

Hawala Scandal Tip of Iceberg

The hawala racket has created considerable commotion in the country's political scene for the past few weeks. The furore started on January 16 last when the CBI chargesheeted seven politicians and requested permission of the Central Government for starting proceedings against 3 Central ministers in the hawala case pending before the Supreme Court. The seven chargesheeted were Devi Lal, the former Deputy Prime Minister, his grandson Pradeep Kumar, the former Central Congress (I) ministers Arif Mohammed Khan, Arjun Singh and Kalpana Rai, the BJP president L.K. Advani and the BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, the leader of the opposition in Bihar Assembly. They were charged with having received very large illicit payments from S.K. Jain and his brothers through hawala transactions between 1988 and 1991. The 3 ministers for whose prosecution the CBI requested permission were Balaram Jakhar, Madhavrao Scindia and V.C. Shukla. Reportedly, the Central Congress (I) ministers Kamal Nath, Rajesh Pilot, Pranab Mukherjee, Satish Sharma, A.R. Antulay, Buta Singh, Arvind Netam, R. K. Dhawan and Krishna Sahi, the Janata Dal president S.R. Bommai, Sharad Yadav, leader of the Janata Dal in the Lok Sabha and the Dehir Chief Minister Madanlal Khurand of the BJP were also among the recipients of large sums from the Jains.

Faced with an awkward situation, Advani resigned from the Lok Sabha. Jakhar, Scindia and Shukla were forced to resign from the Rao ministry. The CBI chargesheeted them. Sharad Yadav resigned. Bommai stepped down from presidentship. Yashwant Sinha also resigned. Subsequently, 4 other Central Congress (I) ministers have had to resign — Kamal Nath on 19th February, Buta Singh and Arvind Netam on 20th February and R. K. Dhawan on 21st February. In its latest move, the CBI has chargesheeted 14 more persons on the 22nd February — present and former Central ministers and MPs including many of those mentioned above.

The Mechanism of Hawala

What is hawala payment and why is it illegal and immoral? The term hawala covers secret operations to transfer money from India to countries abroad and vice versa illegally bypassing the banking process and so avoiding income tax. So, by its nature, hawala money is black money. The hawala operators work in conjunction with their counterpart contact persons in other countries. If one deposits black money with a hawala operator in India, his foreign contact, under advice from him, deposits an equivalent amount of foreign exchange into a pre-designated bank account, say a Swiss bank account. The hawala operator provides this service for a consideration. There are ways through which this money deposited in foreign bank can subsequently be recycled back to India, if needed, as "honest" foreign exchange earning. Again, supposing a foreign agency wishes to bribe high officials, politicians or ministers of the India Government in order to secure a major contract, all it has to do is to deposit the requisite

amount into the "right" bank account abroad. Equivalent remittances are sent to this country through the hawala network, on receipt of which the hawala operator here makes the required payments to the officials, politicians or ministers to be bribed. Besides these, hawala transactions can be involved in any trading or commercial activity, viz. export-import where huge sums of black money can be generated through the tricks of over-under invoicing and recycled.

A Brief History of the Hawala case

S.K. Jain and his brothers have large business interests in M.P. They own a big construction company in Bhilai. In order to secure major contracts in the Bhilai Steel Plant, they used to provide illegal gratification to high officials and politicians. Also, they are hawala operators whose services include providing conduits to funnel bribe money and money for other nefarious purposes. Their illicit activities came to light in March 1991 when a Kashmiri militant was arrested and it was revealed that the Jains had been providing funds to the militants, the money coming from foreign sources through hawala channels. Raids on their houses led to discovery of diary and files which recorded their clandestine money transactions. It transpired that the Jains, between 1988 and 1991, had made illicit payments totalling about Rs. 65 crore on various accounts to 115 people including a large number of politicians and bureaucrats. The CBI took up the case in April, 1991. In June, a Deputy I.G. of the CBI was caught accepting a bribe of Rs. 10 crore from the Jains. No significant progress was made on the case in 2 years, 1991 to 1993. It is to be noted that the CBI had been under the charge of the Prime Minister since Rajiv Gandhi's time, and so it was now operating under direct control of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. So, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that Narasimha Rao did not want the shady deals between the Jains and the politicians, most of whom were from his party, the Congress (I), to be exposed.

A public interest petition was filed in the Supreme Court in October, 1993 by two journalists to make the CBI expedite investigation on the case. Eleven persons including Arif Mohammed Khan and Sharad Yadav officially confessed in February, 1994 that they had received illicit payments from the Jains. But the Jain brothers were arrested only as late as March, 1995! A new FIR was now filed by the CBI mentioning only some bureaucrats who had received money from the Jains but leaving out politicians who had received the lion's share. After being arrested, S.K. Jain was interrogated for 15 days. Entries in his notebooks and files were examined. This revealed the wide sweep of corruption. Reportedly, not only rampant corruption of high places came to light but even at the highest political level; it transpired that Rajiv Gandhi had received Rs. 2 crore directly and a further Rs. 10.5 crore had been routed to him through the notorious racketeer Lalit Suri. Besides, a statement of S.K. Jain recorded on March 11, 1995 by a Superintendent of the CBI

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Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief:
COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol 29 No 9
Rs. 2.00

February 26, 1996
Air Surcharge 5 p

Protest Against Joint Indo-US Naval Exercise

Strongly protesting against the proposed joint Indo-US Naval exercise, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued on 6.2.96 the following statement to the press:

"The Central Committee of the SUCI takes serious note of a report in the press of a joint Indo-US Naval exercise to be held in March next off the country's western coast and strongly condemns India government's collusion with the US imperialist power. The Central Committee is of the firm opinion that the US administration is seeking to strengthen its military presence in South and South-East Asia in order to back up its scheme of expanding its hegemony in the Asian region with the help of India as regional big power. The Indian ruling class, in its turn, is pursuing the Indo-US Military Cooperation Pact to bolster its regional hegemonistic design through military cooperation with the US military power and bear pressure upon its neighbours. This exercise of mutual military cooperation between the US and the Indian ruling class totally goes against the anti-imperialist tradition and interest for peace and security of the Indian people and other peoples of the region. The Central Committee demands of the Government of India to cancel this proposed Indo-US joint exercise and scrap the Military Cooperation Pact forthwith."

SUCI's Principled Stand in Rajyasabha Elections in different States

West Bengal

This year's Rajyasabha elections have once again proved how corruption has been plaguing the parliamentary politics of our country. Let alone the bourgeois parties like the Congress(I), the BJP, the Janata Dal, etc., even the ruling Left-Front parties in West Bengal are not free from the disease. Although the Left-Front commands sufficient majority in terms of numbers of MLAs to get all its five candidates elected to the Rajyasabha, whereas the Congress(I) does not have the requisite strength to elect its one candidate, the CPI(M) leader, Comrade Biman Basu, was not sure about the

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All Parliamentary Parties Enmeshed in Corruption

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Anti-Corruption Unit (VI) in New Delhi has lately been in the news. Reportedly, it states in detail how, in 1991, S.K. Jain made a total payment of Rs. 55 lakhs to Narasimha Rao directly and through the Congress(I) MP R.K. Dhawan; and how, after some time when Rao had become the Prime Minister, S.K. Jain had to pay Rs. 3 crore to Prime Minister Rao in 3 parts — directly and through Satish Sharma and the notorious Godman Chandraswamy; S.K. Jain agreed to make these payments as he expected to be favoured with big contracts in the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant. It is to be remembered that the Congress(I) was in a minority in the Lok Sabha during that period and horse-trading was on to "influence" opposition MPs to defect and join Congress(I). It is also noteworthy that large sums of money might be required on two occasions during that period to "influence" the defectors — while organising defections to the Congress(I) by Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav and subsequently by Ajit Singh and his followers.

Attempts to shield Rajiv Gandhi and Narasimha Rao

After it was disclosed that the Jains had made payments to Rajiv Gandhi, the CBI officers investigating the hawala case were transferred one by one. The CBI did not bring the matter to the notice of the Court. In effect, the case against Rajiv Gandhi was considered closed.

Such was the background of the case when the CBI chargesheeted the seven politicians and the three ministers last month. But shortly afterwards, the people came to know about the March 11, 1995 statement of S.K. Jain referred to above, implicating the Prime Minister Rao. It transpires that within two months of the statement, the recording officer of the CBI was transferred elsewhere. And reportedly, the CBI holds that such oral statements have no evidentiary value! Currently, the CBI appears to be engaged in an exercise in fudging the records to establish that S.K. Jain never went to Narasimha Rao to make payments. One is reminded of a similar operation in the past trying to establish that the ill-famed Harshad Mehta never went to meet Prime Minister Rao with two suitcases full of currency notes.

Past Role of Narasimha Rao

The image of Prime Minister Rao is not that of a crusader against corruption. Rather, it is that of a person, who, making use of his positions in the Government and his party, has been trying to hush up investigations and shield the guilty in many a nefarious doing and scam, the hawala racket being the latest. Some instances that readily come to mind are: The Bofors case where, though the disclosure of the documents by the Swiss Federal Court is imminent, Rao Government is still covertly trying to thwart and delay the proceedings. One is also reminded how Madhavsingh Solanki was earlier caught red-handed with a damaging memorandum

designed to scuttle the Bofors investigation which could have originated only at Prime Minister Rao's office. The St. Kitts forgery through which the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi tried to frame V.P. Singh into a charge of amassing huge funds — vile stratagems like which the bourgeois politicians are wont to apply against one another in petty political interest. Narasimha Rao, as Rajiv's External Affairs Minister, had a direct hand in cooking up the fraud in conjunction with the notorious Godman Chandraswamy — as corroborated by an investigation report drawn up by the CBI. The same CBI, controlled by Prime Minister Rao now, keeps mum about the affair. Take the Securities Scam, the "suitcase scam", the sugar scam, the Bailadila "deal" or the latest tele scam — glaring instances of corruption involving thousands of crores of rupees. In all these, the role of the Rao Government has been to play down or to hush up if possible or misdirect the investigations, to shield the culprits instead of unearthing and exposing the scams.

Why this Move on Hawala ?

After years of inaction on the hawala case and attempts to underplay and hush up the same, why has the CBI acting under direction of Narasimha Rao suddenly started chargesheeting the politicians? There must be a motive behind this move. Let us consider the situation. The general election to the Lok Sabha is approaching. In spite of the orchestrated fanfare and propaganda in the media eulogizing the "spate of wellbeing" that has descended upon the people as a result of the New Economic Policy of globalization and liberalization, the people do not believe it because they find their condition actually worsening, and are disillusioned. The BJP holds the Hindu card but the Congress(I)'s erstwhile assured Muslim vote bank has been seriously eroded since the Babri Masjid was destroyed by Hindu fundamentalist fanatics organised by the Sangh Parivar while the Rao administration looked the other way. The Congress(I) does not hold the Dalit card either. With revelation of scam after scam, reputation of Rao Government and the Prime Minister personally has nosedived. The opposition parties are preparing to use charges of corruption against this Government as the main plank in the coming election. Despite all efforts of the CBI, widespread corruption at high places in the Government is becoming public knowledge any way through the hawala case.

In such a situation, it appears that Prime Minister Rao has deemed preemptory offence to be the best defence and has gambled by trying to turn the tables against the opposition parties on the corruption issue. He is out to appear before the people as messiah to cleanse the administration and politics from the filth of corruption. Even if the idea was to chargesheet as many opposition leaders as possible, implicating only them excluding the Congress(I) politicians could not be credible, especially as most of the recipients of money from the Jains were from the ruling Congress(I) naturally. So, chargesheets were drawn up against politicians from the

Congress(I) as well as from the BJP and the Janata Dal. The expectation is for double benefit through this move. Firstly, it would tell the people that it is pointless to raise the finger of accusation against the Congress(I) as the major opposition parties too are guilty of corruption. Secondly, it would demonstrate how serious the Prime Minister is about rooting out corruption, because he did not spare even his partymen, including ministers. To provide a subsidiary benefit, the chargesheets have been drawn up selectively to include some deemed to be potential rivals to Narasimha Rao in the inner-party squabbles of the Congress(I). There is no reason to think that we have seen the last of the pre-election gimmicks that Narasimha Rao has in mind. More startling moves may be in the offing to bolster up his image.

All Parliamentary Parties Steeped in Corruption

We like to ask: since so many of his party leaders and ministers have been charged with corruption and since the needle of suspicion points towards Prime Minister Rao himself, why does he not accept moral responsibility and resign as he should have done if he really abhorred corruption?

The BJP's reactions have been revealing. The prompt resignation of Advani as MP and the not so prompt resignation of Yashwant Sinha or that party's demand for speedy trials of the hawala accused do not cut much ice as the people can see that all this has been done only after Advani and Sinha have been chargesheeted and so exposed and not before. The question can be pertinently asked: why has not Advani stepped down from the party presidency? The line taken up by the BJP is that receipt of money by its leaders is not corruption but the Congress(I) leaders' acceptance of money from the Jains is corruption, because the BJP party had taken the money, not its leaders. As if, when a party receives illicit payment of black money, that ceases to be corruption! What a queer logic! As a corollary to such argument, the BJP is advocating state funding of the parties and legalization of political donations from industrialists and businessmen although the latter would mean legalization of corruption because such donors do not spend the money for philanthropy or charity but in the expectation of definite favours to promote their commercial interest. And when Advani is asked if he took the money (Rs. 60 lakhs) from the Jains, he evades a straight reply and says that he would answer only in the Court! The BJP is fond of projecting itself as a "clean" party. But the people of the states that have been or are being ruled by BJP know better. They have seen in U.P., Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, M.P. and Gujarat how adept that party is in nepotism and corruption of all sorts.

