

Proletarian Era

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Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Polit Bureau, offering floral tribute on the Memorial Day of great Karl Marx on 14 March at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata



Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran member, Polit Bureau, offering red salute to Comrade Stalin on his Memorial Day on 5 March at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata

Union Budget 2015

Brazenly anti-people, bluntly pro-capitalist

Introducing his budget for the year 2015-16, Union BJP Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that he was "laying out the roadmap for accelerating growth, enhancing investment and passing on the benefit of the growth process to the common man, woman, youth and child: those, whose quality of life needs to be improved." While all these words are nothing more than the jargons used by any and every government of recent times, the fact is this time the roadmap has indeed been laid out more clearly, bluntly and arrogantly for accelerated growth of the industrial houses, corporate sector and business bigwigs. Along with it, there is a unique craftily woven plan to further squeeze and pauperize the common toiling masses making life yet more nightmarish for them. Without wasting further time, let us proceed to see how the BJP Finance Minister has worked out his stratagem to fleece the countrymen and swell the coffers of the ruling monopolists who brought his party to power.

People's perspective

What are the problems the countrymen at large are reeling under? Undisputedly they are spiralling rise in the prices of essential commodities including basic food items, mounting unemployment, spurt in job loss, increasing poverty, dwindling income to a level far less adequate to eke out a bare living, growing number of starvation deaths particularly of the debt-strapped peasants who are denied remunerative prices for their produce, corruption at every level of administration, rampant black marketing and hoarding by unscrupulous traders to create artificial scarcity and jack up prices, continuous hike in fuel, power and transport tariffs, absence of rudimentary healthcare and scope for proper education etc. The common people are least bothered to know what is the rating of the international rating agencies about

India's capitalist economy, what are the figures of past, present and projected GDPs, how the stock market is riding the crest and trough of speculation, whether Indian economy is poised to fly or reach the moon or the Mars and such other typical bourgeois economic jargons. They are keen to see if there is any rein on the progressively deteriorating standard of living of theirs, if there is some mitigation of their hardship. If one sees from that perspective, this budget would prove to be a charade on the hopes and aspirations of the common man. Facts will prove that.

Price rise

First we take the issue of gruesome price rise. The Finance Minister(FM) has claimed that "one of the major achievements of his government has been to conquer inflation." In support of his claim, he has stated that "the latest CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation rate is 5.1%, and the wholesale price inflation is negative." CPI, incidentally, is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. The problem is this claim of the FM is at wide variance with the experience of the common people who would wonder who supply such data and what basis such statistics are arrived at. Even the experts on media had to term it 'statistical jugglery'. Every day people find the market of daily necessities soaring beyond reach. But the FM takes pride in containing inflation meaning rise in price. Incredible indeed! Clearly, the perception around inflation stands in contradiction at the two levels: one of the FMs and the likes and the other at the grassroots. And to slay the slain, a steep rise in the prices of petrol and diesel was announced immediately after presentation of the budget. This raise will inevitably push up the general price line further.

It is pertinent to mention that fuel prices ought to have been lower but for four consecutive excise duty hikes since November last totalling Rs 7.75 a litre on petrol and Rs 7.50 on diesel. It means that, as assured by the governments, the benefits of a substantial fall in international crude price are not passed on to the common people but usurped by the government. Next point is that apart from the general law of capitalist economy triggering continuous price rise, it is the hoarders, blackmarketers and speculators who further manipulate price. The FM, however, has preferred to maintain eerie silence on the matter indicating that the government does not mind giving indulgence to such unscrupulous price manipulators.

While talking of manipulations, it is alleged by many that the FM himself has furnished inflated data on national income and GDP growth. The compilation of data has been based on a new methodology of calculation using not 2004-05 but 2011-12 as base year which inflated the figure of national income. It is stated that the government has willfully done it as inflated national income enhances the quantum of borrowing the government can go for bridging budget deficits. Similarly, GDP figures have also been inflated to shield the fact that the Indian economy had slowed down significantly in the past few years. Rightly bantered one commentator that "the Indian economy seems to be savouring the glad tidings ushered in by a statistical adjustment, instead of worrying about how they square with reality."

Unemployment

We now come to the point of containing unemployment. People of the country are tired of hearing the customary promises of the Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers about job creation and bringing down unemployment.

Contd. on page 2

Union Budget 2015

Surfeit of demagoguery and jargons to hide the truth

Contd. from page 1

Invariably, all such promises are shrouded in vagueness and there is no accountability on the part of any of the bourgeois governments and their ministers in so far as honouring even a fraction of such promises is concerned. This time also, the FM has said that to enhance the employability of rural youth, he is bringing a new scheme and earmarked only Rs. 1,500 crores for the purpose. But there are no details as to what this scheme is all about. Secondly, all the governments, whether of Congress or of BJP or of any other regional party, only highlight the figure of proposed investment in various sectors to indicate onrush of employment. But what fraction of that is really invested and where, remains unknown. Besides, we all know that mere investment does not entail commensurate creation of remunerative permanent jobs. Already there is a coinage, “jobless growth”, in the parlance. There is a virtual moratorium on fresh recruitment in government offices and semi-government organizations. There is a spree of retrenchment and voluntary retirement in most of the industries including government offices. Every day, shutters are downed on a number of industries throwing hundreds and thousands out of job. Tendency to commit suicide is on the rise among the retrenched workers. To bring down the cost of production, the industrialists are switching more and more towards sophisticated automation and employment of contract labour at much lower wage. Having no work in the villages, thousands of landless peasants and agricultural labourers are migrating to the cities only to become street beggars and die on the roadside or at the most, the more fortunate ones, to live a subhuman life in extremely wretched work conditions. But the FM is unfazed or unconcerned about this. There is no mention about any serious effort to open the closed industries. Rather, he has even mocked the MGNREGA scheme which at least offers 100 days employability to rural poor and refused to increase allocation under the scheme which is pegged down at Rs 34,699 crores. It is also reported that a good part of such allocation was not disbursed last year to the states meaning non-implementation of the scheme even to the extent promised in the budget. Perhaps, this is enough for anyone to understand how eager

(!) the BJP government is to lower unemployment.

The fact which the BJP government like its predecessor Congress government or any other bourgeois, petty-bourgeois state government wants to hide from the people is that in moribund decadent capitalism, there cannot be any industrialization nor can market crisis and associated economic crises be fought out. All these are endemic of the capitalist system. Swelling profits of a handful of capitalists means rapid pauperization of people. Pauperization means fall in their purchasing power. That in turn creates crisis in the market. Crisis engenders closure of industries, extinguishing of job opportunities and thus breeds unemployment and triggers retrenchment. The vicious cycle never ends in capitalism, more so in its decadent stage.

Education, healthcare and welfare projects

While shedding crocodile tears for the poor, the FM has drastically slashed allocations to education, health and whatever little of public welfare schemes is in operation. Allocation to ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) has been halved from over Rs. 16,000 crores to Rs. 8,000 crores, allocations under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and National Livelihood Mission have been reduced by 22.14% and 12% respectively. The FM's initiative towards improving education lay in increasing the number of IIMs and IITs where both entry and fees are prohibitive for the common students. Similarly, bettering healthcare remained confined to the announcement of more AIIMS where treatment is beyond the reach of common people. Allocation for health and family welfare has come down from Rs. 35,163 crores last year to Rs. 29,653 crores. The total budgeted figure for housing and urban poverty alleviation has come down from Rs. 6,008 crores to Rs. 5,634 crores though the FM had talked of aiming at “Substantial reduction of poverty”.

Food security and subsidy cut

The budget has no mention as to how the government proposes to ensure food security to the suffering countrymen. On the contrary, allocation towards Food Security Mission launched in 2007 as a centrally sponsored scheme to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice and pulses on a

sustainable basis with the stated objective of strengthening food security of the country has been reduced by almost Rs 26,000 crore. Moreover, several tonnes of food articles rot in the government godowns every year. If asked, the government says it does not have enough money to distribute those to the needy citizens. But, the government remains a silent onlooker to a growing number of starvation deaths in the country. The FM has avoided commenting on this aspect.

Coming to the question of providing subsidy, we know that all bourgeois economists, columnists and advocates of market economy have been persistently advising, rather demanding of, the government to phase out subsidies to food, fuel, fertilizer on the argument that this is a wasteful expenditure—a flab that needs to be shed. But the same set of advisers does not find offering huge tax concessions and other waivers to the corporate sector as a severe hit to revenue accretion. In any case, the government knows that flat withdrawal of subsidies would invite severe public wrath. So, it is going in a phased manner. To camouflage drastic cut in subsidies, the FM has made a tricky statement, “What we need is a well-targeted system of subsidy delivery. We need to cut subsidy leakages, not subsidies themselves”. So he has brought down total subsidy as percentage of GDP from 2.1 percent to 1.7 per cent (Rs. 2.60 lakh to 2.44 lakh crore). Food and fertilizer subsidies have been reduced by Rs 1744 crores and Rs 2001 crores respectively. The points are: Why is there leakage and pilferage of subsidies? Who is taking them all? Obviously, it is the utterly corrupt government machinery and the middlemen whom the system itself creates and sustains. The proponents of *Swatch Bharat* (clean India) are hardly bothered about cleaning India of this grossly unclean malady. Without taking appropriate steps to plug these loopholes and weed out corruption in the delivery mechanism, the government is out to cut subsidy denying the very responsibility of a welfare state to subsidize essential items from public money for making those things available to the people at reasonable price. It was with that objective that the government introduced Public Distribution System (PDS) under public pressure after independence. But now the PDS is systematically dismantled and the government is talking of direct transfer of subsidy to the

beneficiaries through so called *Jan Dhan* scheme of opening bank accounts for all. In our earlier article, we have shown that notwithstanding all dins and bustles, this scheme can never take off in India where over 70% people live in villages and majority of them are not literate to operate bank account. Rather, the government has itself made scope for middlemen to already appear in the scene here also. Next is the fact that the rural and urban poor who are gasping to make both ends meet cannot afford to pay higher market price upfront for essential commodities and then wait for receiving subsidies in bank accounts. Moreover, merely having a bank account does not mean that the poor and have-nots have enough earning to keep in the banks. And lastly, if the assured subsidy does not reach the bank at all, the hapless illiterate poor are left powerless to trace it out. Hence all these are mere ploys to deceive people. Further, reducing subsidies towards fuel and fertilizers has already pushed up the prices beyond the reach of the consumers particularly the peasants. Higher cost of agricultural inputs like fertilizer is forcing the peasants to go for borrowing. But non-availability of remunerative price for their produce renders them debt-strapped, and being unable to pay back the loan many of them are committing suicide. As per latest statistics published in the media, 20,000 peasants commit suicide on average per year. (*Bartaman*, 02-03-15) There is no concern expressed about this in the budget. On the other hand, the FM says that farm credit underpins the efforts of our hard-working farmers. So he has set up an ambitious target of Rs 8.5 lakh crore of credit during the year 2015-16 which he said, exuding confidence, the banks will surpass. Fact is that hardly this bank credit reaches out to the poor and marginal peasants who have to knock at the doors of private lenders for securing loan at mind-boggling interest. The so called farm credit is gulped by the rich peasants and rural kulaks. So, when the government talks of giving boost to agriculture, it does not have in mind the poor peasants but only the rich and affluent controlling rural capitalist economy whom the ruling parties count on for securing votes.

Tax bonanza to corporates

The government has admitted that effective realization of corporate tax has been only 23%. Arguing that our “domestic

Contd. on page 6

India's Daughter**Mere depiction of misogynists or ban on it, both stand pointless**

Mukesh Singh one of the convicted in the *Nirbhaya* case has made a comeback. He was the bus-driver and one of the six drunken youths who had brutally gang-raped and tortured *Nirbhaya*, a para-medical student as she was later referred to, inside a public bus on the roads of Delhi, the capital, on 16 December 2012 evening. The victim succumbed to her injuries after grueling thirteen days of suffering. Now the same Mukesh Singh remorselessly commented in an interview that the girl should not have fought back while she was being raped. Mukesh was not alone. Two lawyers who had appeared for the accused in the trial court also made misogynistic remarks like when 'she was out on the streets at a particular time, she was asking for it' or 'why the parents 'send her with anyone that late at night' or 'We have the best culture. In our culture, there is no place for a woman'.

These interviews formed an important part of a TV documentary *India's Daughter* made by a British filmmaker Leslee Udwin. She said, she wanted to depict the Indian mindset towards women, particularly 'why men rape'. And she was prompted to venture the documentary after the *Nirbhaya* incident and the reports of widespread protests that shook India in its aftermath. She spent two years in India for the project and interviewed several convicted rapists lodged in Tihar Jail and their lawyers.

Questions the documentary and the interviews throw up

Naturally the documentary, the interviews, the disgusting deplorable comments in those stirred up hornet's nest over the country. People, including parents of the victim, condemned the remarks of Mukesh Singh and the lawyers, demanded action against them. The Bar Council of India (BCI) issued show-cause notice to the said lawyers on the ground that their remarks appeared objectionable and constituted misconduct on the lawyers' part. Reportedly, at least one of the two lawyers nonchalantly defended his earlier remarks. It was alleged that the ethics of launching a campaign on gender violence was jeopardized as, for reasons unknown, the filmmaker left the organizations fighting for women's cause in the country out of the purview of the documentary. Several other

questions stood out. How could a foreign reporter get access to under trial rapists, to interview them right inside a jail, an access hardly given to Indian journalists? How could the filmmaker manage to obtain signed consent letters from the rapists before filming their statements on rape, without herself signing any legally valid document specifying what she can do or cannot do with the interview? Did not the interviews violate the judicial process and compromise the *Nirbhaya* case which is still awaiting a final verdict? All these involved the intent or lack of it, laxity or carefully evasive attitude, action or inaction on the part of the government and the administration. Now red-faced and off guard, the Union government, its Home Minister spewed fire and fury. In an attempt to restrain BBC from airing the documentary it took legal steps. In a way the move was welcomed by some, but the questions remained. It also generated the allegation that freedom of speech was being curbed, and society was being shielded from the plain unvarnished truth of "men with misogynist mindsets". Proving the point, BBC, in its turn, ignored the stingless 'ban' and changing the original plan of inaugurating it on the International Women's Day, it aired the show before that date in UK and USA with celebrities vouching for it and its 'social purpose'. One may wonder if it is true or not that the Indian government's move has effectively given BBC the opportunity to get higher viewership for the documentary, with the misogynist statements of the rapists (and their lawyers) interviewed proving to be the strongest selling points.

In short, everything is in doldrums. There was a heinous crime; the perpetrators are being tried even after more than two years despite all assurances of fast track trial given under pressure of people's wrath; in the meantime there has been some new legal moves and parallel to those, alarming rise in atrocities on women with similar crimes taking place almost every moment across the country; with no effective check in sight, people can never miss the high-handed, arrogant misogynistic statements or comments holding the rape-victims responsible this way or that coming out from even the elitist sections of the society including the members of legislative

bodies, MPs and MLAs; finally somebody from beyond the country takes up an investigative move starting on the premise that 'Rape is a mentality problem more than a personal problem. If you do not understand the psyche of the rapist and address that, how would you solve the problem?'; the results are the documentary and the reactions; even after those the Parliament was rocked by the members firing salvos at the government, the filmmaker and the BBC. All these leave one vital question behind: Is this the right approach towards the sensitive and disgraceful issue of rape-rapists-society- the government - administration? It may be apprehended that it is not.

What could be the approach to sensitive issues like rape-rapists?

First, in any civilized society, people would naturally demand proper punishment for the criminals in such deplorable crimes as rapes and murders, that should be aimed at acting as a deterrent as far as practicable. No sane and sensible person in the society would want these to spread like dreaded virus and affect people. Rather everybody would like to see these curbed, to see people in general, more so women, children, old and other weaker sections of the society live protected from these and move about safe and sound at any hour of the day carrying out their normal desirable and necessary activities. For that, they would expect a social movement and ambience to develop with a strong moral-ethical- cultural base to create a formidable people's opinion inside the society. Only such a conscious and proactive opinion and a morally-ethically sound populace armed with it, would stand guard against such crimes and criminals as rape-rapists, murders- murderers.

As a means to launch and step up such movements there may be honest investigative journalism. It may try to probe into the psychology of people involved, particularly the perpetrators of the crime. It may also try to delve into the social psyche with an eye to creating the said ambience of social movements. Such investigative journalism can never end with simple narrations or descriptions, creating some sensational scenes or comments, generating knowingly or not, unnecessary curiosity towards crimes and criminals and thereby

stoking up base instincts that may lie dormant or subdued to sanity and rationality in normal conditions within the society. On the contrary, such investigations and depictions must be carefully directed to create pain and sympathy in people for the victim that may finally lead to the fire of hatred against the crime and remorseless criminals, to the fury of building up resistance against these. In essence such investigation-depiction must take every means possible to see that it helps the society and its people to live with dignity-safety- security.

All this is more particularly true for the decadent moribund capitalist society of today to be found in one and all capitalist countries of the present day world. There may be variations; the problem may be more acute in countries like India where the process of democratization of society, building up of a modern nation on the strength of secular, scientific, democratic ideas began at a time when capitalism had lost its progressive role and had grown into a decadent force. But the problem exists everywhere; even in so-called advanced democratic society where civic sense and the rule of law supposedly operate, the law could not prevent injustices to women and vulnerable girls.

System breeds crime; depiction must take guard against further spread of virus

In fact, the present all out crisis of capitalism in its stage of imperialism has reached a point where the imperialists are ferociously dishing out a virulent spate of sex and violence in print or electronic media and in public shows all over the world. It stands out as their massive heinous class conspiracy that aims at totally brushing off any and every kind of moral-ethical values from personal and social life, at bringing down the cultural- moral- ethical standard of people, at confusing people on fixing the aims and goals of their life. Decadence of the prevailing capitalist system has reached a miserable low and is giving birth to a degraded brand of consumerist society. In it, with all its arsenals of technology including media and such other propaganda machineries, capitalism-imperialism is ceaselessly pushing people towards debasement and perverted approach towards life. The entire conspiracy is directed towards shattering the

Catering of unvarnished truth needs to rouse people to act and resist crime

Contd. from page 3

moral backbone of people so that they may not stand up against the exploitative ruthlessly oppressive decadent moribund capitalist system. Falling easy prey to this design, a section of people tends to find pleasure in what was once considered filthy, unethical, immoral. Sense of decency is losing out in pursuit of satiating any kind of desires including puerile sex; demarcation of beauty and ugliness or filth is fizzling out; a sick, perverted approachis taking over. Amidst such a social environ mere depiction of a crime or simple projection of a criminal on the plea of upholding objective truthful representation does not serve the purpose even if it is intended to. Even honest attempts made to bring out the underworld of crime and criminals to make people aware of these maladies of society are falling flat. Rather it adds fuel to the fire. The more there are such crime

stories simply depicting crime and criminals, the more virulent is the spread of crimes driving their roots deeper and wider into the society.

Broader sections of the masses in India may be yet to see the documentary; a section of them, including the NRIs who may have seen it would have a better chance to judge if the show while trying to delve into social psyche, ends in adding to the list of many instances in which people find 'plain unvarnished truth of men with misogynist mindsets' holding brief, direct or indirect, for the crime and criminals. People have seen so many of such depictions, have heard a lot from even the so-called leaders and elites of the society, the judges, the high-ranking police officials, the politicians, even spouses of social-political high-ups. It is a reality that such depictions fail and have failed to create anything more than a murmur in the society. So long as capitalism will exist, its

putrid decadent system will give birth to these maladies on and on. Hence, should not an honest attempt, may be of an investigative journalist bearing pain and sympathy for the victims and so deciding to bring their plight into the focus of the society, remain alert to see what impact his or her creation- depiction is likely to make upon people and society? Should not there be adequate and effective guard against such creations leaving the viewers-listeners simply to experience one more instance of sensuality- sexuality, aware or not , or at the most leaving them into a stance of helpless frustration and accept such grievous crimes as inevitable, criminals unstoppable? And what is that guard desired from such depictions? Is it not arming the viewers- listeners consciously with an urge that may lead them to muster strength, join and develop a powerful social movement based on higher moral-ethical-cultural

standard organizing and equipping people to rise up in resistance to these crimes and criminals? Short of these, attempts at mere depiction, more so when it is made with the powerful weapon of audio-visual medium, may act as a dreadful virus for the society to be nipped in the bud. A ban may appear to be a handy tool, but it can never reach the cherished goal. Besides, it must also be remembered that in the present case while the central BJP government imposes ban on the documentary, many BJP-RSS leaders at all levels are found among those who make the worst misogynist comments against women, particularly rape victims.

Nobody attempting investigation-depiction of crimes and criminals can afford to lose sight of these stark realities lying underneath such sensitive issues as rapes-murders and remorseless rapists and murderers and their social mainstay.

Science conference in Kerala

Kerala chapter of Breakthrough Science Society organized a state level science conference from 20th to 22nd February, 2015, at Kerala State Science and Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram, with an objective to give a thrust to the science movement in Kerala. The conference was attended by around 250 delegates comprising scientists, research scholars, students, teachers and science activists from 14 districts of Kerala.

Citing the preposterous claims made in the papers on 'Ancient Aviation Technology' presented in the recently held 102nd Indian Science Congress, Dr Babu Joseph, former Vice-chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology in his inaugural address pointed out that certain forces were

deliberately trying to distort the scientific methodology by presenting mythological stories as scientific truths. Dr. Balachandra Rao, Honorary Director, Gandhi Centre for Science and Human values, Bangalore, who spoke at the inaugural function as a distinguished guest, opined that false claims on scientific achievements made by ancient India will only undermine the credibility of our genuine contribution in the field of science. Prof Dhrubajyoti Mukherjee, All India President, Breakthrough Science Society, while delivering his speech at the inaugural function, emphasized the urgent need to build a new science movement in India in order to check the growth in blind beliefs, superstitions and obscurantist thoughts being

witnessed in our society. Shri P Radhakrishnan, Former Deputy Director, LPSC, ISRO and Chairperson, Reception Committee. Presided over. Felicitations were offered by Shri Arul Jerald Prakash, Director, Kerala State Science and Technology Museum, and Sri. D Krishna Warriar, former Additional Director, C-DAC at the inaugural function. Prof. P. N.Thankachan, Secretary, Breakthrough Science Society, Kerala chapter delivered the welcome address and Dr. P. P. Rajeevan, Convener, Reception Committee proposed a vote of thanks.

In the subsequent session Dr. S. Mahadevan, Professor, Molecular Reproduction, Development and

Genetics (MRDG), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr.Godfrey Louis, Professor and Dean, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Prof. K.P. Satheesh, Former Principal, Govt. Brannan College, Tellicherry and Prof. Soumitro Banerjee, Dean, IISER, Kolkata and General Secretary, Breakthrough Science Society, Dr. Umesh R Kadhane, Faculty, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram were the main speakers. A presidium comprising Shri G. S. Padmakumar, Prof. P. N. Thankachan, Prof. Francis Kalathungal and Dr. P. P. Rajeevan conducted the organizational session.

AIMSS condemns derogatory remarks of Nirbhaya gang rape case accused

In a statement dated 04-03-15, All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) strongly condemned the derogatory and irresponsible remarks on women by Mukesh Singh, one of the main accused in the Nirbhaya gang-rape case, in an interview to the BBC documentary by British film maker Leslee Udwin. The deep patriarchal and anti-women utterances by leaders of several political parties, people at high echelons like police and sometimes even men from judiciary has emboldened Mukesh Singh to utter such remarks, the statement said. AIMSS called upon the entire country- men and women to protest against these utterances of the criminal of such a heinous crime which was protested by the people not only throughout the length and breadth of the country, but internationally too. AIMSS also urged upon the Central Government to ensure that the criminals of the Nirbhaya episode are punished without any further delay.



Legal Service Centre organized a memorial meeting of Justice V R Krishna Iyer, former judge, Supreme Court, Justice Anil Kumar Sen, former Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court and Advocate Biswanath Bajpayee, former Chairman, All India Bar Council, at Indian law Institute Auditorium in Kolkata on 9 January. Among those who attended were Justice Manjula Chellur, Chief Justice, Calcutta High court, Justice Moloy Sengupta, former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court and other eminent lawyers and Human Right activists.

Demanding repeal of Electricity Act 2003

ABECA calls for Delhi March on 7 April

In a press conference held at Kolkata Press Club on 12 March, 2015, Comrade Sanjit Biswas, President, All Bengal Electricity Consumers' Association (ABECA) gave a call to make Delhi March of Electricity Consumers on 7 April demanding solution of electricity-problems, a grand success. As a consequence of the power policy of both central and state governments, he said, electricity consumers of all states of India including West Bengal are in a precarious condition. On one hand, power tariff has touched the sky, while on the other even after 67 years after independence, 50% households do not have electric connection. As per government report, 77% of Indian people are still below poverty line. In place of trying to uplift their condition, electricity has been reduced to a commodity and handed over to corporate business houses to plunder electricity consumers. This has been done through Electricity Act 2003. Experience of the last 12 years says that this Act has been instrumental behind mobilizing hundreds of crores of rupees as profit by electricity companies. The electricity consumers, on the other hand, are in acute economic distress. Situation is extremely grave for small industry, small business and agriculture. For this reason, the ABECA demands total repeal of this Act and introduction of a new pro-people Electricity Act instead.

With this demand, a demonstration will be held at Parliament Street in Delhi on 7 April and a memorandum will be submitted to the Central Power Minister followed by a discussion with him. Comrade Biswas also said that, the apex court has imposed a penalty of Rs 295.00 per ton of coal lifted by the electricity companies involved in coal-block-scams. There is a conspiracy to recover that amount from the consumers by raising power

tariff. The Central government must see that this effort does not succeed.

In the rail budget, freight charge for coal has been raised by 10%. In the general budget also service charge on coal has been increased by 10%. This is sure to increase power tariff. We demand that, this additional financial burden must be borne by the government. He demanded that subsidy for 20% and 30% must be given by Central and state governments respectively. He also said that, the central government is trying to pass 'Electricity Bill 2014' in the ensuing Parliament session. This bill aims at further bifurcating electricity industry to give more opportunity to the corporate houses to earn profit. This will lead to further rise of power tariff.

He also said that, demand to change the Electricity Act, problem of rural electrification, problem of tariff hike are all problems of all India character. Therefore, in order to develop an All India movement, an All India Convention will be held on 8 April at Rajendra Bhawan Hall in Delhi. Programmes of All India Movement demanding repeal of Electricity Act 2003 and Electricity Bill 2014 will be declared from the convention. Eminent persons who will attend and address the Convention include Shri Rajendra Sachar, ex justice of Delhi High court, Journalist Sumit Chakrabarty and Krishna Chakraborty.

Comrade Prodyut Choudhury, General Secretary of ABECA said that WBERC has declared tariff order for 2014-15 very secretly and on the eve of Holy festival. Very deceitfully, tariff of CESC and WBSEDCL has been shown as if it has been reduced by 1paise and 2 paise respectively. But it is far from being true. Actually, present average tariff has been increased to 697p and to 656p per unit in case of CESC and WBSEDCL respectively. Earlier the

electricity companies had illegally recovered additional amount by way of 'MVCA', 88p by CESC and 40p By WBSEDCL. Now the commission has given approval to that unjust increase less by 1 or 2 paisa/paise. He said by this action, the power companies only will be

benefitted. The state government should have reduced the tariff by 50% as has been done by the Delhi government. ABECA calls upon electricity consumers of the country to come forward and build up sustained movement to achieve the demands.



Protest demonstration at Jantar Mantar Delhi on 24 February against anti-people Land Acquisition Ordinance. Among others Anna Hazare, Medha Patkar and on behalf of AIKKMS Comrade Satyawani were present in it.

South Zone Education Convention in Bangalore

Under the auspices of All India Save Education Committee (AISEC), a two-day education convention was held in Bangalore on 28 February and 1st March. Eminent educationists, scientists and intellectuals participated and spoke on various topics like "Ancient Indian flying – Myths and reality", "Mythology and literature", "Ancient medical science-Myth and reality" and "Distorting history and its effects". The speakers included, among others, Shri Sha. Shettar, historian and former chairman of ICHR, Prof. Rajendra Kochhar, President of International Astronomical Union commission on History of Astronomy, Prof. Satyajith Mayor, Director, NCBS, Prof. Endhuharan Menon, scientist, Prof. Mukunda, a distinguished Aeronautical professor at IISC, Dr. P V Narayana, well known litterateur and critic, Prof S. Balachandra Rao, renowned mathematician, Dr Rajan Gurukkal, Dr Sudha Kamath, Dr S. Mahadevan, Prof Allamprabhu Bettadur, Smt. K. Uma, Secretary, Karnataka State Secretary of AISEC, Shri Govindrajulu, Convenor, AISEC, Andhra and Telangana, and others. All speakers criticized attempts to distort history and spreading of unscientific obscurantist thoughts by a motivated group bent upon saffronization of education and stripping education of its essence. The convention created lot of enthusiasm among the education-loving saner section of the populace.

TU Seminar in Allahabad



On the occasion of observance of 10th death anniversary of Comrade N. K. Sharma, former in-charge, Allahabad unit, SUCI(C), a seminar on "Workers Condition — 10 years ago and today" was organized in Allahabad. Comrade S K Malaviya, Allahabad Party in-charge presided over and Comrade Achintya Sinha, Secretariat Member, AIUTUC was the main speaker. Others speakers included Comrades Raj Bali, AIUTUC UP State President, Vijay Pal Singh, UP State Secretary, AIUTUC, Lata Sharma, UP state Anganwadi Workers' Union President and many other Trade Union leaders from various organizations.



A section of the massive gathering at the first state level conference of All Bengal Paricharika Samity (organization of the domestic hands) in Kolkata on 3 March. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) was the main speaker.

Union Budget 2015

Roadmap laid for accelerated growth of industrial houses and corporate sector

Contd. from page 2

companies need to be more competitive' and 'a regime of exemptions has led to pressure groups, litigation and loss of revenue", the FM has reduced corporate tax from 30% to 25%. He claimed that this would "lead to higher level of investment, higher growth and more jobs." Absurdity and falsehood par excellence! So far the government has subsidized the monopoly houses and corporate sector to the tune of Rs. 5, 89,285.2 crores in 2014-15 in the form of various tax concessions and relaxations on customs duty and excise. This figure, technically termed as revenue foregone is more than the budget estimate of fiscal deficit of Rs. 5,55,649 crores and stated to have exceeded figure of total borrowings by the government. But, has that, by any means, stimulated growth, increased investment or created adequate jobs, meaning permanent gainful engagements? As per latest revelations, growth in eight core industries has come down. Manufacturing industry fell to a 5-month low in February. The Economic Survey admits that projects worth 8.3 per cent of the GDP are investment in "suspended animation". Further the survey disclosed that there is complete mess in the quality of financial management in the private sector. 33 per cent of \$450-billion debt to Indian corporates is with companies that do not earn enough even to cover interest costs. So, the bad debts or non-performing assets with the banks are piling up. Admitting the precarious situation, the FM himself had said earlier that India's banks would need \$ 40 billion (2 per cent of the GDP) of fresh capital by 2018 to comply with international regulations. Besides the debt default by the corporate sector resulting in banking jam with non-performing assets, a huge sum of money is stuck up in unfinished or deferred projects. Surely, the common people, the poor and downtrodden or the suffering middle class are not responsible for this virtual swindling of bank funds which are also public money. The onus lies wholly and squarely on the guilty industrial houses and corporate sectors. And now the FM is showing further amnesty to this guilty lot by granting 20% cut in direct tax payable by them. The government says that the concessions given in the realm of

direct taxation would cost the exchequer Rs 8315 crores. But it is stated in a section of the media that taxcut would result in a revenue loss of Rs 62,000 crores. (*Bartaman* 01-03-15) Wealth tax has also been abolished. And what is worth noting is that when such benevolence is showered on the industrial houses and corporate sector, the number of Indians featuring at the top of the list of the richest persons in the world is on the rise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

Allied issue is disinvestment of Public Sector Units (PSUs). Besides tax concessions and other facilities, the government is also bent upon handing over not only the loss making but even the profit making PSUs, created under public pressure after independence with public money, to private capitalists via disinvestment route in the name of garnering additional resources. This year, the government aims at mopping up Rs 70,000 crores by selling government control in PSUs to the private operators. The Government has arrogated to itself the propriety of selling public property to private owners without seeking people's consent. This disinvestment process started during the Congress regime in the 1990s. And the BJP is taking that forward more speedily. We know that these PSUs had once created good number of jobs to the countrymen. Now, with private operators assuming stake in it, under the garb of modernization, there will be considerable reduction of manpower. Another major sector targeted by this government for privatization is our remarkably successful public sector banks (PSBs). This is how the government in pursuit of the most sinister policy of globalization-privatization is offering bonanza to the monopolists at the cost of the people.

No relief to individual tax payers

Though the FM has been liberally benevolent to the corporates, he is extremely strict and harsh with the tax-paying middle class. In the pre-election manifesto, the BJP had mentioned that if installed in power, it would increase the individual income tax exemption to Rs 5,00,000. The FM himself in April last year, then a BJP leader, advocated low tax

structure by saying that "If the Income Tax limit is raised from Rs 2 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs, 3 crore people will save Rs 24 crore which will lead to a small impact of 1 to 1.5 per cent of National Tax Fund" (*Economic Times*, 20-04-14). But, once saddled in power, all those promises have been thrown in the dustbin. The FM has not increased the tax exemption limit for the individuals. He, on the contrary, announces two insurance schemes and one pension schemes, all of which are contributory. Moreover, he refers to other investment avenues which offer tax exemptions upto a certain percentage point. And then, he shrewdly announces that "taking into account the tax concession given to middle class tax payers in my last Budget and this Budget, today an individual tax payer will get tax benefit of Rs 4,44,200". That means, his views are that after meeting all their expenses in this era of spiralling inflation, wage freeze and such other constraining factors, middle class tax payers generate enough surplus to park in various savings and insurance schemes to avail of tax benefits. So, instead of giving them tax relief straightaway, he wants to squeeze out their pocket to inflate the savings pie. There is no scheme in the budget to increase the income of this tax paying middle class as there is no direction towards providing gainful engagement to the poor and downtrodden whom the government expects to join the so called social security schemes by paying premium.

The contrasting approach is worth discernible. As per the FM, the corporate and industrial giants do not earn enough. So, they are entitled to receive direct tax relief. But the middle class earn substantially. Hence, they are persuaded to avail of tax relief by shelling out additional money from their pockets. And this is not the end. The FM has increased the service tax which, as we have shown on earlier occasions, is simply recovered from the end consumers by way of loading the price of any service. Now, as against 12.36%, the common people will have to pay service tax at the rate of 14%. The FM has also indicated that he might levy *Swachh Bharat* Cess at a rate of 2% or less on all or certain services if need arises. That will again be borne by the common

consumers. The buck does not stop here. The FM has increased cess on coal from Rs 100 to Rs 200 per metric tonne. So, electricity bills are bound to go up further, may be exorbitantly, to put common man in dire straits. The total quantum of indirect tax which is also borne by the common man has been increased to the tune of Rs 23,383 crore. In fine, when the monopolists and corporate behemoths will enjoy a huge tax and other benefits, the common people will be back-broken with humungous fiscal burden. It is worth noting here that tax cuts and increases are also routinely made outside the Budget, and the FM has given enough indication that this might continue to be so.

Why this emphasis on insurance, pension fund and infrastructure?

As we mentioned above, the government has launched three new insurance and pension schemes and is enticing people to join them. Besides these, the government is also giving an option to the employees to choose the New Pension Scheme (NPS) in place of existing Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and also prefer a Health Insurance product, recognized by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) over existing Employees State Insurance (ESI) for medical cover. Apparently it would appear that the government is very eager to provide social security to the people, particularly the aged, through insurance cover, pension schemes, new medical benefit schemes etc. But there is a motive behind it. The government is going to increase FDI in insurance upto 49%. So, many foreign insurance companies might make foray into the Indian market. That is why, it is essential to increase the insurance pie. Next is that the new pension scheme would predominantly invest in speculative stock market where returns fluctuate, often widely, and this does not rule out the possibility of even the contributed sum getting wiped out. There was also a Bill in 2012 during the Congress government for up to 26 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Pension Funds under the New Pension System (NPS). The BJP had agreed to allow 26% FDI in the pension sector, a decision its

Contd. on page 7

Union Budget 2015

Not a single people's issue has been addressed

Contd. from page 6

leaders Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley and Yashwant Sinha then conveyed in a meeting with the then Congress Finance Minister P Chidambaram. The passage of the Pension Bill would come as a boost to the government's efforts to make some headway in financial sector reforms, they all claimed. Pension Fund, it may be mentioned, is the biggest chunk of money which finds way into speculative capital market in USA. The aim of the Indian government is to follow the US model and thereby entice foreign investors to have a stake in the newly created corpus of Pension Fund. Hence this thrust on discarding existing relatively secured EPF and ESI and switch to the new schemes.

Likewise, the FM has placed immense importance on Infrastructural development and allotted as high as Rs 70,000 crores towards it. Side by side, he has also talked of revitalizing PPP model—a euphemism for eventual privatization — for this. Moreover, he has also ensured that there is adequate mechanism for financing the infrastructure companies which also deal extensively in realty promotion. Outwardly, it may look that this is a necessary step towards modernization. But that is not the inner story. As we mentioned above, capitalist economy is enmeshed in acute unsolvable market crisis. So, it is on the lookout for avenues from where it could fetch maximum profit. One such area is realty and infrastructure building. So, most of the monopoly houses, both in the country and abroad, have been opening their infrastructure and realty promotion wings to reap huge commercial benefits. "India is amongst the top 20 real estate investment destinations for 2014 with total of USD 5,000 million," global property consultant Cushman & Wakefield said in a statement. And the government which is loath to provide food, shelter and clothing to the people, particularly the downtrodden and have-nots, is diverting both funds and attention towards this sector.

Defence allocation soars further

While cutting allocations to public welfare, health, education and subsidies as well as reaching out bountiful benefits to the corporates and rich are posed to be essential for growth of economy,

most unproductive defence budget continues to soar despite so many scams and scandals surfacing in arms dealing. As against likely expenditure of this year of Rs 2,22,370 crore, the budget allocation for 2015-16 is raised to 2, 46,727 crore. This year, this allocation has a special significance. The government has already approved 49% FDI in defence. So, foreign arms manufacturing companies particularly the US-based giants are slated to enter Indian arms producing sector in a big way. The leading Indian monopolists are also finding defence industry a lucrative avenue for investment as the sale is guaranteed because the government would be the buyers. Apart from that, there might also be a profitable export market. Already some of the top monopolists are in talk with the large US weapon manufacturers for joint venture. It may be added that as explained by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder general Secretary of the SUCI(C) and a foremost Marxist thinker, long back, militarization of economy has emerged as a major feature of crisis-ridden capitalist-imperialist economy. Way back in 1962, he showed that "like a drowning man catching at a straw,...the imperialists ...to stave off the crisis and maintain boom of the market, at least temporarily, by artificial military consumption...more acute the crisis, the more militarized is becoming the economy." (SW Vol. II, p. 45-46) India has now emerged as a formidable imperialist power and hence tilting more towards militarization of economy. Moreover, in order to facilitate free flow of foreign capital in Insurance, Pension, Infrastructure-Realty and defence, the FM has also proposed to do away with the distinction between different types of foreign investments, especially between foreign portfolio investments and foreign direct investments.

Black money

Everyone remembers that the BJP Prime Minister Modi assured of bringing back black money stashed abroad within 100 days of his assuming office. But that has already proved to be a big hoax and the government has been receiving thrashing from various quarters for duping people with such fake promises. In defence, the FM held that there are "limitations under the existing legislation to track down and bring back the wealth which

legitimately belongs to the country". As if to overcome these limitations, the FM feigned to be at daggers drawn with black money holders and announced some steps to curb black money. The steps include some penal measures for concealing income and assets and evasion of tax in relation to foreign assets. But who are the people who park unaccounted money and transform them into movable or immovable assets overseas? They are either the top industrialists or corrupt bourgeois politicians or bureaucrats indulging in malfeasance and misfeasance. A recent list from the Swiss bank authorities had the name of the richest Indian industrialist featuring at the top. Can the party in power who ascended the throne with the backing of these industrial houses and thriving on the utterly corrupt administration ever dare to take any action against them? These are all eyewash for public consumption. What is more ludicrous is the prescription for curbing generation of black money within the country. Income Tax Act will be amended to prohibit acceptance or payment of an advance of Rs 20,000 or more in cash for purchase of immovable property. How would the government come to know if more amount in cash exchanges hand? The government says a new law will be enacted for confiscation of benami property and provide for prosecution so as to block generation and holding of black money especially in real estate. We wonder if the existing laws fall short of identification and prosecution of black money holders. As we all know, mere enactment of laws is not everything. What is needed is the will or intent to apply those laws against the guilty without making any discrimination as to who is the culprit. This, as everyone knows from experience, is a far cry in capitalist India where law is blind towards the rich, affluent and powerful. Every year, as high as Rs 28.30 lakh crore of black money is estimated to be generated in India. A junk of this is parked away in other countries particularly the tax havens. In the Swiss banks alone, around Rs 80 lakh crores worth of black money held by Indians are kept as deposits. This sum is 13 to 14 times more than the total foreign debt of India. A report of Global Finance Integrity has stated that from 2008 onwards, \$ 462 billion worth of black money has been stashed away from India. And the same money often reenters the country in the form of

"generous" NRI investment or portfolio investment (stock market) and becomes white. Let there not be an iota of doubt that generation of black money and ill-gotten wealth are features of dying capitalism and cannot be got rid of fully till capitalism is overthrown. However, if any government is honestly pro-people and avowedly anti-capitalist, it can to some extent put a check on black money creation through appropriate administrative measures backed by powerful people's movements. But that can in no way be expected of the BJP which, as the budget clearly brought out, is devotedly committed to serve the ruling capitalist class and exacerbate fiscal savagery on the oppressed people. Incidentally, while talking of curbing black money, the FM, for public consumption, has announced a gold monetization scheme whereby the depositors of gold can earn interest in their metal accounts and the jewelers can obtain loans in their metal account. Many unscrupulous businessmen and tax evaders hold their wealth in gold. This monetization scheme will allow them to convert black money held in gold to white.

Need to unmask the trickery

So, it can well be concluded that the FM, as an obedient order taker from the ruling bourgeoisie, has made the budget indeed a "vision document" for the rulers. Like any other shrewd bourgeois politician who counts prosperity of his political career in rendering unflinching service to the ruling class, the FM as a trusted lieutenant of Prime Minister Modi, has placed a budget which can be precisely described as brazenly anti-poor and bluntly pro-capitalist. Notwithstanding all gymnastics of demagoguery, hollow economic jargons and jugglery of words and figures, this stark reality could not be covered up. Subservience to the ruling capitalists has been so nakedly manifest that even Modi had to jump in for damage containment saying they are not to be mistaken as pro-corporate. As capitalism following its own laws will become more crisis-ridden, turn more reactionary and despotic, its servitors will find out newer trickeries to show an angel's face with a devil's purpose. Thinking people must remain alert and foil all the conspiracies of the ruling bourgeoisie and its agents to take them for a ride. Everyone, therefore, should rise in protest against the ruinous precepts of the budget.

SUCI(C) strongly condemns vulgar and putrid remark of JD(U) MP about women, demands his expulsion

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 14 March, 2015 :

We strongly condemn the most despicable, highly objectionable, vulgar and putrid remark JD(U) MP Sharad Jadav made about the South Indian women in the upper house on 13 March while taking part in the debate on the Insurance bill. Such a debased comment which smacks of a pervert mind and misogynic attitude is unbecoming of a person who sits in the legislature as people's representative. It is also equally indignant that almost all the male members cutting across party line enjoyed such an obscene comment instead of protesting which showed to what low their cultural standard has stooped to. An NCP member D P Tripathi went to the extent of adding spice by quoting from the erotic verses of Kalidasa. More shameful is, when DMK MP Kanimozhi objected to such deliberate dishonouring of the dignity of women, other male members calmed her down as if such was no serious a matter but simply a joke.

When atrocities on women including rape, gang rape and even killing is growing in the country and there is a concerted effort on the part of the vested interest and reaction to project women as mere object of pleasure thereby shattering the moral base of the society, such a lascivious comment from a member of the highest law making body of the country would only worsen the situation further and encourage the criminals outraging the modesty of women. We, therefore, demand that Shri Jadav be forthwith disqualified as an MP and appropriate punitive measure be taken against him and all others who joined him in this vulgar caricature should be admonished to uphold the dignity of the House.

Widespread movement in Assam against snatching of citizenship of lakhs of countrymen

Demanding that National Register of Citizens ought to be prepared based on All India Aadhar identification after solving the issues of 'D' voter and there should not be any separate formula for Assam, the Goalpara district SUCI(C) of Assam organized a massive rally on 25 February and gave a deputation to the district Magistrate. Addressing the rally, Comrade Chandralekhadas, Assam State Secretary, SUCI(C), said that succumbing to the most unjust demand of the ultra-chauvinist-parochial forces, both central and state governments are involved in a conspiracy to snatch

the valid citizenship of the linguistic and religious minorities. While preparing the register, they are subverting the international norm of citizenship based on birth. Others who spoke included Comrades JainalAbedin, Suratjaman Mandal and Abdul Hamid, all members of Assam State Committee. It may be recalled that when a pilot project of preparing the citizens' register was launched in Barpeta district in 2010, massive protest movement surged forth under the leadership of the SUCI(C). On 21 July, 2010, police opened fire on the protesters and killed four persons.

Martyr Chandrasekhar Azad Memorial day observed Madhya Pradesh

AIDSO and AIDYO, Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh, observed martyr Chandrasekhar Azad Memorial Day on 27 February, 2015 by organizing a mass meeting near Tili High School. Main speaker was Comrade Ramavtar Sharma, Sagar district Secretary, SUCI(C) while Comrade Ashok Kushawaha, AIDYO district President presided over. Among others who spoke were Advocate Sanjay Pathak, chief guest, Advocate Shibaprosad Patel and others.

Uttar Pradesh

Martyr Chandrasekhar Azad Memorial Day was also observed with due solemnity in Kanpur under the auspices of Janpratirodh Andolan Samity. The Samity leaders demanded that the life and struggle of this leader belonging to the uncompromising revolutionary trend of India's freedom struggle should be included in school syllabus and the day of his martyrdom be declared as martyr's day.

In Varanasi, the observance was by AIDYO. The local AIDYO leaders addressed the gathering organized on the occasion.

SUCI(C) on scrapping of 5% reservation for Muslims and banning beef eating in Maharashtra

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 6 March, 2015 :

The BJP-led Maharashtra government has scrapped the 5% reservation provided for the Muslim community in educational institutions by the former Congress-led government through an ordinance passed in July 2014. A special provision of reservation, it may recalled, was granted in job and education for the SCs and STs soon after independence under public pressure so that the utterly disadvantaged dalits, tribals and other backward strata of people neglected during the British rule could be helped to overcome their backwardness, develop and flourish in merit and soon come on par with the other sections of the people. It was stipulated that this reservation would be for 10 years and thereafter a review should be taken as to how far this reservation for a limited period had met with its objective. But the fact is that in capitalist India, the purpose for which reservation was introduced was never achieved but with the passage of time, the condition of most of the backward and under-privileged sections of the people, predominantly the SCs and STs, progressively worsened further in tandem with the other sections of the downtrodden masses. Moreover, the ruling bourgeois class cunningly wooed a tiny group within them with undue privileges, lure of lucre and power misusing the provision of reservation thus creating a 'creamy layer', a diminutive group of affluent 'elites' enjoying all privileges and clout as part of the handful of dominating rich in the society. This 'creamy layer' is utterly disdainful to the plight, penury and growing misery of the downtrodden people including the dalits, tribals and other backward communities and is virtually an appendage to the ruling class.

Reservation, in fact, has turned into a tool in the hands of the election-based power-crazy bourgeois political parties to create vote banks by dangling carrot and pitting one section of the people against another. Moreover, reservation has been extended even to the people who, as per existing social stratification, are in the upper rung. So, no right-thinking person can support reservation as it evidently does more harm to the oppressed people particularly the backward and tribal populace and breeds disaffection and disharmony among the toiling masses pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist oppression.

But if, instead of abolishing reservation system totally, one opts for select axing of reservation for one particular community and also controls the diet of many of the countrymen by banning eating of beef which is consumed by many across the world, such acts will be tantamount to discrimination and reflective of definite communal bias against a particular community, in the instant case, the Muslims. It is in this backdrop that we highly condemn the decision of the BJP-led Maharashtra government to scrap 5% reservation for Muslims and banning of beef eating which, it is clear, is propelled by the arch communal doctrine of Hindutva which the BJP, Shiv Sena, RSS and other Sangh Parivar constituents flaunt so brazenly.

Reorganization of Madhya Pradesh State Organizing Committee

Central Committee of SUCI(C) has reorganized the Madhya Pradesh State Organizing Committee. The reorganized Committee will be as under:

Secretary : Comrade Pratap Samal
Members : Comrade Uma Prasad
Comrade Jagdish Chandra Baroi
Comrade Ramavtar Shrama
Comrade Sunil Gopal
Comrade Pradip R. B.
Comrade Lokesh Sharma
Comrade Rachna Agarwal

New Secretary of Delhi State Organizing Committee

Comrade Pran Sharma is the new Secretary of Delhi State Organizing Committee. He replaces Comrade Pratap Samal who is elected Secretary of Madhya Pradesh State Organizing Committee.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH