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RED SALUTE COMRADE LENIN



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“The capitalists have always used the term “freedom” to mean freedom for the rich to get richer and for the workers to starve to death. And capitalist usage, freedom of the press means freedom of the rich to bribe the press, freedom to use their wealth to shape and fabricate so-called public opinion. In this respect, too, the defenders of “pure democracy” prove to be defenders of an utterly foul and venal system that gives the rich control over the mass media. They prove to be deceivers of the people, who, with the aid of plausible, fine-sounding, but thoroughly false phrases, divert them from the concrete historical task of liberating the press from capitalist enslavement....The history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries demonstrated, even before the war, what this celebrated “pure democracy” really is under capitalism.... the more developed, the “purer” democracy is, the more naked, acute and merciless the class struggle becomes, and the “purer” the capitalist oppression and bourgeois dictatorship....truth which the bourgeoisie are mainly seeking to conceal, namely, that actually terror and bourgeois dictatorship prevail in the most democratic of republics and are openly displayed every time the exploiters think the power of capital is being shaken..”

— V. I. LENIN

(First Congress of Communist International—Thesis and Report on Bourgeois Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, March 4, 1919 – CW, Vol.28, p.460-61))

UNPRECEDENTED PRICE RISE

Groaning millions must demand all-out state trading in foodgrains and essential commodities

While the life of the common people is getting increasingly shattered in every aspect, the most gruelling of late has been the brunt of unprecedented rise in the prices of essential items, particularly foodgrains. Escalating price of items of daily use and consumption is nothing new to the people of India as they have been experiencing the same since independence as a menace exacerbating their woes and wretchedness in capitalist India. But during the last one year, the pace of price spiral has crossed all limits and has thrown common people's living condition to an abysmal depth of sufferings. After lot of dilly dallying and covert denials punctuated with bourgeois phrase mongering, the government acknowledged in the last week of December, 2009, that the rate of price rise of food articles has touched 20%. Government also could not but concede that the overall rate of inflation shot up to a ten month high of 4.8% in November '09, against just 1.34 per cent in October '09, mainly due to rising food article prices. Monthly data for November '09 released by the government showed that price of potato had surged 101 per cent during the last one year, pulses like *mug* and *eurad* rose by around 50% and *arhar* by 64%. People know, at the end of November '09, price of onion shot up to Rs. 40 per kg and during the last one year price of sugar has nearly trebled. Price of rice on the average and of flour has gone up by 20-25% in a year. The intensity of the current price rise is so severe that it has become impossible for toiling people to make both ends meet. With situation turning from bad to worse, people are now voicing protest. They have been demanding immediate lowering of the prices of food items and daily necessities by the government and longing that appropriate leadership appears to lead their movement along the right track to realize this one point demand.

Price spiral amidst abject poverty and unemployment

This draconian price hike, as is known to all,

is coupled with fast plummeting of income because of gradual abolition of all means of earning even a pittance. Appalling poverty and galloping unemployment are what the common people are gasping under while faced with the onslaught of this all round price rise. As a concomitant result of the policy of capitalist globalization, lakhs of factories and establishments are being closed down. Sickness of industrial units, rampant closure lock-out lay-off etc., have thrown millions of working people out of job. Over and above, the government's policy of imposing moratorium on recruitment and the thrust on having whatever few industries are being set up as capital-intensive is causing unemployment to grow in menacing proportion everyday. While foodgrain traders, importer-exporters, kulaks and speculators in agricultural products stock market, are minting profits of crores of rupees, the poor farmers are not getting the minimum remunerative price of their produce in the market. Due to debt trap and abject poverty, 1,82,000 peasants have committed suicide during the last 10 years – most of them in the recent years. Starvation, semi-starvation and malnutrition death among the landless peasants and agricultural workers are simply commonplace thing in our country. According to *Human Development Report* of UN, 2008, 27 per cent of Indian population are faced with starvation. The figure would be much higher in 2009, given the present unprecedented price rise. Government appointed Saxena Committee recently reported : 50% of the village population are living below poverty line – obviously the government decided farcical poverty line of earning maximum Rs. 700 per month by a villager which even a beggar in the cities can do. In the *Economic Survey* 2008, it was reported quoting the latest *National Sample Survey* that 60.5% of the population was capable of spending only Rs 20 a day. Heaping upon this penury and misery is the pounding rise in general price line.

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Bourgeois governments abetting and acquiescing in engineered price escalation

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Babble of the bourgeois apologists

But the echelons in the government and administration as well as the apologists of bourgeois economics and system are unfazed at this compounding predicament of the people. To them, indulging in tapestry of words to conceal the reality is much more pressing a necessity. Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said on 3 November last that due to the impact of the scant monsoon and the impact of floods, prices would not come down immediately. Explaining the reasons for high price of food articles, Manmohan Singh, country's "economist" prime minister, in course of interaction with school students at his Seven Race Course Road residence on Children's Day on 14 November last said: "The government has substantially increased the MSP of wheat, rice and other items to increase the purchase power of the farming community." (*Andhra News*, net 14 November 2009) Devilry par excellence!

And there is customary blame game as well. While the state governments hold that the policy of the central government is responsible for price rise, the Centre points finger at the states for having failed to rein the price spiral. For example, when the states are holding the central government's faulty policy of controlling sugar trade responsible for unprecedented rise in retail sugar price in domestic market, Pawar, known to be a big shot and virtually spokesperson of powerful lobby of Maharashtra-based sugar barons, alleged that had the UP government lifted the ban on processing of imported raw sugar in the state, which has resulted in 8 lakh tonnes of raw sugar lying unused at the Kandla port since November, there would have been an additional 2 lakh tonnes available every month in the market and concomitantly the situation would have eased. Reacting to this, UP chief minister Mayawati said that the rising sugar price is the result of the Centre's wrong policies as they did not create a buffer stock of sugar when production was good. Accusing Pawar of making an "irresponsible statement" and shirking away from his responsibility of controlling the

prices of essential commodities, Mayawati said such utterances of the Union agriculture minister provide encouragement to hoarders and black marketeers. The Centre failed to create adequate buffer stock for the future and, instead, allowed exports to benefit sugar mills," she said.

Likewise, flurry of excuses, concocted reasons, flimsy pretexts, frivolous comments, trading of charges and counter-charges, false assurances and hollow sermons are being advanced by the power that be and their lackeys like 'supply is constrained because of bad monsoon and draught', 'come *khariff* products in the market everything will be normal', 'Rabi harvest will pull down prices', 'prices of foodgrains are increased because of increased procurement price paid to the farmers', 'it is a demand-pulled price increase', 'price will come down shortly', 'inflation will be contained by tightening money supply to the market' etc. And then there are some customary sermonizing and assurance serving like 'prices will come down soon' and 'in spite of food price inflation GDP will rise', etc. adding salt to the injury of the groaning people. Some diversionary comments like 'inflation unwanted but poverty is shameful' are also not in short supply. In order to calm the restive population and amid the signs of a gathering storm of intensified people's agitation, the Cabinet Committee on Prices who acknowledged after a long slumber the seriousness of the problem has indicated to deliberate on the factors fuelling prices and consider measures like import duty cuts, export bans, release of wheat and rice, and steps to check hoarding and illegal sale to stem the rot. The prime minister also in a routine manner endorsed the same without albeit disclosing as to what prevented him from adopting such measures a year back when this current phase of mind boggling price escalation set in. When asked as to when the prices would come down, a visibly testy agriculture minister replied "I am not an astrologer". What a responsible utterance from a public representative holding important ministerial position and having accountability to the people!

Babble subvert facts

Let us first cut through the babble presented by the bigwigs in the ministry, administration and the so-called experts of economics. Everybody knows that the price spiral started much ahead of the monsoon far more before the summer-sown *khariff* crops hit the market. So the government's plea of draught is a travesty of truth. Is it a fact that supply is constrained? *The Economic Survey* for 2008-09 had put the production of foodgrains at 229.85 millions tons during 2008-09 in accordance with the third advance estimates for the year. This was an improvement of 1.97 million tons over the production estimated in the second advance estimate for 2008-09. The production of rice was 99.37 million tons in 2008-09 which was 2.8 per cent more than the production in the previous year. The survey said that increase in production of rice was mainly on account of *khariff* season output growth of 3.4 per cent over the corresponding period of previous year. The production of Rabi rice was estimated to be lower by about 0.9 per cent in 2008-09. The wheat production, according to *The Economic Survey*, was expected to be marginally lower by 1.2 per cent at 77.63 million tons in 2008-09. The "economist" prime minister has always been claiming adequate food stock in the country. Union food and agricultural minister claimed in November last that enough food grain stocks are available, including rice and wheat in the godowns to bridge the gap between demand and supply. Adding that over 248 lakh tons of food grains are available for the public distribution system (PDS). He also added that ten lakh tons of wheat and five lakh tons of rice have been allocated for open market sale to moderate the prices. (*ANI* November 4th, 2009) He further informed on 20 December last that "in-spite-of errant monsoon and vagaries of nature, farmers in the country have made record production of 234 million tons of foodgrains last year". So where is the shortage?

As regards the prime minister's shameless comment that for providing better prices to farmers, the people are paying more, the less said, the better. Even a child knows that throughout the country, peasants are being denied

remunerative price for their produce because of a flawed and utterly corrupt procurement policy and mostly they are forced to distress sale. According to National Commission on Farmers, "50 per cent of the small farmers' produce is sold in distress". As a result of all these, "over one lakh farmers committed suicide in India and suicides have now spread to new regions and new crops. It is the incumbent Congress government who could not but admit the galloping distress of the peasants when it announced, notwithstanding as a gimmick, waiver of bank loans in the budget of 2008.

Next is the argument that this food inflation is pulled by excessive demand having its root in increased credit and buoyant growth of money. In March 2008, the then union minister of Panchayet Raj and Youth Affairs himself revealed in one of his talks that there were 836 million Indians who lived on less than Rs 20 per day and a huge number lived on less than Rs 9 per day. Pointing out this, he confessed that "India is becoming prosperous, not Indians." If that be so and if unemployment and job losses continue to rapidly scale upwards, how could demand (read capacity to spend) swell so much as to entail huge price spurt? Related to this is the question of inflation. Despite all claims of containing inflation through a slew of measures including 'tightened money supply', 'raising of interest rate' and embracing the trickery of presenting a lower inflation rate through manipulation and flawed compilation of price indices, the government is now admitting that inflation is soaring. Immediately, some apologists of bourgeois economy swing into action to confirm 'demand-pulled' price rise arguing that excess money in the hands of the people is pushing up price. And then to convolute the whole issue, they say that despite inflation, economy is on an upswing as reflected in increasing GDP. This is another trash. In the 1st July 2009 issue of *Proletarian Era*, we have carried out a detailed article exposing the falsity of this argument. Here, we just briefly reiterate that in a crisis-ridden capitalist economy, spiralling inflation is inevitable. The very

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Ruchika tragedy

Nexus of police-administration-government-bourgeois political parties exposed to its skeleton

A teenager, Ruchika Girhotra of Haryana, with dreams of becoming a tennis player of significance and with a good academic record as well, had to cut short her life herself in 1993, in sequel to a sustained excruciating pain of mental torture. And this grim torture came from none other than a person who held one of the highest positions in the law enforcement system, who was entrusted with the charge of protecting citizens against the goons, the anti-socials of the society. He was then the Inspector General of Police (later promoted to the Director General of Police of Haryana), SPS Rathore, who at the same time, was also the President of Haryana State Tennis Association of which Ruchika was a promising player. Rathore was 50-year old and a father whose daughter read in the same school and class X as Ruchika had been. And this man, who would have been normally expected to be a responsible man of age, proved himself a filthy debauch, when reportedly, he molested Ruchika repeatedly since 12 August 1990, even before the eyes of her friend Aradhana Prakash. Ruchika decided not to lie low and complained to the higher authorities. Aradhana and her family also stood ground with her. Thereupon, it made all hell break loose on Ruchika's self, her family and even her friend, Aradhana and her family. Ruchika was debarred from playing tennis any further, was driven out of her school on flimsy ground of non-payment of fees (a ground which even Rathore's daughter was said to be accused of), was spied upon and was given a bad name, all courtesy Rathore. Her father was sacked from service on 'fabricated grounds' of 'irregularity and discipline'; even Aradhana's father was demoted and suspended. Ruchika's family had to sell their house to a person of Rathore's choice and were even driven out of Haryana to take shelter in Simla. Ruchika's 13-year old younger brother was arrested without records, was slapped charges of car theft and others, was tortured brutally, paraded naked before Ruchika's eyes in front of their house and was forced to blame his sister for such condition of him.

