

Proletarian Era

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Unleashing a charade on Parliament

Bears testimony of historically-ordained degeneration of bourgeois democracy

It is not that Parliament, stated to be the temple of bourgeois democracy, did not look like a virtual battleground earlier. It is also not that those claiming themselves to be the elected representatives of the people did not earlier howl in acrimonious roar inside the House, tear papers, disrupt each other from presenting their respective viewpoints, undertake personal attacks hurling foul language punctuated with slangs towards the opponent. Not that they were not previously seen to be engaged in brawls and in the process, put a lock on the proceedings. Misconduct inside parliament long ceased to have any boundaries, with new lows marking every session. But what was left to be seen was fisticuffs and pepper spraying to mar the very continuation of the House. Now, the countrymen had the great (!) fortune to witness that also. L Rajagopal, industrialist and an expelled Congress member opposed to the division of Andhra Pradesh, brought a canister inside parliament from which he sprayed pepper to stall introduction of the controversial Telangana bill. Three MPs suffered from suffocation, irritation in their eyes and heavy coughing which needed their hospitalization. Many other MPs had watery eyes and breathing difficulty. In the ruckus, CM Ramesh, TDP MP, was found uprooting the mike from the podium and point it like a dagger. The spectacle looked like a touted scene of an action-packed Bollywood potboiler. One is kept guessing as to what would mark the next episodic session of parliament.

Episodes that rocked parliament earlier

In fact, the last ten years of Indian parliament has been a saga of such variegated opulence of charade and caricature of democracy. People have seen how bending the rules of elections and manipulating the results with the

help of money-muscle-media power, a bunch of self-seekers, notorious elements, arch criminals and rank opportunists have been entering the House with the backing of the ruling monopolists. And not just entry, they are also forming governments, enjoying pelf and power and chronicling the tale of escalating misery and penury of the people. Long back, a Patna High Court Division Bench including the Chief Justice observed: "Over the passage of years the body politic is getting immune to the presence of criminals in politics, and a person who should have been behind bars and could neither be a voter nor an elector, is on the election scene, as large as life." It added, "Criminality is certainly a disqualification. These persons ('jailbirds' or criminals in custody) have been disenfranchised by the law, those disenfranchised by law should not have been permitted in the arena of elections." The Division Bench also reprimanded the Election Commission for not going beyond "a half-hearted submission that criminality should be kept out of elections" and directed it to immediately take "appropriate remedial action", going even to the extent of countermanding the elections of such candidates before the declaration of results. But fact is that no action was taken and parliament continues to teem in dubious characters. Out of 543 members of the 15th Lok Sabha, 162 (30%) members have criminal cases against them. 14% have serious cases against them. Out of 4032 members of State assemblies, 1258 (31%) have criminal cases against them. 14% have serious criminal cases. (Source:—ADR & national Election Watch, August 2013)

And in course of that, certain festering sores of the mutilated parliamentary democracy also came to the fore. A band of undercover reporters posing as representatives of a fictitious NGO, struck deals with 11 members of Parliament (MPs), cutting across party line, to get some questions framed by them

to be raised in parliament in exchange for hard cash. The expose filmed over a period of eight months showed how the elected representatives to the legislatures, the lawmakers of the country, were asking for even paltry sum to subvert the sanctity of the country's "highest democratic institution". The BJP, claiming to be a 'party with a difference', had six of its MPs involved in the sellout. Mayawati's BSP, so vociferous about championing the cause of the downtrodden *dalits*, comes next with three of its MPs found making fortunes through such shady deals. The Congress and Lalu's RJD, both

of whom cry hoarse of secularism and their pseudo-Marxist friends of the CPI (M) and the CPI, had a member each embroiled in the scandal. One BJP general secretary was forced to resign after pixelated visuals of his intimacy with a female were circulated in the party conclave. The spot light was again turned on a fresh batch of seven MPs of 14th Lok Sabha negotiating kickbacks for sanctioning grants from the then 2-crore annual funds (now revised to Rs 5 crores) they got under MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Once again, the BJP topped the list

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SUCI(C) strongly opposes proposal to divide Andhra Pradesh for petty electoral gains and disrupt people's unity

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) issued the following statement on 19 February, 2014 :

Brazen subversion of democracy and trampling underfoot all codified norms, procedures and practices of introducing of and allowing debate over any crucial policy proposal coupled with even deliberate putting off live telecast of the proceedings which marked the virtual backdoor passing of the most controversial separate Telangana bill by the ruling Congress-led UPA II government in collusion with the BJP, the main opposition, has no words to be condemned. This move to bifurcate the state of Andhra on the pretext that development is faster in smaller states is only aimed at driving a wedge among the Telugu-speaking people and serve the narrow sectarian interest of the ruling capitalist class and its political agents to precipitate divide among the toiling people with a view to harvesting electoral benefits through creation of vote banks, becoming ministers, enjoying pelf and power at the cost of the suffering people and preventing surge of united protest movement against grueling capitalist exploitation breeding all evils. The motivated campaign by the quarters of vested interest that Telangana is backward compared to Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra is factually incorrect as corroborated by even the Shri Krishna Commission as many areas in Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra like areas of Telangana region are languishing in abject backwardness since uneven development is a feature of capitalism and this is more pronounced and aggravated in the present dying phase of capitalism. Parties like the Congress, BJP, TDP, TRS and CPI who are openly supporting bifurcation of Andhra as well as those like the various Congress factions, TDP and others opposing it, are all bungling over the issue, fuelling passion and demonstrating strength with an eye on the ensuing parliament and assembly polls. They have no concern about people's interest and mitigation of the burning problems of people's life. Creation of various smaller states starting from the north-eastern states like Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram to the newly founded states of

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Parliamentary Democracy

Rogues' gallery spans entire spectrum of bourgeois politics

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with three followed by two of Mulayam Singh's SP and one each of the Congress and the BSP. Rampant misuse of MPLADS caused a large slice of Rs.8000 crores spent in the previous 5 years from public exchequer to engender grafts and reciprocate 'favours'. Twice in quick succession, it became known to what extent corruption has permeated the ranks of the bourgeois parliamentary parties and politicians and how amazing is the reservoir of their shamelessness.

Next was how parliament once hailed as sovereign by the exponents of bourgeois democracy and bearing footfalls of esteemed freedom fighters and revered nationalist leaders, had been turned into a shopping mall, if not auction centre, by the ruling monopolists and their hirelings for free trading of members elected on people's vote but up for sale and floor-crossing against suitable price. On July 23, 2008, to push ahead the sinister Indo-US nuclear deal, the Congress-led UPA I government was in a desperate bid to rustle up number of MP's in its favour by hook or by crook. It was alleged that crores of rupees were offered to the opposition MPs for supporting the treasury bench. Some of the targeted MPs flashed hard currency of bribe money on the floor of parliament to indicate to what murky extent this game of MP purchasing went down to put a slur on parliamentary democracy.

A recent report showed that barely 10 per cent of the funds sanctioned under various public welfare schemes reach the actual needy. The balance 90 per cent is pilfered at various levels [by celebrities, of which the MPs, MLAs form a major bulk] by the political touts, ministers, MPs, MLAs and administrative personnel. We are in fact tired of instances where ruling party leaders, ministers, MPs, MLAs, big names in parliamentary politics are found involved in amassing huge disproportionate assets, embezzlement of public fund, distribution of undue favours, extortion, shady real estate business, running sleaze rackets, operating gamble dens, palpable frauds, impersonation, rapes, murders and what not. But hardly any of these errant culpable elements gets caught leave aside punishment. Of late, to hog the headlines have been the high profile ministers, satraps of the

ruling parties, crooked industrialists, corrupt army officers and bureaucrats involved in a slew of mega scams. So far it were the frauds and rip-offs of IPL, Commonwealth games, 2G, Coalgate, Adarsh Housing Society, Telgi stamp, military hardware procurement, illegal mining and securing railway board membership. Latest is the questionable doubling of natural gas price to reach out huge undue benefits to the Reliance industry of the Ambanis and such other esoteric deals. Tumbling skeletons of mega scams and scandals only show how rampantly misfeasance and malfeasance stalking the polity and governing machinery in much eulogized parliamentary democracy today. Seeking berth to legislature and managing a seat of power is now a lucrative profession, making a mockery of bourgeois democracy.

Democratic-minded people are miffed

No doubt the democratic minded people particularly those still harbouring illusion about bourgeois democracy are awfully peeved at the turn of events. Apart from raging corruption, misdemeanor, misconduct, they are miffed by the brute display of muscle power and vandalism inside parliament assuming menacing proportion. All codified norms and behavioural guidelines have been bidden goodbye. Latest in the series has been the way the Congress-led government bent every norm and procedure of introducing a legislative bill in utter disdain to push through the Telangana bill which, as would be revealed on an in-depth scrutiny, brazenly militates against people's interest. With the BJP, the main opposition, tagged in tow in the long run, the Congress leadership, in a bid to overcome noisy resistance even from a section of its own party MPs, tabled the Bill almost furtively, disallowed any debate, summarily rejected demand for a division as contained in parliamentary rules and simply passed it on voice vote in a House marred by high-pitched pandemonium, shouting and counter-shouting of slogans. It was hardly possible in the din and bustle as to who said "yes" and who "no" to the proposed legislation. Mysteriously, the live coverage of the proceedings on TV was also put off. Yet, on the presumption of majority having been in favour, the Bill was deemed to have been made a clear passage. A

dark chapter was thus added to the history of Indian parliament when the Lok Sabha passed The Telangana Bill amidst a TV blackout. "India's future is imperilled if its Parliament is imperilled", observed a columnist while expressing regret over the matter.

Basic tenets of parliamentary democracy during its advent

The moot point that every thinking person seriously concerned at this sordid state of affairs needs to ponder over is, who is imperiling parliament and why? Is it that a few mischief mongers are indulging in an act of sacrilege or rogues' gallery spans entire spectrum of bourgeois politics because of definite historical reasons? Certain political forces like Aam Aadmi party are trying to pose that once parliament is cleansed of the wrongdoers, it would be back to glory and deliver goods to the people. Is it that which is ordained by history? Perhaps, this needs to be clarified upfront. As we have discussed on a number of occasions in the pages of *Proletarian Era*, modern parliament and the bourgeois parliamentary system were introduced by the rising bourgeoisie during their fight against feudalism and monarchy to establish its own rule through the bourgeois democratic revolution. The economic base of the bourgeois rule is capitalism. The bourgeois democracy or parliamentary democracy is the political superstructure of the

capitalist economic base. During the days of its advent, capitalism was operating in *laissez faire* mode, encouraging free competition among the capitalists. So the bourgeoisie, then a progressive force, upheld liberal principles of equality liberty and fraternity; stood for individual freedom, freedom of expression and freedom of association. It was envisaged that people hitherto subjugated under autocratic feudal rule would hold the sovereign power to rule over their country. As it was not possible for all people to rule directly, it was decided that people would have political freedom to choose their elected representatives through exercise of voting rights and constitute the government of their choice. In further elaboration of these concepts, it was held that there should be innumerable voluntary organizations of people beyond parliament to act as watchdog of democracy. People were granted freedom of association and freedom of expression to form these organizations and present their views and opinions. These voluntary organizations included the political parties, trade unions, associations and unions of people of different walks of life. The political parties and trade unions through their extra-parliamentary movements involving people were supposed to raise demands for redressing various burning problems of life. They were seen to it that

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Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand has brought no succour to the suffering people but has only exacerbated their plight and penury. On the contrary, the people of these states have noticed with disgust that there has emerged within themselves a 'creamy layer' which has been enjoying all power, position, privileges and fast accumulation of wealth and has become an appendage of the ruling class. Moreover, creation of Telangana would foster separatist hues and rake up demands for Vidarbha, Bodoland, Gorkhaland and so forth. In a bid to buttress their heinous electoral agenda, the vote-merchants have pushed the country to the precipice of such a grave danger of fresh spurt in separatist-chauvinistic movements and continuous spit of the existing states.

We, therefore, call upon the people of the country particularly the oppressed people of Andhra Pradesh to understand the vile motive of the ruling bourgeoisie and their servitors behind dividing the state and come forward and close their ranks to vehemently protest and prevent such moves purported to keep them disunited and dispossessed of the power of unraveling truth. Only countrywide united powerful sustained people's democratic mass movement can come a cropper to such noxious bourgeois machinations.

Parliamentary Democracy

Sovereignty of parliament is contingent upon people's sovereignty

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parliament took due cognizance of these demands and took appropriate steps or frame suitable laws to address the issues so raised, keep constant pressure upon the government, parliament and its members. It was incumbent on them to ensure that the members of parliament did not stop at framing laws only for people but themselves ably by those. The people also preferred to choose their representatives from among these political parties to contest elections. So evolved the multi-party democracy based on the principal of freedom of expression and association and premised on the free competition of *laissez faire* capitalist economy. Thus, these democratic organizations were meant to help the people to keep parliament informed of the people's needs and demands, reflect people's voice inside the House and also hold it under constant vigil and scrutiny. At the same time, to prevent democracy sliding down into 'mobocracy', the enunciators of bourgeois democracy also called for development of people's consciousness, so that they were aware of their rights and responsibilities, they were capable of judging the performance of the government and parliament. And this was to be attained through constant debates and discussions on thousand and one problems of people's life, which would hold the activities of parliament and the government open to people and in concrete expression

Parliament was thus set up as an institution which epitomized in it the concrete expression of bourgeois democracy and the parliamentary system of governance gave effect to the principle of rule of people as per bourgeois sense. The government so elected was assigned the task of framing legislations covering all aspects of people's life and society. Though a handful of people's elected representatives actually formed the government based on majority inside the House, their rule was with the consent of people, at least avowedly so. So, they were accountable to the people for all their policy formulations, acts and conduct. It was thus a Rule by Consent; at the same time, it also provided the Right to Dissent, and the Right to the House representatives, minorities in terms of numbers, who

expressed dissent. It is in this respect that parliament was considered sovereign and its sovereignty was contingent upon people's sovereignty. It must be added here that though talking of people's sovereignty, the bourgeois somehow sought to project parliament something sacred and omnipotent, and to that extent infallible. So, bourgeois democracy never granted people the right to recall their representatives if the latter failed to discharge their responsibility, renege on their pre-poll promises, indulge in gross misconduct or work in detriment to people's interest. The so-called omnipotence of powerful thus acted as a protective shield for the legislators against any wrongdoing.

Who is imperilling parliament and why?

But why does parliamentary democracy wear so rickety a look today? Answer needs to be sought in the inexorable course of history. In course of development, capitalism passed over the stage of *laissez faire* and entered the stage of monopoly. Arrival of monopoly rang the death knell of free competition. So, in the political superstructure, the principle of equity and unfettered freedom of expression received a jolt. As we all know, those who control economy, also control politics and for that matter, all other spheres of society including the realm of mind and culture. So, more the monopolists strengthened their grip and control over economy, more they moved towards curtailing the sovereignty of parliament and turning it into their appendage. Alongside development of monopoly, capitalism which is based on exploitation of labour power of the working people for accrual of maximum profit to the coffers of the capitalist owners also became increasingly ridden with market crisis. Because, increasing profit means increasing pauperization of the masses. Increasing pauperization robs people of the purchasing power or the affordability to buy goods. So, goods stockpile, market squeezes and crisis ensues. This crisis is thus not exogenous but endemic of the capitalist economic system itself. Once monopoly gave birth to imperialism, the highest stage of its development, its crisis accentuated further. Crisis is no more seasonal or occasional but perennial—what

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers called an hourly crisis. The capitalists are trying to somehow stave off one crisis only to be mired in a bigger crisis in the immediate next moment. In Comrade Ghosh's language, capitalism is now associated with a shadow of crisis from which it can never escape. As crisis intensified, for fear of losing their rule or power, capitalism or capitalist rulers became more autocratic and despotic, more and more tilted towards systematic curtailment of democracy and democratic norms, codes, conventions and practices. It started with infringement upon meaningful discussions and debates inside parliament. The sessions of parliament are also drastically curtailed. From 1952 to 1967, each of the three Lok Sabhas sat for an average of 600 days and more than 3,700 hours. In comparison, the 15th Lok Sabha - from 2009 till 2013 - has met for 357 days and 1,338 hours. The Lok Sabha worked for 66% of the scheduled hours in 2010, 12% in 2011 and 14% in 2012. The 15th Lok Sabha have recorded the worst performance in more than 50 years; productivity, which was 107 per cent in the third Lok Sabha, scaled a peak of 120 per cent in the seventh, only to crash to 61 per cent in the 15th. The ignominy is compounded by the maximum ever disruptions, which ate up 39% of even the limited time that it met. As the 15th Lok Sabha came to an ignominious end a week back, it is no longer possible to put off the question: are we a democracy only in name? Or, it is a ritualistic, five-yearly obeisance to democracy that hides the appalling state of the country's parliament which today resembles a wrestling arena.

Why the situation is so appalling? Because, crisis-ridden capitalism is haunted by the fear complex of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. It knows that preservation and cultivation of the classical democratic principles and conduct would accelerate its doom by hastening revolution. So, the ruling bourgeoisie is now out to destroy democracy and concentrate all power in its hands through the capitalist-imperialist state. Perforate with crisis and morbidity, capitalism has nothing more to offer to the common toiling people; even its political system, the parliamentary

democracy, stinks of rot and decadence, of corruption and total lack of morality and ethics. More the capitalist system becomes crisis-ridden, more would the ruling monopolists in order to prolong their moribund decadent class rule have power centralized in the hands of the bourgeois state and gradually moving towards fascism. So, it is the decadent moribund reactionary capitalism which is imperilling parliament and parliamentary democracy.

Certain misgivings doing round the corner

Naturally, the question that arises next is what ought to be the remedy to this systematic subversion of democracy? There is a thought that proliferation of so many parties is the cause of the peril. So, is raised the demand for appropriate of electoral reforms to weed out smaller parties and prefer existence of only two parties to choose between. It is contended that such would help prevent intrusion of untoward elements in parliament as keeping watch on two parties is relatively easy compared to many parties. Such thinking in fact is cunningly planted by the ruling bourgeoisie since that suits its class interest and class motive. A section of the people out of confusion is getting entrapped by that. As we had said earlier, the ruling monopolists are now weaving ploys to virtually make parliament defunct and turn it into an appendage of theirs by stripping it of its essence as was once conceived by the founding fathers of bourgeois democracy. Two party democracy perfectly suits that design. The ruling class would have two outfits of its choice and servitude to rule the roost and people, from an impression of exercising voting right and electing a government of their choice, would only alternate between the two. There is also an advocacy of presidential form of government as prevalent in the USA. But in the countries with either two party-system or presidential system, people's predicament has not waned but multiplied, corruption and misconduct have also not abated but mounted. What is gained by the ruling class in the process is, inter alia, stalling the entry of the real representatives of the people and thereby prevent people's voice reverberate inside parliament. In

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IACC denounces imperialist conspiracy and instigation for civil war in Ukraine

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary, International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee, issued the following statement on the imperialist-instigated conflict in Ukraine on 23-02-14:—

Ukraine is on the verge of a civil war instigated by the USA and the European Union. The NATO powers were keen to bring Ukraine into their orbit, and sometime back EU made an offer of a paltry loan amount to Ukraine, but this was conditional to open entry of EU capital into Ukrainian market, to imposition of austerity measures on the workers, and curtailment of their hard-earned benefits and Ukrainian acceptance of the NATO military alliance. It is the same prescription that brought about economic ruin to Greece, Portugal and Spain, and the elected Government of Ukraine led by President Yanukovich rejected the EU offer and signed agreements with capitalist Russia on economic and industrial cooperation. This marked the beginning of the ongoing conflict. Ukraine became a victim of competition between capitalist Russia and the Western capitalists, but the people's interests were passed over. The Western imperialist powers (USA and EU) were determined to break the Russian hold on Ukraine, and instigated and aided the opposition forces to stage violent anti-Yanukovich demonstrations in Kiev. Helmeted and masked demonstrators armed with lethal weapons entered into violent conflict with the security forces. Both protesters and policemen were killed in the violence, and the pro-West media portrayed the conflict as one between democratic popular movement and an autocratic tyrant. But the truth is that the protesters were led by rightist, ultranationalist, racist and neo-fascist groups like Svoboda, Right Sector, Fatherland Party, UDAR Party etc., with leaders like Tymoshenko, Yatsenyuk, Klitschko, and Tyahnybok. USA and EU were buying for the blood of President Yanukovich and were clamouring that he must bow to

the people's will and hand over power. The leaked telephone conversation between US Under-Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and the US ambassador at Kiev vividly brings out the imperialist machination to depose the elected President and install a pliant puppet, and is an open admission of the imperialist manipulation of the opposition politicians; at the same time it documents the savage competition between the capitalist partners – the USA and the EU. As the armed conflict, arson and destruction escalated, the western powers eventually succeeded in pressurizing the Yanukovich Government to sign a deal with the opposition, which stipulated a return to the 2004 Constitution that gave less power to the President, formation of a new coalition Government and new election before December, 2014. But this was not enough for the imperialist conspirators, and they instigated a section of the protesters to reject the deal. Next day the protesters took control of the Presidential administration buildings, and the Parliament voted to remove Yanukovich from power and called for new elections on May 25. The pro-West opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko was released from prison and was projected as the next likely President. The objective of the US/EU assault is not to bring in democracy, but to facilitate the entry of marauding capital into Ukraine and exploitation of its labour force and natural resources. The victory of imperialism in Ukraine would have disastrous consequences for the working class and oppressed people throughout the world. The International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) strongly condemns the imperialist conspiracy in Ukraine and firmly believes that the imperialist maneuvers can only be defeated by determined and coordinated action of the people all over the globe. IACC calls upon the working class and oppressed people of the world to forcefully raise the slogan, 'Imperialists! Hands off Ukraine!'

Countrywide anti-Semester movement meets victory

The six week long ITI/ITC students' movement against the sudden introduction of Semester Scheme in place of long term training programmes taken up in different states came to a satisfactory ending. Despite the 'Withdraw Semester Scheme from ITI/ITC' – demand not achieved, the Central Government finally bowed down to the pressure of the movement and conceded to certain demands though partially. This has been solely through movement led by the revolutionary youth organisation AIDYO, that this could become possible against a stubborn and insensitive Central Government and its bureaucratic administration. By this, the anxiety of students facing new scheme and the pressure on the teachers to implement the new scheme have come down.

With the introduction of the semester system, which is basically a short-syllabus examination at short time gaps, the students came up with various problems. The students pointed out that DGET (Director General of Employment and Training) did not consult either the student representatives or the training staff of such institutions nor did he cite any explanation for the hectically drawn decision. Moreover, ITI being a training-based course, field work is more important here than theoretical study. Students need to gain experience by working as assistants in factories. If semester system is introduced, students will have to devote more time for preparation of exams at short time-gaps and field-

work will suffer. Besides, there were other problems like collection of 'unethical' money from students during examinations, lack of infrastructure and trained staff, and need for increase in stipend etc. Teachers and principals were also feeling the effects. Naturally, students' movement drew widespread support from the latter too. Since towards the end of December 2013, different forms of movements, such as, classes' boycott, effigy burning, dharnas, protest demonstrations were adopted. Memorandum was submitted to the authorities including Union Labour Minister and DGET. Initiated in Karnataka, the movements spread to other parts of the country, as protests, mass deputations and delegations and other programmes were organised in

Karnataka (23 December), Gujarat, Orissa, Bihar, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand (20 January, 2014 photo), UP (Lucknow 16 January), MP, Chattisgarh (22 January), West Bengal and other states.

Of these, a convention of students, teachers, professors, principals, vice chancellors and citizens concerned with education was held on 22 January, 2014 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat and it was addressed by, among others Dr. S. N. Iyer, Principal, R. H. Patel College, Ahmedabad and General Secretary, Gujarat Rajya Acharya Mahamandal, Prof. Sanjay Bhawe, Dr. Subhash Brahmabhatt, Secretary, All India Principals' Association, Dr. Mahadev Desai, President, South Gujarat Teachers' Association and Secretary, AIFUCTO, Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat

Vidyapeeth, Dr. Sureshchandra Trivedi, Principal, C. U. Shah City College, Ahmedabad, Dr. Jagdish Chaudhary, Principal, S.V. Arts College, Dr. Suhasini Jhala, Principal, Sadguna College for Girls, Prof. Natubhai Patel, Prof. Hemantkumar Shah, Dr. J. A. Sarvaiya, Secretary, Gujarat Rajya Acharya Mahamandal, Rimmi Vaghela, Vice-President, Gujarat State Committee, All India D.S.O., Parth Pandya, Secretary, Ahmedabad District Committee, All India D.S.O. and Prof. Rohitbhai Shukla, President, Gujarat Chapter, All India Save Education Committee and Editor, 'Abhidrishti', who delivered the concluding speech.

Under pressure of these countrywide movements, the authorities made a hasty retreat and demands were partially achieved. Thus the semester examinations were temporarily postponed; the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGET), New Delhi (The Governing Body of ITI/ITC Courses) assured candidly that it will ensure that no student will be put to difficulty due to semester scheme; some changes in the examination pattern will be done such as number of attempts, medium of examination etc., to help the trainees facing the new scheme; no students will be made to suffer or fail in subjects in which stipulated number of classes has not been conducted etc. AIDYO called upon all to remain vigilant and proceed with further movement, in case students are subjected to fresh difficulty or pressure from the authorities.

ITI students oppose move to introduce semester system

Staff Correspondent

RAICHUR: Led by the All-India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO) and the All-India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), students of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) on Thursday opposed the government's move to introduce semester system into their courses from current year.

Hundreds of students carrying placards and flags, raised slogans urging the government to withdraw the proposal to introduce the semester system.

They said that the decision to introduce semester system in ITI course had been taken without prior information or preparation. According to them, the examination dates for the first semester were announced, even as the students were unaware of the pattern of question paper.



INDIGNANT: Students of the Industrial Training Institute burning copies of a Government Order in Raichur on Thursday. — PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

The students asked the government to show a valid and justifiable reason for replacing the system of annual examination with semester scheme. 'ITI is a training-oriented

course in which the focus is more on field-work than on theory. Students have to work in factories and other course-related fields. Semester system makes students engage themselves more in theoretical studies than practical work, which is contrary to the spirit and essence of ITI courses. It keeps students in examination mood always,' said Channabasava Jankel, district secretary of AIDYO. He said that the government should consult and discuss thoroughly before deciding to bring in major changes in academic teaching, be it a change in syllabi or examination pattern.

Memorandum

A memorandum, addressed to the Director-General of Employment and Training, was handed over to the district administration.

President of the AIDYO district unit Sharanappa Udbal, AIDSO district president Mahesh Cheekalapurvi, ITI students Hanumantha Chand Pasha, Suresh and others were present.

Coverage of the ITI students' movement in leading English daily

Dr Tarun Mandal addresses a joint march of teachers and students against FYUP

Under the auspices of the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and Different students' organizations like AIDS0, AISA, AISF, SFI, KYS, CYSS, PACHHAS etc., a protest rally was organized from Zakir Hussain College of Delhi University to Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 18 February 2014 against implementation of FYUP (Four-Year Undergraduate

Chapter of All India Save Education Committee, Comrade Manager Chaurasia, Secretary, AIUTUC, Delhi and Ritu Kaushik, Secretary, AIMSS, Delhi. The speakers defined the FYUP as anti student-anti teacher and said that it is nothing but a sinister design of the government to convert education into a global commodity in the interest of national and international



Dr. Tarun Mandal addressing the march against FYUP

Programme) in the University of Delhi. Hundreds of students and teachers from different colleges of Delhi University, JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia University joined the rally. Later, a protest meeting was organized at Jantar Mantar which was conducted by the President of DUTA, Prof. Nandita Narayan. It was addressed, along with other leaders, by Dr. Tarun Mandal (Member of Parliament, SUCI(C)), Sitaram Yechuri (CPI(M)), Manish Sisodia, AAP leader, Prof. Narendra Sharma from Delhi

capitalist class. The speakers stated that the University of Delhi has become a testing ground for all these so-called reforms and if the government succeeds here, these policies will be implemented throughout the country. The speakers thanked and congratulated the DUTA and students' organizations for organizing such a successful protest rally and ensured their full support with the hope that the joint struggle will soon spread throughout the country achieving newer heights.

118th Netaji Subhas birthday observed across the country with due solemnity

In the last issue of Proletarian Era (v.47, no. 13, 15 February 2014) we published a few reports on observance of 117th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. More reports we received afterwards are being summarized here. Thus Netaji birth anniversary was observed by units of AIDS0, AIDYO, AIMSS and different other social-cultural organizations, singly or jointly in combinations, in Rajasthan at Jaipur and Phalodi (Rajasthan), in Haryana

at Rewari, Sonapat, Tosham (AIDS0, AIDYO), Bhiwani and Jhajjar, in Uttar Pradesh at Akbarpur (Kanpur Dehat), Jaunpur and Moradabad, in Chhatisgarh at Durg and in Jharkhand at Ranchi on 23 January (by AIDS0, AIMSS, AIDYO), at Jamshedpur Karim City College and at Adityapur in Seraikella-Kharsawan District on 2 February by AIDYO dedicating the programme to 'DAMINI' and the movement against 'Crime against Women'.



Participants of cultural competition held on January 19, on the occasion of 117 Netaji Birth Anniversary at Adityapur in Saraikela-Kharsawan, Jharkhd

SUCI(C) calls the interim vote on accounts of the central government downright anti-people and pro-rich

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 18 February, 2014: —

It is disquieting to find that the Congress-led UPA II government in the interim vote-on accounts presented today has claimed, *iner alia*, that "140 million of people have been moved out of poverty" and food inflation has declined — two observations which run contrary to the experience of the common people pauperized everyday because of drastic fall in real income and bleeding dry on account of harrowing rise in prices. The finance minister has not cared to give any basis whatsoever for such observations particularly when arbitrary and whimsical fixation of benchmark for determining poverty as well as manipulation and fudging of data to distort reality have become the practice of the policymakers perching atop the tower of power.

It is also equally condemnable that when allocation towards any public welfare area has been skipped, most unproductive military budget has been customarily increased by as high as

10%. The very decision of fresh capital infusion of Rs 11,200 crores to PSU banks is also an indirect way of subsidizing the non-performing assets created because of willful default of bank loans by the corporate houses. The very allocation to so called Nirbhaya Fund is nothing but a farce as no one knows how the Fund floated last year in a show of gimmickry has been utilized so far. The showering of self-accolades and boasting of fake success are sickening and aimed at befooling the countrymen.

This interim budget is, therefore, totally against people's interest and proves the avid pro-rich anti-people character of the ruling dispensation.

BBSS stage impressive rally in Ranchi against eviction

Slum dwelling poor people of the Heavy Electrical Corporation Bustee, Ranchi, Jharkhand, carry on their satiated struggle against unrelenting efforts of the Heavy Electrical Corporation aided and abetted by the state government towards evicting them. On face of determined struggle of the people, the HEC authority and the government are now clamping false cases on the fighting people. At the same time they are deliberately evading the issue of regularizing the status of these people by granting them legal ownership right to their land. On these two demands, regularization and ownership right as well as withdrawal of false cases, hundreds of slum dwellers staged a rally on 17 February. As the authority and police tried to stop the rally from further proceeding, the demonstrators fought with the police and proceeded near the HEC project building. A meeting was held with Siddheswar Singh, a secretary (Sansthapak?) of the Struggle

Committee to Save Bustee (Bustee Bachao Sangharsh Samity/ BBSS) presiding over and Comrade Keya De, another secretary BBSS and Comrade Vinod Kumar, Coordinator BBSS, as also a number of dwellers of the Bustee and others addressing it. The speakers brought out the falsehood, trickery and coercion of the HEC authority. Though the HEC claims that the slumdwellers were illegal occupiers, it remains a fact that nearly five decades back when the HEC authority needed workers to start their project with, it settled these people on this vacant land. The latter themselves made this land habitable and have been living there for all these years. Now without caring for these people, the authority and the government are hatching designs to hand over this land to the corporate and the rich for setting up shopping malls, housing etc. The BBSS condemned in one voice the move of the authority pledged to contune their movements on the demands raised.



Part of BBSS rally in Ranchi on February 17.

Voices from Gujarat urge for a fear-free Gujarat and illusion-free India

A Citizens' Convention on the theme of 'Fear-free Gujarat and Illusion-free India' was held in the Mehendi Nawab Jung Hall of Ahmedabad on 25 January. Participated by eminent citizens of Gujarat from all walks of life, the convention was convened by PUCL and Lok Andolan, Gujarat and was presided over by well known personality of Gujarat, Prakashbhai Shah. A resolution on theme of the convention was placed by the Secretary of PUCL, Gujarat, Gautam bhai Thaker and supporting speech was delivered by Dwarika Nath Rath, the Convenor of Lok Andolan Gujarat. The convention was addressed by the human right activist advocate Girishbhai Patel, Prof Rohitbhai Shukla, economist and, president, All India Save Education Committee, Gujarat, Rajanibhai Dave, Naliniben Trivedi of AWAG, Prafullabhai Dave from Bhavnagar, Fr. Cedric Prakash, Sureshbhai Meheta, former chief minister of Gujarat, R. B. Shrikumar, former DGP, Shabnam Hashmi, Jayanti Panchal of Socialist Party, Arun Meheta of CPI (M), Tapan Dasgupta from SUCI (C), Uttam Parmar, activist from south Gujarat, Meeakshi Joshi of AIMSS and many others. The president, Prakashbhai Shah called upon people to come forward to unmask BJP and Narendra Modi and save the country from the impending danger of Fascism. The unanimously adopted resolution highlighted the significance of the convention when in the wake of the forthcoming parliamentary elections 'Gujarat Model of Development' is being projected vigorously and the chief minister of the state is being projected as the would-be prime minister of the country. While 'speeches, conduct and administration' of

the Gujarat CM are in no way lesser than those of a fascist dictator, the so-called Gujarat model is 'nothing but a mirage'. 'What is known as the Gujarat Model is, in fact, collusion and alliance of interests of corporate sector and the state. Such a development model of Gujarat is in reality discredited as snatching away of lands and livelihood of the poor people, is inhuman, cruel and merciless. Here the consent or concurrence is manufactured or fabricated and working style of the state' is 'profit over the people'. In a Goebelsian style 'untruth is repeated over and over again so as to project or portray it as a truth'. 'All over the state' 'free and frank expression has been choked or throttled'. 'Freedom, equality and brotherhood' the 'soul and spirit of democracy' are cast aside. Administrative neutrality is trampled upon. 'For popularizing Gujarat Model of Development, lots of statistics are on display in the media. Against this, there are striking statistics on poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, suicides, rampant violation of rights of women, dalits, minorities and the humanity. In the past, Gujarat played 'a significant role in the social reforms movement and the freedom struggle'. Even the battle against corruption waged by Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan was also sparked off by the Nav-Nirman Movement which had emanated from here. Even now in spite of undeclared 'emergency' situation in the State, 'civic voices of dissent and protest' are being raised to appear as the 'silver lining'.

The convention sent notes of caution and urged to distinguish truth from untruth without being dazzled by the glitters of 'canvassing' of 'development' as also to refrain from fomenting the venom of communalism.

KARNATAKA

Protest against government's ploy to withdraw fees concession for underprivileged students

Bangalore District Committee of AIDS0 organized a protest demonstration on 19 February, 2014 at Mysore Bank Circle against the heinous decision of the government of Karnataka to withdraw the fees concession provided to BCM students. Due to this decision, thousands of underprivileged students will be deprived of fees concession. As it was apparent from a government order dated 5 October 2013, henceforth BCM students will have to pay full amount of fees. The amount in excess of their stipulated concession will be transferred to the bank accounts of students as per the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme. Ridiculously, the order overlooks or deliberately ignores the simple fact that underprivileged students need avail of fees concession at a time when he is to pay the fees for his or her studies and not after a long time when he or she is no more a student. Then again, once the government absolves itself from the responsibility of providing fees concession on the plea of lack of funds. Now, at a next moment it draws the clause of 'means and merits' in the present order, to formally and legally eliminate and deprive maximum number of students from the fees

concession. Besides the order mentions that the policy should come into effect from 2013-14 year itself which means the student need to cough out extra fees with retrospective effect. They will have to fill in forms through online to get back the extra fees so paid. Even these are made further conditional as the students must not participate in any movements and strikes, must possess Aadhar card and must obtain percentage of marks stipulated by the government. With more than 70% of rural students failing in English language and with all these conditions it is sure that a vast section of poor common students will be deprived of concessional fees and thus even of availing of education itself. Denouncing this policy as fascist and undemocratic, the AIDS0 leaders called for powerful movement demanding withdrawal of the order.

WEST BENGAL

New Attack on Language learning

West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has, of late, recommended that for gradation of marks obtained by students in Higher Secondary Examination, it would not be mandatory to include marks obtained in vernacular and English. It will be enough to secure only pass marks in the languages.

Such a move is out and out anti-education. Language being the very vehicle of thought, it goes without saying that an attack on language study amounts to attack on the

thought process itself. In the education system of the country, there has been a rapid undermining of the importance of language study over the years, which has inevitably contributed to the degeneration of the overall standard of education. This is amply testified by the Annual Status of Education Report released by the Central Human Resources Development Minister M M Pallam Raju in January '13. The report shows that in India, 50% of the 5th standard students are unable to read books prescribed for 2nd standard. It is also worth reiterating that reducing the importance of language study invariably leads to discouragement of study of literature. If the students are averse to studying literature, they stand deprived of the opportunity to be acquainted with and acquiring human values and desired human qualities, cherish and nourish higher human relationships. This in turn contributes to robotization of the students, retrograding their mental process.

In West Bengal, there has been a steady decline in the study of literature particularly after abolition of English from the primary stage, declining emphasis on language and literature study in the rapidly and periodically revised curriculum standard of education by the erstwhile CPI(M)-led government. Later, introduction of the no-detention scheme up to class IV which was a bolt in the learning process because of no assessment of conceptualization, made things worse. The present TMC-government which makes jibe at the CPI (M) for ruining the state is, however, following the footsteps of

the CPI (M) more aggressively in the arena of education. Apart from extending the most devastating policy of no detention up to class VIII and revising syllabi and other rules frequently to experiment with the students as guinea-pig, the TMC government is now taking a step ahead in belittling the importance of language study as is evident in the latest recommendation of the Council of Higher Secondary Examination. If the CPI (M)-Front had institutionalized the attack on education, the TMC is firming up that attack with alacrity.

It can, therefore, be observed that cutting across party lines, those hankering for pelf and power and for that cannot but appease the ruling bourgeois class, do not mind having the people truncated in respect of educational and cultural acquisitions. All along the ruling parties at the centre or in the states have been framing policies that would restrict and curtail the scope of education. Now the attack has become even more severe. And the TMC has been showing that notwithstanding all their relentless firing of salvos against the CPI (M) seemingly from sole electoral angle, it hardly differs with its *bête noir* in so far as pursuit of anti-people policies is concerned. So, there is nothing surprising that the TMC government is triggering further decline in education standard by curbing the importance of language study. We call upon students-teachers-guardians to offer effective resistance to the effort to carry out such a disastrous move in the field of education.

Parliamentary Democracy

Parliamentary democracy is not the last word in social journey

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fact, in this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, as characterized by great Lenin, even in the countries where multi-party democracy is stated to be prevailing officially, there is virtually no semblance of that since the ruling bourgeoisie ensures concentration of all power in its hand and total grip over governance through one or two of its select most trusted representatives by manipulating elections or the electoral process keeping a façade of parliament or parliamentary democracy. If one looks towards India, same picture would emerge. The ruling Indian capitalist class is trying utmost to establish two-party democracy. And the parties of its confidence, the Congress, BJP, as well as all other bourgeois petty bourgeois parties, even the social democratic CPI, CPI(M) are now vying with each other to curry favour with the class and be picked up as formidable candidates in the two-party rule. And to checkmate each other in this scramble for power, they do not hesitate to imperil parliament.

Recently, some people are elated that the Election Commission under direction from the Supreme Court has now introduced an option for the electorates to reject all the candidates and thereby abstain from voting. "Democracy is all about choice. This choice can be better expressed by giving the voters an opportunity to verbalize themselves

unreservedly and by imposing least restrictions on their ability to make such a choice," observed Supreme Court while giving the ruling. But, the point is that would such negative voting clean the polity as candidates would get elected even if there is a theoretical possibility that abstentions may outnumber the votes polled by the winner? In fact, these are all cosmetic reforms that would hardly touch even a figment of the problem.

Another section of the people thinks that there should be stringent laws to prevent infiltration of criminals, wrongdoers and dubious characters from making it to parliament and undermine its dignity. But racking our brain for simple legal remedies would not beget any succour either. As discussed, these days parliament does no longer serve as a platform for ventilating people's genuine views and opinions. It has been reduced largely to a means to win power and pelf. In such a situation, even if it is possible to get rid of a few criminals by legal measures, the capitalist system remains intact, capitalism thrives on in full glare; the politician-administration-criminal nexus reigns supreme only to produce a fresh spate of more and dreaded criminals. It is the capitalist system that produces, uses and sustains a continuous inflow of criminals. The process has come to such a pass that criminals who were once serving their masters, have now made deeper inroads and have risen to the highest rungs of power in different spheres. They are even becoming party bosses and holding the leash of power. Those who would promulgate laws are themselves in the nexus that produces, uses and survives on criminals; the capitalist system to which they all belong is itself the breeding house of criminals. So, the system or parliamentary democracy cannot get out of the clutch of criminality and criminals. Since the system itself is rotten and outmoded, cleansing it from within through reforms is ruled out. Even if some abatement is desired, the way-out lies in strengthening the anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle.

What is the remedy and task imperative of the sentient people

Time has come to firmly imbibe this truth. As the thesis of ruthless capitalist exploitation and utter degeneration of capitalist system is true, so is the anti-thesis of

overthrowing capitalism by revolution. Seeking redressal of fads and aberrations bred by capitalism within capitalism is a utopia. Historically, bourgeois democracy is outdated. Its necessity is outlived. So is bourgeois parliament. These cannot be reformed any more but need to be replaced by much higher proletarian democracy and socialist system which is not based on exploitation of man by man. But that cherished revolutionary change would come by only when the necessary conditions, both subjective and objective, of anti-capitalist socialist revolution would be fulfilled, the genuine revolutionary leadership would establish itself before people with adequate power and organization. Till the time that is not accomplished, the task of the oppressed people including the thinking minds is to build up powerful democratic movements centring on burning problems of people's life and ensure that such democratic struggles develop as conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle. But it is also true that pending revolution, bourgeois democracy in its truncated form would continue to be in vogue. Democratic or legal movements would have to be conducted within the ambit of bourgeois democracy. Elections would take place and a show of parliamentary democracy would continue. So long as due political consciousness does not dawn upon the people and they are not freed from parliamentary illusion, they would be drawn into the vortex of electioneering process, presently engineered by the triumvirate of money-media-mafia. Notwithstanding their growing disgust over the all-out deterioration of parliamentary democracy, people would remain in the grips of that putrid system. In such a situation, alongside launching a painstaking ideological struggle to unmask the historic obsolescence of bourgeois democracy and establish supremacy of alternate socialist system, it is also necessary to intensify people's democratic movements on the burning problems of life. From the platform of this movement, demand should also be raised for restoring the curtailed democratic rights, norms and conventions and broadening democracy, removing all impediments before allowing parliament to meet for a reasonable period of time and transacting business with meaningful debates and discourses. The movement should also call for taking serious

measures to check criminalization of politics, freeing the electioneering process from the tentacles of money-muscle-media control, removing all hindrances before anyone to elect and be elected and stringent measures against the ruffians who disturb smooth functioning of the House. Fear of assertion of people's power through such organized sustained movement outside parliament make the rulers and their cohorts to jeer at the surging people's struggles as 'turmoil on streets' or 'disruption of normalcy'. This is also against the basic tenets of bourgeois democracy which once viewed such mass actions as means of check and balance as well as vigil on proper operation of parliamentary democracy. It is only the pressure of such a people's movement that can wrest some of these legitimate demands and exercise some restraint on the ruling class and its servitors from conducting in any manner they like. Even in electoral battle, only tried and tested soldiers of this movement are needed to be backed and sent to the legislature for reflecting people's voice inside the House and upholding the counter-trend of the rancid mess. The democratic-minded persons, intellectuals, social activists who are disturbed and agonized at the ongoing farce in the name of democracy, marked deviation from even the constitutional provisions, unsavoury catfight on the floor of the legislature, hooliganism and slugfest, semantic quibblings of the self-serving political leaders, squalid mess in the arena of politics and above all, lack of honesty, integrity and sobriety among the political class afloat in the corridors of power, need to understand this task imperative in right earnest. This marked degeneration of bourgeois democracy is not exclusive in India but a common feature of the entire imperialist-capitalist world with some variance in degree. Our fervent appeal to the thinking class is to understand that parliamentary democracy is not the last word in social journey. It is only a phase and once the relevance of that phase is historically nullified, it is pointless to lament for that. Prudence lies in that. Erudition and intellect demand that the correct course to social progress is duly identified and traversed along to emancipate humanity from the shackles of oppression and in the process get rid of all the filth and smuts polluting the polity.

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Sd/- Asit Bhattacharyya
Signature of Publisher

SUCI(C) condemned keeping Delhi Assembly under suspended animation

The Delhi State Organizing Committee of the SUCI(C) issued the following statement on 19-02-14 :

Twenty years of misrule first of BJP and then of Congress in Delhi and their anti-people policies have resulted in spiralling price-rise, unemployment, contractualisation of jobs in all sectors, privatization of water, electricity, education, health-care and non-regularization of unauthorized colonies making people's lives miserable. Added to these, the all-pervading corruption and growing crimes against women and children have made the situation suffocating. People wanted a change. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) appeared with promises to bring about the change and resolve the problems faced by the people. With full faith and belief, people overwhelmingly voted for the AAP. While remaining in power, the AAP had the scope to take effective steps to regularize the unauthorized colonies, regularize the services of the contract workers, open the promised number of schools and fulfill all other promises made by the party. But unfortunately making the Jan Lok Pal Bill the sole issue, its CM, Shri Arvind Kejriwal, relinquished power leaving the people in lurch and giving rise to a political crisis in the state. One cannot fail to see that for forming the government with the help of the Congress, which he fought all through, he sought people's approval; while in case of the serious and crucial decision to step down from power, he did not seek their opinion. This is very unfortunate.

However, the way the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi and the central Congress government took advantage of the situation in keeping the state assembly in suspended animation is highly undemocratic and anti-people. This is so because the Lieutenant Governor and the central cabinet are well aware that in the present condition, no party is in a position to form a government without resorting to horse-trading, the worst form of corruption. The recommendation of the Lt. Governor and the central government to the President has precisely provided such a scope which is highly condemnable.

Under the circumstances, dissolution of the state assembly for holding simultaneous elections along with the forthcoming parliamentary elections, was the most desirable and reasonable solution of the problem. Instead of doing so, the central government has paved way for either horse-trading or holding assembly elections at a future date which will be an additional drain on the public exchequer, the brunt of which will have to be borne by the common man.

The Delhi State Organizing Committee of the SUCI(C), therefore, demands immediate dissolution of the state assembly and holding of simultaneous assembly elections with the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

The Party has also appealed to the people to come forward and help build up a strong movement to pressurize the central government to change its stand in the matter.

SUCI(C) despises heinous attempt by imperialist US to spread canard of human rights violation against socialist North Korea

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 23-02-2014 :

We despise the most heinous and atrocious attempt by the US imperialists, the most hated international brigands and number one enemy of the mankind, to frame socialist North Korea with concocted charges of human rights violation based on a clearly commissioned Human Rights report using as usual the United Nations as rubber stamp. Unable to bully North Korea to submission even after every possible effort including persistent war threat, military encirclement, prolonged economic sanction and cunning diplomatic manoeuvres, the Pentagon warlords have now switched to the slander mode. Everyone is aware of the 'enviable' trackrecord of the US imperialist rulers of most blatant and flagrant violation of basic human rights and committing ghastly crime on humanity as was evidenced in the merciless killings and use of weapons of mass destruction during Vietnam War, forcible occupation of sovereign Iraq with battered faces of babies, chopped out limbs and torsos of the innocent citizens scattered all over — reminiscent of the beastly savagery of the Roman colosseum, protracted violence in Afghanistan, orchestrated regime change through military intervention in Libya, engineered civil wars in Sudan, Somalia, Haiti and other African countries by planting agent provocateurs, fomenting subversive and sabotage acts even abduction of incumbent heads of government and unabashed pursuit of brazen overlordism round the world flaunting military might. The accounts of barbaric torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay drawn directly from habeas counsels' unclassified notes as well as abuse of inmates of other US prisons in violation of all international treaties, conventions, and declarations bear glaring testimony of how human rights are trampled underfoot by the US government with alacrity. Not only in prisons, millions of the most vulnerable Americans are subjected to human rights abuses every day as per published reports. There is epidemic of sexual violence against women even in the US military. Hundreds of thousands of children work on American farms 10 or more hours a day and risk pesticide poisoning, heat illness, injuries, lifelong disabilities, and death. And these butchers are now daring to arrogate to themselves the propriety to spread canards against North Korea firmly guarding socialism braving all odds, riding on the depositions of 80 witnesses stated to be defectors who escaped across the border and so called satellite images. It is worth noting that butting up North Korea with doctored and baseless allegations at regular intervals has become part of the conspiratorial move by the US rulers to topple socialism there.

We call upon the anti-imperialist peace loving world people not to be confused at this motivated propaganda of the US imperialists and their boot-lickers and firmly stand by the socialist North Korea.



Massive demonstration of peasants staged in front of the District Magistrate office by AIKKMS Keonjhar District Committee at Keonjhar, Odisha on 12 February 2014 on burning problems of peasants.

Citizens' Convention at Ahmedabad



Citizens' Convention on 'Fear-free Gujarat and Illusion-free India' held at Ahmedabad on 25 January. [Report on page 6]

In the forthcoming parliamentary election



Cast your vote in favour of SUCI (C) candidates on the Glass symbol

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH