

# Proletarian Era

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## Long Live Comrade Lenin



22 April 1870 — 21 January 1924

“...the bourgeois economists depict this crisis as mere ‘unrest,’ ...On the other hand, revolutionaries sometimes try to prove that the crisis is absolutely hopeless. That is a mistake. There is no such thing as an absolutely hopeless situation. The bourgeoisie behaves like an arrogant plunderer who has lost his head; it commits folly after folly, making the situation more acute and hastening its own doom. All this is true. But it cannot be ‘proved’ that there is absolutely no chance of its gulling some minority of the exploited with some kind of minor concessions, or of suppressing some movement or uprising of some section or another of the oppressed and exploited. To try to ‘prove’ beforehand that a situation is ‘absolutely’ hopeless would be sheer pedantry, or juggling with concepts and catchwords. ...The bourgeois system all over the world is experiencing a most profound revolutionary crisis. The revolutionary parties must now ‘prove’ by their practical actions that they are sufficiently intelligent and organized, are sufficiently in contact with the exploited masses, are sufficiently determined and skillful, to utilize this crisis for a successful and victorious revolution.” — Lenin

(“Report on the International Situation and the Fundamental Tasks of the Communist International,”—CW. Vol. XXV, pp. 340-41.)

## Harrowing Spectacle of Bonded and Forced Labour in Capitalist Globalization

It has been shocking and barbaric! Twelve migrant labourers of Kalahandi district of western Odisha had taken an advance from a labour contractor to work in the brick kilns of Hyderabad. However, the contractor instead forcibly tried to take them to Raipur in Chhattisgarh to engage them in another brick kiln. While ten of them managed to escape, two were held captive by the contractor mafia. After torturing them brutally, the contractor and his men on their way back to Kalahandi halted at a place in Bolangir district, chopped off the right hands of the two labourers and dumped them on the road. Some local villagers spotted the victims bleeding profusely and writhing in excruciating pain and rescued them. This happened on 15 December last. Days after this gruesome incident, the labour contractors displayed their muscle power again in this poverty-stricken region of Odisha by recapturing over 300 labourers including pregnant women and infants similarly being coercively ferried as cheap labour to other states within hours of their rescue. These migrant labourers are supplied by the contractor mafias, mostly comprising political vested interests, cutting across party lines of those afloat in the corridors of power. Recruiting labourers by giving them loan advances and controlling their lives for months is a

form of bondage, debt bondage, which is the most widely used method of enslaving people even in modern bourgeois society. Victims become bonded labourers when their labour is demanded as a means of repayment for a loan and the value of the labour so extracted is greater than the original sum of money “borrowed”. Not just Odisha, reports of such grisly offences are reported from other states also. On 18 November last 2013, as many as 24 bonded labours were rescued from a tree cutting unit in Kancheepuram district of Tamilnadu. What is thus coming to light is but the proverbial tip of the iceberg of a sordid modern day version of human trafficking and the slave trade in capitalist India. But, what baffles everyone is that neither the government nor its hi-tech police administration is reported to have got any whiff of such a roaring trade of human trafficking. In the instant case of rescue act in Odisha also, the police could not, as usual, lay hands on the culprit contractors notwithstanding all usual drills of raids and manhunts. One can naturally smell a rat in it and justifiably so. It is estimated that the turnover of this industry of supplying migrant bonded labourer in western Odisha alone is more than Rs.500 crore per annum. How can these outlaws and gangsters run a racket of this size with alacrity without the

law enforcement machinery being complicit in it? Bonded labour, as could be seen, had not been the exclusive preserve of the feudal lords. It is very much in existence in decadent moribund capitalism today but in a slightly varied form and obviously abetted by the power that be. And the tentacles of bonded and forced labour are quite extended, sparing not even the most sophisticated of industries like Information Technology. With situation turning from bad to worse with every passing day, it is incumbent on every right-thinking person to not only take due cognizance of this cruel practice but trace its roots and remedial course.

### Bonded labour and forced labour

Bonded labour is a kind of forced labour. Forced labour is a situation in which victims are forced to work against their own will, under the threat of violence or some other form of punishment, their freedom is restricted and a degree of ownership is exerted. Forms of forced labour can include domestic servitude, agricultural labour, sweatshop factory labour, janitorial service, food service and other service industry labour. One of the principal forms of forced labour is through debt bondage, involving the touts, middlemen and mafia dons who pay advances to entice workers and

then force them to work like slaves in most hazardous conditions for prolonged hours against either no payment at all or payment of a pittance.

A documentary produced by the National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations on MGNREGA on the lives of the migrant labourer families working in brick kilns show that they live in shabby stinking makeshift shanties, braving the harsh weather with no protection, no toilets and no sources of drinking water. These sites are thus hotbeds of unfathomable misery and deadly diseases. Sexual exploitation of women is rampant. Attempts to escape from the work site often entail instant and ruthless reprisal as the two migrants of Kalahandi found out by losing their limbs. Children are preferred in the brickmaking industry because they are short and hence need not bend down like adults while filling brickmaking frames with mud. Moreover, when freshly made bricks are piled up, there is no space for an adult to walk and overturn the bricks for drying. Children can walk on top of the bricks and overturn them without causing damage. That is why, the contractor mafias prefer work units each comprising a man, a woman and one or two children. In a country, where over 70% people do not have means to get even one

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## Modern variants of bonded and forced labour — cruelest manifestation of wage slavery

*Contd. from page 1*

square meal a day, where lakhs die starving or diseased every day, a father sells his daughter for just five hundred rupees, a mother kills her children and then commits suicide herself to keep debt and hunger, its stubborn companion, at bay, it is hardly difficult to get such units in multiples if there is a lure of job and the government-administration remains an indulgent onlooker. And so, the Indian Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 1976 which prohibits any service arising out of debt, including forced labour and bonded labour, remains, like many other cosmetic legislations, as a toothless, clawless sermon confined in the voluminous board-bound law books with ornamental decoration. What is most reprehensible is that as per the Global Slavery Index 2013, India has the dubious distinction of being home to half the number of modern day slaves in the world.

