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UPA government's move to roll out draconian reforms like FDI in retail and withdrawal of fuel subsidy akin to Declaring War Against People

It is not just a blistering attack on the poverty-stricken multitudes but declaration of a full-fledged war against them. The so called policy initiatives mooted by the Congress-led central government in the form of first a steep hike in diesel prices by Rs 5 a litre, imposing a six-cylinder-a-year-cap on subsidized cooking gas for households and then opening up retail sector to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), disinvestment of four profit-making Public Sector Units (PSUs) and a few such other steps are stated to be only the beginning of the 'much awaited' large-scale reforms. What is up their sleeves, as indicated by the ruling party bigwigs, would unfold in phases to prove that the government is 'performing' and responding to 'economic compulsions' abandoning 'populist politics'. Economic agenda of the government includes complete deregularization of fuel tariff, sweeping out all subsidies — food, fuel, fertilizer, allowing investment of pension fund corpus in speculative stock market, allowing FDI in banks and insurance, further disinvestment of PSUs, covering broader areas under proposed 'Goods and Services Tax' and so forth. It is also worth noting that all these major decisions affecting billions of countrymen were taken by completely bypassing the parliament and if one of the columnists in the pay roll of the

media barons owing allegiance to the ruling monopolists is to be believed, the Prime Minister (PM) might continue on this trajectory and usher in pending reforms through ordinance route. While the industrial houses, chambers of commerce, the yes-men of the government, bourgeois media, both domestic and foreign, stock market operators and the capitalist-friendly economists have hailed these 'reforms' as 'bold and beautiful', the people at large bearing the brunt of increasing capitalist oppression have expressed their vehement opposition in no uncertain a term and demanded rollback of the same, lock, stock and barrel. But, as we all know, the depraved is never starved of subterfuge. So, the ruling bourgeoisie, its subservient government and political parties and its pliant economists-bureaucrats are dishing out a flurry of arguments to justify why such 'much overdue' reform measures are imperative for reviving an economy slipping down a chute and foster growth. Even paid advertisements are being released by the government in support of its moves. On the other hand, the various political parties irrespective of hues who are desperate to stay visible in the vote-based parliamentary politics are airing different views over the issue, and certain realignment of ruling as well as opposition combinations

has also taken place. So, it becomes necessary for the common suffering people to derive a correct understanding about the import and inevitable fallout of this plethora of economic reforms as well as the political developments taking place centring on the same.

Hiking diesel, LPG prices — claim and reality

First of all, let us see what is the logic advanced by the bourgeois government and its mentors, as well as lackeys, in support of this 'big bang' reforms. According to them, with fall in rupee value, spurt in international crude price and inability of the cash-strapped government to provide subsidy any more, there is no way out but to steeply hike fuel prices, restrict supply of LPG cylinders at

subsidized rate and gradually deregularize domestic fuel tariff totally so that the oil companies do not suffer loss. We had in our more than one earlier write-ups clearly shown that all these pleas are bogus. Calculation would show that around 50% of the retail fuel tariff comprises customs duty, excise duty, special excise duty, education cess, sales tax and state cess and commission to oil dealers. If the government wants, it can always lower, if not withdraw, the taxes and give relief to the people. The whining over increasing or 'burgeoning loss' of the oil behemoths is another hoax since the 'under recovery' in the parlance of bourgeois economics which finds no place in balance sheet of any company and, to put in simple term,

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SUCI(C) protests imposition of service tax on freight charges, auxiliary services provided at the stations and fares across all air-conditioned classes in Railways

Strongly reacting to the most unjust and arbitrary imposition of so-called service tax on freight charges, auxiliary services provided at the stations and fares across all air-conditioned classes in Railways simply by way of issuing administrative fiat, Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in course of a statement issued on 28-09-12 said that apart from pushing the spiralling price line further up making life yet more strangulating for the common people, these steps bear a clear indication of the barrage of such anti-people moves in the offing including steep rise in train fares. People must rise in protest and foil this sinister move of the Congress-led central government under pressure of powerful united movement.



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) and All India President, AIUTUC addressing the massive Open Session gathering of 20th West Bengal State Conference of AIUTUC held in Kolkata on 28 September. (News in next issue)

Scam, profligacy , ‘fiscal stimulus’ squander away exchequer — government withdraws subsidy to generate cash

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means the difference between the retail price of petroleum products and its landed import cost. The government is deliberately hoodwinking the people by projecting a self-computed ‘notional’ figure as loss. In fact, every oil company is making profit. The Indian Oil Company, The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and The Bharat Petroleum have booked net profits of Rs. 4,265.27 crores, Rs. 911 crores and Rs. 1,546.68 crores respectively in 2011-12.

Next point is about providing subsidy. A Parliamentary Standing Committee report shows that in 2010-11, the total earning from the taxes and duties levied on petroleum products was Rs. 2,25,494 crore while the total subsidies paid to the oil companies, including the issuance of oil bonds, amounted to Rs. 43,926 crore. So even after the subsidies, the Centre was still left with a surplus of Rs. 92,571 crore. As per the paid advertisement released by the union petroleum ministry a fortnight back, total tax collection from oil in 2011-12 has been Rs 1, 96, 600 crores while subsidy figure stood at Rs 1, 38, 500 crores. The surplus in government kitty continues to be Rs 58, 100 crores. And, our ‘economist’ PM while justifying cut in subsidy remarked that ‘money does not grow on trees’. The ‘learned’ PM and his pied-pipers, however, do find money growing on trees while granting over Rs 5,25, 000 crores of ‘fiscal stimulus’ to the corporate sector, defrauding the exchequer to the tune of Rs 1, 76, 000 crores and Rs 1,86, 000 crores by the scamsters of 2G and Coalgate scandals respectively, stashing out of as high as Rs 72, 00, 000 lakh crores (1.4 trillion US dollars) of black money to Swiss Banks, offering plethora of tax concessions to giant MNCs and waiving of huge arrears of deliberate tax defaulters, diluting even the cosmetic rules to acquiesce in the aggressive tax avoidance tax by the large stock market speculators and financial oligarchs, making hefty allocations towards most unproductive military budget and highly risky nuclear power generation, raising salaries and perks of the ministers and legislatures and footing foreign travel bills of the smug, cloistered executives and bureaucrats. While India’s fiscal deficit stands at Rs. 5,21,980 crore, tax foregone because of evasion by and various concessions to the rich is to the tune

of Rs. 5,29,432 crore. It is reported that as high as Rs 200 crores were coughed up from the national kitty to foreign trip expenses of Prathiba Patel, former President. Just 18 nights of global forays of Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission and a strong pitcher for large-scale ‘reforms’ drained Rs. 36, 40,140, i.e. \$4,000 from the exchequer. But when it comes to the question of providing some respite to the one billion penury-stricken populace, subsidy figures of Rs. 60,974.10 crores for fertilizer or Rs. 75,000.00 become ‘fiscally ruinous’ propositions. It does not require any ‘proficiency in economics or ‘finance sense’ to make out whom the PM and his cohorts are ‘fighting’ and on behalf of whom?

