

Congress (I), main enemy of people, has no right to enjoy glory of freedom movement

The centenary of the Indian National Congress was celebrated last month in Bombay by the ruling Congress(I). The pomp, pledges and promises in plenty that went with the three-day show made headlines in the Press, TV, Radio and other mass media. The glare of the publicity coverage could not, however, dim such sidelights as how the ruling party abused the administrative machinery to raise funds for this extravaganza that cost some thirty crores of rupees; and the chaos, indiscipline and mismanagement that marked the celebrations. For Congress-(I) sessions, these are not altogether new any way; but the scale on which all this took place during this centenary session surpassed any previous records.

Needless to say, the ruling party has sought to influence the public mind and refurbish its image through recourse to such high sounding resolutions as the 'centenary resolve' and 'Build India Programme'. Noticeably, during the same period, the CPI(M) leaders made it known at the party congress in Calcutta that the CPI(M) would not be happy at the decline of the

Congress(I) before an alternative democratic force emerged in the country and the party wanted to fight jointly with the Congress(I) against communalism-separatism. Those concerned over the country's future must not fail to grasp the motivations behind the resolves or promises made at the centenary celebrations of the ruling class's most trusted political agent, the Congress (I), and the public declarations of those claiming to fight against the Congress (I) authoritarianism.

One understands why the immoral, ugly face of the Congress(I) causes pain in old Congressmen who still cherish the values upheld in the independence movement and recall the immense sacrifices the people made during then, aspiring to win freedom and emancipation. It is natural that they express their resentment and disgust along with other sections of the common people, when they see Congress(I) delegates at the centenary session mobbing a truck carrying foodstuff and leaving the session hall to jostle with each other to have a glimpse of a film star M.P., and distinguished guests and old-timers being

humiliated and injured to gain admission. Most repugnant is the revelation in the Press that "Bombay's red light area was crowded with Congressman in khadi caps and some even with flags jostling to enter brothels". (Statesman, 31-12-85). But the question which should be pricking them most is why this abominable degeneration of the cultural and political level in the party. Is it the same Congress under whose banner they had fought for independence? They will not get the correct answer, let alone be relieved of their pain, unless they examine this question dispassionately and from a scientific approach.

It was with the objective to foster the growth of "national feeling and unity of the Indians", it is well known, that the Indian National Congress was born a hundred years ago. In the beginning its objective was more to bring about social reform, and later the urge of the indigenous capital, to the extent it was born in the second half of the nineteenth century, asserted itself through the reformist outlook of the political objectives of the Congress which began petitioning to the imperialist rulers within the constitutional means. Gradually, the Congress turned into a political plat-

form (Contd. on page 3)

full liberty to everyone of this region to live with dignity together with providing every opportunity for their development;

3. To develop collective self-reliance and to strengthen it among the South-Asian countries;

4. To establish mutual trust and amity and mutual understanding of each other's problems;

5. In the fields of social, cultural, and technology and science to develop collective initiative and cooperation;

6. To extend and further strengthen cooperation with the other developing countries;

7. To extend the areas of cooperation in the matters of common interest in the international forums;

(Contd. on page 4)

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New Economic-Fiscal Policies—free hand for loot and plunder by monopoly capital

By successive enactments and declaration of new fiscal policy all complimentary to their new economic strategy, the Rajiv Gandhi government have only carried to the extreme, their commitment to protect and further the interests of monopoly finance capital—no matter the high price the common people and the country's economy will have to pay for that.

The long and short of the so-called 'Long term Fiscal Policy' is to further reduce the tax burden, that is direct taxes on the private sector by way of freezing income tax for coming five years, abolishing surcharges and surtaxes, further concessions on capital gains tax, (70% reduced in the last budget) gift tax, excise duties etc. so that the private corporate sector, more so, the monopoly finance capital may serve the 'nation' by reaping fabulous profits with nominal tax burden while the common people groaning under exploitation and oppressions bear the ever-exacting burden of supplying the huge resources for such kind of 'national progress' and 'development.'

HYPOCRISY ABOUNDS

Write the Rajiv Gandhi government in session and out of session underscore the importance of mobilizing financial resources for the Seventh Plan which bring mind-boggling figures inasmuch as rupees one lakh eighteen thousand crores for the Public sector alone, it is resorting to measures like the present ones which will entail sharp reduction in revenue earnings by thousands of crores at one stroke. It was assuring too of removing the glaring disproportions between direct and indirect taxes but its instant measures will make this disproportion further worse. Say, for instance, the proportion of direct taxes in the total central tax revenues came down from 27.2 p.c. on average during 1970-71 to 22.6% in 1974-75 the Sixth Plan period. By the measures now announced, the proportion may come down to 19% or still lower. As for personal income tax the proportion came down during the same

period from 14% to just 9%. After this fresh exercise it is not unlikely that the capitalists and the rich will contribute further less, just nominal as personal income taxes. And they have been assured that the government will take care of inflationary effect on their incomes by further relaxation in exemption limit every two or three years. But who cares for the the same inflationary effect on the meagre incomes of common people? Yet by this gay abundance in tax reliefs to the capitalists, the government of Rajiv Gandhi invites a situation where the same poor and ill-paid and half-starved millions will have to bear almost the entire burden of feeding it with huge resources directly or indirectly. Out of the huge resources to be collected from the people about Rs 75,000 crores will be spent on military budget alone. Of the rest Rs 43,000 crores, more than half will be spent on payment of subsi-

