

# Lenin Memorial Day Observed With Due Solemnity

## At Ghatshila Study Centre

The 72nd Death Anniversary of the great leader of the world proletariat, Comrade Lenin, was observed in a most solemn manner on 21st January, 1996 in the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism -Shibdas Ghosh Thought at Ghatshila, Bihar which started with the hoisting of the Red Flag and garlanding of the portraits of the great leaders of the world proletariat.

In a brief address before the comrades present in the common room, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, dealt, among others, on the significance of the unprecedented setback in the world communist movement and side by side the deep-seated crisis of the world capitalism-imperialist system. Comrade Mukherjee said: In India too, as an inseparable part of this world capitalist order, the ruling class is shifting the entire burden on to the shoulder of the common masses. The only way out of this impasse is to successfully carry forward the task of Anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution.

In the present historical juncture, it has become imperative to simultaneously build up a powerful anti-imperialist movement both inside the country and abroad. To carry forward this task, building up of powerful class and mass struggles throughout the length and breadth of the country, to develop People's Struggle Committees, and a strong Volunteer Corps from the grass-roots level is the crying need of the hour. To be equal to this task, the Central Committee of our party has released a partywide

intense elevation and rectification struggle through developing the positive aspects of character in order to fight back the negative ones so that leaders at all levels can set up examples of good communist character. Along with elevating and rectifying the comrades, the leaders also will have to elevate and rectify themselves, he stressed.

The Central Committee is firm that all possible measures should be taken to elevate and rectify the erring comrades— whether leader or cadre — till the point of no return. But if one goes beyond that and engages in activities detrimental to the interest and cause of the class, revolution, and the party, him by purging them the party becomes strengthened.

By thus raising the party above all its weaknesses and limitations, and consolidating further its monolithic character and centralism based on inner-party proletarian democracy, can the party go ahead with increased strength in fulfilling its mission of revolution and proletarian internationalism and that would be the best tribute to the memory of great Lenin.

## In Calcutta

To pay revolutionary tribute to the memory and remember the invaluable teachings of Lenin on the occasion of the 72nd Memorial Day of the great leader, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Calcutta District Committee, SUCI at the Muslim Institute Hall. Comrade Sukomal Das Gupta, member, Central Committee (Contd. on page 8)

# Proletarian Era

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## CC's Call To Observe Netaji Birth Centenary In A Befitting Way

Calling upon the people to observe the Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a solemn and befitting manner, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, issued the following statement to the Press on 18th January, 1996:

"Behind the din and bustle of orchestrated propaganda, on the eve of Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by the parties who are ruling the roost both at the Centre and the states, supposedly championing Netaji's ideals, what is badly missing is the Netaji, the Man and his real life-struggle but not his name in the least.

It is a tragedy of history that the parliamentary parties of our country have so (Contd. on page 8)

## Enron Renegotiation

# BJP No Exception In Serving MNCs

The BJP-Shiv Sena government of Maharashtra has cleared the giant power plant project at Dabhol, Maharashtra, to be put up by the US multinational Enron Corporation, on a renegotiated basis. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was executed between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and the Dabhol Power Company (with majority share-holding by Enron) during the tenure of the Congress (I) government in Maharashtra with Sharad Pawar as the Chief Minister for setting up the plant in two stages in the village Dabhol. The first stage was cleared and the second stage kept open, subject to further negotiation for finalisation.

## BJP's Pre-election tirade against foreign capital

During the last elections to the Maharashtra Assembly, the BJP- Shiv Sena combine made Enron a major issue, accusing that Enron had deliberately jacked up the project cost to provide funds to satisfy the lust of corrupt officials and politicians of the Pawar government. Charge of corruption in high places was raised creating commotion and the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an offshoot of the RSS, launched a 'jihad' against foreign capital and for Swadeshi enterprise. BJP-Shiv Sena made an election pledge to scrap the Enron project if they were elected to form the government. Eventually, they secured a majority at the hustings and did form the government with

Manohar Joshi of Shiv Sena as the Chief Minister. In this process, the Enron issue, whipped up by them, paid good political dividend.

To 'honour' the election pledge, the Joshi government 'heroically' announced scrapping of the second stage of the Enron project and suspended work on the first stage as well in August 1995. The air became thick with reports in the press about Enron's resolve to fight the government decision to the bitter end seeking legal redress and the government's determination to find out better alternative means of implementing the project, conforming to the national interest. But even before the dust of this 'confrontation' settled down, the new Maharashtra government appointed a high level expert committee to look into the matter, which started renegotiations with Enron before long! This committee has finalized the revised basis of the project with Enron and, pursuant to this, the Joshi government has announced with fanfare that the whole project in two stages now stands cleared on a basis conforming to national honour and interest.

## Original and Revised Agreements Analysed

Let us examine some salient features of the original PPA entered into by the Sharad Pawar government. Though well known, they bear repetition. What was so repugnant about them?

And how has the position improved through the present new deal?

Firstly, even if we assume for the time being that the chain of power plants now being put up with foreign assistance in the country are indispensable and India does not have the necessary expertise or capital to set up these plants on its own, the fact remains that no global tender was invited by the Pawar ministry for the Dabhol project involving such huge expenditure. Competitive bidding which could have effected considerable economy in the project cost was thus shut off. The committee appointed by the successor Joshi government, instead of trying to find out a more economic alternative either through global tender or through negotiations with other parties, has renegotiated and finalized the project with the very same Enron! It is also to be remembered that in terms of the original arrangement green signal had been given for only the first stage of the project whereas the second stage was to be finalised after further negotiation. But as per the new deal devised by the Joshi government's renegotiation committee, both the stages of the project will now be finalised together on the revised basis with Enron. This ensures that Enron will now get a much bigger project package!

Secondly, the very high project cost. As per the original PPA, the estimated cost is of Rs.9052 crore for a generation capacity of 2015 MW made for an investment of about Rs. 4.50 crore (Contd. on page 2)

# On Enron Renegotiation

per MW capacity which is much higher than the investment rate anywhere in the world. Now the Joshi government has declared that the revised project cost for each stage would be Rs. 6421 crore for 2184 MW capacity. On the face of it, it would appear that a very substantial saving has been effected. But it is not so. It transpires that this estimated cost does not include the Rs. 1584 crore cost of the Regassification Plant (RGP) that had been included in the earlier project cost estimate of Rs. 9052 crore. If this cost of Rs. 1584 crore were added to the presently given cost estimate of Rs. 6421 crore, the cost would become Rs. 8005 crore at one stroke. But during implementation, the actual cost would turn out to be much higher since the project costs have been worked out on the basis of an exchange rate of Rs. 32 per US dollar. The currently prevailing exchange rate is already above Rs. 36 per US dollar and is expected to reach at least Rs. 38 by 1997 when the project (stage 1) might be commissioned. Taking this more realistic exchange rate into account, the figure of Rs. 8005 crore given above would actually become about Rs. 9506 crore for a capacity of 2184 MW, that is, Rs.4.35 crore per MW still much higher than the prevailing rate in the world power plant scenario. But the actual situation could be much worse. The RGP, functioning as a separate unit, would gassify the imported liquified natural gas to sell gas fuel to the Dabhol plant throughout its life. Deliberately omitting the cost of the RGP from the total project cost has served to confuse

people by creating an impression that a substantial saving in project cost has been made.