FDI in retail—claim and reality

Come to the question of opening up retail sector to FDI. The PM his ministerial colleagues, shrewd bourgeois economists and columnists like Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Kaushik Basu, Swaminathan Aiyar and such others proclaim that allowing FDI in retail would spur GDP growth, ensure better prices to the farmers and lower prices to the consumers, bring new methods and techniques of crop cultivation, better technology for preservation of food articles and food products and other essential items, reduce wastage obviating necessity for cold storage and better modernized distribution mechanism and create millions of quality jobs. Variety of offers and mutual competition among the corporate retailers would make retail shopping an exciting experience, both in terms of pleasure as well as affordability. Moreover, the existing procurement system of agricultural produce and other essential items by the government and other accredited agencies is dominated by a host of middlemen leading to depriving the poor peasants of remunerative prices. Once the foreign retail giant step in, they would offer better prices to the peasants, wipe out the middlemen, raise farm incomes, lower prices for consumers by way of direct contact between farmers and buyers and create 10 million jobs. ‘Naysayer’s’ argument about destruction of the *kirana* shops (small retailers or traditional shops of consumer goods) is baseless because both would coexist and these shops will also revamp themselves to take on any new competition. This is how the cheer

of the corporate sector and the bourgeois camp is crooning to defend entry of FDI in retail.

But facts speak otherwise. While the apologists of reforms argue that farmer’s income in India would go up substantially once big foreign retailers come in, a paper submitted in 2004 by Andrew Shepard, an economist with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, states that large supermarkets push small farmers out of business under the plea that they do not come up to expectations in terms of volume, quality and delivery. According to a recent Oxfam study, a decade ago coffee farmers used to earn \$10 billion from a global market worth \$30 billion. Now they receive less than \$6 billion in a global market over \$60 billion. After penetration of monopoly in retail, a cocoa farmer from Ghana gets only 3.9% of the price of a typical milk chocolate bar while the retail profit margin was around 34%. A banana producer gets around 5% while 34% goes as profits to the retailer. Similarly, 54% of a pair of jeans goes to the retailers while the manufacturing worker gets only 12%. How could one then claim of betterment in the lot of the poor peasants once the foreign retail giants take over? In our country also, earlier it was told that once 100 per cent FDI in sectors like seed and fertilizer is introduced and prices were aligned to global prices in keeping with capitalist globalisation, farm income would shoot up by 25%. But reality turned out to be just to the contrary. 7.5 million people abandoned agriculture in a decade, many driven out by the so called ‘farmer benefitting’ policies of corporate retail. Unable to repay loans, around 3 lakh peasants have committed suicide. In US, the number of people having farming as occupation has come down from 25 million in 1950 to less than one million now following wrecking of smaller farmer families by corporate monopolies at every level, from giant agri-businesses to mammoth retail chains. A paper from the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Oklahoma, has informed that “large corporations have in recent years moved to curtail farmer independence through production contracts and other forms of vertical integration.” It is also understood that emergence of giant private retail chain in Malaysia slashed the number of vegetable suppliers from 200 in 2001 to just 30 in 2003. While it is claimed that the big

retailers would sell ‘natural’ or ‘fresh’ stuff, experience says that in US, the homeland of Wal-Mart, Americans seeking decent produce not drowned in chemicals, pesticides and preservatives are reportedly buying more and more from whatever of skeleton “farmers’ markets” are existing there. As regards abolition of middlemen, their number might initially be slashed. But soon the more exploitative middlemen in the chain will be co-opted by giant retail as collectors and contractors and what kind of bargaining power the poor peasants would have against these mega-middlemen? These middlemen would then dictate terms to the peasants not only on procurement prices but even on the kind of produce as per the need of the big retail through ‘contract farming’ route. The government chanting the mantra of liberalization would remain a silent onlooker. In effect, the peasants would virtually be in capitulation of these retail behemoths. Yes, it would eliminate the poor vendors who daily provide our towns and cities with fresh produce at the markets or carry huge baskets to the doorsteps of the households. We blame them for price rise but these poor do not push up the prices and have their modest margin squeezed each time the price shoots up. It is this ‘vendor middlemen’ whom the government is talking of eliminating.

The claim that FDI would create 10 million jobs in retail market is another bunkum. Huge investments by the giant retailers for better operation of their business makes the industry highly capital-intensive and not labour-intensive. Published reports indicate that if large retailers were to grab 20 percent of the retail trade, nearly eight million persons employed in the unorganized retail sector would be knocked out. Monopoly takeover of the unorganized Indian retail market would throw out over 40 million people in about 12 million outlets. If one employed in unorganized retail is having a family of four, straightaway 160 million will be on the road. It is also pertinent to mention that if purchasing power of the people goes on decreasing, would even the sparkling shopping malls continue having a roaring trade? In that event, would not there be retrenchment of staff? Some of the big retails owned by Indian corporates in non-metropolis are already faced with the crisis of declining business as has been

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FDI in retail would turn millions of retail employees into beggars, poor peasants into slaves

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experienced by the retail Goliaths in US and other countries.

The talk of salary and service conditions of the skilled labour of large corporate retail is also an illusion. A report of a committee of the US House of Representatives as early as February 2004 concluded that "Walmart's success has meant downward pressures on wages and benefits, rampant violations of basic workers' rights and threats to the standard of living in communities across the country. The success of a business need not come at the expense of workers and their families." The so called compulsive clause of 30% local sourcing, too, is ludicrous. Just like how it has in US wiped out local small entrepreneurs by bringing more and more Chinese goods, similarly Walmart would kill small domestic suppliers by emphasizing on cheap imports and thus render lakhs jobless. The confidence exuded by the protagonists of reforms about small *kirana* shops reorganizing themselves to compete with giant retailers only makes one chuckle. Can a small retail outlet holder with handful of capital and limited sourcing avenues afford to that by any figment of imagination? It is of course true after countless tiny shops are wiped out, a few minor errands run by powerful Indian owners might survive to 'co-exist' with the big capital.

