

SUCI Appeals for Broad Based United Movement Comrade Nihar Mukherjee meets the Opposition Leaders

The Central Committee of the SUCI met at Calcutta on 7th—8th September 1987 and took serious note of the gravity of the current socio-economic-political situation in the country where the people have been thrown deep into an all-pervading economic, social, moral and cultural crisis; this situation is worsening daily due to the anti-people policies of the most reactionary and utterly corrupt Central Congress(I) Government. Furthermore the Congress (I) Governments at the Centre and in States have appeared as the main architect, somewhere openly and somewhere else covertly combining with all sorts of arch communal and divisive forces, to create dangerous communal caste and other parochial strifes and riots in the country which have seriously disrupted the unity of the people.

Moreover, the Central Committee observed that the recent exposition and revelation of naked corrupt deals indulged in and perpetrated by top political leaders of the government and administrative heads in the purchase of defence armaments like West German Submarines and Bofors Howitzer guns, and in violation of FERA provisions syphoning off at least thirteen hundred crores of unaccounted money and depositing that in Swiss Banks, being done for quite some time past under protection of governmental leaders (whatever has come to the light so far is only a tip of the iceberg) which has deeply shocked and humiliated the genuine patriotic sentiments of the people who have lost confidence in the Rajiv Government. Rajiv Gandhi and his government is today put to the dock before the people. If this shameless Government and its leader Rajiv Gandhi had least respect for moral values and democratic norms, then it could not have continued to hide its crimes and clung to power till so long.

In this background and acting upon the decision of the Central Committee of the SUCI, its General Secretary, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee during the last week of Sept. '87 had met and discussed with the leaders of different opposition parties separately. The first round of discussion has already been completed with Rajeswara Rao, General Secretary, CPI, E.M.S. Namboodiripad, General Secretary, CPI(M), Lok Dal President H. N. Bahuguna, B.J.P. President L. K. Advani and Madhu Dandavate, Janata Party parliamentary leader. On behalf of the SUCI Com. Nihar Mukherjee appealed to all these parties to recognise the need of the hour to combine all oppo-

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SUCI West Bengal State Committee's Letter to the Left Front Govt. on 'Gorkhaland' Issue

To
The Chief Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
Calcutta.
Dear Sir,

Sept. 23, '87

This is in connection with the all-party meeting held on 18th September last to discuss the question of Darjeeling. As decided in that meeting, I take this opportunity to place before you the considered opinion of the West Bengal Secretariat of our party on it.

At the outset we feel it necessary to recount some relevant questions since the previous meeting held on 18th August, 1986. First, there had been no follow-up measures despite the decision to do so.

Secondly, the political parties who were invited to the 18th September meeting were kept in the dark completely as to the discussions held between and decisions taken by the Central and the State Governments. Now that these two Governments have arrived at some sort of a consensus, the political parties have been invited to give their opinion then and there at the meeting, as if to give a seal of approval on what you have already formulated. Is this method democratic? Does it bespeak a serious attitude to consider such a sensitive issue? We would request you to ponder over this question.

Thirdly, at the meeting held some 13 months back we had placed our suggestions in writing which contained a 5-point formula including, among others, a package programme for industrialisation of the hill areas, inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and assuaging the injured feelings of the Nepali speaking population due to long-standing and accumulated grievances. We felt that if a united movement comprising the Nepali speaking and the Bengali speaking people could have been organised against the heinous policies of the Central Government then the common Nepali speaking people could have been drawn into the fold of democratic mass movements—the only way to isolate the separatist leadership of the G.N.L.F. But our suggestions could no more but fall on your deaf ears.

Taking advantage of such a situation, aggravated further by the bureaucratic bungling by the Central Congress(I) Government, the situation in the hills has been allowed to drift from bad to worse and take toll of hundreds of people, causing incalculable damage to the livelihood and property of the people. No word is strong enough to condemn this deplorable state of affairs. We cannot but feel a grave concern for the developments in this situation in a

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Drought and Flood Multiply the Miseries

Even after four decades of the country's political independence, drought and flood remain the twin never-failing companions in people's life, multiplying their miseries beyond measure. Today, the country is passing through what is called the severest drought of the century. Twenty one states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and even Punjab etc. are under its crippling grip. Simultaneously parts of four eastern states—Assam, West Bengal, Bihar etc. are suffering the ravages of flood. The wastage of crop, cattle, other than human lives and living has been colossal. We need hardly to quote the government figures reported in the press. The actual position is far more gloomy. The government at the Centre, directly responsible multiplies its crime by imposition of tax of Rs. 550 crore.

When the country is passing through worst kind of droughts, the National Water Resources Council in its report puts the rulers on the dock by disclosing that out of 400 million hectare metres of rainfall less than 90 million hectare metres, or 22.5 percent of surface water has been conserved for use by the bourgeois governments in the country. They are the real criminals; they extort hundreds of thousands of crores of rupees by way of taxes etc. in the name of 'national' development but actually feed the development of the bourgeoisie and

its political hangers-on. Those who had the illusion that the bourgeois rule, no matter who defends it, be it the Congress(I) or the CPI(M) will do the minimum for a proper irrigation system, conservation of water, enhancement of conservation capacity of water of the rivers, rivulets, canals, etc. by removing the silted up beds have been proved wrong again and again as now.

A government that has not done even the minimum for using the national resources now announces

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Outrage on Humanity

The incident of 'Sati' of Roop Kanwar in Deorala village of Rajasthan, a Congress(I) ruled state, on September 4, and the sequence of events including the Chunari Mahatsav, defying the High Court's injunction, all under the direct and indirect patronage of the governments both at the Centre and the state, the ruling Congress (I) party and some other bourgeois parties do not lend glory but put to shame instead, the country and

its people. It is an outrage on humanity and civilisation. It is the sorry spectacle that while the country and its people hear so much about the need of technological progress for modernism, for leap forward to the 21st century, there are distinct signs of the country sliding back to the previous centuries in morals and values.

The issue of burning alive a human being, whatever may be the plea, when

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Indian Economy: A Comparative Study

It has become a very common practice among the India Government's spokesmen starting with Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to talk of a new industrial revolution, massive computerisation, technological innovation, modernisation and globalisation of the Indian economy—and what not! The Planning Commission, in order not to falter behind in eloquence, claimed that given the present trend of economic upswing (?) there would be none below the poverty line in the 21st century (by extending the area of 'Operation Kalahandi' or otherwise?). Statistical exercises are never wanting to corroborate the claims. But the World Bank Report 1986 on the comparative positions of different countries reveals facts just to the contrary and gives a very pallid picture of the Indian economy.

Let us pick up only a few aspects.

It is shown there that the size of the Chinese economy (in terms of US \$) which was 41 per cent larger than Indian in 1965 (Contd. on Col. 2)

has become 51 per cent larger in 1985. By the same time Pakistan's economy increased from 12 per cent of the Indian economic capacity to 16 per cent and that despite the fact of dismemberment of Bangladesh in the interval. The growth rate of the Indian economy in the period 1980-85 was only 5.2 per cent per annum—almost half of those of China and Pakistan in the same period. The economics of Brazil and Mexico were less than half of Indian economy in 1965. Both have overtaken India by increasing their GDP nine fold. Another, very small country—South Korea—which was far behind India, has increased its GDP even faster, by 30 times in the twenty years of 1965-85, and come very closer to India.

The situation becomes all the more clearer in terms of the value of manufactured output, India stands twelfth in the world and fourth among the developing countries in this regard. But the rank tells far from the real position—as evidenced by following data of the five countries:

Name of the country	Export Rate (Per cent of G.D.P.)
Mexico	16
Brazil	14
China	11
Pakistan	11
India	6

It is further seen that the average rate of growth of export during 1980-85 was 4.6 per cent per annum for India—even below that of the average for the thirty developing countries at 5 per cent per annum or that of China at 8.8 per cent per annum.

Still more data could be cited. But the above few, we feel, suffice to prove where the real condition of the Indian economy remains and how its depiction by the rulers varies ever more widely from the truth. China's being a socialist system, it may be asked why should we compare it with the Indian economy which is a capitalist exploitative system?

Only to show one thing: China started its economic reconstruction almost contemporaneously with India, but with a much more backward conditions, a much larger population size and a lesser store of natural resources and arable land. But still it could overtake India even within a decade because of the superiority of the socialist system, established, reared and further developed under the correct leadership of Comrade Mao Tse-tung; it has solved unemployment problem provided food, education, shelter and good health to every individual and at the same time consolidated its economic system. (No matter however, much the present degenerated revisionist Deng-leader-

ship of the CPC may argue to the contrary, the firm foundation for socialist reconstruction and modernisation of the economy was laid under the Mao-leadership). Be that as it may, when we compare the Indian situation with China's, it exposes all the more palpably the falsehood of Nehru's slogan for a socialistic pattern of society, Indira Gandhi's *bunkum* of 'garibi hatao' or her futile attempt to declare India a 'socialist state' only by adding this word in the Preamble of the Constitution, and Rajiv Gandhi's constant fumbblings for piloting India into the twenty-first century. It shows that Indian capitalism has not only failed to solve the basic problems of people's life, it cannot even develop its own capitalist economy in the magnitude it declares. The very fact that Indian capitalist economy is falling behind even the capitalist economics of Brazil, Mexico, South Korea or Pakistan, once more delineates the actual extent of crisis it is bogged into. Slogan for more production or industrial and technological revolutions notwithstanding, it cannot boost up production—because of the shrinkage of market, owing to the falling purchasing power of the common people.

However, the burden of this evermounting crisis falls on the shoulder of the people. They are squeezed more and more savagely to supply the medicine and diet to this dying system—in the form of Government credit, subsidy, tax-rebate, permission for lay-off and allowing to swindle the workers' PF and ESI dues, etc. and wage-cut and so on. The World Bank report indicates further distresses awaiting them in the coming days. The working class should read in between the lines of this report in order to prepare themselves for a determined struggle against the oncoming onslaughts.

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SUCI Appeals for United Movement

(Contd. from page 1)

sition parties and forces, irrespective of different ideologies and creeds, to develop a broad united mighty mass movement throughout the country against the antipeople reactionary corrupt Rajiv Gandhi Government. This is required all the more to save the country and the people from the unbearable maladies, sufferings, exploitation and humiliation. The SUCI has strongly appealed to the leaders of all opposition parties not to fritter away the opposition strength and energy but to combine those of all opposition parties and forces on the basis of a commonly agreed minimum programme.

The SUCI strongly holds that such a broad united people's movement is the only way to give birth to PEOPLE'S ALTERNATIVE which alone can protect the interest of the people. This gigantic historic task today cannot be fulfilled by any single party alone, nor by a combination of some of the parties in this or that side leaving aside some others out of the combination. This objective reality cannot be denied.

All the parties thus uniting to develop the mass movement must also pledge to fight unitedly all sorts of communal, caste, divisive, parochial and religious obscurantist forces and conflicts and shall continue to fight to keep the people of the country united.

The SUCI also wants to make it clear that this appeal is made to all other opposition forces including those who have come out of Congress(I) recently, with whom the party could not talk yet.

Name of the country	Values of output manufactured —1984 (Billion dollars in 1980 prices)	Per cent growth during 1970-84
China	144	209
Brazil	57	90
Mexico	43	101
India	30	84
S. Korea	27	500

During this period India showed the lowest growth rate in manufacturing. Likewise in the years 1980-85 the average annual growth rate of manufacture was 5.6 per cent only as against 12.4 per cent for China and 10.1 per cent for Pakistan.

Another revealing area is the export sector. It is known to all that the Central Government offers many an incentive to the Indian big business for export promotion, like subsidies to sell cheaper abroad than in the home market

to outcompete other more powerful bidders. The public exchequer is geared to the service of the Indian big bourgeoisie for their earning profit from foreign market, instead of imposing levy on their earnings from export-trade. But still, how does the export sector fare?

Among the 30 low-income countries for which figures are available, India stands much below Mexico, Brazil, China and even Pakistan. A look at the following data will bare the reality:

On 'Gorkhaland' Issue

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state having a long tradition of Left-movement, however much hard hit it may be at present. In such a situation repeated assurance by the Central and State Governments that "we will not allow partition of Bengal", however important, were of no avail since the G.N.L.F. leadership had been continuing all their misdeeds, taking advantage of the helplessness of the common Nepali speaking people whom we could not draw into the vortex of democratic movements. They were virtually left out to be used as pawns in the hands of the separatist leadership who went on blowing up issues beyond all proportions and who cashed in on the injured feelings and the sensitiveness of the issues involved.

Moreover, there are some snags in the way of successful implementation of the proposals. These concern matters of details which when spelt out may not be found acceptable to one in future even if one agrees with the broad outline at present. Then again despite the claim that "Darjeeling district... will continue to remain the basic administrative unit", the fact is that this basic unit will not enjoy basic identity so far as the proposed Autonomous Hill Council is concerned. If not already divided, does it not contain a breeding ground for division? Can it be ruled out that the G.N.L.F. leadership getting elated at this development may try to take time to mount further pressure as a measure to bargain for more concessions in future?

The vexed question of citizenship is still hanging and the draft placed by your Government is absolutely silent on it. The reality of the situation must be faced boldly and nothing should be done which may allow the G.N.L.F. leadership to stir up further the passion of the Nepali speaking people, playing on the various kinds of harassment they are subjected to here and there. Naturally, we are afraid whether the steps going to be taken by the Govern-

ment's will touch even the fringe of the problem.

In fine, the West Bengal State Secretariat of our party strongly feels that the measures suggested, even if pacify to some extent the power-hungry separatist G.N.L.F. leadership for the time being, may not prove fruitful in bridging the gap and strengthening the bond of friendship between the Nepali speaking and the Bengali speaking people — a bond which is essential for a lasting solution of the problem. The long standing accumulated grievances of the Nepali speaking people and the deep sense of injury they are suffering from should be seriously probed into and the burning problems in their life should be immediately taken up for developing a united movement of the Nepali and non-Nepali speaking people including the Bengali speaking people.

We reiterate that the demand for inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution, the problem of unemployment, education and culture and the question of industrialisation of the hill areas should be taken up by all of us in right earnest to build a united movement against the Central Government which alone can generate a sense of belonging among the Nepali speaking people and a kind of consciousness that they are no less Indian than say the Bengali speaking people. None can overlook that besides many other problems one and the main problem is, in a sense, a problem of psyche which deserves serious probing and attention for solution of the total problem.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Sukomal Dasgupta

Secretary,

West Bengal State Committee,

S. U. C. I.

Drought & Flood

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the imposition of taxes to the tune of Rs. 550 crore to meet the cost of flood relief. The perversity is sought to be covered up by the hollow assurance of it being imposed on the rich. In a bourgeois society the rich can very well shift the tax incidence on to the common men. This time too there will be no exception. They must learn the hard reality of a moribund bourgeois rule thoroughly debased and having not an iota of concern for the miseries and destitution of the people. Drought and flood now provide the ruling parties the opportunity to grab public money and resources. The corruption of politics has reached the abominable depth when even the 'Left Front' ruled government is suddenly awakened to people's miseries only to demand more money and resources from the Centre to be distributed among its followers and supporters to reap dividend in the politics of vote catching. The only redeeming feature people witness is the untiring efforts and devoted service of our party comrades in relief works. More and more people are coming forward to join with us in response to the call of humanity. The created natural calamities also accelerate the process of alienation of lands of poor farmers to be concentrated in the hands of the jotedars and rich farmers for further exploitation of the rural poor. This is the irrevocable law of capitalism. The law operates with all the viciousness in our country too.

The crudest method of using such a severe calamity created more by men in power than by nature for further intensification of exploitation and oppression of common people by the rural gentry-traders combine has become the handiwork of the Central Government. The Union Minister of Agriculture has declared on the floor of Parliament that he had been advised against liberal release of food grains from the buffer stock of the government. The reason is queer—that the drought has been severe and widespread. A murderer's logic indeed!

'Sati'

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ther voluntary or forced, whether sanctioned by religious scriptures or not, was debated and fought in all its aspects well beyond a century back. The name of the illustrious son of the country Raja Rammohan Roy is associated with this noble fight to pioneer modern scientific thoughts and approach based on the Renaissance moral values for a civilised polity to grow in this land. The Regulation XVII of 1829 stands out as the hallmark of social injunction on this medieval barbarity.

Yet, it took place defying all accepted code of conduct on the part both of the organisers and their chief patron, the ruling Congress(I) at the direct connivance of the governments it runs both at the states and the Centre. The police force was asked to be mute witness to ghastly deeds.

The sinister game is clear as daylight. The people, exploited and oppressed and passing through the traumatic experiences of one of the severest droughts of the century due to the savagery of moribund capitalism and the guilt of the rulers, are to be religiously bigoted and frenzied, to

(Contd. on page 4)

government's decision in regard to release of buffer food stock to meet the situation.

The situation is thus a combination of unspeakable miseries of the people with the savageries of capitalist exploitation aided by the bourgeois governments both at the Centre and the states. The questions that come now as the only pertinent ones: Will the people die like dumb animals or stand up in bold resistance of the monstrosity that they face in the government's decision and attitude? Who will decide how the produce of the land to be used? Will it be by those who have produced or by those who have robbed? Will the robbers held at ransom the robbed or the robbed will unite in a mighty country-wide united democratic movement in defence of their right to live with human dignity? The land and resources are theirs and not of the robbers.

The Central Government, till very recently was vexed with the problem of rising cost of a buffer stock of 23 million tonnes and decided to export to bring down the stock. The buffer stock is built up over the years to meet the contingency of drought or flood to the benefit of the people. The crudity of capitalist exploitation has gone to the extent that the government at the Centre today stands openly for hoarding and profiteering of essential commodity like grains. It directly aids price-rise for the benefit of the capitalists who reap speculative profit, no matter the dire peril to which people are thrown. That government is surely criminal which in the face of people's plight beyond description, does not take the vigorous and well planned programme of food for work for minor irrigation, water conservation and drinking water schemes in rural areas but instead decides not to release much from its buffer stock of food grains and even enhances prices of cereals in the public distribution system. It thus forces the people to be victim of ruthless exploitation of surplus farmers and traders both ways through enhanced prices of essential commodities and depressed wages of agricultural workers as well. When people are thus robbed and pauperised, dispossessed of whatever little they had in hearth and home; wealth accumulates at the hands of the robbers—the capitalists, the government chooses to be hoarder of foodgrains people have produced.

In capitalist economy within the main contradiction between the exploiting capitalist class and the exploited working people, there is still contradiction within the exploiters. Steep rise in prices will escalate the price index calling for increase in cost of labour for the industrialist by way of increased payment of Dearness Allowance. Besides, market will be further depressed causing accentuation of problem of production. That is why, the various chambers of commerce including the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi chambers have expressed their deep concern for the

STRUGGLE IN STATES

Steel Workers' Movement at Rourkela

ORISSA

Massive Rally held for Adequate relief to Drought hit People and against Price-rise

On 11th September, about a 10 thousand strong demonstration organised by the Orissa State Committee, SUCI, marched towards State Assembly at Bhubaneswar demanding immediate and adequate relief to drought affected people of different districts and protesting against unprecedented price-rise of essential commodities. The processionists came from almost all the drought hit areas of the state carrying banners and shouting slogans with the demand of declaring the entire state as drought affected state and fighting the situation on

war footing, adequate relief to the people, exemption from water and other taxes, extensive lift irrigation programme in unirrigated areas and to bring down the prices of essential commodities within the reach of the people.

The demonstration was stopped by police at the P. M. G. Square near the State Assembly, Comrade Shambhu Nath Naik, the SUCI MLA demanded that the Chief Minister should meet the demonstrators and address them. As the Chief Minister refused to meet the demonstrators he was

jeered with 'Shame-Shame' and Comrade Naik walked out of the Assembly and joined the demonstrators. More than one thousand men and women led by Comrades Shambhu Nath Naik, MLA, Binapani Dash, Mayadhar Nayak, Balaram Shahoo and Chhabi Mohanty defied the prohibitory orders and courted arrest.

MSS, DYO and AIDSO Protest against Obscenity

At Cuttack, on 20th September last the members of Mahila Sanskritik Sangha (MSS), DYO and A I D S O demonstrated against the exhibition of obscene films and posters and demanded to stop showing such films in the city. Later, a delegation led by Comrade Binapani Dash, President, MSS, Orissa State Unit met the Supdt. of Police and urged to take action against the exhibitors. The Police Chief, as usual, expressed his inability to take such action as the censor board had passed those films. He, however, agreed to take action under penal code against those exhibiting obscene posters. The police personnels tore off all the obscene posters in the city following the demonstration.

At Bhubaneswar similar demonstration and deputation was organised by AIDSO members along with the students of the University and colleges. The Supdt. of Police took the same stand and this time also obscene posters were removed by police in the metropolis.

At the call of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) the Rourkela Steel Plant workers and employees observed last August 17th as 'Demand Day' demanding immediate and honourable settlement of NJCS, minimum 20 per cent interim relief to all workers and employees, no payment of interim relief exclusively to the executives, equal DA for workers and executives, minimum 20 percent bonus, inclusion of UTUC(LS) in NJCS etc. Prior to the Demand Day, the workers and employees staged 'Dharna' in support of their demands in front of the administrative building gate of Rourkela Steel Plant on August 10th. The 12-hour Dharna and demonstration compelled the management to refrain from their scheme to pay the interim relief to the executive exclusively, keeping the workers' demands pending.

The Demand Day was marked by spontaneous wearing of demand badges by the workers and employees. About 25,000 workers wore badges. A meeting held in front of the main gate of the Steel Plant on that day was addressed amongst others by Com. Sk. Quasim, a noted T. U. leader and Com. Bishnu Dash, member, Working Committee of UTUC(LS). The Demand Day created a remarkable enthusiasm amongst the general workers and employees and brought UTUC(LS) to the fore as the only rallying centre for workers unity and struggle.

In this connection, it is to be noted that the Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha

affiliated to HMS which is the recognised trade union at the Rourkela Steel Plant as also the CITU affiliated union played a very treacherous role by backstabbing the cause of workers in the NJCS as also by withdrawing unconditionally the all India general strike of the workers of public sector enterprises on the aforesaid demands besides others. The UTUC(LS) has decided to continue the movement and to develop a united platform of action for broader struggle.

Against Price-rise at Rourkela

At the call of SUCI, Rourkela Committee, hundreds of workers, employees, students and youths demonstrated before the Additional District Magistrate's office at Rourkela on last September 1 against the unprecedented price rise. A memorandum demanding immediate control of price rise, supply of all essential commodities through fair price shops, exemplary punishment to blackmarketeers, hoarders and such other anti-socials etc. were handed over to the Additional District Magistrate through a deputation led by Com. Bishnu Dash, Secretary, Sundargarh District Committee, SUCI. A meeting in front of the ADM's office was addressed amongst others by Com. Sk. Quasim, a noted trade union leader and Com. Bishnu Dash condemning the callous attitude of the government in controlling the price rise. They called upon the common people to develop vigorous movement on this issue.

Outrage on Humanity

(Contd. from page 3) carry the deadweight of a system rotting at the core. Reopening of Ram Janmabhumi-Babri Masjid controversy, the Muslim Women (Divorce) Act, the Meerut carnage and now the crime of 'Sati' in Rajasthan—all lead to one direction from a singular motive—to throw millions upon millions of exploited and oppressed to the religious fundamentalists, sharpening their weapon. The attempt is to stamp out the last vestiges of the sense of moral values and reason from social life.

This religious cannibalism is not an isolated phenomenon. Priesthood, religious fanaticism, gagging the voice of reason and humanist moral values are the ingredients of fanaticism. The absence of the counter current of secular democratic movement for which the parties claiming to be left and democratic are to be blamed, leaves the ground open for the fas-

cist design to be victorious. Not only that, the left democratic parties, let alone fighting the communal, casteist forces, are themselves cashing in on those in petty parliamentary politics.

The political roguery that speaks of technological advancement and patronises and encourages by every possible means recrudescence of bigotry and obscurantist ideas of the medieval age at the same time bespeaks fascist intentions and motives. Its value is based on fascism, all out fascism that moribund capitalism seeks as the last resort for survival. Before going out, moribund capitalism will leave behind many scurs on humanity and civilisation. The struggle for emancipation of the exploited and oppressed is therefore intimately connected with the struggle to save humanity and civilization. Humanity cries out, all men of conscience should respond.

Editor-in-Chief—COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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