(Contd. on page 2)

SAARC : Regional Combination of Ruling Classes

The two day Meet of the head of the states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held at Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh on 7-8 December 1985 has ended with much fanfare. Out of this conclave has emerged a regional organisation named South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or SAARC in brief, comprising seven states, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The seven heads of the states have pledged that on the issues of economics and culture or with regard to safety and security, trade, commerce, sovereignty of the states and territorial integrity etc., they will give due cognizance following the policy of friendship and mutual understanding which is to be the guiding principle of SAARC. They have also formally accepted the proposed objectives of the newly formed organization contained in the joint declaration. It envisages—

1. To raise the standard of living and for the welfare of the people of South Asia;

2. To promote economic development, to accelerate social progress and cultural upliftment and to ensure

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ties to the capitalists, rural and industrial, and interests on loans collected from home market or borrowed from outside—what little will remain to meet the most urgent needs? Yet there will be still heavier tax burden, prices of essential commodities will soar still higher and the essential public needs will remain unfulfilled for more years to come. In bourgeois democracies, more so in this country, the monstrous hypocrisy going on is that whenever the 'national development and progress' is uttered it is meant for the exploiters of the people, the capitalists, but in case of 'national sacrifice' millions of common people starve and die like animals.

NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES

The net result of the fiscal policy is therefore a severe crisis in economic and fiscal fields. While due to constraints in resources many urgent needs like renewal of railway tracks, removal of outworn wagons and rolling stocks, augmentation of power supply and others will suffer. Critical situation is also bound to arise in price front, foreign trade balances and employment situation etc. The much-trumpeted probable increase in private capital investment will prove to be illusory. For, the market crisis instead of being abated will be far more accentuated. Capital will be more bureaucratic and engage itself in speculative activities. Instead of frittering away precious financial resources collected by the government by fleecing the people over wasteful expenditures like on military budgets, subsidies and interventions and top-heavy administration as also holding big shows had those been used in public investment for new industrial units to grow and infrastructure to develop further three things could be obtained. First, that would have cut down import bill by producing goods that are imported. Secondly, the private capital would have got orders and thus market. And thirdly, employment could have been generated to the extent possible in

New Economic Fiscal Policy

the present moribund capitalist system. The cumulative effect would have been incentive to some extent to investment of private capital. Instead, the bourgeois rulers from their sole desire to protect the 'vote banks' and maintain the maximum rate of profit have taken to the means of robbing the people by more and more exacting tax burdens to fill the pockets of monopolists, traders and jotedars. Over the decades, in the name of planned development resources have been collected in enormous proportions to build up public sector; but today resource collection by fleecing the people continues but the minimum commitment to people's welfare is being totally disowned. The semblance of much vaunted 'welfare state' just melts into thin air.

What strikes most is the Government's most shameless abdication of minimum responsibilities to the people only to further the interests of private monopoly capital. Say, for instance, the Government cuts down the order for wagon building and in West Bengal more than a lakh of workers directly or indirectly involved lose their jobs and earnings. The Government now advises the private capital that complains about insufficient wagon movement to own their own wagons! By the same token one day the Government may ask the capitalists to lay their own railway tracks for the movement of their own wagons.

But then what precisely the Railway Ministry will do? Is it for raising every year railway fares and freights only? The private capital may demand 'joint ventures' in this respect also.

No, it is no joke. The Government is already asking the private capital to build roads and install power plants. The postal service has also been left open as agency system to private capital. The telephone, it is reported, is also going to private sector. Other than the 'secret' equipments, all other military equipments production is being opened to

private sector. Transport service may also revert to private sector. Wonder of wonders, what the British imperialist rulers could not possibly dream of, the Rajiv Government is doing that. It is minting coins from British, Latin American or other foreign firms while the country's mints starve. Apart from colossal wastage of national resources, this move is fraught with the grave danger of big swindle in the currency system. The Govt. owes an explanation to the people as to why the country's mint that used to mint not only the country's coin requirements, but even those of foreign country's like Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh, Bhutan is not being used to meet the country's requirements even. Not only this, the Government is placing orders for railway engines with British firms from the loans of the World Bank which Chittaranjan Locomotives can very well do. Even FCI has been denied its role as supplier of imported sugars to public distribution channel. Instead private businessmen are given contracts. These private businessmen get contracts for export of wheat also. The Hindustan Construction, a public sector company, has been denied the jobs of construction for long in favour of private engineering firms and now it is in the list of firms reportedly to be sold out to private capital. But there goes a proverb that 'Hang a dog after giving it a bad name'. So, in liquidating and then selling out public sector firms, i.e. public properties built up from public money extracted from poor people the Government is raising the bogey of inefficiency, mounting loss and corruptions as if those things are unknown to the private sector.

