

20-Point Programme Blueprint Of Fascism

Mrs. Gandhi with her habitual stunt has delivered a new year's gift to the people. She announced a twenty point programme followed by a Cabinet reshuffle. And the curtain was drawn on the Antulay affair through his replacement by a new yesman—a pantomimic feat to show the people that there might be a touch of pathos as one of her henchman had to go, but in matters of public interest she never allowed the heart to rule over the head.

While declaring her brand new print of progress' which of course is an old wine in new bottle, so to say, Mrs. Gandhi exhorted the nation and called upon the people to rededicate themselves to work hard. This time she coined a new slogan, 'Shrama Eva Jayote' (it is toil which wins) instead of repeating her previous stunt of 'Garibee Hatao' the slogan she adopted in 1971.

Immediately after the announcement of the programme, with an ostensible show of seriousness, different steps and measures are being announced every day to ensure the so-called faithful execution of the programme. These are all being done to show that what she means is real business. The cabinet reshuffle is one of such steps. And just following the announcement of the programme a high level monitoring cell has been set up at the Prime Minister's Secretariat headed by one of her trusted bureaucrats.

The Planning Commission has also set up a monitoring cell.

This is not all. The working committee of the Congress(I) has also decided to set up such monitoring cells. What these party monitoring cells will do and with what success that is altogether a different story. No doubt here lies an attempt to steer up and rejuvenate the party which is suffering from serious factional squabbles, group rivalries and infights for a long time.

Apart from creating such monitoring cells at party and governmental level, to prepare a mass mind in favour of the programme different mass media are being utilised as vehicles for propaganda and publicity. Moreover, besides using radio and TV for this purpose, the public enterprises are publishing full page advertisements in the dailies in praise of the twenty point programme.

Now, one question naturally haunts the

readers, what this economic salvage plan' for which some have coined the term 'Indiranomics' and which like another crutch to hobble on has made Mrs. Gandhi's loyalists and sycophants jubilant, actually is?

Mrs. Gandhi has tried to pose as if she has taken a 'new patent' on economic development of the country. Perhaps this will put to shame even the most shameless practitioners of falsehood. Because facts tell that her 'new patent' is basically a reprint of her previous twenty point programme, that she 'bestowed' on the people during her black rule of Emergency, with some minor additions here and there.

Thus a careful scrutiny will reveal that the fourteen points of the previous programme have been incorporated in the present 'salvage plan'. Even the three points of the much condemned five-point programme of her deceased son, Sanjoy Gandhi have had their places in this latest patent of Mrs. Gandhi.

This apart, one thing deserves particular mentioning. Most often we come across high sounding talks on the need of industrial development,

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West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, On Election

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Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI has in course of a statement said:

"We regret that our demand for extending by one month the last date of filing claims and objections for the cyclone-hit areas of 24 Parganas and Midnapore has not been accepted by the Election Commission ignoring even the humanitarian aspect of the problem. Besides, the manner in which enquiries have been conducted in different districts about the genuinity of the claims cannot rule out the apprehension that the final list may not be free from manipulation. The tussle

between CPI(M) and Congress (I) as to which party will control the administration before the election also exposes the danger that the election is going to be a rigged one.

"We, therefore, demand that the entire election machinery should be manned by such persons who are not the staff of or do not have partisan attitude towards any Government run by either the ruling Congress (I) at the Centre or the ruling CPI(M) in West Bengal. We strongly feel that election should be conducted in all states, including West Bengal, by such a non-partisan staff directly under the Election Commission for free and fair election."

Anti-people Education and Language Policies

PEOPLE RISE IN BOLD PROTEST IN WEST BENGAL

Organised massive protest against the 'Left Front' Government's anti-people education policy shook Calcutta again on 5th February. Processions swept the streets—people from all corners of West Bengal, from all walks of life, of all ages converged at Esplanade East in front of Raj Bhavan to raise the voice of protest against the disastrous language and education policy of the 'Left Front' Government of the State. Teachers joined students and youths; guardians mingled with educationists, writers, doctors, engineers lawyers and others; workers and peasants, too, made up the ranks. A vast section of the whole people came to join in a mammoth 'sit-in' demonstration at the call of the Committee to Resist Curtailment of Education and Encroachment on Autonomy to meet the challenge in education thrown to them by the Government.

In the face of intimidation and repression by the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' these people have stepped forward to resolutely resist the Front's systematic encroachment on autonomy of educational institutions,

its planned devaluation of language and literature study—including the mother tongue's—its calculated move to eliminate English from education, primary education to begin with. Those who think that the movement has since worn out are now awakened to the reality that step by step from the grass-root level the movement has been organized for a new phase in the present context. Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray, celebrated historian and educationist and a leading figure of the movement, is no more.

But people are here to uphold the cause for which he stood in his last days. Eminent educationists, writers and scholars who took part in the last year's movement are again in the forefront today, notwithstanding their age, infirmity and ill health. With wider support and greater realization and determination of the people the movement has entered today a new phase in its course.

5th February this year, saw a bigger rally at Esplanade East, with the intellectual stalwarts in the lead. From 10 A. M.

the demonstrators sat in the sun on the road and 'sit-in' continued till 8 P.M. Thousands of city dwellers stood around extending their support to the cause. The massive resistance built up over the last four years under the Resistance Committee's banner had forced the Government last year to postpone implementation of its decision to abolish English at the primary level as the first measure to eliminate the language from education in the State. In a recent move, in defiance of the people's

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the urgency for advancing the country in the path of industrial progress and so on and so forth.

But if any one desires to find anything on this point in Mrs. Gandhi's magic patent on 'economic salvation' of the people then he will be disappointed. The programme, so to say, mostly concentrates on agriculture. It has spoken of increase in irrigation potential, development and dissemination of techniques and inputs for dry land agriculture etc. etc. Among others, the programme is said to stand for liberalisation of investment procedure and improvement in the functioning of public enterprises, promoting family planning on a voluntary basis. One may like to emphasise that this last point also received prominence in the previous twenty point programme of the period of Emergency. And perhaps one need not be reminded what kind of repressive attack the then Government of Mrs. Gandhi launched on the people, particularly in the northern part of the country in the name of implementing this point in practice.

It is not unlikely that such a magic prescription which its authoress has claimed, will warm Mrs. Gandhi's bandwagon of loyalists. But the fact is, not to speak of those who adhere to ideologies other than that of Mrs. Gandhi, even all of her adherents are not equally optimistic. While a former member of the Planning Commission observed: "What she lacks is credibility. Her pronouncements have become suspect". A former powerful aide to Mrs. Gandhi's camp observed: "The programme is a logjam of mistaken priorities." Again, going by the track of records of implementing the earlier twenty-point programme of the period of Emergency even some of the most ardent well wishers of Mrs. Gandhi have to shake their heads regarding the prospect of

the present programme. It has been reported that a meeting of the CWC(I) has revealed the lacunae between promises and performances of the last plans. The said meeting has been reported to have noted that as many as eight of the twenty points had not even been dented, while in case of the others, the problems had multiplied, so much that new backlogs had swamped achievements, of course if there was any, we like to add. So, it naturally raises the question—what are the real objectives behind such a programme regarding which even some of the Mrs. Gandhi's partymen are sceptic? To have a clear idea regarding the underlying objectives one must have to take note of the particular timing of the declaration of the programme. In fact it is an anticipatory move on her part and various factors have led Mrs. Gandhi to choose this particular moment.

In 1980 elections, Mrs. Gandhi's slogan was 'elect the government that works'. But the two years' inefficiency of the regime has exposed that the slogan was a hoax. As she now approaches the mid-point of her present term, she is in a desperate need to find ways and means to bolster up her government's sagging image.

Meanwhile the bourgeois oppositional and social democratic forces are trying to combine so as to put up a united opposition against her and her party. Mrs. Gandhi while castigating the opposition observed, 'I am not frightened by this talk of opposition unity. They have no common policy or programme. Only the lure of office could bring them together.' Mrs. Gandhi is very much conversant with the social democratic character of these forces. And she knows very well that the adoption of social democratic programme will take the wind out of their sail. And it is not unusual that we see these forces to

criticise the programme simply on the point of feasibility raising no basic question regarding the underlying class motive and design. Because on this question they see eye to eye with Mrs. Gandhi.

We think that another point should also be taken in due cognizance. One will note that the fruition of the twenty point programme which is estimated to cost Rs. 60 000 crore in three years is designed to synchronise with the next parliamentary election. This is not sheer accidental. It is a calculated move on the part of Mrs. Gandhi who is in a desperate need of at least a slogan that would work to confuse the people in the next electoral battle, and rally them behind her.

All these immediate objectives are there. This apart what Mrs. Gandhi and her party desire to realise from this magic patent on so-called economic development centring which there is much drum beating in Mrs. Gandhi's camp is something deeper having ulterior motive.