Modus Operandi of fleecing operation

As we had explained on earlier occasions, initially, to swallow the viable *kirana* shops, the retail monoliths allow the consumers some lucrative concessions for the time being severely undercutting small retailers on price. The consumers too are allured with pomp and extravaganzas of the air-conditioned shopping malls, show-rooms, super markets and all that and thus trapped by the big business lobbies. With their incredibly deep-pockets, these retail giants can afford to withstand a lower margin, even losses for the time being till they establish monopoly control wiping out all competitors. As a result, the medium and small shops are forced to shut their windows in no time. And in consequence, the common people fall prey to the clutches of the monopolists who then dictate the prices of the daily necessities.

Same is the position of the foodgrain-growers, small-scale producers and cottage industries.

Initially they all are offered better prices of their produces by these monopoly houses. So, they sell to these big capitals, gradually become dependent on them and thus turn into their tailcoats. Once the monopolists find that the primary producers have no other go but to come to them, they fix the procurement price of the agricultural produces as well as fix which crop should be produced or what fertilizer or pesticide should be used. They might even compel the peasants to abandon cultivation of essential food crops and instead be engaged on a 'contract farming' basis in plantation of stuff offering better profit opportunities. The farmers thus are robbed of every freedom in deciding either what to produce or whom to sell and at what price. To bind the farmers in such conditions the big capitals arrange loans and advances for the farmers from their own sources and also supply them seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Thus the farmers are booked for selling their produces to those particular mega-retailers and to none other else. This is a normal predatory strategy used by large capitals to drive out small and dispersed competition, form a big corporate empire in agriculture while the peasantry and small-scale producers face destitution and ruination. FDI in retail would accelerate this process.

What is worth noting is that even the government which is now shamelessly preaching for FDI in retail is well aware of this impending catastrophe. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia told the Rajya Sabha on August 22 last that concluding remarks, *inter alia*, of a paper submitted to the central government by The UNI Global Union, Switzerland, on 'Wal-Mart's Global Track Record and the Implication for FDI in Multi-Brand Retail', reads: "without adequate safeguards put in place, FDI in multi-brand retail will lead to widespread displacement and poor treatment of Indian workers in retail, logistics, agriculture and manufacturing." It is also reported in the media that Manmohan Singh himself in 2004 wrote a letter to the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce stating that "allowing FDI in retail should not be permitted."

What prompted Indian government to roll-out these reforms

Obviously, the question would be what prompted Indian

government to rush through the reforms knowing full well that these would invite severe wrath and protest from the people at large and trigger political turmoil? To seek an answer to this, it would be futile to lend ear to the political parties either in power or feigning opposition for reaping electoral benefits. The bourgeois media out to show how the Congress government at last has mustered courage to take uncomfortable steps to salvage the government's precarious finances, rescue the drowning economy, spur growth and retrieve the sinking reforms legacy, would only make the wrong appear right. The homespun reasons or alibis scripted by a bunch of economists subservient to vile bourgeois class interest would misguide one to the hilt. Analysis based on a correct scientific Marxist approach can only explain the whole scheme and motive.

It is not that these avowedly anti-people economic measures under the garb of reform have been announced just because the ruling Congress party bigwigs headed by PM Manmohan Singh wanted to spruce up their image or bowing down to the pressure of foreign imperial capital particularly US monopolists and MNCs. There has been a pressure of US no doubt but that is not the only reason. It has been desired by the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, an inseparable part of world imperialism-capitalism now in the grip of an intense insoluble market crisis endemic of the very capitalist system in which the motive of production is not to meet the crying needs of the people but to earn maximum profit by robbing of the labouring masses. As an inevitable outcome of ruthless capitalist exploitation, purchasing power of most of the people has almost touched the bottom rendering most of them incapable of buying industrial consumer goods. So, large scale recession and stagnation is stalking capitalist productive system. The relative stability that capitalist market enjoyed earlier to Second World War, no more exists. So the market crisis of capitalism has been as acute in magnitude as could be termed an hourly crisis. It is pertinent to recall that during the rising period of capitalism, the bourgeoisie remained mainly confined to production of manufacturing goods and allied services and did not enter into the arena of trade and commerce. But why then it is today so keen to

penetrate just not to the field of trade but even retail trade? Answer is not far to seek. Finding no avenue for profit maximization in productive manufacturing, idle capital is today making forays into stock market speculation, usury and now in the areas of utmost necessity for the people at large to eke out a living like education, healthcare and vending of fruits, vegetables and pulses so as not to spare people from being sucked out of the last drop of blood so even in bare survival.

Indian scenario is equally grim. Notwithstanding all tall talks and 'economic logic' provided by the apologists of gasping bourgeois economy, the crisis is visibly virulent and all-embracing. Internal market is shrinking with every passing day because of dwindling purchasing power of the toiling multitudes pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist exploitation. Indian export market in Europe and America is also squeezed because of economic distress of the people there. So trade deficit (difference between import and export) is growing and causing depletion in foreign currency reserve. On the other hand, inflation is spiralling at so rapid a pace that the government has been compelled to raise interest rates on the ostensible reason of encouraging savings and discouraging spending. In course of serpentine operation of decadent moribund crisis-ridden capitalism, increase in interest rate is causing 'gloom' in stock market speculation as a sequel to which foreign players unable to make expected gains are withdrawing from the Indian bourses. This, in turn, is triggering further flight of foreign currency out of the country. And this decreasing foreign currency reserve is bringing down the value of rupee. Paradox is despite fall in the value of rupee, export is not picking up because, as mentioned above, the main export markets are contracted. Besides this, there is increasing pressure from the imperialist superpowers particularly US to open Indian market to them pending which they are threatening to close their domestic markets to Indian monopolists and government. On the other hand, the Indian monopolists who have also acquired imperialist character, exporting capital overseas including US, boasting of generating jobs in US and nurturing aspiration to be established as a formidable regional superpower in South East Asia with

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Reforms have been ordained by the crisis-ridden ruling bourgeois to squeeze people further

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US backing, are having both contradiction and collaboration with US imperialism.