We are not holding brief for the Public Sector because call it 'mixed economy' or anything else the economic law remains quite 'unmixed'.

Capitalist production relation and motive force of production remain the same for both sectors. But

a Government that over decades built up Public Sector in the name of planned development and actually used it to serve the interests of monopoly capital by providing infrastructure of basic inputs for heavy industries and not for a moment even tried to break the evil chain of private capital, corrupt officials and anti-socials, a government that allows to go with impunity private mining of coal mafia gangs has no moral right to talk about loss or corruption. It has well proved to be out 'of the corrupt, for the corrupt' making a pathetic parody of Lincoln's famous dictum.

What we say is that by sedulously campaigning against the public sector and putting it to disrepute as they are now doing so against Parliament and Judiciary even, the political agents of monopoly finance capital have only created an impression in public mind that all that is 'private' is good and efficient and anything 'public' is bad, inefficient and corrupt. The motive is very clear: preparing the ground to hand over the milch cow of public sector fed and nurtured over the years with public money to private monopoly capital that has acquired much strength by this time through loot and plunder not only of the common people but revenues collected from them and the resources of the financial institutions too. May we ask: What can be more grievous a crime than to cheat the poor workers' trust fund, the PF money? What is more criminal offence than to cheat the public exchequer through tax evasion by those who are to pay for accumulation of black money? Yet these very criminal activities have been going on, patronised by the rulers, by the top monopolists, traders and jotedars over three decades and more. Can any sane person believe that these very 'black' doers will bring any good to the people and the country? People must know and be alert that Mussolini handed over the

sick industries taken over by the government after those were nursed back to health to the same private capital that made those industries 'sick' in fascist Italy and almost the same thing is happening here. Today more than 93,000 industrial units have become 'sick' mostly under private hands after gobbling up Rs 1,500 crores of bank finance. Now the government brings a bill for taking over only a small percentage of these sick units and leave others to die or merge with monopoly capital. This will cause loss of unemployment to thousands of working people. What is this if not most unabashed defence of private capital at the cost of public cause and money? This is a clear indication of the total subservience of the State to the interests of monopoly capital which is the characteristic feature of fascism. We are no defenders of unethical behaviour of "rights without social obligations", be it in the name of so-called trade unionism or earned privileges of the workers. But what kind of social justice it is when the government finds faults with ordinary employees guilty of petty offences but hushes up instances of big frauds and illicit deals where the high officials and even ministers are involved??

Those who seem to be critical about goings on in the public sector must not confuse the real issue. They must demand rooting out corruption, inefficiency and mismanagement but be on guard and should not allow those to be made pleas by the Government for wanton dismissal of the employees from services, effecting their premature retirement or bringing further squeeze on employment by labour saving machines and devices. They must be in united resistance movement against the free hands being given to national and foreign monopoly finance capital to bring depredations in their life. It will be the worst sort of delusion to keep a blind eye to the real class motive and class design of bringing all-out fascism in the country under the cover of such deceptive pleas and moves.

Congress Centenary Celebration

(Contd. from page 1)

form with two opposing trends waging struggle from it against the British imperialist rule. "The national section of the Indian bourgeoisie was stirred into movement against imperialism because the imperialist rule stood as an insurmountable obstacle in the path of establishing its class rule here and freely exploiting the Indian masses. But being born in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, it was mortally afraid of revolutionary mass struggle against imperialism, apprehending that the revolutionary struggle by the Indian people, if successful, would not only end the imperialist rule in the country but also, along with it, remove the national bourgeoisie from the leadership of the struggle. Thus in the independence movement, the Indian bourgeoisie which led the movement maintained a reformist oppositional role against imperialism and its role against feudalism was equally compromising." (On Communal Harmony—Shibdas Ghosh). On the other hand, the common people of the country had participated in the movement with the objective of not only winning freedom from the imperialist rule but also emancipation from exploitation of all sorts. The political force representing the uncompromising trend in the Congress could never dominate the freedom struggles. Incidentally, because of the very compromising nature of the nationalist leadership of the independence movement, the task of democratisation of the society remained unaccomplished and the Indian nationalism became basically religion-oriented. That is why the feudal hangovers of the communal-parochial-casteist-separatist sentiments and prejudices continued to thrive in the psychological makeup of the people which advantage the vested interest and the reactionary forces took all along and are still taking.

