

24th April

Countrywide Observance of 46th Foundation Day of SUCI

24th April this year, marking the 46th anniversary of the SUCI, had been observed in the most solemn and befitting manner throughout the length and breadth of the country. Red flags were hoisted at the party centres, comrades wore the GS badge, the badge with the profile of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great departed leader, our teacher and guide and a foremost Marxist thinker of this era.

This year the programme had been observed at a time when the Party, along with its frontal organisations, was engaged in a grim battle all over the country with other left organisations against not only the GATT agreement but also against the so-called new economic and industrial policies of the central government. Voices of protests were also raised against the anti-people policies of different state governments. On the historic occasion of the foundation anniversary of our party the leaders and the comrades renewed their pledge to intensify democratic mass movements and lead them to their logical culmination.

In the niche of our heart is etched the memory of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, whose greatest creation through life-long arduous struggle has been the SUCI, the genuine communist party on the Indian soil, the party of the proletariat. It was he who concretised Marxism on this soil, enriched it and brought its understanding to a new height. It was he who gave voice to the masses of the people for singing the song of emancipation. So his words ever ring in the air and 24th April returns to rouse them to their pledge. On this 24th April the party rose with all its strength to remind the people their tasks and the teachings of the great leader of the proletariat.

The leaders of the party, who addressed public meetings on the occasion in different parts of the country, recalled the great teachings of the beloved leader which have been guiding the party to scale newer organisational heights and cover newer spans of movement. The meetings began with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the Internationale. In a number of states guard of honour was presented before the portrait of the great departed leader. The essence of the speeches delivered in the meetings is given below.

Only in eight states, the leaders recalled, the SUCI had organisational activities in the year 1976, when, on 5th August, Comrade Ghosh passed away, plunging the Indian proletariat in profound grief. But now the party is working in

strength.

What, has made this expansion possible? Everybody knows that a party, when it is backed by government and the media, may have a sudden expansion. But that cannot save it from splits, if it is a party with a petty-bourgeois class character. Comrade Ghosh taught that today's individualism has grown out and out reactionary and unless a party attains the character of a communist party, that is unless it has developed democratic centralism, groupism is sure to afflict it, whatever be its claim. Different parties, claiming to be Left or Marxist suffer the same fate of split while our party, has been able to wage a constant battle against groupism through which we have achieved its granite like monolithic character and unity.

Our movement is developing at present against the GATT, against the new economic and industrial policies of the central government and against other anti-people policies of both the central and state governments. But our movement alone cannot bring the desired results. To bear the brunt of pressure on the ruling capitalist class so that it will be compelled to meet the people's demand what we need is a nationwide powerful united movement. That is the task of the hour.

It should develop on a common agreed programme and on agreed code of conduct. At the same time it should base itself on the principle of unity-struggle-unity. All parties will have to unitedly fight the common enemy while conducting ideological struggles among themselves to be free from defects and inadequacies. This is the tested method to build up a strong and truly united protracted movement.

It is not impossible to frustrate GATT accord and other anti-people policies. The battle no doubt will be difficult, but we must organise movements in waves after waves. Recent united rally in Delhi on 5th April last holds out a bright prospect. State level movements are also growing. But the lessons of the past must not be forgotten. Weren't there movements in those days against economic, social and cultural crises wreaked on by capitalism? There were. Yet the logical culmination of movements had not been reached. The cultural crisis particularly had a degenerating impact on millions of the people, the youth in particular, to render them helpless in the battle against capitalism.

And now the GATT accord has come down

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's Message to Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela

President, ANC
Johannesburg
South Africa

9 May, 1994

Please accept my sincerest thanks and revolutionary congratulations on the occasion of your historic victory and assuming the leadership of the new government on which people of South Africa have put their fullest of trust and confidence. Hope, your government will go a long way in shaping out the future of your great country in consonance with the legitimate aspirations of your heroic people.

Nihar Mukherjee
General Secretary
SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA

Call of May Day Workers of the World, Unite !

This year, when unprecedented attacks and more and more ruthless capitalist onslaughts are coming down on the workers throughout the world, the call of May Day, the lesson of May Day —the day of international solidarity of the workers —rings with new significance. It is a day to take renewed pledge to stand firm and united in the struggle against capitalist exploitation, social injustice and humiliation, and not to indulge in a mere ritual observance. The heroic struggle of the valiant workers of Chicago against inhuman capitalist oppression and exploitation, raising the demand of a basic human right of an 8-hour working day, has

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A portion of the Rally on 24th April at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta

NAFTA and the Mexican Uprising

It came as no surprise, when the United States government, in the name of ushering in an era of trade without any barrier, and trying its best to arm-twist the less developed nations to sign the GATT agreement on the line of Dunkel Draft Text, was, at the same time, desperately trying to form a new trade bloc under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) involving the USA, Canada and Mexico. Capitalists the world over and the Americans in particular, are hoping for the impossible to happen, to give the crisis-ridden capitalism some breathing space. Therefore, in desperation, while in one manoeuvre the American imperialists are trying to remove trade barriers, in another they are trying to form a trade bloc. But so severe is the present crisis of capitalism that like all the previous manoeuvres the latest one will invariably fail.

The NAFTA was finally ratified by the American Senate on 17th September 1993 by 234-200 votes. We will, however, not go deep into the horsetrading practised by the Clinton administration to arrange necessary votes in favour of NAFTA, which made similar recent activities of the Congress (I) government in the Indian parliament look like child's play. This is how, for long the much trumpeted American democracy is functioning.

Coming to the real motive of the formation of yet another trade bloc, it does not need much explanation that this bloc is being formed by the ruling capitalist class of the three countries to bar prospective competition from other imperialist powers from outside the region for this market. This will give the capitalists of these three countries a veritable monopoly to exploit the market of the bloc in mutual agreement with each other. The chieftains of capitalism have united only to pass on the severe crisis of capitalism on to the shoulders of the toiling masses of these three countries.

THE AMERICAN MOTIVE

Moreover, because the American imperialists are leading the NAFTA, it is all the more necessary here to unmask this real motive, too. It is now common knowledge that the American economy, hitherto largely dependent on militarisation, is facing an unprecedented crisis from the 1970s, which in scale and severity can only be compared to the great depression of the 1930s. Faced with tremendous recession the growth rate of American economy has been dwindling. Trade deficit has attained alarming proportions — at the end of 1993 it stood at a staggering \$ 115.7 million — and the United States has already earned the dubious distinction of becoming the single largest debtor nation of the world. And in this situation to keep their profit level intact and keep themselves afloat the imperialists are passing on their burden to the American working class. All giant American companies — Ford General Motors, Chrysler, Lockheed, IBM, Microsoft — to name a few, are cutting down their workforce drastically; some companies like the Ford is even firing the entire work force. (In January 1994 alone 1,09,000 US workers have been permanently laid off. Unemployment and retrenchment have become

so pervasive that even scientists and managerial workers have been affected. The real wages have since slipped to the 1960 level. As many as four American presidents from Carter to Reagan to Bush to Clinton have failed to drag the economy out of this quagmire.

The number of unemployed and homeless poor is increasing at an unprecedented rate and is rising day by day and their indignation and hatred against the ruling American imperialists is being articulated through mass protests which are also increasing. The situation has reached such dimension that during the recent meeting of the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Council) countries in Seattle the city roads had to be sanitised by driving the homeless and destitute into prisons. Prohibitory orders were clamped banning all protest demonstrations by retrenched workers. The Indian monopoly press and their backers, of course, would not give such unpleasant news about the 'democratic' behaviour of their big brother!

The contradiction between the capitalists of developed countries has become so acute that the American imperialists are no longer sure of their predominant position. Therefore to deny the large North American market to its Japanese and EC competitors they are forming the NAFTA and to cut into the market of Japan in the latter's own backyard, they are championing the APEC. It may be mentioned here that the capitalist rule of relatively underdeveloped countries like Guatemala and El Salvador, to get the crumbs of the large north American

market, have evinced interest in joining the NAFTA.

PROFIT MAXIMISATION

NAFTA countries together would form the largest trade bloc throughout the world and the governments of all three countries are trying their best to project the agreement as a significant achievement which would usher in rapid prosperity. But prosperity for whom? The billions of the billionaires of the three countries will definitely prosper. Some millionaires, surely will become billionaires. But what about the common people? For the vast army of working class, poor peasantry, unemployed and the homeless the agreement will only bring in more misery and destitution. The Canadian capitalists will try to migrate to the south to exploit the relatively cheaper US workforce, and the US imperialists will go still further south to exploit the still cheaper Mexican labour. While capital will migrate from one country to the other in search of more and more profit, this process will bring about a substantial lowering of wages in all the three countries. The capitalist of each of the three countries will at every point blackmail its working class to lower its wage and renounce its hard earned labour-rights by giving the threat of migrating to lower wage areas. Even the *Wall Street Journal*, the mouthpiece of the global monopoly capital, in an article in September 1993 stated that corporate-executives openly admit planning to use NAFTA as a bargaining tool against the workers to lower wages.

MEXICO IN FLAMES

The Mexican poor being the poorest in the region will be the hardest hit and that the NAFTA is not acceptable to them was shown through their uprising in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

As is natural, in Mexico, like other capitalist countries, capitalism has created regional disparity and an ever-widening gulf between the haves and have-nots. The 'structural reforms' under President Carlos Salinas de Gortary has only worsened the situation. Under Salinas, paradoxically, while the number of Mexican billionaires has risen from 2 to 13 (only the USA, Germany and Japan have more) the GDP has gone down by 7 per cent. Half of the Mexicans live below the poverty line while one-fifth of the population live on less than one dollar a day. The government has all along followed a capital intensive, export oriented and pro-agribusiness rural policy promoting large commercial farmers resulting in the dispossession and destitution of the poor peasantry throughout the country in general and in the southern states in particular. The dispossession of the poor peasants, under Salinas has become accentuated with largescale capitalist agriculture practised by strong agribusiness interests, where powerful ranchers have displaced the poor peasants from their land and turned these fertile croplands into pastures for commercial animal husbandry and plantations.

In this backdrop the Mexican poor people have risen in an armed revolt under the banner of EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Army), aptly named after Emiliano Zapata, the outstanding leader of Mexican people who led them against vested interests in Mexico during the early part of this century. That the uprising on new year's day 1994 coincided with the commencement of NAFTA cannot be a mere chance act since the Zapatistas declared that they had risen in arms against this (NAFTA) death sentence from Carlos Salinas. Trying to brand the uprising as a mere localised disturbance caused by 'disgruntled' peasants in only one among many Mexican states as done by the world monopoly press in the beginning did not hold any water either. The uprising drew tremendous support throughout Mexico and even in the capital Mexico City more than 15,000 demonstrators marched in support of the Zapatistas. Mexico was witness to largescale popular protests the kind of which it had not seen since the student-worker revolt in the 1970s. The Zapatistas have since made a strategic retreat in the face of brutal oppression by the military which used all the sophisticated weaponry in its arsenal against its poor but protesting compatriots. But so strong was the popular appeal of the Zapatistas that the government has since been forced to invite them for talks.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

The Indian people in general and the working class in particular must take appropriate lessons from the uprising. The government of Carlos Salinas gave almost similar arguments like its Indian counterpart when it ushered in 'structural adjustment' programmes. In Mexico the Salinas government had projected the prosperity of the billionaires and millionaires as the prosperity of the nation. In India, too, the Narasimha Rao government is projecting on a global basis the purchasing power of the rich and upper middle class — who though constitute only 10% - 15% of the total Indian population, is in itself numerically quite substantial — as the prosperity of the

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May Day:**Communists must act as the core in international working class movement**

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remained emblazoned in people's memory for more than a century! And the undaunted spirit, firm resolve and unity of the workers standing united throughout America in the face of threats, terror, assault and even murder by the capitalists, police atrocities and execution of some leading workers, are truly unique. Still, there have been other, great united movements of the workers both before and after that, and the true significance of May Day lies deeper: it points to the truth that if the unity and solidarity of the workers become consolidated on the correct path, correct political line, it will grow into a tremendous force capable of changing history, of changing the destiny of mankind. Even earlier, we find the expression of such unity and solidarity in working class movement in the Paris Commune where the working class captured state power. Though that glorious struggle ended in defeat, in continuity with it arose the International. Besides, it led Marx to formulate his famous theory that the working class cannot make use of the existing state power for establishing its own rule, thus laying the foundation for greater victories in future.

Similarly, once the 2nd International, under the leadership of Engels, took up the call of May Day and gave it a correct political direction, integrating it with the revolutionary struggle for liberation of human labour from the bondage of wage slavery and capitalist exploitation, its call began to reverberate in country after country and the revolutionary struggle grew into a mighty political force, guided by the teachings of the great leaders, like Marx, Engels and subsequently of Lenin. And as the fruit of this great struggle of the working class, this noble mission of mankind, emerged the first socialist state, the Soviet Union, the symbol of fraternity and solidarity of the workers, and a source of hope and inspiration for the people throughout the world.