The all-pervading corruption in Janata-ruled Bihar has become proverbial. The latest to be unearthed is the huge fodder scam. The Janata Dal Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav is trying to demonstrate how strict he is in busting the scam, but that is for public consumption with the coming elections in view. Reportedly, cumulative embezzlement of public money in this scam alone has been over Rs. 2000 crore before Laloo Prasad Yadav appeared on the scene as the saviour.

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's Message to General Secretary, All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee sent a message to the General Secretary, All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) on the occasion of the Second Congress of the party. The message is given below :

To
The General Secretary
All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)
Dear Comrade,

We are very glad to know that the All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) is going to hold its Second Congress in February, 1996 to work out and confirm "the strategy and tactics of the struggle for socialism and rebirth of the Soviet Union".

We firmly hold that the fall of the Soviet Union – due to pursuance of revisionist policies since the days of renegade Khrushchev to that of Gorbachev's glassnost and perestroika – is but a temporary phenomenon and not the last word in history.

However, the resurrection of revolutionary communism in Russia and the entire world urgently demands of the communists everywhere to acquire the concretised, developed and highest realisation of revolutionary theory and the realities of their time as well as of closing their ranks on the basis of this heightened understanding of Marxism-Leninism as opposed to revisionism of all sorts.

In our opinion, advancement of revolutionary struggles for socialism in each land, in the changed global situation today, requires a worldwide,

broadbased and militant anti-imperialist struggle which can not be waged without the communists acting as its core and fighting their own bourgeoisie.

We believe that your great land which was the first in the world to witness the socialist revolution led by great Lenin, and which became the mighty citadel of world revolution led by his worthy continuator, Comrade Stalin, shall again set examples in the struggle for socialism and to build up a new Soviet Union.

We fervently hope that this Second Congress of the All Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) will take the appropriate policies to lead the proletariat and the other toiling masses to that cherished goal.

With revolutionary greetings,

February 6, 1996

Comradely yours
(Nihar Mukherjee)
General Secretary

Socialist Unity Centre of India

WAKF CORRUPTION

SUCI's protest to CM

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of West Bengal
Writers' Buildings
Calcutta

Sir,

Quite a few months have passed since you announced in August last to submit an investigation report within a month on the charge of corruption involving Wakf property of thousands of crores of rupees, yet the people have been kept in the dark; and this naturally generates the suspicion that the matter is being hushed up.

You surely cannot deny that leasing out the vast property, which the Wakifs have left behind for the welfare of the poor, distressed and orphan members of the minority community, to misappropriate crores of rupees is a grievous crime. People are naturally asking : How could the corruption involving the Wakf property, which goes on rampant in states run by the Congress, the BJP and the Janata Dal, also rear its head in the Left-Front- ruled West Bengal ? What is more, this charge of corruption has been levelled against a nexus of some CPI(M) leaders and promoters. Moreover, how could this corruption go on undetected for so long when there is a government-appointed Wakf Board and also Minister-in-Charge for proper care and utilisation of the Wakf property ? Can they disown their responsibility ?

We therefore demand that :

1. all the papers together with the investigation report be immediately placed before a committee constituted of eminent lawyers, educationists, journalists and representatives of all political parties and mass organisations for its consideration ;
2. severe punishment be meted out to all those connected with this corruption ;
3. the leased out property be restored for the benefit of the minority community members ;
4. the Wakf Board be reconstituted in a truly democratic way in place of through nomination by the party in power.

Yours truly,
Sd/- Provas Ghosh
Secretary
West Bengal State Committee
SUCI
21.12.95

Government's Pension Scheme '95 a Fraud on Employees

From 5th to 10th of February, 1996, the workers and the employees of different industries and establishments across the country demonstrated their strong opposition to the recently introduced Employees' Pension Scheme '95 financed by way of diversion of 8.33% of workers' wage from Workers' Provident Fund Account. In hundreds of rallies, mass meetings and mass petitions they demanded of the Union Labour Minister the scrapping of the said scheme and introduction of an alternative pension scheme as a third retirement benefit to be entirely financed by the state and the employers without curtailing in any way the Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) and gratuity benefits or levying any contribution on workers. And now they are preparing to observe a countrywide industrial strike on 23rd February, 1996, jointly called by the UTUC-Lenin Sarani, CITU, AITUC, IFTU, UTUC and HMKP on a 6-point charter of demands. The increasing number of participation of workers in protest programmes and adoption of various action programmes at plant levels clearly contradict and challenge the claims of the Central Labour Minister and some forces within the trade union movement that the entire working class had been waiting for this pension scheme. The Central Government wanted to play on the workers' popular sentiment centring round the "pension" and to feed the

workers a scheme which is named after pension but in reality is a naked betrayal of the same. It is gradually becoming clear that the Central Government and their cohorts, despite their best attempts and propaganda at the cost of the public exchequer, have failed to confuse and befool the working people. They were quite aware that they would fail to convince the workers and make them agree to accept this scheme voluntarily. This is the reason why the Central Government angrily and straightaway refused to accept UTUC-Lenin Sarani's proposal of providing the workers the right to exercise option. The Central Labour Minister most unbecomingly ridiculed the UTUC-Lenin Sarani's proposal to this effect as a demand for countrywide referendum on the pension issue. They did not take any risk. They refused to depend on and have confidence in the judgement of the workers and hence they made the pension scheme compulsory and brought it into force through a Presidential Ordinance, even bypassing parliament and grossly violating the Central Labour Minister's own commitment that the government would not persist in introducing the scheme unless all the Central Trade Unions had agreed to it and asked the government unitedly to go ahead with it. It has already come in the Press that from among the centrally recognised Central Trade Unions the UTUC - Lenin Sarani and CITU opposed the scheme and,

later on, the UTUC (Bowbazar) and others too came out against it. Why then did the Union Labour Ministry go ahead with the scheme in gross violation of its public commitment ? Why this desperate attempt to introduce the same ? Before replying to the question, let us have a glance at the new pension scheme and understand why there is growing resentment against it.

Is it at all a Pension Scheme ?