In the circumstances, the Indian ruling monopolists and their government have no choice but to liberalize FDI entry route. Their contention is that opening up of retail sector to FDI would encourage foreign investors (read foreign monopolists and MNCs) to enter the country with huge foreign currency. De-regularization of oil prices would also entice foreign investors to make forays into oil sector as would liberalization of foreign ownership in banks and insurance. Similarly if pension fund is allowed to be invested in stock market and bank interest rate is lowered, that would stimulate stock speculation on the Indian bourses and encourage FIIs and other foreign players to come back. In the process, there will be inflow of foreign currency and rupee would gain in value. At the same time, the government should be allowed to relieve itself from shouldering subsidy burden to lower fiscal deficit caused by increased market borrowing, loss of tax revenue and fall in export. Similarly, the government should have unfettered right to sell out the PSUs created with people's money after independence to the private capital through disinvestment route for generating cash income. So, these so-called reforms agenda should have priority no matter people's plight and penury and its passage should not be scuttled by the politicians on the pretext of incurring displeasure of the masses, or to be precise the electorates. Once the economy revives in the process, growth is sparked; it would start benefitting the common masses, argue the pro-reformists.

Reforms have not revived economy but wrecked people

It goes without saying that this is nothing but a dazzling display of an illusory future, palpable lies couched in economic jargons to hoodwink the people. Similar mega scale economic reforms were undertaken in all powerful capitalist-imperialist countries many years back with the promise of ushering in growth and prosperity. Now, the so-called powerful economies of US and entire Europe are tottering on a shattered base and trying to somehow stave off the emerging crises, one after another, by imposing more and more burdens on the people. The situation has come to such a pass that country after country is declared bankrupt. Bubble economy is bursting everywhere. In early 1990s, Manmohan Singh and the ilk also, in accordance with the precepts of capitalist globalization, claimed that once the economic liberalization introduced by them went full-throttle, prosperity would be showered on the people. But people have found that while they have been ripped into shreds and relegated to the fringes of doom, a handful of the rich, corporate bigwigs and monopoly tycoons amassed huge fortunes. Let it be absolutely clear that these so-called reforms would neither cure capitalist economy let alone be brought back on the rails but would devastate the people further since this crisis of capitalism is endemic of the system and hence cannot be overcome unless the capitalist system is overthrown by revolution.

Position of the vote-based Congress

In this backdrop, we need to understand the political standpoints and moves of the various parties subservient to bourgeois class interest no matter what they preach and pretend. The Congress, as is known to all, is the most trusted political manager of the ruling class.

So with its being in power, the ruling capitalists expect their class agenda to be implemented by it with necessary camouflage and hoodwinking. But, credibility of the Congress, of late, is much dented because of escalating financial crisis, unbridled price rise, unearthing of a series of large-scale scams and mounting corruption. Moreover, since to run the government the Congress has to depend on its coalition partners who often resort to pressure tactics common in bourgeois politics to extract their pound of flesh, it, out of fear of losing stability of its government, was dithering over carrying out the economic reforms full steam. So, in bourgeois media, both in India and abroad, he was criticized of being an "underachiever" and suffering from "policy paralysis". To return to power, the Congress needs total backing of the Indian corporate sector as well as foreign MNCs. Hence to establish its credibility before the class and deflect attention from the series of scams, the latest being the coal block allotments, it chose to overrule certain stated objections from its coalition partners and announced roll out of draconian reforms which the class needs badly to survive. Soon, it would come out with a few pro-people stunts in an effort to whittle down the mounting discontent as it has already declared increased dearness allowance for the government employees to gear up for the next election with class backing.

Position of the vote-based BJP

The BJP, another most trusted political agent of the ruling class, is also raising decibels against the reforms. But, while ruling at the Centre, the BJP-led NDA brandished the same set of reform policies to claim India was shining. Fuel prices rose several times under

the tenure of the NDA rule which endorsed price decontrol in 2002. Nor was the NDA hostile to retail reform. A Cabinet note accessed by a section of the media reveals that the then industry minister of NDA had proposed 100 per cent FDI in retail in 2002. All the BJP-ruled states are merrily following the reforms like privatization and liberalization of key sectors either directly or indirectly through PPP (private-public partnership) route, setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs), commercializing education and healthcare, imposition of hefty taxes and so forth. So, the BJP has no propriety to up the ante against the reforms. In fact, lest the ruling class should take umbrage at its overreaction against the economic reforms, the BJP, of late, has amended itself to state that it is not against reforms per se but repudiating FDI in retail. Why the BJP is lashing out at the Congress then? Because, ridden with factional squabbles, infighting among the leaders, corruption charges against its chief ministers and even the current president, it cannot hope to replace the Congress at the Centre unless it, besides enjoying class backing, tweaks its communal image and emerges as a "credible" alternative by championing people's issues. So, the BJP leaders are out to feign opposition to FDI in retail and rising fuel tariff solely for deriving electoral mileage and not saying a single word against capitalism.

Position of the vote-based regional parties

Same is the position of other bourgeois, petty-bourgeois regional outfits all of whom are wedded to the task of serving bourgeois class interest, sometimes overtly, sometimes covertly and thereby strive for being in the corridors of power. While in power, they also

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The massive rally on 26 September, Vidyasagar Birth Anniversary observed as Save Education, Save Humanity Day, held in Kolkata organised by the All Bengal AISEC and led and attended by eminent intellectuals, educationists, teachers, guardians and others. (Other news on page 8)

Within a year of being in power, large scale corruption of TMC is surfacing with all virulence

