

Kultali— A Pointer To Fascist Method

The aftermath of the Kultali incidents of January 14 and 15 last, reported in these columns in the issue before last, is being dragged into a course by the Congress(I) police-administration and a section of the monopoly press that is reminiscent of the fascist tactics pursued by Hitler and his men in Germany. On the one hand, a reign of terror has been let loose by the Congress(I) on innocent people and workers and supporters of the SUCI in Kultali and areas far beyond. The miscreants are rampaging around, no action being taken against them by the administrative authority despite the complaints lodged with the police and the repeated representation to the Chief Minister. On the other hand, the Congress(I), press and police together have launched a sinister and mischievous propaganda on an unprecedented scale in a bid to confuse the public and malign the image of the SUCI, preparing thus a ground for mass killing and mounting fascist onslaughts on the organizational base of poor peasants and agricultural labourers built up over the years by our party in South 24 Parganas in West Bengal through many a historic mass and class struggle against the jotedar-police-administration-vested interest combine. The motive behind this planned and orchestrated move becomes too clear if the trend of developments is taken into account.

All the three unofficial teams which held inquiry into the Kultali incidents independently came to the conclusion that the sad death of two persons in mob fury on the 15th January after they were chased out by an agitated mob and caught with firearms in their possession was the direct sequel to the incident on the 14th January when some Congress(I) miscreants had opened fire on some SUCI workers, injuring one, Sadananda Ghughu, in gunshot. Com. Basudev Purkait, the SUCI pradhan of the Chuprihara anchal which belongs to Kultali had lodged a written complaint with the police on the 14th January incident but no action was taken. The Congress(I), now trying to exploit the situation, unleashed an orgy of torture and violence, mounting raids, savage assaults and murderous attacks on SUCI workers, supporters and innocent people in Kultali and faraway places.

Meanwhile, on the 16th, 21st and 30th January, the West Bengal State Committee of our party made representations to Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, urging him to take measures to put an end to the Congress(I) terrorism and demanding a judicial inquiry into the incidents. But with the police and

administration taking no steps against the miscreants, torture and persecution of innocent people and SUCI workers and supporters, which included indiscriminate beating, looting of all their belongings, arson and assault on women, went on increasing every day.

In another representation to the Chief Minister by our party on the 11th February, concrete instances of how the Congress(I) had let loose a reign of terror not only in Kultali but in areas beyond it were cited and the demand was made that normality be restored immediately in all these areas and steps be taken for safety and security of

ELECTION VICTORY OF SUCI CANDIDATES

Braving all odds and in the face of the systematic administrative rigging operation by the Congress(I) and free use of money and muscle power, SUCI candidates have been victorious in Bihar and Orissa—Comrade N.R.Singh from Kanti, Bihar, and Comrade Sambhunath Nayak from Joshipur (ST), Orissa.

the affected people.

Hundreds of poor families have had to leave their home and hearth, with no means to support themselves and ensure their protection. Where could they lodge complaint and seek justice? The police, the custodian of public security, are themselves lending a hand

in the perpetration of crimes by the Congress(I) and jotedars on the people. Demanding measures against the increasing torture and oppression by the Congress(I) in collusion with the police, mothers and sisters from Kultali, Jaynagar and Mathurapuri areas of South 24 Parganas came to Calcutta to hold a protest demonstration on the 16th February under the banner of the Mahila Sanskritik Sangha. The young and the aged alike among the marches, including septagenarian women, raised firm voice against the Congress(I) oppression and demanded restoration of normalcy in these affected areas. At Esplanade East they held a rally where Com. Prativa Mukherjee, well known mass leader and president of the MSS, and others, including the mother and wife of Com. Mokaram Khan, a leading organiser of the SUCI and pradhan of Marygung No. 1 anchal under Kultali PS who was assassinated by the Congress(I)-jotedar clique last year, addressed them. The speakers narrated how the Congress(I) miscreants were torturing the poor masses, assaulting women, forcing them to give thumb impressions on blank sheets, looting all belongings and setting houses to fire. A memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister and narrating how the poor people of these areas, the womenfolk in particular, were spending days under terror and in total insecurity was handed over to his office as he was not available to receive the deputation.

Side by side with this mounting oppression, the

mischievous and slanderous campaign against our party by the press, police and the Congress(I) has intensified. They are spreading lies and concocted stories of all kinds, believing, like Goebbles, that a lie repeated artfully and many times can be made to sound like (Cohtd. on page 4)

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DELHI RIOT

Hold Inquiry To Punish Real Culprits

Our party SUCI demanded of the government of India on November 14, '84 to mind seriously to the "prime task of unearthing the plot and punishing the plotters and perpetrators of the heinous crime of assassinating Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and of letting loose the countrywide orgy of anti-Sikh violence, killings and indignities to women." We warned the people not to allow the government to evade this task which must be considered vital in any democratic governance and not to be misled by emotions of ill-feelings against any community.

But all democratic-minded well-meaning persons must be shocked deeply that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his government are doing their best to hush up the whole matter and disown the responsibility to the survivors of thousands of victim Sikh families even in the capital. Demand has justifiably

democratic norms and principles, honoured even in bourgeois democracy.

The Prime Minister has been quoted to have said (in his interview with INDIA TODAY): "We don't think it will help at the moment. It would raise issues which are really dead."

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is on record of having commented that enquiry into the November carnage in the capital and other parts of the country will not be in the best interest of the Sikhs who fell victim. Does he mean to say then that he as the Prime Minister is the sole arbitrator as to whether the Sikhs as the citizens of this country whose basic civil rights and liberties have been outraged are entitled to demand justice or in the reverse, justice to the citizens is a matter of mercy of the rulers?

Strange indeed are the words from a person in the position of the Prime Minister, more so from one who promised to restore 'value based politics'. What value does this stand reflect? Usually the accused fears an enquiry that brings to light their criminal acts but the innocent and honest have nothing to fear, rather they demand it. So when the Prime Minister says that it will not help, whom does he really mean? An enquiry unearthing the accused will not surely help them but the Prime Minister of a democratic country, in the bourgeois sense even, is not expected to shield those accused of damaging the unity and (Contd. on page 5)

been raised by civil liberties organisations and distinguished persons along with us to hold enquiry in the switch on and switch off of the gravest human tragedies in the country since the Partition but the Prime Minister and the government are behaving in a manner that violates least

BHOPAL— Sordid Tale Of Man Made Human Tragedy

The very name Bhopal continues, and will continue to haunt like memory of a nightmare that shook the civilized and industrialized world. It was the world's most terrible industrial catastrophe, perhaps the biggest calamity of the century that happened in Bhopal in the dark night of the 2nd December, 1984. The tragedy, inflicting incalculable damage in terms of human lives and sufferings, deeply shocked the people all over the world.