The ordeal was enough for Ruchika to lose heart, even mental balance and strength, to ultimately commit suicide. Immediately after her death, his brother Ashu was acquitted of all the charges and released from the police custody on the same day and Rathore rejoiced as he and his advocate wife threw a lavish dinner party on the same night, for their relatives and all the official accomplices in the whole run of the show. With all these on record, nobody in the whole bureaucracy of Haryana or the government, the latter under at least three successive Chief Ministers of Congress and BJP backed INLD, namely Bansi Lall, Bhajan Lall and Om Prakash Chauthala cared to take note of them. They either connived at his crime or balked at, or simply ignored the records of Rathore's abetment to suicide and the petitions and resentments against his crime. The patronage was not just tacit. It was glaring from several facts. Even no FIR was allowed to be lodged against him over a long period of time.

Investigation of Rathore's misconduct by the then DGP himself recommending registration of a criminal case against him was dropped. On the contrary, he received a series of awards. In 1994, during Congress rule under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, Rathore was promoted from IGP to Additional Director General of Police. In 1999, he was further promoted to the post of DGP, this time by a government of BJP backed INLD with Om Prakash Chauthala as the Chief Minister. The same year by the same CM he was recommended for President's Police Medal for "distinguished service".

The judiciary, too, was not to be left without blame. Initially, the CBI never framed charge-sheet promptly after investigation but deferred on one plea after another, neither did it care to collect adequate evidence to prosecute Rathore on charges of abetment to suicide and even opposed such an application in the court. The Punjab and Haryana High Court relied on the CBI stand.

The court never exerted its suo motto role compelling the government and the CBI to expedite the case. The case lingered on for nearly two decades. Indeed, this inordinate delay rendered his crime diluted, thus leading to be faded, to the advantage of Rathore. He openly admitted that because of this delay his punishment could be reduced. And then one fine morning Rathore was sentenced with six month's imprisonment and a paltry fine of rupees 1000. Obviously that helped Rathore to come out of the court with a broad triumphant grin on his face.

So, Ruchika Girhotra case was a case in point. It shows how in this world's one of the largest democratic countries, an official of the highest echelon could go scot-free with his lewd acts of immorality; how he can abuse his office power and influence to launch a concerted effort to make his subordinates and cohorts instrumental in getting the crime suppressed with records hushed up in his favour, to his rescue; and then how a well-woven nexus of police-bureaucracy-administration and legislators that is the politicians of ruling parties cutting across their party lines and lastly, not really excluding the sacrosanct judiciary, could stand united to save the culprit from due punishment, rather bestowing him with the rewards for his 'distinguished service'. As a matter of fact, the nexus represented the whole state system which chose Rathore as their 'distinguished' member, rather than a criminal.

But, by no means, the case was unique in one or all of these attributes. Neither can one brush it aside as being a case of a police officer, a leading member of an organization which was designated by Justice Mollah, as far back as in the fifties of the last century, as the 'most organized criminal force'. In fact, if we go through the chronicle of the last few years, we will face a sordid picture. Ruchika tragedy was preceded by a long list of other such. There was Jessica Lall murder, who was sexually lured but on her refusal to submit was shot to death by Manu Sharma, son of a former Congress Union Minister; Priyadarshini Mattoo raped and murdered by Santosh

Kumar Singh, son of an IGP; Saina Sahni raped and murdered by Shushil Sharma, a former youth Congress leader; Madhumita Shukla raped and murdered by Amarmani Tripathi, a UP minister, Sarita raped by two cops at Haryana police Headquarters; tribal wife of Khayaliram Meena, an orderly of Rajasthan DIG Madhukar Tandon who raped that tribal woman in his quarter; a German research scholar who was raped by Bitti Mahanti, son of Orissa DGP; Tizzi Bai, a domestic help who was kidnapped and confined as bonded labour and repeatedly raped by a former BJP MLA Ashoke Vir Bikram alias Raja Bhai and later was abetted to burn herself to death in November 2007 in collusion with his wife Asha Rani, the present MLA of the same BJP from Bijaware in Madhya Pradesh. Even so-called left parties are not free from blemish. Rizwanur Rahaman of Calcutta or Nitish Katara of Delhi were abetted to suicide or murdered, whatever it may be, by persons with money and power, industrialist Ashoke Todi in the former case or politician D.P. Yadav in the latter for their 'crime' of loving their daughters respectively; in both the cases, the assailants acted in collusion with top police personnel, who in Rizwanur's case acted under and obviously in full knowledge of the government led by none other than a party like CPIM). The list is unending. The victims and their families had to be ruined, suffer all pains and atrocities. But their tormentor, their killers, their rapists, high-ups in the society with money or power or both, could go unpunished and unscathed. They enjoyed all freedom.

It is to be noted these are the cases which came to light, largely on account of a vigilant section of media sensing people's wrath against those wrong-doers hailing from the corridors of power and money. But there are hundreds of thousands of such cases of attack on women including children taking place daily in the country, that go unnoticed, unpublished and untraced. It has, indeed, become the pang of life for legion commoners in the society under the present capitalist rule, where

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Ruchika tragedy

Rampant crime against women unbridled throughout capitalist world

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persons in the corridor of power dominate and domineer. This is indeed the privilege for these powerful persons, powerful because they either belong to the class or are their trusted henchmen, servitors or protectors. So, at some point the state with all its organs and ancillaries, come out in defence of the wrong-doers forgetting about all its jargons of democracy and rule of law. The wrong-doers stand out as the favourite few of the corrupt, power-monger capitalist class rule. The victims, women and children of exploited common masses are left with empty words of right, equality before law and justice.

The ever-tightening noose of capitalist exploitation is pressing hard upon the common toiling people of all sections, with all the maladies of the crisis-ridden capitalism, abject poverty, utter illiteracy, unemployment, total insecurity of life and livelihood, corrupt and criminalized political activities, all pervading cultural-ethical-moral degeneration robbing people the minimum prospect of a decent human life. Added to this, comes the atrocities upon women and children. They become the worst victims not only of poverty and oppression, including oppression and domination of man within and without the family. They fall easy prey to ugly sexual abuses and assaults, again both in the family and outside. They are not only raped but are also brutally murdered after rape. And such atrocities on women are no matter of India alone. It is there in the entire capitalist world, where the women community is under systematic and organized attack and annihilation – annihilation of their dignity, their lives too. In India in every 29 minutes a woman is raped and even of the handful of rape cases that are reported, only 4-12% rapists are convicted. Here, in every 15 minutes a molestation is perpetrated, two kidnaps of women for trafficking and one dowry death is organized every hour. What is horrific is that children are also victims of such atrocities. Over 18 lakh children are raped and pushed to the darkness of prostitution or are utilized in pornography every year. On the other hand, in the USA, the much-trumpeted democracy and land of women's freedom and

equality, attack on women is rampant. Only in 2007, according to their National Organization for Women (NOW), over 132,000 women were raped in that country. The NOW also admits that the real number was at least double since many victims did not lodge complaint because of various social considerations. What is omitted in such admissions is that in these capitalist-imperialist countries like USA these heinous acts are perpetrated by high-ups of society, who do not fail, even after committing these crimes, to earn all sorts of protection and privilege from the police-administration and judiciary.

In India, like many other capitalist countries, these atrocities on women and children are perpetrated under state patronage too, directly or indirectly. The glaring evidence of this state patronage is revealed to the horror of the civil society in Chhattisgarh. Here a vigilante militia has been formed under the style Salwa Judum comprising special police officers (SPOs) recruited from the young tribals of the villages of the district. Formed in 2006 the SPOs of Salwa Judum go from village to village and rape their own tribal women and burn their own villages. They commit such inhuman state-sponsored offensive with the plea of flushing out Naxalites against a pittance of salary of Rs1800. According to official report, over 85% of the sexual assault victims' families are threatened to keep themselves silent. In Nandigram of West Bengal, the government of pseudo-Marxist CPI(M) let loose armed goons in disguise, as they were clad in police uniform, upon the struggling peasants. They not only fired upon the peasants and carried on arson and loot; with a view to breaking the moral of the struggling peasants, they indiscriminately raped and tortured women of all ages, who were at the forefront of their movement to save their lands from forcible grabbing.

The above brief note presents nothing but the tip of an iceberg, is only a glimpse of the grim shape of brutal atrocities being perpetrated against women in the present capitalist-imperialist world which is immersed in unassailable decadence and crisis. It may be recalled that oppression of women by men started

when the initial matriarchal form of human society broke down along with division of society into classes. Since then, this age-old problem went on aggravating with time. In feudal society it became an instrument of irresponsible sex exploitation as expressed in polygamy and other feudal cultures. It was the bourgeoisie, the Renaissance based on their humanist ideology and the bourgeois democratic revolution that sought to put an end to the feudal oppression on women. Their democratization of society also involved equal rights of man and woman; their concept of monogamy was to replace polygamy. But real emancipation of womanhood and end of oppression by man and all sorts of exploitation and sexual aberrations were never achieved in capitalist society. Rather, with the passage of time as the exploitative system of capitalism got into its crisis and became moribund, it lost all its cherished social ideals and values on every aspect of life. Emancipation of women from exploitation receded like a mirage; equality of men and women was virtually reduced to empty words. Under the influence of decadent bourgeois ideology male domination raised its ugly head anew. Intense market crisis and acute recession accompanied by rampant unemployment, thrust women further back in the rat race for jobs. But above all, the degenerated capitalist system which tends to wipe out all cherished moral-ethical values of mankind and instead, tends to make man dehumanized money-making machine for running the maximum profit-fetching system of capitalist production, has driven women among the have-nots, to become worst victims of political, cultural and above all sexual exploitation. They have again been virtually bonded and have become objects of repression and exploitation by men acting under the influence of bourgeois thoughts and culture, more ruthless and more agonizing than previous one. Rathore is just the name of such a demon, to whom there is no appeal of any moral value, any sense of humanity, leave aside decency or rationality.

So Ruchika tragedy is neither an isolated case, nor unexpected from this decadent capitalist society. The victims, the womenfolk and their

kins, and the common toiling people must realize that so long as capitalism will exist, such cases as those of Rathore and their brands, will continue to recur. But even then, as it is evident in this case, too, the wrong-doers, the demons can be put on leash only by the vigilant and alert masses of common people. And against the all powerful nexus of police-administration- bureaucracy and corrupt politicians of bourgeois parties vying with each other for power, people can develop the required vigilance and alertness only by developing and sustaining organized united democratic movement built on the strong edifice of higher cultural standard and demanding, among other demands, immediate stopping of all atrocities on women and children. Only such a movement places men and women on really equal footing based on mutual respect and cooperation. Only such movements, when they are mighty, can force the evil nexus to yield and take the wrong-doers to deserving punishment. Incidentally, absence of such mighty democratic movements in the country has only encouraged the rogues to flex their muscles of power and money. Rathores could easily make their way. It is not really unexpected that parties like Congress or BJP or their likes, with all their words of morality and value-based politics will stand to defend the rogues; after all, they all serve the same master, the ruling capitalists. What is more noteworthy, is the role of the pseudo-Marxists like CPI(M)- CPI , which too in their lust for power and pelf, have turned into shameless servitors of capitalist class and have shunned the path of democratic movement. The rogues thus find an open ground for free play.

Even amidst this dismal scenario, whatever minimum people's opinion could generate against the inhuman act of Rathore and his going scot-free, both the Union and the Haryana state governments had to backtrack upon the way they had been treading so far. It is the people's opinion, howsoever minimal it may be so far, that could stir up the administration even the judiciary to take some steps like stripping DGP Rathore of his police medal, arrest of a culprit in theft case imposed on Ruchika's brother, police measures to record

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Profiteers creating artificial scarcity, jacking up price

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fiscal measures the bourgeois government desperately undertakes to provide oxygen to a gasping economy propel high inflation. For example, during presentation of last Union Budget, the finance minister showed that Revenue Deficit as a percentage of GDP was projected at 4.8% compared to 1% in Budget Estimate (BE) 2008-09 and 4.6% as per provisional accounts of 2008-09. On the other hand, the Fiscal Deficit as a percentage of GDP was projected at 6.8% compared to 2.5% in BE 2008-09 and 6.2% as per provisional accounts 2008-09. This saga of budgetary deficit has been ongoing. What happens, if the Fiscal Deficit rises? It means that the government will borrow extra to finance its expenditure (planned or non-planned). Revenue deficit can only be financed by one of three sources: domestic borrowing, borrowing overseas or printing money (monetisation). And the government is resorting to all these. Last year, the total borrowing was estimated to be as high as Rs 2.62 lakh crores. If the government borrows extra for its spending, then the level of money supply will rise because it will force the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to print more money – which would lead to higher inflation at least in the medium term. It has come in the media that Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the association of the ruling Indian monopolists, has recommended printing of fresh currency notes since inflation is stated to be below 1%. (*Ananda Bazar Patrika* 30-05-09). Reserve Bank of India in its bulletin dated 11 December 2009 indicated a rise of almost 50% in money circulation which indicates fair amount of monetization. Over and above, we know that a parallel economy of huge black money (envisaged to have crossed over two lakhs crore rupees) is in operation. Not only black money is being used for hoarding of essential commodities under the present liberalization regime in banking sector, bank money is also being liberally lent out for hoarding of foodgrains and other necessities without any restriction in the name of financing trading business. Selective credit control in banking industry has been done away with and hoarding is being facilitated through uncontrolled and lavish bank finance. Not only this, entry of

foreign capital in agricultural commodity market in a big way has been allowed by the government ignoring justified opposition and just apprehension of the right thinking people that that such investment of foreign capital in agricultural market will ultimately spell doom on small farming and the small traders.

Moreover, the Naik Committee, set up to assess the menace of fake currency, says counterfeit money in the range of Rs 1, 69,000 crore is sloshing around the system. (*Times of India* 31-07-09) And it is also reported that there are enough loopholes which allow counterfeits to remain in circulation. (*Times of India* 01-08-09) and the brunt of all these injected aberrations, frauds and criminal activities are being borne by the common people in the form of price spiral.

Showcasing increased GDP as sign of economic growth is another hoax. GDP which represents market value of all goods and services produced does not reflect distribution of the growth. Discretionary distribution of wealth is endemic of capitalist economy where motive of production is to earn maximum profit for the owners of the means of production i.e. the capitalist class. And this profit only results when the labouring masses are deprived of their dues. So wealth gets concentrated in the hands of a few rich and affluent while the myriad of toiling people continuously get pauperized. This widened chasm between the rich and the poor is not manifest in the GDP. As all know, among first ten richest individuals in the world, four are Indians and their combined wealth is somewhere around \$160 billion. If the assets of another nine individuals who feature among the first 200 rich in the world, it would be observed that the total wealth of these 13 tycoons is \$250 billion i.e. 25% of country's gross GDP which is estimated to be \$1.16 trillion (Rs 47, 00,000 crores). It is further revealed that income of 53 rich individuals constitute 31% of national income of India. This clearly indicates how inequitable distribution of wealth in India is. Even the prime minister could not keep the reality under carpet and commented that, "Benefits of growth have not filtered down equally to all." (*Economic Times*, 1 March 2008)

Let us now come back to the

supply question. While presenting union budget for 2007, the government said that because of shortcomings on the supply side and poor and inefficient intermediation between the producer and the consumer, prices of essential food items had come under pressure. Hence, handling the supply side rather than stifling demand could only tackle the situation. Has anything been done in this regard? Answer will be a big "No". We had shown in our earlier write ups that drought or no drought, bad monsoon or good monsoon, it is the government's responsibility to supply food to the people at reasonable prices. Whereas it was expected that the government in the interest of millions of poverty stricken people would come out with all help to the taming of price rise by import of necessary food items, banning export of those and supplying the same at subsidized rates through PDS (Public Distribution System), much trumpeted PDS is virtually non-existent in the country, not because of any supply shortage or any other genuine reason but owing to widespread corruption and malpractices. The minimum advantage the people could avail of in getting rice, wheat, and sugar from the PDS under the new liberalization policy has been further slashed by the government. After introducing the APL and BPL division among the lower middle class and poor consumers in 1996, 73 per cent of the people earmarked as APL has been debarred from drawing rations from the fair price shops. Supply to the rest 27 per cent has also been cut down substantially. And a great portion of that minimum quantity supplied by the Central government is being diverted to the black market through backdoor in connivance with the corrupt inspecting and supervising government officials and touts of the parliamentarian political parties serving vile bourgeois class interest. Also colossal wastage takes place because of lack of infrastructure. Such pilferage or wastage takes place even at the government stores. It had come to light that 7 lakh tons of sugar meant for PDS disappeared from government godowns in Maharashtra. Lack of cold storage facilities reportedly leads to wastage of about 40% of the farm produce causing an annual loss of Rs 50,000 crores. (*Economic Times*, 21-02-07)

As per a government study not even 25% of the food reaches the poor — most of it is sold in the black market. (Arun Firodia, *Times of India*, 28-02-07) Of late, it has come to light that though there was good harvest of potatoes in West Bengal, the unscrupulous traders and cold storage owners hoarded over two lakh sacks of potatoes to create an artificial scarcity that sparked off over 150% spurt in retail price. Instead of taking any punitive action against this dishonest business lobby, the CPI (M)-led state government under public pressure chose to buy potatoes from other states debiting good sum of money from public exchequer to show how serious it is in easing the situation. But people ended up paying much higher prices even after that for a vegetable that had grown in abundance. On the other hand, several potato farmers committed suicide for having not been able to get remunerative prices proving union agriculture minister's remark about paying higher prices to the farmers nothing but mockery. Situation is similar in almost all other states. The situation is further worsened because of a new type of gambling that has been introduced in the capital market speculation. As we had shown in our earlier write-up, this is called derivative trading in which there is rampant speculation over, among other things, future price of agricultural crops including essential food items. Speculators involved in this particular trading also pull strings from behind to manipulate supply and price. All these malpractices, orchestrated crimes and misconducts are triggering skyrocketing of price.

Hoarders and black marketeers virtually running amuck

The whole country has become a fiefdom of hoarders, smugglers, profiteers, criminals and black marketeers. They have been manipulating the prices at will without any limit. If one probes, it will be revealed that prices are even 8 to 10 times more than the cost of production. Gasping in its moribund stage, ruling capitalism is frantically trying to stave off the accentuating insoluble market crisis created by the capitalist system itself by resorting to every foul means – corruption, hoarding, black

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Rampant hoarding, speculation, blackmarketing triggering price rise

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marketing, speculation, usury and of course, price manipulation and arbitrary price fixation breaking even the last vestige of control mechanism so as to usurp maximum profit. In fact, there is nothing known as price mechanism today. Whatever little control the government had over price fixation and whatever restraint worked on the manufacturers and traders in regard to arbitrary determination of price earlier under pressure of left-democratic movement are extinct today in absence of the tide of the said movement. And onus lies with the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M), CPI who in their penchant for pelf and power have not only spurned the path of movement but have themselves been brutally crushing democratic movement in the states they are in power to endear themselves to the ruling capitalist class. As a result, the aforesaid combination of conspirators and designers are unbridled in holding the people to ransom. Because, it is they who are today instrumental in anointing the party or parties of their choice to power through various manoeuvres and manipulations. And in reciprocation, these power-hungry parties saddled in the government either at the Centre or in the states are allowing them to trade in the hunger of the millions. The current spurt in prices is not due to any non-mitigating economic reason, natural disaster or climatic imbalance but cent per cent man made. It is due to large-scale hoarding, creation of artificial scarcity and rampant blackmarketing aided and abetted by the bourgeois governments of different hues. Only to douse the fire of people's wrath and indignation, the ministers and government officials will indulge in some pedagogic gymnastics and occasional pretensions of undertaking corrective steps but the hoarders, black marketers and profiteers will continue to hold sway over the market and stash away the articles of daily consumption to create artificial scarcity and earn huge black money under direct or indirect protection of the parties in power in collusion with the administration.

For example, in the face of mounting discontent of the people, finance minister Pranab Mukherjee

on 31 December last in Calcutta preached the sermon that the state governments must take measures to check hoarding of food grains and other essential items of mass consumption. He said that officials of the central ministry have impressed upon the state ministers to take steps in this regard. Indirectly, he has conceded that apart from all other reasons, it is rampant hoarding and blackmarketing that has entailed the current phase of unprecedented unabated price spiral. One might be tempted to ask him if they could send battalions of armed troops to Lalgarh in West Bengal for crushing legitimate movement of deprived destitute tribal people, what prevented them from turning the state machinery against these hoarders and black marketeers? Why should not these criminals be booked under black UAPA for indulging in anti-national activities? Similar question can also be asked to the CPI (M)-led state government. It is pertinent to point out here that confronted with this question, the CPI (M) leaders parroting the Congress stalwarts said that they were constrained by absence of appropriate legislation. The Essential Commodities Act was considerably diluted during the BJP rule and hence rendered toothless. Even a blunt would burst into giggles at such defence. First of all, existing law empowers the government enough to take appropriate action against hoarders and price manipulators. Secondly, Essential Commodities Act was diluted in the late nineties by the BJP government. Prior to that, how many black marketeers or unlawful stockists were nabbed by them under the Act? Moreover, why did they not force previous Congress-led UPA government surviving on their support for four years and a half to restore the diluted clauses of Essential Commodities Act? We know they have no answer to these as like any other bourgeois party, the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M), CPI have also become part of the corrupt bourgeois system abetting and acquiescing in all such crimes, corruption and anti-people unscrupulous acts.

Force government to bend under pressure of movement

But that does not mean that

there is nothing that can be done to lessen the woes. Though the governments are hand-in-glove with unholy nexus of hoarders and black marketeers, they can be forced to take into consideration people's demands under pressure of movement. Suo motto, no bourgeois government would take any step in the interest of the people like making available to the masses all essential items including food articles regularly in sufficient quantity and at affordable price. The governments have to be compelled to concede to this by exerting people's power in the form of movement. There is no other course left to the suffering people other than building up powerful movement to wrest their just demands. This movement as immediate remedy must demand of the government to revive the defunct Public Distribution System and make it function properly free of corruption and other malpractices. Government should not be allowed to spurn this responsibility under any pretext. But to sustain this, governments must be made to accept the all important demand of implementing all-out state trading in foodgrains and other essential items of daily use. It means there will be complete abolition of private trade in the items of daily consumption. Government itself will procure the produce from the peasants at reasonable remunerative price and then distribute the same to the common people through the PDS outlets at fair price. Responsibility of procurement must lie with the government so that it can not advance the plea of non-availability of stock. Similarly, both wholesale and retail trade should be under the aegis of the government. If only

wholesale trading is with the government, all the wholesalers will overnight turn into retailers and pile stocks just below the ceiling and continue to manipulate retail price. Through appropriate mechanism, some of the retail traders might also be absorbed in the system as government-approved shop owners. This is very well possible even in a capitalist set up. No other party except our party, SUCI (Communist) has been raising this demand since the mid '50s of last century as a long term solution. Through experience, it is now established that there is no other alternative.

But to realize this demand by bending the unwilling government, a powerful long-drawn united organized people's movement has to be released throughout the country and a mental make-up conducive to this movement has to be developed in right earnest. To perform this task, innumerable people's struggle committees have to be formed at the grassroots level in every nook and corner of the country to lead and direct the movement and a huge number of volunteers of the movement have to be recruited from the masses. Depending upon the stage of preparedness and consolidation, the various forms of the movement will be decided and gradually elevated to higher levels. Since there is no other way but to embrace this path of movement, workers-peasants-students-youths-women-intellectuals and all other sections of toiling people, oppressed and suppressed day in day out by the ruthlessly exploitative capitalist system, the root of all evils including the menace of demonic price rise, must come forward and build up this desired powerful democratic movement.

Ruchika tragedy

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FIRs against Rathore, acceptance of petition by the judiciary against Rathore and so on. It is also the same ambience that have forced beginning the hunt for Rajasthan's ex-DGP M. Tandon, as also framing up of new harsh law against molestation so long absent. But much remains to be done. As legal experts are fearing, even with palpable case for arresting Rathore,

he is not being touched by the present Haryana government, an ominous sign that the case may end in a fiasco at the end, with punishment meted out only to a few petty co-accused. Only the pressure of a more powerful sustained and united movement of men and women together, can act as the minimum guarantee for bringing justice to the victim families of Ruchika and Aradhana.

Combine struggle against Zionist Israel's aggression and oppression with a global struggle against capitalism-imperialism — Comrade Manik Mukherjee

(The following is an abridged version of speech of Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) and General Secretary, International Anti-imperialist And People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee delivered at the Arab International Congregation on Golan Heights held at Damascus, Syria, on 11 October, 2009.)