But today we are faced with a new situation after the dismantling of socialism in former Soviet Union and East Europe, following long years of practice of revisionism and vulgar economism that started after great Stalin's death as revisionists usurped the power of party and state, made possible by the low standard of consciousness among the workers. However, the happiness of the powerful capitalist-imperialists over these developments has been shortlived and their endless refrain that Marxism has failed, Marxism is dead, with which they tried to confuse the workers, sounds more and more grotesque as they stand engulfed in a crisis of world market of unprecedented dimensions and have locked horns in a bitter trade war that is threatening to escalate into a world war. Frantically they are trying to avert a catastrophe through the GATT accord, based on the Dunkel proposals—a blueprint to save capitalism from impending doom. Yet so acute has their contradiction grown and so shaky is the accord that it is already in danger of breaking up. Though capitalism is historically doomed, it will not die of its own and is, meanwhile, extracting a terrible toll. And the more the crisis of capitalism is mounting, the more ruthless and naked is becoming the exploitation of the toiling people in every sphere

of life. Not to speak of the less developed capitalist countries, even in the rich imperialist nations, like America, once the country of endless opportunities — we find that destitution, homelessness and unemployment, for example, is growing by leaps and bounds. And still worse is to come. Everywhere in the rich, developed countries, important and giant companies, including automobiles, computer software, etc., etc., that seemed to promise a lifetime job, are laying off and are still planning to further drastically reduce their workforce, running into millions. As millions and millions of toiling people watch in horror the increasingly hopeless job situation, this may end up, according to the estimates of the 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' by the end of this year with 36 million people out of work alone in the industrialized countries (*Time*: Feb 7, 1994). On the other hand, working conditions are steadily deteriorating, as real wages plummet and wage freeze, wage cut etc. are enforced. That the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer is nothing new under capitalism. But this tendency has been magnified manifold as the capitalists are shifting the burden of crisis on to the people's shoulder and resorting to ever 'leaner and meaner' business principles to keep their own profits soaring.

It is an irony, that the great strides achieved in technology, growing computerisation etc. and unique development in productive capacity, that should have brought abundance, happiness and all-around enrichment to people's life, is on the contrary pushing them into ever greater destitution, joblessness and privation. This is happening because in capitalism, especially in today's stage of monopoly capitalism, the motive force of production is for maximum profit, which obviously cannot be obtained without bleeding the people white. As a result, the contradiction between the shrinking purchasing power of the people and growing development of productive capacity is becoming ever more acute and irreconcilable. This contradiction is but a reflection of contradiction between growing forces of production and outmoded relations of production which act as fetters and finally lead to irreconcilable contradiction, arresting progress of society, until the revolutionary transformation of production relation is achieved. At this critical juncture, the truly redeeming feature is the workers' protest movement growing in one country after another. In France, Great Britain, Germany, USA, Spain and Belgium, to name but a few, workers are coming out on the streets in growing numbers in organised protest. And so are the workers in the former socialist countries. Deeply disillusioned with bourgeois 'free market', freedom and democracy, and filled with nostalgia they have taken and are increasingly taking to the path of organized struggle in ever greater numbers, which is the crying need of the hour.

But in our country, where the situation is even more grim, and though the objective conditions for a revolutionary movement are ripe and the onslaught on workers and people has created deep resentment and outbursts of rebellion, organized and united movement of the workers, the toiling masses, has not grown to the extent that is needed, because of the

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nation. The ruling Indian capitalist class is using the purchasing power of the economically upper section of the society as a bargaining point against the capitalists of the capitalistically developed nations. We will open up our economy to be exploited provided you allow us exploit your markets.

The Mexican uprising has shown it very emphatically that the only way to thwart the neo-liberal policies pursued by the capitalist rulers of different countries led by the US imperialists in the present world situation is to conduct militant mass movements against these policies. When the lives and livelihood of the common people the world over are endangered by the selfish greed of the capitalists, when the hard earned democratic and human rights are being trampled in the name of 'structural adjustments', the only way for a dignified human existence is through participation in uncompromising militant mass movements.

UNITE AND RESIST

The struggle of the heroic people of Mexico will be a beacon to all anti-imperialist, democratic and peace loving people throughout the world.

It is heartening that a new consciousness is spreading through the international working class. Much maligned as victims of consumerist decadent American culture, the conscious section of the American working class is not lagging behind. It is questioning the rationale behind the exploitation of the Mexican workers with low-wage by the American capitalists. The American workers are taking to the streets in ever greater numbers against the policies of the American imperialists at home and abroad.

It is becoming clearer by the day that 'globalisation' and 'structural adjustments' of the capitalists the world over is being effected only for the maximisation of profit. And the only possible way to thwart the 'globalisation' of the capitalists is through co-ordinated protests and militant movements by the international working class on a global scale. Working people of all countries unite!

influence of petty parliamentary politics and sectarianism in the name of leftism on the working class movement. And yet in a strange twist of events, with the signing of the GATT accord by the Indian Government in the interest of the Indian monopolists, a new situation has been created, where all the left and democratic forces are uniting on a platform to oppose the GATT accord and the new economic and industrial policy, as the former will bring down unprecedented inhuman attack on people—the majority of whom live in half-fed, half-clad condition without permanent jobs—and confound their miseries and destitution, which already have increased by leaps and bounds as a result of the new policy of liberalization and globalization, to reach a scale and intensity that defy description and perhaps even imagination.

Today capitalism-imperialism is bringing tremendous attack on a global scale on the workers everywhere in their frantic bid to save capitalism from the most destructive crisis it has ever suffered. Hence the lesson of May Day rings loud and clear: globally the workers should close their ranks and unite in fraternal solidarity to fight against

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What the Economic Reforms of Rao-Singh nexus have brought to the teeming millions

Barring some stray critical remarks, the monopoly controlled press, the radio and the TV have gone whole hog, singing in unison the glory of economic reforms introduced three years back by the Congress (I) Central Government led by Narasimha Rao. They wax eloquent on the success of the reforms package and are showering praise on Rao government, for steering clear a course which will lead to progress and prosperity amidst all the gigantic odds the country is facing and hardships the people are confronted with.

As a measure of success of the reform measures so initiated, the media are all praise for the favourable foreign exchange reserves, narrowing down of trade deficit, shrunk to \$510 million compared to a whopping \$ 3.5 billion in 1992-93, and that of first 11 months' export performance during 1993-94 registering a growth of 20.59%. Even on price front, they were hailing the successful bringing down of the price line from the high side of 16% in September, 1991, to below 7% mark, although it has again crossed the double digit mark in the week ended March 26, 1994. Since October 30, 1992, this is the first time that the inflation rate has crossed the 10 per cent mark. So far these were the stock-in-trade for advocates of the new economic policy which, according to them, has boosted the country's prestige in the international arena, especially at a time, when the government did not have money even to finance a week's import bill.

But attaining a high level of foreign exchange reserves cannot itself warrant the certificate of success of the policy in so far as the vital interests of vast multitude of the people of the country are concerned. So also is the case with substantial export growth rate witnessed during the last 11 months thanks to sharp devaluation of the Rupee, twice in a month. These did not deliver the goods to the teeming millions of the country. From the point of view, of people's interest, of 95% of the people of the nation, it is of utmost importance to what extent the prices of articles of daily consumption have been brought down within the reach of the overwhelming majority of the people. And how many more new job opportunities have been created vis-a-vis crores of unemployed registered in the National Employment Registers. And for that matter how much more money has been spent or is contemplated to be spent on developmental activities and social welfare programmes, such as health, education and women welfare schemes, etc. Such are the vital questions which one would like to raise in order to analyse the effects of economic reforms on common men in course of discussing the whole gamut of economic liberalization and its three years' performance in industrial product, export, price-front, employment generation and on.

