

Butcher Yeltsin, Hands Off Chechnya

On the 11th December 1994 Yeltsin's troops invaded Chechnya, a tiny north Caucasian republic of only 13,00,000 people. To crush Chechnyan resistance Yeltsin, the Russian despot, has deployed, phase by phase, altogether 50,000 army masterminding ground and air attacks. Reports of further reinforcements from different strategic regions are also pouring in. Till 1st February, war has been raging for 42 days, which the invaders initially hoped to have ended within 36 hours. But ending the war, circumstances prove, is not easy. As days pass, Chechnyan army along with many civilians put up more and more stiff resistance. War has now spread into the neighbouring republics of Dagestan and Ingushetia.

The whole world literally watches this mass massacre perpetrated by Yeltsin. Whatever excuse the servitor of Russian capitalists offer to justify his aggression, it once again proves lie to what the imperialists along with revisionists proclaimed, with the setback of socialism, that the era of cold war has ended once for all. Does it not ring a hollow after the devastating Iraq war by America, or innumerable threats of war, or sanctions, or 'peacekeeping' role played by the USA, or the 100-odd wars raging in different corners of the globe and particularly because of the Yeltsin's Chechnya war? The claim that war has ended is only a bloody hoax played on by the imperialists only to misguide people away from what Lenin has taught the whole world this very truth that so long as imperialism exists it will go on generating predatory wars.

Initially the Russian ruler thought that war would end with the capture of the Presidential Palace at Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. But it was not easy to capture it overcoming a roused resistance. Heavy bombardment from air and ground and even rocket attacks were made to gain victory. But victory, as days passed, remained far away. The Russian ruler, giving away even the semblance of humanity, targeted the civilians although Yeltsin said it would target only the military. In Chechnya the largest orphanage has been completely destroyed by Russian planes. Hospitals, were severely bombarded. Failing to bring under siege the Presidential Palace directly, the invading army resorted to blast, block by block, buildings one after another to reach it and capture. They did it killing on the way countless more civilians, while the whole city stands as a burnt skeleton. War devastation has deprived people of electricity, heat, water, conveyance, medical care, fire trucks, food and everything else that are necessary for a man to remain alive, particularly amidst destruction and freezing cold. Thanks to Yeltsin's concern for the life and property of civilians. Water froze in the city as pipes have burst. Just to fetch water people must wait till the shooting and bombardment stop, then rush to the Sunga river flowing through the city centre, punch holes in the ice and haul up buckets.

But giving lie to Yeltsin's hopes people's resistance has not ended despite the Presidential Palace being captured at last by the Russian army. From hilly terrains or from behind shelled buildings covering a vast area Chechnyans, joined by other ethnic people, are continuing resistance. And while Chechnyans fight the aggressors, the feeling of bond among common people of both sides has come to sharp relief again and again. A woman of Grozny has been heard to say that they are Russians and she does not care

whose flag is flying on the President's palace. From our own people we are getting only bombardments. She has been saying all these while wrapping with carpet the deadbody of another old women. The news of that Chechnyan military authority has released three Russian POWs at the appeal of their mother, has also come in the press. Similar other incidents show the old united mentality as Soviet citizens.

Condemnation of this war worldwide has been severest. But Yeltsin seems to remain unperturbed. To him it is an attempt at maintaining law and order within Russian borders, although he did not explain how he could bombard innocent men, women and children who, according to him, are Russian citizens. Chechnyan President General Dzhokar Dudayev called for a new year truce and again in mid-January appealed for ceasefire, but in vain. In the beginning of January Yeltsin gave orders for stopping bombardment which was not carried out. Yeltsin discovered this after five days over which he reportedly resented. Has the war stopped even then? It is continuing and with it death and devastation. It proves that Yeltsin, the running dog of US imperialism, is not only a despot but a deceptive liar too. This very man has had the audacity to ask humanitarian assistance from the UN for the civilian refugees, victims of his own barbarity, who number around 3,00,000. This very Yeltsin refused to listen to Sergei Kovalyov, his own Human Rights Commissioner, who condemned outright the Chechnyan massacre.



Before the war Yeltsin did not consult Parliament to discuss the issue of war. After there was severe protest all around, almost unanimous protest in the media, among common Russians, among Parliamentarians, even among a good section of soldiers and generals, Yeltsin called the issue for vote in the lower house of Russian Parliament, the State Duma, on 24th December last. A massive majority of 228 against 38 with 3 abstentions voted for a ceasefire and peace talk, which Yeltsin did not carry out thereby trampling the verdict of his own legislature, which reminds us of his indiscriminate shelling of the Russian Parliament, elected parliamentarians and about 200 people in 1992.

This is Yeltsin the votary of 'democracy' whom the entire imperialist world led by the US directly backed to split the USSR. There is no surprise therefore, that Yeltsin even now is backed by the imperialists, above all by Bill Clinton. A Press report has revealed that Clinton's righthand man Vice-President Al Gore and Defence Secretary, William Perry were both in Moscow, meeting with Yeltsin and other Russian officials, the day troops of Yeltsin invaded Chechnya. So it is nothing unnatural when Clinton said that this war was Russia's domestic affair. But worldwide protest and even protest demonstrations in Washington made him

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Comrade Pritish Chanda's Solidarity Message to Quake-hit people of Japan

Comrade Pritish Chanda, member, Central Committee, SUCI and President UTUC (Lenin Sarani) has sent a solidarity message to ZENROREN (National Confederation of Trade Unions), Tokyo expressing deep grief, condolence and sympathy to the working class and people of Japan at the destruction of thousands of lives at Kobe, west Japan in a devastating earthquake on 17th January last.

Comrade Mitsuru MIKAMI, President, ZENROREN, in response, has sent a message on 25.1.95 at the Delhi office of the UTUC (LS).

We print below both the texts. — Editor

The United Trade Union Centre (Lenin Sarani), India expresses deep shock and grief at the death of several thousands of people and at the destructions of all kinds of human belongings and material properties in a severe and dreadful earthquake at Kobe, Okasa and other places in your country.

Our trade union and the working class wish to convey through your trade union Zenroren our deep concern and heartfelt sympathy to the working class and the people of Japan and particularly to the near and dear ones of the victims of the disaster and the suffering people at this grave hour of calamity. We are one with you in your efforts to face the disaster.

Pritish Chanda

Message from Japan

Dear Brother,

We sincerely thank you for your fax letter of 21 January, expressing your solidarity and sympathy on the recent horrific earthquake tragedy, centered around Kobe, within our country. It was translated and sent by fax to all affiliated industrial and local federations of Zenroren. Members of Hygo-roren and Osaka-roren in the quake-stricken area are very much encouraged by messages of sympathy from overseas, including yours.

As of 24 January, death toll topped 5,501, the missing 106, the wounded 26,284 and 56, 243 houses and buildings were either damaged or destroyed. Without doubt, it has become the largest-scale right-below city type of earthquake with every kind of disaster. We are now making every endeavour together with our member unions throughout the country to relieve suffering inhabitants from the disaster and to restore city functioning for their daily life.

Again our heartfelt gratitude,

Yours sincerely,

Mitsuru MIKAMI

On United Left Movement & Elections in Orissa

The elections to the Orissa State Assembly has been scheduled to be held on 7th and 9th March, 1995. In this hustings the Congress(I), the ruling Janata Dal, the BJP on the one hand and on the other hand the Left and Democratic Front partners like the SUCI, CPI(ML), Forward Bloc, Samata Party, Samajwadi Janata Party and the Socialist Party have been contesting, besides the CPI, the CPI(M) and different groups of Jharkhandis. The Left and Democratic Front had a bright prospect of developing as an alternative struggling front of the people in the state but for the utter opportunist election politics of the CPI(M) and the CPI for the sake of a few seats this possibility of a broadbased unity could not come true.

It may be mentioned that the three-Left-Party combination comprising the SUCI, CPI and the CPI(M) which for about a year past had been trying to develop movements in Orissa against various steps and policies of the out and out corrupt and anti-people Janata Dal government headed by Mr. Biju Patnaik, and the Central Congress(I) government as also to thwart the BJP menace, got a severe jolt by the recent moves of the CPI(M) and the CPI. It happened at a time when the people of Orissa found in the 3-Party Combine a ray of hope because of its commitment to the people to develop a sustained movement in the state.

A biggest ever Leftist meeting on 24th March last year at Bhubaneswar organised by the 3-Party Combination created widespread enthusiasm among the people who participated in thousands reflecting their firm will for struggle. The central as well as state leaders of the SUCI, CPI and the CPI(M) called upon the people to develop joint movement in the state to defeat the anti-people policies of the State and the central governments as also to foil the conspiracy of the religious fundamentalist forces headed by the BJP. The meeting opened the possibility and emboldened the hope of the people to develop this combination into a permanent platform of movement in the state where Left and democratic movement is not so powerful.

But the potentiality of developing a sustained movement was very much there in Orissa. It is known to everybody that in spite of being very rich in minerals starting from iron ore to coal, bauxite, manganese, chromite, there is practically no big industry in the state except Rourkela Steel Plant. The land is very fertile, the forestry and water resources very rich. But in contrast the overwhelming population of the state lives in abject poverty. Added with all these is the problem of the Adivasi people who constitute a sizable portion of the population and who are being gradually evicted from their age-old jungle abode and their rights over forestry. The Congress(I), the most trusted agent of the capitalists, which has been ruling the state for so many years has cheated the people with various promises to serve the interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. There was no sincere effort on the part of its government to improve the lot of the common man. But as the support of the people is necessary to win elections the ruling parties appear on the scene during hustings with false hopes and tall promises — all to hoax the people.

Like his Congress(I) predecessors, the Janata Dal leader Mr Biju Patnaik has been doing the same thing. But in election promises and in

performance after assuming governmental power, he even surpassed the Congress(I) in hoodwinking the people. Among his assurances were an integrated steel plant at Daitari, a longstanding demand of the people of Orissa, the bhoomipuja of which he performed even, rice at Rs.2 a kg to the people and a corruption-free clean administration, etc. But none of his poll promises he has fulfilled yet and given the state an administration with more corruption, nepotism and misrule. What to speak of fighting the anti-people policies and steps of the Congress(I) government, Mr Biju Patnaik is the first non-Congress(I) Chief Minister to openly come out in support of the utter anti-people and pro-monopoly new economic and industrial policy of the Narasimha Rao government. He has illegally sold and transferred the proprietary rights of the government property and undertakings at a nominal price to the private owners, especially the Tatas, given lease rights of Chilka for prawn culture to them depriving thousands of people from their traditional livelihood. It is worth mentioning here that against the sale at nominal price of the chrome factory, a government of Orissa undertaking under Orissa Mining Corporation, to the Tatas by the Biju Patnaik government the UTUC(Lenin Sarani) has instituted a public interest litigation. Like a despotic medieval chieftain he is running the state administration. To raise any voice or organize resistance against his government means to invite torture, oppression and death perpetrated by the state apparatus and his party's hired goons.

But defying arrest, torture and death our party has been developing people's movements at the state as well as at the local levels. The death-defying struggle of the chromite miners of Sukinda Valley under the banner of UTUC(Lenin Sarani) for years together and the heroic battle of the Adivasi people in the vast region of the state under the banner of the SUCI are to name a few. In this process we have lost many comrades of ours. While in movements of various types on the burning problems of people's life we have been appealing to other Left and democratic parties and forces to strengthen people's struggle. And in this process the CPI and the CPI(M) joined the movement resulting in the joint meeting on 24th March, 1994 at Bhubaneswar. Later on, some other parties joined the combine. It was the time when people's indignation and hatred against the Biju Patnaik government reached its peak and the Janata Dal government became very much a discredited force. The CPI and the CPI(M) keeping their eyes on election prospects left the Janata Dal alliance sensing impending danger. Because, to remain with the Janata Dal would be suicidal for them and it was better to keep a safe distance from the Biju Patnaik-led Janata Dal which had no prospect of coming to power, they thought. It is well-known that the CPI and the CPI(M) had been maintaining a cordial relation for a pretty long time since 1977 with the Janata Party at the national as well as state level. They bagged some seats in different Assembly Constituencies as well as in Parliament being the appendage of it. They have not that strength as to win seats singlehandedly and as they have shunned the path of mass movements they have no other way than to come to understanding with this or that party as suits their purpose to win some seats.

This unity of all the anti-Congress(I), anti-Janata Dal and anti-BJP forces brightened the prospect of forming a permanent platform of movement centring round the burning problems of people's life. And if the elections come as incidental to this movement that too should be viewed as a form of movement through which these anti-people forces can be defeated by uniting all the true Left and democratic parties and forces. All these moves were in the interest of the people but the recent move of the CPI(M) and the CPI to come to an electoral understanding with the Biju Patnaik-led government belied the hope of the people. It may be mentioned here that the CPI(M) and the CPI in the last elections to the State Assembly fought jointly with the Janata Dal. But after assuming office when Mr. Biju Patnaik started ignoring these two parties regarding the formulation of policies of the government and its activities, the CPI and the CPI(M) accused Mr. Biju Patnaik of taking governmental decisions arbitrarily without consulting them. Mr. Patnaik rebuffed them to keep mum and said whatever seats they won it was at the mercy of the Janata Dal. He also warned them against making a hue and cry against the Janata Dal government's activities. This soured the relation of these two parties with the Janata Dal in Orissa but for all-India political compulsion, they could not go directly against the Janata Dal in the state. But in course of time, people's indignation and hatred against the Biju Patnaik government made them come to an understanding with the SUCI with the assurance to the people to develop movement against the anti-people Janata Dal, Congress(I) and to stall the BJP menace and to defeat those forces in the elections. The parties which the other day, branded the Janata Dal as the enemy of the people are helping it today to come to power again. Now they will have to say it openly that their assessment of the Janata Dal a few months back was wrong and their joint meeting with the SUCI on 24th March last year and their leaders' declaration in the meeting were equally wrong. But to these parties what became uppermost was to get some seats somehow in the elections in combination with the Janata Dal. They need not think of people's interests, their movement or their problems. As they have no scruple, they have no dearth of pretext to change their stand overnight to suit their purpose. They will tread that path which may fetch them some seats in the elections.

What prompted them to suddenly change their stance in Orissa is the victory of Telugu Desam and the Janata Dal in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively. And these two parties, the CPI and the CPI(M), won quite unexpectedly 17 and 15 seats respectively in Andhra Pradesh being appendage of the Telugu Desam. The recent election results in four states made these two parties to think in terms of reviving the National Front-Left Front alliance and taking an advantage of the situation similar to 1977. Though the Orissa CPI has been divided over the issue of extending support or to fight jointly the elections with the Janata Dal in the state, the CPI(M), more tricky as it is, going a step further in defence of its opportunist turnabout says that the understanding with the SUCI and others was for developing movement and not for elections. As if there is nothing wrong in coming to a poll alliance with a party against whose government it

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Like Cong. (I) Biju nakedly protects capitalist interest

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is necessary to build up movement for its anti-people policies. What more opportunistic politics can there be than this? Will it be then wrong to say that to have better bargaining for seats with the Janata Dal, they tried to use the alliance with the SUCI and others as a lever?

The CPI(M) and the CPI to shield their opportunist character are now saying that the conception of forming a third alternative in the state is impractical because in that case it would help the prospect of victory of the Congress(I) and the BJP and hence to ensure defeat of the Congress(I) and the BJP it is necessary not to disturb the Janata Dal — as if it is in the interest of the people. So, in a statement a few days ago they called upon the people to defeat the Congress(I) and the BJP but not the out and out corrupt and anti-people Janata Dal, though there was heavy infighting in the CPI on the question of contesting the election in understanding with the Janata Dal.

As a matter of fact the CPI(M) does not want to displease the Janata Dal with whom they have been maintaining a cordial relations for a pretty long time and bagged some seats in the Assembly as well as in Parliament being appendage of the Janata Party and later the Janata Dal in different states. They have not that strength as to earn seats singlehandedly and they have no other way than to come to an understanding with this or that party which holds the key to power. So when after the elections in four states were over and the elections to the Orissa Assembly were declared by the Election Commission the cat instantaneously came out of the bag nakedly exposing the real character of the CPI(M) and of the CPI. This time also the CPI(M) and the CPI raising the bogey of resisting the Congress(I) comeback and the BJP menace came to an understanding with the very same Janata Dal against whose out and out corrupt government they, the other day, were much vociferous and called upon the people to resist its anti-people policies and steps.

Nobody of course will disagree with the idea of defeating the Congress(I) and the BJP. And it is a must. But it does not necessarily mean that to defeat these anti-people and reactionary parties somebody will have to help the corrupt and anti-people Janata Dal to come to power. Rather, is it not in the interest of the people to develop people's front with the Left and democratic parties and forces? Everybody knows the track record of the Janata Dal when it came to power even at the Centre. The Janata Party riding the crest of a strong anti-Indira and anti-Congress(I) wave came to power in 1977 with two-thirds majority in Parliament. Never before in the history of India a non-Congress party earned the people's mandate to form government at the Centre. Naturally a ray of hope was created among so many people that for the first time true to its poll promises the Janata Party Government would take pro-people measures. But it not only could not keep them but also failed to maintain its unity resulting in the fall of the government after a little over one year. Like its predecessors it followed the path of appeasing the capitalist class at the cost of the common people of our country. Any party which claims itself really anti-Congress cannot but be anti-capitalist because true anti-Congressism means to fight against the pro-capitalist and anti-people policies

the Congress(I) is following to defend the interest of the capitalists to the detriment of the people. We are anti-Congress not for any vendetta against the Congress Party but for the policies and steps the Congress is pursuing to safeguard capitalism, the source of all evils. And what the CPI(M) and the CPI are pursuing is not this anti-Congressism. Rather, they are following the same policy of strengthening the exploitative capitalist order more efficiently than the Congress(I). As they have the Left cloak so it has become easier for them to befool the people and that is why the moribund capitalism has been finding in them, like in all the social democratic forces, the better potentiality to extend its lease of life. The CPI(M) and the CPI have not only deserted the path of people's movement but are crushing them in such a way as to earn more confidence of the capitalists, particularly the multinationals, indigenous and alien. Their main aim is to somehow win some seats in the elections and to do that they do not hesitate to throw principles and their commitments to the four winds.

In fact, this move of theirs is in tune with their true social democratic character manifested more nakedly elsewhere especially in West Bengal where they are enjoying power and pelf. Wherever they are not in power they in order to kill two birds with a single stone make pretensions of movement to befool the people and on the other gain an advantage in bargaining power. The role of Left Front government will substantiate this fact, rather more pronouncedly in recent times. The industrial policy of the Left Front government headed by the CPI(M) toeing that of the Central Congress(I) government and its subsequent ratification by the CPI(M) Central Committee on the plea of existing situation as well as the recent utterances of Mr Jyoti Basu in the Science Congress and the centenary celebration of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) have evoked praise for Mr Jyoti Basu and his party for their 'pragmatic approach' from the media as well as the leaders of the industries of the developed capitalist countries, especially of the US and the British imperialists. All this has proved beyond doubt in how much high confidence they hold Mr Jyoti Basu and his party for their role they played especially during the 18 years of their rule in West Bengal. As Mr Biju Patnaik doing the same thing in Orissa there is no wonder to see them colluding together in elections.

The need of the hour is to develop countrywide people's movement conducive to the destruction of this society based on exploitation and oppression. And in course of this struggle if the election comes it must be taken as the incidental to and a form of mass movement and if there comes the chance to form a government, a revolutionary party forms government with a view to strengthening the people's movement to expose the hollowness and hoax of parliamentary democracy. The role the CPI(M) and the CPI leadership have played in Orissa in the name of opposing the Congress comeback to power and foiling the BJP menace is nothing but the worst opportunism and a sheer betrayal to the people of Orissa.

We appeal to the rank and file of the CPI(M) and the CPI to deeply ponder over the role their leaders have been playing especially in Orissa, for

getting some seats leaving the people to the mercy of the exploiters.

Under the circumstances the people of Orissa should better understand this point very well that the only way of their survival and to live with honour and dignity is the path of mass movement against the anti-people policies and steps pursued by the Congress(I), the Janata Dal and the BJP which are protecting the interest of the capitalists, though under different banners. Now that election has come and as it is the part of mass movement hence in this battle also these forces must be defeated and the forces of struggle must be strengthened by making them victorious by the people in their very interest.

Eye Witness to Syamapada Rout's murder found dead in CBI custody

It may be recalled that on 25th July 1993, a Chromite miner and UTUC (LS) activist of Sukinda Valley of Orissa, was attacked, severely tortured and lastly abducted in presence of policemen by an armed gang of hardcore criminals belonging to a notorious nexus of Tisco-Atwal-Janata Dal Combine fathered by state Mass Education Minister Sri Prafulla Ghadei. All sections of the people of Sukinda Valley and the UTUC-LS in one voice alleged that Comrade Rout had been murdered in order to suppress ongoing miner's movement. They demanded immediate arrest of the murderers. But the state administration remained deaf to this legitimate demand and not only did not do anything in this regard but tried every bit to hush up this heinous crime also. Later on, in response to an appeal preferred by Mrs Archana Rout, the widow of the deceased, the Supreme Court severely castigated the Orissa government and directed the CBI to track down those involved in the murder case. CBI started its investigation. But it is unfortunate that in the 2nd week of January, this year, one of CBI's key-witnesses Gopal Behera who is believed to have provided vital clues of abduction and murder of Comrade S. P. Rout, was found dead in CBI custody. It was reported in the press that Gopal Behera committed suicide. Reacting to this mysterious death and suicide-story Comrade Tapas Dutta issued the following statement on 15th January, to the press.

"The death of Gopal Behera, who turned a witness in the CBI investigation being conducted in terms of Supreme Court direction into the abduction and murder case of Comrade Shyamapada Rout, a leader of Chromite miners of Sukinda Valley, seems to be mysterious. The allegation of Behera's widow that it was not a case of suicide but of murder, her lodging of an FIR the very next day of the death in Bhubaneswar Police Station after coming all the way from Sukinda, her approach to the Chief Minister for justice, sending expeditious message of death through Fax immediately after the occurrence to the Chief Justice of Supreme Court as well as to the Chief Minister by one Ramchandra Mohanto, who happens to be a member of Talangi Miners' Union led by Minister Prafulla Ghadei, similar

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Indo-US convergence of interest through policy of liberalisation & globalisation

The political leaders of different ruling parties of our country representing all hues are playing the role of gracious hosts to the emissaries of the imperialist countries, like Mr Charles Needham, the British Trade Minister, Mr Ronald Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and a host of other top officials and business executives from all the imperialist countries. Just before the visit of Ronald Brown, Mr Perry, the US defence secretary, concluded a military agreement with India. The global strategic interest of the US converges with the interest of India seeking the USA to treat this country as the regional superpower and regional security manager, but the divergence on some important issues including the question of nuclear nonproliferation has, for so long, been standing as an obstacle in the way of concluding a meaningful security alliance between the two countries. Mr Perry in his speech at the United Services Institution on January 12 last stressed "high importance" that Washington places on "expanding American-Indian trade and investment", and hastened to add that co-operation in the security field could grow in a similar positive direction. In its hot haste for opening up the economy the government of India took the cue and clinched the issue by concluding a military agreement with the USA by throwing to the wind the much-vaunted non-alignment policy, followed since the time of Nehru.

Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister of India and Dr Manmohan Singh, the finance minister, are reported to have shown positive response to the visiting US team headed by Mr Brown in the matter of further liberalization of the economy, particularly to the proposal of opening the financial sector and expediting a strong enforcement mechanism for protection of intellectual property rights. Summing up his talks Mr Brown said that he was "exhilarated" by the outcome. The US commerce secretary said: "We are very pleased with the commitment Mr Rao has shown for continuing the reform process. In fact, the Prime Minister has assured that the reforms are 'irreversible'".

Mr Brown is however very forthright in stating the objective of the USA. He said: "The US economy cannot grow without creating the high quality jobs which President Clinton has committed to creating unless we form close commercial links with developing countries, particularly the emerging markets as in India."

So the cat has come out of the bag. The US economy is in serious crisis, and, it cannot come out of the crisis unless the purchasing power of at least a section of the people is substantially raised by creating 'high quality jobs' by commercial exploitation of the less developed countries. The USA has identified ten emerging markets including India for exploitation of the cheap labour power and raw materials of these countries for creation of these kind of jobs in the home market thereby providing a breathing space to its crisis-ridden economy. The economy of other imperialist countries is also in the vortex of a serious crisis, and this is the compulsion which forces these countries to seek and expand market for their own interests. In fact, an in-depth study of all the imperialist countries reveals a stark

reality that its nature, intensity and degree is so deep that no attempt to get rid of the crisis is proving successful.

But Mr Narasimha Rao, Dr Manmohan Singh and even Mr Jyoti Basu are dishing out stories to the people that the oncoming finance capital of the imperialist countries would be the panacea for all the evils bedeviling the life of the common people of our country. The innumerable martyrs who laid down their life to free the country from the bondage of colonial yoke are perhaps turning in their graves for the 'grave error' committed by them in doing so!

But despite repeated assurances of the Prime Minister since the adoption of the policy of globalization and liberalization from 1991, about the beneficial effect of this policy in the life of the people, the Congress(I) rout in the recent elections tells a lot how the people are feeling the pinch even in the initial phase of its implementation. The advocates of this new economic policy have been advocating the 'trickle down' theory from the very beginning; but this is a big hoax to confuse the people. Because it should be clearly understood that in the present-day condition of crisis-ridden monopoly capitalism when the motive force of earning super profits by the monopolists reigns supreme, the 'trickle down' theory is simply preposterous. Now sensing the growing resentment of the people because of the extreme hardship suffered by them as a result of pursuing this anti-people policy for which they have culled the word 'reform' to confuse the people, Mr Rao admitted that "the trickle down effect has not manifested itself in the manner believed and therefore the need was felt for a new bypass model on the side to reduce the pain inflicted on the majority of the people." So, the Prime Minister has, at last, admitted that the majority of the people has to suffer because of these reforms. But the fact is that the people in general have suffered, and particularly the poor sections have suffered most while the monopolists have reaped fabulous profits. It is reported in the *Economic Times*, dated 5th January last that the corporate sector has virtually doubled net profit in the first half of 1994-95. And how the condition of the poor has

been affected by these reforms? Let us have a glimpse into the report of the National Sample Surveys for 1991 (July-December) and 1992 (January-December) as reported in the *Economic Times*, dated January 19, '95. It had been reported that while the poverty ratio in the rural areas was 39.1 per cent in 1987-88, it rose to 40 per cent in 1991 and 41.7 per cent in 1992, and in the urban areas while it was 37 per cent in 1990-91, it went up to 37.6 per cent in 1991 and 37.74 per cent in 1992. It is known to all discernible people that these figures do not actually give a clear picture of the ground reality where more and more people suffer most from appalling poverty and grinding exploitation. Mr Narasimha Rao is now harping on the necessity of giving a human face to the reforms, thereby indirectly admitting that the reforms are inhuman and monstrous to the people. But he is at the same breath saying that the reforms are 'irreversible'. But the moot question is, if the reforms are inhuman and monstrous to the people, why the same is irreversible? The

Prime Minister has stated that the reforms aim at substantial acceleration of our rate of growth. But how the poverty would be contained by acceleration of the rate of growth? Has not the overall growth of the country been substantial during the last 47 years after independence? Have not the total assets of the monopolists increased manifold during this period? But what relation has this to the life of the people? Is it not a fact that alarm is being expressed for the recent bout of rains brightening the prospects of bumper wheat crop when the Indian wheat is priced out of the international market? This is despite the fact that many people go hungry in our country everyday and among the world's estimated one billion people living below the poverty line, more than 450 million are from South Asia comprising India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The fact is that the growth of production do not have any bearing on the life of the people because it is not people's interest but maximum profit of the monopolists — both in the industrial and rural sector — that the present set-up of our country stands to protect. Therefore, the majority of the people are ill-fed, ill-clad, illiterate and prone to perish from diseases like diarrhea and plague. But leaders' right from Pandit Nehru appealed to the people to suffer, for the development of the country, accompanying pains and sacrifices. Now the people are being told that all causes of their sufferings are due to stress on public sector and government control in the capitalist market through planning, and the floodgate of industrialization would be opened by the new policy of liberalization and globalization. But if wishes were horses!

It may be recalled, till the other day, Mexico was presented as a showpiece with its vibrant share market by the international lending associations for following the policy of liberalization and globalization introduced long before. But what is the net result now? The indigenous poor peasants who were suffocated by ruthless exploitation, and rose in revolt, led by Zapatista Liberation Movement on the eve of the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico, the USA and Canada, had to be suppressed with all brutalities. At that time it was dismissed to be a very insignificant event. But the story did not end there. By the second half of December last, i.e. exactly one year after this uprising, Peso, the Mexican currency crashed and sent shockwaves throughout the capitalist world. The inflation is skyrocketing, and the life of the people has become unbearable because of abnormal price rise. Mexico is now much poorer than it was two decades ago. Mexico tried to cure its economic crisis by cosmetic surgery as India is now doing. The inflow of US dollar in sharemarket and speculation temporarily caused jubilation among the ruling circles there, but when the dollar inflow slowed down the entire national economy of Mexico suffered a jolt. Some facts that came in a section of the Press in our country about Mexico are revealing. Mr K.P. Geethakrishnan, the former finance secretary of India, presently the Indian Executive Director of the IMF and an ardent advocate of the policy of liberalization and

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Globalisation brings disaster to Mexican economy

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globalization, has expressed alarm at the Mexican lessons in his letter to the Finance Secretary Montek Singh Ahluwalia and others as reported in the *Indian Express*, dated January 9 last. Mr Geethakrishnan's letter clearly suggests that India must take lessons from the Mexican experiment. He says that since the beginning of the IMF and the World Bank suggested policies of liberalization and globalization Mexicans "have tightened the belt considerably and their people had to undergo considerable hardship — there was no increase in the GDP in the 1980's and the per capita income went down. They had the support of the powerful neighbour, the US and were held out as a model, an example by the West and the IMF.

"Even then they have landed themselves in a crisis now, a crisis that has called for even harsher measures than what India had to undertake in the last three years. The question is — what happened to the sacrifice of the last 14 years ? The easy answer could be that without all that, the present crisis would have been made worse and perhaps would have happened much earlier. Somehow one is not convinced."

Mr Geethakrishnan argues that the speed with which Western countries have once again put together a rescue package for Mexico is dictated by their own stakes in that economy. "The quid pro quo is also clear in terms of not only the considerable tightening of the belt but in the opening up to foreign investment, even of areas like banks which was not on the agenda earlier. Clearly, in free market politics there is no place for compassion or sympathy."

So, when even a person like Mr Geethakrishnan, one time strong advocate of the policy of liberalization and globalization is compelled to admit the dangerous consequences of this policy, being confronted with the hard reality of the Mexican experiment, will it be wrong to conclude that India is awaiting a similar fate ? It may be pointed out in this context that India is the third large debtor country in the world after Brazil and Mexico. Therefore it is with a heinous motive that the monopoly controlled Press in our country has been launching a massive propaganda campaign in favour of this new policy of liberalization and globalization, and wanting further speed in the implementation of this policy. The bourgeois ideologues have entered this field of propaganda in a big way and they are creating such an air that the industrialization of our country could not be achieved because of *permit raj*, *licence raj*, state control and the like, and the new policy of liberalization and globalization will usher in an industrial rejuvenation in our country. But what is the grey reality ? Does not the grimness of the grey reality of the Western

industrialized countries including the USA and Japan bespeak that capitalism is today immersed in deep crisis, and incapable of solving any of the problems confronting the crisis-ridden economy ? In the imperialist countries there has occurred a tremendous growth in production, but why are the millions after millions of the unemployed parading the streets of these countries ? Even in the statement of Mr Clinton, the US President, as reported in *The Statesman*, dated 17th February, 1994, there has occurred a tremendous growth in income for the five per

cent of the upper strata of the American population while the same has been continuously dwindling for the twenty per cent of the lower strata of that population during 13-year period from 1977 to 1990. It is because of this concentration of wealth on the one hand and pauperisation of the masses on the other that the market is getting squeezed continuously. As a result of the lack of purchasing power of a vast section of the people of the world, the world capitalist market is in the vortex of a severe recession. In the report of the UNCTAD for 1991 it is seen that there has been a two-fold increase in the number of the poor to 1002 million in the decade from 1980 to 1990. As a result of the continuous dwindling of the purchasing power of the people because of the squeezing of maximum profit by the multinationals of the imperialist countries, this process of pauperisation of the masses of the entire world goes on continuously, and so recession, increasing unemployment, price rise and loss of job have become a permanent feature not only of the less developed and backward countries of the world but of the imperialist countries as well. Joblessness of 6 per cent is considered full employment in the USA. The picture is equally bleak in Europe and Japan. These countries are now drastically curtailing social safety network once introduced to counter socialist ideology which was rapidly gaining ground when Stalin was building socialist USSR. Among these countries the unemployment rate* in Japan is lowest (2.7% in the beginning of 1994), but because of recession the unemployment figure is likely to jump to six per cent in a few years, as reported in the '*News Week*'. The economists are predicting that the recent earthquake in Japan will help in recovering the Japanese economy ; capitalism is, today, so debasing that it can find respite in colossal human tragedy even ! The imperialist countries cannot solve their crisis within the fold of their existing market, and so they have locked horn with each other for the redivision of the world capitalist market and are trying to forcibly open the protected market of other countries. But the crisis of capitalism is so intense that the confinement of trade and investment within the bounds of general commodities and goods would fail to accommodate the growing need and greed of the market of the imperialist countries, and so the demand for opening up of the area of intellectual property and service sectors including financial sectors is being strongly voiced by them. It is because of this compulsion that these items have been included in the new GATT treaty.

But while trying to force open the markets of other countries, these imperialist countries are trying their utmost to keep their own home market protected from the invasion of other countries. So while pressure has been exerted on India to open the financial sectors, there has been no assurance from the US side on the question of removing constraints on export of professionals to the USA. Mr Brown, the US commerce secretary, quipped on this question, "We have received their views which will be carried to the officials in Washington."

But will the imperialist finance capital help in industrialization of our country ? Is it not a fact that today innumerable indigenous industries are

* In Japan even partial employment, even if employed for few hours a day, is taken as an example of employment.

closed down throwing lakhs of employees unemployed ? What is this due to ? It is due to the fact that there has been a huge concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and the vast masses of the people are left with no purchasing power. So who will purchase the goods produced in the industry ? All attempts by the government to tackle the problem are found quite inadequate to meet the critical situation confronting the Indian industrial sector. But the Indian capitalist class is aspirant; and so they want to enter the international market in a big way. Capitalism in our country has not only given birth to monopoly and financial oligarchy, but it has itself become imperialist in character. India is now a regional superpower. But because of the crisis of market they want a niche in the world market as a junior partner of the Western imperialist multinationals, and in lieu of that they are ready to open the home market to them. So it will be an unpardonable mistake to think that India is a hapless victim of unilateral pressure of the imperialists. On the contrary, the process of reciprocal bargaining is going on, but the result depends on the relative strength of the parties participating in the bargaining process. It should also be clearly understood that be it *permit raj*, *licence raj* or state control, or be it the liberalized economy following so-called reform the people are always asked to suffer and forbear hardship and accompanying pains under cover of various alluring slogans just to befool and mislead the masses. Dr Manmohan Singh, the Union Finance Minister, has recently expressed apprehension of "jobless growth" not for nothing. He has also warned that such "growth" cannot be conducive to the development of economy as a whole. This apprehension clearly indicates whatever growth in terms of technological advancement India may achieve in future — it is supposed to be associated with joblessness. This means, that the poor people and the unemployed youth will have very little job opportunity before them because of the "growth" this New Economic and Industrial Policy anchored further by its bank-fund tie-up is going to bring about in our country.

It is learnt that 43 per cent of the foreign investment is in the nature of portfolio investment which only strengthens speculative activity in the share market. This portfolio investment is made to earn quick profit after causing artificial boom in the share market. The boom in the share market caused the securities scam resulting in heavy losses to the millions of small shareholders while the big sharks managed to garner fabulous sums through manipulation. What relation this has in the life of the common people ?

Again, if the foreign finance capital is invested in capital intensive industry and in consumer goods industries catering to the needs of a small section of the affluent people, how will this serve the interest of the vast multitude of the common people ? Not only will these not generate any new employment opportunities but the existing labour intensive industries will go out in liquidation too as a result of competition from them, throwing thousands upon thousands of employees out of job. When millions of people are already unemployed, how these capital intensive and consumer goods industries will help industrialization in our country ? Will not these intensify the already explosive unemployment

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Clinton backs Genocide of 'Democrat' Yeltsin

(Contd. from page 1)

write to Yeltsin so that Yeltsin takes initiative for international mediation. Beside questioning Clinton's sincerity about stopping the carnage in Chechnya, one may ask if it is a domestic matter then how can it be internationally mediated? On 20th January, the US President in a debate at a trade conference in Cleveland, Ohio warned against using this war as a plea to withdraw help to the reform efforts in Russia. He also said, "It would be a terrible mistake to react reflexibly to the ups and downs that Russia is experiencing and was bound to experience." So this is the real voice of the "champion" of the human rights. Let us now listen what Al Gore said in this connection. He said, "We're dealing with the democratically elected leadership of Russia and we will continue to do so." "We support him as President of a nation that has chosen to travel the path of democracy." The German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that he did support Yeltsin and would do so as long as he would swear by a market economy and free trade. The Government of India, now hobnobbing with the imperialists to further strengthen Indian monopoly, has trampled Indian people's long tradition of anti-imperialism by deliberately remaining silent for a long time and then on 29th January last in Moscow the Indian representative said, repeating what the US President uttered, that this war was Russia's internal affair. And Gorbachev, the counter-revolutionary traitor cries out that it is a "disgraceful, bloody adventure". But alas, it is nothing but a voice of frustration of an outwitted Russian leader who was receiving worldwide support of the imperialists just the other day! What else can Gorbachev say, who himself is, it can be logically concluded looking at the past history, primarily responsible for this tragic bloodbath. His policy of perestroika and glasnost ultimately brought the long practice of revisionism to its extreme point abetting directly the rise of Yeltsin. And during the early 90s this Yeltsin, in order to grab power from the hands of Gorbachev, fomented all-out secessionism. Encouraged by it, Chechnya, bringing to the fore its latent nationalist feeling, declared independence while the USSR was in the process of disintegration in 1991. It was three years back and in this long period the Chechnyan people's nationalistic feelings of being citizens of a separate sovereign state only deepened which tremendously aggravated when Russia attacked it with military might.

But why this war against the small mountainous republic in North Caucasus? At the bottom lies one clear picture of clash of antagonistic interests, both economic and political, something unthinkable in the erstwhile Soviet land. Yeltsin's Russia is the big brother Russia, not Stalin's RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic), a union republic under the mighty USSR. Today's Russia is capitalist Russia that considers any opposition as hostile and hence must be subdued at all cost, if necessary with the use of force. So concentration of power in the hands of General Dzhokar Dudayev and his declaration of independence have been seen by Yeltsin with apprehension, of course from the viewpoint of an autocrat, who does not consider such concentration an evil if perpetrated by none else but himself.

But concentration of power by Dudayev is only but natural in the present-day precarious situation of capitalist Russia, for capitalists want such a political leader who will be a hero in people's eye, but who will concentrate power to save and help them. Dudayev is not just an individual with personal ambitions, he represents the capitalists' interest of exploitation. True, Dudayev, as President of Chechnya has been the target of attack by Yeltsin today. But his track record does not prove his bonafide as a democrat. But is not Yeltsin the number one autocrat in that region? Those who lends support to Yeltsin's right to crush the Chechnyan people's resistance as an elected President easily forget that Dudayev is also the elected President of the Chechnya. And Yeltsin, too, is not just an individual, but a man who represents the interest of restored capitalism.

Russian capitalists have great interest in Chechnya. Chechnya is rich in oil and mineral resources. In 1994 alone Chechnya produced two million tons of oil. It controls the oil pipeline between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Through Chechnya Russia can keep her influence strong on Georgia, Armenia and Ajarbizan. To do this the railway linking Russia to the Trans-Caucasia must be recovered, which has been blocked by Chechnya for months. Indeed, immediately after military intervention the Deputy Prime Minister, Oles Soskovets, said Russia's first priority after ending the crisis with Chechnya would be to reopen the railways. Economic interest along with the question of political dominance in the main has started this war.

There is another probable reason, that is Yeltsin's personal ambition. Presidential election in Russian Federation is scheduled to be held in June 1996. Yeltsin's rule for the last three years has landed Russia into a very severe economic crisis. Price rise and retrenchment, virtual stoppage of new recruitment, rise in crime and terrible inflation, etc., to be precise, absolute uncertainty in social life have brought to common Russian people hunger, humiliation and poverty. Under this circumstance Yeltsin's victory in the coming Presidential elections bears a big question mark. For this also Yeltsin has needed a war and a quick victory to recover popularity.

But rise of separatist feelings has encouraged different ethnic people to strive for independence. In that process Chechnya declared independence and, let us well recall, General Dudayev got elected as President on the basis of his promise of independence from Russia. After this declaration Yeltsin tried different manoeuvres to defuse the demand of independence. To formalize Russian Federation Yeltsin negotiated the new Federal Treaty in 1992. But among 20 of its republics 2 abstained from signing it - one Tatarstan and the other Chechen-Ingushetia. To weaken Chechen-Ingushetia Union, Yeltsin cleverly separated Ingushetia and gave it the status of a republic. Later Yeltsin tried to calm down Tatarstan by giving it, in February 1994, a status of greater autonomy within the Russian Federation. Yeltsin also tried to take the wind of popularity out of the sail of Dudayev by branding him a bandit. But nothing could deter Chechnya's longing for independence. So at last Yeltsin sent troops to the tiny republic when ultimately it failed to bring Chechnya within his iron grip.

One point may be discussed in passing without going into details which merits separate discussion for thorough and in-depth

understanding of the problem of nationality, right to self-determination, secession etc., and what should be the scientific approach to these questions. The most important and pertinent point is this that during the entire period of Stalin's leadership and even long afterwards not a single Union Republic raised the voice of secession although the "right to freely secede from the USSR" was very much recognized in the Constitution adopted in 1936. All the Republics, in fact, voluntarily united with the USSR in which process the USSR coalesced into a single strong Socialist Soviet Republic and remained united during Stalin's time and sometime after. But now people witness an altogether different picture. The slogan of right to secession is being raised here and there but the principle of 'voluntary union' has been replaced by 'integration by force' by military might even, if necessary. Even then, Yeltsin is painted as a 'democrat' but Stalin as a 'demon'!

True, the 1936 Constitution of the USSR envisaged right to self-determination in case of a Union Republic but not in case of any Autonomous Republic or Autonomous Region in which category Chechnya falls. Applying this yardstick those who claim that Chechnya has no constitutional right to declare independence 'unilaterally' is to see the problem from a typical legalist angle and that too detached from the context of time and objective reality. Any student of political science can well understand that the political, economic, cultural problems as also the problem of nationality and ethnicity in Socialist Russia have nothing in common with the present highly decadent and capitalist Russia. But regardless of the Dudayev regime being democratic or dictatorial, there cannot be an iota of doubt that before the Chechnyan people — may be intoxicated by strong nationalist feelings — the Russian rulers look like just as imperialist. This stark reality cannot be ignored or wished away by any cooked up "arguments" tending to lend support to the present inhuman butchery and massacre of innocents. It is time to see whether the outworn ideology of narrow nationalism thriving on the decadent, putrid culture born of crisis-ridden capitalism can provide any way to solution or whether the ideology of proletarian internationalism which Lenin strongly upheld and Stalin assiduously defended in the erstwhile post-revolutionary USSR can really provide the cementing and unifying factor uniting all peoples, irrespective of caste, religion, nationality, language, etc. on the solid foundation of recognition of equality to all. Setback of socialism in Russia, caused mainly by revisionist attack from within and imperialist intrigue from outside cannot disprove history and truth. Historic experience leads man to turn back towards socialism, which is exemplified every day. At this hour of grave crisis communists all over the world, Russian communists included, should take a correct class approach which may help solve not only the problems of Chechnyan people but advance the cause of socialism while strongly denouncing the most barbaric acts of Yeltsin nakedly taking refuge in the lap of Clinton.

So the immediate demand is the end of the war and forthwith withdrawal of the Russian troops from Chechnyan soil and finally the recognition by Yeltsin of the sovereignty of Chechnya to fulfil which the freedom-loving peoples of Russian and Chechnya as also of the whole world must create pressure on the imperialists. the Clinton-Yeltsin clique in particular.

Inside USA

Hi-tech Revolution : Who Reaps Benefit ?

The ability to design, produce and move goods is undergoing radical change.

Computers and robotics, once limited to calculation and communications, are now displacing human labour in all sectors of production.

Ford Motor Co. recently opened a new transmission factory near Detroit, employing 200 people; 10 years ago, it would have employed 4,000.

In the Netherlands, automated machinery unloads cargo ships without any human labour. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, one plant using genetically engineered bacteria produces enough insulin for the entire United States ; it replaces dozens of slaughterhouses where workers once isolated insulin from steer and pig organs. Around the world, workers are being evicted from factories and docks and farms. The next stop: the homeless shelter, prison, or the global trek in search of work.

The technological revolution is the driving force in this terminal stage of a leap in the standard of living for all. We need to understand both: its role in an economy organized around private gain and its potential role in a economy organized around meeting social needs.

Last January, scholars, labour leaders, community leaders and leaders of the unemployed gathered for a conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Technology and Employment Conference grew out of the contradiction of joblessness growing among workers in the "booming" high-technology sector.

The presence of people directly hurt by the economic upheaval was critical in exposing the bankrupt ideas of the corporate policy gurus.

The electronic revolution developed in the 1930s from the intersection of the communications industry and the effort to develop fast calculators for business. During World War II and the Cold War, huge investments in military electronics gave birth to the modern computer hardware industry.

In the 1960s, the power of computers began to be applied directly to production processes. Now the most sophisticated computation, automation and robotics technology is used to produce such mundane items as pencils, razors and juice boxes. Electronics has also made possible such new technologies as bio-engineering, digital telecommunications, and "smart" materials.

As a result, high technology itself is now a key sector of the economy. More U.S. workers are employed in electronics than in automobile production. Much of the employment growth in electronics and related industries over the past three decades came at the expense of traditional industries as companies replaced workers with electronics-based machinery.

Will the expansion of high-tech industries create new jobs to replace those lost in core manufacturing ? It hasn't so far. Even including the electronics and computer industries, manufacturing employment fell by 859,000 jobs between 1980 and 1989. Despite the growth in computer and data processing services, only about half the manufacturing jobs lost were

replaced by high-tech jobs. And no one should get their hopes up. The MIT conference made clear that the electronics industry itself is subject to the same forces affecting other industries - cuts in labour costs through "smarter technology" and the replacement of computer workers with computers.

Amid exponential growth in computer and electronic technologies, almost every major high-tech employer — IBM, Digital Equipment, Kodak, NYNEX, Xerox, to name a few - has cut thousands of employees. According to the American Electronics Association, "Domestic employment in the U.S. electronics industry fell for the fourth consecutive year in 1992. ... Since August 1989, our industry has lost 309,000 jobs."

In the 1960s, production of transistors was a tedious process involving the manual soldering of thousands of connections. In a modern silicon chip, a million devices are squeezed onto a surface smaller than a fingernail - using fully automated production processes.

As the head of Radius, a manufacturer of computer equipment, told the San Francisco Examiner, "We turn out [custom computer chips] with four engineers and a giant computer. That used to get done with 100 engineers. That's 96 engineers you don't need anymore."

In one workshop at the MIT conference, a representative from the Communications Workers of America analyzed the impact of telecommunications changes on that industry's workers. Internal documents reveal that the phone companies' long-term strategy has been "end-to-end automation": From the time an order is placed until it is in place, the phone company need take to human action. "This is not just mechanizing; it's total job elimination."

As Noam Chomsky told conference attendees, "The capitalist oligarchy operates completely outside any democratic structures, and their plans don't include the rest of us."

President Clinton claims the unemployed need new skills. But even the most skilled are losing their jobs. According to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, unemployment among electronic engineers is the highest in over 25 years, and some 200,000 engineers dropped from U.S. employment rolls between 1991 and 1993. Even college-educated youths find their opportunities shrinking; Labour Secretary Robert Reich's calls for "retraining" are revealed as empty rhetoric.

With robots replacing workers, the corporate class no longer needs an educated work force. Thus it is methodically pushing to disinvest in public education. Hardest hit are African Americans and Latinos, who have been systematically excluded from education and from skilled jobs in the past. Youth also are hard hit, with 50 percent unemployment in many areas of the country. For a vast section of America's youth, the capitalist system offers no future.

Former IBM and Digital Equipment engineers showing up at the unemployment office are finding the social safety net of 20 years ago being yanked away. Commodity production without human labour is leading to the emergence of a new class of people. Since the capitalists do not need this new class for production, they are unwilling to pay taxes needed to support them

-hence the cuts in education and in welfare programs like General Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Supplemental Security Income. The connection between technological change and welfare cuts is clearest in Michigan. As General Baker told the MIT conference, General Assistance was begun in Michigan in 1937 to provide income to autoworkers while factories were closed for model changeovers. In 1940, it took six months to implement a model changeover ; today, as the 1995 cars come down the line, the 1996 cars are right behind them. Michigan ended General Assistance in 1991.

As welfare programs are eliminated, the government rapidly builds prisons and police networks to deal with the growing survival movement.

The Industrial Revolution harnessed steam power to human muscles, vastly increasing productive power. The Electronic Revolution transforms the accumulated intelligence and knowledge of workers into mechanical form. Though this displaces workers under the current economic system, it also offers the potential for liberation from need.

The productive forces now exist to provide food, shelter, transportation, computers, health care, education and recreation for everyone. This is no longer a utopian statement. In 1940, 50 percent of the work force was involved in direct manufacture to produce the goods then available. Today, 22 percent of the work force produces many more goods. Hundreds of years ago, almost everyone had to participate in agriculture in order to eat. Now three percent of the population grows enough food for everyone else. the same transformation is taking place in all areas of production.

The new information networks have the potential to make the sum of human knowledge accessible to everyone. But as the corporate giants move to control the new technology, they increasingly limit access to the shrinking number of consumers who can pay for it. Private, capitalist appropriation of technology in order to amass profit stands in stark contradiction to the potential benefits.

Thus, the impoverishment of increasing numbers of people is due not to material shortages, but to the political and economic system: private ownership of socially produced wealth. Productivity increases make it possible to raise people's standard of living, whether they are employed or not. But realizing this potential of the high-tech revolution requires the distribution of the fruits of production according to need, not profit.

Such a transformation in society is made by people, based on how they comprehend the changes going on around them. Politics is the battle of ideas. Those of us engaged in analysis and education need to speak out clearly. We need to explain why capitalism is an obsolete form of social organization in the age of the Electronic Revolution.

Though much less human labour will be required to produce goods, the vital work of society remains: raising children and providing education, transportation, communications,

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Make SUCI Candidates Victorious

Our party has fielded the following candidates constituencywise for the ensuing Assembly elections. As the elections are incidental to and parts of mass movement, while engaged in democratic movements on the various problems of people's life we appealed to all the Left and democratic parties to build up joint movement and fight elections unitedly to defeat the anti-people parties in order to strengthen people's movement. In spite of our best efforts a broad-based unity could not be achieved. Under the circumstances we appeal to the people to make our candidates victorious and at the same time to elect Left and democratic forces where we are not contesting.

Orissa

Constituency	Candidate
1. Malkangiri	Comrade Chiman Kumuti
2. Joshipur	Comrade Sambhu Nayak
3. Udala	Comrade Sanga Palia
4. Sukinda	Comrade Mayadhar Nayak
5. Binjharpur	Comrade Surendra Mallick
6. Pipili	Comrade Raghunath Das
7. Birmaharajpur	Comrade Sanat Panigrahi

Ahmedabad Gujarat

1. Ellis Bridge	Comrade Damini Shah
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Bihar

Singhbhum	
1. Ghatsila (ST)	Comrade Sitaram Tudu
Bokaro	
2. Chandankeori (SC)	Comrade Mahindir Rajwar

Munger

3. Haveli Kharagpur	Comrade Sukdeo Yadav
4. Tarapur	Comrade Krishnadcio Shah
5. Jamalpur	Comrade Bhola Tanti

Banka

6. Amarpur	Comrade Mithilesh Singh
7. Belhar	Comrade Sailendra Pandit
8. Katoriya	Comrade Tribhuban Mondal

Garwa

9. Bhabanathpur	Comrade Premkumar Singh
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Bhojpur

10. Barhara	Comrade Murari Singh
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Darbhanga

11. Dharbhanga Rural (SC)	Comrade Saidagar Ram
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Muzaffarpur

12. Kanti	Comrade Baleswar Rasulpuri
13. Shahebganj	Comrade Yadav Lal Patel
14. Bakra (SC)	Comrade Nagendra Ram
15. Muzaffarpur Town	Comrade Dr. Rajesh Kumar Shah
16. Bochaha (SC)	Comrade Ramesh Paswan

That fruits of liberalisation will 'trickle down' to the poor is a big hoax

(Contd. from page 5)

problem instead of creating any newer employment? Will not thus the purchasing power of the people further dwindle creating further recessionary pressure in the market? Moreover, the foreign finance capital is also being invited in the service sector and thus the government is relieved of the minimum responsibility to people.

So, as a result of this policy not only the people are going to lose lakhs of jobs, relative security of service and the most limited employment opportunities that still exists will not be there. The people will have to pay dearly for services like health care, education, transport, telecommunications, etc., as the government gradually withdraws from the service sectors by handing over the same to the foreign multinationals with whom the Indian counterparts will collaborate. On the plea of rapid industrialization the government is already raising the bogey of the need to restrict the trade union movement while the employer will be allowed a free hand in the industries for the sake of so-called industrial peace. Moreover, the people who are already subjected to attacks in the field of culture through mass media, will be prone to decadent imperialist cultural invasion as a result of the intrusion of the foreign multinationals.

So, it is clear that whatever might be the public posture of the Government of India on this row of industrialization, it is not in the interest of the people, rather it is extremely harmful to their interest. It is actually for the interest of those with whose support the Central Government is seated in power, i.e., it is for the interest of the Indian monopoly houses through whom actually the interest of the imperialist doyens is really protected. It is high time the people of our country saw through this conspiracy and were awoken of the greater danger ahead.

Hi-tech Revolution (Contd. from p 7)

health care, culture, recreation and environmental protection to all. This liberating work must be described in detail, providing a concrete vision of a better life. We must work with groups already fighting for their survival around homelessness, welfare rights, substance abuse, education and jobs. We must join together to formulate proposals and programs. In the process, tens of millions of people will realize that their needs can never be met under the existing economic system.

Conferences, forums, articles and similar efforts are critical in spreading the word and investigating how technological upheavals affect different parts of the country and sectors of the economy.

On March 3-4, 1995, a second Technology and Employment Conference will be held in Chicago, the industrial heartland of the United States. This will be an opportunity for concerned individuals and organizations to come together, to share their knowledge and to respond to the profound changes happening in the economy.

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Death of witness in CBI custody

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allegations raised by the said Minister who himself is an accused in Rout's murder case and finally the Chief Minister's prompt directive, only within five days of the incidence took place, to institute a judicial probe into the death, which was denied in Rout's case - have only added mystery to the mysterious death of Gopal Behera in CBI custody.

It may be remembered in this connection that possibly to protect the leaders of his own party, the Chief Minister turned deaf to the most legitimate demand of judicial probe into the abduction and murder case of Shyamapada Rout, raised not only by our organisation and Comrade Rout's widow Comrade Archana Rout but also by no less than a person like former Supreme Court Judge, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and prominent intellectuals and leaders of the democratic movement of the state. Worse still, he unleashed a reign of terror and violence through the ruling party anti-socials and policemen in the entire valley of Sukinda. The police did not arrest a single culprit named in the FIR. Taking advantage of the situation, all evidences related to Comrade Rout's murder case were sought to be wiped out. In a systematic wiping out operation, Panchu Nayak and Chandu Majhi, colleagues of Comrade Rout and eye-witnesses of his murder, were killed by the criminals. The daughter of Chandu Majhi and one Darshani Mohanto were also killed. But neither the police nor the state administration did pay heed to any allegation regarding these ghastly incidents.

Comrade Archana Rout, lastly, appealed before the Supreme Court for justice, after hearing of which, the Honourable Court severely castigated the inaction of the state police and directed for a CBI investigation.

Within a few days the CBI started its investigation, many mysteries were reported to have been revealed and more were expected to be revealed in course of investigation. Some of the criminals were arrested and the CBI was in search of some other hard-core criminals. This frightened the interested circles who are reported to have threatened the possible witnesses with dire consequences. When many of the eye-witnesses failed to dare to bear witness defying the murderers' well-organised conspiracy to eliminate all sorts of evidences, Gopal Behera, who turned a witness is reported to have revealed so many startling facts relating to the murder. Hence, the only plausible ground for his death prior to his testimony before a Court of Law, can be that the real culprits wanted to silence his mouth. Because Gopal Behera was not an accused himself and turned a witness his death could only be sought by the murderers of Comrade S.P. Rout.

Now the question remains - whether the prompt institution of judicial inquiry into the death of Gopal Behera ordered only within five days of the incidence by the Chief Minister who preferred to maintain studied silence to similar demand in respect of Rout's murder - springs from his genuine sympathy for Behera's widow or from the pressing necessity of saving his Ministerial colleague Sri Prafulla Ghadei and other Janata Dal leaders who have clearly been pushed into an inconvenient predicament through the CBI investigation."

N.B. - Last information is that Samrat Gupta, a close aide of state Mass Education Minister Shri Prafulla Ghadei, has been arrested, of late.

Read
Life Struggle and Teachings of
Comrade Mao Tse Tung
SUCI Publication
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