The history of Israel is a history of deception, brutality, aggression and annexation; it is a history of oppression and deprivation of the people of Palestine. We have to remember that Israel was born through the conspiracy of the imperialist-Zionist axis. After the Second World War when national liberation movements were surging ahead in Asia and Africa, including in the countries of the Middle East, the Anglo-US imperialists felt the necessity of having an outpost in the Middle East, a region rich in oil resources, to implement their geo-political designs. They needed a regime to play the role of a gendarme for crushing the anti-imperialist national liberation struggles in West Asia, which might have overthrown the imperialist control on oil resources. A Jewish state of Israel backed by the imperialist powers would fit the bill. After the terrible persecution under Hitler and the killing of millions of Jewish people in the gas chambers, the Jews had the sympathy of the whole world. The imperialist powers cunningly exploited the world's sympathy for the Jews to implement their nefarious design against the people of the Middle East, and sought to confuse world opinion by talking about the necessity of a homeland for the Jewish people. With the imperialists' support the State of Israel was founded in a region where the Palestinians had been living for centuries. Long before the actual founding of the state of Israel, the Zionists had drawn up the plans for a Jewish state which would be for Jews only, a state that would either be totally cleansed of the non-Jewish people or in which the latter would have to live as minority second class citizens. From its very inception this has been the state policy of Israel. In May 14, 1948 the Zionist leaders announced the formation of Israel, and through the war that immediately ensued, they grabbed much more territory than that allotted to Israel under the original UN partition plan. Resorting to terror and massacres they drove out more than 700,000 Palestinian people, that is, about

80% of the native Arab population, and razed to the ground over 500 Palestinian villages. The neighbouring countries of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan became the shelter for 4 million Palestinian refugees.

Historically the Golan Heights along the northeastern border of Israel had been a part of Syria before 1948. In 1949 at the end of the Israel-Arab war the agreed upon armistice line left the Golan Heights under the control of Syria with a demilitarized zone along the border with Israel. The Golan Heights is strategically very important because it commands the lower areas in Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and also controls the water resources of the region. Hence Israel had its eye on this terrain and border skirmishes between Syria and Israel were frequent even after the Armistice. Finally through the Six-Day-War in 1967 Israel militarily occupied a major part of the Golan Heights (ca. 1300 sq km), though after the Yom Kippur War of 1973 Syria could recover 100 sq km of this occupied territory. Israel tried to justify its preemptive strikes in the 1967 war and the subsequent occupation of Golan Heights, West Bank and other territories by alleging imminent threat of Egyptian-Syrian aggressive attacks. But the real situation was revealed by Moshe Dayan, the then Israeli Defence Minister, in an interview in 1976 (published in 1997), in which he said, "I know how at least 80 percent of the clashes there started. ... It went this way: We would send a tractor to plow some area where it wasn't possible to do anything, in the demilitarized area, and knew in advance that the Syrians would start to shoot. If they didn't shoot, we would tell the tractor to advance farther, until in the end the Syrians would get annoyed and shoot. And then we would use artillery and later the air force also, and that's how it was."

The whole world condemned the Israeli occupation as illegal, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 called for "withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the

recent conflict". Implementation of this Resolution was again stressed in Resolution 338 adopted after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. But Israel paid no attention to any of these Resolutions and firmly established its control in the occupied territory under martial law. The imperialist powers did nothing to force Israeli to abide by the Resolutions.

Before the 1967 war Golan had a flourishing agricultural economy with a population of about 140,000 people. After the war only 7000 remained; 93% of the Syrian population was driven out and became refugees. Israel has not allowed them to return. Most of the Arab villages and farms were razed to the ground and the land given to the Jewish settlers. The provincial capital Quneitra was leveled by the Israelis and razed to the ground before they returned it to Syria after the 1973 war. The aggressive Israeli policy of colonization and establishment of Jewish settlements changed the demography of the region, though expulsion of native population and new settlements in occupied territories are illegal under international law.

Though the whole world considered the Golan Heights to be a territory occupied by Israel and not part of Israel proper, in order to give legitimacy to its occupation Israel passed in 1981 the Golan Heights Law placing anyone living in the territory, irrespective of origin, under civilian Israeli law, administration, and jurisdiction; and it tried to seduce the Arab inhabitants with Israeli citizenship. The Security Council of the United Nations condemned this move and in its Resolution 497 stated "that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect;" and "that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision".

Israel systematically followed an apartheid-like policy with respect to the Arab population. They were harassed in many ways, subjected to arbitrary detentions, house arrests and travel restrictions; households received inflated tax demands; students were prevented from appearing at University Examinations, teachers were threatened with dismissal. At the same time it was unofficially and

repeatedly propagated that these difficulties would be removed upon taking an Israeli Identity Card (ID). Most non-Jewish residents of the Golan Heights refused to surrender Syrian citizenship and take Israeli Identity Cards (IDs). In retaliation Israel resorted to repressive measures. In February 1982 the inhabitants responded by an open-ended General Strike which lasted over half a year, and was accompanied by a long chain of non-violent actions that sparked support and solidarity throughout the country and the whole world. Finally, Israel was forced to retract its decision, and the inhabitants of the Golan Heights kept their Syrian citizenship. This is a significant victory.

Israel has all along defied the UN Resolutions with impunity because it knows that it has the overt and covert support of the imperialist powers, particularly USA. When USA could not openly oppose a censure motion against Israel because of the pressure of world opinion it abstained from the voting. And it never did anything to compel Israel to stop its attack on the Arab people or on the neighbouring states, rather it justified the attacks in the name of fighting terrorism; and it gave all possible aids to Israel to bolster up its military might.

Let a strong voice go from this Conference that peace can return to Middle East only through cessation of Israeli aggression against the Arab people, withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories, including the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza, and a just solution to the issue of the Palestinian refugees. Let a forceful demand be raised here that the big powers, particularly USA, compel Israel to abide by the UN Resolutions, honour the right of return of the Palestinians to their homelands and withdraw from all occupied territories.

Finally we would emphasize that just as our struggle is not against the American people but against the ruling class of USA and its policies of exploitation and aggression, our fight against Israel is against the ruling class of Israel, in alliance with imperialists from all over the world, against its policies of aggression and annexation. Ours is not a fight

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BASAD pledges to carry forward struggle for building up left alternative and socialism in Bangladesh

Bangladesher Samajtrantik Dal (BASAD) held its First Central Convention at the Mahanagar Natmancha in Dhaka on 30-31 December 2009. In a massive rally held as a part of the Convention on the evening of 30 December, Comrade Khalequzzaman, the Convenor of the BASAD set the tunes and tasks of the party and the Convention in his address as the President of the rally. He said: The 38-year long capitalist rule in the country has made it clear that people's plight would not end, without the fundamental change of the existing capitalist system and establishment of socialism instead. To reach that end, it is necessary to break open the vicious cycle of two party bourgeois parliamentary system and to build up a left alternative, and to accelerate and strengthen the struggle for socialism under the leadership of a genuine revolutionary party. Comrade Khalequzzaman further added that like previous governments the present one too, is indulging in terror-corruption-party sectarianism. The Syndicate responsible for price hike is still active as before. Oppression and deprivation of workers by the capitalist owners are ever increasing. The fuel resources, like gas, coal etc., of the country are being handed over unabatedly to multinational corporations of imperialist countries. Bangladesh is being dragged into the net of Indo-US war design, thus threatening sovereignty of this land. Only a united left force can effectively combat this situation.

The rally was also addressed by Comrades Mubinul Haidar Choudhury, Abdullah Sarakar, Shubhrangshu Chakraborty, all members of the Central Committee of BASAD, Comrades Provash Ghosh, Member Central Committee and Polit Bureau, Socialist Centre of India (Communist), E Thambiah, Member Central Committee, New Democratic Party (Marxist) of Sri Lanka, Indra Mohan Sigdel of Unified Communist Party (Marxist) of Nepal, Si Hong Chol, Ambassador of Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, Sara

Flounders, Member Central Committee Workers World Party (USA), Michael Kramer, a leader of US-based International Action Center, Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary, International Anti-Imperialist People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee.

The Convention was inaugurated on the morning of 30 December at the same venue. Thereafter a well-decorated disciplined procession marched across Dhaka. The Delegate Session was held on 31 December at the same venue. In addition to the fraternal guests and leaders mentioned above, the inaugural session and the rally were attended also by progressive eminent intellectuals and leftist political leaders of Bangladesh, like Justice Golam Rabbani, Journalist Faiz Ahmed, Professor Akmal Hossain, Abu Sayeed Khan, Bimal Biswas, Agronomist Mohammad Hossain Mandal and Professor Abidur Reza.

The Delegate Session was attended by 704 delegates and observers and addressed by 49 delegates. The delegates deliberated upon and accepted the organizational-political report placed by Comrade Khalequzzaman. National and international theses as also Draft Constitution were also accepted in the session with some amendments. The delegates finally elected a Central Committee in place of the existing Central Convening Committee, with Comrade Khalequzzaman as the General Secretary, and Comrade Mubinul Haidar Choudhury, Comrade Abdullah Sarakar, Comrade Shubhrangshu Chakraborty, Comrade Bajlur Rasheed Feroz, Comrade Jahidul Haque Milu, Comrade Rajekuzzaman Ratan and Comrade Saifur Rahaman Tapan as members. The delegates also endorsed the programme of anti-capitalist socialist revolution in Bangladesh, accepted as the political line by the party in 1980. In regard to international situation, the delegates called upon people of the world to raise their firm voice against imperialist aggression upon different countries and pledged for unwavering struggle against

imperialism.

On January 1, 2010 leaders of different leftist political parties and leftist progressive intellectuals and journalists exchanged opinions with the foreign guests who had attended the First Central Convention of the BASAD. The meet was presided over by Comrade Khalequzzaman and was addressed by Comrade Sara Flounders, Comrade E Thambiah, Comrade Indra Mohan Sigdel, Comrade Provash Ghosh, Comrade Michael Kramer, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, along with leftist political leaders, intellectuals and journalists of Bangladesh. The speakers emphasized laying importance upon strengthening struggle for socialism on the basis of correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism and fighting out all deviations, right or left. At the same time they concluded that it was necessary to develop a centre of international communist movement, along with developing powerful movement against imperialist aggression and exploitation in different countries of the world, coordinating those struggles with the help of a global anti-imperialist platform.

LIST OF STAFF MEMBERS PRESENTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SUCI(C) IN THE SECOND PARTY CONGRESS

1. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee
2. Comrade Sitesh Das Gupta
3. Comrade Provash Ghosh
4. Comrade Manik Mukherjee
5. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty
6. Comrade Ranjit Dhar
7. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya
8. Comrade Yakub Pailan
9. Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar
10. Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury
11. Comrade C.K. Lukose
12. Comrade K. Radhakrishna
13. Comrade Gopal Kundu
14. Comrade Soumen Bose
15. Comrade Satyawan
16. Comrade Sankar Saha
17. Comrade K. Sridhar
18. Comrade Chandralekha Das
19. Comrade Shivshankar
20. Comrade Arun Singh
21. Comrade Dwarika Rath
22. Comrade Anup Singh
23. Comrade Hem Chakraborty
24. Comrade B.R. Manjunath
25. Comrade V. Venugopal
26. Comrade Dhurjati Das
27. Comrade Sankar Dasgupta
28. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee
29. Comrade Pranati Bhattacharyya
30. Comrade Ziad Ali Baxi

Struggle against Zionist Israel

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against the Jewish community or Judaism. There is class division within the Jewish community, with proletariat Jews and bourgeois Jews. The proletariat Jews are as much a victim of exploitation by the capitalist-imperialists as their brethren in the other parts of the world. That is why we are witnessing that within Israel also opposition to its policy of aggression and annexation is crystallizing. Concerned Israeli citizens have jointly issued statements condemning the Israeli brutality in Gaza and demanding immediate cessation of the war against the Palestinians. Thousand have demonstrated in Tel-Aviv protesting against Israeli Army's actions in Gaza. We reiterate that Israel's aggression is a part and parcel of the aggression of the global capitalist-

imperialist rulers, particularly of the ruling class of USA, on the Arab people. We cannot fight Israel without waging a battle against capitalism-imperialism. And in this struggle we must maintain the unity of the oppressed and exploited people. It is an old imperialist ploy to fan up religious sentiments, ethnic feelings, nationality sentiments etc., to set up one religious community against another, one ethnic group against another, one nationality against another. We must not fall a victim to this imperialist conspiracy of 'divide and rule'. This Conference will surely chalk out a concrete programme of uncompromising and sustained struggle against Israel's aggression and oppression, combining it with a global struggle against capitalism-imperialism, and strengthening the unity of the oppressed people.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE