

# With a pro-poor gimmick the Budget in essence a heinous attempt to deceive people

Prior to the presentation of the budget for 1995-96 the entire monopoly controlled press were bent on creating an impression that in view of the debacle in elections in a number of states and in view of the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, the Congress(I) government at the Centre would be under compulsion to present a pro-people budget. After the presentation of the budget all the newspapers depicted this budget to be pro-poor with rural bias in such a way as if it was an axiomatic truth. But what is the reality? Before going to analyse the budget we like to mention that different Chambers of Commerce and Industries and the individual industrialists despite their criticism for non-withdrawal of the surcharge on corporate tax unanimously hailed the budget as a step in the right direction for further globalisation and Liberalisation of the economy.

When the people in general are groaning under abnormal inflationary pressure resulting in unprecedented rise in prices of all essential commodities, when retrenchment, closures, lockouts and massive unemployment are causing havoc in the life of the people, when the people are prone to perish from hunger and common diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, etc. and when even after 48 years of independence, safe drinking water is scarce to the vast masses of Indian people it is expected of any civil government that some immediate measures on war footing are to be adopted to provide succor and sustenance for vast multitude of the afflicted people and the budget must reflect the earnestness to address the problems confronting the people in general. But did the budget presented for 1995-96 reflect that? The finance minister did however, devoted considerable time of his budget speech to the needs of the downtrodden, the old age pension, mid day meal to school children, SC&ST communities, handloom workers, compensation to the poor family on the death of bread earner and a host of such other subjects. As a matter of fact, this budget contains a plethora of anti-poverty schemes, but the finance minister forgot to make any corresponding meaningful budgetary allocation for execution of those programmes. As a matter of fact, the total plan allocation has been drastically slashed in real terms, and a very poultry sum has been allocated to the social service sectors in pursuance of the present philosophy of the government of the abdication of the responsibility of the state in these spheres.

Though the finance minister neglected the social service sectors, while making budgetary allocations, he however discharged his responsibility only by opening a new window in NABARD and instructing the commercial banks to divert the amount not utilised in the priority sectors for execution of a basketful of schemes in the rural areas. But he is surely aware that the commercial banks would not disburse them out because of the present policy of the government, and so by diverting the amount through NABARD for execution of rural infrastructure schemes, the actual beneficiaries would be rural rich instead of the rural poor.

The finance minister had to admit that the inflationary pressure was very severe, and vowed to take determined action to contain the same. But this is a mere repetition of what he said in his

previous budget speeches. As in the previous budgets for the last three years, in this budget too, not only no positive action has been adopted to arrest the inflationary pressure but certain measures have been adopted to stoke the fire of inflation. Just prior to the presentation of this budget, the freight and fare have been substantially hiked in the railway budget. There has been 7% hike in freight in all commodities barring a few items, and railways expects to earn a substantial amount from hike in monthly and season ticket fares. Will not these measures create inflationary pressure? In the previous year, there was a provision of an enormous fiscal deficit of 6 per cent of GDP in the budget, and in the revised estimate this fiscal deficit overshoot to 6.7 per cent of GDP. Such enormous fiscal deficit is bound to cause inflation and this actually happened. The finance minister's promise in the last budget for containing inflation totally failed. In this budget too, the fiscal deficit is shown to be 5.5% of GDP, but we are sure that this fiscal deficit cannot be limited within that, causing further inflation. During the last several consecutive years, the weather was favourable and so harvesting was good. But despite that the fiscal deficit overshoot to 6.7% of GDP. If in this year this trend is reversed one shudders to think what will happen in such an eventuality. The finance minister assured that he would utilise the surplus foodstock to contain the inflation. But will he explain why the offtake from ration shops has considerably dwindled? The government has continuously been increasing the foodgrain prices, and these are now beyond the purchasing power of the people. So even if the surplus food

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### Budget 1995-96 deceptive and anti-people : SUCI

*Reacting sharply to the Budget for 1995-96, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following statement to the press on 16th March last :*

"The Budget for 1995-96, with a gimmick of some tax relief is, in essence, a heinous attempt to deceive the people. The Budget has failed miserably to show any way for alleviation, if not solution, of two most vital problems like unemployment and price rise now tormenting the life of the people. On top of it, further liberalisation of import will hit hard the middle and smallscale industries and swell the rank of the already vast army of unemployed. This is, therefore, out and out anti-people and deceptive, coming through under the garb of a pro-people stance."

## CALL OF 24th APRIL

Will capitalism-imperialism continue to exist devastating the life of toiling millions of all strata or will toiling millions decisively fight with renewed vigour to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism in its stead? This is the question that has appeared never before with such urgency as of now in recent times this century, and this is the particular background in which we are going to observe 24th April, the 47th foundation anniversary of our party the SUCI.

Imperialism is now most desperate because its unprecedented market crisis and its acute internal contradiction have pushed it at its tottering end. So it has assumed the most aggressive posture and is engineering and instigating war one after another. Another world war, in this situation, cannot be totally ruled out. Imperialists, led by the USA, desperately need war to bring even a little life to its crisis-ridden economy to stave off further disaster. Before imperialists start an all-out war among themselves over market, they strive to continue their oppression and exploitation peacefully as far as possible, to cover which the imperialists now have intensified their deceptive propaganda of 'unipolar world', 'free market', globalisation and liberalisation, etc.

But should world humanity take to the path of peril being trapped in imperialist design or move

along the path of progress which the working class has taken to?

Already the initial euphoria of capitalist-imperialists at the setback of socialism is steadily subsiding and with the monopolists and foreign multinationals shifting the burden of their own crisis on to the shoulders of the working people causing wide-scale retrenchment thereby swelling the rank-of the vast army of unemployed, with further retrenchment due to extensive-computerisation along with installation of capital intensive industries, with continuous drastic curtailment of hard-won democratic and economic rights, with soaring prices, with absolute insecurity of life, etc., people are rather compelled to fight with their back to the wall despite general apathy towards politics. In capitalist-imperialist countries, big and small, and in the erstwhile socialist states people are coming out in greater numbers in class and mass struggles, with many carrying portraits of Lenin and Stalin with a craving for socialism and communism.

The inexorable law of history is thus manifesting itself, which the imperialists, who study things with their fancy, failed to read. While our weapon is Marxism, the revolutionary science

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# Close your ranks, intensify ideological struggle, develop as natural leaders of the masses

— Nihar Mukherjee

On 14th March, the 112th memorial day of Karl Marx was observed at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought at Ghatsila, Bihar. Our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, addressing a party worker's gathering on this occasion, said :

At the very outset let us be clear about it that we are Marxists not because we consider the great men and philosophers before Marx lesser to Marx as thinkers. The point is not so simple but much more deeper. This is a question of finding truth and deeper understanding of world outlook and philosophy. The purpose of philosophy is to throw light on the problems and enable men to correctly analyse and comprehend them in order to overcome them and march ahead. It requires a firm scientific foundation therefore. It is precisely here that Marxism made a radical departure from all other philosophies — which relied on individual perceptions, even if of geniuses, rather than on science. This explains the multiplicity of philosophies and religious thoughts, each giving its own different interpretations of the same phenomenon. Before Marx, philosophy remained therefore the select sphere of select minds. But Marxism based itself on the scientifically tested and verified incontestable truths and on scientific method of analysis, providing 'a guide to action'. Marx therefore declared : "Hitherto philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways. The point, however, is to change it."

In a continuously changing material world, Marxism taught men to view and study all natural and social phenomena in the course of their contradiction, motion, development and change — and to do it by studying the inherent laws which govern this change, both internal and external. It thereby cast off all metaphysical and 'eternal' concepts of truth. Marxian Dialectics triumphed over metaphysics.

This 'dialectical method' was Hegel's discovery which could not get itself free from the concept of absolute idea. Feuerbach tried but Marx alone succeeded, finally and fully, to tear off this idealistic shell completely. With Hegel, dialectics stood on its head, as Marx said himself, but with Marx it stood on its feet again. Marx showed the invincible strength of this science of dialectical materialism. He said that Marxists are thorough and are therefore sure of the future. His life was its best example.

His philosophical conviction led him to investigate and establish the materialistic concept of history pointing to the inevitable destination of mankind to classless communist society to be reached through the transitional phase of socialism to achieve which the proletariat has its conscious historic role to play. It showed that it cannot emancipate itself from the capitalist rule through the proletarian revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat without emancipating all the other exploited classes, and thereby finally eliminating its own rule, its own dictatorship, itself as a class and all social divisions, discriminations and inequalities for ever. All this was discovered by Marx. In course of this 'thorough' scientific pursuit he

discovered, the "the law of motion of development of society" of capitalist society — of 'surplus value' — the subject matter of his historic magnum opus, *Capital*, which, Engels said, "threw light on the problem, in trying to solve which all previous investigations, of both bourgeois economists and socialist critics, had been groping in the dark." Consequently, he also founded, first of all again, the First Workingmen's International. Engels splendidly described it thus : "His real mission in life was to contribute, in one way or another, to the overthrow of capitalist society and ... the liberation of the modern proletariat, which he was the first to make conscious of its own position and ... of the conditions of its emancipation."

Elaborating Marx's teachings, Lenin enriched the Marxist concept of the party as the vanguard detachment of the proletariat armed with the most advanced revolutionary theory. Further elaborating, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh explained that this revolutionary theory meant not merely economic or political but a total epistemological category covering all aspects of life. Without a profound realisation, through application in life, of this revolutionary theory, the subjective condition of revolution cannot fully mature. And in such a case, despite complete maturity of the objective conditions, revolution shall have to wait.

It is this revolutionary consciousness, of Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought, that helped us stand with firm conviction even in the face of the most severe and unprecedented setback of communist movement, recently. The imperialist canards against communism and drumbeating of the superiority of "modern capitalist technology" over communist ideology did not touch, let alone confuse, us. On the contrary, it was Marx who said in his *Capital* that modern industry created the "new modern science of technology" and was "continuously perfecting its technical basis." But Marx at the same time pointed that under capitalism, every such development only throws economy into further crisis and more ruthlessly exploits and oppresses the working masses. This is what we are witnessing today. The admission of the GATT Director General Mr Sutherland that the new agreement was not the end, but the beginning of a bitter trade dispute, confirms Marx only. It also reaffirms Lenin's thesis that imperialism inevitably generates war. These are only confirming Marxism in the changed situation — and proving that it is not and cannot be obsolete.

In this situation, our party undertook the all-out effort for forming a worldwide forum for militant anti-imperialist peace movement, conducive to the emancipation struggles everywhere. We must be ready for the sacrifices it will need and our commitment to this struggle will cement its broader unity.

But we are yet to achieve it in deed. For that, we must launch the all-out struggle to elevate ourselves and improve our collective style of work very fast. In this context, the Central Committee gave the urgent call from the recently

held first All India Plenum for intensifying the inner-party socialist ideological struggle for elevation and rectification.

It was Marx who liberated philosophy from idealist dreams and turned it into the greatest weapon of man's practical struggle for progress. He meant it when he said that just as philosophy finds its material weapon in the proletariat, the proletariat too finds its spiritual weapon in philosophy and, only by mastering it they can become true men — free and fearless. The aim of our present struggle is precisely to enable all our comrades master ideology, in this way. The struggle for elevation will lag behind if ideological consciousness lacks. And we are lagging behind already much on the question of ideological cultivation. The aim of our struggle for elevation and rectification is to bridge this gap, to integrate the ideological and the practical struggles — almost like conducting a cultural revolution inside the party — involving all leaders and cadres at all levels.

It is, firstly, a test for the leaders to emerge as living examples of this struggle. It should start with myself first of all. That is not because of my position. That is because of my responsibility as the party's General Secretary.

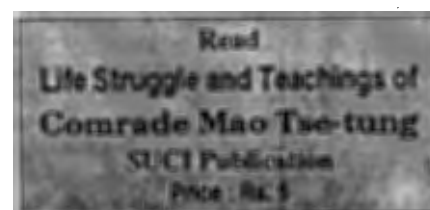
And it is the task of you comrades to judge us leaders critically, instead of following us blindly in this struggle. But for that you too must acquire at least a minimum standard of consciousness, character and culture. You will have to acquire that minimum when you will be able to emerge as the natural leader of the masses in course of being with them and leading them, through every hardship, in the class and mass struggles — when people will willingly accept your leadership with respect, love and admiration. Like the leaders must set examples before the entire party in this struggle, so also you must become examples before the masses through it.

Be prepared against the attacks in the days to come. But also be prepared to utilise the opportunities unfolding rapidly at the same time. Close your ranks, have a clear vision of the future and a firm conviction in your mission. You can gain this strength only by elevating yourselves ideologically in the struggle for fast rectifying all our limitations and shortcomings. I repeat that, standing as we do on the firm foundation of the scientific teachings of Marx, march forward freely and fearlessly in this struggle.

**Long Live Karl Marx !**

**Long Live Proletarian Internationalism !**

**Long Live SUCI !**



## Massive import liberalisation will imperil medium & smallscale industries

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stock is released there will be no significant offtake, and consequently the release of surplus foodstock would work as not an anti-inflationary measure unless the issue price is drastically slashed. The finance minister is however quite liberal in granting concessions to the capitalists in the form of hopping cuts in excise duty and customs duty. He argued that the cut in excise duty and the customs duty would be reflected in the lower production cost, and so the prices would come down. Last year also he advanced the same argument, while announcing cuts in excise duty and customs duty, and warned that these cuts would be withdrawn if these were not reflected in the prices of the products. Everybody knows that the prices did not come down, but on the contrary increased. The finance minister did not withdraw the cuts despite that, and once again he is now advancing the same argument. It is unbelievable that the 'expert' finance minister is so naive as not to be aware that when taxes are imposed, the industrialists increase the prices and pass on the burden to the customers, but if taxes are slashed, the industrialists pocket that amount instead of reducing the prices of the products. So the finance minister is actually deceiving the people by projecting these cuts in excise duty and customs duty as anti-price rise measures. As a matter of fact, these cuts in excise duty and customs duty have been made as per the time table agreed to with the IMF and the World Bank.

Actually, this budget consolidates the process of globalisation and liberalisation, and sends positive signals to the industrialised countries which are constantly monitoring any regression in this front, while at the same time he tries to project most deceptively and cunningly the image of a government which is not impervious to the cry of the poor.

Inflation and unemployment problem are the two most burning problems in the life of the people. But the finance minister did prescribe nothing in his budget to arrest these problems. On the contrary, as already stated the inflationary pressure will accentuate owing to fiscal deficit which cannot be limited within the budgeted figure of 5.5% of the GDP, and also for the freight and fare hike. Again, the finance minister has made a total plan allocation of Rs.48,500 crore for 1995-96, which is less than the revised estimate for 1993-94 even in nominal terms. Yet he expects to generate 1290 million mandays in the rural areas, i.e., 490 million mandays more than those in 1991-92. But how? Does he know any magic?

While the plan allocation has been drastically shelved the proposed non-plan expenditure is to zoom to Rs.1,23,651 crore for 1995-96 while it was shown to be Rs.1,13,511 crore in the revised estimate for 1994-95, i.e., Rs.394 crore more than the budgeted figure for the last year. The finance minister showed no earnestness on the imperative of cutting non-plan expenditure to save crores of rupees through drastic action against corrupt practices and denying luxurious life-style for the ministers and the bureaucrats. But one cannot expect such pro-people actions from this out and out anti-people Congress(I) government. This government has been continuously increasing the expenditure on administration, police and military. The increase in military expenditure apart from the expenditure on the police and

para-military forces since 1980-81 shows the out and out anti-people character of this government. While the military spending in 1980-81 was Rs.3971 crore, it increased to Rs.15750 crore in 1990-91, Rs.19,180 crore in 1993-94, Rs.23,000 crore in 1994-95 and Rs.25,500 crore in 1995-96 (budgeted). While the military spending has been proposed to an increase of Rs.25,00 crore in 1995-96, the total plan outlay on education and health is Rs.1825 crore and Rs.2251 crore respectively, i.e., much less than the increase proposed in the military spending. India stands amongst the lowest rung at the countries having highest illiteracy, malnutrition and diseases. It is a topmost priority of any civil government to address these problems. The people who are prone to perish from diseases and hunger should first be protected against these evils. Instead of addressing these urgent problems in the life of the people, Dr Singh has proposed more guns for their protection while populist schemes having practically no budgetary provisions have been initiated. On the question of food subsidy, the budget is quite harsh to the poor. The increase in food subsidy is from Rs.5100 crore in 1994-95 to Rs.5250 crore in 1995-96, and in real terms this is a sharp cut if inflation is taken into account. The government has been continuously reducing subsidies for a period of time. In 1990-91, the total subsidies were Rs.12121 crore and in this budget the allocation is only Rs.10965 crore.

The finance minister pleaded his inability to further increase outlays in social service sectors because of fund crunch, but he is quite gracious to the capitalists in granting drastic cuts in excise duty, customs duty and tax holidays for infrastructure industries, and announced numerous other concessions to them. Dr Singh offered a net reduction of Rs.1582 crore in excise and customs duties at a time when the capitalists are enjoying booming profits even in this recessionary situation, and Dr Singh admitted that in his budget speech. So by offering such massive reduction in excise duty and customs duty, the finance minister has helped the monopolists to gobble up massive super profits. The drastic cuts in customs duty on colour TV, cosmetics, glazed tiles, air-conditioning machineries, auto parts, etc., are directed to promote elitist consumerism.

But the finance minister has not tried to bridge the gap in revenue loss either by curtailing wasteful expenditure or by unearthing the huge amount of black money or by recovering unrealised taxes. Even if 3 to 4 per cent more of the unrealised taxes collected it will substantially increase the revenue. Instead of proposing any such action, the finance minister has altogether ignored this loss of revenue. So his estimation of fiscal deficit at 5.5% of GDP is far from reality. In the previous years he promised to keep the fiscal deficit to 6 per cent of GDP, but because of profligate spending this fiscal deficit target was overshot to 6.7% of GDP, causing extreme inflationary pressure. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the finance minister lay stress only on keeping the fiscal deficit within 5.5% of GDP, but he carefully avoided to mention the revenue deficit, which is an enormous amount. The projected revenue deficit for 1995-96 is about Rs.35,000 crore, i.e., the government will have to borrow that amount to cover the projected spending. Already, 51.5 per cent of the total revenue receipt goes for interest payment; so if the borrowing goes on unabated, India will be

further entangled in the debt-trap. The finance minister did nothing to arrest this trend of galloping deficits on revenue account. Instead, he proposed the short cut of disinvestment of the PSUs to the tune of Rs.7,000 crore. This government has no moral right to disinvest the PSUs, the assets created by spending from the public exchequer. This government is most immorally handing over the PSUs to the monopolists at a throwaway price for their super profits, and this is nothing but treason against the people.

The finance minister boasted of foreign exchange reserve amounting to \$20 billion. But how the common Indian people can get any benefit from that? On the contrary, sudden on-rush of foreign exchange creates inflationary pressure causing further aggravation of the sufferings of the people. Moreover, the finance minister should not have been complacent after Mexican disaster. This rise in foreign exchange is not due to surplus created in export and import, but almost the entire amount is derived from loan, and a big slice of this reserve constitutes the most treacherous short term market loan. About 46 per cent of the entire foreign exchange reserve constitutes the 'Portfolio Investment' which can make a quick exit any moment. So, if this huge reserve is not carefully and properly utilised it will be a liability the entire burden of which again would have to be borne by the impoverished people of our country — but not the capitalists for whose benefit all these have been prepared. Though in the background of the recent elections debacle, the finance minister is under compulsion to avoid pro-capitalist image, and wants to have a pro-people and pro-poor label, particularly in this pre-election year, the grey reality is that the main thrust of this budget, as already stated, is for the consolidation of the policy of globalisation and liberalisation cloaked in a basketful of pro-people schemes without no corresponding budgetary support for their implementation. We have shown in a number of articles previously how the internal markets is getting squeezed owing to ruthless capitalist exploitation and so it is the compulsion of the Indian capitalist class to enter the world market in a bigger way to stave off the endemic crisis. So to become globally competitive is a class aspiration of the Indian capitalists. In deed the finance minister has tried his utmost to serve this interest of the capitalist class, and in so doing he did not hesitate to expose the broad masses of the Indian people to fiscal savagery through massive internal and external debt, massive doze of fiscal deficit and deficit on revenue account and disinvestment of the PSUs while at the same time granting hopping tax relief on all fronts to the capitalists without forgetting to dish out a set of homilies about 'time consuming trickling down effect' and on 'socio-economic transformation on the basis of democratic polity and rule of law'. But the Indian people are feeling the pinch of this democracy in their empty stomach while the capitalists are jubilant over their super profits. But will this attempt of the finance minister to make the Indian products globally competitive in order to stave off the crisis of market ultimately succeed? Is it not a fact that capitalist today is globally incapable of solving the crisis of market? Is it not apparent from the economic scenario of the western

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# Liberalisation and globalisation now spelling disaster for 'model' Mexico

The Mexican economy, which even a few months back was projected as a 'model' of success for its liberalised economy by the bourgeoisie the world over has crashed to doom in the month of December last. Mexico, the 'oasis' of foreign capital is now being described as a desert. The prices of shares floated by the domestic and foreign companies in Wall Street Stock Market of the USA, began to nosedive from 20th December last. As a sequel, the various US companies which invested in those shares as well as manipulators in the speculative operation began to release their held-up shares in a frantic bid. The result was further fall in the share price. Only in just a week in end-December last, the US companies suffered a loss of \$10 billion (Rs.30,000 crore) in this share market crash. Mexican share markets faced similar shock waves. The panicky scramble for flight of foreign capital ensued then and there. As a result, the demand for dollar in the Mexican banks soared sky-high overnight. To cope with this evermounting panicky rush for dollars the Mexican government could hardly afford to oblige them. Naturally, the Mexican government was forced to devalue its currency, 'peso', in phases leading to finally 40% devaluation. This means, in exchange of a dollar 40% more 'peso' than before has to be spent. In terms of 40% devaluation of 'peso', commodity prices became dearer by at least 40%. At present the rate of inflation fluctuates between 30 and 40 per cent in Mexico. As is known, the axe of inflationary spiral always falls on the shoulders of the working people because their real wages stand to lose inversely. The capitalists, on the otherhand, by increasing commodity prices are resorting to retrenchment in the name of lowering cost of production, thus extract their profit as usual. As a matter of fact, retrenchment has come down heavily on the workers of Mexico. The Mexican branches of Nissan and Volkswagen announced retrenchment of 1000 workers each. Already in February, the Televista Co. dismissed its 1500 workers (*Time*, 13.2.95) "... Workers are being fired like there's no tomorrow and new business has all but dried up. ...

"Business leaders say upto 250,000 people have been laid off in the last three months, and unions fear upto two million job losses this year. None of the new army of unemployed is likely to find another job anytime soon." (*Economic Times*-8.3.95) Many more companies are on the lookout for following suit, the news of which will never reach the outside world.

## Same ploy of exploiters everywhere to perpetuate their rule

Like their ruling bourgeois counterparts elsewhere, the Mexican government too, came out with 'stringent doses of sanction' with the slogan of 'country in danger', the conspiracy to make the working class and the poor to bear the brunt. Moratorium has been imposed on the wage increase beyond 7% in the industry. Expenditure on social security measures which the bourgeois governments resort to maintain as a sustenance to the poverty-stricken people, will be further cut. The nationwide crisis has reached such a proportion that whatever money the people had has been exhausted. And for subsistence the

people are rushing to the pawn-brokers to take money mortgaging whatever their belongings. "One of the few groups to benefit from the crisis are Mexico's pawn-brokers, who have seen business boom since the economy crashed." (*Economic Times*-8.3.95) Over and above, the government announced its firm resolve to crush the Zapatista movement with an iron hand in Mexico. This is one of the preconditions imposed by the US imperialists without which the USA would not come up with financial support to rescue the sinking Mexican economy. The lackeys of the US imperialism, the corrupt Mexican ruling clique thus sent some 2.5 lakh mercenaries to the areas under the influence of Zapatista movement and their leaders are being taken into custody. Military offensives are on. The US imperialists in order to shield the inevitable consequence of capitalist economy have advanced two reasons for the acute economic crisis of Mexico: first, failure on the part of the Mexican government to manage the liberalised economic policy; second, the Zapatista movement which gave rise to 'political instability'. It may be reminded here that it is the Zapatista Peasant Movement which opposed the 'NAFTA' (*North Atlantic Free Trade Association*) between Mexico, Canada and the USA. The government then suppressed the raging movement by butchering the peasants; but the movement could not be crushed. Rather, with days passing, the movement gained greater dimension. The US rulers as well as bourgeois rulers of all countries paint the people's movement as the factor for 'political instability'. For, this sort of 'political instability' worked as the damper to foreign capital investment; so to lure imperialist finance capital, working class movement need not only be discouraged but forcibly contained — such is the political feature of the liberalised economic policy formulations which the 'Fund-Bank' combine prescribes through their 'liberal counsels'. As a matter of fact, in the countries proclaimed to be the emerging markets of investing finance capital, quelling of the people's movement and imposition of wage freeze by the rulers of these countries are focussed as their greatest achievement. The object of it lies in the fact that as against wanton plunder and exploitation by the foreign finance capital in league with native monopoly capital, the working class movements has to be nipped in the bud. Even the trade union right of the working class for mere wage increases has been wrested by the ruling class of these countries. Instead of demanding increase of real wage and preservation of dignity of labour, the workers have to toil hard keeping their head down — this practice has been forcibly imposed and it is being dished out as 'work culture'.

## Brutal oppression on the protest struggle

The reason of the Zapatista uprising being the target of attack in Mexico lies in the fact that it warned beforehand about the disastrous consequences the agreement would have on the domestic industries and ultimately by reducing Mexico to a happy hunting ground of the US imperialists pushing in its wake the poor people to ruination and hence vehemently opposed the

'NAFTA' and liberalisation of Mexican economy.

Within a span of one year the warning came true. The computerised formulae deduced by the US-educated economic pundits could not change a whit the basic law of the capitalist economy. Actually, the Mexican event is virtually a slap in the face of the ruling bourgeoisie and all their cohorts of the 'new liberalised global economic order'. That is why, like Rao-Manmohan-Alhwalia combine in our country, all the rulers and bureaucrats of the bourgeois states are shouting in a chorus at the top of their voice: 'Mexico's is an isolated event, an exception, liberalisation cannot be the cause; wrong steps of the Mexican government are to blame for its disaster.' The US imperialist rulers also are dishing out the trash that the Mexican government could not manage its economy on the correct plane and square up the budgetary deficits. Hence the disaster. This palpably false propaganda is aimed at hiding the very fact that it is the liberalised economic policy which played havoc as a whole. So the entire onus of the disaster has been purported to be shifted on to a handful of ministers and bureaucrats of Mexico and the Zapatista uprising.

The knowledgeable people throughout the world can remember it very well that just six months prior to disaster, heaps of praise were showered on the 'competent and pragmatic' Mexican rulers in the mass media of the capitalist world, including India. Many a startling statistics came in sharp focus in the media depicting how the debt-trapped Mexico of eighties reached the zenith of success following the path of liberalisation and free trade. The rate of rise of annual GDP of Mexico touched such a height as to warrant its promotion to the OECD (*Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development*) membership from the status of developing countries.

But the collapse of Mexican economy in only 10-15 days made the people realise that foreign economic degrees or grandiloquent verbosity cannot save bourgeois economy from collapse. That is why, those highlighted as 'future of the country' are now being painted as 'powder boys'. A frantic bid is also afoot in search of scapegoats.

The severe blow of Mexican economic crisis is not confined to its territory, it has struck almost every 'free market' of capitalist countries. The system of free and unhindered entry and exit of finance capital from one corner to the other in the name of globalisation and which the imperialists for so long welcomed as the advent of the era of free movement of capital, has turned out to be an unavoidable painful pricking. A simmering discontent is there throughout the capitalist world. Especially, in the 'emerging markets' of Asia-Africa-Latin America an air of uncertainty and apprehension is blowing very strongly.

## Game of IMF-World Bank in Third World

The capitalist-imperialists are in a quandary as to which next country will 'crash' after Mexico. A deep sense of panic is haunting them. The pace of exit and entry of world finance capital

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# Speculative finance capital pouring in to wreck economy of third world countries

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has outwitted all calculations of Fund-Bank combine even. For, private and usurious speculative capital forms the major share of investible world finance capital. The recent spurt of western finance capital in Asian and Latin American countries, to attract which the ruling classes of these countries have liberalised their economy, relates principally to speculative capital. Compared to the present situation, the rate of private investment of western finance capital in these relatively weaker capitalist countries was too small in the past. Many a restriction were there on the flow of foreign finance capital. The flow of imperialist capital then came by way of official aid and assistance from imperialist governments, and IMF-World Bank, etc. In the guise of 'aid and assistance' the IMF-World Bank combine used to mount pressure to make open their markets. With the aggravation of foreign exchange crisis the weaker capitalist countries as and when went for loans from the IMF-World Bank, more and more pressure was exerted on them to make wider open their markets to the foreign private finance capital as a pre-condition. In this way the Fund-Bank combine paved the way for investment of foreign private capital which they call emergence of 'free market economy'. This is nothing new. During the 80s when the less developed capitalist countries of Asia-Africa-Latin America were entangled in the debt-trap, it became easier for the Fund-Bank to force them to accept 'free market policy' as the only way out. In the eighties Mexico topped the list of debt-trapped countries. Acting on the advice of the IMF, the Mexican government introduced the liberalised trade regime in 1982. Following it, right from abolition of control over flow of foreign capital, measures towards free import, privatization of state sector units, curbing government expenditure towards social security schemes on the plea of plugging the budgetary deficits, etc., were adopted in quick haste resulting in a massive flow of foreign capital into Mexican market. An unprecedented bullish tendency ruled share markets. Right from the beginning of 90s, entry of imperialist capital in Mexico became extensive. Quite a number of foreign MNCs opened industrial units in Mexico with the lure of cheap raw materials and labour power. Along with it, the USA formed the 3-nation free trade association, NAFTA, in 1992-93, together with Canada and Mexico resulting in more liberal export of US goods to Mexican market. "Under NAFTA, the country accelerated its consumption of imported products ranging from shampoo to computers that drove thousands of inefficient domestic firms out of business." - *Time*, 13.2.95)

## Imperialists earn fabulous profit at the peril of the people

For this massive imports, necessary foreign exchange was made available through unhindered flow of foreign private capital inside Mexico. But concealing the real picture the outside world was fed, thanks to glare of publicity, with the information that Mexico's liberalised economy helped its foreign exchange reserve to grow from strength to strength. Mexico earned this inflated foreign exchange reserve not

by increasing 'exports'. The US-Japanese-German MNCs which produced motor cars and other consumer goods on Mexican soil and exported their commodities abroad could send fabulous returns to their respective headquarters taking advantage of the free convertibility of dollar-peso exchange. Besides, the finance capital which flocked to countries like Mexico under cover of foreign capital investment came mostly in the form of hot money, the other name of speculative capital, whose sole motive is to reap additional interest. The quantum of finance capital now being invested in the less developed capitalist countries is not necessarily meant for wider expansion of industrial base in the latter. Rather, to earn super profit through establishment of big industries is a thing of the past for the present-day finance capital. The cause of this heavy rush of finance capital to Asia-Latin America leaving behind Europe-America is only to earn extra profit. For, rate of return is much higher in these countries than those in Europe and America. Simply for this reason, most of the investible finance is finding entry in the share markets, in purchase-sale deals — in shares, bonds, securities, etc., called portfolio investment. Through private investment of finance capital in mutual fund, pension fund, asset-management fund, etc., the operators of these private investments are extracting higher rate of profits than in Europe-America. According to the World Bank estimate, investment of foreign capital in the developing countries amounted to 225 billion dollar last year. Out of it, private investment to the security market stands to the tune of 170 billion dollar. It transpires from the above that no amount of industrial expansion or boost in 'exports' is taking place out of foreign capital investment.

As per NAFTA agreement Mexico has to allow free import without any sort of control; free imports of varieties of US luxury goods have made the rich in Mexico very much elated while the burden of the economic disaster heavily fell on the vast multitude of the poor by way of sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities. And to cope with the cost of this ever-widening free imports the Mexican government had to pay dearly from its costly foreign exchange reserve. To meet the import bills, the government had to make loans even from the private funds abroad on short term basis. Interestingly enough, raising of short-term official loans from private financial agencies abroad has become the economic feature of capitalist-imperialist world today so much so that the Fund-Bank combine even is being relegated to the second position.

In 1988, the Mexican government took a loan of 2,800 crore dollars from various US agencies on sale of 7-year government term securities. By March 1995, it has to repay the principal 2,800 crore dollars with accrued interest. The government lost its capability to pay off this huge amount in terms of dollar. But the government kept it concealed from the masses.

## Deception of the ruling class and the role of its US mentors

By exhibiting foreign dazzling cars, fashionable consumer items like shampoo-soap-TV, the government attempted to

hide the utter hollowness of the economy from the public. Even in December last, the Foreign Minister of Mexico was reported to have said that the economy stood on solid foundation with foreign exchange reserve growing from strength to strength and there should be no worry about any weakness of the peso, let alone its devaluation. The Mexicans can now realise after paying the heavy price; "Salinas (ex-President) was very clever in hiding all the problems... He handed the bag to Zedillo (President) saying, 'Don't worry, everything is fine'. Then the bag blew up in Zedillo's face." (*Economic Times*, 8.3.95) Just a week later, the scenario totally changed; the news leaked out to the effect that government exchequer was too poor to pay the recipients 2,800 crore worth of dollar in securities. The Mexican finance minister air-dashed to the USA to fall on the feet of the private investors in the government securities and begged for two months' time. They refused, for they knew there was no guarantee to pay off the entire amount by the Mexican government in two months' time. The moment the inkling became public the storm in the opposite direction began blowing in the 'emerging markets' of Mexico - that is to say, a rapid flight of foreign finance capital from Mexico started. "Foreign investors have panicked, scrambling to sell stocks in a market frenzy that has driven shares down to just one-fifth of their previous dollar value." (*Economic Times*, 8.3.95) Whatever foreign exchange reserve was there got exhausted in no time. The real value of peso began to fall fast. The economics of Uruguay-Brazil too received striking blows. A hue and cry of alarm arose in Mexico, and Washington was no exception. The US economy was caught in a dilemma. For, besides suffering heavy losses by different US investors if the foreign exchange reserve of Mexico goes down to 'zero' the exports of the US goods will be hard hit. Many a US company will go out of business, mass-scale retrenchment will start to maintain the level of their profit margin throwing further 7-lakh workforce out of job in an economy already afflicted with impact of severe unemployment. Surrounding this menacing issue, two lobbies of US politicians came up in the open. One group raised the demand of providing loans to Mexico in order to bail it out of crisis while the other opposed it. Lastly, the US President by invoking his 'extraordinary power' sanctioned \$20 billion and along with it by procuring another \$20 billion from the IMF and an international credit fund announced to give away a total \$40 billion credit relief to Mexico. In other words, thanks to liberalisation policy, a huge debt burden of additional \$4,000 crore was thrust upon the people. Some of the conditionalities of this debt have earlier been mentioned. The other part of the terms and conditions is more harmful to the Mexicans. The different imperialist MNCs, this time, have stretched their hands to grab the entire oil resources of Mexico. In Mexico, the oil which is the major source of its revenue is fully nationalised. It fetches 2.5 crore dollar annually by export. In spite of a privatisation spree, in Mexico, the government could not de-nationalise

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# Mexican common people bearing the brunt of liberalisation

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the oil industry due to stiff opposition of the people. Now the US government has imposed the conditionality that along with other conditionalities, the oil resources of Mexico has to be hypothecated to the USA as a 'security' to the loan sanctioned by the 'grace' of US President. Pressure is on to sell out its nationalised oil industry to the foreign MNCs. It is said that unless all these measures are taken in right earnest, the trust and confidence of the foreign finance capital would not be restored. To tell the truth, only through mortgage and sale of national properties of Mexico, the wheel of the economy can move — such is the new prescription for the liberalised economy introduced at the behest of imperialist overlord.

## Whatever the prescription capitalism cannot be free from inherent crisis

The capitalist-imperialist academicians have unleashed a false propaganda offensive holding the balance of payment crisis to be the real culprit of Mexico's economic disaster. For, the main thrust of the liberalised economic policy and that of the GATT lies in free imports which inevitably cause huge trade deficits for the developing countries. And to call for squeezing budgetary deficit is, in other words, to call for reducing government expenditure in diverse fields in phases. As a result, instead of infusing the pace of industrialisation it will act as a brake by way of creating further crunch in government revenue earnings. As a matter of fact, liberalised economic formula has reduced itself, for all practical purposes, to an all-round futile exercise out of which the developing countries could hardly make their way out.

In their second prescription it is now stressed that instead of focussing on 'hot money' component of the foreign finance capital, focus has to be shifted on to direct productive investments. For this purpose, in order to bring in more foreign capital, more and more domestic industrial sector has to be made open to the invited foreign capital besides guaranteeing maximum rate of return for investible foreign capital. But the most pertinent question, rather the crux of the problem, lies elsewhere. In the era of moribund capitalism, industrial development through establishment of manufacturing industries bringing in its wake benefit to the living condition of people's life is a far cry as is evident in our country too. As already stated, whatever amount of foreign capital is invested in industry, it is only in the production of fast food and varieties of foreign luxurious articles meant for a fortunate few with no prospect for mitigating the needs of the vast army of unemployed. The Indian monopolists are also in no hurry for opening any new enterprises, which can stipulate growth of production or growth of productivity in real sense of the term. By incisively analysing the anatomy of imperialist economy, long eighty years back, Lenin propounded: "More and more prominently there emerges as one of the tendencies of imperialism, the creation of the rentier state, the usurer state, in which the bourgeoisie to an ever increasing degree lives on the proceeds of capital exports and by clipping coupons."

## Why rush of capital to the less developed countries

The reason behind rush of finance capital of the industrialized countries lies in higher rate of return of interest and in a short time without risk from the capital markets of these less developed capitalist countries. Like the Indian monopoly capital the relatively weaker capitalist countries too, share a common interest with the former in this regard. For, taking advantage of all-out deregulation, they are also making their debut strongly felt in the foreign capital markets and are found to have engaged in speculative manipulations in the Indian capital market with huge finance capital at their command. The reason, therefore, is not far to seek as to why the Indian monopolists are pressing for making wider open the Indian capital markets for investment of the foreign finance capital. In other words, global liberalised economy today has become a tool of loot and plunder for hot-money by the foreign finance capital in league with the financial oligarchy of the less developed capitalist countries the world over.

The Mexican episode has nakedly exposed the real character of the much publicised theme of industrialisation through investment of foreign finance capital. The statements of Indian ministers and the bourgeois economists in this regard are totally false, only to cheat the people.

In the first place, as per the 1993 estimate, 46.3 per cent of the invested foreign capital form the part of 'portfolio investment'. India's foreign exchange reserve now stands at 2000 crore dollar. But in the first 9 months in 1994 (the trade gaps in the export-import sector) has risen to more than \$200 crore vis-a-vis over \$9100 crore foreign debt. So, India's entire foreign exchange reserve virtually hangs in a precarious balance.

The 'portfolio investment', now constituting more than 46% of the foreign investment which caused the securities scam through artificial boom in the share markets, keeps its unrestricted sway and more importantly, can anyone, being confronted with the hard reality of the Mexican gamble, rule out the possibility of facing a similar fate by India in not so a distant future? Of late, the government is contemplating to lay stress on investing capital for productive purposes through control of speculative capital. In that case, more and more lucrative returns by way of increased rate of profit together with yet more liberalised imports and freer foreign finance capital inflow in our country, perhaps, have to be assured. Indeed, there is no shred of doubt that this will ensure accelerated invasion of foreign capital on every sector of the Indian economy, let alone the effective containment of the free inflow of hot money. Needless to say, the medium scale industries will suffer most thereby pushing the Indian economy more dependent on the finance capital of both the native monopoly and foreign finance capital. It needs hardly emphasizing the preposterous effect this would bring upon the teeming millions of the country.

## The lesson before the exploited

The Mexican event has totally unveiled the intense crisis in which the world capitalist economy is enmeshed today. Adducing abrupt boom in share markets, thanks to free movement of imperialist capital in some of the

Asia-Africa-Latin American countries, etc., the ruling bourgeoisie and the social democrats all over the globe are beating the drums of capitalist system chanting 'hour of a new era arrived' or 'character of imperialist capital has changed', etc. But the Mexican episode has made open the hollowness of their loud claim. And hence Michael Camdessus, the Managing Director of the IMF, has to come out with a note of caution. More than that, the incident of Mexico can in no way be ignored as an isolated phenomenon. Even Mr Camdessus has to say, on the contrary, "This may be seen as the first major crisis of our new world of globalized financial markets to have hit

a developing country. ... I cannot promise that we will not see new crisis of this kind even before the next century." (*The Statesman*, 4.2.95)

## Unemployment : latest trend in the USA

With the unemployment problem — the scourge of capitalist crisis — growing relentlessly throughout the world, not to speak of the plight of the unskilled workers, even technologically highly skilled professional people are increasingly experiencing its shattering impact, even in technologically advanced countries like America. A picture of what the situation is like for professional people there, even in such elite professions as engineering, which only the other day was thought to be immune to this problem, we get from an article based on some surveys by the world renowned Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in its journal *IEEE Spectrum* (November, 1994) that noted:

"Last year engineering unemployment in the United States rose to a 50-year high, topping 4 per cent — a level that has held through the first half of this year. This rise has continued ... layoffs in high-technology companies are continuing. According to the annual survey of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), Washington, D.C., fully a third of aerospace jobs have been lost since 1989 — 13 per cent of them in 1993 alone — and another 5 per cent are expected to be gone by year end.

"The aerospace industry is not alone. In February, AT & T Corp. announced that it planned to cut perhaps 15000 jobs by 1996, while Nynex Corp., New York City, said it would cut another 16,800 jobs over the next two years, half of them in management.

"Not only are permanent jobs scarce, but a lot of vacant ones pay 10-50 per cent less than such positions paid only a few years ago, ..."

Recounting and analysing the experiences of unemployed engineers and senior scientists in the light of newly emerging trends, the article showed that many commonly held notions, such as e.g. : engineers being technologically most advanced, skilled and having many talents, etc., are going to do well ; or continuing education or re-education will keep an engineer employable etc., etc. have become mere myths. What is more, it noted that an engineer out of work for about nine months was unable to afford tuition fees for night

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## Unemployment in USA

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tuition even. Besides, as demand had weakened also for engineering services, many companies in order to compete are cutting back on internal research or on training programmes for their employees, resulting in a situation, in the words of veteran division manager in SAIC's New York City office, where an engineer working on such low rate business 'is being used up. Technology moves on, and he can't keep pace. Eventually the low-rate business may become a repository of incompetence.

"So where does that leave a person who does not want to commit technical suicide?"

But even worse, "survival skills that were sufficient for landing a job in the past — such as keeping technically current and networking with one's peers — are not effective today. More and more engineers are finding that technical expertise is not enough to get or keep a job; increasingly, a premium is being placed on certain non-technical skills as well. Moreover, according to at least one observer, the full-time job itself may be disappearing as a way of structuring work."

As the market forces of crisis ridden capitalism are playing increasingly havoc with people's life even in such highly coveted spheres as engineering, it is not only the mediocre or aged that are affected. Gone are the days of "womb to tomb employment structure where the companies took care of them": this has been the experience of many a brilliant engineer or scientist. Companies in the USA are increasingly turning to contractual jobs for a few months or a year or two at most for engineers, at a higher pay but with no responsibility whatsoever for medical care, retirement benefits etc., etc. making an individual completely "independent", always on the lookout for new contracts, dependent solely on his "self-discipline" of savings for spells of joblessness.... "What is disappearing is not just a certain number of jobs, or jobs in certain industries, or jobs in some part of the country — or even jobs in America as a whole. What is disappearing is the very thing itself: the job". So wrote William Bridges in *Job Shift: How to Prosper in a Workplace Without Jobs*....

"Now work is being revolutionized again — and again largely through technology. The very conditions (mass production and the large organization) that created jobs two hundred years ago are disappearing.... So it is becoming increasingly common for people to be hired only for the duration of the project, and released when the project is completed. Jobs are no longer socially adaptive to organizational needs. Bridges wrote, 'and so they are going the way of the dinosaur'. In what he calls the 'post-job world', workers, including white-collar professionals such as engineers, will survive only if they operate as if they were self-employed — even if they still happen to have a full-time position."

The article underlined another startling feature, clearly emerging in today's world, that is the compulsion to market oneself.

It analysed the harrowing experiences of senior scientists and engineers whose skill, dedication and outstanding innovative work in some cases even anticipated technical progress and development, which contributed in great

measure to the success of their companies' projects and in some instances even helped save millions of dollars. To mention but one example: "Take the case of Dennis Hancock, 46, former senior scientist at Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratories in Palo Alto, Calif. Six months after helping bring about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) first successful servicing mission to correct the faulty optics of the Hubble Space Telescope, the company laid him off..." *IEEE Spectrum* found that some of these individuals were being feted one day only to find themselves on the street the next without a job, for the sole reason that their gruelling work schedule of 80-1000 hours work a week had not left them time to market their own skills or they had thought it superfluous in the belief that their achievements were sufficient advertisement for a new project in the same company, with the shattering result of unemployment. Hence, "to survive in a project by project world where one is always marketing oneself for the next job... Even an engineer with a full-time corporate job should think of himself or herself not as an employee with a boss, but as a self-employed company with a client — what Bridges calls 'You & Co.'"

"That means taking responsibility for all sorts of things the engineer may be used to leaving up to the company. A lot of technical people out there are going to have to be more independent - have their own health insurance and all - so they can move from job to job,... It also means having the self-disciplined to save up for dry spells in between jobs - ..."

## CALL OF 24th APRIL

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based on experimented truth. Let us once again, on the occasion of historic 24th April, recall Lenin's teachings that this is the age of imperialism and proletarian revolution. Revolution is inevitable and imperialism is bound to give way to it.

Let us reiterate this very fact that the setback of socialism is only but a temporary feature and that if deviated from the principles of Marxism-Leninism and the socialist economic laws, restoration of capitalism is a natural corollary, as warned by the giant Marxist thinkers. But in spite of the setback capitalism is bound to yield place to the establishment of socialism again. This is the inevitable process of development of society.

Though shocked at the setback of socialism owing to long practice of revisionism, Marxists are not taken by surprise and now it is the responsibility of the communists to organise more determinedly the oppressed people to build up powerful protracted mass and class struggles. Simultaneously it is the bounded necessity to unleash a mighty militant anti-imperialist movement conducive to the struggle of emancipation. This is the task history has devolved on us.

On the occasion of 47th anniversary of our party we pledge anew to make ourselves worthy of this onerous responsibility. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our party, our leader, teacher and guide, the living soul of revolution in India, taught us the great teaching, "Party is life". We always nurture in our heart of hearts what he said and embodied in his life, "I live, I exist as a revolutionary."

## Message of U T U C (LS) on International Women's Day

Dear Comrades, Friends and Sisters,

March 8th is a most significant day in the history of women's struggle. On this day women began an organised struggle against inequality and oppression of patriarchal and capitalist society. On 8th March 1908, women working in a mill at Chicago started a movement to reduce the working hours to 8 hours and for higher wages. This glorious struggle has laid the stepping stone in history. This day has become a source of inspiration to women in the whole world who aspire to free themselves from all sorts of bondage, indignity and insecurity. Hence, in 1910 in the International Women's Congress Clara Jetkin, a great women leader of the time, gave a call to observe this day as "International Women's Day". On March 8th, 1910 International Women's Day was organised, keeping voting right for women as the demand.

Today whatever few rights women are enjoying are hard-won. Though each of their victorious struggles in achieving certain limited rights is noteworthy, yet until they put an end to oppressive patriarchal society and the exploitative capitalist system, it will only be a quantitative change and not a fundamental or qualitative change. The present situation demands women's unity, shedding all divisions of caste, community, nationality, language, region, not only to fight against the burning problems like dowry, bride burning, atrocities on women, foeticide, infanticide etc., but also against the exploitative capitalist system, which is the root cause of all problems of life. One cannot afford to ignore the fact that our women, sisters and daughters are doubly exploited — both by exploitative capitalist society and by patriarchal domination, within and outside; they are looked upon as commodity for lust and child-producing machine.

It may be seen even in advanced countries like USA, France, England, etc., there is no equal pay for equal work. Maternity facilities and child caring facilities are still a mirage. Atrocities and harassment at working places are becoming common. There also they are socially and economically, as well as sexually exploited.

On this historic day, I call upon the women everywhere to organise themselves to fight for equality, and put an end to all sorts of oppression, suppression, exploitation, indignity with the ultimate goal to establish a free society.

**Pritish Chanda**

*President,*

**UTUC (LS)**

Our party, following the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, under the leadership of our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, has stepped up intense ideological and cultural struggle inside the party for rectification and elevation of comrades of all strata to meet the challenge posed by the imperialist-capitalists, the reactionaries and the revisionists at present.

The historic 24th April calls upon the toiling millions to grasp the above teachings of history and rise up in class and mass struggle for emancipation.

## Women's Day observed in Bangalore

At the call of Karnataka State Committee of AIMSS to observe International Women's Day as a day to protest against the growing menace of obscenity, alcoholism and drug addiction, this year, the Bangalore District Committee of the AIMSS took up several programmes.

On the 8th of March, 1995, a protest demonstration was organised at the Mysore Bank Circle against obscenity, alcoholism and drug addiction.

Dr H.G. Jayalakshmi, the main speaker on the occasion, called upon the people to look into the inhuman conditions under which the Indian women were living, where rapes and other indignities on women turned out to be an everyday phenomenon. She said, as the criminals are left scot free, virtually the women are left unprotected. She recalled that the women workers of Chicago had to lead a glorious struggle for ensuring better working conditions, equal wage for equal work and reducing number of working hours etc.

Comrade B.N. Sumadevi, President and Comrade Aparna B.R. Secretary of the AIMSS, Bangalore District also addressed the gathering.

MSS organised programmes of diverse nature in different localities. On 11th of March, the day was observed in Malleswaram. At Rajajinagar a colourful programme was held on 12th of March. 'Sneha Sourabha', a local level Mahila Mandali at Banaswadi, organised a programme on 14th March. Dr. H.G. Jayalakshmi, the State Secretary, was invited as the chief guest in all these meetings. Dr Sudha Kamath, State President also addressed the gathering at Malleswaram. In all these meetings, group songs and other cultural programmes were organised in which women enthusiastically and creatively participated. Drawing inspiration from the Mahila Sanskritik

Sangathan, working women in different offices of the city conducted International Women's Day and invited State Secretary of the AIMSS Dr H.G. Jayalakshmi to address and educate the women to organise themselves to resolve their problems.



Women demonstrating against obscenity, alcoholism and drug addiction on 8th March at Bangalore city's Mysore Bank Circle on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The living soul, the kernel of any lofty ideal like Marxism-Leninism or of the strident slogans of class struggle and revolution, is ingrained in the moral strength, character and in the cultural standard of the people involved in the movement. Hence, whatever be the political theory, if its practice does not infuse moral strength and if it does not reflect a higher cultural standard then in whatever lofty words its theoretical essence may be couched, it is merely an empty facade, a lifeless body. Just as a corpse inevitably has to be disposed of so also if one clings to it out of attachment, it will, in its putrefied condition, spread stench and be harmful for all people in society. Any political ideology devoid of higher morals and noble culture needs to be discarded likewise. Remember, if a political ideology or a movement cannot rouse moral strength or elevate the cultural standard of the people then that is surely harmful and absolutely obsolete.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

## Budget 1995-96

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industrialised economies which are rocked by severe crisis of unprecedented magnitude? If the growth of production is the sole criterion, as the finance minister stressed in his budget speech, for the solution of this crisis of market then why the economic boat of the industrialised west is rocked today? It is because of the fact that the purchasing power of the people the world over is continuously shrinking owing to the most savage capitalist exploitation. So in this third phase of the intense crisis of world capitalism, the finance minister's all attempts to solve the present crisis of market by helping the monopolists in all possible ways to mop up super profits at the cost of the woes and extreme sufferings of the people, in order to prop up their global competitive power will ultimately land the country to a disaster. So the finance minister's bold assurance of making India an economic power-house is like a post-dated cheque on a crushing bank.

## Appeal of Assam SUCI

**Guwahati :** The Assam State Committee of the SUCI in its 3-day meeting from 18-20th March reviewed the political situation of the state and observed that while the oppressive rule of the Congress(I) had already surpassed all limits of people's endurance, because of utter apathy of the CPI(M) and CPI, no democratic movements centring round the burning problems of people's life could be developed. As a result, taking advantage of the anti-Congress(I) feeling or the people the rightist, communal and parochial forces were coming into the fore and floating different combinations based on petty sectarianism while the emergence of left-democratic combination as an instrument of people's struggle, based on a common minimum programme and a code of conduct, remains a day dream.

The state committee urges all left and democratic forces of the state to close their ranks and give birth to a left-democratic front uniting all other anti-Congress(I) and secular forces for ensuring total defeat of the Congress(I) in the ensuing election.

The state committee also strongly condemned the recent hike in the fare structure of the State Transport buses by the ASTC and considered it to be highly unjustified. Calling for strong measures against rampant corruption, the state committee demanded immediate withdrawal of this order.

## Study Class on Marxism-Leninism

**Bhopal :** Under the auspices of Sagar District Organising Committee, MP, a study class was held on 14th March on the occasion of Karl Marx and J. V. Stalin memorial day. The study class on the topic "Marxism-Leninism the only philosophy of social development" held at the party office at Nayabazar was conducted by Comrade Prof. O. P. Srivastava. The district leaders present took part in the deliberations and threw light on various important aspects of the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism.

In summing up the whole discussion Comrade Ramavatar Sharma said that Marxism is not merely a political or economic theory, it is a philosophy of life, a guide to action. Marxism is a revolutionary ideology, a science which coordinates all the branches of science and which develops with the changing time and objective conditions. So it is not a dogma. It is a bunkum to call it obsolete, he said.

### CORRIGENDUM

In the lead article "Marxism is invincible, growing and developing in changing circumstances" on page one of the last issue, dated March 15, 1995, a mistake crept in inadvertently in line 4 & 5 of the second para. In place of "Those which still remain are targets of stepped up revisionism and..." it should be read "In the absence of the socialist camp those remaining are now targets of stepped up machinations and attacks of imperialism". The error is regretted. — Editorial Board, *Proletarian Era*.