### Modern forms of bonded and slave labour — endowment of capitalist globalization

It is not that India's is an isolated spectacle of this thriving business with hapless downtrodden desperately seeking to survive in the rule of capital where labourers are wage slaves to the capitalist owners minting super profit by usurping surplus value of labour power of the workers. This horrid scenario has become common throughout the capitalist-imperialist world. Rather it has become even more pronounced and menacing once the most gruesome prescripts of capitalist globalization were implemented, following dismantling of socialism in Soviet Union and other constituent countries of erstwhile socialist camp. Undeterred and untrammelled, the capitalist-imperialists showing their true colour, have found in this unipolar world a fiefdom of their own to exploit, oppress and repress the working people with extreme ruthlessness and cruelty. They trample all hard-earned rights of the workers and toiling masses including the very right to live, flout all canons of law, disobey all existing rules and contravene all established conventions, practices and procedures to inflate their purse of profit by squeezing out the last drop of blood of the exploited multitudes. The intimidating rise in the number of slave-like and bonded labour and the accompanying bestialities bear glaring testimony of that.

First of all, globalization itself is nothing but a measure taken by the capitalist-imperialists to get over their intense market crisis all over

the world. Despite all kinds of manipulations, manoeuvres and camouflages, the ruling capitalists-imperialists are unable to shield the reality that globalization, contrary to what was boastfully claimed, could not bring about any relief from their market crisis. Rather the market crisis of capitalism is accentuating by leaps and bounds. It is not because of any so called policy paralysis, regulatory flaw or unprecedented natural calamity but as an inevitable outcome of the very operation of the laws of capitalist economy which engender growing pauperization of the masses while guaranteeing accumulation of maximum profit to the ruling capitalist owners. Pauperization robs away purchasing power of the people at large. So, produced goods do not find any takers and hence the crisis of overproduction and stagnation ensues. Finding no demand of the produced goods, the capitalists whose motive of production is to earn maximum profit suspend production, shut down factories and throw people out from jobs. This they do at a time when millions of people are forced to suffer starvation and unemployment, not because there are not enough goods and scope for gainful engagement, but because the capitalist owners find no opportunity to reap maximum profit by selling goods at a price that would earn them super-profit. The retrenched workforce having lost whatever little buying power they had, further shrinks the market for the capitalists. This is the market crisis of capitalism. This is why mounting unemployment dogs each and every capitalist country.

As market shrinks, competition among the capitalists, both domestic and foreign, over grab of residual market intensifies compounding the crisis. In order to increase competitive power, the corporates and big business try to cut down production cost. Among other means of lowering production cost, the easiest for them, is to drastically reduce the cost of labour. For this they need free play. It is possible only when there is complete deregulation of labour market meaning gradual abolition of all hard-earned democratic and trade union rights of the workers, drastic curtailment if not altogether elimination of the right to collective bargaining, granting unfettered right to the employers in deciding duration of working hours, quantum of wages and other terms and conditions of service. Exactly that is what the ruinous globalization-liberalization

prescribes and capitalist-imperialist rulers have been implementing through their subservient governments under the garb of reforms. As against previous practice of employing labour on permanent basis at fair wage, emphasis is now on recruiting labour on contract at minimal often below subsistence level imbursement and that too, through outside agencies—the so called middlemen or parasites who are inalienable part of the capitalist system—via the much-trumpeted route of outsourcing. This is simply to relieve the owners, the capitalists of any responsibility towards their workforce. It is here the labour contractors feature in the scene. These suppliers or contractors compete among themselves in providing labourers on contract to the capitalist owners for various forms of skilled as well as unskilled work. Whoever quotes lowest, get the contract. So, before quoting rates, the contractors ensure that they source cheapest of the labour force, both in terms of lowest possible wage as well as maximum duration of working hours, without having to bear any cost whatsoever for any other basic requirement of the labourers so supplied on contract. So neither the principal employers in factories and other business establishments, nor these crooked contractors bear any responsibility towards the supplied contract labourers who get no assurance of either continuing for a definite period or of any definite wage quantum, which often fall far short of what is stipulated in the government order as minimum wage. They are virtually at the mercy of the contractors and employers. Even if someone dies in harness, the contractors simply ignore that as if life of the contract labourers is of no value. To cater to the demand for providing labour at lowest possible cost, they do not hesitate to use every possible coercive method including forced and slave labour. Sourcing contract labour from the cheapest possible outlets includes vending of migrant labourers, which of late has spurted, both within the country as well as across the border. This is how the much-hyped globalization steps up global competition and migration and incorporates the suppliers of contract labourers into its network forming an intimate link with them.

### Bonded and slave labour assume different forms and menacing proportion in decadent capitalism

As could thus be seen, the

present variants of bonded and forced labour are nothing but contemporary forms of slavery in dying capitalism; wage slavery, as great Marx aptly put, is now at its height. Slavery, in general, is defined as a system under which people are treated as property to be bought and sold, and are forced to work. In ancient slave master society which Engels described as the "first great cleavage of society into two classes: masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited", slaves, who were the productive forces and creators of wealth, were held against their will from the time of their capture, purchase or birth, and deprived of the right to leave, to refuse to work, or to demand compensation. In course of a prolonged history of rebellion against the brutal slave-master system, slaves were freed from the ancient thralldom of slave masters. As against the previous form in which slaves were held on par with cattle and goat, in feudalism that evolved following dismantling of slave-master society, they got recognition as human beings having right to live. Prophetically it was pronounced that all were children of god; in reality feudal lords remained the privileged children to rule over the deprived or underprivileged ones. Nature of exploitation changed, but exploitation of man by man did not. So, the labour or the productive force remained as serfs or subjects subjugated to the newly emergent exploiting class, the feudal lords. Slavery continued through the practices of serfdom and despicable systems like pawns under which the debtor serf or subject provided another human being, mostly one of his family members, as security or collateral for the debt and till the debt was paid off. The creditor or the feudal lord could expropriate the labour of the pawn in any way he wanted. When feudalism was overthrown by bourgeois democratic revolution, the then rising bourgeoisie out of its class necessity, gave call for freeing the serfs from the tentacles of self-sufficient localized agricultural feudal economy so that they could work as labour, as the productive forces required for running the newly set up industries based on the principles of newly evolved capitalism. So there was the call of individual liberty and equality, of course in bourgeois sense. It was no doubt a progressive move in the then social condition. True the shackles of old form of slavery of the productive forces were broken. But, class exploitation was not abolished.