With the transfer of political power through compromise in 1947, when the Indian bourgeoisie usurped the state power

availing of the absence at that time of a genuine working class party on the soil, the rot started in every sphere. It is well known how the Congress, then led by Jawaharlal Nehru, became the ruling bourgeoisie's most dependable agent to govern the country for the consolidation of capitalism. Planning, mixed economy, public sector industries and all that were nothing but a recourse to the speediest, widest and freest development of capitalism in India in the post second world war period when capitalism was not only moribund as a world social force but plunged in its third intense all-out general crisis. Long back, when the Congress led by Nehru adopted the course of so-called planned economy and gave it the dubious name of 'democratic socialism', our most beloved departed leader and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, had laid bare the bourgeois motive behind this recourse and warned that all these plans were bound to be associated with a shadow of growing capitalist crisis. The evermounting unemployment, the continuous decline in the purchasing power of the common people and the decreasing utilisation of the installed capacities in industries corroborate to the truth of his analysis. On the other hand, the Congress, as the defender of the crisis-ridden ruling capitalist class, increasingly resorted to suppressing the common people's growing discontent against the capitalist exploitation and oppression and their legitimate democratic movements. It started snatching off the people's hard won democratic rights, and the Congress leaders and the rank and file, getting increasingly alienated from the people, made pelf and power their sole objective, in the process becoming part and parcel of the vested interest. Immorality, total lack of scruple and unethical practice made way into the very marrow of the party, vitiating almost the entire political-social-cultural life of the country. Not only that. To safeguard

the bourgeois interests, the Congress adopted an education policy to deny the common people the right to education, in particular the higher education, and conspired to wreck their moral backbone by inculcating vulgar individualism and every other aspect of perverse bourgeois culture.

With the capitalist crisis accentuating more and more, the process continued unabated in every sphere under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. The Congress(I) Governments mounted more and more economic and political onslaughts on the common people while they allowed the owners wider scope to fleece the people and even more subsidies and subventions. Budgets and fiscal policies became annual savageries on the people. Raising the bogey of external aggression, more and more budgetary allocations were made for military expenditures with the carefully concealed objective of providing artificial stimulations to the sagging economy and denying the people the reliefs promised in plenty during electioneering. Draconian acts like NSA, MISA, ESMA, Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act were enacted

the key word in this Congress(I) bid under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. To fulfil the bourgeois design, the party aided and abetted the communal parochial-casteist-separatist divisive forces to disrupt the people's unity and wreck their united struggle against the capitalist exploitation and oppression. But all along this Congress(I) has been shedding crocodile tears for maintaining communal harmony and national solidarity. And organisationally, the Congress(I) ceased to be a political party, virtually becoming a centre of coterie rule and dynastic perpetuation.

For the last one year, after Rajiv Gandhi became the executive and at the same time the organisational head of the Congress(I), the bourgeoisie has been engaged in projecting him through the mass propaganda media as the youthful new leader to champion the country's cause. This new leader promised the country value based politics and a great leap forward to the twenty first century. At the centenary celebrations he has pledged, as the Congress(I) president, to break 'the

aged so many times to usher in socialism of a brand suited to this land and Indira Gandhi had made so many promises to end poverty. Rajiv Gandhi would not have the opportunity today to lay hand on these issues to make substance of the 'centenary resolve'. The simple need of the party to reaffirm itself to the timeworn pledge on the occasion of its entry into the second century of existence itself proves what a bunkum it is. It is a ploy sought to be reused to hoax the people, lull them into false expectations and catch their votes. These days Rajiv Gandhi is taking opportunity to express annoyance in public over 'overprojection' of himself in the Doordarshan. What a hypocrisy! The coterie around him constantly makes it absolutely certain that every conceivable opportunity be used to project him through Doordarshan and other mass media.

The people will recall that Rajiv Gandhi was the right hand man of Indira Gandhi when she undertook the game of toppling elected Governments of Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. That rigging, in particular administrative rigging has become a feature of elec-

Centenary Resolve—a Congress (I) ploy to hoax people

to suppress the people's discontent at the first sign of outburst. Executive fiat became almost a convention to bypass Parliament. The freedom of the Press and the relative independence of Judiciary became victim of a process in which almost absolute powers were being vested in Executive. The educational and cultural policies aimed at bringing about a regimentation in the thought process and inculcating obscurantist and revivalist ideas in the place of rationality and the scientific bent of mind. In a word, through almost total negation of democratic rights and absolute concentration of power in Executive the road was being paved to drive the country toward all-out fascism in a bid to secure a fresh lease of life for the moribund capitalism. And duplicity was