So, the tall claim of Joshi government of having effected very considerable economy in the project cost is, in a large measure, a jugglery with figures designed to mislead and hoax the people.

Thirdly, it may be argued that if Enron fails to economise on the project and the cost goes up, it is Enron that would suffer because its profits would then be reduced. But that is not so. The original PPA provided for an assured annual return of 16% on the costs to be incurred by Enron. So, by increasing the project cost, Enron will make a profit of 16% of the higher cost, that is, its profit would go up. Wherefrom would the profit come? It would come from the payments to be made by MSEB who are contractually obliged to purchase 90% of the electricity to be produced by the Dabhol plant, whether that much power is required or not. Thus, there would be no market risk, with a high percentage of profit guaranteed by the PPA. To make this high profit rate foolproof, there is the counter-guarantee provided by the Central Government which stipulates that in case the MSEB fails to make the required payments, then Delhi would pay the balance amounts from the plan allocation of the state. It is to be noted that no such counter-guarantee has been provided to the multinationals by any other country. Reportedly, even Enron did not ask for such counter-guarantee. Such unasked for granting of favour is surely not without reason. The root must lie in the unholy nexus between corrupt politicians and big

money that is there, fresh evidence of which is being revealed in the country with each passing day. From all accounts, the revised basis of Dabhol project cleared by the Joshi government keeps intact the assured profit rate, the guarantee and the counter-guarantee.

## Fallacy of Reduced Tariff Rate

Fourthly, much is being made by the Joshi government about the slashing down of the tariff rate from Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 1.89 per unit in the revised arrangement. The fallacy in this is that the tariff rate of Rs. 1.89 per unit has been calculated by the re-negotiation committee taking, the exchange rate to be Rs. 32 per US dollar. Whereas, it has already risen to at least Rs. 36 and will not be less than Rs. 38 by 1997. Based on this exchange rate of Rs. 38, using the same Enron formula for tariff rate calculation that was applied earlier and taking into account the revised project basis, the tariff rate actually works out to about Rs. 2.25 per unit in 1997, and the average value of tariff for the 20 year contract period (1997-2016) works out to around Rs. 3.75 per unit, based on the re-negotiation committee's figures and allowing for 1% annual escalation and 4% annual rise in exchange rate affecting the price of imported fuel. As against this, on the basis of the National Two-part Tariff Formula published in 1992, the average cost to MSEB between 1997 and 2016 would have been about Rs. 3 per unit. So, the MSEB would be the loser. Either it would have to absorb the losses on this account, in which case it would be seriously in the red, or else, it would have to drastically raise the power sale tariff directly hitting the people. In any case, it would have to subsidize Enron to

(Contd. on page 3)

# EXCERPTS FROM NETAJI

"The present age is the anti-imperialist phase of our movement. Our main task in this age is to end imperialism and win national independence for the Indian people. When freedom comes, the age of national reconstruction will commence and that will be the socialist phase of our movement. In the present phase of our movement, Leftists will be those who will wage an uncompromising fight with imperialism. Those who waiver and vasculate in their struggle against imperialism -- those who tend towards a compromise with it -- cannot by any means will be Leftists. In the next phase of our movement, Leftism will be synonymous with socialism -- but in the present phase, the word "Leftist" and "Anti-Imperialist" should be interchangeable.

The problem of the hour is -- "Will India still remain under the thumb of the Rightists or will she swing to

the Left, once for all?" The answer to this can be furnished only by the Leftists themselves. If they adopt a bold, uncompromising policy in their struggle with imperialism, regardless of all dangers, difficulties and obstacles, then the Leftists will make history and India will go Left." (Ramgarh Address)

"There is an inseparable connection between the capitalist ruling classes in Great Britain and the colonies abroad. As Lenin pointed out long ago, "Reaction in Great Britain is strengthened and fed by the enslavement of a number of nations." The British aristocracy and bourgeoisie exist primarily because there are colonies and overseas dependencies to exploit. The emancipation of the latter will undoubtedly strike at the very existence of the capitalist ruling classes in Great Britain and precipitate the establishment of a socialist regime in that country. It should, therefore,

be clear that a socialist order in Great Britain is impossible of achievement without the liquidation of colonialism and that we who are fighting for the political freedom of India and other enslaved countries of the British empire are incidentally fighting for the economic emancipation of the British people as well." (Haripura Address)

"When the October Revolution broke out in Russia in 1917 nobody had a clear conception as to how the revolution should be directed. Most of the Bolsheviks were then thinking in terms of a coalition with other parties. It was left to Lenin to denounce all coalitions and give out the slogan -- "All power to the Soviets". Who knows what turn Russian history would have taken but for this timely lead of Lenin's during a period of doubt and vasillation? Lenin's unerring instinct (or intuition) which ultimately proved to be prophetic, saved

Russia from disaster and from a tragedy similar to that which overtook Spain the other day.

Let us now take a contrary case. Italy in 1922 was all intents and purposes, ripe for socialism. All that she needed was an Italian Lenin. But the man of the hour did not arrive and the opportunities slipped out of the socialist hands. It was immediately seized by the fascist leader Benito Mussolini. By his march to Rome and his seizure of power, Italian history took an altogether different turn and Italy ultimately went fascist instead of going socialist." (Ramgarh Address)

"The role of the anti-thesis in the Dialectic of History is not a negative one. It is something positive and dynamic which has to carry us swiftly along the path of progress." (Crossroads, p. 273)

"... we all know from personal experience that very often it is more difficult

to combat reaction at home than imperialism imposed from without. We have seen in recent months how so many comrades who would have fought foreign imperialism bravely have succumbed to the onslaught from the Right." (Ibid)

"... Communism as it appeared to be demonstrated by many of those who were supposed to stand for it in India seem to me anti-national, and this impression was further strengthened in view of the hostile attitude which several among them exhibited towards the Indian National Congress. ...

I should add that I have always understood and am quite satisfied that communism, as it has been expressed in the writings of Marx and Lenin and in the official statements of policy of the Communist International, gives full support to the struggle for national independence and recognizes this as an integral part of its world outlook."

(Contd. page 3)

# Interest of Big Monopolists Main Determinant

(Contd. from page 2)

ensure the latter's profit. If Enron cannot make the guaranteed profit even with this high rate of tariff, the Central Government will come to its rescue in terms of the counter-guarantee clause, thus subsidizing Enron.