While The Trinamool Congress (TMC) is raising pitch against the Congress for abating mega scams, turn has now come for it to explain why it itself is now embroiled in scams and scandals. Saplings are sprouting from the seed of corruption that the TMC as a split faction of the Congress contained since inception. For quite sometimes, involvement of TMC leaders and cadres in corrupt deals were surfacing. A number of TMC leaders and activists were found to be running mafia syndicates of building material supply and indulging in extortion and other illegal activities. Once in power, the magnitude has increased manifold. Corruption in the panchayats run by the TMC was no secret. Now it is more pronounced. A large section of former CPI (M) men having proven record of corruption has now joined the TMC to enjoy protection from the ruling party while continuing the dubious acts. While just like the CPI (M), the TMC top brass ending its responsibility by sounding a mild

caution for public consumption, the persons caught in the act thump around merrily. The TMC-run Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is also following the same path and that too with alacrity. To the KMC authorities, the priority does not lie in tackling the Dengue-epidemic on war footing, preventing the city from being turned into a mosquito-breeding ground, arranging potable water supply to the sprawling metropolis, repairing potholes on the roads or dealing with the problem of waterlogging, cleaning the choked canals to drain out accumulated rain water, clearing overflowing open vats on the streets including main thoroughfares, improving sewerage system or providing minimal civic amenities to the citizens. Top priority, according to it, is on fixing additional trident shaped costly street lights on already illumined streets by debiting cash-strapped kitty perhaps to realize the TMC chief minister's dream to convert the city into London (!). So

the objective is to thrive on cheap popular gestures relegating public welfare activities to the back.

And the urgency was so much that the tender process was to be bypassed to allocate the job of installation of 15,000 decorative lights to certain "select agencies" at an abnormally high price. Normally, for any buy of Rs 5 lakhs and more, the KMC as per rule needs to invite closed bids in compliance with the laid down procedure like notifications in newspaper and the KMC official website. However, in the instant case where cost was envisaged to be over Rs 25 crores, the KMC electrical department without any qualms created as many as 540 separate files for keeping the value of the each file below Rs 5 lakh and distributed the orders among four firms two of which are owned by people allegedly close to two senior Trinamool Congress leaders from the city. It may be added that as per published report in the media, on an earlier occasion,

certain KMC contractors asked to paint the city railings, pavements and even trees in white and blue as desired by the chief minister, received unofficial "requests" from local councilors and TMC leaders to procure white and blue paint from one particular shop in South Kolkata owned by one of the brothers of the chief minister. In the instant case of procuring trident street lights in a questionable manner, it is learnt that while the KMC's own workshop in the city could manufacture, assemble and supply trident lights at Rs 9,600.00 a unit, KMC authorities bought it from the nominated suppliers at a cost of as high as Rs17, 690.00 as a result of which the aggregate cost of installation which has come to almost Rs 27 crore is stated to be almost double than what was normal. It is noteworthy that while adjacent Bidhannagar municipality (Salt lake area of Kolkata) paid R13, 654 for a trident set, KMC is

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SUCI (C) condemns inhuman police atrocities at Koodankulam, observes All India Protest Day against KKNPP

Reports and photos in media sent shudders across the country depicting the brute police atrocities including firing upon a nearly 10,000 strong assembly of unarmed fishermen and villagers who were demonstrating as a part of their prolonged sustained legitimate struggle against nuclear power plant at Koodankulam in Tamilnadu. After the central government announced its decision to proceed with the nuclear fuel loading and commissioning of the first reactor at the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), ignoring the massive and extensive right concern of the struggling fishermen and common people of the area, people at Koodankulam and Tuticorin in Tamilnadu gathered in thousands on September 9 last in protest of the move forming human chains and demanding meaningful dialogues, particularly on the safety and security of the plant that was going to affect lives and livelihood of more than 70,000 fishermen and other sections of people. They had already been conducting the peaceful struggle, their brave resistance for over 400 days, facing every sort of hardship, including repression and slander of the worst type.

On 10 September the police started most savage action with batons, teargas shells and firing

chasing the determined protesters even into the sea without sparing even children, women and aged. They killed at least one fisherman and injured scores in course of their barbarous attacks. In the name of searching operation, they ransacked and ravaged households of fishermen at Idinthakarai, the nerve centre of the movement and made indiscriminate arrests. Unthinkable for any civilized government, the union government of India, including its Prime Minister, even charged people of their own country with sedition, of making war against the country and various other such serious charges for their only crime of staging a courageous peaceful movement for a just cause. Ignoring all these repressive measures, the people fighting against the imposition of the KKNPP are determined to continue their heroic struggle till their demand is conceded.

Incidentally in the most recent move at the Supreme Court, the counsel of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), after presenting fake concerns on ensuring safety and security of the plant, let the cat out of the bag as he submitted that '*the government's main concern was that so much money had been spent on the project*'. (*Indo Asian News*

Service, September 27).

NPCIL's attitude towards the safety and security of the plant and hence of people around is further clear in its affidavit to the SC "that even if a Fukushima type of incident were to occur, the KKNPP is fully equipped with all safety measures to withstand any such unlikely event." How it distorted facts is clear from its words that "despite these accidents, the safety records of nuclear power plants, in terms of lives lost per unit of electricity delivered, is better than every other major source of power in the world", which totally brushes aside the reality that any minor accident in a nuclear plant may inflict damages from radiation effects to human being and their entire environment which may continue beyond generations. It also concealed the fact that while after Fukushima nuclear disaster, countries like Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and Japan have decided to shut down their nuclear plants in a phased manner, the Indian Government has shockingly announced its plans to set up a number of new nuclear plants at Jaitapur (Maharashtra), Chutka (Madhya Pradesh), MithiVirdi (Gujarat), Gorakhpur (Haryana) and Kovada (Andhra Pradesh).

The anti-nuclear plant

movement at Koodankulam has drawn unstinted massive support from common people not only of Tamilnadu and adjacent Kerala, but also across the country including Delhi. SUCI (C) activists are participating in it since its very beginning with SUCI (C) MP, Tarun Mandal addressing a gathering on 29 December 2011 on being invited by the leadership of the movement. In response to the call of the Central Committee of the SUCI(C) to observe 28 September as an All India Protest Day in support of the movement against KKNPP, protest demonstrations were held in Chennai by the Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee and at Jantar Mantar, Delhi by the Delhi State Organizing Committee, as also in Kolkata (WB), Anantapur (AP), Guwahati (Assam), Quilon (Kerala) and elsewhere. On this date the country recognized that the struggling resolute villagers of the Koodankulam and around, bring back the memories of the movement against similar nuclear plant at Haripura in West Bengal as also the glorious struggle of people of Nandigram- Singur against eviction from their land and abodes. The Party hailed the courage and determination of the fishermen and villagers and pledged support to their movement.

Power-seeking parties, bourgeois media diverting people's attention to election politics only

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pursue the same set of bourgeois policies and pander to all kind of corruption, opportunism, loot and plunder. Look at Mayawati and Mulayam. In the state of UP, they both are opposed to the Congress. But at the Centre, both are supporting the Congress-led government. Mulayam sat even with others in a *dharna* (sit-in demonstration) against FDI in retail but pledges continued support to Congress-led central government. Mayawati fears that if it parts with the Congress, corruption cases against her would be re-opened scuttling her future electoral prospects. If DMK makes apparent strident postures against the Congress to bargain concessions, immediately Jayalalitha, its *bête noir* in Tamilnadu vote politics, starts sending feelers to the Congress leaders for tying knots. Today, all these regional parties are in a dilemma as to which party or combination would come to power at the centre in next election. So, they are keeping all channels open to make hay while the sun shines and at the same time pretending to be sewed up to the people. The ruling class is well aware that their diatribes against the reforms are not from any intention to rouse people in genuine movement against capitalism but only to play to the gallery to secure votes.

Position of the pseudo-Marxists

Equally perfidious is the role of the CPI (M), CPI. What is their track-record? Right from early 1990s, the Congress and Manmohan Singh in the name of economic reforms have been following neo-liberal policies of capitalist globalization. In spite of that, CPI (M) and its associates had no problem in supporting Congress-led UPA I government. Even in its central organ, the CPI(M) categorically said that it was "providing content and character for the government's policies." Just a month back, the CPI(M) voted *suo motto* in favour of Congress candidate Pranab Mukherjee, former finance minister and one of the chief architects of bourgeois economic reforms. While running government in West Bengal, they had faithfully followed every agenda of capitalist globalization

like privatization and commercialization of key sectors and strongly pleaded for invitation of foreign capital and even allowed MNCs like German Cash and Carry in wholesale trade and Monsanto in Agriculture. When the peasants built up resistance movement against forcible grabbing of fertile agricultural land for setting up automobile factory of the Tatas, one of the largest monopoly houses of India, the CPI (M) chief minister warned that he would not allow anyone to "even touch a hair of the Tatas." In Nandigram, they decided to set up an SEZ and invited FDI even from the largest of US MNCs dominating imperialist US state. At that time, CPI (M) leaders had vehemently argued that "private capital is a must for industrialization and growth" and "capital has no colour." When, after annexation of Iraq by the US imperialists under fraudulent pretext, there was call for boycotting US beverages like Pepsi and Coca Cola as a symbol of protest, the CPI (M) did not agree to that lest it should incur displeasure of US imperialism. To safeguard the interest of domestic and foreign monopoly capital, the CPI (M) had gone to the extent of crushing legitimate democratic movements in fascist way. Thus, the CPI (M) and its associates have already earned enough confidence of the ruling class and are committed to subserve its class interest. But, under pressure of surging people's protest against the killing reforms and pestered by the need to regain power by buffing up their 'left' image, they are making fiery speeches in camera, staging token demonstrators and customarily blustering the Congress government. As we have shown earlier, the reforms have been ordained by both the Indian and foreign monopoly capital in their class interest. But, the CPI (M), in a bid to shield the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, is trying to project US imperialism as the main offender and targeting the Congress government for bowing before US diktats. Alongside, it is taking no initiative to organize people for a united sustained movement against this demonic onslaught. It is also to be observed that like other regional outfits, the CPI (M) also is not clear as to which boat, Congress, BJP or a third Front, will sail in the coming elections. So, the CPI (M) leaders are maintaining a rapport with the Congress by voting its presidential candidate, endorsing its criticisms of Mamata Banerjee, sharing dais

with the BJP in anti-FDI rally and joining Mulayam in sit-in demonstration. It is election and vote which count for them and not abatement of the savage economic attack perpetrated on the people. That is why, the CPI (M) like all other bourgeois, petty-bourgeois parties are extremely careful to ensure that neither finger is pointed at the Indian ruling class nor the suffering multitudes are organized on the platform of genuine movement.

Position of the Trinamool Congress

Then, how much grist is there in the mill of Trinamool Congress (TMC) who, after withdrawing support from the Congress ministry, is firing one after another salvo against the Congress and its reforms? Was it not, in the first place, aware that the Congress had such an agenda of anti-people reforms? Then, how could it join a government headed by the Congress and remain there despite repeated frequent hike in fuel tariff as well as deregularization of petrol prices? Had the TMC leadership opposed the Congress on economic principles, how is it that its government in West Bengal also chose to implement through backdoor the agenda of capitalist globalization by endorsing PPP in health, education, road transport, civic activities, indirectly conceding to the demand of Indian large corporates like Infosys for being provided with all necessary facilities and waivers as in SEZ albeit under the camouflage of not taking the name of SEZ and even scouting for foreign investment particularly from US? It may be mentioned that in the TMC manifesto for the 2009 Lok Sabha election, point 42 on Page 81 read: "The entry of large domestic and foreign capital in retail trade will occur." But surprisingly, once the point came to the fore after TMC's withdrawal of support to Congress ministry, the manifesto was taken off the TMC website by 4 pm on 20 September last. In the circumstances, how would one view the disapproval of FDI in retail and other reform measures by the TMC? Is it on principle or for shoring up a pro-people image?

Notably, TMC leadership so far has not uttered a single word about fighting against the Indian corporate sector or foreign monopoly capital. On the other hand, it is at daggers drawn against democratic movement. One would recall that

the CPI (M) came to power in 1977 in West Bengal usurping the credit of the democratic movement. But afterwards, it trained its gun at democratic movement to appease the ruling class for pelf and power. Similarly, the TMC has also come to power riding the crest of the historic Singur-Nandigram movements. But once installed in power, it is turning against democratic movement denouncing strikes and road-blockades. The CPI (M) chief minister once told a gathering of industrial barons, obviously to curry favour with them, that he was against bandh. Now, the TMC chief, too, to waddle her way into the hearts of the ruling class, is now firing almost hourly salvos against bandh and also other forms of democratic movement on the same plea of 'financial loss' and 'disruption of normal life' as advanced by the ruling monopolists, their controlled media and lackeys. The TMC leadership has gone a step ahead by not only threatening the bandh participants of dire consequences but even letting loose armed anti-socials on the Bandh supporters just like the way the CPI (M) used armed storm-troopers and criminals to crush democratic movement. The barbaric attack on our Party comrades at Coochbehar town by the armed TMC workers on the last Bharat Bandh day on 20th September bears eloquent testimony to that. Moreover, the TMC has ordered punitive action like loss of pay and break in service against the government employees remaining absent on a Bandh day—an enforcement which even the British imperial rulers did not impose. Like other bourgeois state governments, the TMC regime in West Bengal is also sailing in the same boat of attacking the forces of democratic movement, workers' and peasants' struggles, suppressing students' movements, hobnobbing with the capitalist class and muffling any voice of protest against increasing incidents of atrocities on women, extortion, snatching and such other criminal acts. So, it is gradually unfolding people that the much-trumpeted slogan of "paribartan" (change) of TMC has before been nothing but a hoax. The only difference is what the CPI (M) used to do cunningly is being done crudely by the TMC.

