

OPPOSE MOVE TO BAN BANDHS

The *Hindusthan Standard* in its issue dated September 1 last reported as follows: "A proposal to completely ban bandhs in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa is under the active consideration of the Centre. Such a step has been necessitated in view of the prevalent trend to observe a bandh even on petty grounds, which not only paralyses everyday life but also badly hits the entire economy, causing irreparable loss to the country.

"The Prime Minister who met INTUC leaders at Raj Bhavan in Calcutta on Tuesday and is scheduled to meet some industrialists today, took a serious view of the tendency of some trade union organisations and other political parties to give a call for a bandh, taking the issue as a threat to the Government. This, she firmly believed, instead of solving problems, only aggravates them. **

"Sources close to the Prime Minister indicated that the Union Labour Ministry was already considering the proposal for banning bandhs in the wake of the present unhealthy atmosphere in industry in West Bengal, where unemployment problem has become a threat to the very existence of the State. Though Mrs. Gandhi does not go in favour of curtailing any trade union rights of workers, she certainly is against frequent calls for bandhs. But whether bandhs will be totally banned or some sort of pre-conditions made essential under law is to be decided after the Labour Department puts forward some concrete proposals in prior consultation with the Law Department."

We have quoted the report *in extenso* in order that the readers may get a clear idea of the proposed move by the Centre to ban or restrict, in case complete banning is not legally possible, general strikes and hartals or bandhs, as they are commonly known. It is true that in some cases, in season and out of season, on flimsy grounds, bandhs had been called without

making the necessary preparation for them. Such calls for bandhs are only making this sharp weapon in the hands of the people against their oppressors blunt to the detriment of strong working class movement. This misuse must stop—there is no doubt about it. But that cannot be a ground for banning bandhs or supporting the Centre's move to ban them. However, the reported move by the Centre is not "a token of its exasperation," as commented by the said newspaper but is an ominous sign of increasingly growing fascistic tendencies in the attitude of the ruling Congress (R) party and in the administrative set up of the country. Backed by bulldozer majority in the Lok Sabha, the Congress (R) is coming out more nakedly than before in its true colour in the matter of suppression of the masses of the people and their legitimate democratic movements.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi in course of her electioneering speeches immediately preceding the last mid-term Lok Sabha election waxed eloquent on her and her party's determination to wipe out poverty among the people of our country and establish an egalitarian society, if returned to governmental power. The Congress (R) has not only come to power; it has come to power with much increased strength in the Lok Sabha, controlling more than two-thirds majority and is in a position to bring in any legislative measure and take other steps to its liking. Let

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WEST BENGAL FLOOD THIS YEAR— Administration Mainly Responsible

(By a Staff Reporter)

West Bengal is in the grip of severe flood this year. According to the State Government figures, over 80,00,000 people are affected by the floods in Bengal; nearly 2,07,000 acres of land are under water; some 4,22,000 houses are destroyed or damaged and about 1700 livestock are lost. The total loss in terms of money would come very close to Rs. 200 crores.

In our considered view, this picture of the ravages of floods and consequent loss of property, as presented by the State Government, is an under-statement. The loss is much greater in terms of money. The sufferings and distress of the flood-affected people are enormous.

From what the Governments at the Centre and in the State have done so far it is evident that they have not taken into cognizance the seriousness and enormity of the problem. For, had they really realised it, they should have tried to tackle the problem on a war footing.

It is true that floods are

a natural phenomenon and in the present character and state of economy of our country cannot be eliminated altogether. But it is an undeniable fact that they can be controlled. Let alone

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SUC Condemns dismissal of State Staff

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUC, has issued the following statement:

We are shocked to learn that 13 State Government employees have been discharged by the Government under Article 311 (2) of the Constitution and some sixty other employees are reportedly going to be dismissed in the same manner. From the nature of the case it is evident that it is victimisation pure and simple.

We strongly condemn this attack by the Government on the State Government employees.

Com. Gian Singh Choudhury Leaves for Moscow

The International Trade Union Conference of Social Security is going to be held in Moscow on and from September 20 to 24. The Organization Committee of the Conference has invited the United Trades Union Congress, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta, to send a representative. Com. Gian Singh Choudhury, Vice-President of the UTUC, will attend the Conference. He is due to leave for Moscow by plane on September 18 next.

CENTRE'S EMPLOYMENT PLAN—A PLAIN HOAX

With great fanfare the leaders of the Congress (R) and Congress (R) ministers declared their determination to ease the acute unemployment problem in the country. To make the people believe in the sincerity and seriousness of theirs, the Union Finance Minister, Shri Chavan, allocated Rs. 25 crores in the current year's budget to "relieve unemployment" among the educated.

Besides, there was further allocation of Rs 50 crores under Crash Programme for Rural Unemployment. It is now clear that these schemes are not going to be given material shape. The Planning Minister, Shri Subramaniam, has admitted that in the absence of any concrete programme to "relieve unemployment" almost the entire amount is going to lapse.