nexus between political parties and vested interests', 'carry on a war on corruption without let or hindrance', 'change the electoral laws to ensure cleaner elections'. In that much publicised 'centenary resolve' the party has pledged to end poverty, reiterating its routine declaration of its commitment to socialism, secularism and democracy and all that and to ensure growth with social justice and bring in modernisation in agriculture and industry, and develop science and technology in uplift of the poorest of the poor. If, however, resolve, pledges and promises could achieve the goal, long before the country would have been relieved of poverty and 'socialism' and 'secularism' would also have got firmly entrenched, for under Nehru's leadership the Congress had ple-

tioning by parliamentary parties in this country—a fact our party has been pointing out since 1971—is accepted today on almost all hands. no few revelations were made in the Press during the last Lok Sabha elections regarding how extensive rigging was resorted to by the Congress (I) in Rajiv Gandhi's own parliamentary constituency to make him victorious. His Government enacted a legislation against defection which any discerning mind could realize was nothing but to prevent defection from his own party. After the Assembly polls in several states last year, the Chief Election Commissioner had to remark that so long criminals are used to be employed by parliamentary parties to promote some heinous objectives, but this time these parties

(Contd. from page 4)

Congress(I) Centenary Celebration

(Contd. from page 3)

had set up criminals as candidates. After all this, can people pin hope on any promise of value based politics of a party like this or cleaner elections through change of laws? All the recent fiscal measures announced by Rajiv Gandhi's Government entrust the private sector with greater share. It is not also difficult to realise that the talk of inducting high technology comes from the need to increase the competitive power of the ruling bourgeoisie in exporting industrial goods to the international market. His Government is not only retaining in full all draconian acts enacted previously, it is going to impose even more stringent measures on the working class and other sections of the common people. This is then how the Congress(I) plans to ensure social justice to the downtrodden. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pointed out time and again that uninterrupted industrialisation, modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture and eradication of unemployment cannot be achieved today without freeing the production relation from its capitalist motive of extracting maximum profit. How can the pledge to modernise the country and induct high technology 'in uplift of the poorest of the poor' arouse faith when the Indian capitalist has emerged as monopoly finance capital, given birth to financial oligarchy and is revealing the characteristic features the imperialist capital by export of capital to overseas market?

There can be no doubt that the Congress(I) stands today as the most wretched, immoral, undemocratic and fascist party against the people's genuine cause and interests. Except immorality, misrule and savage repression there is nothing this party can offer to the common people. Whatever the pledges it makes to refurbish itself, there is nothing, absolutely nothing to hope from it. What is then the way before the people? The way is, as

we are pointing out again and again, to build up broad based united legitimate democratic mass movements. For this we have been appealing on every occasion to all left, democratic and opposition parties to join strength, and ourselves are trying single-handedly to build up movements all over the country with our limited organisational strength. These parties are not heeding to us. Here we ask the CPI (M) cadres to ponder over one question. Their leadership talks of fighting against authoritarianism. But which party is it in the country today representing authoritarianism? Is it not the Congress(I)? Can they fight authoritarianism without fighting the Congress(I)? The CPI (M) leadership has made it known that it would be unhappy at the decline of the Congress(I) before a left-democratic alternative emerges. Is not the emergence of the left-democratic unity possible only through conduct of relentless struggle against the authoritarian Congress(I)? That the Congress(I) exists today is not because it has a right to exist or embodies a moral force to ensure existence. It exists because of the weakness in the left movement, because there is no unity among left-democratic parties and forces.

We ask, too, those old Congressmen who feel pain at the degeneration of the party one question here: What does their conscience ask them to do at this hour? To stay away from the suffering multitude or step out to join strength in the legitimate movement of the masses to uphold the norms and values they cherish?

The sooner we take to the course of building up legitimate democratic mass movement in every nook and corner of the land, the closer we move to the dream of the martyrs of freedom movements. Or have we chosen to forget them for ever?

SAARC Meet—no Reflection of People's Interest

(Contd. from page 1)

8. To cooperate with regional and international organisations professing identical objectives;

The following are the policy formulations of the newly emerged 'SAARC':—

1. The basis for cooperation among the member states of this Association will be—Equality, territorial integrity sovereignty and political independence, non-interference in each others internal affairs and regard for each others well being and prosperity;

2. Mutual cooperation conducive to bipartite and multi-faceted cooperations;

3. Mutual cooperation not inconsistent with bipartite and multi-faceted cooperations;

Prima facie, the objectives proclaimed in the conclave may appear something great to the common masses of the people. But what is the real import of the 'preservation and promotion of mutual fraternity and understanding' so loudly proclaimed by the seven heads of the states? On political analysis it will come out that whatever exuberance of thought given vent to in the expression of 'mutual fraternity and understanding' being the guiding principle of the SAARC, in practice however, there is no such basis at all. On scrutiny it will become clear as daylight that amidst suave exchanges among the heads of the states mutual suspicion and apprehension, accumulated centring round the past experiences has crept in over the problems of economic political and such other issues. With regard to India in particular, almost all the states reflected an attitude of mistrust, fear and apprehension since among the states included in SAARC India is the sole country which has attained the stage of imperialism and is showing signs of expansionism. According to Leninist teaching, in the process of development of capital when capitalism

exports capital to foreign markets, in the terminology of political economy it is termed 'imperialism'.