It needs to be reiterated that when in a particular political situation we had entered into political understanding with TMC in West Bengal to develop people's

Corrigendum

Name of 'Descartes' inadvertently crept in on p 3 col. 2 of Proletarian Era dated 15-09-12. Mistake regretted.

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Surge of powerful sustained organized movement can only thwart mounting assault of ruling class on people

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struggles and firmly repulse the fascistic attack of the CPI (M) government on democratic movement. At that time, TMC leadership, needing a unity with us for gaining credibility among the masses, agreed to the three conditions given by us including the one of maintaining equidistance from both the Congress and the BJP. But once the parliamentary election was announced in 2009, TMC leadership violated that condition, virtually terminated alliance of movement with us and joined hands with the Congress because it thought that without the backing of the central government, it would not be able to dissuade the vested interest in the administration from lending support to the CPI (M) and win the polls. It is worth recalling that the TMC was born as a split faction of the Congress and gaining strength by breaking the Congress. Centring on that, the state Congress had a contradiction with the TMC right from the inception of the latter. After being installed in governmental power in West Bengal, TMC accelerated the process of causing defection in the Congress by luring the latter's rank and leaders to its side which infuriated the state Congress leadership. But, the Congress High Command under compulsion of not risking the coalition avoided any direct conflict with the TMC but adopted a different pressure tactics by refusing any special economic grant to the TMC government. While the TMC began to pressurize the Congress-led central government for waiver of the huge financial liability it inherited from the previous CPI (M) government, the Congress mounted counter-pressure by not yielding to TMC's demand unless the TMC leadership stopped the game of breaking the state Congress. Even at the time of last presidential poll, TMC leadership tried hard for a good bargain by dithering over the question of endorsing the Congress nominee, sided with Mulayam to float names of alternative candidates. This game of pressure and counter-pressure went on for quite some time. But with shrewd Mulayam working out a secret deal with the Congress, Mamata had no choice but eat a humble pie and lend support to Pranab Mukherjee. The efforts to elicit special economic package through pressure proved abortive.

But this time, the Congress top leadership understood that repeated surrender to TMC's pressure might

not go well with the ruling class which is determined to introduce its full-fledged 'reform' programme without any more delay. So the Congress opted to break unity with the TMC and go ahead with the reforms. On the other hand, the TMC leadership at the outset thought that since the credibility of the Congress would be dented further, time was ripe for exerting further pressure on it by opposing the reforms in public and if the Congress yielded to its pressure and agreed to partial rollback, it would become 'hero' before the people and at the same time might succeed in wresting the pending economic package also. But that calculation failed since the Congress under class pressure was not ready to bend. Yet the TMC leadership, it is pertinent to point out, made last ditch attempt to preserve unity with the Congress by first giving it 72 hours' time in expectation of any reconciliatory response from the Congress. When that did not happen, the TMC top brass prolonged its scheduled meeting prior to formally announcing the break-up for over three hours biting more time in expectation of a face-saving. During that meeting, the TMC supremo personally requested Congress President on phone to do something for saving the alliance. Even, that was abortive. The TMC, therefore, had no option but to announce severance of tie with the Congress raising pitch against reforms particularly FDI in retail. Even after announcing decision to withdraw support, TMC delayed another 72 hours to tender resignation from ministry hoping any last minute change of mind at the end of the Congress. But all went in vein. So, the TMC had to quit alliance with the Congress but has not shut the door for a patch up in future.

The TMC leadership know that unlike last elections, the slogan of "paribartan" (change) from the stifling rule of the CPI (M) would not work this time as people from experience find no "paribartan" in policy, outlook or governance except a change of incumbent on the seat of power. There are some explicit expressions of public resentment as well. So, after coming out of the coalition with the Congress at least for the present, the only alternative for the TMC is to arrogate to itself an image of a champion of people's cause by claiming to be fighting for the people, having made so much of sacrifice by relinquishing ministerial post over FDI issue and

so forth and at the same time all avenues open for tying knot with anyone for electoral gains. Of course, under electoral compulsion it would keep distance from the BJP, its one time ally, lest it should lose the minority votes. But, at the same time, it has already started exploring alignment with any possible non-Congress non-BJP third front by wooing allies of both the Congress and the BJP. Never has the TMC leadership uttered a single word against the ruling capitalist class nor has it given any call for any organized sustained movement against the reforms. It's all strident rhetoric against the Congress and that too after break of alliance. Would it then be incorrect if one comes to the conclusion that the TMC is opposing the Congress-sponsored reforms not for foiling the bourgeois conspiracy or building up people's struggle against this ghastly economic attack but to net electoral gains in the coming panchayat and parliamentary polls capitalizing on hollow blusters and media-aided spruced up self-image of a champion of people's cause? Can there be any genuine movement against the ruinous bourgeois reforms without anti-capitalist direction? Harvesting electoral gains by capitalizing on people's grievances has nothing to do with people's interest but indicates a sheer opportunistic policy and deceptive tact.