Though the government report stated that the death toll was 3000, responsible and reliable unofficial sources put the figure at 20,000 or more. A large number of people have become crippled, some thousands are still struggling against death.

Almost three months have elapsed after the gas tragedy, yet most of the deadly questions relating to the gas leak—like how could the leak actually occur or the identification of killer gas or gases—all remain unanswered still, or whatever answers have been given are unscientific and illogical, too. In this regard, both the management and the government are found to behave in a manner that conspicuously helps to confuse the people. We know that the people of our country and abroad who feel seriously concerned about this tragedy want to know the truth, that is the underlying cause or causes of this ghastly killing of several thousands of people. The object of the present article is to throw light to unveil the truth underlying the disaster, so far as is possible from the facts published till now. A critical examination of facts so far gathered would reveal that the Bhopal tragedy was a man made calamity—a disaster 'jointly ventured' by the multinational Union Carbide and the government (both at the state and the centre).

In conclusion, the article reflects in brief on some aspects of preventive measures against any recurrences of ghastly incidents as this and also on protection from hazards associated with the toxic

chemicals which are the prerequisites for manufacture of pesticides insecticides, and like.

BASIC CHEMISTRY UNDERLYING MANUFACTURE OF MIC

A major question that haunts many is whether MIC alone is the 'killer' or if any other gas or gases along with MIC were responsible for the tragic death of thousands of people and crippling of thousands of others. In this regard, we have come across the name of two other toxic chemicals—phosgene and mono-methylamine (MMA).

To get some idea regarding how these chemicals are connected with the manufacture of the pesticide, we like to touch in brief the chemical processes involved and the chemicals used for the said manufacture.

Monomethylamine or MMA (which, to all chemists, is commonly known as methyl amine) is first allowed to react with phosgene. During the reaction hydrochloric acid is produced along with an intermediate chemical compound which on heating produces methyl isocyanate commonly known as MIC.

MIC thus produced by some further chemical treatment is converted into Sevain-Carbary, the pesticide.

Of these three substances i.e. phosgene, chemically known as carbonylchloride, MIC and MMA, phosgene is a liquid at low temperature (boils at 8°C, and the atmosphere temperature in Bhopal at the time of the accident was round about 14°C).

It is a highly poisonous gas commonly known as a war gas and was used by the rulers of Germany during the first World War. It is highly toxic and strongly irritating to the eye. It causes severe pulmonary oedema or pneumonia. The tiny sacs of the lungs become filled with body fluid and hydrochloric acid (which is produced when phosgene reacts with water). The symptoms of

phosgene poisoning are constricted feeling in the chest, feeling of pain during breathing, coughing and bloody sputum. An exposure to phosgene present in the atmosphere to the extent of 10 ppm (10 parts per million) for one hour may cause severe poisoning.

MIC is normally a liquid boiling at 39°C. Now how could it come out in the form of 'gas' (truly speaking vapour) at a temperature of 14°C?

It is a fact that due to some particular reason or reasons temperature went above 39°C, and two thirds of the MIC became 'gas' and escaped into the atmosphere.

One particular view is: we know that some amount of phosgene is added to MIC to act as an inhibitor to check its conversion into a kind of solid plastic type material (through a well known chemical process called polymerization). Perhaps some water entered (leak was already there!) the MIC tank, reacted with phosgene generating hydrochloric acid. This reaction generated heat and high pressure. Hydrochloric acid so produced, initiated polymerization of MIC, which again released heat. Excessive heat thus produced and pressure generated caused cracks in the concrete shell of the tank and MIC came out in a huge quantity (40 tonnes) in the form of a 'gas'.

It was really astounding that the Union Carbide officials tried to underplay, regarding the toxic effect of MIC which some of them even claimed to be 'not toxic', whereas the available literature on the chemical claims it to be highly toxic. It may not be out of place to mention that the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards limit exposure of persons to MIC to .02 parts per million over an eight hour period. Some idea regarding the toxicity of MIC can also be gathered from that of similar compounds. A similar compound is TDI

(Toluene di-isocyanate). Recent studies have shown that an exposure to even 5ppm for 15 percent in an eight hour time-weighted period would lead to lung functional damage. Like TDI, MIC too impairs central nervous system. Again MIC was one of the chemical substances once tested as a possible weapon in chemical warfare by the US. Despite all these facts, the Union Carbide management once said that MIC was not toxic. Is it not a criminal offence?

Apart from phosgene and MIC, the other chemical that was also perhaps responsible for the disaster was MMA i.e. mono-methyl amine. This chemical is also highly toxic. It is not only a raw material for the manufacture of MIC, but is also a product when MIC breaks down after coming in contact with water (or body fluid).

So, one can presume that all these three deadly chemicals played the role of the 'Killer'. As regards phosgene, some objected on the plea that the factory act went against the storage of phosgene. And according to the existing rule as soon as phosgene is produced, it must be transformed into MIC. But how can one trust that a management which has managed to flout all the existing acts and prohibitory rules, would faithfully adhere to the law even at least on this point?

So, how could one be certain that phosgene too was not stored and its storage tank also did not crack? This apart, we know that phosgene was definitely present.

Because earlier we have observed that phosgene is added to MIC to check its transformation into a solid plastic type material. Though the company officials agreed that phosgene was mixed with MIC, they never disclosed the composition of the MIC (said to be the 'commercial' variety) i.e. they never disclosed it and the government too did not pressurise them to disclose it. Mr. Varada-

rajan, the Director-General of the CSIR (The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) admitted that the Union Carbide did not furnish any specification of the grade of MIC which it manufactured. He of course kept mum on if the government did take any measure to get it from the management.

Another point also deserves mentioning.

Forensic report strongly pointed to cyanide poisoning also. The question is: can MIC in human body break down to hydrocyanic acid or cyanide, so to say? Normally MIC breaks into MMA and carbon dioxide when it comes in contact with water present in the body fluid. So from the chemist's point of view such a reaction is improbable, if not impossible. Only adequate bio-chemical research backed by chemical research can throw light on this point.

Be that as it may, this brings in another crucial issue if there was any other material, other than phosgene, MIC and MMA. Was there any such chemical (if not cyanide) whose effect on the human body was very much similar to that of cyanide? We know that the multinational companies have R & D Wing (Research and Development). The establishment of research centres entitles them to 60 percent tax benefits.

The question is: were some research activities basically different from industrial research being carried out under the garb of the latter? And who can say that a product or products of these research activities was also not responsible for the disaster? This has assumed much importance since an important and responsible news agency has reported that a large number of chemical warfare experts had descended on Bhopal in the garb of doctors and technicians following the gas leak. It is queer indeed that the government not only did nothing to unearth the

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Asian and oceanic countries' trade unions meet in New Delhi

A THREE-day Asian and Oceanic Trade Union Conference on Development and New Economic Order has been held in New Delhi from 4 to 6 February, 1985 at the Vigyan Bhavan which has been first of its kind.

Trade Union delegations from 21 countries of the region participated in the conference amongst whom were there prominent trade union leaders of these countries and leaders of the International organisations like World Federation of Trade Unions (W.F.T.U.). Other World organisations like I.C.F.-T.U. and W.C.L. were also invited, but not participated, though some of the national Trade Union centres affiliated to the latter two organisations have participated. The participating countries include Japan (SOHYO), Australia (ICFTU affiliated union), Bangladesh (various T.U.s united in Sramik Ayikya Parishad including Bangladesh Samaj Tantrik Sramik Front), Pakistan, North Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia (ICFTU), Mongolia, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand (ICFTU), Philippines (WFTU), Idoman Island (WFTU), Srilanka (both WFTU & ICFTU unions), Thailand (WCL), USSR (WFTU) and India.

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has been represented by its General Secretary— Ibrahim Zakaria, Secretaries—Boris Aver Jov and D. Ganguty and others. World Peace Council has also participated as fraternal organisation.

Several United Nations Agencies like ILO through its New Delhi regional Director, UNIDO through its Deputy Director, Viena, UNDPESCAP through its resident representative, Delhi, and FAO also participated.

Amongst the Indian organisations A I T U C (President C. Mishra, Gen. Secretary Indrajit Gupta and other leaders), UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Vice-President Gain Singh, General

Secretary Pritish Chanda and Delhi State Asst. Secretary R. K. Sharma) participated.

During the three day deliberations representatives of all the participating countries delivered speeches. General Secretary of UTUC(L.S.) Comrade Pritish Chanda delivered a very important and inspiring speech focussing on the serious attention among others, problem created by the multinational TNCs and the role of imperialism, neo-colonialism and the capitalism in the present era and showing what should be working class outlook for a 'New World Economic Order', on the principal demand of which the conference was organized. Below we give extracts from the speech of Comrade Chanda delivered and circulated at the conference.

—Ed. P. Era

We are meeting at a time when the world capitalist imperialist system is rocked by the third phase of general crisis when the world capitalist system shows the uniformity in approach towards shifting the burden of crisis, which is overall crisis, on to the shoulder of the working class in various forms, not only in soaring figure of unemployed under-employed but denial of living standard worth civilized existence, wages and other opportunities, working conditions kept deliberately depressed, in the face of mounting burdens and spiralling of prices of essential commodities. Besides, due to chronic and ever continuing recession, factories, industrial units remain closed, locked out and are going sick etc. And the workers' rights to struggle are being robbed of by one after another authoritarian enactment.

The cry for a new economic order arises from fact that the newly resurgent capitalist countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America are faced with unequal competition, being deprived of capital, technology and markets as also suffer-

ing from the gross injustice as regards denial of increase in price for their exporting items, mostly agricultural products while paying for the increase in price of manufactured goods, machineries etc. of the advanced capitalist countries.

The Non-aligned Movement (NAM) has been demanding not scrapping altogether of the Bretton Woods World Monetary System of the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariff) which were the mechanism devised to maintain overlordship of imperialist capitals of the advanced imperialist-capitalist countries over the weaker ones but only spoke for the 'need for a comprehensive reform of the existing inequitable international monetary and financial system.' It was urging the private financial capitals of the imperialist countries which according to it (NAM) "have a continuing role to play" to be generous (?) in coming to the developing of what is now the commonly known abbreviation LDC's (Low Development Countries).

The NAM's call for a new economic order restricts itself to the demands for relaxation of tariff barrier of the advanced countries, more financial help either in the form of investment of private finance capital or liberalisation of loans and conditionalities etc. of the multinational institutions like the IMF, the enhancement of drawing rights from its fund etc.

The basic question, in my opinion, before this Conference is what should we mean by a 'new economic order' from the working class standpoint. Should we mean some readjustments between the different interest groups within the imperialist capitalist camp viz— the US finance capital's interest on the one hand, the second group—the EEC (European Economic Community) countries and along with it Japan and

the third group—the LDC's?

No doubt, injustice is there, against the LDC's by the former two, who though in sharp competition for redivision of their markets among themselves show not too different attitude to the third group. But how can working class bring order in the world capitalist system which is not only crisis-torn and chaos discredited but itself outlives to stand as the biggest hurdle to human progress and advancement? So, the new order for the working class is something qualitatively different, something based on facts and historic reality.

The Background Paper refers only cursorily to the fact of net outflow of capital from Asian as if lured by the high rate of interest in world commercial banking. But this does not reveal the facts. The fact remains that, firms in Brazil, Hongkong, Philippine, India, Mexico and some of the OPEC countries are among the newly emerging TMC's (Trans-national Corporations) from the LDC's. Most of these investments are directed towards other developing countries often located in the same region.

The next disturbing point is 'militarization of economy'. Due to acute crisis of capitalism the rulers try to stave off the crisis by giving orders to probate firms, to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees, taxing and at the same time depriving the working class of their just demands for productive investments generating employment of welfare schemes.

Another fact is worth noting. It is about the growing importance of banking institution, as Lenin pointed out so many years ago, in his epoch-making book on 'Imperialism, a powerful instrument for exploitation by imperialist capital. That is why today, "Expansion of TNCs has been followed by the growing interna-

tionalisation of service industries. The most outstanding example is the case of transnational banks... The stock of debt of developing countries to TNBs grew from 43 Billion in 1973 to 269 billion in 1980". And in fact, "the rapid growth of lending by transnational banks to LDCs has overshadowed the role of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) as a form of resource flow." TNBs association with TNCs in the US and other advanced capitalist countries is another point not touched here in details.

