary problems obtaining in every sphere of society. Only then can we formulate policies and programmes to be followed to resolve these problems. He stated that to find out the truth pertaining to every problem, Marxist methodology had to be followed as against empiricism, impressionism, speculative and notional methods.

A Quotation Exhibition highlighting the teachings of Marx-Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the subjects discussed in the study class was also held on the occasion.

KANPUR, UP

A meeting was held at the Teachers' Home Guest House of the Chandra Sekhar Azad Agricultural University in Kanpur, UP on 10th August. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Rajbali, Secretary, Kanpur District Organising Committee while Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, Central Committee member, was the main speaker.

Comrade Banerji said : The small industries are facing liquidation because of the competition from the big industries. As a result, millions of workers are getting retrenched. On the other hand, the CPI(M) is extending support to the United Front Government at the Centre, which is nothing but a government representing the interest of the capitalist class. In the given situation which party will organise the working class ? That responsibility devolves on our party.

Comrade Banerji laid special emphasis on the problems of women and child labour.

Comrade N.K. Sharma, the U.P. State Secretary of the UTUC(LS) also addressed the gathering. Among others who were present in the meeting were Comrades Achintya Sinha, the

All India Secretary of the UTUC(LS), Jagannath Verma, Office Secretary of the UP State Organising Committee.

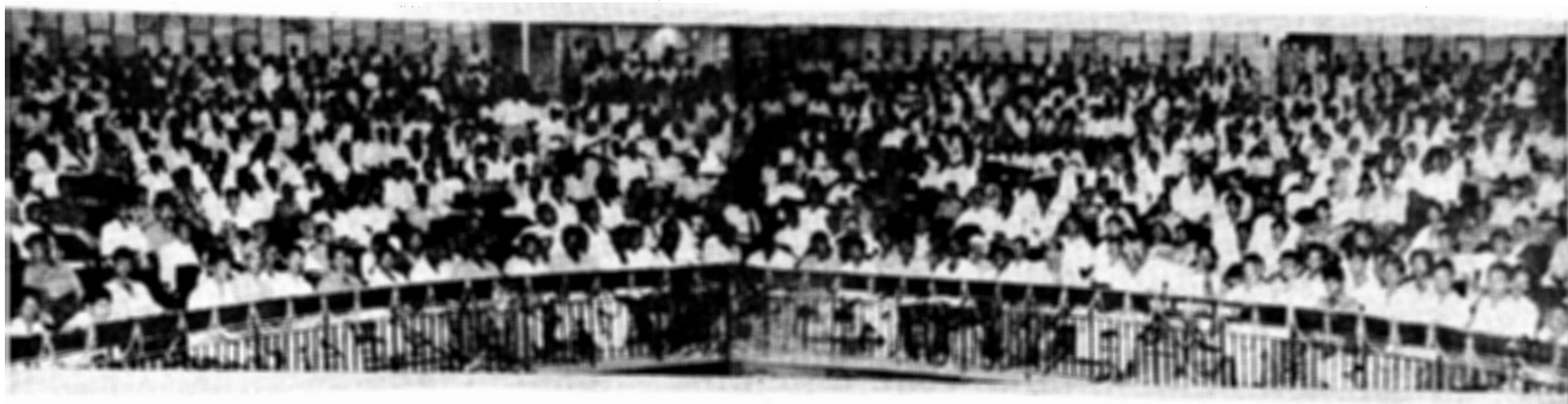
KERALA

On 5th August a mass meeting was held at Gandhi Square, Kottayam. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee was the main speaker and Comrade C.K. Lucose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee, presided over the meeting.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, in his speech, said : Marxism, which has developed to become Marxism-Leninism in this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, is the invincible weapon in the hands of the working class and other toiling masses. But the correct understanding and application of this revolutionary science is a must for the success of revolution and further advancement of society. So the enemies of revolution always try to distort and vulgarise the understanding of Marxism-Leninism. Revisionism, which is nothing but the profession and practice of bourgeois politics inside the camp of the proletariat, is doing precisely this. It is the revisionist attack from within that caused the present setback to the international working class revolutionary movement. In our country, it is the heinous revisionist practices of the social democratic parties like the CPI and the CPI(M), which masquerade as communist parties, which has been doing the greatest harm to the Indian working class movement. The blatantly opportunistic and pro-capitalist policies of these parties which now, directly or indirectly, enjoy governmental power at the Centre, are maligning the image of communism in the eyes of the common people.