Thus, despite the Joshi government's 'heroic' assertions that the multinational Enron has been taught a lesson through the new deal, there is no essential difference between the project as approved now and the original one.

## Foreign agencies to put up power plants in different states

We have dealt with Enron's Dabhol project in some detail because this project created controversy and has been much in the news. But this is not an isolated instance. At present, there are at least 12 power plants on hand that would be put up in different states of the country with the help of foreign agencies - 3 in AP, 2 each in Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal, and 1 each in Gujarat, Tamilnadu and Orissa. Out of these, 8 nos., labelled 'fast track' plants, enjoy the special favour of Central government in the form of counter-guarantee. Moreover, all the 'fast track' plants were awarded to foreign multinationals without global tender. Not only the Congress (I) Central government but even state governments run by the Opposition parties like BJP- Shiv Sena, Janata Dal, CPI(M), etc., are busy providing risk-free, safe and assured high profit to imperialist multinationals.

It is not as if the country is plagued with such a power-crisis as cannot be tackled and remedied

by indigenous enterprise and expertise, and so the multinationals must be wooed to set up power plants by holding up the carrot of superprofit before them. The total generating capacity of foreign-assisted power plants now in hand would be of the order of 8500 MW. The total already existing installed capacity of power generation in the country is about 77000 MW, out of which over 45% is lost due to transmission and distribution losses, poor maintenance of the plants, mismanagement and corruption—resulting in a low national average Plant Load Factor, an index of efficiency, of 61% against a global norm of 91%. If even 15% of the over 45% power loss can be regained through better maintenance and management of the existing plants, the additional power that would be available would be more than the total generating capacity of 8500 MW of the new foreign-assisted power plants now under implementation. But the governments at the Centre and in the states have not taken to this path of self-reliance. Moreover, as regards putting up these new power plants, the governments did not deem it fit to utilise the capabilities of indigenous agencies like BHEL or NTPC. The National Working Group on Power Project, formed to protest against Enron's Dabhol project, submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and the Central Power Minister pointing out that the necessary infrastructure and expertise to build up such power plant is available in the country. The BHEL Executives Association also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister stating that instead of going for these foreign-assisted plants involving import of costly

power plant equipment causing a very serious foreign exchange drain, such plants could be put up with equipment and machinery manufactured by BHEL requiring a much lower foreign exchange component. But all these proposals were disregarded by the Government in Delhi.

Enron has been given the go-ahead signal to make the Dabhol plant gas-based although good coal is plentiful in India and generation cost of coal-based plant is cheaper in this country. This would mean enormous foreign exchange drain throughout the life of this power plant because Enron has been allowed to import liquid natural gas (LNG) to provide gas fuel to this plant. What is more, when the present cost of this fuel is around 20 US dollars per barrel, Enron has been allowed an import price of 25.8 US dollars to start with. As 6 million barrels would be needed each year, this would result in over 30 million US Dollars foreign exchange drain through Enron per year.

The argument that the country lacks funds for setting up new power plants and so the foreign multinationals should be invited to install these as that would result in infusion of huge amounts of foreign capital, does not hold water. Because, most of the foreign multinationals participating in these power plant projects will themselves invest only a fraction of the capital requirement. They are going to raise the balance capital through loans from Indian financial institutions or international loans or by issuing equity shares. For example, the original funding arrangement

(Contd. on page 4)

## Excerpts from Netaji

(Report of a London Interview)

"... In 1930, when India was in the throes of a revolution, a body of croakers, then regarded as ultra leftists, stood aloof from the movement and refused to join it on the ground that Congressmen were counter-revolutionaries. To call those men and women counter-revolutionary who were defying alien 'law and order', braving the rigors of prison life and facing the baton charges of police was a bit too much for even the gullible Indian. The movement grew from strength to strength and inspired the teeming millions of this country and the ultra-leftists were left high and dry and completely isolated from the revolutionary masses." (The Caravan Marches)

"This latest phase of Gandhism with its sanctimonious hypocrisy ..., its outrage on democracy and its queer and an understandable formulae for political ills ... is sickening to

a degree. One is forced to wonder which is a greater menace to India's political future—the British bureaucracy or the Gandhian hierarchy. Idealism that is devoid of realism and whose only content is a frothy sentimentalism of a sanctimonious character can never be fruitful of results.

This game of bluff will deceive nobody -- neither the government nor the people -- because the world at large is not as foolish as our brown hierarchy may think. We have to carry on with calm determination. The day is not far off when this brand of Gandhism will stand unmasked." (Letter from Prison dt. 24.10.40)

"The more I think of Congress politics, the more convinced I feel that in future we should devote more energy and time to fighting the High Command. If power goes into the hands of such mean, vindictive and unscrupulous persons when Swaraj is one, what will happen to the country? If we don't fight them now, we shall not be able to prevent

power passing into their hands. Another reason why we should fight them now is that they have no idea of national reconstruction. Gandhism will land free India in a ditch — if free India is sought to be rebuilt on Gandhian non-violent principles." (Letter From Prison dt. 31.10.40)

"When people become 'Comrades-in-arms' in the struggle for liberty, a new *esprit d' corps* will develop — and along with it, a new outlook, a new perspective and a new vision. When this revolution comes about, Indians will be a changed people and revolutionary people at that. It will then be easy for them to solve many of the questions which today appear difficult to solve.

Under present conditions, it appears well-nigh impossible to destroy the canker of communalism and foster all-round nationalism in our public life. But how easy this task will become, once we develop a revolutionary mentality on a nationwide scale.

Communalism will go only when the communal mentality goes....

In every fight special responsibility devolves on the vanguard of the army. In the war against communalism, a special responsibility similarly falls on the shoulders of the front fighters. It is their task to lay the foundation of inter-communal, i.e. national unity, Hindus and Muslim, Shikhs and Christians, who fight for India's Independence must be specially commissioned to solve the communal problem. Once they solve this problem and announce it to the whole country — the atmosphere will automatically change and a death-knell of communalism will be sounded. If the front fighters show the way, the nation will ultimately follow." (Towards Communal Unity)

"The unity that we strive for or maintain must be the unity of action and not the unity of inaction. Splits are not an evil under all circumstances. There are occasions when splits are necessary in the interests of progress. When the social-democrat party of

Russia broke up into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks in 1903, Lenin heaved a sigh of relief. He was relieved of the dead weight of the Mensheviks and felt that the path to speedy progress was after all thrown open." (A letter to Jawaharlal Nehru).

"Though there may be no immediate tangible game — no suffering, no sacrifice is ever futile. It is through suffering and sacrifice alone that a cause can flourish and prosper and in every age and clime, the eternal law prevails — 'the blood of the martyr is the seed of the Church.'

In this mortal world, everything perishes and will perish -- but ideas, ideals and dreams do not. One individual may die for an idea but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives. That is how wheels of evolution move on and ideas, ideals and dreams of one generation are bequeathed to the next. No idea has ever fulfilled itself in this world except through an ordeal of suffering and sacrifice." (My Political Testaments)

# Enron

(Contd. from page 3)

for the Dabhol project was that for the first stage, Enron would bring in a meagre Rs. 414 crore, Rs. 1500 crore would be contributed by the IDBI and the balance capital required would be borrowed from the US financial institutions at an interest rate of 11-13 %. And the Government of India would have to be their guarantor for all such foreign borrowings! Since international borrowing can be secured by the Indian Government at 8-11% interest, what prevented it from arranging the capital raising on its own which would be cheaper and so beneficial for the project?

Thus, the course of action of the Central Government cannot be justified in any way. The essence of the New Economic Policy framed by Delhi to serve the aggregate interest of the ruling Indian capitalist class, is to open up the country to ruthless joint exploitation by the Indian monopoly houses and the imperialist finance capital routed through the multinational corporations. Like capitalism in all countries, Indian capitalist economy, too, is suffering from endemic intense crises. As a way out, Indian monopoly capital now hopes to enjoy a slice of the international market by acting as junior partners in joint international imperialist-capitalist financial combines through joint ventures from country to country and also in India. In this give and take, they have had to open up India to goods, services and finance capital from imperialist countries. It is in this context that the Government in Delhi has cut down its planned augmentation of power generation under the current five year plan

(1992- 1997) from 32,000 MW to 22,000 MW, thus clearing the path for foreign multinationals and Indian monopoly capital to fill in the void to fleece the people.

## Multinationals' objective is to fleece people

In the power sector, the multinationals are not coming to India with the noble objective of providing plentiful of electricity to bring about an industrial upsurge. Their real purpose is to invest their surplus capital to reap the maximum profit — whether in power generation, 5-star hotels or in other industries and areas. Their second purpose is to secure orders for machineries to be procured by them for their projects in India. Thirdly, they are also participating in some new industrial ventures here in the present carnival of exploitation of the cheap raw materials and labour of this country. Unless adequate power supply can be assured for these ventures, their dream of making superprofits through these will remain unfulfilled. That is also why they want to invest in the power sector. And the guaranteed profit- counter-guarantee arrangements make such investment highly profitable and totally risk-free.

There is no denying the facts that electricity has a very important role to play in the industrialization of the country and that industrialization is a must in order to reduce unemployment. But the capitalism in our country, like capitalism everywhere, is crisis-ridden and has reached the moribund stage. It is not possible for it to bring about unfettered industrial growth. The position is not that new industries cannot be put up just because of paucity of electricity or

capital. In reality, the capitalist system now cannot even fully utilise the existing production capacities, because of lack of purchasing power of the people, that is, of market. That is why we find that while a number of new factories come into production, a much larger number of already existing factories are forced to close down. And the new factories that are being put up with the latest technology are capital-intensive generating very little employment opportunity. So, the government propaganda barrage that the new power stations would bring about a flood of industrialization creating tremendous employment opportunity, is really for diverting the attention of the people away from the crux of the problem. Behind the screen of such propaganda fanfare, enormous amount of wealth would pass into the hands of the foreign multinationals and the Indian capitalists by looting the common people with the corrupt politicians getting a part of the booty.

## Gimmick in parliamentary politics

All the parliamentary political parties are wedded to the policy of globalization, liberalization and privatisation that has been adopted to fulfil the class need of the Indian ruling capitalist class because all of them serve the aggregate interest of the ruling class. To attain governmental power anyhow is their only concern. And they cannot hope to achieve this without the backing of the ruling class which alone can provide them with the huge sums of money and the orchestrated coverage and favourable propaganda in the mass media without which an election cannot be won today. That is why, irrespective of their background,

flags or vocabulary, none of these parliamentary parties can be in principled opposition to the anti-people conspiracy of the so-called New Economic Policy of Delhi. If some of them strike a discordant note in a particular situation, it is to serve their particular interests in parliamentary politics in those situations. If a party is in power in a state where the projects of multinationals are being implemented, it lauds such projects as the harbingers of prosperity and well being; but the party in opposition condemns such projects as a sell-out to foreign capital in order to mobilise public support in its favour and against the ruling party. Again, in another state where the position of the same two parties in parliamentary politics are reversed, there is a reversal of their stands on such question. And during each such manoeuvre, these parties pose to be the champions of the people, projecting their particular stand as pro-people, patriotic and in consonance with national interest.

The Congress (I), as the most trusted political agent of the ruling capitalist class, has been the architect of the New Economic Policy of globalization and privatisation that is under implementation in the country. It was the Congress (I) ministry of Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra that approved post-haste Enron's Dabhol project against the interest of the people in a suspicious manner. But it was the same Congress (I) that, being in the opposition, opposed the deal between the Janata Dal ministry in Orissa and another US agency CEA for adding two new generation units to the Ib Valley Thermal Power Station in that state. But since then, the Congress (I) has come into power there

and so now we hear nothing from them about the Ib Valley TPS deal being 'bad'!

The BJP has displayed the utmost duplicity in their political manoeuvres. This party off and on chants about the virtue of Swadeshi enterprise. During the last Assembly election campaign in Maharashtra, being in opposition and aspiring for the governmental gaddi, they talked about self-reliance, about the people's interest and accused the Pawar ministry of corruption in approving the Dabhol project at a very high cost without global tender and held out the promise to scrap the project if elected to power. After winning the elections, the BJP formed the government jointly with Shiv Sena. With a hue and cry, this Joshi government announced suspension of work of the first stage of the project and scrapping of the second stage altogether but did not cancel the PPA, thus keeping the path of renegotiation open. Before long, the Enron representative met Bal Thackarey, the Shiv Sena chief and the Chief Minister Joshi. The expert committee appointed by the Maharashtra government to find a cheaper alternative, through global tender if necessary, was very soon reduced to a re-negotiation committee engaged in fresh negotiations with Enron. Following this committee's recommendation, the BJP- Shiv Sena government has now approved essentially the same Enron project, both its stages together, with some trappings thrown in to make it look 'different' to confuse people. They no longer speak about global tender. And Chief Minister Joshi has now denied that they had ever raised the charge of corruption and has ruled out any further probe into the matter! After profiting in election politics through 'opposing' Enron project,

BJP-Shiv Sena combine now has "taught Enron a lesson" to further political capital with the coming Lok Sabha poll in view!

When Joshi ministry in Maharashtra made the show of scrapping the Enron project, it was supported by the Janata Dal. But it had been a Janata Dal ministry that had earlier concluded the Ib Valley TPS deal with the CEA in Orissa! Karnataka has a Janata ministry that is continuing to support the 1.4 billion US Dollar Cogentrix power project at Mangalore in Karnataka, a project as per the Agreement signed by the predecessor Moily government of Congress(I) in Karnataka.

The point to be noted here is that the contracts with CEA and Cogentrix contain clauses harmful to the country's interest similar to those incorporated in the agreement with Enron.

## Role of LF government in West Bengal no different

Despite its leftist, and even 'revolutionary' jargon, the CPI(M)- led Left Front in power in West Bengal is also no different. They often condemn GATT and the World Bank and call Rao Government's economic policy a sell-out of the country —and such hue and cry is now being stepped up with the coming general election in view. But on the plea that he cannot allow "West Bengal to be turned into a desert", Jyoti Basu and his government have laid out a permanent red carpet welcome to multinationals of all imperialist countries—Britain, USA, Japan and Germany included. Their repeated hobnobbing with delegations representing imperialist capital and governments and Jyoti Basu's frequent trips abroad to woo foreign capital are well known. As

(Contd. on page 6)

# News in States

## Gujarat Students' Conference

The All-Gujarat Students' Conference, organized on the eve of Birth Centenary Year of Zaverilal Meghani and Subhas Chandra Bose, was held at Baroda from 5-6 January, 1996 with much enthusiasm. Held under the auspices of All-India Democratic Students' Organization, the conference concluded with a firm resolve to fight corruption, privatization and commercialization of education.

On 5th January, the Open Session was held. It was inaugurated by Kirit Bhai Bhatt and Nalin Annandkate. A large number of students from different parts of Gujarat along with hundreds of common people attended the Open Session.

The Delegate Session was held on 6th January. A presidium, formed under the chairmanship of Comrade Bharat Mehta, President of Gujarat AIDS, conducted the proceedings. Various resolutions were adopted on admission crisis, privatization and commercialization of education, secular-scientific-democratic education, fee-hike and increasing cost of education, problems of unemployment etc. The conference condemned the government's move to stop allotment of funds to secondary education. It stressed the need to emphasize teaching of English.

Mr Promode Kumar Patel, a critic and translator of Netaji's biography, spoke on Netaji. Minakshi Joshi, the convenor of the Meghani

Memorial Committee, spoke on life and revolutionary works of Meghani. Mr Rajkumar Hans, Department of History, MS University also spoke.

The Delegate Session was also addressed by Comrade Dwarika Nath Ratha, In-charge, SUCI, Gujarat, Comrade Vismay Shah, Secretary, SUCI, Ahmedabad District, Comrade Pratap Shamal, President, All India Committee, AIDS, Comrade Debashish Roy, Office Secretary, AIDS, Comrade Rajmal Sharma, member, All-India Council, AIDS.

Comrades Jogesh Patel, Kusum Chauhan, Tapan Dasgupta, Bharati Parmer, Ganesh Joshi and 60 other students who came from Ahwa, Surat, Santrampur, Bhiloda, Savarkundla, Idar, Ahmedabad, Kaira and Baroda, took part in deliberations.

A 17-member strong all-Gujarat Committee was elected comprising Comrade Bharat Mehta, President, Kusum Chauhan, Vice-President, Jogesh Patel, Secretary, Tapan Dasgupta, Joint Secretary, and Mehool Trivedi, Treasurer.

## Orissa

### Death of a miner sparks Movement

The recent case of a fatal accident in Saruabil Chromite Mines of Mishrillal Mines Pvt. Ltd., Sukinda, Dist. Jajpur, Orissa on 21st. December 95, barely 10 days after the Annual 'Safety Week' in Mines has once again glaringly illustrated the appalling safety standard in open cast chromite mines.

On that fateful day a worker of Saruabil Chromite Mines, Sri Kandra Kaituar, a driller

helper, engaged in the Mechanical Workshop to assist in the repairing of an old CPT Compressor Machine sustained third degree burns to which he succumbed a few days later.

The mechanic who was trying to start the engine of the compressor by using petrol for ignition was grossly violating the minimum safety norms because the engine was of the type to be started by battery charge. But the mechanic was pouring petrol while another assistant was trying to start it and when the petrol mug in the hand of the mechanic caught fire he threw it off which fatally burnt Sri Kandra Kaituar who succumbed to his injuries a few days later.

Such callous disregard for safety of human life has become endemic in our social life. And such incidents fail to make headlines unless a large number of lives are lost, when a hue and cry is raised for some days. But things remain the same. Unless forced the authorities concerned will not take lesson, this has once again been clearly illustrated. The Mines Management in this case has been feverishly trying to cover up their criminal negligence by giving out the story that the spark from the battery of the compressor caused the accident. The local management is trying to convince the workers and the staff that if the truth is brought to the notice of the officers of the DGMS then the mines shall be closed and they shall lose their job and suffer hardship. Believing this the workers have not stated the facts to the officer of DGMS who had come to the mines to investigate into the matter.

This attitude of the management was condemned by UTUC(LS) and a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Inspector of Mines.

## Karnataka

### Peasants snatch victory at the cost of bloodshed

Even as there is an ongoing tussle over the sharing of Cauvery water between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the peasants in Karnataka are being deprived of water within the state itself. Such an incident has occurred in the life of the peasants in Bellary recently. Although most parts of Bellary are affected by drought very often, certain villages in Bellary and Siraguppa taluqs have been spared due to their vicinity to the Tungabhadra dam at Minirabad and have been provided with water for irrigation.

But due to delay in onset of monsoon this year, all sowing in the districts was disrupted. More than over a lakh acres of land in the above 2 taluqs were provided water for irrigation since August only. Soon after, the crops were affected by locusts and more or less totally destroyed.

Yet the peasants tried their best and even resorted to taking loans to save the crop. They hoped some yield for their untiring efforts. But the government stopped all water supply by the 26th December. The farmers expectantly waited for their supply of water and welcomed the New Year. But with great agony they witnessed their standing crops getting destroyed for want of necessary water supply.

Finally on the 6th January, the villagers resorted to the path of movement. Thousands of peasants blockaded all roads leading to Bellary. A successful movement RASTA ROKO was organised under the leadership of our Party SUCI,

AIDYO, and Karnataka Rajya Raittha Sangha and Karnataka Prantha Raittha Sangha (affiliated to CPI(M)). Finally the district authorities of Bellary and officials of the Tungabhadra Board met the peasants and assured them of water supply within 2 days. Convinced, the peasants suspended their movement.

But water supply never came into effect. Angered by this, the entire peasant population rose up in protest. On 9th Jan. 96, over 20000 peasants stormed Bellary in response to the call for "Bellary Bandh". They gathered in front of the District Headquarter. But the officials went back on their assurance and pleaded helplessness as they had not received orders from their higher-ups. Naturally angered by such a breach of trust, the peasants severely condemned the State Government's stand. The police resorted to lathicharge and tear-gassing. Hundreds of peasants were severely injured. Even peasants on the way back to their villages were pulled out of their vehicles and severely beaten up.

Since the incident took place even as the leaders were negotiating with the authorities, they rushed out of the meeting and sat down for RASTA ROKO. All the leaders including Com. K. Somashekar and Com. A. Ramanjinappa, District Secretary of SUCI and



A portion of the massive peasants procession towards DC's Office on Bellary Bandh Day on 9-1-96

State Secretary of AIDYO respectively, were arrested under "tense situation prevailing".

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## Report From Russia

# Prof Barychev On Anti-Imperialist Convention

*Professor Alexander Barychev of Russia who was a delegate on behalf of the All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) at the recently held Anti-Imperialist Convention in Calcutta circulated a report of the convention for publication in the Russian Press. A copy of the said report has also been forwarded to us and the same is given below :*

In Calcutta, India the Anti-Imperialist Convention of the broad based national forum was held from 14-17 November, 1995. Representatives of workers', peasants', intellectuals', youth and women organizations and of organizations belonging to the different strata of the Indian people participated in the convention. Over 30 representatives of different Communist and Workers' Parties from abroad including All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) were present as guests in the convention. All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) was the only invited political party from our country.

V.R.Krishna Iyer, former Justice, Supreme Court, an eminent political personality of India, the President of the Preparatory Committee and Convenor of the Convention, along with Prof.Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, General Secretary of the Preparatory Committee, presided over the Convention.

From the discussions of the participants and guests it came out clearly that the main reason of

conflicts, war, coercion and exploitation of people was imperialism. It is due to imperialism that the entire world is embroiled in arms race. In the Convention, scathing criticism was mounted particularly against the US imperialism whose aggression had intensified after the breakdown of the Soviet Union. The steps of the US imperialism to dominate over the world have at present become the official line of the international activities of the US administration. That imperialism is the highest and final stage of capitalism and is the precursor of proletarian revolution—this theory of Lenin had been expressed through the views and discussions of every representative of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI), which is a very powerful all-India communist party, which has mass base and which is resolutely following the line of Marxism-Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism. Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the Central Committee, SUCI, said in the Convention, "Capitalism-imperialism is not the last word in the history of human civilization. Passing through the transitory stage of socialism the course of history will surely advance towards communism".

In the Convention the call was given in the Declaration, accepted unanimously by the delegates, to build up international front on the basis of broadest unity with the objective to fight imperialism. In this connection, it had been said in the convention that whenever in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America there would be any

sign of bellicose activities of the imperialists and the US imperialists in particular, mass protest and mass resistance in different forms would be organized. Mass protest and mass resistance in every way will be built up against the implementation of the US design to expand the NATO by including the republics of former Soviet Union, countries of the eastern and central Europe and other states. The demand also of dismantling immediately "the aggressive military combine of the NATO which is a serious threat to the peace and security for Europe and West Asia" was voiced.

It has been strongly demanded from the convention that the economic and trade embargo imposed by the imperialists on Cuba and Iraq must be lifted. The aggressive role of US imperialism in Yugoslavia and the US moves to obliterate socialist Korea from the face of the earth had been severely condemned.

The delegates of the Convention listened with deep concentration to the detailed document of the All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks). The Convention had expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Soviet people against restoration of capitalism and to restore socialist state on the basis of voluntary unity as a bastion of peace and democracy.

The contradiction among the imperialist countries, the attempts of the ever increasing crisis ridden imperialism to find a way out to save itself through bringing cleavage in the unity of

(Contd. on page 7)

## Enron

(Contd. from page 4)

regards the power sector, the CPI(M) is right now demanding a total scrapping of the Enron project, but at the same time, the CPI(M)- led government in West Bengal is trying to go ahead with work on the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station with participation by multinationals.

The situation cannot be understood by taking at face-value the utterances of these parties. It is the contradictions between these parties due to their respective positions in parliamentary politics that determine their stands and conduct. And this contradiction is in play against the backdrop of the national scene replete with various contradictions let loose in the wake of the policy of globalization and privatisation launched by the Delhi government. There is the contradiction between Indian monopoly houses; there is the contradiction between the imperialist multinationals; there is the contradiction between Indian monopoly houses and foreign capital; there is the contradiction between various combines of particular Indian monopoly houses with particular imperialist multinationals all over gaining larger slices of the Indian market, the international market. There are various contradictions within the ruling Indian capitalist class itself. Some Indian monopoly houses are in dominating position; as against these, there are other Indian monopoly houses who aspire to dominate in collaboration with foreign capital. In areas where they can and desire to invest, Indian monopoly houses speak out against foreign investment; in other cases, where the aim is to

gain strong foothold in foreign market in collaboration with foreign capital, they welcome foreign capital. While the big Indian monopoly capital houses are all for globalization in collaboration with imperialist finance capital on a give and take basis, the section of the Indian ruling class comprising smaller capitalists speak about upholding Swadeshi enterprises. This trend is reflected through bodies like Swadeshi Jagran Manch. It is interesting to note that reactions of the various Indian Chambers of Commerce to the suspension of the Enron's Dabhol project were mixed. While the FICCI supported the PPA between Sharad Pawar government and Enron, bodies like the CII and ASSOCHAM indicated that while foreign capital was welcome, there should be competitive bidding and transparency and counter-guarantees should be accorded to Indian houses as well.

### Interest of Indian Monopolists Determinant

But despite all this, it is the interest of the Indian big monopoly capital that is the determinant, the call for Swadeshi enterprise by a section of the Indian capitalists notwithstanding. The course of globalization adopted in the interest of Indian big capital is the path of Indian capitalism that must be served by all the parliamentary parties in the country. The Chambers of Commerce have indicated willingness to come to understanding with the parties on the national scene and also regionally provided they accept the New Economic Policy. They wish to establish chains with the Indian and foreign Houses, with the parties. The different parties are also trying to come to understanding and line up with the Houses and vice-versa. Thus

various chains, combinations are emerging and dissolving. Nothing is permanent or static but everything is in a flux. In such a situation, concession given by a government to a particular multinational does not mean a sell-out, nor does a snubbing meted out to a particular multinational represent assertion of national sovereignty. Both are to be seen as part of the overall scenario of give and take, hard bargaining and pressure tactics.