Whether a pension scheme is truly a pension scheme and pro-worker or not is judged from two aspects in the main : (1) Who are financing it and how is it being financed ? (2) What are the conditions and quantum of pensionary benefits ? It has already been said that the pension scheme is framed on the basis of diversion of workers' contribution (8.33% of wage) from Workers' Provident Fund Account which is constituted with equal contributions from employers and employees in accordance with Contributory Provident Fund Scheme set up in pursuance of the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1994. It is, then, clear that the workers' hard-won right to Contributory Provident Fund is virtually withdrawn and a replaced by is being so-called right to pension. Secondly, the pension is funded by workers' earning i.e. they are to finance their own pension. Employers and the state are free
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Hawala Scandal

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The CPI and the CPI(M) are engaged in a bit of self-glorification because none from these parties have been implicated on the charge of receiving money from the Jains. But this merely shows that they did not have illicit dealings with a particular hawala operator group, that of the Jain brothers. The people of West Bengal under rule of the CPI(M) led "Left Front" which includes the CPI, have the bitter experience that virtually no contract can be awarded in the state, or no licence or permit issued without bribing the parties in power and their leaders — the CPI(M) taking the lion's share. The Panchayats at all levels, the municipal corporations, the municipalities and local boards have become dens of rampant corruption where nothing moves without bribing the corrupt officials, the leaders and parties of the "Left Front." The Front ministers and leaders take bribes as a matter of course from industrialists, traders, businessmen, contractors, suppliers etc. The recent unseasonal spurt in price of potato in West Bengal in spite of a record production, was mainly due to a sudden hike in cold storage rental that was granted by the State Government to the potato cold storage owners who minted astronomical superprofit on this account. Who else besides them were benefited can be understood easily! Area developers and building promoters in and around Calcutta are being brazenly favoured to get hold of land in large lots for a song, by demolishing slums of the poor if need be, with very large sums of money changing hands. The latest has been the Wakf scam. It was investigated by the secretary of the judicial department and a report submitted. But the report is being withheld from the people as reportedly about 160 nos. Wakf properties have been transferred to the hands of promoters illegally with no tender in corrupt deals involving Front ministers and leaders with payment of huge sums as kickbacks.

Decadent Capitalism

Root Cause Of Corruption

It should be understood that while the hawala case has dramatically revealed widespread corruption at high places, it is but the tip of the iceberg. Jains are only one of the many hawala groups operating in the country. And hawala is not the only channel through which corruption flourishes. It is the capitalist system that is the root cause of corruption. Profit motive guides all production and commercial activities under capitalism. In their bid for self aggrandizement at any cost, the capitalist class — the industrialists, traders, businessmen and contractors resort to all sorts of unfair means, corrupting the bureaucrats and politicians and even the people at large in the process. Even at the best of times when capitalism flourishes and plays a progressive role as in its early stages, it cannot but generate corruption. Today, world capitalism, plagued with endemic crises, is moribund and degenerated. Indian capitalism, as a part of the world capitalists system, is suffering from this decadence and degeneration and corruption here has reached such a stage that, not to speak of rooting it out, it cannot even be curbed without directly opposing capitalism. Short of this, any amount of electoral reform, state funding of elections or legalization of political donations may only serve to hoax the people for some time into believing that corruption can be

tackled keeping the capitalist system intact, but would not actually touch even the fringe of the problem of all-pervading corruption.

Politics of Parliamentary Parties and Conspiracy of Ruling Capitalist Class.

All parliamentary parties in the country, not only the branded bourgeois parties like the Congress(I), the BJP or the Janata Dal or the social democratic pseudo-left parties headed by the CPI(M) and the CPI, but even the regional parties starting from the AGP in Assam to the AIADMK and the DMK in Tamilnadu, are steeped in corruption. They all serve the ruling capitalist class by trying to lengthen the lease of life of Indian capitalism through creating an illusion of diversity, of alternatives within the capitalist system. In return, they are nurtured and maintained by the ruling class. Election politics is their be-all and end-all. And they cannot hope to win an election today without massive money support and media coverage provided by the ruling class. They depend on this black money, musclemen and rigging in election battles. It is no wonder that a strong politician-bureaucrat-criminal nexus exists and flourishes all over the country involving all parliamentary parties. The Central Government is doing its best to withhold from the people the revelations made on this unholy nexus in the Vohra Committee report.

Steeped in corruption themselves, how can these parliamentary parties really do anything about corruption? When they speak against corruption and hold up tall promises in this regard, that is merely for catching votes by discrediting opponent parties in election battle.

Capitalism has not and cannot solve the problems in the people's life. Poverty, pauperisation and degradation are growing and bound to grow further. And so also the disaffection of the people, the urge to revolt against the capitalist system towards their own alternative of socialism. The ruling capitalist class is aware of this. Their best bet is to provide "acceptable" alternatives within the system through the parties serving them, in rotation through the two-party system so that the people can be kept pacified. That is why, they need a subservient party or combination of parties that can appear before the people at election time with catchy slogans and phrases, holding out the promise of a rosy picture so that they can bolster it up with massive money support and orchestrated propaganda in the mass media to create a "wave" in its favour and help it to sweep the polls through all-out rigging if need be. One is reminded of Indira Gandhi's "Garibi Hatao" and Rajiv Gandhi's "leap into the 21st century" in this context.

But the degeneration of the system, of the parliamentary politicians and corruption have reached such a stage that an acute instability has taken grip. We have been witnessing in recent years that even as massive majority in favour of the chosen party or combination cooked up by the ruling class with great effort disintegrates before the appointed term of the Government is over creating fresh instability -- such is the lack of principle, level of corruption and urge for personal aggrandizement of parliamentary politicians. If the people lose faith in bourgeois democracy and it is no longer possible to

smoothly maintain capitalist class rule from behind the facade of parliamentary democracy, then naked military dictatorship may have to be clamped down as the last resort. But prior to that, everything is being done to create confidence in the institutions of parliamentary democracy like the judiciary and the election system. The way in which the Chief Election Commissioner T. N. Seshan's electoral measures were hailed and projected by the monopoly press and the manner in which it is now eulogizing the conduct of the Supreme Court as the champion of justice on the hawala case to avoid exposure of the true character of bourgeois parliamentary system, are pointers. If the parties subservient to bourgeois class rule fail to effectively hold the masses within the confines of the capitalist system, but if a degree of confidence and illusion about the institutions of parliamentary system can be maintained, then some form of constitutional dictatorship or even fascism can be brought about keeping the framework of parliamentary democracy intact. The danger of this is inherent in the situation. We may recall that during Indira Gandhi's time, sustained efforts were on to bend the working of the administration to suit her purpose, throwing overboard even the norms of bourgeois parliamentary democracy. That trend towards administrative fascism has not died out, as can be seen from the mode of handling of hawala case by the CBI, under Narasimha Rao's direction. Activities of the CBI, the prime investigating agency of the land, have been and are being tailored and distorted to hint his political exigency.

Only a genuine communist party having no stake in the capitalist system can build up a social movement deterrent to corruption as a part of the all-embracing socialist movement. Will the people continue to be hoodwinked and used as pawns by the parliamentary parties from election to election, or will they see through the nefarious game, search out their own alternative and rally round the genuine communist party?

Andhra Pradesh

'Rasta Roko' against Hawala Scandal

Responding to the call given by the State Committees of six left parties — SUCI, CPI-ML (Prajapantha), CPI-ML (Janasakti), MCPI, CPI-ML (Liberation) and Marxist-Leninist Committee demanding the resignation of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao for his alleged involvement on the Hawala scandal, a successful Rasta-Roko agitation was organised at Hyderabad.

Over two hundred activists of the six parties organised the road block near the Telugutalli statue in the vicinity of the state secretariat on 14th February. Vehicular traffic came to a stand still for more than an hour.

The state police in their bid to remove the road block dragged both men and women activists indiscriminately, when the activists protested against the uncivilized manner in which lady activists were being dragged by male police and demanded introduction of women police to deal with women protesters. The police instead resorted to a lathi charge. Many comrades sustained injury in the lathi charge.

Government's Pension Scheme '95 to Undermine CPF even

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from any obligation in this regard. The UTUC-Lenin Sarani strongly opposed this idea for the following reason. Social security is the responsibility of the state. Pension is an integral part of social security; hence it is also the responsibility of the state. This responsibility has arisen out of the objective reality that by workers' labour the society as a whole gets benefited. When the labourer loses his capacity to earn his livelihood owing to old age, it is the moral responsibility of the society, and for that matter of the state, to take care of him. In recognition of this reality and of workers' contribution to the society the state is required to take on the responsibility for subsistence of the retired workers and their families. Now, in a socialist state, where means of production are socialised and where private sector has been abolished, it is entirely the responsibility of the state to finance pension. But in a capitalist state, where the means of production are owned by the capitalist employers and they extract profit from workers' labour, it is the joint responsibility of the employers and the state to finance pension. Ours is a capitalist state. Naturally here, the state and the employers are responsible to finance pension. It must be understood that pension financed by the employers and the state is a legitimate right of workers emerging from objective reality and his position in production process. The UTUC - Lenin Sarani rightly demanded to legalize this right. Based itself on this concept the UTUC - Lenin Sarani could not agree when the CITU, while opposing diversion of PF money for pension, proposed to constitute the fund by means of equal contribution from the employers and employees. In fact, the CITU's proposal was to establish a contributory pension scheme like contributory provident fund scheme. So the UTUC - Lenin Sarani rightly held that knowingly or unknowingly the CITU, though opposing the scheme, was in fact subscribing to the government's idea of financing their own pension by the workers themselves and thus was involving itself in the conspiratorial process of reversing and distorting the fundamental concept of social security scheme, a conspiracy that had been hatched on a global basis by the advocates of so-called economic reforms, liberalisation and globalisation. Incidentally, it may not be out of place to mention here that the idea of the newly introduced scheme was floated in our country during the premiership of late Rajiv Gandhi who laid the foundation of the so-called economic reforms and liberalisation along with the slogan of modernisation. It may also be remembered in this connection that when in 1989 a contributory pension scheme was contemplated in steel and coal industry on the basis of deduction of 2% from workers' wages in addition to his PF contribution, and it started with written and full concurrence of the CITU and other Central Trade Unions, the UTUC - Lenin Sarani strongly opposed the same. However, whatever might have been the differences, now it appears from the published joint declaration of strike call on 23rd February that the six unions, including the CITU, have

demand pension to be financed by government and employers.

Contributory P. F. Vs this 'Pension Scheme'

Now the question of conditions and quantum of benefits as have been laid down in the scheme. It has been conclusively established in various analytical studies, published by trade unions including the UTUC - Lenin Sarani and by social and economic organisations that workers, who are forced to deposit 8.33% of their wages in pension fund, could earn many times more as accrued interest on the deposited sum than the amount of pension to which they will be entitled as per the new scheme had they been allowed to invest the same amount in banks. In that case he would also get back his invested sum. But under this new pension scheme the government will not return his invested capital. What a lawful robbery and plunder! Secondly, inflation is a recognised phenomenon for a long time. The workers' real wages are constantly eroding; but the scheme refuses to recognise inflation and protect the erosion of purchasing capacity of the pension. The government has refused to accept workers' demand to make it price index-linked. Thirdly, the present scheme refuses to recognise the total period of service as pensionable service of workers.

From the above discussion it is clear that from both the points of view of funding and benefits proposed, the present scheme cannot be accepted as a true pension scheme. On the contrary, it is worse than even the existing CPF scheme so far as the benefits are concerned. This makes it clear why there is growing resentment and anger against the scheme among the workers and employees.

It is a part of the ruling class's class design

Still defying all protests, the government is desperately attempting to impose this nefariously anti-working class Pension Scheme, 1995 on the PF subscribers, i.e. millions of workers and employees of the country. But why? Because, first, this scheme very much fits the government's most anti-people New Economic Policy of reforms and liberalisation. With the accentuation of crisis of capitalism every capitalist state long back started curtailing welfare measures and for some years past, particularly since the world-wide campaign eulogizing so-called economic reforms and liberalisation and globalization as the panacea for all socio-economic ills, they are advocating not only against government subsidy measures but also against any financial or social responsibility of the employers and the state to the workers except wages for their bare subsistence. The question of service security is also being labelled as back-dated or conservative concept. The Indian government has also brought into force this Pension Scheme quite in conformity with the above idea and objective that is patronised and introduced by the advocates of so-called economic reforms and liberalization in the

interest of the ruling monopolists and capitalist class of the country. Secondly, it legalises plunder and loot of workers' legitimate earnings by the government. The government, on the one hand, wants to utilize the enormous looted money in order to feed its skyrocketing budgetary deficits and, on the other, intends to do business with the accumulated fund of the workers just like a profit-sucker businessman. Thirdly, keeping the ensuing general election in view the central Congress (I) government is trying to pose itself with a pro-worker stance in the guise of giving pension to the private sector workers and employees of the country. To combat this charge also, the Congress (I) government and the Congress (I) party are making a counter-allegation against the opposition parties and trade unions that they are making this pension scheme an election issue against the Congress (I). To answer it the Central Trade Unions will have to come forward now with all earnestness and militancy to make the industrial strike call on 23rd February a complete success and prove their sincerity of purpose in carrying through the struggle to its cherished goal. They are to prove that this battle against imposition of this so-called pension scheme is no lever in the parliamentary election politics, but a serious struggle for thwarting a sinister attack on the working class interest in the name of giving 'pension' to the working millions.

United Delegate Session of Four Workers' Union in Mayurbhanj District affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani)

The delegate session of the annual conference of Mayurbhanj Zonal China-clay Mines Workers' Union, Mayurbhanj Pottery & Jars Workers' Union, Eastern Hatchery Workers' Union, Bamanghati Upatayka Mines Workers' Union was held on 15th February at Jashipur under the presidentship of Comrade Mayadhar Nayak, UTUC(LS) State Sectt. member.

The General Secretary of the above four unions Comrade Sambhunath Naik, MLA discussed at length on the present political situation of the country giving special stress on the organized movement of the workers of the country.

Comrade Mayadhar Naik, President, discussed the present political situation of the country and role of the working class. He also emphatically discussed against economism and opportunism of the workers and called the workers to be politically conscious to acquire high cultural standard and to develop movement on burning problems and legitimate demands.

For the current year the Office-bearers of the four Unions were elected.

Movement in Moradabad

SUCI, Moradabad Local Committed, held a dharna-demonstration on 22.1.96 before the Municipal Board Office. The demands were construction of roads, drains, supply of drinking water, electric connections, street lights, a tubewell, etc., in Gulabbari, Katghar and Singhman Hazari area. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Veer Singh, Comrade Vijoy Kumar, Comrade Islam Ali, Comrade Jagvir Singh and others. Our memorandum was

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Anti-Imperialist Convention Highlighted in German Magazine

Michael Opperskalski of Germany, journalist and editor of "Top Secret & GEHEIM" magazines, who attended the recently held Anti-Imperialist Convention in Calcutta as a delegate delivered a speech at Prague on "The 'New World Order', NATO expansion towards the East and German imperialism". In this speech he also dealt on the Calcutta Convention. Excerpts from his speech are given hereunder.

NATO expansion towards the East and German imperialism

In Europe -- especially Eastern Europe the expansion of American capital is challenged by the growing resistance of Germany, Britain and France. The economic strength of German imperialism has enabled Germany of getting a dominant position within the military structures of the European Union, i.e. the famous "EUROCORPS". This development is seriously contesting the dominant military position of US imperialism within the NATO structure. Nevertheless, the US plans to enlarge the aggressive NATO structures by adopting countries in Eastern Europe and even some of the former Soviet Republics is a direct threat against peace in Europe and will sharpen the conflict between the US imperialism and Europe under the German imperialist hegemony on the key question who is going to control Eastern Europe politically, economically and militarily. There are furthermore some indications that even Russia might be incorporated into the NATO structures as this attempt is already demonstrated by the intense military cooperation between Russia and NATO in former Yugoslavia. In this context it has also to be taken into account that US imperialism is planning to use Russia as a tool to

liquidate the socialist regime in China and to undermine China's position as a world power.

The role of German imperialism should not be underestimated within this scenario. German imperialist capital is already aggressively taking control of the economic structures of Poland, Chechia, Hungary, Slovakia and heavily penetrating Russia as well as former Soviet Republics. Already, in November, 1992, German Ministry of Defence published a so-called 'Guidelines for the Defence Policy that are clearly stating the German military strategies. This paper says the German interest and vital security interest have to be militarily defended in all corners of the world "to maintain the free world trade and the free access to markets and resources all over the world". The German military operations in Somalia and former Yugoslavia are only the first exercises towards this direction. ...

The Threats of The 'New World Order'

The threats of the so-called 'New World Order' are the context and background in which "Anti-Imperialist Convention" took place last November in Calcutta, India. The Open Session of the Convention was attended by about 1,20,000 people, while for the delegate session more than 1,000 delegates came from all over India to Calcutta, representing various political and social forces from communist to national democrats, professors, scientists, artists, trade unionists, representatives of women and youth organizations, etc.

The Draft Declaration of the Convention took the imperialist challenge correctly by stating:

"Imperialism today poses the gravest threat to mankind. Aggressive designs and actions of the imperialists are endangering democracy and freedom, economic development and security of nations, creating obstacle in the way of their natural development, destroying the fabric of human culture and sense of values. Reckless acts of imperialists throughout the world are on the increase ..."

But the Convention and its Resolutions did not only analyse the consequences of the so-called 'New World Order', and imperialist strategies and acts of barbarism, it furthermore developed elements of a strategy against imperialism, the mechanism to build up a mighty international anti-imperialist people's movement. Please allow me to therefore quote again the Convention's Resolution:

"Thus, imperialisms today is posing a great threat to world peace, freedom and democracy. So the need of the hour is to build up a mighty anti-imperialist movement all over the world in order to thwart imperialist intrigue, interference, intervention and war machinations which in its wake would give birth to a militant peace movement conducive to the struggles for emancipation of the toiling people of the world.

The ray of hope is that popular opinion against imperialist aggression and war machinations, interference and subversion is growing stronger every day and everywhere. It is, therefore, incumbent on the progressive forces to rise to the occasion and to take up the tasks of giving an organized shape to the growing anti-imperialist sentiment of the people. (...)

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Netaji Centenary Inaugurated throughout Country

The birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the greatest mind in the uncompromising trend of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed with solemnity and enthusiasm in different parts of our country. In the background of the shocking cultural degradation and the unprecedented impoverishment of millions, the observance of Netaji's birth centenary, a scientific evaluation of the great man and implementation of higher values accordingly in personal life become very necessary towards identifying and realising the true ideology of the present day. With this objective, programmes were pursued in which participated eminent personalities and common people alike. Morning marches and processions were taken out, Netaji's portrait garlanded and speeches were delivered. The reports, received so far, are given in brief :

West Bengal

On 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, programmes were taken throughout the state to observe the day. On 7th February, at Esplanade, Calcutta, AIDS0 and AIDYO organised a big student and youth gathering on this occasion. The meeting was addressed by Sri Prabodh Ranjan Sen, freedom

fighter, Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University and Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI.

Jaypore, Orissa

A public meeting was organised by the Netaji Birth Centenary Committee to observe Netaji Memorial Day. The meeting was preceded by a parade by students of different educational institutions.

Two soldiers of INA Mr. Gadadhar Mahapatra and Mr. Gobardhan Gando were felicitated by the Committee.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ekalabya Panigrahi, President of the committee. Mr. Durgadhar Mohanty, General Secretary of the Committee, Comrade Raghunath Das, Member, Orissa State Secretariat, SUCI, Mr. K. C. Padhi, Vice-President of the Committee, Mrs. Renubala Mohanty, Mr. Surya Bishayi, Mr. Pramod Kumar Tripathy and Mr. Prodymana Samantara also spoke in the meeting.

Prizes were awarded among 32 students for competitions held in debating, essay writing, art and patriotic songs.

Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, on 23rd January, tributes were paid to Netaji at a meeting jointly held by the AIDS0 and AISF at Sagar. The meeting was

conducted by Comrade Intkan Hossain, AISF and Comrade Ramavatar Sharma, President, AIDS0, Sagar was on the chair, Comrade Dipankar Roy, Secretary, All India Save Education Committee, spoke on the occasion. Comrade Pradip Shah, President, Akhil Bharatia Navjawan Parishad

also spoke.

23rd January was observed at Yavatmal through morning march. There Netaji's quotations and quotations from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's works were exhibited and a seminar was held on 31st January.

On 25th January the birth centenary was observed at Bhopal by the AIDS0. Comrade Dipankar Roy spoke on the occasion. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Vijay Sharma, Secretary, Bhopal AIDS0.

At Jabalpur Netaji birth centenary was observed on 27th January. A meeting was held on the occasion, being presided over by Dr. P. K. Sengupta, Head of the Department of Sociology, Jabalpur University. The main speaker was Comrade Dipankar Roy.

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Rajya Sabha Elections

(Contd. from page 1)

prospect of all its five candidates.

We give below an English rendering of the letter of Comrade Biman Basu, on behalf of the West Bengal State Committee of the CPI(M), addressed to Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI.