In states like Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura, where they are in power, they are implementing pro-capitalist and anti-people policies like any bourgeois party in power. Instead of helping in developing democratic mass movements, which alone can pave the way for the development of people's alternative political power and ultimately lead to the overthrow of capitalist state machine and emancipation of the toiling masses, they are ruthlessly suppressing legitimate democratic movements organized by our party on the burning problems of people's life. By all these deeds they are proving themselves to be servitors of the exploitative, oppressive and out and out corrupt capitalist order which is the main enemy of our people today.

In conclusion, Comrade Dasgupta said: you should realize that the politics practised by these social democratic parties have nothing to do with communism and it is only the SUCI, founded and reared by Comrade Shibdas
(Contd on page 5)



A section of the massive gathering at the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall in Patna on 5th August.

Memorial Meetings in States

(Contd from page 4)

Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, which is striving hard to build up mighty democratic mass movements on the edifice of noble proletarian culture, which upholds the banner of Marxism-Leninism on our soil and so you are to strengthen it whole-heartedly.



Rally at Kottayam, Kerala

WEST BENGAL

A meeting was held in Calcutta at Esplanade East on 5th August. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member, West Bengal State Secretariat, presided while Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee was the main speaker.

Comrade Provash Ghosh said : Capitalist exploitation of people is now at its severest. On top of everything the capitalist rulers are destroying what is noble and beautiful in the society. Moreover, this capitalist economic system is giving rise to severe unemployment. So, without smashing capitalism this problem cannot be solved once for all. It is generally known that both the Congress and the BJP shield this reality. But the CPI(M), it should be known, too deceives the youth by giving hope to provide employment by industrialization. Besides, the CPI(M)'s anti-imperialist stance of the past has now turned into open invitation to imperialist capital.

The BJP has plunged the country into a very grave danger today. The position of the Congress is no better. Even now, the Congress is very important for the bourgeoisie. The role of the CPI(M) is making way for the BJP to get a place in the mass mind in West Bengal.

The SUCI always builds up mass movements. Many SUCI comrades had to shed blood and in 1990 Comrade Madhai Halder was killed by the police. Now LF government is deploying Rapid Action Force (RAF) to quell mass movements. If thousands and thousands of struggling students come and join in movement, if they grow as revolutionaries, then all the weapons of the ruling class to suppress mass movement will fail. We must bear this responsibility to build up class and mass struggles on the basis of correct base political line and then only the wheels of history will be pushed ahead towards emancipation.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar said : The life struggle of great Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was the struggle to know and establish truth. They conducted this struggle on the basis of science. The knowledge and experience they acquired through struggle, they have applied them in life.

To know truth and to apply it in life without compromise is very difficult to implement. Who can achieve it ? Only they can achieve it truly who have a very high standard of values, culture and ethics.

If one is to find a way out of the present crisis in working class movement, we will have to cultivate deeply the teachings of the great leaders, to be free from blindness, search truth and whatever be the grasping of it, must be applied in life. When some men compared Engels and Marx as equal, his answer reflected a very high standard of ethics. He said, "We are at best talented, but Marx is a genius." Without such high cultural standard, it is impossible to conduct the



Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta addressing the memorial meeting at Kottayam, Kerala

struggle to establish truth.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar said the life of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh reflected a very high ethical standard. In his tender age he felt the pain of countless poor men in the tears of his poor parents. He learnt through bitter experience that the individual's emancipation was impossible without the emancipation of the entire society. From this realisation he took the plunge in freedom movement. And afterwards when the freedom movement failed to free people from all sorts of exploitation, and the sacrifice, of countless men was usurped by the capitalist class, he, while searching, the root of this tragedy, was attracted towards Marxism. On the anvil of dialectical materialism he judged and found that the undivided CPI had not developed as a genuine working class party. From this realisation he started the struggle to build up a true revolutionary party, and SUCI emerged in the process.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh would say that in our society the gravest crisis was decadence. Higher moral and cultural tune in the movements in our country had been lost today which was responsible to a great extent for their ulti-

(Contd on page 6)



Massive meeting at Esplanade East, Calcutta. (Inset) Comrade Ranjit Dhar (Left) and Comrade Provash Ghosh (Right)

Memorial Meetings in States

(Contd from page 5)

mate failure to attain the desired goal. It is necessary today to build up mass and revolutionary movements on the basis of higher culture and ethics.