Indian capitalists also are exporting capital to the foreign markets. However backward may be the Indian capitalism compared to traditional Western capitalist-imperialist countries, gradually the growing imperialist features in its character are very much discernible. Despite its backwardness, the Indian capital has been able to attain this imperialist feature which our departed beloved leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh reiterated times without number. Then, it is clear that development of Indian capitalism has been such as to exhaust its national character to a great extent and has attained imperialist features. To a Marxist-Leninist this stark reality cannot be denied in the background of export of capital along with the development of monopoly capital.

Attainment of imperialist character on the one hand and economic technological development on the other place India far ahead of the states included in SAARC. Among these there are some states who are yet to acquire self-sufficiency in economy, trade and commerce etc; they have to depend on India, like Bhutan and Nepal. In the past Nepal was tied up with India in an agreement that the foreign policy of Nepal had to be determined on the mutual understanding with India. Nepal does not follow this agreement through it is still there. One more aspect of the thing is that Indian capitalists can freely invest capital in Nepal. And since Nepal has no sea port of its own, it has to transact import-export trade through Indian ports. As a result, Nepal is fully dependent on India for conducting its trade and commerce.

That is why, Indian dominance over Nepal is

very much discernible. Then again, Nepal for its development wants Indian aid and assistance in the economic sphere maintaining its sovereignty at the same time and without being subordinated to the Indian state. Quite naturally, Nepal views dominating position of Indian bourgeoisie with fear and apprehension. For trade and commerce, Bhutan also depends mostly on India. For, like Nepal, Bhutan has no sea port of its own and determines its foreign policy with mutual understanding with India. For these reasons, economic and political dominance of India is also at work to a considerable extent over Bhutan. A few years back, the manner in which the Indian government annexed Sikkim within the territory of India is a reflection of the expansionist motive of the Indian bourgeoisie. The role of Indian government vis-a-vis the ethnic question of 'Tamils' in Sri Lanka has also made a rift in the traditional bipartite relationship between India and Sri Lanka. In the internal 'Tamil' problem of Sri Lanka the mediatory role of India has not found favour with the Sri Lankan Government. President of Sri Lanka Mr. J.R. Jayewardene candidly said in a speech, "We are floating the ship ceremonially in the hope that there will be no rebellion on board". Even the president of the host state Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad whose speeches were interspersed with poetic sayings of Rabindranath Tagore, more often than not, had to sound a note of anti-climax by saying, "SAARC will not be allowed to be used as a platform of quarrel and dispute concerning the bipartite problems".

Over and above, sharp rivalry was marked for establishing supremacy between Pakistan and India within the SAARC. It was the apprehension of the Indian Government that the newly formed South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was a means by

(Contd. on page 6)

BANGALORE

SUCI organises movement on essential need of drinking water

Bangalore, Jan. 9—Close on the heels of massive protest movement in Bangalore demanding adequate supply of drinking water, the basic human necessity for survival, Swatantrapalya, Srirampuram and Maleswaram in the city witnessed yet another massive demonstration seeking improved supply of water to the areas. Hundreds of residents comprising all sections of people of Swatantrapalya, today took out a massive demonstration under the banner of Bangalore District Organising Committee of SUCI carrying empty pots and banners demanding (i) sinking bore wells at all worst affected areas and repair of all non-functioning ones, (ii) increase in number of tankers to all affected regions on a large scale and the like. The processionists, mostly women carrying babies in their arms shouted intermittent slogans and trekking 4 km route through different thoroughfares converged in a mammoth demonstration in front of the office of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. Here, different speakers in course of their speeches deplored the Hegde Government's abject failure to provide basic requirements like drinking water. While narrating the pathetic tale of woe they said that for the last four days there was no supply of a drop of water in their areas. Only one borewell out of three was working. To get water from a single borewell, they had

to wait like anything and huge rush for the water, often led to fights even between the neighbours just to get a little water. Whatever little water came was dirty and children fell ill on drinking it. The speakers reminded the audience that the authorities were compelled to bow down before the massive demonstration staged on December 26th last that number of borewells and regular supply of increased tankers would be provided to mitigate the acute shortage of drinking water. Unfortunately, no measure worth mentioning was taken in this direction. Our readers are still fresh in their memory how braving all odds the people of Bangalore stepped forward in thousands to the streets at the ardent appeal of the Bangalore District Committee of our party. Just in our previous issue we gave vivid description of the heroic but rare scene of struggle which has added a new chapter in the annals of democratic mass movement in the state of Karnataka.