The country is passing through a serious all-out crisis in social, political and economic fields; with days passing on, the crisis-ridden capitalist economy of the country is more and more facing deeper and deeper crises. The intensity of capitalist oppression and exploitation is becoming more and more acute. The poverty and destitution of the people is becoming intense day by day. Even the conservative estimate shows that more than seventy per cent of the people lie below the poverty line. This figure is of course not static but show all the tendency to rise up further.

The problem of unemployment is becoming more and more acute. The ruling capitalist class aided by these parties and government are shifting the entire burden of the crisis on to the shoulder of the common toiling people of the country. And it is at their cost

that the monopoly houses are multiplying their profits and the businessmen are fattening their bellies.

The hard pressed people all over the country, despite all odds are trying to raise their heads against capitalist oppression and exploitation defying all repressive measures that Mrs. Gandhi's government is taking recourse to for protecting the capitalist state and economy.

In such a situation, when the shadow of intense crisis looms large over the economic horizon of the country, the ruling capitalist class aided by Mrs. Gandhi and her party are in frantic search of this and that means so as to divert the attention of the people from capitalism and capitalist exploitation, the source of all their misery and sufferings. As the usual practice in such a situation calculated attempts are being made by the ruling class and their aides to create war-psychois within the country. But this is not enough.

Their capitalist class motive have taught them that radical postures, promise of social welfare measures, plans for national reconstruction—all these hoaxes too at times help to confuse and hoodwink a politically less conscious mass so as to divert their attention from the real cause of their misery and rally the masses behind them. Once we witnessed a similar move during the period of Emergency when much drumbeating was heard centring a twenty point programme whose virtual reprint they have again brought about this time with the same ulterior motive.

We feel it our bounden duty to give a thorough exposure to this anti-people capitalist class design and anticipatory move and show the people that all these promises of economic development are nothing but hoaxes.

Mrs. Gandhi has claimed that her 'new' formula will impart thrust to the economy.

But what is the actual position? Had there been any dearth of such plans and programmes since independence? Not to speak of the different five-year plans, what has become the fate of the earlier twenty-point programme that Mrs. Gandhi 'bestowed' on the people during the period of Emergency—many of the points of which have been incorporated in the present programme? We need not make any comment because earlier we have mentioned what the working committee of Mrs. Gandhi's party opined regarding its fate. The people have enough of such plans. But the question is: have they made any noteworthy contribution in improving their lot? Not at all. On the contrary, the economic condition of the people has more and more deteriorated. The intensity of capitalist oppression and exploitation has become more and more acute.

Mrs. Gandhi has observed that the economy is on the move and it will move further if the present programme is faithfully implemented. But what is the actual economic picture of the country after the implementation of so many previous plans and programmes—all of which promised economic development like the present one? Report says that in view of the paucity of resources the Planning Commission in its full meeting in presence of Mrs. Gandhi has stressed the need for effecting cuts in allocation for certain sectors of the Sixth Plan. The detailed report has revealed the fact that in the first two years of the Sixth Plan the mobilisation of the resources has fallen short of the target by 10 to 20 percent in most of the States.

In place of Rs 5000 crores which the States and Centre were required to mobilise during this period, they realised Rs. 3600 crore. Moreover, the 400 public sectors

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The Cesspool of Bourgeois Politics— Antulay Episode

At long last, Mr. A. R. Antulay, Chief Minister of Maharashtra who boastfully stated, "Mrs. Gandhi will not oblige those who want to see me out of office"; had to quit ignominiously after the judgement of Bombay High Court. Mr. Antulay's desperate effort to hang to his chair since September last was dashed out by the judgment pronounced by Justice Lentin who found him guilty of charges of arbitrariness in the matter of cement allocation and of taking bribes in the garb of donations in respect of allotment of cement to a number of building contractors. Significantly, for the first time, a Chief Minister in the state of Maharashtra reluctant to leave his office enjoying majority support within his ruling party even on the face of well-founded charges of corruption, not only from outside but also from within the very party, had to swallow the bitter pill of exit from his office after the severe indictment by the Bombay High Court. Still more astonishing is the fact that the central leadership of Cong (I) so long wishing the winds to blow over had perforce to eat the humble pie and accept the resignation, pending since September last year!

Setting aside the defence and win loyalty at the contention that not all the expense of the treasury. donors were recipient of cement permit or that the purpose of the Trusts floated numbering half a dozen—was good or even that the donations were to escape the axe of taxes; the Court had made the acid comment: The purpose and object of Trust floating was quite simple; the donors get exemptions in taxes, the Trusts get money through donations, the building contractors get cement. And all these dirty deals were made, needless to say, to the detriment of public works—even of urgent demands—private sector was patronised through palpable illegitimate money. It may be of interest to note that Mr. Antulay made no secret of the means he had adopted for collecting illicit money to his personal trusts through debauchery of executive powers. When his method of collecting funds was severely indicted in the state legislature, Mr. Antulay told the stunned house that he had found no wrong in it. He would simply sign the files of the rich with his righthand and collect cheques with with his left hand (Statesman, 14. 1. 67.). And it paid dividend no doubt! It turned out to be a boon to Cong(I) legislators who could distribute patronage

Mr. Antulay despite well-founded allegations brought against him before he was found guilty in the court! She said that the opposition had forced him submit his letter of resignation earlier in September last to Mrs. Gandhi and that none had accused Mr. Antulay's personal dishonesty. But the all-important question even from bourgeois parliamentary procedure and practice is why a Chief Minister of State should submit his resignation to the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Gandhi went so far as to say that corruption was a world-wide phenomenon and naturally one can guess easily from this style of fuactinoing a clear picture of 'political morality' of the Congress-(I) under Mrs. Gandhi's leadership. This demonstrated that what matters most to this party, is loyalty to the leadership and not 'sincerity', 'honesty', 'probity' of character and that all talks for 'best behaviour in public life' as claimed by Mrs. Gandhi's party, are standing irony on the party and its leadership.

Then again, instead of following the straight forward course of submitting his resignation to the Maharashtra Governor, what led Mr. Antulay to ask the Prime Minister to forward his resignation to the Maharashtra Governor, thus throwing the responsibility on PM? Even after High Court indictment, when he was finally told to resign, Mr. Antulay wrote in his letter of resignation to the Governor that it would takesometime for his resignation submitted to Mrs. Gandhi to reach him. It his astounding how a Chief Minister who is appointed by the Governor of the State can submit his letter of resignation to the Prime Minister bypassing the Governor, on whose constitutional authority the Chief Minister holds his office! How can it be explained in consonance with the existing

parliamentary form of government which is against all norms of political decency? But then to relate decency and norm of democratic values with the Congress (I) culture is to be too unrealistic to expect!

As a matter of fact, bare experience in public life speaks eloquently that gone are the days of political decency, democratic norm of behaviour, values and legitimacy which used to worry at one time the erstwhile leaders of the old Congress. Corruption of worst sort in contemporary India has assumed a qualitatively different function and is increasingly being institutionalised as a means to economic ends sought for by ruling parties including those of pseudo-lefts.

But what about the role of the opposition including the parties claiming to be Marxists? Because, by now all are well-aware what the Congress (I) culture actually means today. As faithful representative of moribund capitalism no sensible person can expect anything of the sort from this branded bourgeois party! But did not the entire parliamentary opposition kept mum over the relevant questions of political decency, democratic norm and values which once more have fallen victim in Antulay affair? Have the CPI and CPI (M) who off and on are presently crying hoarse over Congress (I)'s authoritarian rule ever raised these issues at stake related with political morality? Instead, both the CPI and the CPI (M) have joined the chorus of the bourgeois opposition bandwagon to accuse one individual, Mr. Antulay and his misuse of office with an eye to reap maximum dividend in parliamentary politics! But can this perfunctory role orchestrated in close harmony between the bourgeois and social democratic parties strike at the very bottom of the body politic so that the phenomenon associated

with Antulay may not raise its ugly head in future? Every one in the 'know' of the houses of these ruling bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties are very much aware that even after political demise of Antulay, the very same corrupt practice following which Antulay rose to such a criminal height, will remain in force intact. And who does not know that there are so many 'Antulays'—albeit still more dreaded 'Antulays' in all these ruling parties not excluding those masquerading as 'lefts'! So, one can judge from one's own experience in life that dependence on law and protection from judicial process alone cannot deliver the goods against the increasing falling standards of democratic norm and values in public life—the ruling of the Bombay High Court having favourably disposed of in the instant case notwithstanding. It is more so, after the recent verdicts on three vital issues affecting people's life by the Supreme Court; silent burial has been given to all the concepts of fundamental democratic rights including relatively independent judiciary as a check against infringement and attack of the state apparatuses on the civil liberty and democratic rights of the people.

Will then the people in the present vicious circle of opportunist parliamentary politics, corrupt practices of worst sort in public life remain silent spectators and watch helplessly the situation drift towards total pollution of moral fabric in our existing body politic? Before one decides what to do, one must try to understand what the great leader of the proletariat and the foremost Marxist thinker and philosopher of the era Comrade Shibdas Ghosh observed long before with deep pain and anguish that politics devoid of ethics was the devil's hand work. At the same time, Comrade Ghosh, through his brilliant penetrating

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Even the Form Goes

Quick on the heels of hike in railway freight, to net in, according to government estimate, a sum of Rs. 80 crore, by ministerial declaration, a steep rise in certain items of postal charges has been declared by the same method, to fetch additional amount of Rs. 100 crore. And all these have been done on the eve of the budgetary session. Before the formal presentation of the Central budget, a total amount, of Rs. 180 crore has come as additional burden on the people who are already bent low with taxation and gasping to make both ends meet amidst high rate of inflation.

Needless to mention that the real burden on the people will be much more than the formal figure because on the plea of 'rise' in cost, the businessmen will be at will to raise the price of products and services many times more than the plea of cost rise can justify. This is experience corroborated by research findings by appropriate authorities. But what is more sinister is the cynical disregard for the minimum norm or principle and even the bare form of public accountability that the parliamentary parties, with no exception, are showing from the seat of governmental power. What is diabolical is the deceptive fascist means of oppression and persuasion to thrust upon the people the worst kind of slavery to dictatorship of capital as is evident from the repetition of 20-point programme by Smt Gandhi in the midst of fiscal tyranny on the people and for that purpose trampling under foot, the principle of accountability in financial management that a civilised government even in bourgeois democracy has so long held, an unfulfilling obligation. The shocking disregard for maintaining even the formal aspect of this principle and method of bourgeois democracy, its repeated instances, has evoked wailings in even a section of the bourgeois dailies. They have commented on this aspect but it is to be noticed they have all pleaded for maintaining the form, none has questioned the essence. Apart from scratching the surface, none has shown the courage to delve deeply into the

cause of alarming degeneration in political ethics and moral standard.

The Statesman, for example, in its editorial comment of February 4, '82, has argued that the impost could have been included in the budget proper if it was in line with the government's decision of appropriate pricing of public services, that the announcement had made it a fait accompli—before the budget session, that there had no ostensible justification because the overall net receipt by the Department of Rs. 287 crore was more than enough to cover up incidental increases in expenditures in view of an appropriation of Rs. 216 crore to Capital Reserve Fund actually made. Well, all these are certainly true but they all relate to technical aspects. They do not expose the Government's sinister motive of raising additional resources though on the plea of funding the Sixth plan but actually to meet the massive defence build up and expenditures of staggering proportions on administration, subsidies to the capitalists etc.

Not only this, what other than the mere name, mere claim of bourgeois democracy remain if the basic principles and norms, once held sacred and inviolate make their silent exit? We know, bourgeois democracy had certain forms and norms, long acclaimed by the bourgeoisie as the essence and the reason for its superiority over other. Public accountability in financial matter of the government was one of such important

principles which restricts the executive, meaning the Government, from taxing the people a single paisa and expending it without the obligation of proving its justification. The distinction between an autocracy and a parliamentary democracy, among other inviolate principles and norms actually to be in practice, included this important one.

But this principle of public accountability has not only been violated repeatedly and almost made a dangerous practice by the Congress (I) Government at the Centre but even the CPI (M) led Government in West-Bengal that waxes eloquent on democracy loses no chance to do the same. We can remind the people that after making formal criticism of the price hike on oil and oil products by the Government at the Centre, last year through, executive order, the 'Left-Front' Government did the same to raise the fare of buses and trams when the budget session of the State Assembly was not far off.

Even now CPI (M) is engaged in the duel with Congress (I) as to who will use the Government machinery to make the election result to its favour but it skilfully avoids calling an assembly session

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Conference and School of Politics at Kalarangi, Orissa

A conference of Mine Workers of Orissa and a School of Politics were organised on January 26—29, under the auspices of Sukinda Upatyaka Mine Workers' Union affiliated to U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani)

At the open session on 26th January, workers from distant mine areas like Sarnabil, Kumardab, Kalarangi, assembled at Kalarangi Chromite Mine. Comrade Mayadhar Nayek, the Central Secretary of the Union presided over the meeting and Comrade Tapash Dutta, Secretary, Orissa State Committee of the SUCI was the main speaker.

In his address Comrade Tapash Dutta dwelt elaborately on the present political situation of the country and as to how the mine workers should develop their movements. He said that the path shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat is the only path to lead the revolutionary struggle of the working people for their emancipation. It will not be out of place to mention that at every stage of preparation of the Conference the Congress (I) workers and hoodlums

taking cue from their leaders tried to create disturbances and provoked violent incidents with the help of the administration and police. But the boldness and determination of the workers were fitting rebuffs to these sinister moves of the reactionary forces.

The school of politics was held on 27th, 28th and 29th January and attended by more than one thousand five hundred workers who listened to the discussion with rapt attention. On the first day the subject of discussion was historical materialism and on the last two days the subjects were the present political situation in the country, the task ahead of the working class, the necessity of strengthening the SUCI, the only working class party in India, etc. etc. The school was conducted by Comrade Tapas Dutta. It was decided that All Orissa Mine Workers' Conference would be organised in May next. The working committee of the Union with Comrade Tapas Dutta as President and Comrade Mayadhar Nayek as General Secretary was also elected in this Conference for the current year.



A portion of the gathering at the Open Session of the Conference at Kalarangi, Orissa.

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 undertakings and the 180 central undertakings which were expected to raise a surplus of Rs. 4000 crores, ended up with a surplus of Rs. 1500 crore. Signs of slippage in executing the plan has now become an open secret and no wonder that the commission will concede that fresh investment will become difficult.

A question admittedly haunts many people. If such is the condition of the Sixth Plan, then what is the necessity of speaking of another programme which is destined to fail in the prevailing crisis-ridden economic condition? A critical survey of the programme will reveal that, in fact, it is a pocket edition of the Sixth Plan. The government feels that with rising defence expenditure and a possible inability to mobilise resources for the Sixth Plan whose public sector investment is Rs. 97,500 crore, it is worthwhile to concentrate on some sectors of the Sixth Plan which will be catchy to the people's eye, and will brighten the tarnished image of Mrs. Gandhi and her government.

Earlier we have mentioned that the cost of the present programme will be Rs. 60,000 crore as against Rs. 97,000 crore of the Sixth Plan. So we find that very cleverly the government by one stroke has cut down the expenditure of the Sixth Plan by Rs. 37,000 crore by bringing about a pocket edition in place of the original Plan. No doubt a superfine exercise on trickery to befool the people.

But what will be the fate of even this pocket edition in the prevailing crisis-ridden economic condition is also within any body's guess.

None can but accept the fact that the overall picture of country's economy is most disquieting.

Save infinitesimal temporary boons in some sectors here and there an over all picture of recession

and decline hangs on the economic horizon of the country. With recession spreading from the initially affected industries to their supplies, industrial recession is becoming wide spread. In this connection, one may like to draw attention to a news item appearing in the daily press on the issue of steel production. It observed that there might be cash flow problem for the steel authority if the stocks were not run down in the succeeding weeks. If the demand recession continued it would be wise to cut down over-all production or at least make a slow down in production.

There is no denying the fact that the general atmosphere prevailing in the country is one of deepening stagnation despite adoption of inflationary measure. When average price level comparisons are made the pace of inflation can be seen to have continued to remain high. Even the erstwhile finance minister Mr. Venkatraman in a meeting of the Congress (I) had admitted that no decline in the price index had percolated to the retail level. The cost of living index is rising at a more rapid rate than they did last year. The official documents, such as the RBI annual report, issued recently certain warning about inflationary pressures that continue to operate in the country. The adoption of so called anti-inflationary measures leads to a more deteriorating condition. These measures cut demand at one end, prices and costs continue to rise in a lagged response to a previous inflationary pressure.

Still Mrs. Gandhi claims that the economy is on the move and talks of maintaining the improvement brought about. But what the facts tell? We know that facts have a tendency to be what they are, no matter how much inconvenience it may cause to somebody. We would take the privilege of citing some

People Rise in Bold Protest

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 express wishes and appeal by eminent intellectuals to reconsider the issue, the Front Government instructed all primary, junior basic and pre-basic schools to stop teaching English at the primary stage. This illustrates how contemptuously the 'Left Front' has been treating the people's wishes and interests, even as it swears constantly by 'people' in its parliamentary game. The very fact that they have taken this move despite such massive and widespread protest by the people shows that they are following the same method as Indira Gandhi, whom they call autocratic and authoritarian in their rhetorics has been doing.

facts to verify how far Mrs. Gandhi's conjecture is correct.

Let us compare

Sector	Capacity utilisation% ('76-77)	Capacity utilisation% ('80 81)
Saleable steel	91.9	72.2
Aluminium	83.5	59.1
Fertilisers (N)	83.6	51.0
Cement	86.6	72.1
Thermal power generation	56.0	44.7

the capacity utilisations of some major sectors of the yr. 1980-81, against that of '76-'77: It shows deterioration in capacity utilisations in all the sectors referred to above. But Mrs. Gandhi tells us a different story. And Mrs. Gandhi being the Prime Minister of the country is an honourable person!

In her broadcast Mrs. Gandhi declared 1982, "the year of productivity." But in the prevailing all-out crisis-ridden economic state what productivity can this be other than being the productivity of unemployment and poverty of the masses?

In her broadcast, Mrs. Gandhi had spoken of a new slogan, 'Shrama Eva Jayate' (it is toil which wins). We had enough

The Front's latest move is an affront to the people, a challenge to them casting aspersion on their political consciousness, self-respect and fighting spirit.

The Resistance Committee had foreseen this evil move and warned the people last time that although the Government had retreated one step it had not given up its policy, and that it was only a matter of time and opportune moment before the Government acted with renewed vengeance. To resist this anti-people move and the entire language and education policy of the 'Left Front' the Committee has engaged itself in building up a state wide movement step by step from the grassroot level. As part of the programme December 21

of this type for slogans in the past. But this slogan sounds as a cruel joke on the working

people because they are faced with a spate of lock-out, lay off, closure as also ever spreading sickness of industries. Unemployment is also mounting to alarming proportions. So, how can the unemployed and those who face forced unemployment can increase the productivity? Or is it an indication that the working people would be reduced to bonded slaves?

We like to add that it is a hard reality and none can override the fact that in a crisis-ridden capitalist economy like that of ours, all such promises are bound to remain mere pious wishes. Mrs. Gandhi may speak so it is doomed to fail in ameliorating the sufferings of our people.

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last had been observed as All Bengal Protest Day. On January 21 last, 'sit-in' demonstrations on a massive scale were held in the district towns to press the people's demands. The Government has not, however, cared to listen to these demands.

Hundreds of branch committees have been formed at the district, sub-division and villages levels to shape them out as the people's own instrument of struggle. Students have formed their struggle committees in schools and colleges. Teachers in many primary schools have sat together to decide on ways and means to continue teaching English, if necessary outside of the school hours even, defying the Government order. The historic demonstration of 5th February came off in the wake of all this. And on 19th February next, students will lead a mass violation of law in protest.

Leading intellectuals and delegates from the district committees addressed the rally, explaining the dangerous implications of this anti-people language and education policy and urging the people to join in an organised movement to defeat this policy. Members of the Komsomol Music Squad enthused the demonstrators with patriotic songs and Balarka, a cultural organisation, staged, in the end, a poster drama on the theme of the movement.

Dr. Sukumar sar, the eminent educationist who has been in the forefront of the movement all along, was incapacitated by ill health to take part in this demonstration. In a message read out to the gathering he said that this Government had taken the disastrous measure to eliminate English without caring for opinions of the real experts in education. He urged the Committee to advance steadily along its course and expressed

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A Blueprint of Fascism

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Perhaps the world people have not yet forgotten the 25-point programme of Hitler. Their primary object is to hoodwink the people, to create false belief among them that such measures would work as the panacea for all ills, they are suffering from. The underlying design is of course to disarm them and weaken their struggle against the exploitative capitalist economic system and the state and thereby to protect and give a fresh lease of life to it.

Judged in this context, Mrs. Gandhi's latest formula is one such attempt to deceive the people and shield the crisis ridden capitalist economy from their wrath. It is a foot step on the way of bringing about all out fascism in the country. So it is a blue print of fascism that Mrs. Gandhi has delivered to the nation as a new year's gift.

The working people of our country should correctly grasp the underlying motive and design of Mrs. Gandhi's latest move. Time and again, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the outstanding Marxist-Leninist thinkers of the era, while exposing the character of fascism observed that fascists always took recourse to a dual tactics of suppression and persuasion. On the one hand they adopt one after another repressive measures

to curb people's democratic and political rights and civil liberty so as to deprive them of the scope and means to be organised and develop struggle against the exploitative capitalist system and on the other hand, to shield the real exploitative class character of the capitalist state and thereby pose it as a social welfare state with various social democratic palliatives.

Mrs. Gandhi too, following the foot steps of her fore-runners of history is trekking an identical route. On the one hand she is arming her government every day with legislation that ruthlessly curbs legitimate movement of the people in the name of boosting up economy and production. The ESMA, NSA etc. are a few of such measures.

We are passing through a very critical moment of the history of our country. It is only the united movement of the working people based on the correct base political line of the proletariat under the genuine revolutionary leadership that can give defeat to the ruling capitalist class with all their heinous conspiracy that they are perpetrating against the working people of the country. And we must concentrate all our efforts with all our might to build up this mighty struggle all through the country.

Even the form Goes

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particularly when the soundness of financial position of the Government is under challenge. Not only a staggering figure of Rs. 262 crore of overdraft from RBI but even it is suggested in a section of press that the actual deficit is much more reaching around Rs. 400 crore or above. Not only this, the Government has not implemented in full the recommendations of the

Pay Commission, appointed by it and declared to have been accepted by the Cabinet. And the Government wants to face the election with plethora of promises and a vote on accounts passed in a short session of the assembly just to meet the routine financial obligation. But it has already earned the unique distinction of being the solitary State Government to which no plan allocation has been made

Antulay Episode

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analysis of the present day crisis obtaining in our country in the realm of morality laid bare the conspiracy of the Indian bourgeoisie in its decay, to destroy the moral backbone of the nation. Comrade Ghosh showed that the Indian bourgeoisie, devil as they are, being the exploiter ruler, they have not failed to take that part of it which serves their need—that is to destroy the moral ethical strength and ruin the very character of the nation. The cultural-moral degeneration is happening, one will note if one can see through the game, beyond knowledge

of the people—there is behind it a calculated move of the ruling clique, a definite patronage. In their pulpit speeches they are asking the people to be good and honest. But at the dictate of petty, sectarian party interests, and on the plea of practical politics, not the ruling party alone, but even many pseudo-left parties are inciting the base instincts of man. Greed, avarice and meanness, which make a man inhuman and spoil the courage and self respect in him, are now being encouraged. Suffice it to say, only the revolutionary politics pursued by a

correct revolutionary Party of the Indian proletariat alone can provide the effective antidote to this worst sort of politics of opportunism by initiating and developing it to a still higher stages, step by step, into an upsurge of democratic mass movements.

The patriotic and democratic-minded forces, people and individuals who cherish democratic norms, ethics and morality should therefore realise that the ultimate sanction for democratic atmosphere, a clean public life lies in organising themselves and developing mighty wave of mass movement.

People rise in bold protest

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the hope that victory would be theirs.

Sri Monoj Bose, paying homage to the memory of Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy, urged the people to step forward to fulfil the object of this movement of which late Nihar Ranjan Ray was a leading figure. Sri Pramatha Nath Bishi, distinguished writer and

educationist, refuted the 'Left Front's' charge that English was alien to this country.

The reason why intellectuals who were not actively associated with politics of any sort had taken to the streets today was explained by the former Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati and Rabindra Bharati. Dr. B. N. Dasgupta, former Vice Chancellor of North Bengal University, emphasized the importance of English as an international language. Sri Sailesh De, noted writer, cited numerous examples to show how the language had come to mingle with our life through a historic course.

Correction

In our last issue, page seven, column 2, paragraph 2, line 7, the text should be read as: "To stave off the acute crisis of moribund capitalism..."

The mistake is deeply regretted.

Editor—P. Era.

because of its failure to provide required accounts and data the planning body demands of the States according to press reports. What is this? The Government could have dispelled doubts by calling the assembly session earlier if it was on right track.

The people of West-Bengal are certainly within their rights to know the facts and no amount of pleas and prevarications can absolve this government of its solemn obligation to the principle of public accountability.

Representatives of the District Committees, including Sri Ambika Mukherjee, an educationist from Birbhum district, Murari Mukherjee from South 24 Parganas, Dipankar Roy, President, Students' Struggle Committee, and Sri Dipak Barman, lawyer, Prof. Somendranath Choudhury and others also addressed the gathering expressing their resolve to resist the Government's anti-people policy. Manik Mukhopadhyay, Vice President of the Committee, explained

in his speech that the 'Left Front's' policy was nothing but an extension of the Congress's policy. Pointing to the bourgeois class design working behind the the Front's language and education policy, he called upon the people to join hands in a broadbased, organised, united movement to frustrate this evil design.

The dateline now is 19th February when the Student's Struggle Committee will organise a mass violation of law. If people's clear rejection of a disastrous policy through organised and long drawn movement had any meaning to this 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal which cries hoarse over democracy then it would have certainly paid heed to and withdrawn it. On 19th this month thousands upon thousands of students will come to declare in no uncertain terms that this disastrous education policy will not pass. History will bear witness how a government run by parties claiming to be 'Left' 'Marxist,' reacted to this democratic process of overwhelming opposition. It will also bear witness that the people rose in defence of a noble cause of education and culture, they did not submit.

Editor-in-Chief—NIHAR MUKHERJEE