Simply by harping on the figures of accumulated foreign exchange reserves or for that matter high percentage growth on export front would not deliver the goods so long as it does not cater to the needs of common man in his day to day life, and thus ameliorate his hunger, poverty, problems of health-education-shelter, making for some sort of civilized living instead of the subhuman

living that is obtaining now even after 47 years of Independence.

PRICES OF ESSENTIALS ARE SOARING

Let us now have a quick glance at the trend of price movement of essential commodities since the new economic policy was adopted by Rao government in June, 1991, to date with reference to concrete data available, itemwise, upto February, 1994, to assess the justifiability or otherwise of the official claim of success in the pricefront.

Last but not the least, the cumulative effect of the pre-budget and budgetary hikes as well as administered prices, this year, are there which have started mounting with the inflation rate crossing double digit mark. A rudimentary knowledge of economics suggests that the position will further deteriorate with the cascading effect of the pre-budget and budgetary hikes in general and petroleum and LPG price hikes in particular coming to the fore, which is bound to push the inflation rate around 12-13% in the next few months.

Item	Price in July '91 (per quintal)	Price in Feb '94
1. Wheat (dara)	Rs. 270 to 278	430 to 480
2. Wheat (desi)	350 to 450	475 to 700
3. Atta	450	570
4. Rice (parboil)	400 to 530	610 to 735
5. Gram Dal	770 to 820	1500 to 1600
6. Moong Dal	820 to 1000	1275 to 1400
7. Gur	590	850
8. Sugar	840	1250 to 1350
9. Turmeric	1650	2700
10. Zeera	4450	5300
11. Dhania	900	1150 to 2600
12. Oil (Mustard)	2100	2780
13. Milk (toned) (mother dairy)	Rs. 4 per litre	8 per litre
14. Tea	42 per kg	82 per kg

* Note. These are wholesale prices.

Retail prices are higher.

Price of petroleum products and PDS

Items :	Current
LPG	Rs. 67.90 per cylinder Rs. 92.55 to 105.00
Petrol	12.23 per litre 16.78 per litre
Diesel	4.08 per litre 6.98 per litre
Rice	4.37 per kg (fine) 7.25 per kg
Wheat	2.80 per kg 4.05 per kg
Sugar	5.30 per kg 9.05 per kg

The above two tables show in unmistakable terms that a common man has been heavily burdened by the Rao Government in the last three years. It is to be noted that, common men do not purchase their daily necessities at the rate of wholesale prices. Retail price rate of each and every item of daily necessities far exceeds the rate of wholesale price rates. The plight of the toiling people therefore is easily understood. The prices of PDS items have been raised systematically. A quick look at the movement of prices over the last three years shows that the essential commodities have become dearer by 30% to as high as 70% ... The prices of milk has doubled in less than two years ... The price of sugar sold through PDS has been

hiked from Rs. 6.90 per kg in Feb '93 to Rs. 9.05 per kg in Jan '94, an increase over 30%. Similarly wheat and rice sold through PDS have shot up by more than 40% in last one year. The price of LPG has been hiked from Rs. 67.90 to Rs. 82.75 a cylinder in September '92 and revised to Rs. 92.55 in January this year and currently it costs Rs. 105 per cylinder. Diesel price has also shot up by 75% in last four years from Rs. 4.08 a litre in April '90 to Rs. 6.98 in January this year. Though in international market the price of petrol has gone down remarkably, the government has hiked it from Rs. 12.23 a litre in October '90 to Rs. 16.78 a litre at present, a hike of about 40%.

The heavy price hike in petrol and diesel will have an all pervading effect on public road transport and railways. The steep hike in both freight and passenger fares successively brought about in three consecutive years since introduction of New Economic Policy in 1991, would further lead to higher increases in prices of vegetables and other essential commodities and increase in passenger fares would make travel far costlier both by road as well as rail. (*Indian Express*. 4.2.94)

The cumulative effect is sure to fall on all consumer goods including drugs and medicines, dependent on surface transport, and prices will shoot upward. Inputs like coal to thermal power stations too will be subjected to the increase in cost of transportation. In turn, power station will have to raise electricity tariffs or bear losses, the railways will soon have to increase freight rate to cover the higher cost of power and diesel. In brief, through the pricing decision through administrative fiat of the Central Government is bound to trigger off a cost push spiral anew which in its wake would make the life of the toiling people, already groaning under the grinding wheels of ruthless capitalist exploitation, even more unbearable.

Surprisingly, while the price of crude oil has fallen in the international market from US, \$ 16.5 per barrel in Jan '92 to US \$ 12.5 a barrel in December 1993, the Rao Government instead chose to burden the people further by enhancing prices of petrol and diesel amidst the fall in crude oil prices. This is no doubt a sinister design to cover up fall in production of domestic crude oil from 34 million tonnes in 1989 to 27 million tonnes in 1992-93 by way of hiking petroleum products prices. It means, the government which boasts of its liberalization efforts, has miserably failed to increase the domestic crude oil production despite the resource of the proven oil fields. Consequently, the government is paying more for the ever increasing demand for the petroleum products in precious foreign exchange. The increasing gap between the domestic production and the demand will push the current import bill from the present level of Rs. 17,000 crore to over Rs. 20,000-23,000 crore at the prevailing price, which again, would wreck havoc on public life.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Let us now turn to the unemployment scenario. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated that about 12 million people will become jobless during 1992-94 as a result of on-going reform

New Economic Policy

Super profit for the monopolists and price-rise and retrenchment for the people

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in the country. "When Mr. Narasimha Rao took the oath of the Prime Minister the number of unemployed registered with Employment Exchange was 35,215,000, which was estimated to grow up to 3.75 crore in March 1993." (p-92 of *India Towards Slavery*)

"In the Public Sector Textile Industry, as many as 23,358 workers had been retrenched till June '93 (21,981 workers of NTC and 1,377 workers of Elgin Mills and Rampur Textiles) and some 45,000 more are to face retrenchment within a year. In this way, out of the workforce of 22,190,000 in the Central Public Sector undertakings 4,72,000 workers will lose their jobs under these policies (of reforms). The railways have fixed a target of getting rid of 4 lakh workers out of their 16 lakh work force." (page 67 of *India Towards Slavery*). "The Private Sector is eagerly waiting for the announcement of the Exit Policy. Once it is announced, the mill owners will get sufficient powers to close down their factories or axe the labour force at will. Under the impact of Exit Policy, the ranks of 28 million workers employed in the organised sector (both public and private) will be slashed down with 3 million workers coming under the axe of retrenchment" (page-67, *Ibid*). "The revised proposal by Four Textile Research Association has estimated that about 70,885 employees in the textile sector will have to go on Voluntary Retrenchment Scheme" (*Indian Express*-21-2-94).

After the abolition of custom duty on DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) the imported DAP became cheaper by Rs. 1120 per tonne and because of absence of demand the Paradeep Phosphate Fertilizer was forced to close down rendering 10,000 workers jobless in one stroke. Besides 12 auxilliary industries manufacturing bags for this industry, find themselves on the verge of closure. Similar is the case with Single Super Phosphate (SSP) manufacturing units.

Even the Economic Survey presented by the Government for 1993-94 estimates that "open employment" has gone up to 18 million in 1992-93 from 17 million in 1991-92. Survey also indicates that the Govt. was supposed to create 8 to 9 million jobs every year during the eighth plan period of 1993-97. But the achievement of this front has been very poor. It would be wrong to say that no new jobs were created as a result of reforms. Yes, the jobs have been created in high paid sector such as in managements, marketing, consultancy, computer software and advertisement etc. This growth of jobs is very insignificant as compared to the people being thrown out of the jobs as a result of reforms. Central Govt. itself has banned creation of any new jobs in its offices. No new recruitment is being done in PSUs at lower levels. The policy is to abolish the vacancy after the person retires in all the PSUs. Hence, the overall jobs creation has been negative only during the three years of reforms.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

This Govt. has been claiming achievement of a very high figure of Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER), from US \$ 1.1 billion in

June '91 to US \$ 10.491 billion (Rs. 32,911 crore) which again, of late, has crossed 15 billion dollar mark. (*The Statesman* 11-4-'94). Now the question comes whether this rise in FE has been due to our export earning. The answer is no. Much of the amount has come from heavy borrowing from the world bank and IMF.

The major contribution to these reserves came as the exceptional assistance provided by IMF and WB & other international financial institutions as well as official bilateral aid received during the last two and half years. The RBI has purchased as much as US \$ 4 billion in 1993 at the rate of Rs. 31.37 a dollar. Further "The rupee has been growing strong consistently over the last 18 months, leading to monetary expansion. RBI has revealed that it has bought nearly \$ 7 billion in the open market this year (\$ 13 billion in 22 months) to keep the rupee suppressed at around 31.25 to the dollar ..." (*Indian Express* 28.2.94).

The Government has borrowed externally about US \$ 3 billion every year in two consecutive financial years (1991-92 and 1992-93) and about US \$ 300 million in 1993-94 in first half. Some of the balance amount to FE Reserves has come from Foreign Direct Investments since Aug '91 (US \$ 3 billion). Therefore, the high target of FER cannot be attributed to the wisdom of this Government. It is the amount which we have to repay back with interest. More so the open buying of dollars by the RBI has led to huge pumping of the money supply and their further fuelling inflation and low growth rate.

"Since rupees have been pumped in to the domestic market for the purchase of foreign currencies and investments has not picked up, the domestic economy is flush with floating rupees. The result is persistence of stagflation — low growth and inflationary pressures — and its aggravation ... The Govt. has landed itself in a position where it is reconciled to the piling up of foreign debt at a rate which does not square with the build up of earning capacity to service the foreign debt. The so-called receipt by way of deposits and debentury raised by Indian Industry in the global market too involve payment obligations. The Governor of the RBI disclosed the other day that the external commercial borrowings in 1993-94 exceeded US \$ 2.5 billion. According to his estimate, amortisation of commercial borrowings would be in the range of US \$ 2.3 billion per annum with a peak of \$ 5 billion in 1996-97. The overall repayment liability arising from Foreign Debt on Government account at the end of 1992-93 is estimated to be over \$ 8 billion per annum. The repayment obligations are growing at a rate in excess of additions to exchange reserves." (*Indian Express*, 28.2.94)

So there is nothing to cheer up at the present Foreign Exchange Reserve.

EXTERNAL DEBT

This Govt. will be known in the history for indebteding the country with foreign loans and heavy borrowings to meet its FE requirements and trade deficits. India had foreign debt of just Rs. 32 crore in 1950-51. Today it is about Rs. 2,50,000 crore. Let us see how this foreign debt has grown.

Year	External Debt in US \$ billion	Debt service payments
1980-81	23.50	1.55
1985-86	37.35	2.93
1990-91	81.91	7.88
1991-92	82.25	8.06
1992-93	85.40	8.08
1993-94	86.0	(Rs. 2,50,000 crore)

From the above one can see that the Government has been borrowing at the rate of US \$ 3 billion per year since it came to power. We have been paying about Rs. 25,000 crore every year as debt service payments i.e. about 50% of the Export earnings. Our external debt is about 29% of GDP which is very high for a country. Now question comes whether we will at any time be able to repay this huge debt in future, when the country's total FE reserve is only 80% of the amount we have to pay for interest plus principal payment, every year. It is hardly sufficient to meet one year's interest plus the principal. It is anybody's guess if at any time we would be able to repay this loan from the export earnings as promised by Mr. Manmohan Singh.

The bare analysis of results of economic reforms on the scores of price front, employment generation, foreign exchange reserves and external debt, alone, speak volumes about abysmal failures of the Rao Government after three years of introduction of economic reforms. The prices of all essential commodities have been raised systematically to the level that common people are totally unable to buy them. Over and above, the rates of water, electricity, milk and public transport have been steeply raised by all the state governments. Instead of creating new job opportunities, the reform measures have threatened the very jobs people have today. As a matter of fact throwing thousands after thousands out of employment by way of 'exit' policy or golden handshake, as the case may be, is becoming commonplace.

One can hardly miss the truth that these at the helm of affairs at the Centre and in the states have the least concern for the people's lot. They can go scot free clamping down these out and out anti-people disastrous policy because there is no sustained democratic mass movement. It is, therefore, for the people, being at the receiving end of all these onslaughts, to rise against this disastrous economic policy and remedy the situation.

May Day (Contd. from page 3)

capitalism-imperialism, integrating their struggle for liberation on the national plane, in the national context, with united anti-imperialist struggle on the international plane. At the same time the communists should act as the core of such movement with the objective of developing it along the path of anti-capitalist socialist revolution—this is the teaching of May Day. Objective conditions are created for revolutionary struggle. If the workers can grasp the opportunity and organise movements in this way, foiling the conspiracies afoot everywhere to break their unity, on the correct base political line and higher ethics and morality, they will grow immensely powerful and create new history which no force on this earth, however fascistic and threatening, can prevent. The choice is with the workers. Today Marx's call rings with new significance: Workers of all countries unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to win.

Call of 24th April**Build up united movement against GATT, new economic and industrial policy**

(Contd. from page 1)

heavily, preceded by the new economic and industrial policies of the central Congress(I) government. While the latter is a ploy of Indian monopoly capitalism to pass off its own crisis, GATT is what international capitalism-imperialism has devised to shift its burden on to the pauperised people across the boundaries of nations.

Thus the GATT accord is an all-out conspiracy against the people, adopted in the interest of the imperialists led by the USA, and the Indian monopoly capital in our country defended by the Congress(I).

The outcome of the implementation of the GATT accord will be too grievous for the people. Everything will cost the people much more than even now. Cost of pharmaceutical products will rise steeply. Subsidy on fertilisers will be reduced to hit hard the poor farmers. Irrigation water and electricity will cost more. Banks will no longer advance agricultural loans on easy terms. Already, scope of public distribution system for essential items has been restricted at the dictates of the IMF and the World Bank. The Intellectual Property Rights will see to it that the Indian peasants pay royalty for gaining access to the improved varieties of seeds developed abroad. India will be forced to import foodgrains even if it does not need the same. The Indian government has been pressurised to amend the MRTP and the FERA to allow 51% foreign capital participation. Foreign capital will now flood the banking, insurance and telecommunication industries and also service sectors like education, hospitals and health services and transport, etc.

But the GATT accord, the capitalist crisis management measure, is not actually going to solve the problem of market crunch of capitalism-imperialism. Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Director General of the GATT, himself has said that the conclusion of GATT accord is the beginning, not the end of a bitter trade dispute among the capitalist-imperialists. In reality, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), that is taking shape will only bring further ravage in the capitalist world.

Particular attention must be given to the disastrous effect of the GATT on the cultural fabric of our society. Our party since its beginning, has been warning the people against the prevalence of decadent culture perpetrated by and a direct consequence of moribund capitalism. The effect of Dunkel proposals will accelerate this degradation.

More than 150 years ago Marx had shown that capitalism reduces human beings into commodities. One need not be a genius to realise that without a sense of higher values uncertainty in life compels people to lead an unethical livelihood. Dunkel proposals are pushing people towards such utter degradation. The prevalent underworld trading system operated by black money will embrace more and more helpless men, women, students and youth. This will result in inevitable breaking up of countless families. An acute struggle for existence in this uncertain situation will lead to elimination of the feelings of obligation to the country and the family. The psychology of one

for himself will deeply entrench itself in society.

In our country the new economic and industrial policies and the Dunkel proposals are resulting in perpetuation of absolutely unfair and culturally degrading labour practices like under wage labour, bonded labour, child labour, underpaid women labour etc.

A confusion is somewhat weakening the movement against the GATT accord. The technological sophistication, which already has somewhat developed in India, and after GATT, which is supposed to develop more in our country, will minimise economic crisis —such goes the idea. But it is an absolutely wrong idea. What has been our experience regarding mechanisation, automation, computerisation, etc.? The stark reality is that the more the mechanisation, the more and more people turn pauper. These two rather go hand in hand. Same is the experience of all countries, even of America or of any other advanced capitalist country of the world. As a result countless people become jobless. This is inevitable, for, with the spectacular advancement of the productive forces and private ownership over the means of production remaining in vogue, the rule of capital stands omnipotent and wage slavery remains perpetual. Unless the society sets itself free from the bondage of capitalism, technology will act as a fetter.

Our state is a capitalist state and it is primarily responsible for whatever problem that is afflicting our country, including now the Dunkel proposals. Our party, under the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, concluded about the Indian state long ago that having acquired state power through compromise and in this period of decadent

capitalism Indian state has become out and out reactionary, corrupt, anti-democratic and fascistic. It has already developed administrative fascism.

India, our party analysed, has long since acquired imperialistic character and it has already emerged as a regional super power. In the present situation of severe market crunch, urge for globalisation has become very strong particularly with the top-notch monopolists who are very eager to enter into foreign markets more than ever before which impels them to come to an agreement with the multinationals by joining the international regime of the GATT. But there is no denying the fact that the neo-colonial attack coming down upon the people through the GATT is surely undeniable. Even then as the defender of aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class, the representatives of the central Congress(I) government have put their signatures on the dotted lines.

But how can the people prevent the GATT Accord from being implemented? People can do it if they have their dependable weapon, i.e. the correct political party. Against the centrally organised capitalist state machine only a highly organized centralised party of the proletariat can lead a sustained battle not only against this attack but to achieve, in the long run, their coveted goal of emancipation.

So the people must deeply understand and analyse the present political situation, must find out their own party, their own instrument of struggle. Big political parties are there like the Congress(I), the CPI, the CPI(M), the BJP, the Janata Dal, etc., who are saddled to power. But what is their attitude towards mass movements that grow against their anti-people policies? Didn't they, irrespective of colour, stain their hands in people's blood? Didn't they take even in the economic fields such measures that objectively help to implement the GATT? Taking the case of so-called Left parties separately, do not they, by these acts, strike at the root of the people's unity? And considering the case of the Congress(I)-led central government, it is they who must be compelled to withdraw from the GATT, and then the USA will be unable to impose it on India. If the Government of India could have refused to accept some conditions of the GATT accord, they could have as well said a big "NO" to the whole lot of Dunkel proposals.

The call of the 24th April now is to unleash the struggle with all force in command. No other party, despite their Leftist or Marxist names, are unable to discharge this historic task.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh long ago showed in clearest terms that these parties, who were then enjoying prestige and popular support, were social democratic in character, the force which compromises the cause of working class and strengthens capitalism. The SUCI was formed for the reason that there was no real revolutionary party on our soil.

Today, history bears out the truth how the SUCI has grown for its correct politics of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, how it is growing from strength to strength, while the so-called Marxist parties have disintegrated and have rendered themselves into purely parliamentary parties. While the SUCI builds up movements, the social democratic parties pour cold water on it.

But social democracy does not say the last word. What social democracy did in the international plane, usurping the state power in the erstwhile Soviet Russia and in East European countries and finally staged counter-revolution, is not the ultimate in human history. It is a deviation which history will inexorably tend to correct.

What will those people say now who rejoiced at the setback of socialism and declared that the end of Marxism was in sight? Waves of movement in those countries are rising against the 'market economy', men and women with red flags and with portraits of Lenin and Stalin are struggling in bold defiance and courting death. In America, and in other powerful imperialist countries workers are taking to the streets to protest against retrenchment and joblessness. And the capitalist-imperialists are trembling at these movements.

Let them tremble and fear, but the working class cannot depend on spontaneity. Working class movement is a conscious organised planned movement and so all these movements across the world have to be correlated and guided to their logical culmination, towards revolutionary upsurge against

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh stressed all-out battle against individualism

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capitalism-imperialism. In the national field and in the international field this ought to be the object of the working class. And this is the call of the 24th April.

24th April had been observed in the following places where Central Committee Members of our party addressed as the main speakers.

At the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatshila the observance of 46th foundation day started on 24th April through hoisting of Red Flag and garlanding the portraits of the leaders. On 25th and 26th April, all comrades, staying at the Study Centre, participated in self-criticism extensively and took pledge to fulfil the tasks given by the leadership by developing themselves as true communists. On 27th on the concluding day, Comrade Pritish Chanda delivered his long analytical speech. It was presided over by Comrade Suhdir Pal, In-charge of the Study Centre. Comrade Amriteswar Chakravarty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, was present throughout the proceedings.

Comrade Shankar Singh addressed the meeting at B.B.Collegiate School Maidan, Muzaffarpur. Comrade Arun Singh, Bihar State Secretariat Member was the president. The meeting was held on 29th April.

On 24th April, Comrade Tapas Datta addressed at Gourishankar Park, Cuttack. Comrade Binapani Dash, member, Orissa State Committee, presided.

Comrade Tapas Dutta was also present as the main speaker in the meeting held on 28th April at Bhopal. Comrade Ashok Ganguly, State leader, was the president. Comrade K.D. Sharma, State leader also spoke.

In Delhi, the meeting was held on 24th April at Gandhi Peace Foundation where Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee delivered the speech. It was presided over by Comrade J. Sinha, member, Delhi State Organising Committee.

In Kerala, the meeting was held at Alleppey town on 25th April where Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta was the main speaker. Comrade C.K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee was the president.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta also addressed the meeting in Madras. It was held at Victoria Public Hall on 28th April. Comrade M. Jagannathan, Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Committee, presided.

Comrade Suresh Dasgupta spoke on 26th April at Sultan Bazar Park, Hyderabad. Comrade Murahari, Secretary, City Organising Committee, was the president. The other speaker was Comrade Sridhar, Secretary, State Organising Committee, Andhra Pradesh.

Under the presidentship of Comrade Anil Sen, member, Central Committee, the meeting was held on 24th April at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta. Comrade Provas Ghosh was the main speaker.

Comrade Provas Ghosh also spoke in Tripura. The meeting was held at Music College Hall, Agartala on 1st May. Comrade Milan Majumdar, Secretary, Agartala Town Organising Committee, presided.

In Guwahati the meeting was held at District Library Hall on 24th April. Comrade Asit Bhattacharya was present as the main speaker. Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, Party State Committee member, was on the chair.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharya was the main speaker in Bangalore on 29th April, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavana. The meeting was presided over by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka SUCI.

At Bhiwani, Haryana, open mass meeting was held on 24th April. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty was the main speaker, Comrade Balwant Singh, Secretary, Haryana State Organising Committee presided. Other speakers were Comrades Satyawan, Ramphal, both members, State Organising Committee and Comrade Jile Singh, Secretary, Bhiwani District

Committee, SUCI.

In Rajasthan, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressed two indoor meetings, one at Pilani and the other at Jaipur. The second meeting was presided by Comrade Girijeshwar Singh, In-charge, Rajasthan SUCI.

Meetings were held also at many other places, of which reports came of the following.

At Badlapur Inter-college Maidan, Jaunpur, foundation day meeting was held on 24th April. The big gathering was addressed by Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Committee. Other speakers were Comrade Dinesh Kant Dubey, Senior member, Jaunpur District Committee, Comrade Jagannath Verma, Secretary, Sultanpur District Committee and Comrade Vechan Ali, Secretary, Pratapgarh District Committee. It was presided over by Comrade Jagadish Asthana, Secretary, Jaunpur District Committee.

On 26th April, a meeting was held at Moradabad at Water Supply Office Union Hall near Pilkothli. Comrade Pritam Singh was the president. Comrade V.N. Singh, UP State Secretary was the main speaker. The other speaker was Comrade Jagannath Verma, State Committee member.

On 24th April, a meeting was organised at Makhnal Chaturvedi Bhawan, Jabalpur. Comrade Ashok Ganguly, State leader was the main speaker. It was presided over by Comrade Shashank, Jabalpur District Secretary.

On 24th April at R.S.K. School Maidan of Haveli Kharagpur, Munger, a meeting was held under the presidentship of Comrade Sukhdev Yadav, Secretary, Bihar AIKKMS. Comrade Hem Chakraborty, member, Bihar State Committee, SUCI was the main speaker.

On 24th April, in the meeting at Jamshedpur Milani Hall, Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI was the main speaker. The other speakers were Comrade A.K. Pandey and Comrade Dulal Sanyal, both Bihar State Secretariat members.

Long Live the Victory of South African People

And at last the long-cherished dream of the overwhelming black majority of the South African people for their own government has come true. We hail this change that has come in South Africa as an event of great significance. The 342-year legacy of the minority white rule and the regime of apartheid has come to an end with the landslide victory of the African National Congress (ANC), led by Mr. Nelson Mandela, enjoying fullest of trust and confidence of the South African people groaning under the wheels of exploitation and oppression of the worst kind. The white rulers usurped the land of the Africans, trampled under foot their rights, reduced them to mere slaves in their own country and treated them like beasts for centuries together. But with the change of time the desire for freedom took a definite shape and the struggle for majority rule gained momentum taking the form sometimes, somewhere, of peaceful movement and sometimes of armed resistance. And in the process countless lives were lost, apart from injury and torture. To scotch the militant mass movement increasingly moving towards a violent revolution the white apartheid regime of F.W. de Klerk preferred to pave the way for

a negotiated settlement for a peaceful transfer of power and released Mr. Nelson Mandela in 1991 who had to undergo imprisonment for long 27 years.

There is strange apparent similarity between the incident and the one that occurred about half a century ago when the British imperialist rulers through compromise and in connivance with the rising Indian bourgeoisie resorted to a 'peaceful transfer of power' to the Indian National Congress, the most trusted agent of the former, who perpetrated the rule of the capitalist class betraying the sacrifice and aspirations of common Indian people.

Let us hope that this sort of misfortune does not befall our South African brethren.

Though the election was marked by violence, death, bloodshed and rigging—the ANC has emerged victorious to form the government at the centre and in 7 out of 9 provincial Parliaments and Mr. Mandela has assumed the office as the first President of the new born state. We on behalf of the Indian people welcome the victory of the ANC and congratulate the South African people. It is significant to note here that Mr. Nelson Mandela has already expressed his desire to

invite the parties of the extreme right of the whites and the ethnic extremist black party like the Inkatha Freedom Party who had already threatened to launch largescale disturbances against the future government. But Mr. Nelson Mandela has made his intention clear that all the South Africans, irrespective of race, colour and ethnicity will be deemed as the citizens of the country, enjoying equal rights and there is no room for race-hatred in the new state which is going to emerge on the ashes of apartheid. This attitude is welcome.

Now that Mr. Mandela has assumed office he has before him the heavy responsibility to guide the nation to the goal as per the manifesto of the ANC. To solve the problems of the vast population he will have to go through a difficult and arduous struggle against the vested interests and the tribal secessionists and the rightist forces with whom he has expressed his good intention to form the government.

But if Mr. Mandela sticks to his election promises the gravest threat is sure to come from about 50 giant multinationals, 30 of whom the USA is the mother country of, who are controlling 100 per cent of the rich mineral resources of South Africa and who had been able to frustrate the economic blockade imposed

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Make SUCI Candidates Victorious

Make the SUCI candidates victorious in the ensuing bye-elections in the following constituencies as the genuine force of mass movement by giving defeat to Congress(I), the trusted party of the ruling capitalist class; the BJP, representing the forces of religious bigotry and extreme reaction; the parties like the Janata Dal and others busy to cash in on the deceptive politics of casteism, parochialism, etc.; and also the pseudo-Lefts treading the parliamentary path of status quo.

Names of Candidates

Bihar:

Vaishali — Comrade Suresh Prasad Rai
Lok Sabha seat

Orissa:

Mayurbhanj (ST) — Comrade Sangà Palia
Lok Sabha seat

(Comrade Palia who is contesting from behind the bars, was imprisoned in connection with mass movements, upholding the cause of tribal people in particular; he is now detained in Udala jail where Comrade Durga Hembram, a legendary figure of the area was sometime ago poisoned to death)

West Bengal:

Sandeshkhali — Comrade Radhashyam Bir
Assembly segment.

SOUTH AFRICA

(Contd. from page 7)

on the Apartheid regime for nearly two decades and are still operating. As reports go they are rallying behind the ANC in order to keep their economic interest intact. And that is why the report has also appeared in the press that president Clinton will announce his aid package after all the votes were finally tabulated meaning thereby that the quantum of US aid will depend on the proclamation of the government formed by Mr. Mandela.

No amount of pious wishes or good gesture or even magnanimous attitude are sufficient to solve the problems of the vast population of a country like South Africa. What is needed at this stage is a clear-cut policy which cannot but be the path of scientific socialism.

To stand resolutely against imperialism in general and US imperialism in particular and in favour of peace against war along with carrying out undaunted struggle against the legacy of apartheid which may still be there as hangover are the minimum tasks before the new government. Much depends on people's conscious participation in movements for shaping out the future of the country. The South African Communist Party (SACP), bearing the glorious tradition of martyrs like Comrade Chris Hani, a party as the constituent of the ANC, has a great role to play in this direction. Let the South African people create a new history braving all odds and remain steadfast in continuing their unflinching struggle under a correct leadership to pave the way to end the rule of capital once for all.

Mosabani copper miners amidst struggle Labour Minister Sangma's false promise

At a huge May Day rally at Mosabani, Comrade Pritish Chanda, President of the United Trade Union Centre (Lenin Sarani) as well as of the Copper Mazdoor Union, after seeking opinion from the mass of assembled workers declared:

To achieve the following just and legitimate demands fifteen thousand copper miners of Hindustan Copper Ltd. will go on a General Strike with effect from 11 May 1994:

1. Immediate reinstatement of the two summarily dismissed union activists;
2. Immediate withdrawal of false and fabricated police case lodged against the dismissed miners;
3. Regular and timely disbursement of due monthly wages;
4. Immediate disbursement of rightful and just bonus for the year 1992-93;
5. Stop illegal deduction of wages on the plea of fund-raising for so-called 'recognized' union from unwilling workers and immediately refund such deducted wages to those that have applied for such refund;
6. Immediately refund 8 days' wages deducted for one day's strike.

The Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL), a central public sector undertaking (PSU), has nine copper mines and smelting factories in the Eastern sector at Mosabani, Rakha, Moubhandar in East Singhbhum District of Bihar.

The HCL started regaining health from 1987. From 1988-89 upto now it has continuously increased its productivity, production and profit. It has achieved more than 100% capacity utilisation, something unique in a present-day PSU. The gross rate of profit has gone up year after year over the last five to six years. Besides production of copper the company moreover produces precious metals such as gold, silver, nickel, uranium and sulphuric acid in ample quantities as by-products fetching for itself several crores of rupees on this count.

The company has been diverting huge quantum of capital from the Eastern sector to open up and develop new mines in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Despite all this the management of the HCL has adopted a rabid anti-worker policy and has for over a year been making irregular and delayed payment of monthly wages to workers. From September 1993 workers started agitating against this under the banner of Copper Mazdoor Union affiliated to the UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

Despite high profits bonus for the year 1992-93 due to be paid during September-October 1993 was not paid in time. Subsequently, coming under pressure from the workers, the management declared to pay bonus in December 1993 but the quantum announced was almost half that of the previous year. Serious resentment prevailed amongst the workers who boycotted the meagre quantum of

bonus at the call of Copper Mazdoor Union. 95% of the workers of the Mosabani Group of Mines (seven mines) and more than 75% covering the factory and other mines till now continue to boycott bonus payment as a mark of protest.

The Copper Mazdoor Union has been continuing its agitation for several months in the form of series of demonstrations, dharnas, meetings, etc., and has submitted its demands to the management. The Union has also been carrying on negotiations with the Chairman-cum-Managing Director for a settlement and also been repeatedly approaching the Central Ministry of Labour and the Minister of Mines.

Failing to elicit a due response from the management the Copper Mazdoor Union resorted to one-day token relay strikes in separate mines on 11, 12 and 13 March 1993. Instead of redressal of the genuine and legitimate grievances of the workers the management of the HCL adopted a confrontationalist attitude and took preemptive and provocative steps by summarily dismissing two union activists and declaring a deduction of 8 days' wages for one day's strike.

In this backdrop, the union served a proper notice of strike to be launched on or after 15th April 1994. At this stage, the Union Labour Minister Mr.Sangma held a joint discussion with the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of HCL and the leaders of Copper Mazdoor Union on 13th April, 1994 at Calcutta. But, unfortunately, this round of discussion, like the earlier ones, failed to yield any positive result due to the adamant attitude of HCL management. However, Mr.Sangma, the Union

Labour Minister, requested Comrade Pritish Chanda, the Union President, to defer the proposed strike so that he could get sometime more to look into the matter. The Union honoured the request by deferring the strike upto 30th April 1994. And still, there was neither any sign of fulfilment of Labour Minister's assurance nor any favourable response from the HCL management. This situation forced the union to call for a general strike on and from 11th May, 1994.

In a statement, released of late, Comrade Pritish Chanda, the President of the UTUC(Lenin Sarani) categorically declared, "Union has tried its level best to settle the dispute amicably through negotiation. It is not any new financial demand that the Union is pressing for. We are only demanding payment of monthly wages in time, due quantum of earned bonus and stopping illegal deduction of wages, whereas the management is responding by way of summarily dismissing our union activists even denying natural justice and illegal deduction of wages.

"Hence, the union feels that it has no other alternative than going on a general strike."

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