Later, a team of deputationists met the Superintending Engineer of BWSSB and explained to him the difficulties caused to citizens on account of backing out of the authorities from their previous assurances of regular and adequate water supply. A Memorandum highlighting the acute problems in various localities was also presented to him. It sought for immediate stoppage of water supplies to major industries, sinking

of increased number of borewells in all affected areas and repair of non-functioning ones, connecting the Cauvery supply lines from south end to Argavati supplied areas and speed up supply from Shimsha as short term measure, increase of number of water tankers to all affected regions on a large scale and last but not the least immediate taking

up of work to finish the Cauvery III and IV stages as a long term permanent measures. The Superintending Engineer, however, assured them that he would ensure adequate water supply through the public tap and would instruct to make more trips of tanker to the affected areas. For boring increased number of wells, he stated

that he would apprise the higher authorities about the residents' demand about it and also ensured checking up any damage, if any that might have hampered supply.

Meanwhile, Bangalore District Committee of the SUCI in course of an appeal to the public at large urged them not to harbour any illusion on acceding to the immediate demands at the



CPI(M) led Calcutta Corporation imposes water tax to meet World Bank conditionality

The Calcutta Corporation, governed by the 'Left Front', has imposed Water tax on citizens from 1st January this year. At the time of the municipal elections last year, the Front had promised welfare measures for the citizens. This is one measure it has decided to implement.

On 31st December, the Calcutta District Committee of the SUCI held a demonstration of more than a thousand people before the corporation office to protest against this anti-people decision. On behalf of the demonstrators, three members of the West Bengal State Secretariat of the party—Comrade Anil Sen, Calcutta District Secretary, Com. Ranjit Dhar and Com. Sitesh Dasgupta—went to submit a memorandum. The Deputy Mayor, Sri Mani Sanyal, admitted to them that the Corporation had acted on the stipulated terms of the World Bank but he accused the centre for its policy to formulate such terms.

Later, informing the demonstrators on the talks with the Deputy Mayor, Com. Ranjit Dhar criticised the 'Left Front' for taking

impact of the movement but to strengthen the "Bangalore Water Scarcity Movement Committee" with all their mite to get redressal of the acute scarcity of drinking water and for which, it fervently appealed to build up People's Struggle Committees' at different levels, the only instrument of struggle at the hands of the people.

loans from the World Bank, an imperialist agency, on humiliating terms. If the Front genuinely wanted to uphold people's interests, it would have ensured adequate supply of drinking water on the one hand and built up movements against the anti people policies of the Central Government, on the other hand.

The demonstrators demanded repeal of the decision to impose water tax and that regular and adequate supply of drinking water be ensured.



Demonstration in Bangalore against scarce water supply. Above : People in Swaramapuram squatting before BWSSB office. Below : Women at Swatantrapalya in a protest rally.

Seminars on Disastrous New Education Policy

All Bengal Seminar in Calcutta

Pursuant to its programme of building up a countrywide movement against the proposed New Education Policy of the Central Government, the AIDSO West Bengal State Committee organised an all Bengal seminar on 17th December last in Calcutta. In the morning session held in the Students' Hall, speakers of the AIDSO and the ABSA criticised the policy as a conspiracy of the ruling class against the people's aspirations in the fields of education and culture. Com. Asoke Mukherjee, a member of the W.B. State Committee, AIDSO, presided. The speakers included Com. Sanjit Biswas, Secretary, West Bengal AIDSO, Com. Rabin Samajpati, Vice-President, West Bengal AIDSO and Com. Asit Pati, Secretary, ABSA.

At the seminar in the afternoon, held in Baker Hall, where some 3000 students from the districts of West Bengal assembled, the noted educationist and former Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University, Dr. Manindramohan Chakrabarty, criticised the proposed education policy and stressed the need to universalise primary education and ensure access to education for all. Another noted educationist, Sri Sibnarayan Roy, observed that the policy perspective of New Education Policy brought out by the Central Government did not provide actually solution to problems riddling education. He emphasized the need for a radical transformation of society and culture.

Dr. Ajit Ghosh, another noted educationist who spoke, opposed the move to create a few so-called centres of excellence, vocationalise secondary education and depoliticise educational institutions which were bound to lead to

greater disparity and degeneration in education. Analysing the Central Government's document point by point Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, former Senate member of the Calcutta University exposed the ruling capitalist class's design behind the proposed education policy. The real motive behind the slogan of job-degree delinking, he said, was to restrict education to a handful number deemed necessary to run production in the present crisis-ridden capitalist system. The slogan to depoliticise educational institutions itself emerged from a political motive, that of the ruling class, he further observed. This education policy, he warned, would help create further ground for growth of allout fascism.

Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Under the auspices of the Shikha Bachao Morcha a seminar was held at Muzaffarpur in Bihar on 11th and 12th January last, attended by about 350 teachers, students, intellectuals and educationists. The speakers included

Prof. Abudur Kalamuddin. Com. N. R. Singh, Prof. Arun Kumar Singh, Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Prof. S. C. Agarwal, Com. A. K. Singh, state secretary, A.I.-D.S.O., Sri Surendra Ojha (Janata Party), Sri Binoy Bhusan (Lok Dal), Sunil Kumar (AISF), Ratneswar Thakur (secretary, Primary Teachers' Association, Kanti). A five member presidium conducted the proceedings and inaugural speech was delivered by Sri Rajendra, a noted poet in Hindi. He said that this policy was framed to serve the interests of the ruling capitalist class.

In one voice the different speakers opposed the proposed education policy, arguing that it would harm the genuine cause of education and undermine values and the aesthetic sense.

On the second day, the participants included eminent educationists like Sri Devendra Pd. Singh, ex-Vice Chancellor (Bhagalpur University), Dr. G. P. Sinha, ex-Vice Chancellor (Patna University), Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, former Senate member (Calcutta University), Sri Jitendra Pd. Singh, a noted journalist and Dr. S. K. Bose, pro-Vice Chancellor (Bihar University).

Dr. Sinha expressed the opinion that without changing the present economic structure, it would not be possible to provide jobs to young people simply by introducing vocational education. Shi Jitendra Singh, stressed the need to universalise primary education. Com. Sukomal Dasgupta pointed out that the policy perspective was drafted clearly to fulfil the needs

of the ruling class, plunged in its allout crisis, to restrict access to education, in particular higher education, vocationalise education, give it a religious orientation and bring it under total government control. He urged the education community and the people at large to resist implementation of the proposed policy.

SAARC Meet

(Contd. from page 4)

which the other member states might be combining against it in the forum. On the other hand, Pakistan apprehends that this forum of SAARC will provide a golden opportunity to the Indian bourgeoisie to show its overbearing attitude and expansion of market. In ascending supremacy in the fields of nuclear energy and military might both India and Pakistan were in competition matched or unmatched. Both the member States of the SAARC through maintaining relations with the super powers of the world exert pressure on each other. Besides these vital reasons pre-ponderance of war-like atmosphere between these two states in the past, is working as a stumbling block against promoting fraternity and mutual understanding between them which is very much alien to the just evolved guiding principle of the SAARC. So it becomes crystal clear that in practice, none of the member states of SAARC feels confidence to rely on each other with regard to their proclaimed objectives. Added to it, each member state of SAARC is suffering from fear complex of international terrorism. Thus, it is not quite untrue that prevailing fear mistrust and misunderstanding among the member states of SAARC in general and with regard to India in particular have some concrete basis and real foundation. It follows therefore that the formation of SAARC was intended only to promote a deep sense of fraternity and amity amongst the member states

does not stand on its leg. It hardly needs emphasizing that for different motives and reasons the seven member states of SAARC have assembled to form this Regional Association in this part of the world. As a student of political science, we know that many contradictions are at work between the Socialist and Imperialist countries and the countries veering round them. In order to handle these contradictions for respective economic development, consolidation of capital and expansion of market to the extent possible, such regional organisations are formed SAARC is one such organisation.

We know that Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were once within the territorial bounds of the British ruled India. Today though some of these states economically depend on India, they are not its territorial part. The aspirant Indian bourgeoisie is keen to establish its political dominance on these states. The home market being squeezed, it wants to export its capital through investment to the neighbouring countries. So, ostensibly out of the urge for consolidation of capital in the home market and extend it beyond the national boundaries to the neighbouring states, the Indian Government has embarked upon forming this regional organisation, SAARC. On the other being apprehensive of the growing expansionist tendencies of the Indian State,

the neighbouring states, included in the SAARC, out of their respective urge to consolidate their native capital have aligned themselves in this platform of SAARC to combinedly meet and contain to the extent possible the motive of Indian bourgeoisie.

One cannot miss the other aspect of the motive prompting India to align itself with such a regional organisation. That is, along with the member states of SAARC, the relatively developed India wants to use this forum as a bargaining counter by putting pressure collectively on both the superpowers.

A relevant question may arise as to how the two opposing superpowers view this regional organisation? The answer is not far to seek. Both the two super powers in their turn, will try their best to draw this or that country within SAARC closer to them in their mutual contention and collusions.

So, it is time to realize for the teeming millions of these countries that they have nothing in common with the interest of development of 'SAARC'. The eradication of abject poverty, malnutrition, mass illiteracy and ignorance with which their daily life is confronted have no bearing either with emergence of this regional Association. Yet, the glittering function of seven nation summit at the cost of crores of rupees from public exchequer was held, hoodwinking the common people of these countries. People should see through this game of the ruling bourgeoisie.