

Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes Bill A Virtual Ban On Working Class Movement

The common people of India face a grave threat today to their existence, which comes in the form of a cluster of measures calculated to leave them disarmed and at the mercy of the bourgeoisie. The 59th Amendment to Constitution has been introduced, empowering the Central Congress(I) Government, the most trusted instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie, to clamp Emergency in any parts of the country, that is to run nakedly its authoritarian rule, denying the people even their right to life. The Hospitals and Other Institutions (Redressal of Grievances of Employees) Bill, which has already had its passage through the Rajya Sabha, aims at depriving doctors, teachers and other employees of hospitals and other institutions of their fundamental right to protest against injustice, attacks and repression by the Government. And now comes the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1988, seeking to impose a virtual ban on trade union movement by depriving the working class of its fundamental right to strike, collective bargaining and freedom of association.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Urges Building up United Movement Against Black Bills

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, beloved General Secretary of the party, sent the following letter on 2nd July, '88, to the Left, democratic and Opposition parties, namely the CPI, CPI(M), RSP, FB, BJP, Janata Party, Lok Dal and Telugu Desam, urging them to take initiatives to build up countrywide united movements.

"You are aware of the fact that the Central Government is going to enact two black laws, viz., the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill '88 Hospitals and other Institutions Bill '88, in order to curtail democratic rights of the people in general and encroach upon the hardwon trade union rights of the working class in particular. We hold that the Government's attempts to pass these Bills should not be viewed only as an attack on the trade union rights of the workers but are definite and calculated steps to work out their comprehensive design to bring about fascism in the country.

We hope, your good self will realise this and take initiative for building united movements of the Left, democratic and opposition parties for resisting these black Acts along with others which are designed to snatch away the democratic rights of the people and bring about fascism in our country."

These recent measures, we ought to remember, have come in course of a process in which a host of other draconian laws, viz., ESMA, NSA, etc., were introduced earlier to suppress, in fact, the legitimate democratic movements of the people. What does all this portend? The import of the 59th Constitution Amendment and of the Hospitals and Other Institutions Bill was discussed in the last two issues of these pages and the working people, the working class in particular, which is to play a tremendously significant revolutionary role in this era, ought to realise and be aware of the grave threat posed to it by the exploiting class in the form of the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill.

The manner in which the Rajiv Gandhi Government introduced this Bill in Parliament is a pointer to how contemptuously it treats democratic norms, even administrative norms. In the face of strong protests from the trade union organisations against the proposed Bill, the Central Labour Minister had taken up the issue on 26th April last for 'consultation' with the central trade union organisations. Barring the INTUC all the organisations registered their opposition to this anti-working class Bill. While this 'consultation' was yet to be completed and further meetings were scheduled to be held in the first week of May, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declared all on a sudden and without caring to observe the norms, from an INTUC conference on May 1 last at Simla and thereafter from a meeting in Kanpur on the same day, the Government's intention to get the Bill passed without going for further mutual discussions.

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Proletarian Era

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5th August

Fifth of August returns again to our life this year to enquire anew how far we fulfilled the pledge we took earlier on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day; how deeper have we plunged ourselves into fulfilling his behest; how fiercely and relentlessly have we waged the battle against all our weaknesses, our faults, and our deficiencies to attain the high political-cultural standard he envisaged for the revolutionaries of the soil.

With the passage of time these questions assume increasingly greater importance, because on it — on grasping, upholding and applying the teachings of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh—lies the hope of our development, our being equal to the task he adjured to us.

Long twelve years have passed since the demise of our most beloved leader, teacher, guide, the founder General Secretary of our party and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era—Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Since then, and history has witnessed, how our party, under the leadership of our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the close compatriot of the great leader, is advancing in steady steps towards accomplishing the task of revolution.

Today, when our party has emerged from its first Congress, and is engaged in building up mass movements throughout the country, we feel in the deepest recess of our heart his presence, his behest, his inspiration. Fifth of August churns up a sea of emotion, harnessed into revolutionary purposiveness and determination. As he taught us, we cannot forget our revolutionary task or muddle the basic questions even in the midst of deepest of griefs or setbacks.

Long back Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed brilliantly how capitalism-imperialism could not but resort to militarisation of economy today in its bid to sustain its moribund existence and how this is resulting in local, partial or regional wars throughout the globe. He showed how the Soviet Union, whose it was the responsibility to expose this imperialist war design, was capitulating to the US imperialists and their nuclear blackmail and threats of 'Star Wars'.

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Meeting

5th August '88

Saheed Minar Maidan

5 P.M.

Main Speaker : **Comrade Pritish Chanda**

President : **Comrade Provas Ghosh**

PUNJAB OPERATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

On the 22nd of May, 1988, the third Army operation, the Operation Black Thunder, took place in the Golden Temple under the auspices of the Central Congress(I) Government headed by Rajiv Gandhi. This operation surpassed the two earlier operations in many respects. Not a single shot was fired by the Army, not a single drop of blood was shed, let alone the loss of life from any of the opponent sides. Only the blowing of microphones did the trick! Journalists and photographers were invited beforehand with elaborate arrangements of food and bedstead in order to give a wide coverage in the media. More than two hundred so-called extremists surrendered with their hands up and innumerable modern military gadgets including AK-47 Assault rifles and rockets and rocket launchers were recovered etc. etc. The Government subsequently said in a press statement that this Army operation had struck at the very roots of terrorism in Punjab because the main masterminds of the killings had surrendered and so many clues extracted from the 'dreaded terrorists' would help in nabbing the other stray extremists and in blocking the sources of arms supply from across the border. The Government had also claimed to have recovered a large number of blueprints of operation of the extremists. In the newspapers and television pictures of extremists' surrender and the recovered arms and ammunition were widely flashed and the radio broadcast all this with much fanfare.

But perhaps to prove the Government's claim false the killings started with renewed vigour and till today Punjab has not seen a day without bloodshed and murder. This decade-old concern for the people of the country, far from being solved, is taking worse turn day by day with the Central Government's repeated assurances. As many as three Army operations have taken place in the Golden Temple, a series of Black laws have been enacted, 59th Amendment to the Constitution empowering the Central Government to impose Emergency on any part of the country, ostensibly Punjab, has been passed in the Parliament with a brute majority, Punjab Accord between Sant Longowal and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had been signed and accordingly elections to the State Assembly had been held, Barnala Government had been installed and sacked, President's rule has been promulgated and extended, and unbridled power has been vested in the hands of the police and the bureaucracy but the solution is not in sight in spite of the hope expressed by the ruling as well as Opposition parties.

The present impasse in Punjab originated with Akali movement in August

1982 when they were not in power. It is a wonder that when they were in power the Akali Dal did not raise any such demands or did not start any such movements. But when they were out of the seat of power, they started such movement. If they really mean that the demands involved are in the interest of the people of Punjab then whether in power or not they should start movement to get their demands achieved. Because it is known to all that the Akali Dal, a party of the rich peasants, i.e. the rural bourgeoisie of Punjab among the Sikhs, and the only effective parliamentary contender of the Congress(I) among them, started the agitation over their long-standing issues like transfer of Chandigarh as their capital, distribution of river waters among the adjoining states along with other Sikh religious demands, in particular, with a view to winning the electoral support of the entire Sikh community and isolating the Congress(I) in the state parliamentary game. Thus what could have developed as the movement of the whole people turned out to be the movement of the Sikhs alone. The Congress(I) apprehensive of losing support among the Sikhs, instead of meeting the democratic de-

mands of the people of Punjab, on the one hand preferred to accept the religious demands of the Akali Dal (such as declaring Amritsar a sacred city, provision for broadcasting Sikh scriptures by the Punjab stations of All India Radio etc.) thereby encouraging the Sikh religious sentiments, and on the other, instigated Haryana against transfer of Chandigarh, and UP and Rajasthan over distribution of river waters so that there could not be an early and amicable settlement of those demands.

Simultaneously the Congress(I) started looking for division, infighting and factional bickerings inside the Akali Dal to rob it of its permanent Sikh vote bank—and at the same time tried to create a cleavage in the age-old bond of harmony and friendship between the Sikhs and the Hindus. But the age-old mutual trust of the two communities were so deep that in spite of so much provocations from the Congress(I), strictly speaking, not a single communal strife has ever taken place up till now. They planted Sant Bhindranwale inside the Shiromoni Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), the mainspring of Akali power, to capture it and disrupt the Akali Dal. It may be mentioned here that to make its foothold stable in Punjab the Congress(I) ever since independence has been trying to capture the leadership of the SGPC through organisational elections but every time with a disastrous result. So with no other option open before it, the Congress(I) took recourse to administrative measure to crush and capture the SGPC and thereby weaken the Akali Dal, the nursling of the SGPC. With this end in view the Congress(I) leadership utilised Bhindranwale in capturing the Akal Takht and sometimes against one group of Congress(I) against another. But in course of time Bhindranwale turned out to be the Frankenstein of the Congress(I) and went beyond the restriction imposed by it, by raising the slogan of separate Sikh Khalistan even through

armed struggle. So the seeds of terrorism were sown and it started rearing its ugly head throughout Punjab. But meanwhile he had given two valuable service to the Congress(I), i.e., weakening the Akali Dal and providing the Central Congress(I) with an excuse to take increasing pro-Hindu stance before the country as the only saviour of the Hindus in Punjab endangered by the Sikh terrorists. Thus the ordinary people of the country naturally unaware of the deep-rooted conspiracy of the Congress(I), as expected, demanded stern action against the extremists.

The Central Government took advantage of it in view of the parliamentary elections round the corner. Hence the Operation Blue Star of June '84. It helped pose the Congress(I) as the only saviour of the Hindu community but at the same time it created a deep sore in the minds of the Sikhs who found the Golden Temple, their Sanctum Sanctorum, desecrated. A large number of Sikh soldiers deserted their regiments, many were chased and caught, while others were killed without their sentiments being cared. Later on Indira Gandhi was assassinated on October 31, 1984 and in the aftermath a revengeful Sikh-massacre all over the country, especially in Delhi, took place with the direct instigation and involvement of the Congress(I) and indirect assistance of the administration. Thousands of innocent Sikhs were murdered and burnt alive, Sikh women were raped and tortured and their property looted. These incidents created a far deeper wound and resentment in the Sikh psyche.

In the meantime Rajiv Gandhi came to power with thumping majority capitalising mainly on the Hindu sentiments and reached an accord with Sant Longowal. These are the things of the past and many people then expected an early solution. But their hopes soon were belied by the conspiracy of Congress(I) mentioned earlier. The Congress(I) does not at all

want the solution but to serve their narrow political ends wants to keep it alive at the cost of human life and bloodshed. Firstly, they want to divert the attention of the people groaning under the yoke of capitalist exploitation, and secondly, by taking advantage of the worst situation in Punjab they want to arm itself to the teeth with all draconian laws to crush any sort of legitimate and just struggle of toiling millions in the name of 'national interest.'

We had then told in our organs and various meetings and seminars that the Punjab situation was the offspring of the conflict between the Congress(I) and the Akali Dal for their narrow parliamentary gains and it had nothing to do with the real solution to the problem of life of the people of Punjab. We also pointed out that the Congress(I) Government, instead of meeting the democratic demands of the people of Punjab, wants to keep it alive for their class ends. So then we appealed to all the Left, democratic and Opposition parties to come forward to frustrate the parliamentary games of the Congress(I) and the Akali Dal by building up a countrywide mass movement so that the ordinary people of Punjab, whose demands the Akalis had included in their demand charter, are detracted from this sordid electoral politics of the two parties. But nobody paid any heed to our request and surprisingly the CPI(M), a party professing Marxism - Leninism, went a step further by supporting the demands of the Akalis as the move for more powers to the state and thereby virtually helped grow separatist and religious sentiments to serve their own election politics.

We had also showed then that the situation in Punjab had come to such a pass as a result of conflict between these two parties that it had assumed the character of a deep and painful national wound, and the democratic and well-meaning people all

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PUNJAB OPERATION

over the country including Punjab could not but feel deep concern for it and so a political solution to the problem was demanded from all quarters. But at the same time we pointed out that to solve even the fringe of the problem one had to carefully read the genesis of the problem and real design and subsequent steps of the Congress(I) government.

As before we repeat our firm conviction that the role of the Congress(I) government all through indicates clearly that it does not at all want to solve the Punjab tangle, rather it wants to linger it. Before taking every step it tries to induce the people into believing that the next step by it would solve the problem. But instead what we have been witnessing is the further deterioration of situation ripe for taking the next step. If we start from Operation Blue Star and end in Operation Black Thunder we will find without any difficulty how sordidly they are carrying on 'their evil game'. After Operation Blue Star the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi assured peaceful solution to the Punjab problem but instead it took the worse turn. After her assassination came Rajiv Gandhi to power and signed Punjab Accord with Sant Longowal and subsequently elections to the Punjab State Assembly was held with Surjeet Singh Barnala in power. If we recollect we will find that before and after this event there was assurance by the Government and hope among a section of people. After Barnala government was sacked, came S. S. Ray, Governor, and his aide J. F. Ribeiro, to power under President's rule. In this case also we heard the same thing before and after. Then came amendments to the Arms Act and Evidence Act and 59th Amendment to the Constitution but with the same result after expressing hope and giving assurances. And lastly came the Operation Black Thunder with much more fanfare but with the repetition of the same thing. All these incidents proved beyond doubt that

how perfect and right was our assessment of the Punjab situation and the role played by the Congress(I) to keep the Punjab problem alive.

If the Congress(I) Government was really sincere and serious in solving the Punjab tangle, it could have implemented the provisions of the Rajiv - Longowal Accord and conceded other demands of the Sikhs arising out of the later developments for creating a healthy atmosphere to heal the deep wounds in the Sikh psyche. But far from doing it every attempt of the Central Government was there to frustrate it. First, they raised the demand of the areas inhabited by the Hindi-speaking people from Punjab in exchange of Chandigarh through the then Haryana Congress(I) Chief Minister Bhajanlal and in the name of finding out an amicable settlement appointed Mathew Commission which instead of drawing a line of solution complicated the issue of transfer. So the commission was declared a failure and subsequently Venkataramaiah Commission was appointed but the subjects in question were deliberately made so complicated that it met the same fate as the previous one and so also the Desai Commission appointed just after it.

So the nefarious game of the Central Government was evident in forming and appointing commission with a view to bypassing the issue of transfer. Secondly, the Congress(I) Government at the Centre in a bid to frustrate the Accord covertly instigated the governments of UP and Rajasthan headed by the Congress(I) over the question of distribution of river waters. That the Congress(I) Government is not at all serious in solving the Punjab problem is further evident from the fact that when the Barnala Government was in power in Punjab, the Punjab Governor, S. S. Ray, and the then police chief, J. F. Ribeiro, raised a hue and cry against Barnala Government alleging that it was soft and taking a weak-kneed policy towards the terrorists and as long as Bar-

nala was in power the murderous assault of the extremists would go on unabated. From the developments one may conclude that the Barnala Government found it difficult at one stage to ditto the Congress(I)'s nefarious game.

So, on the advice of S. S. Ray, Barnala Government was sacked and President's rule was imposed with unbridled power of administration in the hands of the Governor and his advisor Ribeiro to create condition favourable for further enacting black laws like 59th Amendment to the Constitution etc. etc.

The state of affairs of the country in all respects has come to such a pass that the ruling bourgeoisie in addition to above measures are taking resort to fanning up communal, parochial and separatist forces in the country to disrupt the unity of the toiling masses in order to perpetuate their rule of exploitation. It is the irony of history that the bourgeoisie who once raised the banner of secularism, national unity and territorial integrity, are today taking refuge in communal, parochial and separatist politics to suit their own purpose. That is why we now find Congress(I) in coalition with TUIJS in Tripura Government, is giving tacit support to the GNLFF in West Bengal and we noticed their presence behind the AASU and AGSP stir in Assam. In northern India they are maintaining a close liaison with the RSS, while in western India they are colluding with the Shiv Sena and particularly in Punjab with the Hindu Shiv Sena and Visva Hindu Parishad. We also found them engaged in fomenting communal passions as was evident from the communal riots of UP and Gujarat. So the ruling Congress(I) is the villain of the piece to follow their politics of 'divide and rule' to disrupt the unity and cohesion of the masses and is leaving no stone unturned to perpetuate the rule of the capitalists.

The Congress(I), the most trusted agent of the

ruling class is totally incapable of solving the problems of the people and is rapidly losing support among the masses. Prices of every commodity are soaring skyhigh, unemployment has reached the all-time high record, taxes and surcharges are being enhanced by leaps and bounds, unabashed favour is being done to the bourgeoisie in the name of subsidy and subvention at the cost of common man's plight, voice of protest is being gagged and democratic movements are ruthlessly suppressed, democratic norms and values are being trodden under foot, newer draconian laws are being enacted to rob the people of the last vestige of their democratic rights, men at the higher echelons are taking bribe and indulging in corruption—all these have made the life of the common man unbearable. The image of Rajiv Gandhi painted by the media as 'Mr. Clean' has been completely shattered particularly following the publication of report of corruption in the Bofors gun and German submarine deals. To kill two birds with a single stone the blueprint of Operation Black Thunder was planned to champion the cause of national integration and regain the lost prestige among Hindu voters to reap dividend in parliamentary game.

Under the circumstances the capitalist class cannot solve the Punjab tangle. Rather they will linger it and if necessary create more 'Punjab' to cross, if at all, one hurdle after another by distracting attention of exploited people to win the parliamentary battle in order to perpetuate their rule.

From the above it is quite evident that it is the Congress(I) who is solely responsible for sowing the seeds of terrorism and subsequent bloodshed and massacre of innocents and the reign of terror unleashed in Punjab where no citizen can close his eyelids with ease of mind. It is the Congress(I) Government which has arrested thousands and thousands of Sikh youths and tortured them in the name of interrogation, put them in to

the jail branding them extremists and killed a large number of them in the name of encounters. It is the Congress(I) which has poisoned the Sikh mind and created a sense of deprivation among them. It has in a calculated way engineered a hate-campaign against the Sikh community all over the country to paint them as if they were the enemy of the nation and any Sikh youth an assassin of Indira Gandhi, supporter of Khalistan and the collaborator of Pakistan which allegedly supplies them arms and ammunition, money and provides refuge. All these things together are alienating the Sikhs from the national mainstream and they in their hearts are harbouring a sense of pain and humiliation. We fervently appeal to all the well-meaning Sikh people, who want bloodshed and killing stopped, peace restored and the Punjab problem amicably solved, to come back to the national mainstream to thwart the evil design of the Congress(I) Government. Because the sense of deprivation originated in their minds are the outcome of the capitalist exploitation, and to do away with it and get the Punjab problem solved they will have to build up a nationwide mighty mass movement along with the people of the whole country so that the evil designs of the capitalists and the Congress(I), their protector, are foiled and their demands achieved.

We also observe with pain that the Opposition parties, particularly the CPI and the CPI(M), are not moving in that direction. Rather they are overtly and covertly supporting the Congress(I) Government's dangerous measures in Punjab and at the same time are taking advantage of its failures to suit their narrow election politics. They are averse to developing people's movements. They only want to show that they can do things what the Congress(I) is incapable of once they are voted to power.

We once again appeal to them to rise above petty electoral interest and come together to develop a mighty mass movement so that the

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5th AUGUST

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed why and how modern revisionism has appeared as the main danger before the world revolutionary movement against capitalism-imperialism, weakening and wrecking the liberation struggles in colonial and semi-colonial countries and the revolutionary battles in the metropolitan countries, and also endangering the world socialist system. Elaborating, enriching and bringing to a new height the great revolutionary teachings of Marxism-Leninism Comrade Ghosh, we know, handed down to us the invincible weapon of ideological struggle against modern revisionism and charged us with the task of speedily developing our revolutionary consciousness and strengthening the SUCI to wage a relentless struggle against modern revisionism and upholding the noble banner of internationalism and world proletarian movement.

Comrade Ghosh taught us that the root cause of the allout crisis gripping the country today — economic, political, social, cultural — lies in the moribund capitalist order and the capitalist state, and that anti-capitalist socialist revolution was the only course before the people to win their emancipation. In its bid to sustain its class rule in the prevailing allout capitalist crisis, the ruling capitalist class has taken to the course of foisting allout fascism in the country, inculcating obscurantism, regimentation and religious bigotry, and destroying the logical bent of mind and all the tender faculties and emotions.

As a part of its fascistic design the ruling class is bringing down on the people the most calculated attack anew in the form of the 59th Amendment to Constitution, the Trade Unions and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, the Hospitals and Other Institutions (Redressal of Grievances) Bill and such other Black Acts and ordinances along with fiscal savageries and, above all, the gravest onslaught in the form of attacks in the field of culture and ethics through the new National Policy on Education, etc. To disrupt the people's unity against its oppressive and exploitative class rule the bourgeoisie is pandering to communal, casteist, parochial, divisive and separatist sentiments and engendering communal and parochial strifes and terrorism all over the country.

Comrade Ghosh showed who were the compromising social democratic forces in this country acting as the main danger to the people's struggle against their main enemy—capitalism, the capitalist State and the most trusted political agent of the capitalist class, the Congress (I). To isolate the social democratic forces through intense ideological struggle in united democratic movement is a prerequisite to revolution, he reminded us time and again.

At the beginning of the journey, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh started with only a handful of compatriots, now the party has spread out its organisational base over the vast stretches of this land from State to State, district to district, muhalla to muhalla. Imbued with his great teachings students, youths, workers and peasants — in thousands, thousands upon thousands — are engaging themselves to build up mighty movements at the cost of life and blood. People, in increasing numbsre, are turning to the party. The great success of the historic First Party Congress reflects this growing support and respect of the people. From the core of their heart people desire that the party gain more strength and mass movements develop speedily. At this important moment to step ahead to fulfil the dream of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh the First

Protest against 59th Constitution Amendment and Black Bills

Protest against 59th Amendment to Constitution is growing stronger with the Emergency Virodhi Manch and a few other platforms and forces intensifying campaign against this fascist move by the Rajiv Gandhi Government.

DELHI

An All India Convention was held on 8th July last at Mavlankar Auditorium under the auspices of the Emergency Virodhi Manch which includes several Opposition parties, including the SUCI, and different student, youth, women, cultural, civil liberties and trade union organisations other than the CPI and the CPI(M).

The Convention was presided over by Shri V. M. Tarkunde, eminent jurist. Among the speakers were Madhu Dandavate, H. N. Bahuguna, Atal Behari Vajpai, Ram Jethmalani, Bhimsen Sochar, Gian Singh and many others.

Com. Gian Singh who represented the SUCI observed that this heinous design of the Central Congress(I) Government to impose fascism, even denying right to life, must be

foiled by developing a countrywide mighty movement against it. It was high time, he pointed out, all Left, democratic and Opposition parties united on common programme and code of conduct for launching a countrywide joint struggle.

Representatives from the MSS, Gujarat, AIDYO, Delhi, and Gujarat Cultural Forum also spoke.

CALCUTTA

A citizens' convention at the call of Emergency Virodhi Manch was held on 26th June last at the Muslim Institute Hall where a large number of people from different walks of life gathered to register a strong protest against this bid of the Rajiv Gandhi Government to assume almost unlimited fascist powers.

The convention adopted a resolution which warned the people against the dangerous possibility of imposition of Emergency for a second time and called upon them to strengthen the movement to protect democratic rights and values. In another resolution the convention expressed its deep concern at the recent communal riot in Murshidabad, West Bengal.

Representatives from the Janata Party, Lok Dal, CPI(ML) and IPF, besides the SUCI, addressed the meeting. Com. Prativa Mukherjee, representing the SUCI, stressed the urgency of building up unity among Left, democratic and Opposition parties to develop democratic mass movement against this fascist design.

Sri Dwijendralal Sen-Gupta, freedom fighter, and former MP, presided.

CPDRS

The Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights and Secularism (CPDRS) organised a convention on 3rd July last at Pyarelal Bhavan, New Delhi, to protest against



Citizens' Convention at Muslim Institute Hall in Calcutta on 26th June last. Com. Prativa Mukherjee addressing the audience. Representatives of other parties on the dais.

Party Congress was held with success under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. This Party Congress has consolidated the party further, both ideologically and organisationally. Now is the time to plunge into the two-fold struggle with more initiative, both individually and collectively, to fulfil the object of the Party Congress. Fifth August calls upon the people to achieve this mission.

the 59th Amendment to the Constitution and the Hospitals and Other Institutions (Redressal of Grievances) Bill and the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes Amendment Bill

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Murshidabad Riots—Portents of Grave Danger

The series of recent fratricidal incidents in Murshidabad district in West Bengal has come as a rude shock to all well-meaning and democracy and peace loving people. Close on the heels of violent clashes between the people of the two communities at Kashimbazar in Murshidabad, resulting in dozens of death, arson, looting and severe injuries to hundreds, violent clashes between two communities took place at Nashipur, Nakurtala and Bangetia—known strongholds of ruling Left parties in West Bengal. According to official reports, at least 29 people succumbed to injuries in these strifes. But people apprehend that the actual number of deaths far exceed the figures given by official sources. A good number of people are missing since the day of eruption of the riots and it is apprehended that they are no longer alive. There are allegations of mass burial, and members of the minority community are scared from the feeling of insecurity, resulting in their mass exodus from different sensitive spots. Meanwhile, prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr.PC have been issued for the sensitive spots and State Armed Police, E.F.R. and B.S.F. have been deployed.

Though the situation has been brought under control by stringent coercive administrative methods, it is, contrary to the claim of the Government, far from normal, as has been revealed by the three-member team of the SUCI who went round the affected areas on 4-5 July last to make an objective assessment of the situation and thereafter went in a deputation to the Chief Minister to apprise him of its harrowing experience during visit to the riot-torn areas. The situation has drifted to such a sorry pass that, according to the report of the team, 'distrust between the people of two communities and communal hatred have assumed such an acute form that new haats and bazars are being set up while the existing ones are being boycotted on community basis. Incidents of stray murders are also taking place. In a word, even after a fortnight since the day of ghastly incidents an uneasy calm prevails in the district where a single spark may cause eruption of communal riots, unless appropriate and adequate remedial measures are taken right now.

A spokesman of the State Government, the Minister for Adult and Madrasa Education, while he briefed reporters the other day on the situation prevailing in Murshidabad district admitted the field experience of the three-

member team of the SUCI to the effect that the two communities holding separate haats and bazars, but tried astonishingly to belittle its implication by hastening to add that this development was not a districtwise phenomenon. Then again, the spokesman, perhaps in his overzeal to offer clean chit to the district administration, against whose callous handling of the entire situation every section of the people is vociferous, tried to underscore the grave situation by saying that on an average 20 murders took place every month in Murshidabad and that those should not be thought to be communal murders. Obviously, he was countering the experience of the fact-finding team of the SUCI, which in order to highlight the worsening situation in the district narrated their experience in the Memorandum to the Chief Minister that 'incidents of stray murders are taking place' a week after the ghastly incident.

However, it is to be noted that the demand for causing a judicial inquiry to unearth the culprits behind the sordid game of fratricidal strife, first raised by our party's representative at the all-party meeting in the Circuit House of Murshidabad on 25 June and subsequently emphatically demanded in the Memorandum to the Chief Minister on behalf of our party has been acceded to. But

many questions are agitating the people's mind and these need to be examined. The first question is that why the administration allowed a section of religious processionists to proceed towards Kashimbazar. Even if for argument's sake it is said that they were allowed under compulsion then the question arises: Why were the processionists allowed to proceed through a sensitive area without any police escort? Can the administration deny the fact that if the procession could be prevented from heading towards Kashimbazar the unfortunate incident of communal clash and so many loss of precious lives would not have occurred at all? How could the Lal-gola Passenger train be detained for about 2½ hours at Nasipur Road Railway Station and the mass massacre could continue there for such a long time despite the fact that Lalbagh Police Station is only 20 minutes' walk from the said railway station? Why did the police remain silent spectators to the incident of Nasipur Road Railway Station? No doubt the massacre in Nasipur Railway Station was of very serious nature as has been reported by the people of the locality to the fact-finding team sent by our party. Next, how is it that in their desparate bid to march to the Katra Mosque when the religious people attempted to break the police barricade at Nakurtala Road crossing, some notorious anti-socials could openly and freely attack processionists with fire arms and deadly weapons before the very eyes of the police personnel present there? The fact of police inaction is further corroborated from the shocking incident of murder of Saiab Ali Mondal, a very respected school teacher of Bangetia under Berhampur P.S. It is surprising that in spite of ready information and report and evidence the police are doing nothing to take the culprits into book. Even his dead body could not be traced by the police even 8 days after murder.

From all available accounts, there is no deny-

ing that Kashimbazar incident is the outcome of a premeditated design. The Muslim fundamentalist leadership began their propaganda offensives for offering prayer at Katra Mosque about one and a half months before the ghastly incident. What was the motive behind the call given by the Muslim League leadership for offering prayers at the mosque which is being preserved as a historical monument since 1910 and where no prayer has been held during the last 54 years or so as stated by a representative of the Muslim League at the all-party meeting held in the Circuit House in Murshidabad. Why then the call for march to the mosque? Did they ever raise a demand for restoration of the mosque for the purpose of offering 'namaz'? Everyone of the locality knows they never did. What for the hue and cry was raised for march towards the historical monument? The fact of the matter is that the fundamentalist leadership of the Muslim League wanted to use the religious sentiments of the Muslim community for its narrow ends. Despite Murshidabad being a muslim dominated district, the Muslim League hardly holds any sway over the Muslim masses. They chose religion the most sensitive weapon in their handiwork of organisational revival in the district. Wonder of wonders, Muslim League leaders were never found beside the common Muslim masses in mitigating the burning problems with which they are daily confronted. Neither have they ever been found engaged in people's movement to safeguard the vital interests of the Muslim masses! Significantly, to counter the influence of the Muslim League the Visva Hindu Parishad (VHP) are back in business to pursue its nefarious object. The knowledgeable circles know it for certain that both the VHP and RSS are active for quite long. The nasty role of these Hindu fundamentalist forces in the incident of Kashimbazar cannot be ruled out any way.

It has come to light that centring round a temple adjacent to Katra Mosque, brisk activities have, of late, begun by these forces. Needless to say, like the Katra Mosque, no worship had ever been offered in this temple too even in the remote past. Still then, these obscurantist forces called for a mass congregation of Hindu community on the very day of 'march' to the Katra Mosque. This allegation has been made by many distinguished people of Murshidabad.

Then again, leaving aside the case of the abject administrative failure, the State Government cannot be absolved of its miserable failure to view political portents of communal riots in Murshidabad district and accordingly to tackle it even. This is corroborated by the fact that the only administrative measure the Government had in view was to prepare a plan for blockading the entry of any demonstration to Lalbag on 24th June last, nothing more. In other words, the Government viewed the imminent danger of outbreak of communal riots as a 'law and order' question and needless to say, this approach contributed to worsening of the situation. The situation, on the contrary, ought to have been viewed politically from the very beginning and all attempts should have been directed to nab these religious fundamentalist forces in the budding stage. Democracy and peace loving people along with different progressive cultural organisations including the respected personalities of both the communities of towns, villages and muhullahs could have been drawn together so as to maintain a congenial atmosphere and foster the communal amity of the people of both the communities in the district. But that was not done because of lack of political initiative on the part of the political parties of the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' Government.

(Contd. on page 8)

All-pervasive attack on workers

(Contd. from page 1)

How ominous is the purport and object of this Bill will be understood better if we began by examining first what is there in it. This Bill aims at bringing some basic changes to the two main labour laws — The Trade Unions Act, 1926, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Government argued that it wanted to make a comprehensive industrial law by clubbing these two Acts together. The existing Industrial Disputes Act, as it stands, provides mainly for the method, procedure and authority for settlement of the industrial disputes — needless to say, with the concealed motive of channelising and keeping arrested all these disputes within the confines of legalism.

One basic reality has to be kept in view in this context. In the existing social setup and production relation based on capital-labour, conflict of interest between the two is bound to be there and whatever the pretensions of bourgeois democracy about the principle of equity in the eye of law, labour is the weaker section here. Herein lies the justification for interference in capital-labour disputes to protect labour's interest. But the capitalist State, when it does interfere, does so with just the opposite purpose.

The class conscious workers are quite aware of this reality and they also know that basically it is a continuous process of class struggle between the two antagonistic classes and that the present State is nothing but a coercive bourgeois class instrument to suppress the exploited classes. This class struggle is the objective law of development of society. Whereas the working class seeks consciously to develop this class struggle in its logical course towards resolving the antagonism by bringing an end to this exploitative capitalist system, the ruling capitalist class aims at holding back the process of development of class struggle by attempting, among various other means, at bringing about reconcili-

ation between the conflicting sides and seeking to settle the issues of dispute within a legal framework and institution which in the ultimate end helps the capitalist class continue to enslave labour.

The Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 was but a legislative embodiment of this capitalist motive against labour. The working class was never satisfied with this piece of legislation since it imposed many restrictions and curbs on the rights of workers. With the crisis of capitalism accentuating in the years after Independence, more and more restrictions have been imposed on the workers' rights in various ways at different times. The organised trade union movement, on its part, has been demanding repeatedly more rights for the trade unions, non-interference by the State in the legitimate democratic struggles of the workers, free and full play of the principle of collective bargaining and democratisation of legal provisions in favour of the working class.

In the present phase of accentuation of the all-out crisis of capitalism, the bourgeoisie has been seeking more than ever before to restrict and curb further the trade union rights, including the right to strike. In its argument for the new Bill, the Central Government, throwing aside its old pretensions to protect the interest of the weaker section, that is the workers, has taken the position of declaring openly its intention to promote peace and protect the interest of both the workers and the employers. This is a deceptive argument because, as can be seen easily, anybody professing to serve both the exploiters and the exploited in the present capitalist system is bound to serve in reality the ruling class and go against the working class. The Government has declared further that the new law is designed to promote 'responsible', 'internally-led' trade unions "which gives both workers and employers a stake in jointly searching for settlement and evolving mutually beneficial collective bargaining forums without re-

course to competing militancy among trade unions." Its true implication is that those trade union organisations will be labelled 'irresponsible' who stand truly for the working class and who lead the workers towards militant trade union movements. And those unions will be stamped 'responsible' who will defuse or subvert struggles and will share the Management's problem to trample upon the workers' interest.

Judged in this perspective, the import of the provisions in the new Bill becomes all the more clear.

FIRST, the Bill proposes changes in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, in respect of provisions for the formation and registration of a trade union. Whereas the original Act provides that any seven members of a trade union may apply for registration of the union, the new Bill provides that any application for registration shall have to be made by at least 10 per cent of the workmen employed or engaged in an establishment or in a class of industries where more than 100 workers are engaged.

The Bill provides further that the certificate of registration of any registered trade union which is already in existence and is actively functioning for quite a long time shall be deemed to have been cancelled after 6 months from commencement of the new Act unless an application for continuation of its registration is made by at least 10 per cent of the total workmen engaged in the establishment or industry with which the union is related before the said period of 6 months. The dangerous implication of the provision is that not only any new trade union cannot be registered, but old organised trade unions also cannot remain registered unless at least 10 per cent of the total workers apply for fresh registration. Every trade union has the experience and knowledge that normally nowhere in our country workers enroll themselves as members of a union in large numbers initially or all at a time. Pressure, threats and obstructions are

put to them by the employers and the vested interests. In many cases the workers are harassed, victimised, falsely implicated in criminal cases and removed from service during the process of registration. Under such circumstances, these provisions in the new Bill are nothing but a calculated and open attack on the workers' right to form trade unions.

An oft-heard argument in this context which comes from the Government, the employers and certain reactionary trade union leaders is that multiplicity of unions weakens the trade union movement; so why not put a check on 'proliferation of unions'! But whether multiplicity of unions does or not weaken the trade union movement is a question which concerns the working class, and is not the working class itself competent to tackle it? Why do the Government and the owners take so much interest in this matter? Is it out of love for the workers? The policies, measures and motives of the Government and the owners do not betray a sense of love for the workers. The naked truth is that they want to control the trade unions directly, so that only the Manage-

ment's 'yes' unions might thrive and 'struggle' unions might cease to exist. Clearly, the Government aims at nipping in the bud the seeds of legitimate movement of trade unions and it is apprehended that at least 50 per cent of the existing registered trade unions will be forced out of recognition, should the Bill be allowed to become an Act.

SECOND, in the name of developing 'internal leadership' in trade unions, the new Bill restricts the number of non-worker office bearers or executives of a union to 2 only, whereas in the original Act the number was one half of the total number of office bearers and executives. Further, there is the restrictive provision that a person can become an office bearer of not more than 7 registered trade unions. This is a heinous design to restrict the entrance of conscious and leading elements of the working class movement, an attempt to provide the employers with a scope to pressurise the workers to submit before the Management during negotiation on any dispute and deprive the workers of their right to be guided by a leadership of its own choice.

(Contd. on page 7)

Punjab Operation

(Contd. from page 3)

Central Congress(I) Government concedes to these demands:

1. Chandigarh be transferred to Punjab without any pre-condition;
2. A joint commission with the representatives of the states concerned and the Centre be set up to settle the river waters dispute;
3. All the Sikh soldiers arrested, imprisoned and sacked from Army after the Operation Blue Star be released unconditionally and reinstated;
4. An impartial and high-power statutory commission be set up to enquire into the assassination of Indira Gandhi and its report be published and persons guilty irrespective of their political and official status be meted out exemplary punishment;
5. A statutory enquiry commission be set up to unearth the

facts of Sikh massacre in Delhi and other places, and persons involved in the crime be given sternest punishment;
- 6. Adequate compensation to the next of kin of those killed and honourable rehabilitation of the affected families;
- 7. All persons, including the Jodhpur detenues, arrested on suspicion only without any specific charges inside and outside Punjab be unconditionally released forthwith.

We firmly believe that if these demands are fulfilled it will pave the way for healing the injured Sikh psyche and bring the Sikh support at large in Punjab towards a political solution and thus pave the way for the development of democratic movement in Punjab irrespective of religion and creed along with the countrywide democratic movement of the people against the Congress(I), the main enemy.

Working class must win this battle

(Contd from page 6)

THIRD, in regard to the manner of collection of trade union subscriptions, the new Bill provides that "every member of a registered trade union of workmen shall authorise his employers, in writing, in the presence of such officer and in such a manner as may be prescribed, the deduction of monthly subscription payable by him, to the trade union of which he is a member from his wages and remittance to such trade union."

This provision of authorising the employer by a member for deduction of his union membership subscription from his wages and remittance of the same to his specified union is generally known as the 'check-off system'. All the central trade union organisations, except the ruling party's INTUC, have been protesting for long against this 'check-off system'. Because, this system goes basically against the principle of democratic functioning of a trade union. In the first place, every trade union has to win the confidence of the workers by its activities in defence of the workers' rights and interests and the workers then become members of that union voluntarily and the activists of the trade unions do maintain close contact with the members in general. These are some of the basic principles of the democratic functioning of a trade union. The 'check-off system', if introduced, will go against these basic principles whereby the workers may not be able to choose their union voluntarily, rather may be compelled to authorise in favour of a trade union chosen by the Management. Moreover, this system leaves scope for the employers' financial influence and control upon the union. In short, the 'check-off system' is designed to reduce the trade union basically into stooges of the employers so that the trade union may not be shaped into an instrument of struggle for the workers.

FOURTH, and most dangerous, the workers' right to strike, one of the most po-

werful weapons in their hands today to fight the owners' injustice, illegitimate and illegal perpetrations and repression, has been sought to be undermined through a set stringent measures. The Bill will empower the Government to prohibit strikes in general, in particular strikes in connection with an industrial dispute, on the plea of securing public safety, or conveniences, or maintaining public order, supplies and essential service or employment and industrial peace. Again, 'failure' of negotiations with the Management — a clause never recognised previously as a precondition for calling a strike on a valid ground — has been made so in the new Bill. Besides, previously, notice for a strike call was compulsory only in the case of public utility services. Under the provisions of the proposed Bill it has been made compulsory for workers in all establishments. The Bill provides further that workmen can go for a strike only when the employer refuses to agree to make a reference to arbitration under the section prescribed for the purpose.

The Bill stipulates further that the certificate of registration of a trade union may be withdrawn or cancelled by the Registrar if any trade union indulges in an 'illegal' strike in contravention of the relevant provision in the Industrial Relations Act of 1947. This is another measure to undermine the workers' fundamental right to strike.

Everyone knows that workers are forced to strike work under compelling circumstances arising out of the employers' illegitimate or illegal perpetrations and injustice and for establishing their rights and realising their demands. Now the bourgeoisie has resorted to this subvertive move to deny the workers their present all important weapon of the right to strike.

Besides being designed to snatch away and subvert virtually all the rights of the workers, the Bill is a piece of shrewdly conceived manoeuvre to 'defuse the workers' de-

mands or grievances by way of referring to arbitration or adjudication. But who does not know that arbitration or adjudication in the present setup takes a long time for a decision to be reached and it is not certain either that the most legitimate grievances would be redressed properly and adequately by such decisions? The employer, for his own interest, will usually agree to refer a dispute to arbitrations and, as a result, there can be no 'lawful' strike anywhere, whatever the justification of the workers' demands or whatever the injury or injustice or illegal act the employer may commit against the workers. Under the provisions of the Bill the workers will be compelled to accept the arbitration or adjudication procedures, otherwise their strike will be declared illegal and they will be subject to consequent stringent punishment, including imprisonment. Clearly, the intention behind these provisions is to create a condition when none can go for 'lawful' strikes.

Moreover, the proposal to call a strike valid only when 75 per cent of the members of the bargaining council are in favour of it is absurd under the prevailing conditions. It means that a union or more than one union taken together and having the blessing of the Management but with a following as low as 26 per cent of the total membership can frustrate a strike call given by the majority of workers in the face of severe onslaughts by the employers. This is another provision having the same object of creating a condition under which none can go for a 'lawful' strike.

The scope of the Bill has been made wider still in order to push the workers against the wall. For instance, a large set of disqualifications than heretofore to debar a person from being a member or executive office bearer of a registered union has been prescribed. Conviction in a previous case for an offence under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is one of the newly introduced disquali-

fications. As experience goes, an active trade unionist may be convicted at any time, in course of his trade union and social activities, for a so-called offence like organising or participating in a strike declared illegal or for other 'offences' related to struggle of workers. Such provisions in the new Bill are, therefore, attacks, albeit covertly, on the rights of trade union activity with the object of curbing militant trade union movement. Moreover, by way of increasing steeply the rate of fine in terms of money, the Bill provides for stringent penalties to trade unions for failure to submit returns or to submit any document or sending any statement required by the Act as amended in this new Bill.

The object of all these provisions is too clear. The ruling class and its most trusted agent, the Congress(I), aims at putting a blanket ban on strikes by workers. As against this, by way of keeping a provision that the employer can go for a lockout, even without giving a notice in the event of supposedly imminent threat of violence or damage to property and that this decision of employer will be deemed to have received the approval of the Government, the Bill has been sought to be a shield to protect the owners' interest.

There are other aspects revealing this Bill's exclusively pro-capitalist and anti-working class character. It provides that the jurisdiction, power and authority of any Industrial Relation Commission will be exercised by Benches thereof. Any decision of such a Commission, however adverse for the workers, cannot be contested by the workers because no appeal against it can be made in a High Court. But if ever a decision goes in favour of the workers, it can be contested by the employers in the Supreme Court. It means, a decision against the workers virtually remains mandatory for them.

Given its scope, motive and shrewd design, the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill is far more pervasive, calculated and por-

tentious in its striking power against the working class than any of the preceding draconian laws. No doubt, in its accelerated pace towards all-out fascism to stave off its crisis and sustain its class rule particularly in the present phase when the all-pervasive crisis is rocking the bourgeois system, its trusted defender, the Congress(I) and the Rajiv Gandhi Government, the ruling class has hatched this Bill, along with some other Bills, Acts, Ordinances and the 59th Amendment to Constitution, to guard against any possible upsurge against its fascist onslaughts and to strangle, in particular, its anti-thesis — the working class. The fascist blueprint is unfolding in all its terrible dimensions. Will the working class put up with it? Or will they take up the issue now as a question of life and death? But this fascist move will not stop at disarming the working class only. It is designed to go beyond and draw into its menacing fold all sections of the common people. There is the danger for the common people of India as a whole.

What is to be done? No single trade union organisation has the strength necessary to launch an all-out battle against this onslaught of the bourgeoisie. A powerful united movement of all Opposition trade unions has to be built up. It is because of absence of a powerful united resistance movement that the bourgeoisie could launch these offensives. On the other hand, all Left, democratic and Opposition parties and forces and all democratic minded people should unite to build up a countrywide movement against these offensives and other anti-people policies and measures of the Central Congress(I) Government. Notwithstanding our repeated appeal for such broadbased unity, true unity to fulfil the present historical need has not developed. But to develop this unity is the call of history now. Any wasting of time may prove too costly for the common people. Battles have been won and lost. This battle must be won by the working class and the common people. We need to win to save our present and ensure our future.

Protest against 59th Amendment

(Contd. from page 4)

The Convention adopted a resolution which warned that through these measures the ruling party sought to create an environment to foist a fascist rule over the country. It called upon the people to fight resolutely to resist this menace.

A message from Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, President of the Committee, condemned the 59th Amendment as it was violative of international law and even Constitution of the country. The message also opposed the anti-labour Bills and called upon all radical forces to arrest the upswing of the reactionary trends in the country.

Com. Gian Singh, General Secretary, CPDRS, who presided, drew attention to the design of the ruling class to fan up communal, parochial, divisive and separatist trends and tendencies in the country. He appealed to the people to develop a united and broadbased democratic mass movement to frustrate the ruling party's conspiracy to drive the country towards allout fascism.

Justice D. S. Tewatia, ex-Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court, observed that the 59th Amendment would take away the most precious right to life which the human civilisation had earned through struggles of hundreds of years.

Shri Kuldip Nayar, eminent journalist, appealed for putting up an exemplary resistance against this Bill and other draconian laws. Earlier he observed that the ruling party did not have the will to reach a political settlement of the Punjab tangle.

Shri Anil Nauriya, Advocate, Supreme Court, warned that if initiatives were not taken now to com-

bat the design of the ruling party it would be too late afterwards.

AHMEDABAD

Pursuant to the call of the Emergency Virodhi Manch, the Ahmedabad District Unit of the party observed anti-Emergency Day in this city. A demonstration against 59th Amendment to Constitution and other Black Bills and Acts was held on 25th June, near Sardar Baug-Roopali Chowk. A poster exhibition was arranged to highlight the dark aspects of 59th Amendment, revision of CrPC 157 and 107, NSA, the two Bills pending before Parliament, etc. The exhibits included some quotations from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

As the demonstrators were preparing to burn an effigy symbolising the dark memories of Emergency, a police contingent arrived and forcibly took away the effigy. Thereafter, the demonstrators held a street corner meeting which was addressed by Com. Dwarika Nath Rath, in-charge of the Gujarat State Unit of the party. Com. Rath observed that an undeclared state of Emergency was prevailing in the country and the 59th Amendment was a move to constitutionalise the Emergency, paving the way for consolidation of fascism. He called upon the people to frustrate this move by all means.

CORRIGENDUM

In the previous issue on page 5 column 1 of the article 'Hospital and Other Institutions Bill...' 1969 should be read as 1967.

In the article 'Afghan Accord...', on pages 2 col. 1, 5, page 3 col. 2, 3, page 6 col. 1, 3, Soviet intervention has been misprinted as 'Soviet invasion'. The errors are regretted.

—EDITOR, PROLETARIAN ERA

Movements in states

TAMIL NADU

The Madurai District Committee of the party organised a protest demonstration in front of the Chellampatti Panchayat Union office on 1st July last, condemning the criminal negligence and callous apathy of the authorities and demanding adequate compensation to the peasants affected by an unprecedented damage to cotton crops in Madurai district caused by pest attack. Hundreds of peasants from villages had gathered, holding pest affected cotton plants in their hands. Com. S. Palanisamy, member, Madurai District Committee of the party, led the demonstration. A delegation headed by Com. Rajaperumal, Secretary, Madurai South Local Committee, met the Commissioner in-charge and handed over a charter of demands including those to write off land revenue and agricultural loans of the affected peasants. The demonstrators decided to continue the movement till realising their demands.

GUJARAT

The MSS in Gujarat has launched a campaign in different parts of the State against obscenity, in particular the exhibition of pornographic films. A racket of film distributors and yellow journalists with clandestine patronage from a section of Government officials is doing a brisk business, polluting the moral atmosphere for the youth especially. In Ahmedabad the MSS led a deputation to the Chief Minister and sub-

mitted to him a memorandum on the issue. It also met Union Ministers, Sm. Rajendra Kumari Bajpayee and Sm. Margaret Alva, and the Police Commissioner.

In Rajkot, the MSS held a demonstration against screening of a pornographic film. The authorities had to stop the show ultimately.

The recent revision by the Gujarat Government of CrPC 157 and 107, giving more powers to the police over Judiciary, evoked strong resentment among lawyers, trade union organisations and Opposition parties. The State unit of the SUCI, along with other

parties and forces, undertook a campaign movement against this fascist step of the Government. In face of growing opposition, the Congress(I) Government has decided to suspend operation of the revision it introduced. The State Unit of the party has decided to create public opinion in favour of total withdrawal of the revised policy.

Condemning the fresh imposition of taxes in the State to the tune of Rs 174 crores, Com. Dwarika Nath Rath, in-charge of the Gujarat unit of the party, has issued a statement in which he charged the State Congress(I) Government for using the common people as a scapegoat to cover up its object failure.

Murshidabad riots

(Contd. from page 5)

Today, dark clouds of parochialism - communalism - regionalism loom large in the national life of our country. A spectre of fratricidal strife is haunting the people constantly. Bloody fratricidal clashes on communal, regional and parochial lines are erupting from one end of the country to another over insignificant issues. Why this flare ups? One should reflect. To safeguard the bourgeois class rule amid an ever-deepening allout crisis, the ruling capitalist class has not only been robbing the people of their democratic rights, but to disrupt the people's unity against its anti-people policies, the ruling capitalist class, is pandering to the communal, casteist, parochial, separatist and divisive sentiments, to sustain the bourgeois rule. Only the blind can afford to remain unaware of these dangerous omens. All Left, democratic and Opposition parties and forces, including democracy and peace loving people should come forward and unite on a broadbased

platform to resist this menace.

From the facts and circumstances including the present situation and the role of administration stated herein before the following remedial measures, we think, ought to be demanded of the Government on behalf of the democracy and peace loving people of West Bengal :

1. Formation of 'Communal harmony Committee' composing of all party representatives and prominent individuals from both the 'communities all over the district ;
2. Institution of Judicial enquiry (which was initially demanded by our party representative Com. Achintya Singha in the all party meeting held at Circuit House in Murshidabad on 25th June) to reveal the truth ;
3. Immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the culprits ;
4. Adequate compensation to the families of those who have been murdered and injured in the clash.

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