World capitalism is today submerged in endemic crises. It cannot find the way out, cannot show the path of prosperity and progress to mankind. A large part of World capital is unproductive, turning more and more into speculative capital, usurious capital that keeps on migrating from country to country in the hope of augmenting profit rate even slightly. Capitalism today cannot provide stability anywhere on in the globe. How vulnerable is the condition of a country less developed capitalistically than India when it becomes dependent on foreign capital that is usurious and shifting by nature, was recently dramatically demonstrated in Mexico. It is a measure of the intrinsic strength of Indian capital that the governments in this country subserving the aggregate interest of Indian capitalism are in a position to extort concessions from imperialist multinationals. But Indian capitalism being part and parcel of world imperialism-capitalism and having already developed pronounced imperialistic traits of its own, how can it be anti-imperialist? How can the parliamentary parties serving Indian capitalism be really anti-imperialist? Whatever they say or do, they do it in their petty interest in parliamentary politics. What have these got to do with the

(Contd. on page 7)

## Kultali, West Bengal

# CPI(M) Hoodlums murder SUCI Comrades

On 13 January last, the CPI(M) backed anti-socials shot Comrade Ananta Pradhan (20) to death at Nagenabad under Kultali PS of 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. And on 17 January evening, at Ambikanagar village under the same police station, Comrade Bhakti Jana (50) and his wife Comrade Arati Jana (40), succumbed to the physical and mental torture by the CPI(M) hoodlums.

The incident on 13 January occurred when the CPI(M) anti-socials suddenly opened fire on the procession brought out by our party at Nagenabad under Maipith grampanchayat against price rise and against terrorisation by the CPI(M). Comrade Ananta Pradhan was killed on the spot. To cover their crime they issued false statement to the press that our party killed 4 CPI(M) men and kidnapped 2. And on that plea they started extensive torture and looting. Although our party specifically informed the police the names of the miscreants, they arrested none.

Within 4 days of killing Comrade Ananta Pradhan, on 17th January, the CPI(M) miscreants again attacked our comrades at Ambikanagar village under the same police station. They attacked with the aim of abducting Comrade Shakti Jana, an organiser and the vice-president of Kultali Panchayat Samiti and failing to get him they committed brutal physical and mental torture on his brother and sister-in-law Comrade Shakti Jana and Comrade Arati Jana. Getting the news, immediately in the morning of 18th the grievous matter was informed to the SP and the

subordinate officers and the demand was made in writing to recover the dead bodies for immediate post mortem. Despite this, in the evening the bodies were cremated. But what was astonishing, was that the CPI(M) leader Kanti Ganguli and the SP briefed the Press after the incident that the couple quarrelled and committed suicide by consuming poison. Even if it be the case, why did not the police take the legal step i.e. why did they not recover the dead bodies and send for post mortem? Why, in presence of police, the dead bodies were cremated and why did they not obstruct it. By not allowing postmortem and by allowing the dead bodies to be cremated, were not the possibilities to find out the real cause of the deaths removed?

At present, in the entire Maipith *gram panchayat* our comrades are allowed neither to get in, nor come outside. The CPI(M) there is ceaselessly continuing plunder and loot, physical and mental torture. Even our supporters, although severely tortured, are forced to confess to the police that there has been no torture. They are pressurising our comrades to give in writing that they are joining the CPI(M) leaving the SUCI. Those who refuse to comply are subjected to various punishments. This is the law and order situation in West Bengal under the rule of Sri Jyoti Basu. Many will still remember how in the same manner the CPI(M) killed 7 of our comrades in this area in 1989, of which 4 dead bodies could not be ultimately traced. The CPI(M) has this time plundered houses of 80 supporting families, extracted thousands of

rupees as fine, looted crops and everything, resorted to rape and has terrorised the whole area. And all are done in presence of police. The CPI(M) has decreed that nobody will move for SUCI there, there must not be any poster of our party, nobody will vote for SUCI. It may be mentioned here that in the last assembly and panchayat election they forcibly stopped our comrades from election campaign and from voting. It is clear that the present attack is perpetrated with an eye on the ensuing vote.

It may be mentioned here that from 1951 onwards in these remote, inaccessible riverine areas of the Sunderbans, poor peasants and share croppers, awaked by the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and led by our departed leaders Comrade Subodh Banerjee and Comrade Sachin Banerjee waged a historic battle. The Jotedar-Congress-anti-social police nexus terrorized and even killed poor peasants while the strong organisation of our party grew up. For this, despite inconceivable torture, even despite Congress (I), CPI(M) joining hands, SUCI could not be defeated in Kultali and Jaynagar Assembly constituency. After 1977, when CPI(M) came to power Congress jotedars and anti-socials came to form the CPI(M) there. They had an organisation there before '77 election. Like the Congress, CPI(M) too is trying to erase SUCI, the only instrument of struggle. In this situation we appeal to all well meaning people to raise their voice of protest against this fascist onslaught.

## Report from Russia

(Contd. from page 6)

the Soviet people, etc., had been critically discussed in the Convention. It had also been said in this Convention that the process to strengthen further the imperialist hegemonistic politics and multinational monopoly capital was turning the international situation absolutely crisis-ridden and was signalling world wide conflagration.

From the entire discussion in the Convention this truth had come out that imperialism could not be overcome without uprooting opportunism and revisionism within the world communist movement and the working class movement. In one voice, the delegates in their discussions had condemned the opportunist policies and activities of the CPI and the CPI(M). Coming to power in West Bengal (whose capital is Calcutta), these parties, in actuality, were working as the close associates of the ruling national bourgeoisie and in reality were denying to support rather suppressing the mass movements, being built up to protect people's right. It was to be referred in this connection that the Communist Party of Russian Federation led by Ziganov was following the same very revisionist and opportunist policy of the CPI and the CPI(M) and their closeness was only deepening. Right was the proverb 'Birds of a feather flock together'.

The impact and the leadership of the SUCI was on the increase on the people of all most all the states of India. It was to be mentioned that it was the SUCI that acted as the organizer of the Anti-Imperialist Convention in Calcutta. The

communists of the SUCI had upheld the flag of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh, the founder of their party and an eminent Marxist, a fighter against imperialism and modern revisionism. From the two volumes of Selected Works of Shibdas Ghosh, who passed away in 1976, that came out in 1988 and 1992 respectively the farsightedness and the clarity of the thought of this communist leader was evidently clear. When revisionism got hold under the leadership of Khrushchev, he could apprehend how the existence of the Soviet Union was endangered. Consistently, on the anvil of science, Shibdas Ghosh exposed the petty-bourgeois character of CPI and its accompanying parties and alone with his compatriots he founded the SUCI "as the genuine Marxist-Leninist Party of the Indian proletariat". (Vol.II,p-196)

In West Bengal, in opposition to the government, the SUCI had held a mass meeting of 1,20,000 people in Calcutta in support of the Anti-Imperialist Convention. Then in a village it held a meeting with 80,000 supporters and sympathisers. In these two meetings and in other functions the delegates of Communist and Workers' Parties including of All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) delivered congratulatory address. Hearing the news that the Soviet people were fighting for the restoration of the Soviet Union and that with this view movements were continuing under the leadership of All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), people present in the meeting burst into applause.

The beginning of the relationship between the All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the

SUCI started through the visit of Neena Andreyeva in India in March last year, and that relation has further deepened through the Convention and the programmes taken afterwards. There had been valuable discussion with Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI and Manik Mukherjee who shouldered the responsibility to discharge the huge task during convention's preparatory period and to develop the international connections. Simultaneously, many discussions and meets took place with activists, workers, students and youth belonging to the SUCI in Calcutta and Delhi.

National and regional committees had been formed to build up international front for struggle against imperialism and to make successful the decisions of the Anti-Imperialist Convention, to determine concrete and particular regional programmes in different regions and coordination committee had been formed to maintain coordination among communist and workers' parties abroad.

## ENRON

(Contd. from page 6)

people's interest? It is the Indian people who will have to take to the path of protracted struggle against imperialism- capitalism, against the onslaught of globalization and privatisation foisted upon them. That is the need of the hour.

[Reference : Data and information used in this article were obtained from various issues of Economic & Political Weekly and The Statesman, dated 6th to 12th January, 1996]

# Lenin Memorial Day In Calcutta

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was the speaker and Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Committee and Secretary, Calcutta District Committee presided over the meeting.

The meeting started with a song on Comrade Lenin presented by the DYO music squad and wreaths were placed at the portrait of Lenin.

In his presidential speech, Comrade Manik Mukherjee highlighted as the background of the meeting the present international situation consequent upon restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union and socialist countries of East Europe where imperialism had let loose all-out attack against mankind and civilization. He said that the challenge of the situation had to be met by strengthening the party and mass organizations in line with the teachings of Lenin and as elaborated by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Sukomal Das Gupta while dealing in brief on the nature and character of imperialism referred to the teachings of Lenin and showed how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our departed leader, teacher and guide, elaborated them in the post-Lenin period. Comrade Das Gupta said that in the present day changed situation after the dismantling of the socialist camp whatever changes might have taken place in the nature and form of imperialist attack, the basic nature and essential character of imperialism remained unchanged. The depth and dimension of crises of imperialism had assumed such alarming proportion as never before. Let

alone the countries of the so-called third world, even the people of the advanced capitalist-imperialist countries like France, Italy, Germany, etc., are coming out on the streets. The month-long struggle of the millions of French people who wrested their legitimate demands from the Chirac government is a pointer to the nature of the crises of capitalism-imperialism on the one hand and also the redeeming feature that lay in the struggle on the other, Com. Das Gupta observed.

Debunking the theory of the bourgeois propagandists that "globalisation" of economy had opened up a situation when there would be no more conflicts and contradictions amongst the imperialist countries over sharing of markets - Comrade Das Gupta not only drew attention to the fierce trade wars going on amongst them but also showed by analysis basing on Lenin's teaching that all attempts of the imperialists to 'resolve' their intense crisis by combining to form trusts and cartels and amalgamating in various forms was bound to fail. In this connection he reminded the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who explained that multinational or transnational corporations were in essence nothing but imperialist trusts and cartels under new labels and nomenclature only.

Coming to the question of the stage of Indian revolution while he reiterated the base political line of Indian revolution as an out and out anti-capitalist one—he showed how the Indian capitalist state machine had increased its strength

tremendously being backed by rock bottom economic foundation of fascism as also acquiring imperialist character through export of finance capital in a large scale among others. He analysed that depending on changing situation tactical slogans might change remaining fully in conformity with the base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Recalling the nature of intense socialist ideological-political-cultural struggle which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh released for attaining uniformity of thinking covering all aspects of life, for raising the standard of the comrades and creating a band of professional revolutionaries and in its course to give birth to democratic centralism and collective leadership inside the party on the edifice of higher proletarian culture, Comrade Das Gupta said that the elevation and rectification struggle which was going on now inside the party was the extension of the same struggle, through which the SUCI was built up by Comrade Ghosh. The emphasis which was being laid on elevation and rectification struggle at present by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party, had been prompted by the necessity to make the party equal to the task of moulding itself in the changed national and international situation so that the party became able to explore the great possibilities opening up both in the national and international spheres and could consolidate the gains to make bold strides forward.

## CC On Netaji Birth Centenary

(Contd. from page 1)

shamelessly engaged themselves in the rat race to usurp the credit and heritage of such a great man in their respective narrow political interest and use his name as a ploy to befool the people.

Even if a section of our countrymen is caught in the glare and fanfare of official extravaganza for a while, we firmly believe that as the symbolic expression of the most uncompromising trend of our freedom movement, as a valiant and sacrificing fighter ready to give every drop of his blood to free the motherland from the misery and misfortune of foreign imperialist rule, as an undoubted and unbending upholder of justice, secularism and unity of the people for establishment of a society free from exploitation, besides winning freedom of our country, Netaji's unforgettable memory still shines very brilliantly in people's mind.

Paying tribute to this great man means to correctly and deeply understand Netaji's life-struggle and imbue our people, students and youth in particular, with a noble cause he stood for and to carry forward the struggle to achieve emancipation of our people from all sorts of exploitation of man by man. With this outlook in view, we call upon the people to observe his Birth Centenary through a year-long programme in a solemn and befitting way."

## SUCI On Hawala Scandal

On the CBI Report relating to Hawala Scandal, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General

Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement to the Press on 17th January last:

"The CBI Report on the Hawala Scandal has showed once again that the top leaders of different parties including Congress(I), BJP, Janata Dal are involved in the vile trade of converting black money to white accepting a large dividend. It has testified that the present-day parliamentary politics is tied up with the vicious circle of unbridled corruption and criminalisation.

It is also noteworthy that the Supreme Court has strongly reprimanded the Central Government and its CBI for their attempts to take resort to delatory tactics in the process of investigation and to hush up the whole case.

As the Prime Minister and President of the Congress(I) Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao cannot disown the moral responsibility of this misdeed.

We demand immediate dismissal of the ministers and the political leaders from their posts, proper enquiry and settlement of the case without delay and exemplary punishment to those found guilty."

## Karnataka Movement

(Contd. from page 5)

Our party severely condemned the police atrocities and held the government responsible for it. It demanded immediate compensation to all those injured and impartial enquiry to punish the guilty and immediate relief to the farmers. Finally the district officials declared that an all party meeting would be called under the conduction of Sri. M. P. Prakash, who is incharge Minister

of the district. A decision would be taken there in, they said.

Further, the peasants continued road blockade demanding release of water as well as action against the police brutality. Meanwhile, the meeting was held at Munirabad on 12th Jan. Though the Minister provided 'data' to show that more water had already been released over and above the quota, later on he conceded that the standing crops, mainly cotton, sunflower and chilly should be saved. Finally the government announced on the 13th night that 1 TMC Ft of water, to cater to the needs of the farmers for about 10 days, would be released immediately. An enquiry was also ordered into the unprovoked lathicharge. The success of the movement has created great enthusiasm among the people, farmers in particular. In various villages victory meetings were held, addressed by our district leaders. They pledged to take up struggles on various pending problems facing their lives.

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