The *Times of India*, in reporting the Planning Minister's view, wrote: "...the Minister explained that the delay in drawing up programmes was essentially due to lack of proper data. It was, therefore, proposed to undertake a comprehensive survey of natural resources on the basis of which employment programmes could be planned." So, there has not been any comprehensive survey of natural resources in India even after twenty-four years since independence and completion of three Five Year Plans and two years of the Fourth Five Year Plan. If such a survey had not been made as yet, how could the four Plans be formulated? How could the man-power requirements in different Plans be chalked out? Then what had been mentioned in the Plans about man-power requirements were all bunkum and without any basis. For, without survey there cannot be real basis. How is it then Shri Chavan allocated Rs. 25 crores to "relieve unemployment" among the educated when there is no survey made of natural resources on the basis of which employment programmes can be drawn up?

The same thing applies to

the so-called Crash Programme for Rural Unemployment. Not to speak of the infinitesimally small amount compared to the actual requirement to relieve at least to some extent rural unemployment in our country, (the allocation is a drop in the ocean), there is no concrete programme in this regard either. The tall promise of providing employment to at least one hundred youths in every Block has yet to come out of the shell. In all probability, judging from the progress so far recorded in this direction, the Crash Programme itself is going to be a big hoax.

Lest one might take objection to our using the term, hoax, we like to remind our readers of the usual practice so long followed by the Congress rulers of our country in making budget proposals, particularly in matters relating to welfare and well-being of the people. Usually the budget estimate for the year is shown high; in the revised budget the amount is cut down; and the actual expenditure is only a fraction of the estimate and the amount so spent is not spent properly also. For instance, look at the Rural Works Programme for the last year. Against a budget proposal of Rs. 25 crores, subsequently approved for Rs. 13.85 crores on the basis of actual schemes under Rural Works Programme submitted by different state governments, the amount spent by the end of 1970-71 was only Rs. 9.05 crores which is just 36.2 per cent of the original budget estimate. It goes without saying that the amount actually spent had not been

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By The Way

Taking the index for 1951-52 as 100, the index for total Central taxation was 519 and taxation by the states 740 in 1970-71. In other words, the taxation by the Central Government as also by the state governments had increased 5.19 and 7.4 times respectively in the corresponding period. But whereas in 1951-52 direct and indirect taxes accounted for 30 and 70 per cent respectively of the Central taxation and 47 and 53 per cent of the taxation by the states, in 1970-71 the respective per centages were 19 and 81 for the Centre and 28 and 72 for the states. It means that direct taxes payable by the rich had been relatively reduced while indirect taxes which badly affect the general public had gone up. This is how Sm. Indira Gandhi is implementing her make-believe policy of taxing the rich more.

The C P I (M) leader, Shri Promode Das Gupta, is reported by the *Hindusthan Standard* to have said in a Press Conference "that all the other parties, including the progressive section of the Congress (R), were welcome in" a joint "movement which would include various local issues such as rise in prices of essential commodities". Till the other day, Shri Das Gupta, a protagonist of so-called idea of "class-based front", refused to recognise the necessity of United Front politics in West Bengal and asserted that the parties other than those which are with the C P I (M) in the Six Party Alliance had no positive role in the democratic movement. The self-same Shri Das Gupta has now not only felt the necessity of forming democratic unity and welcomed all other parties to come forward but also discovered "progressive section in the Congress (R)." By the way, how does then Shri Das Gupta's assessment and for that matter the assessment of the C P I (M) about the Congress (R) differ from that of the "revisionist Dangeites"?

The rulers of our country are reportedly perturbed over shortfall in industrial production in the first two years of the current Fourth Plan. They have, in their characteristic fashion, held the workers guilty for this shortfall. But according to a study made by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, out of the 200 industrial units investigated by the Chamber as many as 78 had an idle capacity of over 50 per cent. If this idle installed capacity in the industries can be fully utilized, the shortfall in industrial production can very well be removed. But for the idle installed capacity is not the chaos-discredited crisis-ridden exploiting capitalist economy made worse by bad and anti-people economic and fiscal policies of the Congress (R) rulers mainly and solely responsible? Then why do you accuse the workers? Just to give a bad name in order to hang them?

Talk of Green Revolution is here, there and everywhere. Between 1955 and 1967 the production of cereals in our country increased from 55.80 million tonnes to 82.95 million tonnes and that of pulses from 11.03 million tonnes to 12.10 million tonnes. Increased production ought to be associated with increased consumption by the people. But whereas the per capita consumption of cereals and pulses was 13.11 ounces and 2.50 ounces per day in 1955, it came down to 12.66 ounces and 1.48 ounces per day respectively in 1967, notwithstanding the increase in production. See what Green Revolution means in our country? Under capitalist order increased production by the people does not necessarily mean increased consumption and better well-being of the toiling millions.

Ravaging flood and drought in Assam

Government's callous indifference

(By a Staff Reporter)

Gauhati, September 8—With large areas in upper Assam badly affected by flood and lower Assam in the grip of severe drought and the Government remaining callously indifferent to the sufferings of the affected people, their distress knows no bound.

Parts of upper Assam, Lakhimpur and Shibsagar districts, are badly affected by flood. It is a pity that though Assam has been witnessing floods almost every year to the great sufferings of the people, neither the Central Government nor the State Government has taken any flood-control measure worth the name to save this undeveloped state and its people. In fact, Assam lags behind all other states in India in respect of flood-control and irrigation measures. Assamese people are left to the mercy of nature, thanks to twenty-four years of Congress rule since independence.

The proposed Brahmaputra flood-control scheme raised some hope in the minds of the people. But in view of the recent backing out by the Central Government from its earlier commitment that the scheme should be taken over and financed by the Centre, there is little chance of the scheme being actually carried out.

On the other hand, parts of lower Assam, the whole of North Kamrup and the Mongaldai Subdivision of the Darrang district, are severely affected by drought, resulting in acute famine condition in the area.

Reports of starvation death, distress sale of belongings and even of children by starving persons are pouring in. But the State Government and the administration are simply taking no cognizance of the acute sufferings of the people. Practically no relief measure has been adopted by the authorities to face the deteriorating situation properly.

On behalf of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, Com. Ashit Bhattacharya, its

Secretary, has appealed to the people of Assam to come forward to help in every possible way the suffering people and urged upon the left and democratic parties functioning in the state to organise mighty united mass movements against the Governments, at the Centre and in the State, so as to compel them to declare the affected areas as famine area, and give relief according to the people.

Police harass SUC Workers in Haryana

(By a Staff Reporter)

Rohtak, September 4 —

The police in the State has been harassing S. U. C. leaders and workers in Haryana on false and frivolous charges.

On 2nd September last Com. Ram Prasad, S. U. C. leader in Rohtak district was arrested by the police when he in response to a request by the S. P. went to meet him. The charge against him is alleged Naxalite activities. When Com. Gian Singh and other S.U.C. leaders of the state contacted the S. P., the latter admitted that he knew Com. Ram Prasad as belonging to the S. U. C. and not to the Naxalites. The arrest according to him had been made for interrogation.

The police is also looking out for Com. Ram Swarup, S. U. C. leader in Karnal district on the same charge.

It is strange that when the administration, particularly the police, knows full well that these comrades belong to the SUC and have no connection whatsoever with the Naxalites, they are being detained and harassed on the plea of interrogation. This unjustified police oppression must stop.

Rourkela Bye-Election

(By a Staff Reporter)

Bye-election to the Orissa Legislative Assembly from Rourkela Assembly Constituency is going to take place on 22nd September next. There will be seven-cornered contest in the bye-election.

Of the seven candidates Shri Biswanath Das, present Chief Minister of the State, though contesting as an independent, is, in fact, a candidate of the ruling United Front comprising the Swatantra Party, Utkal Congress and Jharkhand Party. The Congress (R) candidate is Shri Binayak Acharya, the present Opposition leader in the Legislative Assembly. The third is the SUCI candidate, Comrade Banabehari Jena, a well-known trade-union leader of the steel town. The CPI (M) candidate is the fourth one. There are three other independent candidates.

The SUCI tried its best to have one left candidate in the bye-election on the basis of the principle that the Party

which is organisationally the strongest in the Constituency and whose candidate got the highest votes in the last mid-term election among the candidates of all the left parties should have its candidate selected as the only left candidate. The CPI (M) refused to accept this sound principle and by setting up its own candidate against SUC candidate and dividing left votes, is objectively helping the rightist parties. The CPI also is openly backing the Congress (R) candidate. The disruptionist policy of the CPI (M) and the opportunist pro-Congress (R) line of the CPI have caused great resentment among the electors, particularly the workers and employees of the HSL.

DSO Candidate Wins Delhi Varsity Polls

(By a Staff Reporter)

New Delhi, September 2—In the Delhi University Students Union election held yesterday, D S O candidate, Om Prakash, was elected Vice-President of the Union. It may be noted that the Congress (R)-led and the CPI (M)-controlled student organisations could not win a single seat. All the posts were captured by the Jan Sangh-led organisation except the one won by the D S O.

Unlike in other states, the students' organisational election in Delhi is a costly affair in which the political parties like the Congress (R), Jan Sangh and the CPI (M) spend huge amounts in support of their respective candidates. It is reported even in newspapers that this year "more than 50 per cent of the voters spent luxurious fortnight at hill stations at the expense of some of the candidates" belonging to these parties. Election offices had first rate free catering arrangements.

In the background of this

role of the big political parties and their student organisations in corrupting the students just to secure some seats in the University Students Union, the determination of the D S O not to indulge in the corrupt practice and contest the election on the basis of democratic demands of the students for truly secular, democratic and scientific education inspiring the students with new sense of moral values conducive to social progress attracted the keen attention not only of the students but of the teachers as well.

A 20 year Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between India and the Soviet Union was signed at New Delhi on 9th August last and subsequently ratified by the two governments. The treaty covers a wide range of subjects from assurances of further technical and economic co-operation between the two countries to issues of war and peace. Not surprisingly, the various political quarters at home and abroad reacted differently on this treaty in either hailing it as a 'treaty of peace against war' or expressing misgivings on it or even condemning it outright.