KARNATAKA

A meeting was held on 5th August at Mythic Society Hall, Bangalore at 11 AM under the auspices of the Karnataka State Committee, and was addressed by the main speaker Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Central Committee. In his speech he outlined the contributions made by Engels and Shibdas Ghosh to the cause of society. He showed how Engels provided answers to the then existing critical problems of philosophy and society. Marx and Engels taught that the resolution of contradiction between growing productive forces and the old production relations would lead to revolutionary transformation of society. Further, referring to certain glimpses of Engels' life and his association with Marx he said: "Engels had identified himself with the cause of society and revolution and worked jointly with Marx to produce great works. Their friendship was greater than many great friendships we have come across in history.

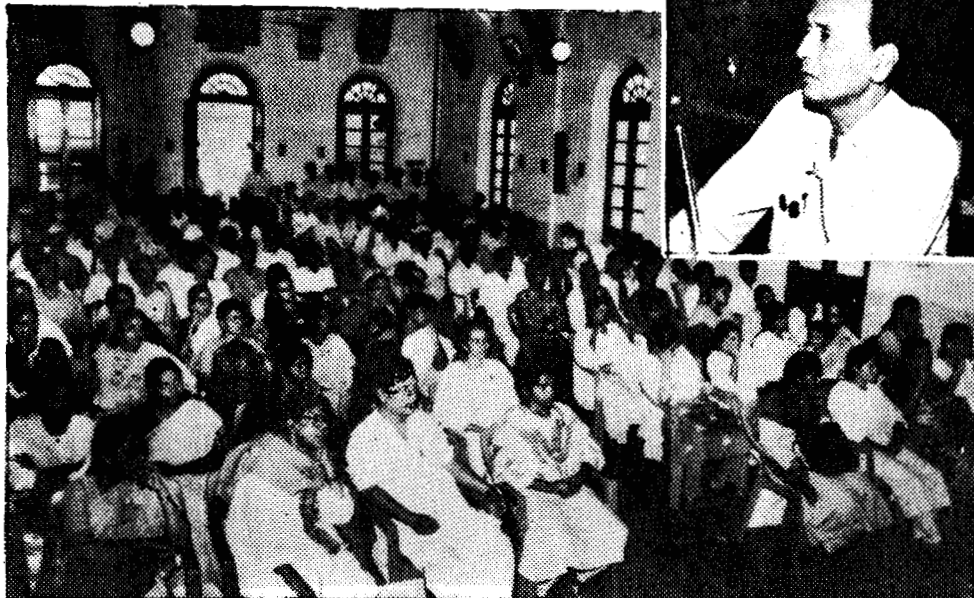
Further, speaking on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh whose death anniversary also falls on the same date, he said: Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed for the first time in our freedom movement that there existed two trends of struggles which were distinctly different from each other. Comrade Ghosh said as the leadership of freedom struggle was in the hands of the compromising bourgeoisie, India achieved independence from British rule, but not from capitalist

member, Central Committee, was the main speaker.

Comrade Chakraborty said that paying homage to Engels would have been meaningless unless we pursue the path as shown by him. By collective struggle along with Marx, Engels, through his

works, showed how the science of dialectical materialism was working in all the branches of knowledge. Dialectical materialism is the philosophy to find out truth that leads to human emancipation. So Marx and Engels, the creator of this philosophy, started the war of emancipation by applying it in reality; Engels in Germany played a leading role in upholding the cause of the exploited people. Thus they culled knowledge and they had handed over this knowledge to the world proletariat. We should grasp this knowledge and determine the path of revolution.

In our country we have experienced that the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh have emerged through his bitter, uncompromising struggle to apply truth both in personal life and in party organization to build up revolutionary



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya addressing the gathering at Bangalore

at Nagpur at the Amdar Niwas Hall on 5th August last. A large number of students, youth, women, etc., attended in the meeting. Advocate Namdeo Gavale presided over the meeting and Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member, West Bengal State Secretariat was the main speaker. Others who addressed the gathering included Comrade Madhav Bhonde, the youth organiser and Comrade Bhimrao Humne.

On 10th August a memorial meeting was held in Mumbai. The venue of the meeting was at the Dhuru Hall in Chabildas Road, Dadar (West). Comrade Ram Ajour Mourya presided over the meeting and Comrade Ranjit Dhar was the main speaker. Others who spoke included Comrades Om Parkas Mourya and Anil Tyagi.

Highlighting the great teachings of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Ranjit Dhar said: In this era the emancipation of the society is possible only through the emancipation of the working class. And the emancipation of the working class is never possible without the real revolutionary working class party. Despite intense struggle the working class can never attain the desired goal if the hegemony of the real revolutionary party of the proletariat is not established over these struggles. The working class waged many a struggle and even mighty struggles before and after the independence of this country. But as the hegemony of the real revolutionary party was not established the working class movement



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing in Madras

exploitation which is the root cause of all problems in society. Lastly, he said that based on the teachings of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, we should develop mighty democratic mass movements against the burning problems of people's life based on higher culture and ethics which alone can one day lead to ushering in a new society free from exploitation.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade K Radhakrishna, State Secretary, who called upon the participants to deeply understand the teachings of Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh which throw light on all problems confronting society.

TAMIL NADU

On 5th August an exhibition on invaluable quotations of Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh and photographs depicting their life struggle was organized at Thana Street, Pura-saivakkam in Madras. The memorial meeting was held in the afternoon at the same central place, which was presided over by Comrade Narayanasamy, member, State Organizing Committee. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty,

movements. In this process he created his best creation, the SUCI, the genuine communist party in India. Thus he elaborated and enriched Marxism further. Today, it is impossible to grasp Marxism without realizing the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Another memorial meeting was held on 11th August at Thiruthangal, Kamarajar district, where Comrade Anabardhan, member, Tamil Nadu State Organising Committee, addressed as the main speaker.

GUJARAT

A memorial meeting was held at the Patel Hall, Ahmedabad on 9th August. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty was the main speaker. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Vismay Shah, a leading organiser of the party.

MAHARASTRA

The memorial meeting to observe the death centenary of Frederick Engels and 20th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed

(Contd on page 8)



Comrade Ranjit Dhar addressing the memorial meeting at Nagpur

Yeltsin's victory is a proof of authoritarian rule and political reaction

— Nina Andreyeva

We exchange opinion on various subjects with the All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of Russia. We wanted to know its reaction on the recently held presidential elections in Russia. In reply, Comrade Nina Andreyeva, the General Secretary of the Party sent us her signed statement. A translation from the Russian version is given here — Editor, Proletarian Era.

Twice in the 20th century, the fate of Russia was determined on 3rd July, marked with sharp turn and developments. In 1917 in Petersburg, on this date, officers and cadets opened indiscriminate fire treacherously on a peaceful demonstration of the workers, soldiers and sailors and thus shattered the illusion of peaceful development of proletarian revolution. On the same date in this year, the second round poll of the first bourgeois democratic president elections were held. If in 1991, Yeltsin was elected in the situation of degeneration of socialist democracy, this year he was reelected under the conditions of bourgeois democracy. Russia again found an elected President, but not a president elected by the whole people. Evidently, Russia is now a truncated society, bogged down in the crisis caused by bourgeois reform. People's Patriotic Bloc of Zuganov suffered defeat. Particrats of the erstwhile CPSU, in their own words, failed to utilise their last chance to conquer presidential power.

Many were disillusioned on 3rd July, who fostered the illusion of revival of socialism in our country through parliamentary presidential way. The course of events again confirmed the analysis of our 2nd Congress that "the illusion of transforming capitalism into socialism through parliamentary-presidential way does not have any ground to stand."

In the presidential elections anti-communists fought against pseudo-communists led by Zuganov, and thus won victory. The call for a "gentleman's agreement" among the dacoits and plunderers was the essence of the speeches of both the contending candidates. An analysis shows that their strategy is identical, i.e. both aim at strengthening the state monopoly capital. They differ mainly on tactical questions dealing with process, method and the pace of activities to resolve problem. That is why, when General Lebed was invited by both the contenders to share power, he could not differentiate the two. In course of electoral race both of them came closer as their real identity gradually revealed. It is significant that on the eve of elections Yeltsin turned to attract the voters of Zuganov while Zuganov met with diplomatic corp, foreign investors and Russian financial moneybags. In a nutshell, to the voters it was an election without choice and they preferred to keep the man, whom they knew, in power.

Of course, this does not mean that they consider Yeltsin to be the better candidate and so they preferred him for the second term rejecting the other who was not very familiar to them. They also might have concluded that a different result would lead to worse consequences and bring them further disaster. The argumentation and just and sharp criticism of Zuganov against Yeltsin regime left unconsidered by majority of the people.

The result of the election proves that the decision reached in the 2nd Congress of the AUCP(B) to boycott the first round of elections

and to vote "against all" in the Second round* was correct. If the number of absentees (35%) and the number of voters who cast votes in support of Zuganov (32%) in the first round poll were added, it could produce a figure which would have been sufficient to nullify presidential election and thereby could have inflicted such a political defeat on the present regime that it could not steer clear. However, Zuganov as the accomplice, capital of party *rouinklatur's* being hand in glove with the Russian national capital, helped Yeltsin regime to escape defeat. This confirms our analysis adopted in our 2nd Congress where we said, "Not believing the upper and middle rank particrats of the erstwhile CPSU is a must. These particrats, directly responsible for reducing the degenerating CPSU into an opportunist party and for the surrender of socialism to class enemy, must be removed from all the posts of the communist parties which are trying to build up communist movement. This analysis is made keeping primarily Zuganov and the leaders of the CPSU in mind. Here, we must keep in mind that with the consent of Yeltsin and his followers, the top level leaders of the CPSU built up the CPRF involving such people who held the Red Flag, but with the purpose to undermine the struggle against counter-revolution and at the same time to neutralise the influence of the Marxist-Leninist parties like AUCP(B), RCRP, RPC and so on, newly formed on the Russian soil.

Presidential election clearly shows that bourgeois democracy in Russia has given rise to a retrograde tendency, a tendency for reactionary dictatorship. Concentration of unlimited power in the hands of the President paved the way for it. The promotion of General Lebed to the Third position of the state hierarchy specially indicates it. Under him Yeltsin has widened the power of the secretary of security council.

The extension of power of 'Security Council' covers not only the sphere of defence, intelligence and counter-intelligence services but also economy, culture, ideology — practically the whole sphere of activity of state under Yeltsin. So, it is nothing strange to hear Yeltsin declaring General Lebed to be his successor. Posing himself to be the protector of Russia, this man, the protector of bourgeois reformation, threatens those in opposition of the present regime of cruel repression, saying, "He finally smiles who shoots first."

These Hitlerites openly boast of their "New Order in Europe". In our opinion, the reference to the final smile of the 'first shooter' is made not only to cope the internal situation of Russia. This marks the reflection of the growing imperialist desire of the present political elites of Russia, having close relation to the Western neighbours and well wishers. Where is Russia being led to by "General's sword"? And how dangerous are his initiatives and activities as the Vice-President? Only those suffering from intellectual myopia can turn a blind eye to these questions.

Movement of Lebed near the seat of power in Kremlin suggests that Lebed is likely to capture the presidential chair despite the will of Yeltsin. Lebed has already declared that he is not satisfied with the present third ranking in the hierarchy of state power structure. This is not for nothing. 'Democracy' which gives birth to

the generals fit for Fuarar's cap, is basically anti-people and vicious. In view of the mischievous character of these "new Russians", despotic dictatorship in Russia with nuclear missiles in possession may become dangerous for international solidarity.

After the downfall of the Soviet Union it is hardly possible for the imperialist world to muster enough strength and forge a coalition as was done against Hitler (with Soviet power as the cementing force) and contain the relentless nuclear race in a new line within the 'New World Order'.

Presidential elections in Russia did not mitigate but intensified the economic crisis. Currency notes are printed and put in circulation. Treasury is empty. Pension fund and social fund are not there. Flight of capital across the border takes place increasingly. Incidents of non payment of wages are increasing. Situation leads to food riots. Not the communists, but experts in financial and business affairs forecast "staggering inflation in the second half of the year. The situation in the economic and financial sphere will be more critical on the whole. Official declaration of stabilisation and betterment has not come true.

Nobody is ready to accept any price rise. Disaster is to befall by autumn."

However, victory of Yeltsin still has a positive aspect. As the principal architect and supervisor of capitalist reformation in Russia, Yeltsin cannot now shirk responsibility of total disintegration of the country.

The assertion of the President — "Russia awaits a 'happy autumn', it cannot be otherwise" — seems to be empty. In final analysis, the victory of Yeltsin for the second term, gradual erosion of difference between Yeltsin and Zuganov as seen in the pre-election battle, anti-communist brainwash of the voters — all these reflect serious unrest within the state monopoly capital of Russia for its future, and deep concern of world imperialism for the beginning of the halt to worldwide bourgeois counter-revolution.

In the present condition, when a tendency toward authoritarian rule and political reaction is clearly visible, the task of the Soviet communists is to adopt such method and form of struggle so as to create effective pressure on the regime.

* In second round of elections a space was provided in the ballot paper to reject the two candidates and "vote against all".

Kerala MSS holds Secretariat March

Hundreds of women led by the AIMSS Kerala State Committee held a march to the State Secretariat on 25th July '96, protesting against the alarmingly increasing atrocities on women.

After the demonstration a short meeting was held before the Secretariat which was inaugurated by Comrade C. K. Lukose, State Secretary, SUCI. The MSS State Vice-President Comrade V. K. Padmaja, Secretary, Comrade Shyla K. John and State Secretariat member Comrade Mini K. Philip also spoke. Later, a delegation headed by the State Secretary visited the office of the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum.

Memorial Meetings in States

(Contd from page 6)

instead of getting stronger became weaker day by day. He appealed to the people to strengthen the SUCI, the real revolutionary party of the Indian proletariat.

TRIPURA

The death centenary of Frederick Engels and the 20th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh were observed at the Tulshibati School in Agartala, Tripura on 5th August. The memorial meeting started with the presentation of songs on Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. After a brief presidential address by Comrade Amalendu Bhowmick, Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat, delivered her speech as the main speaker. She said : It is Marxism alone which not only explained the world but also showed the path to change it. Engels contributed immensely in developing Marxian science. By taking lessons from the teachings and life struggle of Frederick Engels, the world proletariat will have to advance in the path of emancipation. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the worthy continuator of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao-Zedong, concretised Marxism on Indian soil. The toiling people of this country will have to develop mass movements conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution on the basis of the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The thoughts of Comrade Ghosh, today, is also initiating the path of the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle.

HYDERABAD, AP

A public meeting was held at Press Club on 5th August last. Comrade Murahari, Secretary, Hyderabad City Organising Committee presided over the meeting and Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Central Staff, attended as the main speaker. Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, AP State Organising Committee, also addressed the gathering.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee in course of her speech said: It is all the more important today to understand and practise in our life the thoughts of the great leaders of the proletariat, when moribund capitalist-imperialist class has intensified attacks on working class and the exploited in general. Showing the fall of socialism in the former USSR and East European countries, the imperialists headed by the USA are confusing the people. But the facts in those so-called advanced countries prove contrary to their claims. The countries comprising the erstwhile Soviet Russia are now suffering from unemployment, price rise, degeneration in ethical-moral values, all evils of capitalism after counter-revolution. Many beggars in Europe are from Russia. So it is clear that capitalism cannot solve any problem that people are facing today. The only way for the people to solve their problems like poverty, unemployment, price hike, etc., is to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. It is urgent for the people to develop mighty democratic mass movements on their burning problems and create condition for anti-capitalist socialist revolution in India.

After the demise of the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Stalin, renegade Khrushchev usurped the leadership of the state and the party, and brought revisionism in Rus-

sia. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh warned that the 20th Congress of CPSU would open the floodgate of revisionism. Comrade Ghosh found out the root cause of modern revisionism and showed the objective struggling path to eradicate it completely from communist movement.

RAJASTHAN

The memorial meeting of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held at Pilani, Rajasthan. Comrade Girijeswar Singh, Incharge, Rajasthan SUCI was the speaker. He explained the significance of the observance of 5th August and urged the people to build up mass movements conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

ASSAM

A well-decorated public meeting was held on 13th August at Lakshmiram Barua Sadan, Guwahati. It was presided over by Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, veteran trade union leader and a member of the state committee of the party.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary, Assam State Committee elaborated on the life-struggle of Frederick Engels, his closest association with the great thinker Karl Marx in developing materialist concept of history and Marxism. He explained the concept of proletarian internationalism, that was upheld by Frederick Engels as the guiding outlook for all sorts of struggle for the emancipation of the oppressed masses in the present era. Comrade Choudhury stressed that the real course to pay homage to the great leader lay in our sincere struggle and carrying it forward, participation in the revolutionary movements of the oppressed masses of our country which was concretised by the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh while building up the SUCI.

JAUNPUR, UP

Memorial day was observed on 5th August in the Hall of Sultanat Bahadur Inter College, Badlapur (Jaunpur) in UP. Party workers of Sultanpur, Udhampur and Pratapgarh and a large number of men and women came in a disciplined procession. Comrade Jagdish Chandra Asthana, District Secretary, Jaunpur, presided over the meeting and Comrade Jagannath Verma, Office Secretary of the UP State Organising Committee conducted the programme. Comrade V. N. Singh, State Secretary, recalled the exemplary life struggles and teachings of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

As the main speaker Comrade Dipankar Roy mentioned the historic importance of 5th August and recalled with reverence the great contributions of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in strengthening world proletarian movement. He appealed to strengthen the party. Earlier, Comrade Dinesh Kanti Dubey, member of the State Committee, also addressed the meeting.

MORADABAD, UP

A memorial meeting was held on 8th August at the hall of Economics Department of the Hindu Degree College in Moradabad, UP. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Shiv Kumar, and the main speaker was Comrade Dipankar Roy, member, West Bengal State Committee. Others who spoke included Comrades Bir Singh, Pukraj Nirala and Bijay Pal Singh.

SUCI Condemns Army Atrocity in Manipur

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement on August 13 last :

"No language is strong enough to condemn the atrocities committed by the Indian Army against the Manipuri women. In the name of counter-insurgency operations, the Indian Army, have been accused of raping Manipuri women and on the last occasion on 1st August '96 two army personnel raped one woman in presence of her crippled son. The women organised themselves and burst into protests this time, the biggest ever held in India. They cried 'Go back — Indian Army'.

We hail the valiant Manipuri women while demanding exemplary punishment to the guilty and stoppage of recurrence of such incidents any further."

LF Police Kill Students

In a macabre incident West Bengal police fired 56 rounds on school students on 9th August last at Falakata, Jalpaiguri district. Two teenaged students were killed and 16 were injured. SUCI gave a call for Jalpaiguri Bandh on 10th August which was made overwhelmingly successful by the aggrieved people. An All Bengal Student strike was successfully held at the call of the All India DSO on 12th August.

AIDSO Demonstrates before Orissa Assembly

The AIDSO organised on August 1, a massive student's demonstration before Orissa Assembly against anarchy and corruption in +2 examination, valuation and result publication, donation collection, black marketing and scarcity of text books and moratorium on opening of new educational institutions. A delegation met State Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum.

United Rally & Public Meeting in Hyderabad

The 6 left parties namely SUCI, CPI (ML), ND, CPI (ML-Liberation), MCPI, CPI (ML-Janaskiti) and the ML Committee held a rally at Hyderabad on 27th July against the hike in prices and taxes by both the state and the central govts. A meeting was held at Budha Purnima.

The meeting was addressed by Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, AP State Organising Committee, SUCI, Comrade D. V. Krishna CPI (ML) ND, Comrade M. Omkar, MCPI, Comrade N. V. Krishniah, CPI (ML-Janaskiti), Comrade N. Murthy, CPI (ML-Liberation) and Comrade V. Venkata Ramiah.

Working Women's Convention at Bangalore

Under the auspices of the AIMSS, a convention of working women was organised at Mythic Society Hall, Bangalore on 24th July '96. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Central Committee member, SUCI was a special invitee in the programme. Others who spoke included Prof. J. R. Lakshman Rao, Dr. H. Girijamma and Dr. H. G. Jayalakshmi. Dr. Sudha Kamath, State President, AIMSS presided.