Oppose draconian reforms from people's perspective

So, it is clear that the much-trumpeted economic reforms are in the bourgeois class interest and are slated to escalate the penury and misery of the suffering multitudes. As the ruling party, the Congress has rolled out the reforms at the behest of the class. Had there been any other political party or combination subservient to bourgeois class interest in power, it would have done the same thing. The sole aim of the vote-based power-greedy political parties rending the air with pretentious opposition is to exploit people's grievances for electoral benefits and channelize all erupting agitations along the path of election to keep the ruling class unscathed and oppressive capitalism veiled. Unless the fight against this monstrous economic reforms is developed with clear anti-capitalist object and developed in the form of powerful united prolonged powerful democratic movements based on higher proletarian ethics and culture

under correct revolutionary leadership and by organizing the toiling people right from the grass roots level in people's committees and volunteer corps, even a single relief from the suffocating condition cannot be expected, let alone repulsing the growing economic-political attacks including FDI in retail and compelling the government rescind all steps of draconian reforms. This is the criterion for distinguishing genuine people's movement from the mock-fights of the bourgeois vote-merchants including the sham Marxists.

When the crisis of capitalism has brought the parliamentary system tottering on its legs, its servitor bourgeois and social democrat political agents reduced to vulgar outfits of rank self-seekers and tricksters, the stench of rotten bourgeois politics, without least of scruples, morals and principles, is vitiating the air all around, when red carpet is being rolled out by the bourgeois rulers to welcome MNCs and together fleece the masses in a frantic bid to stave off capitalist crisis, politics is virtually seen to be an exclusive preserve of a bunch of self-seekers, crooks and corrupt engaged in a naked scramble for power in the most shameless manner and rustling up numbers to stay in or form governments, it is SUCI(C) guided by the ennobling ideal of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought which is in avid persistent pursuit of an alternative current of revolutionary politics, calling for the noblest feelings of heart, holding aloft the banner of true leftism based on higher proletarian ethics and culture. Throughout the country, the SUCI(C) is developing the desired class and mass struggles on the burning issues of people's life, organizing the masses and trying to make them politically conscious to understand the sinister bourgeois designs camouflaged behind radical slogans and couched in bountiful of deceptions and deprivations. On 14th March last, the SUCI(C) organized a historic march of over a lakh of people with over three crore signatures of the countrymen on a charter of legitimate demands. This augured a new chapter in the history of democratic mass movement. Our fervent call to the countrymen is to come forward and strengthen this movement to assert people's power and force the ruling capitalist class and its pliant governments to rescind their ruinous moves.

TMC embroiled in corruption

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alleged to have paid around R26,000 to Rs 30,000 for the same and that too for less reputed products. It is also understood that targeted installation of 50,000 such lamps in Kolkata and few other select places would entail additional electricity bill of Rs 120 crores per annum. It is worth mentioning that while TMC-run KMC has preferred to spend Rs 27 crore worth of money in installing otherwise unnecessary trident lamps and that too in subversion of laid down rules and procedures, it allotted only Rs 30 crore for the primary schools in its last budget.

But the TMC Mayor, Mayor-in-council and even the municipal affairs and urban development minister initially flatly denied any irregularity in the matter. They also tried to ludicrously justify primacy of this job over others. But things came to such a pass that even the Governor had to call for a report over the matter. With skeletons beginning to tumble out of the cupboard and criticisms mounting from all quarters, the TMC top brass in KMC found a scapegoat in the director-general (electrical), top official of the concerned department, issued him a show-cause and removed him from the post. But the said director-general in his reply to a show-cause notice served to him confessed that the tender norms were broken and both the Mayor and concerned Mayor-in-council were privy to the decision. It also does not require much modicum of grey matter to understand that such flouting of norms in an unprecedented manner cannot be dared by any bureaucrat

without informing and obtaining due approval of the high-ups. It is now reported that having tied itself in knots over the lack of transparency in the installation of trident lights across the city and facing tough questions from the governor, the KMC authorities are now asking contractors to slash bills by 40% in a desperate attempt at damage-control.

What is noteworthy is that the TMC chief and the West Bengal chief minister who has been upping her ante against the Congress and the CPI (M) over raging corruption and claims her party to be above board, is maintaining eerie silence over the matter. A section of the people who expected the TMC to usher in a 'Paribartan' (Change) in governance is deeply shocked and hurt at this indulgent attitude of the TMC chief. But, the fact is that anyone subserving bourgeois class interest, overtly or covertly, notwithstanding all gimmicks, stunts and pretended crusade against wrongdoing to nurture electoral prospects, cannot remain insulated from corruption, doublespeak and such other vices bred by the capitalist system. They ascend to power riding on corruption and cling to power based on corruption. People have seen that to be true with the regimes of the Congress, the BJP, the CPI (M) and the ilk. Now, the rapidly increasing corruption within the TMC is coming to the fore. Let us reiterate once again that unless there is a countrywide surge of powerful organized conscious people's movement against corruption under correct leadership, there would be no stemming of the rot.

Vidyasagar Birth Anniversary observed as Save Education, Save Humanity Day throughout the country

On the Birth Anniversary of Ishwarachandra Vidhyasagar, one of the greatest pioneers of Indian Renaissance, All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) and All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO) observed 26 September as "Save Education, Save Humanity Day" in the entire country.

As a part of this observance, in Ahmedabad and Vadodara, Gujarat, dharna was staged against Semester System, No Detention Policy and other anti-education policies. It was in culmination of a series of seminars on the above issues organised by All India Save Education committee, Gujarat and AIDSO since 15 July held in different cities of Gujarat, viz., Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Surat and others, which were attended by eminent intellectuals and educationists of the state, principals, teachers, students and employees educational institutions and education-loving common people.

AIDSO also staged a massive demonstration at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, led by AIDSO All India and state leaders and attended by students from all the 23 districts of the state.

Protest demonstrations were also staged at Jantar Mantar Delhi, at Bhopal in MP, at Kanpur in UP, Guwahati in Assam, Anantapur in AP and elsewhere. Photo of Kolkata March is provided on page 4 in this issue

SUCI (C) calls for making Bharat Bandh on 20 September against the slew of anti-people decisions of the Congress-led Central Government a grand success

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 16-09-12:—

A slew of anti-people decisions taken of late by the Congress-led central government in the interest of domestic and foreign monopolists like severe hike in the prices of petro-products, opening up retail trade to FDI, allowing the monopolists to acquire substantial stake in profit-making PSUs through disinvestment route, commercialization of education and healthcare and abolition of pass-fail system upto class VIII, have come as a serious blow to the plight and penury-stricken people.

In demand of immediate withdrawal of all these anti-people decisions, we call upon the suffering countrymen to make Bharat Bandh on 20 September a complete success.

SUCI(C) demonstrations across the country on the Bharat Bandh Day



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