Most of the political parties in India, including the big left ones, have found in this treaty, in the words of Mr. Swaran Singh, the Indian Foreign Minister, "a deterrent to any powers that may have aggressive designs on our territorial integrity and sovereignty" and the treaty has assumed a special significance in the light of Pakistan's belligerent attitude and persistent warmongering directed against India, centring round Bangladesh issue. The Indian people have undoubtedly hailed this treaty as it served at least to remove the threat of an immediate out-break of war in this sub-continent. Some political quarters however, feel that the treaty as it is found, does not provide any reliable guarantee that in the event of any actual precipitation of war on India by Pakistan the Soviet Union will effectively engage its military potential to defend this country, nor there is even a single word expressing unequivocal support on Bangladesh freedom movement. Besides, the treaty contains within it some clauses, which are quite irrelevant under the present circumstances and may also be interpreted as designed to serve Soviet Union's diplomatic interests alone, even to the detriment of the cause of promotion of India's patriotic and national interests.

Since the appearance of the first socialist state, a socialist country has been developing its foreign policy with the object of maintaining world peace and based on the principles of peaceful co-existence between different social systems. It is in pursuance with such a policy that

the socialist countries, in the past, have concluded several non-aggression and friendship treaties with the capitalist countries. In elaborating the revolutionary significance of the policy of peace and peaceful co-existence pursued by the socialist camp, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the day had said long ago that "in the existing changed international situation if the imperialists are compelled to follow the policy of peaceful co-existence and non-intervention in the domestic affair of other countries by the force of peace movement, it will be easier for the working class and other exploited masses of people in the capitalist countries to overthrow their respective enemy through revolution. The revolutionary significance of the present-day peace movement lies precisely in the creation of that very favourable condition in the international situation, which makes it possible for the revolutionary forces in the capitalist and colonial countries to conduct revolutionary battles against their respective enemies without foreign intervention and interference. Thus the world-wide peace movement or the policy of peaceful co-existence is neither a political manoeuvre nor a subtle device to kill time for war preparations; on the contrary, if correctly understood, each of them is one of the complex revolutionary means to accelerate the course of socialist revolution in metropolitan capitalist countries and national liberation movements in coloni-

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and semi-colonies which, in the present situation, are part and parcel of world proletarian revolution" (*War and Peace, Peaceful Co-existence and Peaceful Transition to Socialism*, published in *Socialist Unity*, October 1, 1962). So any such treaty, a socialist country being a party to it, if embodies this revolutionary principle, fulfils the purpose of preservation of world peace and upholds democracy, national independence and sovereignty of any country against imperialist aggression, then it is heartily welcomed by any freedom-loving person and more so, by the revolutionaries.

The attitude of the progressive sections of our people regarding the present Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation should obviously be based on whether this treaty promises to fulfil the above objects in future. The Congress leaders, representing the interests of the Indian monopoly capitalism, while explaining the significance of this treaty and its tremendous bearing so far as Indian national interests are concerned, have termed the signing of this treaty as an historic event and a new milestone in the path of developing closer relationship, in almost all spheres, between India and the Soviet Union. Moreover, they have asserted that the treaty gives a formal recognition to the deep friendship and solidarity which have been existing between the two countries over a long period. But besides this friendly relation, another important factor from the Indian point of view, behind framing up this treaty, was to secure the military support of the Soviet Union in order to meet Pakistan's military challenge that may precipitate an aggressive war on India. But unfortunately, apart from some general declarations on mutual help and co-operation in the economic, scientific and cultural fields, no such definite military commitment as desired by India from the

side of the Soviet Union is apparent in this treaty. What has been said on this question in clause IX of the treaty runs as follows: "In the event of either party being subjected to an attack or a threat thereof, the parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and security of their countries". Clearly there is no sign of any military commitment by the Soviet Union so far as the question of defence of India in the face of any external aggression on her is concerned.

No doubt the Indian people have hailed this treaty as it highlights the necessity to prevent any outbreak of war in this region or to crush any war adventure and war machination in order to maintain peace and normal conditions in this sub-continent. But one notable feature of this treaty is that at the time when this treaty was being signed by the two countries, the freedom fighters in Bangladesh were laying down their lives in thousands to free their motherland from the hands of the autocratic rulers of West Pak military regime. But the treaty has failed to give any indication in respect of giving all out help to this freedom struggle so that it can develop on a mighty scale and culminate in final victory. Rather, it is very strange to note that the most vital question, the question of freedom struggle of Bangladesh has been ignored and instead, what is called upon is "to take urgent steps in East Pakistan for the achievement of a political solution and for the creation of conditions of safety for the return of the refugees to their homes, which alone would ensure the interests of the entire people of Pakistan and the cause of the preservation of peace in the area." (Quoted from joint statement issued at the conclusion of talks between Mr. Gromyko

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and Mr. Swaran Singh on 11th August last). What type of political solution does it mean? Can there be any solution acceptable to both the fascist military junta of West Pakistan cruelly suppressing the freedom struggle in Bangladesh and the freedom fighters striving for complete national independence of East Bengal? Does not this solution virtually negate the very object of full freedom the people of Bangladesh have pledged to achieve and for which have already laid down their lives in legion?

Not only the treaty does not include any definite commitment in respect of Bangladesh freedom struggle, but it also involves certain clauses which have practically no relevance under the present circumstances. In clause X of the treaty it has been stated that: "Each contracting party solemnly declares that it shall not enter into any obligation, secret or public, with one or more states which is incompatible with this treaty. Each party further declares that no obligation exists, nor shall any obligation be entered into, between itself and any other state or states, which might cause military damage to the other party." In what way such a clause is meant to safeguard the national interests of India? It seems to many in this country that it is only in the interests of Soviet diplomacy that this clause has been included in this treaty. In the prevailing political atmosphere when the socialist camp is divided and there is as yet no sign of re-establishing this unity amongst them for putting up an united face against imperialism, the incorporation of such a clause in the treaty is bound to create some misgivings in the minds of the progressive sections of the people of our country that it is purported only to fulfil the interests of Soviet diplomacy alone. It is important to note here that at a time when China is attempting to normalise her

relationship with all countries, including India, and it is quite possible now to normalise our relationship with China and restore old friendship, provided India Government makes a vigorous move to that end—which should, in our considered opinion, be immediately done, in conformity with the interests of our country and its patriotic people and even from the point of view of bourgeois national interests—this treaty was concluded with hot haste by the Soviet Union taking advantage of India's complete dependence on her due to Bangladesh issue. So in the background of prevailing hostility between the Soviet Union and China, such an apprehension cannot be ruled out that this treaty, particularly the clause X of this treaty may be aimed at frustrating the necessary move required from the side of India Government to restore our old friendship with China.

A question still haunts the minds of conscientious public, why the Soviet Union has particularly chosen this time in signing this treaty and has hastily concluded it, containing certain clauses which may be interpreted as an attempt to bind India closely with her against China, now a hostile country of the Soviet Union, taking advantage of India's difficulty on Bangladesh issue. Whereas it was expected of the Soviet Union, carrying a long revolutionary tradition as a socialist state to take a patient, real, energetic and objective approach towards restoration of normal relationship with China, thereby cementing the unity of the socialist camp, the Soviet Union on the contrary, is obstructing China's sincere effort to develop friendly relationship with all countries, which is clearly evident from their recent hectic diplomatic move precisely designed for that purpose and from the renewed slanderous tirade against China in the Soviet Press. The socialist countries always want to establish and maintain normal

relations with the capitalist states on the basis of the policy of peaceful co-existence, with a view to correctly handle the contradictions within the imperialist-capitalist camp, to the utmost advantage of furthering the cause of world proletarian revolution. If with this object, China proceeds to normalise her relationship with the U.S.A, which is now possible due to the present shift in US policy regarding China, resulting in the lifting of US embargo on her (a clear mark of the defeat of US imperialist policy of containing China in the face of China's consistent and tough anti-imperialist policy, the decisive struggle of the valiant fighters of Indo-China, and the anti-war movement by the American people inside their country)—then why the Soviet Union has become so vociferous against China and is vilifying her, imputing a subjective motive on her that China by their move of normalising relationship with the USA, is conspiring against the Soviet Union and therefore has deviated from Marxism-Leninism for narrow nationalistic and opportunistic interests—a queer logic indeed. It is also believed that the Soviet Union was, worriedly and anxiously, noticing for some time, the growing symptoms of India's eagerness to restore normal relationship and if possible old friendship with China. Precisely under this background, one is likely to presume that the Soviet Union has particularly chosen this moment for signing this treaty with such a haste with the sole motive of binding India closely with her against China, when India is in a difficult situation and completely dependent on Soviet Union's help for Bangladesh issue. One cannot find any relevance or plausible justification under the present circumstances, for the inclusion of such an ominous clause in the treaty other than the only purpose of isolating China, since at present it is only with China and no other state, the Soviet Union continues to maintain a bitter relation and in fact, there exists a situation of military con-

frontation on border disputes between them.

If it is seen that in course of time it becomes possible to have a rapprochement between the Soviet Union and China, and the unity of the Socialist Camp is gradually restored, then this particular clause of the treaty will have practically no bearing on India in playing her full independent role, rather it will be then helpful, in the pursuit of India's national interests, fulfilling the patriotic aspirations of the Indian people. But if such a situation does not occur in the near future, and the hostile attitude of the Soviet Union against China still continues, then whatever small benefit the Indian side might have accrued out of this treaty in respect of Bangladesh problem, in deriving out of it, a temporary effect of creating some pressure on Pakistan and restraining to some extent, her aggressive attitude towards India—this treaty in the long run, in course of 20 years, will virtually subjugate Indian interests and this particular clause, will definitely act as a brake on our attempts to normalise relationship and restore old friendship with China. There is no doubt about it, whatever might be the promises given otherwise, by our Government spokesmen.

Notification

We have pleasure to announce the publication of a Cultural Quarterly in English entitled **TREND**. The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India requests the readers to be subscribers of this new Quarterly. Annual subscription Rs.4'00. Price of a single copy Re. 1.00. Available at 88B, Bepin Behari Ganguli Street, Calcutta-12

Congress (R) Serving Aggregate Interest of Monopoly Capitalism in the Name of National Interest

(Contd. from page 1)

Mrs. Gandhi then ameliorate the sufferings and wipe out poverty of the toiling millions. But the reality is that, notwithstanding the catchy slogan of 'Garibi Hatao,' she had not moved in that direction. The people are subjected to grinding poverty as before and nothing has been done by Mrs. Gandhi and her Government to improve in any way, materially or culturally, their sub-human condition. Rather with the passage of time their condition is worsening. It is the unbearable sub-human condition coupled with orgy of sadistic violence by the police and other para-military police like the CRP, etc. let loose by the governments upon the people that is compelling the masses to rise in revolt against the existing social order in the form of general strikes, hartals and other movements.

When social justice demands removal of the legitimate grievances of the people and support for their legitimate democratic movements, which include general strikes and hartals, to remove those grievances, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her Government are making no attempt whatsoever to remove those grievances but, on the contrary, are bent on crushing with strong hand the legitimate democratic mass movements. And for that purpose they are equipping themselves with all conceivable weapons, legislative and otherwise. All the black Acts which the alien imperialist rulers of our country brought into being to suppress the freedom struggle here have been preserved by the present Congress rulers in the legislative armoury of the State. Almost every year they are being supplemented by new and newer measures more Draconian than even the British-made black Acts. And we see today Acts like Essential Services Maintenance Act, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, Maintenance of Internal Security Act, Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act, etc. etc., the existence of which cuts at the very root of democracy—not proletarian

democracy which is not attainable under capitalism but bourgeois democracy which the Indian Constitution is supposed to guarantee under Chapter III. The proposed move to ban general strikes and hartals by the Centre, when it will mature into law, will add one more feather to the fascist cap of Mrs. Gandhi and her Government. Right to strike is an inalienable right under existing exploiting capitalist order of the working class. Right to organise hartals is a democratic right of the people brutally exploited and oppressed under capitalism. Such forms of movement for expressing protests or achieving democratic objectives are well acknowledged in bourgeois countries. By its move to take away the right to strike and organise hartals, the Centre is objectively demonstrating that in spite of platitudes to so-called democracy, it is wedded to take away the democratic rights of the Indian people in order to defend and safeguard more nakedly the aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism. The present rule is nothing but the dictatorial rule of the Congress (R) representing that interest.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on an earlier occasion, dubbed the general strike and hartal in West Bengal on 27th August last as anti-national and unpatriotic. By this utterance the daughter only followed the father who had the impudence to call the Central Government employees' striking in 1960 as anti-national and their strike as an unpatriotic act. Declaring the bandh anti-national and unpatriotic is a plea to ban it. What after all is patriotism? It is love for the people of one's own motherland. And what does true love demand? It demands an all out effort for emancipating the people so loved from all sorts of exploitation and bondage, economic, political, social and cultural. Any movement directed towards that end

cannot be termed unpatriotic; rather, any one who opposes that movement, no matter whatever may be the plea, is guilty of committing an unpatriotic act. Is Mrs. Gandhi or her Congress organising movements to free people from all sorts of exploitation and bondage, or, are they handling the present Indian state machinery to perpetuate that exploitation and bondage and using police, military, jail and other organs of the state to suppress by violence the movement for emancipation of our people from exploitation and bondage? As Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress (R) are doing the latter. They are, therefore, guilty of unpatriotic acts.

To dub general strikes and hartals as such as anti-national is equally wrong. The Indian nation today is not an undivided homogeneous whole; it is divided into different classes. On the one side are the Tatas, Birlas, Singhanias and such other monopolists, the other capitalists, the Jotedars, the big officials occupying places of position in the bureaucratic set up in the country, the agents and lackeys of the exploiters. On the other side are the workers including agricultural labourers, landless and poor peasants, lower middle peasants, lower middle class and other exploited masses of the Indian people. The Indian nation is, thus, broadly divided into exploiters and the exploited. Whether one likes it or not, the social forces in our country today are historically placed in this way with definite and distinct class interests and corresponding historical roles to play. There is no idea or act in such a class-divided society which is supra-class and serves the interests of all classes alike at the same time. This is the teaching of history and of social science. It is the historical condition that has placed you into a position

that you cannot serve the exploiter and the exploited alike at the same time. If you serve the one, you cannot serve the other. Now if the people constitute the nation then what serves the interest of the people is national while what does not serve the interest of the people but serves the interest of the exploiters is anti-national. Whose interests the Prime Minister means when she speaks of national interests? The interests of the capitalists and their hirelings, or, those of the workers and other exploited masses of the people? Certainly, the interests of the former. Everywhere the capitalist interests are presented by the rulers in capitalist countries before the masses as national interests. The reason is obvious; to befool the masses and with the support of the politically unconscious confused masses try to defend and safeguard the interests of the exploiting capitalists class. It is the bounden duty of the working class and other exploited masses of the people to free themselves from the fake notion of national interests propagated by the ruling bourgeoisie and its hired intellectuals.

Com. Shirdas Ghosh, General Secretary of the SUCI and an outstanding Marxist-Leninist thinker of the day, as far back as 1966, on the occasion of eighteenth anniversary of the Party, observed; "The present structure of law and order in our country is still carrying on the imperialist tradition. It has no fundamental conflict with that. If you examine then you will find that the repressive laws which the British imperialist rulers of our country enacted have not been repealed. They are still there and still more repressive laws are now being enacted by the Congress rulers. And this is being done in the name of security of the nation. But whose nation? Of the Tatas and Birlas, or, of the crores and crores of those who live by the sweat of their brow?"

(Contd. to page 7)

Resist Fascist Attack on Democratic Struggle

(Contd. from page 6)

If the toiling people constitute the nation then on the question of national security these black laws need not have been imposed on them. On the contrary, they would have been imposed on the black-market-eers, anti-social elements, imperialist agents, the Tatas, Birlas and the like. But the reverse is taking place. Here the black laws are being applied as punitive measures to suppress legitimate democratic movements of the people. Who are disturbing law and order in this country? If the people constitute the nation then how can the selfsame people endanger national security, law and order? So when they say nation, they mean the nation of the Tatas and Birlas and not the nation of the people. The law and order meant to protect the interests of that nation, the nation of the Tatas and Birlas, cannot be obeyed by the people for all time—they obey it for some time unwillingly, out of fear. But when it becomes unbearable, they refuse to obey it and burst like bombs and fight for destroying it. This is only natural. *** The main question centring round which the political consciousness of the people still remains confused relates to this that almost all of us, in place of developing and sharpening the class consciousness in our class-divided society, are chewing the cud of "national interests", "national planning", "national development" and such other terms. When the leaders, use these terms, especially those who call themselves Marxists-Leninists, ask them point blank the interest, planning and development of which class they mean by terms national interest, national planning and national development."

It is no accident that Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Congress (R) and the Government she heads at the Centre, without showing any inclination to

improve the condition of the toiling millions in our country, a promise she had made earlier to them, have availed themselves of their secured position in the Lok Sabha and chosen to come out with an undemocratic measure like the M I S Act to detain people without trial and to move for banning general strikes and hartals. Those who harbour any illusion about Mrs. Gandhi and her Congress as progressive should take correct lessons from these anti-people moves and get over that illusion. It should be realised that like the Congress (O), the Congress (R) also is a bourgeois party, an enemy, rather the main enemy of our people. The only difference between the two is that while the Congress (O) represents the individual interests of the Indian monopolists, the Congress (R) represents the aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism. The radical posture of the latter is just a cloak to conceal its actual character, confuse the people and drag their support behind it. Fascists use such radical cloak for their growth and development in a country. Social-Democratic programmes provide that cloak. The Social-Democratic measures, like nationalisation of banks and general insurance, 24th and 25th amendments of the Indian Constitution and moves to abolish Privy purse, adopted by the Indira Government together with the repeated praise of Mrs. Gandhi and her Congress as progressive by some left parties like the CPI and the CPI (M) are adding polish to the radical cloak and creating more confusions among the people about the Congress (R) and the Central Government as progressive. Taking advantage of the favourable situation thus created by the Social-Democratic measures and praises by some left parties of the Congress (R) as progressive, the Government is bringing in repressive laws. Signs of the dual tactics of

DEMONSTRATION BY JAJPUR FLOOD-HIT PEOPLE

(By a Staff Reporter)

Jajpur, Orissa, September 1— Under the joint auspices of the local committees of the SUCI, Khet Mazdur Federation, Democratic Students Organisation and Democratic Youth Organisation, several thousands flood-affected people of Jajpur Sub-division, Orissa, demonstrated before the Jajpur S.D.O. Court demanding relief for the distressed and flood-affected people.

Before they came to the Court, the people marched along different streets of the town in a procession shouting various slogans expressing the just demands of the people. Thereafter a meeting was held at Court compound which was presided over by Com. Chakradhar Rath, a veteran peasant leader of the locality. The president in his speech strongly condemned the Central and State Governments' policies

fascism of giving minor concessions to the people through Social-Democratic plans, programmes, and measures and thereby, taking advantage of the political immaturity and low standard of the ideological political consciousness of the masses, enlist popular support behind fascistic reconstruction on the one hand and on the other hand of ruthless and naked suppression of militant mass movements are noticeable in the moves by the Indira Congress and its Government at the Centre. In fact, the Congress (R) has in it more of the potential danger of a fascist party compared to the Congress (O) in our country. In the interest of safeguarding the democratic rights of freedom of thought, expression, association, demonstration and movement of our people and strengthening democratic movements, the proposed ban on general strikes and hartals must be opposed tooth and nail by organising mighty mass movements. We appeal to all left and democratic parties to come forward to develop that movement. We urge upon the people to mobilise themselves with all strength against the Centre's proposed move to ban general strikes and hartals.

which had so long neglected the cause of the people of Orissa and taken no flood protection measures to save the people from the ravages of periodical floods in the area. He castigated the State Government for not coming forward to help flood-affected people properly.

The meagre relief and that too guided by petty party politics of the ruling parties and misappropriated by unscrupulous persons had intensified the sufferings of the flood-affected people against which the people must conduct organised movement—the president concluded.

Among others who addressed the meeting were Comrades Dwarikanath Rath, Mayadhar Nayak, Golaka Mallik and Balaram Sahoo.

On behalf of the demonstrators a deputation met the S.D.O, Jajpur, handed over to him a 10-point memorandum adopted at the meeting and demanded early implementation of the measures mentioned in the memorandum.

