

**IN WEST BENGAL**

# Attack on SUCI-organised exhibitions by CPI (M) cadres and police

Is Sri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal above criticism under the 'Left Front' rule? Is it seditious to portray a political cartoon of Sri Jyoti Basu or to organise

a photographic exhibition on the police atrocities? Do the people of West Bengal still possess the freedom for political campaign? If they do, why does the police seize the cartoon,

the photographs and collections of news published in newspapers from the exhibitions organised at the bookstalls of the SUCI during the last Durga Puja festival?

The photographs depict the armed CPI(M) stormtroopers indiscriminately beating the SUCI demonstrators including the women demonstrators during the anti-fare rise movement in West Bengal. The photographs show the brutal and inhuman treatment meted out to the bullet victim who succumbed later on in prison van. The photographs show how the SUCI leaders were lathi-charged by the police with the motive of maiming or incapacitating them permanently. The photographs are the most vivid depiction of the utter

vindictive attitude of the 'left front' government and its out and out anti-people character. There was also a cartoon of Sri Jyoti Basu, in police uniform.

We, on our behalfs feel duty bound to expose the out and out anti-people character of the 'Left Front' government and consider it as our sacred duty to organise movement against the misdeeds of both the Central and the State governments and we have every democratic right to do the same. But the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' government was out to crush this democratic right of organising public opinion through political campaign and organising photographic exhibitions. Otherwise how is it that everywhere—in

(Contd, on back page)



What right the police has in asking the organisers to close the photographic exhibition at different bookstalls in and around Calcutta? Under what authority the police seized the photographs of the exhibitions in a most illegal way? Have we no right to carry on political campaign against the 'Left Front' government for its misdeeds? And remember, we were carrying on our campaign on the basis of what actually happened as recorded in photographs by the camera. We never indulge in hate campaign or canard; we hate those things. Unlike the CPI(M) whose stock in trade is canard, hate campaign and vituperation, we stand for principled criticism and in line with our principled stand we organised these exhibitions to show the people at large the real face of the 'Left Front' government of W. Bengal.

**WHAT WERE THERE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE EXHIBITIONS?**

The photographs displayed in these exhibitions were vivid description of the savagery of the 'Left Front' government in crushing the legitimate democratic move-

## Com. Nihar Mukherjee Condemns US Invasion on Grenada

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI condemning strongly the US invasion of Grenada has issued the following statement to the press on October 27 last. "We strongly protest against the wanton invasion of US troops in Grenada and demand its immediate withdrawal. This massive attack of Pentagon is a naked piracy and a threat to world peace throwing to the winds all international canons and conventions including the principle of

non-interference in the internal affairs of any country. We call upon the peace loving people all over the world to immediately come forward to build up strong public opinion against this interventionist and predatory acts of US imperialism. We urge that the people of Grenada should be allowed to decide their own destiny themselves free from the so-called aid and assistance of any country."

Cartoon of Sri Jyoti Basu in police uniform. On the top of the Cartoon written in Bengali, "I am nobler than my achievement If I get more power I shall make the country a burial ground". At the bottom: statistical data on police firing and killing where West Bengal tops the list in India.



SUCI book-stall and photographic exhibition ransacked by CPI(M) stormtroopers at Behala, Calcutta.

# Proletarian Era

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# Attacks on exhibitions by CPI(M) cadres and police

Behala, Chetla, Park Circus, Bagmari, Ultadanga, Bowbazar, Shyambazar, Ahiritolla and other places the police asked to close down the exhibition. And what was the reason? The reason was the instruction from the higher authorities. When our organisers refused to comply, the police threatened to arrest them. Was not this most illegal act on the part of the law enforcing authorities? Does it not bespeak of the colonial attitude? When our comrades ignored the threat of arrest, the police seized the photographs in many places. When the police was asked under what section the photographs were seized, they replied that these were not seized but removed by them. At this the police was asked to return these things which were in their custody but they simply refused to do the same.

In Behala, besides the police interference, the CPI (M) hoodlums attacked the stalls and tore the photographs of the exhibition. In Uluberia, some miscreants said to be the followers of the Forward Bloc attacked the stall there, beat up our comrades and tore up the photographs and the booklets on display at the stall.

The example set up by the CPI(M) in gagging the voice of democratic oppo-

sition has few parallel in our country. The CPI(M) often cries hoarse against authoritarianism; but what does the behaviour of the CPI(M) and the government run by it show? Is this behaviour not authoritarian?

The behaviour of the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' government reminds us of the dark days of the emergency. The political campaign through cartoons is conducted throughout the world and it is an accepted form of political propaganda. The CPI(M) also adopts the tactics. Not only cartoons, the CPI and CPI (M) sometimes present such couplets which are not only unreadable but even smack of minimum sense of decency and taste. The photographic exhibition is organised not only by the CPI(M) but even by the 'Left Front' government at the cost of the public exchequer. But the main theme of these exhibition is "Opposition to ruling party can not be allowed." We have witnessed the same thing during the period of emergency. At that time the democracy was only for the ruling party and its sycophants. They had the right to political propaganda. Smt. Indira Gandhi carried on propaganda for herself, for Sanjoy Gandhi and her party at the expense of the public exchequer. But any criti-

cism of her was branded as illegal. A concerted attempt was made to keep Smt. Gandhi above any criticism. Does the 'Left Front' government attempt to do the same thing? Does it want to keep Sri Jyoti Basu above any criticism?

Does it want to keep the right of political propaganda preserved for the ruling party and its associates? Does the CPI(M) want to prove by deploying the police and the CPI(M) stormtroopers against the political campaign programme of the opposition that it can match Smt. Gandhi even within the limited power?

But the attitude of the CPI(M) towards the Congress (I) is clear from the statement of Sri Jyoti Basu when he said that the Congress(I) had the right to hold exhibition against the 'Left Front' Government during its session in Calcutta. When the photographic exhibitions organised by the SUCI

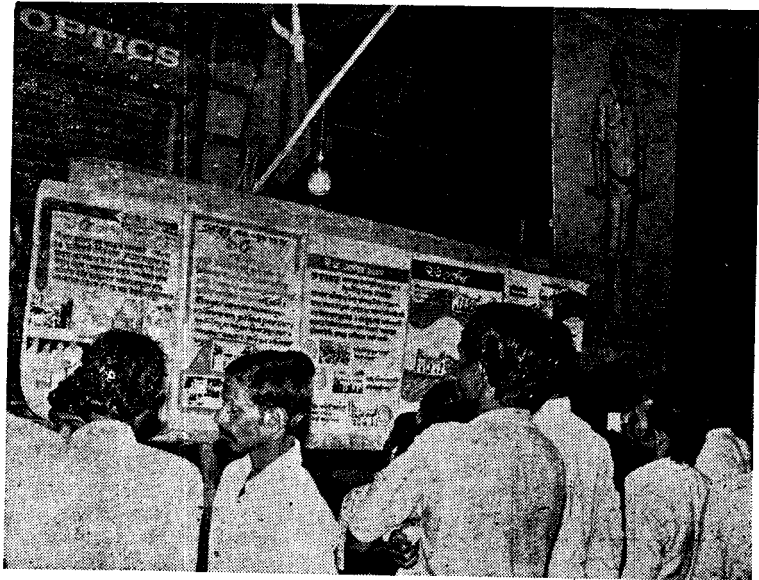
are attacked by the police and the CPI(M) stormtroopers, Sri Jyoti Basu is trying to project himself as a great democrat by allowing the Congress (I) to hold exhibition against the 'Left Front' government. The mock-fight between the Congress(I) and the CPI(M) is par excellence.

## People Witnessed two different types of exhibitions at Bhopal, MP

The people of Bhopal witnessed two different types of exhibitions—one organised by AIDS0 showing the real anti-people character of the CPI(M) led 'left front' government and the other

police and the CPI(M) stormtroopers in West Bengal on the SUCI led people's movement, in all major colleges and prominent places of Bhopal

The Information Bureau



One of the crowded photographic exhibitions on police atrocity.



SUCI organised demonstration before U.S. Consulate in Calcutta against U.S. invasion on Grenada.

organised by the Information Bureau of West Bengal government at Tagore Hall near the Polytechnic bus stop.

Poster exhibition about brutal suppression of SUCI led people's movement against bus-fare increase by West Bengal government was organised by AIDS0, Bhopal unit at Polytechnic college bus stop on September 20 last. Hundreds of students visited the exhibition throughout the day. This was a part of the programme of AIDS0, Bhopal to organise photographic exhibition on the savageries unleashed by the

of West Bengal Government organised an exhibition—"10 successful years of Left Front government of West Bengal". Sri Rajendra Jain, the Industries Minister of the Congress (I) government of Madhya Pradesh presided over the inaugural function of this exhibition while Sri Shambhu Ghosh, the Minister for Higher Education of West Bengal Government and Mr. Habibullah, the CPI (M) M.P. addressed the meeting.

The CPI(M) and the SFI cadres tried to prevent the sale of the pictorial and misbehaved with the SUCI female comrades.

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