Dear Comrade,

For this year's Rajyasabha election to be held on 19th February '96 the State Left-Front has set up five candidates for as many seats. The Congress(I) has also set up candidates. Though the Congress does not possess the minimum required vote, the setting up of candidate may lead to complexities. Under the circumstances the result of this Rajyasabha election depends to some extent on the role of the eight non-LF members.

In this situation, we require the support of the two MLAs of yours. We hope, your party will come forward to vote in favour of the LF candidates and give defeat to the Congress(I).

With greetings
Sd/- Biman Basu

17.2.96

After receiving the letter the State Secretariat of our party discussed the issue and Comrade Provash Ghosh on behalf of our party sent a letter, the English translation of which is as follows :

Dear Comrade,

The West Bengal State Secretariat of our party has discussed the letter you have sent to us appealing to vote in favour of the LF candidates in the ensuing Rajyasabha election.

You are aware of the fact that our party is engaged in democratic movements against the anti-people policies of the Central government considering that the Congress(I) as the most trusted party of the capitalist class is the main enemy of the people and to extend our support to it is simply out of question.

On the other hand since the 'left-Front' government has abandoned the people's interest as well as class and mass struggles and instead taken to the path of class collaboration, we are organizing mass movements on various problems of the people of this state. For these reasons normally we used to refrain from voting for the Left Front. Only last time in a particular situation we voted for the Left-Front. For, prior to the last Rajyasabha polls the Congress got its candidates victorious by purchasing 6 of the LF MLAs. And so the last time when you, pointing to this danger, appealed to us for support, we opted for voting for the LF to ensure the defeat of the Congress. This time also you have appealed for our support inspite of the fact that the Congress does not possess the minimum required vote and LF has the majority vote, due to the same apprehension.

In this background in spite of the serious differences we have with the LF on different issues, we resolve to vote for the LF candidates to ensure the defeat of the Congress, the main enemy of the people.

With greetings
Sd/ Provash Ghosh
Secretary
West Bengal State Committee

After the counting was over it was found how correct was Comrade Biman Basu's apprehension. For, as many as seven of its legislators voted 'wrongly' and as a result their votes were cancelled. Is it believable that the MLAs who voted atleast twice earlier in their tenure made this 'wrong' out of innocence? Or was it a deliberate mistake? Instead of taking recourse to cross voting which involved the risk of getting identified, they might have played safe to opt for a mistake.

It is to be mentioned here that 3 Congress MLAs too conspicuously appeared to make the same 'mistake'. The CPI(M) leadership claimed that the 'Left-Front' MLAs were mistaken while the Congress blamed their legislators for betrayal. This is a clear exposure of the steep deterioration of the standard of the Left-Front MLAs.

Orissa

The SUCI observed with great anguish that the ruling congress (I) have entered into tacit understanding with Janata Dal president Sri Biju Pattanaik, who previously announced that Janata Dal will field only one candidate leaving other three seats to Congress(I). But being pressurised from within by a good section of Janata M.L.A.s he was forced to announce Dals support to an independent candidate sponsored by the communal BJP.

We strongly feel that if any secular, democratic minded candidate having pro-people record of struggle had been in the fray, all left and democratic forces should unitedly stand behind him. But in absence of such candidate and in view of the current development of most unethical horse-trading by both Congress(I) and the Janata Dal, the state committee of SUCI decided that it's MLA Comrade Shambhunath Naik will abstain from voting in Rajya Sabha election.

Assam State Committee on Rajya Sabha Elections

The Assam State Committee of the SUCI in a press release on 9.2.96 said that in the coming Rajya Sabha Elections it would support the ASDC candidate. The SUCI expressed that the ASDC candidate, if victorious, would focus the genuine grievances of the people of Assam and more particularly would stress the rapid industrialization of the state using its raw materials and local manpower. The SUCI also expected that in order to do away with the apprehension of the Assamese speaking people of being swayed away, the ASDC candidate would stress in the Rajya Sabha for enacting a law to safeguard the Assamese language as the state language irrespective of the population structure and keeping the rights of the linguistic minorities intact. The SUCI also expected that the ASDC would shed its sectarian outlook and work for the integrity of the toiling people of the state.

Assam State Committee on Latest Situation in Assam

The Assam State Committee of the SUCI in its meeting held on 6th February '96 reviewed the latest political situation of the State.

The meeting strongly opposed the move of the State Congress(I) Government to hold the Assembly election, to the State and the parliament elections separately and firmly demanded to hold the elections simultaneously with the rest of the country. The meeting expressed apprehension of a conspiracy to rig the elections and strongly demanded of the Election Commission to take all effective measures to ensure free and fair elections. The meeting also demanded to allow two representatives of each candidate to accompany and guard the ballot boxes from the polling stations to the counting stations till counting was over.

The meeting in a separate resolution expressed its deep concern over the fact that in spite of a request to different left-democratic political parties, including the CPI and the CPI(M), to take the initiative to sponsor a candidate for the ensuing Rajya Sabha Elections, one who can uphold the interest of all-round

development of the state and has firm commitment to the democratic movement of the common people and is commonly acceptable to all the democratic opposition parties of the state, none of the parties had come out to hold a joint meeting of such political parties to discuss the situation, whereas the time of submission of nomination paper was going to be over in a few days. The resolution observed that such inaction would surely give handle to the Congress(I). The State Committee urged the concerned parties to hold immediately a joint meeting of all democratic opposition parties of the State to discuss the matter.

Expressing concern over a news item published in some news papers that the minority communities were being threatened to quit the 'Bodoland', Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, has issued a statement noting with grave concern the fact that the same notices were served in the Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Darrang districts threatening the people belonging to minority communities to quit 'Bodoland' by 15th

March '96. It needs to be mentioned here that after the last communal attack in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts, thousands of people belonging to the minority communities are still living in camps in miserable conditions, as little relief materials and medical facilities are provided to them at Amguri, Jamunabazar, Milan Bazar, Patabari, Jaipur-Nangalabazar, etc., and till today they could not go back to their homes. Due to the threat, they cannot come out of the camp in search of their livelihood. The present threat will simply add to their miseries.

Under the circumstances, our party, the SUCI, appealed to the militant outfits to think over the fact as such types of attacks and threat can never bring any solution to the problems facing the common people of any community. Rather it weakens the unity of the people which is so vital in fighting the real enemy, capitalism. The militants were also urged to ponder over the fact that foreigners and allied issues had to be solved with topmost priority but should have to be done through legal procedure. The Government was urged to take measures to solve the problems of those areas through negotiations and legal process and to take every care to save the lives and properties of the oppressed people.

Netaji Centenary

(Contd. from page 6)

Haryana

The birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was observed through a mass meeting on 23rd January at Hudda complex, Rohtak. The meeting took place in front of the nagar Palika Bazar. Before the meeting a procession marched from the railway station to the Bazar.

Bihar

At different places of Musabani, birth centenary of Netaji was observed from 23rd to 28th January under the auspices of "Netaji Subhas Janma Satabdi Sama Samity. The final function was held on 28th at Musabani Rabindra Sangh. In it the chief guest was Sri Jadunath Baske and the main speaker was Sri Bhaskar Gupta. Sri Arun Kumar, Principal, Ghatshila Mahavidyalaya, and Sri Bholanath Ghosh, former teacher, were present as special guests. Sri Birendranath Ghosh, on behalf of the organisers also spoke. Youths from Musabani A T F, Badia New Colony, PWD, Musabani No. 9 and Surda New Township presented cultural programme.

Kerala

The birth centenary observation of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was inaugurated in Kerala on 23rd January. At Ernakulam, Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala state Committee, SUCI inaugurated an observance meeting at KSEB Union Hall which was presided over by Comrade G. S. Padmakumar, District Secretary of the party.

In Trivandrum AIDS workers took out a procession to Netaji's statue and Comrade B. K. Rajagopal, State President of AIDS placed floral wreathes. Throughout Kerala meetings were held on this occasion. Reputed personalities like Sri R. M. Manackalath, freedom fighter, Dr. N. A. Kari, educationist, Sri Pavanan, reputed writer, Sri Nandiodi Ramachandran, Professor in History joined the Netaji Centenary Observance Committee, which will carry forward yearlong programme.

Uttar Pradesh

Under the auspices of Shaheed Yadgar Samiti, a mass meeting was held on 23rd January at Chiriya Tola market, Line Par, Moradabad to remember the life struggle of Netaji. The meeting was presided over by the noted Hindi Poet Sri Maheshwar Tiwari. The meeting was addressed by Sri Munish Chandra Tyagi, President, Shaheed Yadgar Samiti, Sri Vijay Pal Singh, Sri Veer Singh, Smt. Veena Katara, Miss Kamlesh, Sri Rajendra Singh and Sri S. P. Singh Rajput. On this occasion, a rally and mass meeting was also organised at Dhahaula, Moradabad by DYO. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Pukhraj Nirala, Comrade Chasuta Singh, Comrade Kishan Singh and others.

Karnataka

Under the auspices of the AIDS, AIDYO, and AIMSS 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji, was observed at Malleswaram grounds in Bangalore.

A public meeting was held which was presided over by Comrade K. Venugopal, President, Bangalore district DYO. Dr. B. Sheshadri, renowned educationist, was the guest-in-chief.

Nagpur

At Nagpur, the day was observed on 23rd January under the auspices of the AIDS and AIDYO. A procession was taken out and a meeting was held at the foot of the Netaji statue where Comrade Madhav Bhone of AIDYO and Comrade Bharat Pawar, AIDS, spoke.

On 30th student and youth gathering was held on this occasion. Sri Dipankar Roy and Sri Madhav Bhadde were the speakers.

Tamilnadu

Netaji Jayanti was observed on 23rd January at Parry's in Madras city under the auspices of the AIDYO, AIDS, AIMSS. Sri Indira Parthasarathy, a well-known Tamil writer, garlanded the portrait of Netaji. Comrade Elangovan, President, Madras chinglepet District committee of the AIDYO, presided over the meeting. Dr. Venugopal, President, AIDYO, Kerala, was the main speaker. Comrade Thilangar, AIDYO and Comrade Jayanthi, Vice-President, AIMSS, Madras-Chinglepet organising Committee, also spoke.

Rajasthan

On 21st January a meeting was organised by AIDS and AIDYO at Kota to observe the birth centenary of Netaji. It was presided over by Comrade Panchan Yadav and Comrade Rajmal Sharma was the main speaker.

Netaji Jayanti was observed on 23rd January at Maharaja College, Jaypur under the auspices of the AIDS. Dr. N. Singh, Principal of the Maharaja College, presided over the meeting and it was conducted by Comrade Bhupesh. Comrade Rajnal Sharma was the main speaker.

On 28th January at Nehru Childrens' Park, Jaypur Netaji birth centenary was observed with Comrade Girijeswar Singh as the president and Comrade Pratap Samal as the main speaker.

The State Organising Committee, SUCI held a mass meeting on this occasion at Pilani town. Comrade Malhan presided over the meeting and Comrade Girijeswar Singh was the main speaker. Comrade Mahasingha, District Secretary of the party also spoke.

CORRIGENDUM

We sincerely regret that in the news on Gujrat Students' Conference in the last issue the name of Javer Chand Meghani, the revolutionary freedom fighter was wrongly spelt.

Moradabad

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submitted to Chief City Development Officer, who, fulfilling his promise, visited the locality next day with our comrades and asked the Executive Engineer to prepare a plan and assured us to fulfill demands. This achievement had an encouraging impact on the masses.

AIMSS Protests Proposed Obscene Programme

The All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) took a strong move on the eve of the opening ceremony of the World Cup Cricket in Calcutta to protest against a reported filthy and obscene entertainment programme of the organizers under the sponsorship of multinational organizations. In a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who later took part in the opening ceremony as the chief guest, the AIMSS pointed out: "It has been reported in a news item that the former Miss Universe, Ms Sushmita Sen, will appear in a special role to entertain the audience at the opening ceremony of the World Cup Cricket Tournament. According to a representative of its sponsor, the multinational Coca Cola, Ms Sushmita Sen would not only portray the 'traditional Indian women', she was going to undress to exhibit her beauty.

The AIMSS wishes to point out that they have been all along protesting against all this kind of filthy and obscene entertainment programmes and at the same time cautioning the people and the government against the far-reaching and terrible consequences of all these. The AIMSS has organized movements to stop these programmes. We are terribly shocked over the reported plan of the organizers of the World Cup Cricket, which has crossed all previous limits of obscenity and ugliness.

A delegation led by Comrade Pratibha Mukherjee, President of the AIMSS, met the Minister-in-Charge, Information and Culture, to submit the memorandum and demand stoppage of this kind of filthy entertainment programmes. The Minister assured the delegation of measures to stop such programmes. Ultimately the perverse programme was cancelled.

Anti-Imperialist Convention

This Convention calls upon the progressive and peace-loving people of different countries to take initiative to form anti-imperialist fora through suitable means. These organizations should be made as broadbased as possible and their programmes drawn up on common agreed base."

In order to speed up this development the Convention elected in Calcutta an Executive Board of an "All India Anti-Imperialist Forum" and gave it the tasks, apart from deepening and broadening the anti-imperialist mass movement in India, to immediately start to contact as many anti-imperialist organizations, parties, and personalities worldwide to discuss various forms and mechanisms to implement the task of building up structures of International Anti-Imperialist Movement that are able to guide develop, initiate and organize various forms of anti-imperialist activities, exchange of information and debate. While India is going to function as an international political and coordinating centre with an international executive board to be formed, the Convention elaborated the idea to set up regional centres in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America as the necessary networks 'on the ground'"

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Edited & Published by Sukomal Dasgupta from 48 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta 700 013.