CRASH PROGRAMME —A BUNKUM

(Contd. from page 2)

properly spent; a substantial portion of it had gone into the pockets of unscrupulous men. Examine the budgets either by the Centre or of states under Congress (R) rule and you will find innumerable instances of such fraud on the people. With an eye to publicity by bamboozling the people and for giving a polish to the cloak of radicalism, in order ultimately to cheat the people for safeguarding capitalist interests, this practice is followed. The fanfare by the Congress (R) leaders about relief to the unemployed is equally directed towards that aim also.

WEST BENGAL FLOOD

(Contd. from page 1)

controlling, floods this year in West Bengal are to a very large extent Government-made, because, even according to Government admission, discharge from the DVC water have contributed much to the floods in Howrah and Hooghly districts.

The people expected that proper relief would be given to the flood victims speedily. But this expectation of the people has been belied. Relief measures have been not only extremely inadequate but also hampered by bureaucratic formalities and petty party interests. For instance, there being no clear-cut definition as to who constitute the flood-affected people in the Relief code, serious differences have cropped up between the District Magistrate and the Sub-Divisional Officers in the District of Murshidabad, resulting in almost complete breakdown of the relief work by the Government. Then again, it is reported that the people of those Anchals only are getting 4 kg of rice and/or wheat as G. R. per head where the Anchal Pradhans belong to the Congress (R) as against those in other Anchals who are getting 1 to 2 kg where there are non-Congress (R) Pradhans in Jangipur Sub-Division. This exposes the partisan and anti-humanitarian attitude of

the present Government in the State. Now that West Bengal is under President's Rule, the Central Government must be held responsible for the defect, insufficiency and political manoeuvre in the relief-work by the Government.

This being the position, short-term and long-term measures for relief and flood-control respectively should be adopted without delay.

The flood-affected people of Murshidabad district, particularly of the Jangipur Sub-Division, made repeated representations to the Sub-Divisional and District authorities for adequate relief measures and for removing mal-practices and petty party politics from Government relief work. Failing to get any response from the authorities, they came to the Governor in a very big mass deputation on 13th September last to impress upon him the necessity of taking some immediate tangible steps. The Governor met their representatives and assured them of necessary help.

Comrades Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, Subodh Banerjee, Sukomal Das Gupta and Achinta Singh met the Governor. The mass deputation was preceded by a meeting at Subodh Mullick Square which was presided over by Com. Sukomal Das Gupta.

FUEL RESEARCH STAFF OBSERVE DEMAND WEEK

(By a Staff Reporter)

Dhanbad, September 2—The employees of the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, Bihar, organised under the Central Fuel Research Institute Employees' Association submitted a 13-point charter of demands to the Director of the Institute on 22nd July last.

But strangely enough the director has not shown even the courtesy to acknowledge receipt of it or to open negotiation with the Employees' Association for peaceful settlement of the dispute. Failing to move the management to settle the dispute amicably, the Executive Committee of the Employees' Association

decided to observe a demand week from 30th August to 4th September to press forward the demands of the employees. Com. V. P. Marwah, President of the C. F. R. I. Employees' Association had urged upon all the employees to further intensify their movements to compel the authorities to accept their just demands.

Demonstration Against Pornography

(By a Staff Reporter)

Calcutta, September 10—Calcutta is now flooded with pornographic trash in the form of books and sex-magazines which are being sold in broad daylight under the very nose of the police. The law against publication and sale of obscene books and magazines is observed more in violation than in adherence. Against the growing menace of pornography, big-size wall-posters showing almost nude female bodies and the showing of obscene films, the Calcutta unit of the Democratic Youth Organisation today brought out a big demonstration.

The demonstrators submitted a memorandum to the Governor which contained, among others, the demands for the setting up of an advisory body with representatives from progressive cultural organisations, progressive writers, artists, intellectuals etc., to help the Government in determining books to be declared obscene and strong steps against publishers and sellers of

pornography.

Earlier a meeting was held at Subodh Mullick Square where the speakers urged upon the necessity of not only stricter measures and vigilance by the administration and the police but also creation of new moral values based on progressive ideals among the youths of the country and of strong public opinion against obscene books, films etc.

CITU ASSAULTS MAZDOOR UNION WORKERS AT DURGAPUR

When the management of the Ophthalmic Glass Factory at Durgapur was compelled under pressure from the workmen to open negotiations with the Ophthalmic Glass Mazdoor Union on some long-standing demands of the workmen, the CITU-controlled Union there in connivance with the management gave a call for strike on 9th and 10th September last with a view to frustrating the negotiations with the Mazdoor Union.

The workmen resisted this disruptive move directed against the workmen by the CITU-controlled Union and did not respond to its strike call. Enraged at the failure of their move, some of the office-bearers of the CITU-controlled Union backed by outsiders and anti-social elements severely assaulted two members of the

Executive Committee of the Mazdoor Union and some other workmen, as a result of which they had to be admitted into MAMC Hospital, Durgapur. This goondaism by the office-bearers of the CITU-controlled Union has caused strong resentment among the general workmen in Durgapur.

Notification

There will not be any publication of the Proletarian Era on October 1 next as the printing press will remain closed for the Pujas. The next issue will be published on October 15 next.