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# Massive response to Assam Bandh call of SUCI(C) against anti-people Legislative Council

The people of Assam spontaneously responded to the 12 hour Bandh call by SUCI(C) on 3 January last. This response was unique and significant on many counts. This Bandh was organized by the SUCI (Communist) on its own strength, in protest against the motivated decision of the Congress government of Assam to foist upon the people a most redundant Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council) or so called upper house of legislature comprising nominated members who enjoy status of legislators at par with the members of the elected legislative assembly. Setting up such a Vidhan Parishad only entails a huge drainage from the exchequer solely to reach out undue benefits to a handful of people allegiant to the ruling dispensation. The British imperialist rulers introduced this 'upper house' concept to offer the Indian leaders some taste of power without having to face elections so that they could be won over and in the process the Indian freedom movement could be weakened. In independent India, the ruling parties sought to use it for accommodating certain people of their choice. Though under public pressure, most of such utterly ineffective and useless upper houses have been dismantled, 6 out of 28 provinces

have this Legislative Council now, retained by the respective ruling parties in their petty interests. Now, there is a renewed attempt to reach out undue privileges and benefits through this Vidhan Parishad route. It is worth recalling that a similar move was initiated by the TMC government of West Bengal immediately after assuming power and even dangled the carrot of accommodating one or two members before our Party. But in the face of staunchest protest from our Party, it could not take the proposal further.

In Assam, the proposal was mooted by the ruling Congress to somehow handle the rising factional feuds and internal squabbles within the party by providing the warring leaders berths in the upper house and thus ensuring that these vicious internal scuffles do not endanger its electoral prospects. It had also been a prescription to accommodate those leaders who have been rejected by the people. Given the formation of this Vidhan Parishad 6 leaders can be inducted in the ministry. 42 members of the Vidhan Parishad would be entitled to all the stately privileges, hefty remuneration, pension, housing, transport and all other facilities and perks that members of the Vidhan Sabha enjoy. And right from the day

the proposal was rolled out, there were clear indication that all its members would be nominated mainly and largely from the ruling party. The Congress expected to water down its internal squabbles with the help of these sops and bribes. This had been the ulterior motive behind this attempt to set up the Vidhan Parishad in Assam.

Toiling people of the state came out with a fitting response lending all-out support to the Bandh—a fact that even the media could not but admit. Success of this Bandh has another crucial significance. People of Assam have been facing frequent bandhs on this or that plea since the days of sectarian parochial movements of AASU. Most of these bandhs were not over any issue concerning people's interest. Taking advantage of that, the ruling bourgeoisie aided and abetted by its underling media, unleashed a vilification campaign against strikes and bandhs *per se*. As a sequel to these, there has developed, of late, an anti-strike psyche among the people. Sensing that, the government has already drafted an anti-bandh Act. It is on this perspective that spontaneous all-out Bandh on 3 January at the call of the SUCI (C) assumed uniqueness pointing to opening of a new vista.. From

village and town to schools and colleges to office and court, from transport and conveyance to trade and commerce – every artery of people's life got a dead halt on that day. The children and adolescents were found playing cricket on the hectically bustling areas of Guwahati metropolis like Paanbazar, Fancy Market, Lakhra-ISBT Road, G.S. Road, Palltan Bazar and elsewhere. All the leading educational institutions including Guwahati University were closed; shutters were down in trade and commerce centers including banks. Though government buses, rarely visible on usual days, were pressed into hitting the street in a little more number, they were desolate. Likewise were the government offices which markedly wore deserted look in spite of a few doors of them having been forced open. Impact of such a resounding success of the Bandh swayed the districts too. Everything was closed even there in Dhuburi, Goalpara, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Lakshimpur, Darang, Sonitpur, Nalbari, Nagaon, Dibrugarh, Barpeta and other districts. From over the state the police arrested 230 Bandh supporters. On the day before the Bandh a number of Party workers,

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## Glimpses of Assam Bandh Day



**Mixed response to Bandh**

**এই ইউ চি আইৰ বন্ধলৈ মিশ্ৰিত সঁহাৰি**  
দুই শতাব্দিক বন্ধ সমৰ্থকক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ

দুই শতাব্দিক বন্ধ সমৰ্থকক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ  
কোচাৰী, কামৰূপী ৰাজপুৰাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে পৰিচালিত হৈছে এটা সফল অভিযান। ইয়াৰ ফলত বহু সংখ্যক ব্যক্তি গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ হৈছে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও বহু ব্যক্তিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে আইন ভংগৰ অভিযোগ উত্থাৰিত হৈছে।



**মৰিগাঁৱত বন্ধৰ বিৰুদ্ধে ওলাই আহিল বিপ্লৱালম্বিক**

বিপ্লৱালম্বিক  
বিপ্লৱালম্বিক  
বিপ্লৱালম্বিক



Fancy Bazar at 12 noon



Near DC office at 12 noon



Busiest place AT Road at 10 am



Lakhtokia flyover at 1pm

**‘विधानपरिषद के गठन का निर्णय राज्यवासियों के हित में नहीं’**

गुवाहाटी, ३ जनवरी (बन्दन)। असम में विधान परिषद को गठन करने का फैसला हुआ है। यह फैसला कि सविधानिक प्रकृति और अधिकारों के अभाव में है। (एसएमओआई (कांग्रेस)।) का। असम राज के तत्कालीन विधान प्रदाता कांग्रेस ने असम के प्रमुख सचिव बंधनदास दास ने कहा कि असम में विधान परिषद के गठन का निर्णय पूरी तरह से जन विरोधी है। विधान परिषद के गठन से



Uluberi flyover at 2 pm



Guwahati Club at 1pm

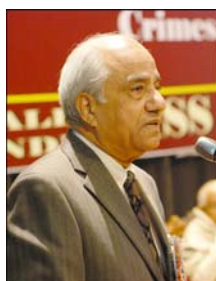


## 'National Convention on Crimes against Women' set to create ripples across the country

It is one year since 'Nirbhaya Damini's' death defying struggle that has come to symbolise the spirit of protest regarding growing crimes against women in the country. To commemorate the occasion and to carry forward the movement, All India Committees of AIMSS, AIDYO and AIDS0 jointly organised a National Convention on growing crimes on women at Mavlankar Auditorium, New Delhi on 29 December, 2013.

Comrade B. R. Manjunath, All India President, AIDYO, made the initial remarks on the purpose of the National Convention outlining the nationwide preparations in the form of demonstrations and conventions held all over the country. He narrated how the three mass organisations that have come together to build this movement have viewed this convention not just as one more commemorative event, but a definite launching pad for further movements.

Inaugurating the convention, Justice B. N. Srikrishna, former judge, Supreme Court of India expressed deep anguish at the increase in crime rates and said: "It is heartening to know that there is so much anger in the youth against oppression of women. It is a matter of shame that we are unable to treat our own women who are our mothers, sisters and daughters in the manner that befits. The issue has been there from the ancient times and no solution has been found yet. This anger has been bottled up within the minds of women and men for quite some time and it needed an incident like 'Nirbhaya Damini' to bring it out as a volcano. The issue of oppression and violence against women is a complex socio-legal issue. It doesn't have a simple legal solution at all. Violence against women is constructed within minds and that is to be deconstructed. It is there that the social aspect becomes important. The social aspect is necessary to retrain the mind, change the mind and make men treat woman as an equal partner in life, whether at work place, at home or public place. As long as that attitude is not there, there are bound to be cases that we read in newspapers, of violence in various facets against women. We have a tendency to make laws, we have various laws about women, we set up commissions to make recommendations, and government follows some of them. They seem at the most symbolic, they seem at the most to attend to the symptoms, but, do they cure the menace? Certainly not! The menace is here and that is to be changed. But how? We change it from the time when children are young. Put it into their heads. Take away the feeling that a girl is somewhat inferior, that a girl needs to be



Justice B. N. Srikrishna

oppressed and suppressed. Now if that can be put into the heads of children, then, that is sustained throughout their life. And when it matures they will be able to appreciate the education that has been given to them. Unless it is done there is no solution. Convention like this where people come, debate, exchange ideas, exchange points of view helps in organizing thinking in the society. It has a ripple effect. If each of the delegates here, a woman, a man or a youth goes back to his/her own place and propagates this kind of thinking and it has a ripple effect, then hopefully a day will come when we can think of a society in which women live without facing violence. What facets does violence take? Violence starts from physical assault to mental assault, oppression, harassment, eve teasing, acid attacks to many others."

"Friends, I do not have any special claim and credentials to be a part of this movement. You have leaders of the society who are leading an institute like this. Under their guidance you have to march ahead and propagate the idea and wish that violence on women will come to an end in the minds of every human being. I know it's tough. It will not happen in my life time but we need not give up hope. We shall be able to achieve. 'Dabegi kab talak awaz e adam, ham bhi dekhenge' Awaz e adam utegi and I am sure we will be able to overthrow all these oppressions. I will just repeat what Marx said, "Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains" I say, "Women of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains". Thank you very much. I am very happy to inaugurate this National Convention. I am sure, there will be plenty of exchange of ideas which will go back and help society. With these words I inaugurate and wish you all the best."

One of the guests of honour Justice Rajendra Sachar, Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court said "we are meeting after a year of the shameful incident of 'Nirbhaya Damini' which created a storm in Delhi and elsewhere. It appeared as if Indian men-folk were repenting for the way they have been treating their women. It was felt that these incidents will happen never again. But these incidents have not stopped. The problem is not that of law and order alone but that of man's mental makeup. We fear to give equal rights to women. Dr. Lohia used to say that in India we need Draupadis and not Savitris. Savitri represented total subjugation to husband's persona-lity. She had no personality of her own. But Draupadi was a rebel. When she was dragged to the court, the first question she put to Yudhishthira was 'who gave you the right to put me on bet? I am an individual of my own. Who are you to put me on bet?' And there was no answer to it. But this rebellious attitude is not being imparted to women today. The attitude of subjugation is reflected everywhere. Not only men but even women adopt the same attitude. During my days there were many bride-burning



Justice Rajendra Sachar

cases in which son and mother together burnt the bride alive. I mean to say that it is a kind of mindset which is being carried by both men and women. But as women suffer, so they can play a vital role against these onslaughts.

I have come to this hall many a time but only on two occasions I have found the hall totally jam-packed. The first was on the centenary celebrations of the Garad movement and the other is this time when men and women in such great number have gathered to take a resolve to fight against atrocities on women and for their equal rights. So, we have to come out of this old mentality. And it should start right from now. I think the time has come that women should send out a message that you cannot do anything you like. No such things will be tolerated, not even the smallest. "Tell boldly I am a human being like all others, I have feelings, I have desires, I have aspirations, I have hopes and I fight for it. Seeing the strength here I am confident that within my lifetime and it is not going to be many years, the women will find their equal position in society."

Other guest of honour, Justice Suresh Hosbet, former Judge of Bombay High Court said: "We are now meeting under the aegis of new regime in Delhi. Will there be a change? If statistics are to be believed, there is a rape every 29 minutes. This was sometime in 2010. If media is to be believed it could be more. Assuming that, that could be the figure, after Aam Admi Party came into power, there must have been at least 48 rapes perhaps in Delhi i.e., at the rate of two per hour. Has the new government any solution for this? Again, if statistics are to be believed, between 1970 and 2010 (i.e. 40 yrs.) there has been an increase of 796% in rape cases. What has any government done about this? If paper reports are to be believed, there could be much more than this. In fact, it looks as if there is a competition amongst the newspapers as to who publishes rape reports more than the other. Nobody thinks of the reason why so many rapes take place in the society? The other day someone said: If you rape and destroy women every day, what future can you have in the society? We must realize that all women's rights are human rights, and as human rights they are all enforceable. All human rights are fundamental rights, which our government, our legislative mechanisms are reluctant to accept. That is the crux of the problem. We have accepted and ratified UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in July 1993. A careful analysis and understanding of that Convention would show why we have failed, so far. I read from the Preamble: "...concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment..." We have still nearly over 70% of the people, who are poor. This is one of the reasons particularly in rural area, and particularly

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Justice Suresh Hosbet

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## Delhi holds Convention : Country prepares for movement

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in areas of slums in urban areas, women are the worst sufferers, and they are the victims of crime. Article 2 of CEDAW is important. The state has an obligation to take steps "without delay" to eliminate all discrimination against women. We have two decades of that Convention. What have we done? It requires according to Clause (f) "to take all appropriate measures.... to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations or customs or practices which constitute discrimination against women." Under Article 5, the government has to take measures "for eliminating of prejudices and customs and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women". We have done very little on this behalf. Unless the old traditional way of looking at women confining her to the role of a mother, wife and daughter changes and one starts to look at her as a personality with dignity and respect, the situation will not change for the better. We need this revolution today".

Smt. Deepthi Naval, Eminent Artist and Social



*Smt. Deepthi Naval*

Activist recited two poems on the plight of women. She narrated ghastly incidents of atrocities on women that she came to know during her visit to an asylum while preparing for a role that inspired her to write them. She commended the role

of AIMSS, AIDYO, and AIDSO in making the issue of crimes against women a significant one.

Comrade H. G. Jayalakshmi, All India General Secretary, AIMSS highlighted the salient points of Justice J.S.Verma commission report which lays thread bare the failure of the governments, whatever be the political orientation, to look at the



*Comrade H. G. Jayalakshmi*

to fulfil the promise of equality in favour of women. The mindset of judiciary also needs to be improved through constant education in gender sensitivity. She demanded the implementation of the report in letter and spirit.

Ms. Aarti Dhar, Senior Assistant Editor of the daily, 'The Hindu' explained how the social media had certain negative effects on the society in misguiding the youth. She also deplored the tendency of picturising women in a demeaning way just for money.



*Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee*

problem is aggravated when it is coupled with laxity on the part of administrative, police and political set up in curbing the crimes. Enactment of laws alone cannot bring the change in the scene and a sustained nationwide movement is the necessity of the hour". She also emphasized how the entire

issue of sexual assaults on women in a substantive manner and demanded the implementation of the same in letter and spirit. She also explained how as emphasized by the report, all organs of the state in varying degrees have failed to fulfil the promise of equality in favour of women. The mindset of judiciary also needs to be improved through constant education in gender sensitivity. She demanded the implementation of the report in letter and spirit.

Delivering the presidential address, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, All India President of AIMSS said, "The patriarchal mindset is the root cause of all crimes against women which makes them inferior to men. The

socio-economic-political system will have to be radically transformed to ensure security and progress of women.

Dr. Sudha Kamath, Vice president, AIMSS, spoke on various factors that contribute to escalation of crimes. She explained how propagation of pornography and violence in mass media, alcohol and drug addiction, criminalization of politics and the economic inequality coupled with cultural degradation in the society have led to crimes against women. She also emphasized upon failure of the Governments in power in containing them.

The messages of Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India and former chairman of NHRC, and Justice N. Santosh Hegde, former Judge of Supreme Court of India as well as former Lokayukta of Karnataka were placed before the gathering.

Comrade Kamal Sain, President of AIDSO, placed the charter of demands that included implementation of all important recommendations of Justice Verma Commission, steps to check propagation of obscenity and liquor menace. He called upon the delegates to support the charter and develop a nationwide movement on it.

Several other leaders of AIMSS, AIDYO and AIDSO spoke on different points of the charter. Later the charter was adopted unanimously.

In the evening the delegates were a part of a cultural programme which included inspiring revolutionary songs, a mime on 'Nirbhaya Damini' and a dance drama narrating the fight of women against atrocities.

The convention was attended by delegates from 22 states of the country. The delegates comprised the organizers and activists of women, youth and students' movements, who were immensely inspired by the fervour of the convention that reflected the voice of the conscientious intelligentsia against such a barbarity let loose on the women and went back with the spirited resolve to intensify the struggle further.

## Assam Bandh augurs a new chapter of movement

*Contd. from page 3*

including 3 female comrades were thrown behind the bar and kept confined until 11 at night. But that proved simply abortive. Despite such shameless efforts of the administration to frustrate it, the massive success of this unique, historic Bandh spoke eloquently that people of the state rejected the decision of introducing Vidhan Parisad as useless and infructuous. It also underscores: given the propriety of the demand raised under the genuine leadership, people unhesitatingly come out to extend their support

Notably, even only a year ago, the public opinion against the Vidhan Parisad was not that pronounced. In fact, the anti-people character of the move was not very clear to the masses. So, immediately in the wake of government conspiracy coming to light, Assam state unit of our Party, SUCI (C), took initiative to build up

a statewide powerful organized movement explaining the sinister design hidden behind the move. Number of conventions including intellectuals, litterateurs, their signed statement, sit-in demonstration, strike and agitation were organized both at the district and state levels. Our Party showed, that while the government is stalling developmental projects on the plea of financial crisis and the Congress chief minister has been repeatedly wailing over a depleted exchequer so much so as to make him unable to release 33 months' arrear payments to the government employees lest that should turn the state bankrupt, what was the justifiability of introducing this infructuous legislative body spending crores of rupees. Is not the proposal akin to defalcation of public fund garnered out of people's taxes? In whose interest then will this Vidhan Parisad act and that too, all on a sudden, after 66 years of

independence? By way of organizing series of movements over the year the Party has awakened the people making them aware of the conspiracy. During the campaign period also, many people admitted that they had failed to realize the heinous scheme behind proposed move. Intensive campaigns with leaflets, posters, wall writings, squatting on Bandh created such an immense impact that one of the widely circulated Assamese dailies commented in its editorial, "The only political party SUCI (C) has launched the movement in protest. CPI (M) has washed its hands off merely with a statement. Rest of the parties and organizations too have remained silent onlookers." (Dainik Osonia Pratidin, 13 December 2013)

In the afternoon of the Bandh day, the State Secretary of the Party, Comrade Chandralekha Das greeted people warmly and

earnestly for making the Bandh a grand success underscoring people's refusal of the Vidhan Parisad. The movement and people's response have forced the government to beat a retreat, though only a bit. It has declared that a parliamentary standing committee would visit the state to know and gauge people's opinion, including those of different political parties, on the issue. The State Secretary declared that short of achievement of the demand, the movement would go on and would be intensified across the districts, with civil disobedience to be organized there, culminating in a massive civil disobedience at the state level. The Bandh does augur a new chapter of democratic movement on the burning problems of people's life in the strife-torn Assam involving all sections of the toiling masses rising above all kinds of divisiveness.

## Illegally trafficked migrant workers are more vulnerable to bonded labour situations

*Contd. from page 2*

Instead of the principal contradiction of the feudal society between the ruling feudal lords and the ruled serfs, the principal contradiction in a capitalist society took the form of that between labour and capital; the capitalists who own the means of production are the exploiters, the rulers while the vast multitudes of working people are the exploited, the ruled. In feudalism, feudal lords and monarchy exploited the labour of the serfs for self-consumption, self-enjoyment, leading a grandiose luxurious life. On the contrary, in capitalism, labour of the productive forces is appropriated by the ruling capitalists for minting maximum profit which in turn makes them wealthy and entitled to all the fruits of civilization.

Thus, it can be seen that thralldom of the labouring masses is very much sustained in capitalism of course in a different character. As against chattel slaves in former social systems, there are wage slaves in capitalism. With capitalism entering into its moribund stage following inexorable course of history, this enslavement of labour particularly in the sphere of forced and bonded labours is assuming more and more cruel and inhuman forms. Further dimension to this cruelty and inhumanity is added in globalization with appalling rise of modern form of slavery manifested in the various degraded practices of forced and bonded labour. The various changes ushered in by globalization like intensified attack on basic labour conditions, curbing human rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining have contributed to the surge of forced and bonded labour with impunity. With hunger and starvation staring, the penury-stricken downtrodden and poor have-nots languishing in utter backwardness are easy pick-ups for being engaged as forced labour. Forced labour is now increasingly exacted by large corporates, realty barons, retail giants and even rural bourgeoisie through trafficking agents euphemized as labour contractors who are themselves often linked with not only national but international organized crime networks. In industrialized countries, cases of migrant workers in debt bondage or bonded labour have been documented in agriculture and in other labour intensive sectors, including construction, garments, packaging and food processing. Trafficked migrant workers are more vulnerable to bonded labour situations because of their

disadvantaged position. A modern-day form of slavery, labour trafficking within or across borders is a fundamental violation of human rights. So, are the incidents like Kalahandi reported from many places of the country. Many of such migrant labourers comprising young children, teenagers, men and women are smuggled into another country by the labour contractors and engaged even in illegal industries such as the drug and arms trade or begging. Deserted by the contractors, many such illegal migrants are either consigned to an animal-like existence in perpetual bondage of the overseas employer or land in the jail of the host country. Their plight is miserable, no less horrendous than the spectacle of black Africans being auctioned off the block after being trafficked in the most barbarous conditions in slave ships to America. These hostage migrant labourers subjected to inhuman torture, shock and denial suffer from anxiety disorders including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, panic attacks, and depression. Forced labour exposes victims of labour trafficking to physical abuse such as scars, headaches, hearing loss, visual defects, cardiovascular and respiratory problems and limb amputation. Child victims of labour trafficking are often malnourished, suffering from undergrowth and reproductive problems in later life.

Bonded labour symptom is not confined to the domain of unskilled physical labour only. In capitalism, each person of the toiling masses is a wage slave, selling his or her labour power to the capitalist owners against payment of wages. Wage slavery describes the extraction of unpaid-for surplus labour from the workers or employees by the capitalists who own the means of production and by virtue of that rule over the society. This, in globalization, is now exposed with all its notoriety and noxiousness cutting across industries and other domains. Look at the much-trumpeted sophisticated skilled IT industry. So called skilled personnel there are made to work for even 24 hours if not 48 at a stretch. Most jobs are on contract and hence under perpetual threat of termination. Compensation falls far short of the labour power exacted. Should not such jobs be categorized as forced labour, not just unfair labour practices? There are other instances of unfairness also which not only transgress the precincts of deception but smacks of bonded labour syndrome. A few months

back, fresh engineering graduates hired by IT giant HCL Technologies were in agitation demanding that the company converted the letter of offers which had been handed out into actual jobs. The students had been issued the letters of intent nearly two years before the protest. Not only were they not being paid, many of them were also pressurized and forced to turn down other job offers as HCL dangled the hook of promising them a join date. As per the last report, the students were still waiting to be scooped up; others have been turned away after two years, with the company now saying they aren't technically qualified to become HCL employees. CBC News published an expose, detailing how IT firm iGATE tightly controlled the lives of Indian employees that had been sent overseas to work on onsite projects. Undercover reporter Adam Littler, got an agency job at Amazon's Swansea warehouse. He took a hidden camera inside for BBC Panorama to record what happened on his 10½ hour shifts. He was employed as a "picker", collecting orders from 800,000 sq. ft. of storage. A handset told him what to collect and put on his trolley. It allotted him a set number of seconds to find each product and counted down. If he made a mistake the scanner beeped. A BBC investigation into a UK-based Amazon warehouse has found conditions that a stress expert said could cause "mental and physical illness". Prof Michael Marmot was shown secret filming of night shifts involving up to 11 miles of walking - where an undercover worker was expected to collect orders every 33 seconds. Even one of the staunchest of protagonists of capitalist globalization who once burst in eulogy of IT as the sunshine industry of modern India could not but admit that the IT Industry has become more rigidly exploitative — as a natural consequence of lower wages, economic slowdown, a lack of jobs in the country, the outsourcing engine, not to mention human nature. Many IT professional including call centre employees who are compelled to work extended hours are reported to be suffering from serious debilitating and baffling mental illnesses like schizophrenia. The latest scientific findings revealed that doing more than 11 hours of work a day raised heart disease risks by 67 percent. Yet, all these are going on in moribund capitalism today—extended hours, lower wage, arbitrary wage cut, hazardous work condition, physical

abuse, torture, forced labour, bonded labour, child labour everything — in avid violation of all prohibitive laws and conventions. If labourers being recruited from western Odisha districts and sent to other states could be treated as bonded labourers, is it not that the wage-slaves in sophisticated IT industry are equally persecuted? The word "slavery" normally conjures up the image of the cruel overseer on a plantation in the Caribbean or the old American South, wielding a whip over the heads of his helpless victims. Slavery in capitalism, though not appearing in the old form, does contain all the features of forced labour at the gunpoint of physical and mental threat. Forced allegiance to the employer is elicited through either mental or physical abuse or simply the threat of abuse. Holding against will, imposition of physical constraint or restriction on freedom of movement, deprivation of the basic rights to leave, refusal to work or demand for adequate compensation and meting out of dehumanized treatments — all mark forced and bonded labour in globalization. This forced and bonded labour exist today despite the fact that it is illegal in all the countries where it is practised. It is also prohibited by the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the 1956 *UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery*. The 'civilized' bourgeoisie, the ardent proponents of globalization, the self-proclaimed defenders of democracy, feel no qualm in showing the thumb in derision to all these acknowledged codes and conventions in their hunt for cheap labour. How correct was Marx when he had held that wage slavery was every bit as coercive as the human bondage.

### Every enunciation of Marxism is corroborated

Pointing out that "within the capitalist system.... accumulation of wealth at one pole is, ...at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole", Marx explained what the workers... sell to the capitalist for money is their labour-power.... Labour-power...is a commodity." In course of detailed analysis, Marx showed that "The slave did not sell his labour-power to the slave-owner, any more than the ox sells his labour to the farmer. The slave, together with his labour-power, was sold to

*Contd. on page 7*



## Conscious organized militant class and mass struggles under correct revolutionary leadership imperative to rein in this inhuman practice

*Contd. from page 6*

his owner once for all.... He himself is a commodity, but his labour-power is not his commodity. The serf sells only a portion of his labour-power. It is not he who receives wages from the owner of the land; it is rather the owner of the land who receives a tribute from him. The serf belongs to the soil, and to the lord of the soil he brings its fruit. The free labourer, on the other hand, sells his very self, and that by fractions. He auctions off eight, 10, 12, 15 hours of his life, one day like the next, to the highest bidder, to the owner of raw materials, tools, and the means of life – i.e., to the capitalist. ...eight, 10, 12, 15 hours of his daily life belong to whomsoever buys them. ... the worker, whose only source of income is the sale of his labour-power, ..does not belong to this or that capitalist, but to the capitalist class; ...” “As long as the wage-labourer remains a wage-labourer, his lot is dependent upon capital” and not only the proletariat, “The bourgeoisie has...converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage labourers.” Marx said it 150 years back when capitalism had not entered into its moribund stage, did not develop imperialist features. Only certain symptoms of its inevitable endemic crisis were scatteringly manifest. But, now when decadent moribund capitalism is plunged in insoluble crisis, has become utterly corrupt, despotic and autocratic, when capitalism is embracing fascism as the last prop to extend its mutilated existence, the devilish face of wage-slavery is uncovered with all its ferocity and bestiality. While the migrant labourers of Odisha scream to find their hands chopped, the oppressed workers of Amazon describe their peril in the following words, “We are machines, we are robots, we plug our scanner in, we’re holding it, but we might as well be plugging it into ourselves... they don’t trust us to think for ourselves as human beings.”

### Cost of coercion

Besides the criminal aspects surrounding forced labour, such inhuman and abusive practices result in economic losses as the “opportunity cost” of coercion to the victim workers in terms of lost earnings. A new ILO report on forced labour entitled “The cost of coercion” says that victims of forced labour lose an estimated USD 20 billion every year in unpaid earnings. This is the human cost of coercion, both to the victims and

their families in terms of the untold misery they endure through forced labour, and to society at large. In their turn, the big multinationals and transnational companies who are the biggest beneficiaries of globalization are making huge fortunes by sourcing forced and bonded labour either through outsourcing or trafficking. Another ILO report provided compelling evidence of criminal practices of forced labour in globalization, affecting almost every capitalist-imperialist country. Providing facts and figures, this report showed how modern forced labour is distributed, by region, by gender and by broad forms of economic activity. It also revealed for the first time the huge profits of almost US\$ 32 billion per year made by the criminals who exploit the victims of trafficking, for economic and mainly sexual exploitation. It is indeed a barbarian collapsing civilization where “Man,” in the words of Rousseau, “is born free and everywhere he is in chains.”

### Rise up against the masters of wage-slavery

But how could the sponsors of

modern variants of bonded labour, forced labour and trafficking thrive with such arrogance and run amuck? This is the question that ought to stir every agitated as well as thinking mind. Those who think that promulgation of certain laws and documenting certain conventions would suffice stemming the rot are grossly mistaken. The scapegoat never lends ear to moral lectures! They are to be forced to listen. The modern capitalist sharks and their lackeys, undeterred in a unipolar world, are feasting on the labouring masses, playing ducks and drakes with them, treating them almost like primitive slaves to have their own coffers swelling. It is incumbent on the oppressed working people not to lie low, not to endure this humiliation and repression with supine submission but to rise in protest, united and organized, along the right track, assert their power and overpower them. In every country, the working class along with the other sections of toiling masses ought to close their ranks and unleash a torrent of conscious organized militant class and mass struggles under correct revolutionary

leadership for wresting and establishing their just rights. Since obsolete reactionary capitalism is the root of all this devilry, emancipation lies in revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. So, all these struggles need to be developed as conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle pending which those cannot be led to their logical, fruitful culmination. More powerful is this movement, more it would exert pressure on the ruling capitalists and their agents to retrace from the ghastly practice of trafficking and forced labour. Alongside, there should be mobilization of powerful public opinion against the modern forms of bonded labour and in demand for stringent punishment of the trafficking mafias. The intelligentsia must also come forward and help developing these struggles which must be waged in all directions, embracing all available means and forms. If the plight of the migrant workers of Odisha or the predicament of wage-slaves torment us, this is the course we must adopt in right earnest and with due expediency.

## Motor-van drivers of West Bengal win license, hold victory rally

After a sustained determined struggle through 8 years, some 250,000 motor van drivers of West Bengal could wrest their most vital demand of getting a license for their vehicle. Once again they prove that struggle and movements were the only means that could help the toiling people win demands from even a reluctant authority. They also attest to the fact that the movement needed to be guided and lead by a correct leadership who could see beyond petty immediate gains, who could pull the fighters out of the filths of opportunism, economism or such other maladies that cripple toiling people in their fight.

In the October 1, 2013 issue of the *Proletarian Era*, we reported that this huge contingent of toiling people made their livelihood on driving motor-vans, one of the cheapest and thus popular means of transportation of both human and goods in the rural hinterland of the state. Yet they were not provided with any license and were not recognized as transport workers; in consequence they fell easy prey to harassment and repression from the police. No other organization or any major political party lent any ear to learn about their plight and penury. At that crucial stage it was the AIUTUC which came forward and provided them with guidance, advice

and assistance to help them organize themselves under the banner of All Bengal Motor-Van Driver Union and develop the latter as a viable instrument of struggle.

The story of motor van drivers took a sharp turn from here. They prepared themselves and took up a struggle that ended a phase late last year. The course was not smooth. The struggling van – drivers met CPI (M) government more than once; the government assured them recognition and license. Yet it did not hesitate to fall back upon their assurances. Unable to get through the reluctance and betrayal of the state government, yet undaunted motor van drivers met the concerned minister of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre once on 23 February 2011 and then again on 13 March the same year. Nothing different came out. There was no difference in response either from the present state government of the TMC. It took two and a half years to grant this required license, thus prolonging the misery of the motor van drivers inflicted upon by the police and the authorities. Clamping of fines, arrest etc., continued as before, so also continued the movement of the motor van drivers. As we reported in the said issue of *Proletarian Era*, there was a huge protest rally in

Kolkata on 8 May and conferences, meetings, demonstrations, squatting, deputation to the administration, road blockades etc., under the leadership of the ABMVDU were held in districts of the state. SUCI (C) MLA Prof. Tarun Naskar repeatedly raised the issue of granting license to the motor van drivers on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly. Finally, the undeterred movement could move the inert government. In a circular issued on 28 November 2013, the Panchayat and Rural Development ministry of the West Bengal government has pronounced that van-drivers would be issued license through the institutions of the 3-tier Panchayat system.

The motor van drivers held a massive rally in Kolkata on 12 December to announce victory and pledge for continuing their struggle to realize their other demands like Accident- Insurance scheme, recognition as transport workers and their inclusion under the Social Security Scheme 2010, etc. The rally was addressed by the AIUTUC All India General Secretary Comrade Sankar Saha, WB State President AL Gupta, State Secretary Dilip Bhattacharyya, State Secretary of ABMVDU Asok Das, while ABMVDU State President Sujit Bhattachali presided over the meeting.

## Torment and agony of Kashmir people

How long should it take to unearth a crime in this country? Aren't 22 years enough? Or, is it because the perpetrators of the crime is the Indian Army fortified with the much-debated Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) that the capitalist state of India do not dare nor feel inclined to put one of its pillars on the dock? These are the questions that have been haunting the people of Kunon-Poshpara over more than these two decades.

What was the crime? No less than any, perpetrated by dreaded fascists of human history! In the dead of nights of 23 and 24 February 1991, the armed forces of the Rajputana Rifles besieged those two villages of Kupwara district in North Kashmir, drove out all the male members from their houses, and indiscriminately raped more than 50 women regardless of ages. Under the plea of flushing out the terrorists or militants from the area these savage military personnel pounced upon these electricity-deprived hamlets in those chilly nights and outraged the modesty of the innocent women at the gun-point. Deadly scared these women could not even file any complaint nor could go to the physicians for treatment of the wounds caused by the beastly rape. Only tears streamed silently down their cheeks. The youngsters forgot to weep even. Both the villages wore the look of crematorium. However, garnering courage at last 32 rape victims lodged FIR after a few days. Tragically and shamefully as well, it is 22 years since no justice, no punishment could be meted out to those savage culprits.

That Kashmir, bordering Pakistan and India, is torn with militancy for years together is known to people of both the countries, as well as of the world. It has also come out clearly by these years that the ruling classes of both India and Pakistan in collusion with the vested sections and with cunning handiwork of the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, imported and fanned up 'militancy' in Kashmir in order to create cleavage among the people of both India and Pakistan and thus diverting their attention from the chief socio-economic problems in their life. The valley which was adorned with bounties of nature with unending scenic beauty and with people who had been used to a simple living and life, has turned into a hotbed of killing, robbing the minimum safety and security of innocent, generally poor people. Now, in the name of curbing this

'militancy' with a view to establishing, as claimed, peace in the valley, the Indian army has unleashed fury of murder of numberless youths, burning out village after village, indiscriminate rapes of women, looting of people's property thus creating a black record of unprecedented repression, oppression and outrage against the people of Kashmir. Any protest against this is labeled as an act of or as support to militancy. Innumerable people disappear forever over the years. Later the families of the missing people are informed that their dear ones have lost their lives out of encounters with the jawans or have been killed as terrorists. But such claims by the armed forces generally and mostly prove wrong. They are simply murdered in cold-blood. More deplorable is the fact, that these innocents are shot dead intentionally to inflate the record of credit of the armed forces in the 'fight' against the militancy thus claiming awards for good service. Who knows how many mothers have thus lost their children, how many women have become widows, how many husbands have been bereaved of their life partners? The victims, the majority women, are left with only whimpering in agony, with tears rolling down in streams. Their demand for punishment of these beastly army-men is connived at, is ignored by the rulers. Their helpless cries die out sobbing. The justice is thus denied. And the rulers with shameless arrogance stand in defense of the criminal gangsters providing them with the shield of the draconian laws like AFSPA and many others.

Recently the people of Kunon-Poshpara have raised their voice again. They find a new vigour from the massive agitation and demonstration in Delhi with thousands of youths and students taking to the street spontaneously at the tragic murder after demonic rape of 23-year old *Nirbhaya Damini*. 'We don't beg pity, we demand arrest and punishment of the barbarous criminals. We want to prove that the allegations made by the Kunon-Poshpara people were true. We don't want any favor from the administration, but want proper justice' – said almost a woman of the village who has virtually lost her sanity from the wound. The victims have been denied justice demanded over two decades obviously for the reason that allegations were against the Indian army – an opinion held by many a person. Quite many a time,

the crimes committed by the military personnel or the influential persons are not deemed as punishable. Only the time can speak if the Kunon-Poshpara of Kashmir will accept the same lying down, or can make the deaf state listen to their desire by registering demand vigorously and thwart the limitless repression. However, they will also have to keep it in mind that they live in a capitalist state, ruled by the capitalist class. It rests upon and is fortified with the pillars like the army, the bureaucracy- administration, the judiciary, the political parties in power and in opposition playing

subservient to the system and the class. In these days when the capitalist order has become decadent the world over, people has been left with nothing to expect from it other than oppression, exploitation and discrimination. It is only with their power earned through sustained organized movement on the edifice of higher culture and ideology that people can at best wrest some demands from the unwilling, arrogant, fraudulent rulers and their cohorts. Barring that there will only remain agony and tears from suffering and endless waiting for a respite, for justice, for peace.

### Successful 1Bandh in Bhiwani, Haryana against hefty rise in power tariff

In a Press Note on 10 January 2014, SUCI (Communist) Bhiwani District Committee congratulated people of the town for successfully observing the Bandh called by the Party against sudden and exorbitant hike in power tariff brought about by the Huda government of the Haryana state. In the Note the Party added that the state government is fleecing people by this hike in the tariff of a basic and essential commodity like power. It demanded that domestic power must be priced at Rs 2 per unit. It also demanded the government must stop privatization of power and water and must stop the electricity companies from imposing conditions at their sweet will. The Party pledged to spread the movement across the state if the demands are not met with.

### Generously Donate to the Fund for Reconstruction of Central Party Office

Construction is on of the new central office building on the site of the previous office of the SUCI(C), the party voicing protest against all kinds of injustice and relentlessly engaged in developing legitimate democratic movements on the burning demands of people's life. The old office building virtually reached a dilapidated stage making it difficult for carrying out the vastly increased multifarious day to day activities. Even the space posed a big constraint. In view of this, the leaders, activists and supporters-sympathizers of the Party cutting across the states sincerely wanted that new building be constructed by demolishing the old ramshackle structure. Accordingly, the Central Committee of the Party took the decision to build a new Party office in place of the old one.

The initial expenditure towards buying the old building premises and completing the primary work of erecting a new building was met mainly from the contributions made by the leaders-cadres-supporters-sympathizers. More funds are required for completing the pending work. So, we fervently appeal to the people at large for generously contributing to this Building Fund. Our workers would reach out to you at your homes or on the streets with this appeal.

We strongly believe that the people would come forward and generously donate to this Fund for new building construction the way that they had in all previous occasions to make all the programmes of the Party successful.

With greetings

Debaprosad Sarkar

Office Secretary, Central Committee

48, Lenin Sarani, Kolkata-700013

Ph:- 033-22491828, +919433084194

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