The rise of joint ventures... show how TNCs adopted to the policies of LDCs which emphasised domestic ownership and control. Joint ventures and licensing of technology and know-how without foreign equity participation are two important forms of TNC participation which have become increasingly popular. The main forms of non-equity arrangements are licensing of patents, trade marks and know-how, technical assistance agreements, turn-contracts and marketing contract.

The common demands, in our opinion, should, therefore, be against the respective governments—

(1) investment of capital and resources for industrial and agricultural developments in the countries;

(2) ensuring the living standard of the working people which must be continually developing—not mere acceptance in words but by implementing at least, the ILO norms in wages, index formulation, conditions of services, safety regulations etc;

(3) workers' democratic rights to be safeguarded and all enactments taking away those to be withdrawn;

(4) Safety measures in all establishments, mines, chemical industries, etc, to be enforced strictly along with general demands of peace, stopping of armament race, ecological hazards due to nuclear race etc.

EXPORTING HAZARDS

We now refer to the (Contd. on page 8)

Congress (I) conspiracy to combine press-police-bureaucracy against SUCI

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truth ultimately. To paint the SUCI as a savage and ferocious band and thus denigrate its image as the genuine friend of the toiling people, they are dishing out ghastly crime stories like how SUCI workers 'forced the mother of Abdur Rahman Laskar eat rice soaked in the blood of Abdur', or how the SUCI MLA from Kultali, Com. Prabodh Purkait, 'led a mob to kill Abdur Rahman Laskar and Abdur Ali Molla on the 15th January'.

But however much these pedlars in falsehood may try to carry on with their fascist tactics, they will not succeed in making the people believe in all this by their heinous propaganda. Because, the people will take note of the fact that neither in the Congress(I) statements or accusations made during a period of 5 days following the incident of January 15, nor in the accounts appearing in this period in a section of the press, which now so avidly is propagating these charges against the SUCI, is there any mention of SUCI workers committing such ghastly crimes as forcing a mother eat rice soaked in her son's blood, throwing a child into a pond, assaulting women, or an SUCI MLA having led the killing of two Congress (I) workers. Even the police reports during this period had not mentioned any such thing. No less significant is the fact that even after these charges began to be voiced as an orchestrated move from a specific point of time—some 5 days after the January 14 and 15 incidents—these were replete with numerous contradictions. For instance, some accounts said that the SUCI MLA and anchal prodan appeared on the scene after the infuriated mob had chased out the Congress (I) workers and they both tried to pacify the mob, while other accounts in the same dailies spoke of the MLA

and the anchal prodhan as leading the mob to kill the Congress (I) workers.

To rake up suspicion in the public mind, these sources next began to chant in chorus that Com. Probodh Purkait was absconding. It is revealing that in the first police report on January 17 there was no mention of Com. Probodh Purkait or Com. Basudev Purkait. Only after a section of the monopoly press and the Congress (I) had come out with these fabricated and most slanderous charges against our party and party MLA and anchal prodhan some 5 days after January 14 and 15 incidents, the police started dishing out that Com. Probodh Purkait's name was mentioned in an FIR and he would be arrested on this ground. It is noteworthy that a DIG of the West Bengal police, Sadananda Chakraborty is on record as having commented:

'The FIR mentions Mr. Probodh Purkait, but in itself it is not sufficient ground to lead to one's arrest.' (Ananda Bazar Patrika, 23.1.85).

On the contrary, all the 3 unofficial inquiry teams have categorically refuted these charges. In the previous issue we had cited from the statement issued by the team led by Sri Dwijendralal Sengupta, ex M.P. Here we cite relevant lines from the statement issued by the inquiry team led by Sri Sanat Kumar Mandal, the RSP MP from the Jaynagar Parliamentary constituency to which Kultali belongs:

"It is our firm opinion that the accounts of these incidents appearing in various dailies are mostly contradictory and exaggerated. Not only that we have had no evidence to corroborate the reported account of feeding a mother rice soaked in her son's blood, the said mother of Abdur Rahman Laskar herself strongly denied this account."

Another unofficial inquiry

team, that of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), has recorded in its statement on completion of its inquiry: "On the other hand, numerous villagers recorded statements with the APDR team alleging wanton arrests, beating up of the people arrested, looting of valuables and money by the police, extortion of money, poultry, fishes, eggs, and other edibles by the police and other excesses.

"Apart from these the APDR team noted the gross partiality of the police towards the Congress supporters, especially moneyed ones, in that the police is energetically pursuing cases in which they are victims while no cognizance has been taken of the arson and assault committed in Sonatikri village by a mob allegedly led by a Congress ex-MLA against SUCI supporters, most of whom the APDR team found to be poor peasants."

While in reality thus it is the Congress(I) which, in collusion with the police, is committing all sorts of crime including physical assault, rape and kidnapping, the press-police-Congress(I) combine is carrying out a sinister campaign to put the slur on the SUCI and confuse the public at large. This combine has resorted to vindictive and motivated arrest of SUCI workers on a massive scale on false and concocted charges including dacoity and other crime. On 24th February at night 2 minor girls, Karima Naskar and Rousenara Naskar, were raped by some Congress(I) miscreants. Before that on 22nd February, Sadananda Ghughu, victim of the gunshot injury by Congress(I) miscreants on 14th January was kidnapped from his residence by Congress(I) hooligans and was subsequently confined in the residence of the Congress(I) leader Aurobinda Naskar. Important local SUCI workers are being falsely implicated in dacoity charges. In yet another representation to the chief minister by our Party, a

memorandum along with copies of written complaints mentioning specific names of culprits in the two rape cases and a copy of a petition by the father of Sadananda Ghughu addressed to the home secretary was submitted on the 28th February. A protest demonstration was also held on 3rd March by mothers and sisters in front of the Joynagar police station.

The press-police-Congress(I) clique, on the other hand, is conducting its mischievous campaign in such a way that, as if, Com. Probodh Purkait has already been proved to be guilty of the charge against him, and he is absconding to save his skin—thus trying not only to vitiate the public mind against the SUCI but also to influence the court of law against comrade Purkait. They raised a hue and cry over 'an absconding MLA', although the court had granted hearing for anticipatory bail for Com. Purkait and as per law, till the court gave

its ruling, the police could not arrest him and there was absolutely no question of Com. Purkait absconding. Following the court's ruling Com. Purkait made himself available before the judge.

To make its mischievous campaign believable to the public, the Congress(I) has also advanced a 'theory' that 'the SUCI had planned the killing operation because the voting figures of the recent elections showed an erosion of the SUCI's strength in the Kultali area and an increase in the Congress(I) strength. That the truth is just the reverse will be evident from the relevant facts of voting figures of 5 booths of the area shown in the accompanying table.

It follows from the table not only did the Congress(I) get less votes than the SUCI at booths 1 and 2, at every booth in the area the SUCI's votes increased at the Lok-sabha election compared to the Panchayat election over the Congress(I). This gives lie to the Congress(I) propaganda.

Booth	Panchayat Ele. 1983		Loksabha Elec. 1985	
	Cong-I	SUCI	Cong-I	SUCI
1. W. Radhaballavpur				
FP School (1)	56	238	29	309
FP School (2)	106	186	194	315
3. E. Radhaballavpur				
FP School	321	263	343	338
4. Joramukhi				
FP School (1)	431	196	407	255
5. do (2)				
	(2 taken together)		(2 taken together)	

All complaints and representations by our party so far have failed to stir up the authority to take steps against those culprits who are violating law and order to unleash a reign

of terror, torture and all sorts of crimes on poor masses over large areas. Wanton lies are being spread against the victims,

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Language Movement in W. Bengal

The Committee to Resist Curtailment of Education and Encroachment on Autonomy has now become a household word in West Bengal as it testified the depth of the people's concern and degree of their firm resolve to resist the disastrous anti-people language and education policy of the 'Left Front' Government. Never before in the annals of the democratic mass movements, since independence, has any de-

mocratic movement like that of the 'Language and Education' movement still continuing in West Bengal, for more than 5 years at a stretch, continued for such a prolonged spell of time.

True to its tradition, so preciously cherished here in West Bengal which grew, step by step through organizing historic movements in different stages with which our readers, through the pages of Proletarian Era, are intimately

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integrity of the country by trampling fundamental rights and liberties of the citizens and what is more, bringing shame on the country, by savageries, pure and simple.

Then, the issue cannot be dead for when an enquiry at times judicial enquiry is made into the death of citizens by police firings or organised violence, it is done not to bring to life the dead but to detect the reasons for such death, if by criminal acts either by the persons in uniform or organised hooligans, punish them for violation of basic rights and liberties which the government is duty-bound to protect. So, by denial of the enquiry, so very essential, particularly in cases where persons of a particular community, the Sikhs suffered most, the government is showing either its bias against a particular community or fear about its complicity in the crime proved or both.

It is further to be noted that the new government of Rajiv Gandhi which is being lauded to the sky by Press, barring a few notable and noble exceptions, went to the unprecedented extent of pressurising the judiciary to forestall the hearings in the Delhi High Court on a writ petition filed by the PUDR, a civil rights organisation, demanding of the Central Government an enquiry into the Delhi carnage of November last. 'Onlooker' a news magazine (February 22, '85), discloses that after a notice was served on the Central Government by the Court, the Union Minister of State for Law Hans Raj Bhavadwaj personally called on one of the judges on the bench to ensure withdrawal of the court's order, on the so-called ground that 'pursuance of the case would be harmful for the integrity of the country'!

So, the demand for holding enquiry into the terrible criminal acts committed on the citizens of the country, to which community they belong is no matter, becomes something prejudicial to the 'integrity'

of the country according to the government. Not only this, the government that stands accused goes to the extent of dictating the Court as to which case to be admitted or not.

The basic question that must be the cause of serious concern for all well-meaning democratic minded persons in the country is about the fate of fundamental civic rights and liberties of people. For, judiciary and its judicial process was evolved in bourgeois democracies to protect and safeguard the basic civic rights and liberties of the citizens against violations of those by the executive, by ensuring 'due process of law', 'rule of law' for upholding justice. Can it exist when the executive which is the offender dictates and the courts faithfully obey? Will the courts then exist only to legitimise the offences or guilts of the executive? If so, what else will it be other than complete burial of justice in the land?

But what are the causes for the panic and nervousness that the government is showing to face an impartial enquiry? Causes there are indeed. The Sunday Observer (February 3, 1985) reports that the three civil rights organisation — PUCL, PUDR and one Citizens for Democracy—Citizens Commission led by the former Chief Justice of India, S. M. Sikri after having made their independent investigations were unanimous on two points—first, that the mass killings in Delhi cannot be called a 'communal riot' as not only there was no clash between the Hindus and the Sikhs but a large number of Hindus came in defence of their Sikh neighbours and friends, and did their best to organise relief works when the government seemed to be non-existent.

Secondly, the holocaust was organised and engineered by the Congress(I) leaders including MPs and central minister with the help of armed hooligans and paralyzing

completely the police and administration.

The PUCL/PUDR reports name 16 Congress(I) politicians including H. K. L. Bhagat, the present minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Jagadish Tytler and Lalit Maken, two sitting MPs and ex-MPs, Sajjan Kumar and Dharam Das Shastri. Apart from these persons in khadi, 13 officers in uniform have been named who played dominant role not to save the people for which people pay their salaries but to kill them.

This shows the direct complicity of the ruling party and the government it runs. The fact gets further confirmed when the minister, MPs and local leaders of the Congress(I) did all they could do to get the arrested hooligans released by bringing pressure on police administration. The Home Minister had to admit in the Rajya Sabha that although some 1922 persons were arrested on criminal charges, only 96 of them remain for trial and are in judicial custody. The other aspect is mass massacre at such a large scale, mostly of persons belonging to the Sikh community could not be concealed. The government of India admits the figure of the killed to be 2,400 and odds which is far less the actual figure. Crime on humanity, more so, connected at such a gigantic scale must be the matter of grave concern for any government that claims it to be a civilized and democratic one.

This ghastly crime has added another dimension to the Punjab problems yet to be resolved. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi after the parliamentary poll announced the inclination of his government to resolve the Punjab issues. But the efforts of his government, till now, have not proceeded further than forming a Cabinet Sub-committee. A government sincerely desirous of solving the Punjab issues must have taken up the enquiry into the crime committed on the Sikh community in Delhi and elsewhere and started implementing a programme of social and

economic rehabilitation of the victim families, in the real sense of the terms. Instead, those fallen victim have been treated as if they are responsible for their own miseries. This cannot create the helpful climate for removing the sense of alienation of the Sikh community after what have been done in Punjab by the military operation or the organized crime in Delhi and other places fomenting and even engineering regional, communal and other parochial disturbances. The attitude, the government is showing in regard to acceptance of the most democratic demand of enquiry proves to the hilt, its real motive and design. Disturbing news about helpless survivors trekking their ways to Punjab are coming in the press. What can be the reaction in Punjab is not difficult to understand. Yet, the government that declares its intention to solve the problems in Punjab instead of doing so is actually adding to those by evading the enquiry.

It is therefore crystal clear that as the most trusted agent of the ruling capitalist class and moving with the class design to bring about fascism, the Congress(I) leadership and the governments it runs whether at the centre and states are revealing the double face of fascist device. On the one hand they talk glibly about the unity and integrity of the country and pose as its biggest champion but it is they who damage it most by driving wedge in the unity and solidarity of the people by fomenting and even engineering regional, communal and other parochial disturbances.

If, therefore, the government wanted a congenial atmosphere to be created so very essential for solving the Punjab problems, the first thing it would have done is to order an enquiry into deliberate and organized killings of the Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere. They, the men, women whose near and dear ones have been slain or do not know their whereabouts, whose properties have been plundered, houses burnt, livings destroyed, children or-

phaned, their relief money though a mere pittance swindled, demand justice that flow from their rights as citizens of the country. The government cannot deny or should not be allowed to deny it. All genuine lovers of democracy, all those who are really interested to defend and preserve minimum civic rights and liberties essential for a civilised society must also join their voice in this just and most democratic demand.

We urge upon the left democratic and opposition parties and the people to read the grave danger of all out fascism now posed in social-political life. They must see the dangerous developments of police-bureacracy turned into pliable instruments in the hands of the rulers, military men given wide access to civil administration, an atmosphere of suspicion and intrigue deliberately created, the Press, barring noble exceptions, take the role of singing praise of the rulers—disowning its commitment to truth, social cause and justice and now the latest affront on judicial freedom to make the judiciary obedient to dictates of the executive. If the judiciary succumbs to this pressure, the last lamp of democratic process, the very basis of bourgeois democracy will be put out.

Such is the terrible situation in the country today. And all men of democratic sense, values, ethics and morals cannot and should not remain silent spectators if the country is to be saved from all out fascism. Let the voice of democracy, democratic rights and values, civil rights and liberties be strident, when there is yet time.

Kultali

(Contd. from page 4)
while the perpetrator enjoys patronage of those in authority. This is the method which fascists in all countries adopt against those who stand for the people's cause. The democratic conscience of our people throughout the country must exert itself against this fascist crime, otherwise the bon fire in Kultali may one day engulf the whole country.

BHOPAL— company and government must accept full responsibility

(Contd. from page 2) mystery behind, but hushed up the matter and thus acted in connivance with the management of the multinational company in the heinous bid to conceal the truth from the people.

LACK OF ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURE PLAYED KEY ROLE IN THE DISASTER

It needs no mentioning that wherever any industrial undertaking is producing poisonous and toxic material there must be adequate safety monitoring system to arrest any possible accidental disaster. Thus in a wing of the same multinational i.e. in the Union Carbide plant in southern France the liquid MIC is kept in stainless steel drums within a specially built concrete warehouse. It is provided with a computerised system to detect the gas present in the air even to the extent of 3 ppm. If there is any leak or if due to any reason the temperature goes above the boiling point, an automatic sprinkler goes into action and floods the drums with water.

In West Germany at Bayer's MIC plant in Dormagen, the safety measures include mobile chemical emergency unit which can flood a leaking tank with foam within a couple of minutes and then suck up 18000 litres of liquid MIC through a special tube.

The Union Carbide in Bhopal did not care in the least to follow such adequate safety standard—i.e. not even that which is followed at its other plants in different parts of the world. To add more, it willfully neglected to install the computerized safety system existing in its company in the USA. Not only that. Even the meagre, 'primitive' safety measure that was there was not functioning.

So far it is known that there is a relief line that leads from the MIC tank to a chamber called scrub-

ber. The said line is to prevent the tank from bursting as a result of pressure mounting within it due to any reason, whatsoever. In such a situation the gas passes through the relief line (fitted with valve) and enters the scrubber which contains caustic soda solution to neutralise the gas, so that the resultant gas can be drained out without causing any harm. The scrubber is fitted with two pipes, one leading to the flare tower and the other open to the atmosphere. Now if some gas remains still in unneutralised condition even after passing through the scrubber then it is either flared or let out directly into the atmosphere. Now the scrubber can only effectively function if the supply of gas is at a very slow and controlled rate. In fact the scrubber can not be considered to be a proper emergency device. The gas in this case went through the scrubber at a pressure and rate beyond its capacity to control.

Now the line leading to the flare tower was shut off because most part of it was corroded and it was not repaired due to 'economic reasons'. And the ultimate result is within anybody's guess. The forty tonnes of lethal, toxic unneutralised gas gushed into the air causing the serious disaster.

One would like to conclude that it was not sheer negligence or indifference. It was a criminal offence no less a crime than that of killing people in the gas chamber by hydrocyanic acid or cyanide, so to say, as did the fascists during the second world war. To these multinational companies which solely aim at exploiting the people, human life particularly the lives of the people of the third world countries have no value. So they care a little to install adequate safety system, neither for the workers within the plant nor for the people living outside. In western coun-

tries, where public consciousness and opinion is relatively strong and as a result the governmental machinery has to be relatively alert, they are to remain bound within the prescribed rules and acts, and follow adequate safety standard. Ours is a country, where one can never expect the poverty stricken people struggling hard for their bare existence to have adequate level of consciousness regarding industrial hazards, environmental pollution etc. where the Indian management, like their non-Indian partners of the multinational, care little for the lives of the people and last but not least where the government is least concerned (we would highlight this point later) whether safety rules are followed or not. So here it would not be astonishing if more 'Bhopals' are in the offing in different parts of the country. In this connection we like to quote Dr. P.J. Deoras, President of the Society for Clean Environment. He said 'There are many locations in the country where the potential for a Bhopal type of accident really exist'.

ROLE AND ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT

The role of the government too deserves serious criticism. What it did tantamounted to criminal offence.

In any country industrial undertakings are to follow industrial zoning law or zoning guidelines fixed by the government. Thus under West Germany's industrial zoning laws no one lives within a mile of the MIC plant. But the MP government and the union government as well, not only exempted the Union Carbide from industrial zoning law but also kept its eyes shut to the accidents which occurred previously in the plant causing death of workers due to gas poisoning. On Dec. 26, 1981 one plant operator died due to phosgene leak. And within

a fortnight 24 people were seriously injured again due to phosgene poisoning. Again in October 1982, there was a leak of MIC gas due to which the inhabitants of the nearby colonies were seriously affected. The attitude of the government would become clearer from another incident. In 1975, the then town planning and administrator issued notice to Union Carbide to shift its plant, since its environs had been occupied by residential colonies. But what happened was that the administrator lost his job, while the plant stayed at its original site.

Again when once more the proposal for the removal of the plant came following a gas leak in 1982 that seriously affected residents of the nearby colonies, the then Congress(I) Labour Minister stated in the Assembly that "Rs28 crores have been invested in this unit. The factory is not a small stone that can be shifted elsewhere". Moreover when the government had all the data regarding the possible hazards posed by such a plant it preferred to sit tight despite the tests performed by the Environmental Pollution Board which confirmed the presence of noxious substances in the air emitted by the plant.

There is another startling revelation. The level of the environmental pollution caused by the plant exceeded the limit allowed by the Indian Standards Institution (ISI). The Air Pollution Act mentions that if the ISI limit is crossed by any factory, the government has the authority to revoke its licence. But neither the state nor the central government took any step against the Union Carbide. And how can action be taken against the Union Carbide when it itself acts as a consultant to the central government in matters relating to chemical industry? Moreover we know that the ISI publishes codes of safety in handling and storage of each industrial chemical. Most often

some one from the Union Carbide is on the sub-committee which prepares this code. That is, the government (both state and central) cannot find others qualified enough to do the job and it has to run after the multinational to get the advice. The company as usual, like the other multinationals, never fails to reciprocate for this kind of patronage.

It has kept a palatial guest house at the disposal of the Chief Minister of M.P. which is most often used by the political heavyweights. In company's roster there are relatives of several ministers and senior bureaucrats of the government.

So, it is quite clear that the nexus between the Union Carbide and the government (both state and central) is too strong for the latter to actively intervene and take any step or measure against the Union Carbide.

Not only that. Even after the tragedy the government is found to be least concerned to take remedial measures so as to ameliorate the sufferings of the victims. Despite the people, movement on legitimate demands for the proper medical treatment of the victims, financial help to the victims and those families who have lost the earning member or members and rehabilitation etc. the government has not yet taken any step which any civilized government would have taken in such a case.

It is no doubt a criminal offence on the part of the government. But is it mere negligence? Not that.

To have a clear idea about the underlying reason for the government's so-called 'inaction' or 'inertness' we must have an understanding about the relation between the multinational company and the government run by the party or parties serving the ruling capitalist class.

Ours is a capitalist country of the third world. It is our experience that the capitalist classes of the third world invite the multinationals to, become their joint partners and estab-

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(Contd. from page 6)
lish their wings (i.e. companies) in the third world countries. At times the capitalist class of a third world country establishes such a company in their own country, whereas at times, they jointly venture with the multinationals in another third world country. In the third world countries the people are mostly poverty stricken; they have to fight hard for their bare existence. So labour and raw material as well, are very cheap.

In fact, to them these countries are fertile ground for exploitation. They are least concerned about the lives of the people. Their sole object is to try to earn profit at any cost.

In fact the Bhopal tragedy is the outcome of this profit-at-any-cost attitude of the multinational company and the ruling capitalist class of our country.

So, it is not negligence but the identity of class interest and intention to exploit people that has worked and is working behind the action of the government (both state and central) rather its non-action against the Union Carbide, its attempt to defend the company by giving cover to its criminal offence.

One may conclude that 'Bhopal' is a man made tragedy connived at together by the governments (state and central) and the management of the Union Carbide. Both must be put together on the dock as responsible for the disaster.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PREVENTION

We know that after the tragedy a demand for immediate closure of the plant came from the people spontaneously. This was quite logical and justified too. But at the same time we know that this cannot be a permanent solution. Modern agriculture, for food production requires various chemicals as fertilizers, pesticides etc.

Since many of these chemicals are toxic, hazard would always be there

but we can check and control it.

First, the industrial zoning law, safety law, factory acts if necessary must be revised and strictly followed. Any deviation from this must be severely punished. By punishment we do not of course mean the drama that the Chief Minister of M.P. performed when he 'arrested' the Chief of the US Union Carbide Company so as to send him safely back to USA.

The officials must be punished as per the law in criminal courts and the license should also be revoked. One more thing. Most often we find that those who are in the key position i.e. the persons with proper authority to act, are either callous or innocent of adequate knowledge on the subject or share the "pay off", which usually the multinationals distribute. And in either case it is the common people who suffer most.

Once some experts observed that MIC, released into the atmosphere could break down to form phosgene, which is an absurd proposition, chemically, so to say. Because MIC, which does not contain chlorine, can not break down into phosgene or carbonyl chloride which contains chloride. Any one with the ABC knowledge of chemistry can easily understand it. We, of course do not know if there was any vain attempt underlying this observation to cover the fact that phosgene which is a war gas also came out from the plant.

Again, we know that there is an Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC) in our country in Lucknow, whose object is to study the toxicity of chemicals and classify them according to their degree of toxicity. But astonishingly enough, Dr. M.U. Beg of ITRC, who accompanied Mr. Varadarajan to the Science Congress, observed "We were totally unprepared and did not know anything about MIC when we landed in Bhopal."

Can anyone not seriously charge them for dereliction of duty when

BHOPAL—working people not pygmies, they demand full health protection

the officials of such an institution run by public money are expected to be fully equipped with such details?

Secondly, strong emphasis must have to be given on the safety system i.e. the safety of both the workers inside the plant and the people living outside.

We would like to mention one case of similar type of accident, where the installed safety system avoided the casualty.

"On March 14, 1984, a chemical spill occurred at a plant about 65 km. from Baton Rouge, Louisiana in the United States. The spill was of chloride that sent a cloud of toxic and noxious gas from the plant owned by the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation.

A computer system installed two years before, tracked the cloud, projected its path on a screen in the plant's emergency response centre and printed out the telephone numbers of the police and fire departments, hospitals and other agencies that would be needed in the emergency.

A decision was made to evacuate about 100 families from a nearby mobile home park and the state police blocked roads to prevent motorists from entering the danger zone. The spill which occurred at 6 p.m. was contained within 10 minutes by plant workers and the families were back in their homes by 7 p.m. There were no injuries". (New York Times Service)

The cost of such a device is not very high. It is within Rs 7 lakhs to 12.5 lakhs depending of course on the sophistication and size. We know that this is a meager amount to a multinational with a unit of cost of Rs 28 crores, of course if they feel even least concerned about the human lives of the third world countries.

Another point too deserves mentioning. More and more the third world countries are being used by the multinationals as the dumping ground of waste. This waste is seriously threatening the lives of the people.

Recently it has come to the press, that an American Corporation has proposed to dump such hazardous waste in Sierra Leone in return of a foreign exchange of 25 million dollars per year. Thus the government of that country is ready to push the people to a slow death for foreign exchange!

In this regard, the Union Carbide company is said to possess one of the worst records. And that is why even an American magazine which none would 'blame' to be progressive described the company as "a reactionary Ogre obsessed with profits". By the late seventies the Company had managed to transfer its pollution to the third world countries including India.

The potential environmental hazards and imbalance in the eco-system that are posed by the Union Carbide and its violation of environmental norms has been confirmed by the findings of the Environmental and Pollution Board. The Board stated that the company processed waste discharged from the plant into a large pond, in the proximity of a large slum settlement. As a result, a vast stretch of land around the pond became completely barren and the plant premises had become devoid of any vegetation, despite the existing Act of the Environmental and Pollution Board that one tree must be planted within every 1000 sq. ft. area. Stern measures must be immediately taken against such breaking of environmental and pollution norms. This too is no less serious than the gas leak tragedy. While the latter causes immediate death, the former pushes the people to the same

fate at a slow pace. So, precautionary and preventive measures must also be taken in this regard.

Lastly, we like to reflect though briefly on one important point. The fertilizer and other chemicals for the control of pests etc, whose use are increasing day by day in modern agriculture pose other types of hazards as well. In many a case it has been found that crops have become contaminated with those chemicals, some of which are highly toxic.

A recent survey in our country has revealed that out of 145 cereal samples no less than 110 were contaminated by pesticides. 31 of these samples contain these pesticides above tolerance limits. And these pesticides included Lindane, BHC, DDT, Dieldrin, Heptachlor and Aldrin—all banned in the Western countries. But the US multinationals have been dumping them on the third world countries including India. In fact, the chemical analysis has shown that our daily diet contains .27 mg of these toxic compounds in average. And of the pesticide poisoning cases so far estimated in the third world countries, India accounts for one third. That is, the more food we grow more poison we take. Again, the food we take more and more lacks in nutritional value and taste. It is due to these facts that the Agro-scientists in some countries are thinking of bringing about some radical changes in agriculture by applying biological and organic methods instead of using chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc. A Japanese scientist is said to have been growing rice for the past thirty years without ploughing chemicals and pesticides. The agricultural experts and Agro-scientists of our country may think over it.

While summing up, we
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Language Movement

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 conversant the said 'Committee', in a bid to give a new dimension to the continuing protest movement, organized yet another All Bengal Education Convention on 7th February last. The Convention was presided over by the renowned writer Shri Sailesh Dey. In a message, Dr. Sukumar Sen, eminent educationist expressed his solidarity.

Comrade Manik Mukhopadhaya, Vice-President of the 'Committee' recapitulating in brief the history of the unprecedented protest movement under the banner of this 'Committee' comprising galaxy of intellectuals and diverse sections of masses in the society, showed how time and again the government had been forced to retrace its steps though temporarily, under the impact of movement.

Other eminent personalities who dwelt on different aspects of the policy of the government included Dr. Pratul Gupta, ex-Vice Chancellor, the noted journalist Sri Dakshi-

naranjan Basu etc. The Convention came to an end with a unanimous resolution to organise yet another historic ASSEMBLY MARCH on 13th March.

Side by side, the West Bengal Unit of the AIDS, which was instrumental in organizing students and youths alike behind the back of the resistance movements led by this 'Committee', is not lagging behind to develop students movement against this disastrous education policy of both the Centre and the state governments and already organised a massive demonstration at the state level on 12th February last. West Bengal Students Struggle Committee, while expressing solidarity with the students community of the Bangladesh on the auspicious Martyr's Day, the Red letter day of 21st February, reiterated its resolve to intensify and strengthen the students movement conducive to help the 'Language and Education Movement' achieve the cherished goal.

Bhopal—Unite to resist recurrence

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 would like to emphasise that whatever safety measures one suggests, it would not work rather it would not be implemented by the authority if the people do not feel its necessity, do not feel the urgency to combat environmental pollution and thereby do not develop movement against the powers

that be.

Legislation is not enough. Ours is a country where no authority accepts anything logical, agrees to do the right thing if the logic or righteousness is not backed by the strength of the people's movement.

Therefore, the task of the moment is to build up such a popular movement all

Working people's 'new order' means end of Capitalism

(Contd. from page 3)
 observations made by Barry Castleman (American), a recognised authority on environment thus: "Cheap and ignorant labour is abundant (in third world countries). Run away shops can then market their products in industrial nations with the competitive advantage of not having had to comply with costly work place and also pollution control regulation.

A demand should, therefore, be made against allowing export of this type of production and for adequate regulations and its actual implementation to safeguard the workers against dangerous health hazards, they carry.

I must also voice strongly against the growing arms race and threat of nuclear war, not only for wasting of colossal resources, it being in destructive purposes but for at the cost of denial of working people's genuine progress, needs, upliftment, the working class must stand united against it. And here too, the working class of all countries have common interest to proceed along the path of a new World Order.

over the country, so that 'Bhopal' is not repeated again.

Red Salute Comrade Moni Chatterjee



Red Salute, Comrade Moni Chatterjee, Red Salute!
 Comrade Moni Chatterjee, member West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, a distinguished Trade Union leader, a beloved leader of Calcutta Corporation workers and a member working committee UTUC(L.S.) West Bengal breathed his last on 10th March '85 at 4p.m. due to a sudden heart attack. A selfless dedicated soul as he was, he was an embodiment of struggle against injustice and spirited fighter against capitalist exploitation. In him we find an exquisite expression of high moral standard and love for all people. Being imbued with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, he joined the SUCI in early fifties. He was deeply loved by all sections of the people of Baranagar as their own man where he resided. Formerly, he was a commissioner of Baranagar Municipality. In his demise the party has lost a most dedicated organiser-leader and a selfless valiant fighter. Different political parties of the locality and the local SUCI organisers paid their last tribute, His dead body was taken to the Party Head Quarters, 48 Lenin Sarani where State and Calcutta District leaders as also leaders of different mass organisations and local party units placed wreaths as a mark of respect to Comrade Chatterjee.

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I, Sukomal Dasgupta, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Sd- SUKOMAL DASGUPTA
 Signature of Publisher



Mothers and Sisters demonstrating before Joynagar PS, demanding punishment to Congress(I) miscreants.

Editor in Chief— COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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