

Proletarian Era

Volume 38 No. 20
June 1, 2005

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00

STATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

Dangerous move to gag people's voice in parliamentary forum

The issue of parliamentary election in our country surfaced recently with a few passing remarks of the Prime Minister. Reportedly at a media-meet at Bangalore on February 12 last, he elaborated his call for "collective mobilization of the will of the nation and a broad national consensus" to fight corruption under a national agenda. To him, state funding of elections should be on that national agenda as one of the vital issues, with a need for a national consensus to ensure greater transparency in financing of political parties and spending on elections. He argued, "Financing political parties is a major source of generation of black income in our country. No single party can say that it can deal with the problem by itself" and so the need for a national consensus.

Obviously, in the short span of a media-meet,

the Prime Minister could not, rather did not answer a few relevant questions, like "Why has financing political parties become a major source of generation of black income?", or "Why cannot any single party say that it can deal with the problem by itself?", "Doesn't the malady then lie in the system itself?", "How will the Prime Minister propose to rout it from the system?". We bring in this note for a brief discussion on these questions that the Prime Minister has left unanswered. Incidentally the remarks came in the wake of the Chief Election Commissioner T.S. Krishna Murthy suggesting a comprehensive case for electoral reforms, in his July 5, 2004 letter to the Prime Minister. Even the issue of state funding was nothing new.

In June 1998, the BJP-led NDA Government
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SUCI condemns horse-trading and dissolution of Assembly in Bihar

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement issued today, strongly condemned the open indulgence of the BJP and its allies in horse-trading for anyhow grabbing power in Bihar. Comrade Mukherjee also vehemently criticized the narrow sectarian and naked partisan manner in which the Congress-led UPA government with the support of the CPI(M)-CPI dissolved the Bihar Assembly.

This highly undemocratic act, said Comrade Mukherjee, once again brought to the fore the extent to which all these bourgeois political parties while canting the canons of democracy can go to flout and trample even the barest precepts of democratic norms and principles in their bid to satisfy lust for pelf and power. It is, therefore, high time for the people of the country to rise up against the anti-people forces and expose their murky game, exhorted Comrade Mukherjee.

SUCI attends 14th International Communist Seminar in Brussels

The 14th International Communist Seminar was held recently in Brussels, Belgium from May 2 to 4, 2005. Communist and Workers' parties of different countries, numbering as high as fifty, participated in the Seminar, while fourteen others were present as observers. Fiftysix other organizations who could not make it to the Seminar because of visa and such other problems, had sent messages or papers and expressed their solidarity. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Staff Member and Deputy, International Affairs, SUCI, represented our party, the SUCI at the Seminar. The main theme for discussion in the Seminar was set as "Internationalist Experiences and Tasks of Communists in the Struggle against Imperialism". Comrade Manik Mukherjee and a number of other speakers spoke on

the first day on this theme, Comrade Mukherjee dealing with the 'Current experiences of joint work among Communist and Workers' parties : their internationalist tasks' as under the main theme. He presented a comprehensive paper highlighting the main points on the subject, that our party, the SUCI, has been emphasizing upon in the light of the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Founder General Secretary of SUCI and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era. The discussion continued on the second day, while a 50-point general resolution and others including one resolution on Socialist Korea (North Korea) and another on Socialist Cuba, in the last case particularly highlighting the valiant fight Cuba is conducting against the threat, intimidation and intrigue of world imperialism, led

by the US imperialism, were moved and adopted in the Seminar. Particularly the general resolution was elaborately discussed, with participants suggesting amendments and modifications.

This assembly of Communist and Workers' parties of different countries decided that next year in 2006, the Seminar will deliberate on the theme of "Influence of Communist International in different countries". The present Seminar also made an appeal to build up a massive anti-imperialist movement throughout the world. It was further decided to publish polemical papers on website twice a year and to undertake research work for that purpose.

Prior to commencement of the Seminar, the Communist Party of Belgium (PTB) organized a programme of May Day celebration,

in which all the leaders of the participant parties were invited on the dais.

Below, we reproduce a synopsis of the speech delivered by Comrade Manik Mukherjee.

Comrade President and Comrades, I, on behalf of my party, Socialist Unity Centre of India, wish all success of this Brussels International Communist Seminar 2005. I also congratulate the Workers' Party of Belgium, PTB for including the vital topic of experiences and tasks of joint work of communist and workers' parties of different countries, to be discussed in the Seminar.

By the end of the Second World War, the imperialists-capitalists faced insurmountable recession and irresolvable contradictions and

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No state funding, only mass movement is the brake to black money in election

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constituted a multi-party parliamentary committee under the chairmanship of Indrajit Gupta of CPI to look into the question of state funding of elections. The other members of the committee were from CPI(M), Congress(I), BJP, Shiv Sena, AIADMK and Samata Party. The committee recommended partial state funding of only the recognised national or State political parties and their candidates in elections. It further indicated that the ultimate aim should be that all legitimate expenses of political parties are funded by the state. It virtually amounted to the fact that the committee members who made the recommendations were themselves the beneficiaries. (*Frontline*, February 13-26, 1999)

Avowedly the aim of state funding was to discourage political parties from seeking any external funding from private contributors (except a nominal membership fee) to run their affairs, carry out political programmes and conduct election campaigns. As recommended by the committee, funding would include allotment of rent-free accommodation for the headquarters of national parties in New Delhi and the same facility for every recognised State party in the respective state capitals; provision of rent-free telephones with a more-than-normal quota of free calls and other facilities at those premises as well as, and separately for, election campaigns; sufficient time-slot free of cost on Doordarshan and All India Radio; a specified quantity of petrol or diesel to run campaign vehicles and of paper to prepare election literature and voter identity slips and all such other sundries. It has further suggested creation of a separate Election Fund with an annual contribution of Rs.600 crores (at the rate of Rs.10 a voter, for the total electorate of about 60 crores) by the Centre and a matching amount contributed by all State governments together.

Obviously, such an elaborate recommendation of state funding of elections, in conjunction or not, with the electoral reforms suggested by the Election Commission, raises questions as to how far these would be able to act as remedy to the dismal state, the electioneering process has been brought down to, today. We propose to focus here on

the state funding issue for a brief study, though we feel that we may need to take up discussions on other occasions to show how in the name of smoothening or developing election processes, the other reforms suggested will only pave way for hindering genuine representative force of people, the force that fight for them from taking part in parliamentary forum at all.

Here, we should submit first that the question of reforms has come up parallel to gradual deterioration of the electioneering process, virtually since independence and establishment of the capitalist rule in the country. The ruling capitalist class has always tried to use and control this means to their end. They thus wanted to ensure that such political forces be in power that will serve them the best and help maintain the prevailing capitalist rule. However, immediately after the independence, the Congress, the party in power as the then most trusted representative of the ruling class, enjoyed some popular support, rather in legacy of the independence struggle, which it had led. There was also a relatively free and fair character in democratic, including electioneering processes, though in a limited sense. But with time, and with serving the capitalists-monopolists, the Congress, or for that matter any and every bourgeois party or combination that rose to power later, became discredited and isolated from the people. Their commitment to democracy was also undermined. Free and fair election gradually became a far cry. Manipulation and fraud with voter's lists, bogus voting, distribution of privileges, particularly to the poorer and illiterate section of the masses or contrarily influencing them under threat and intimidation, harping on casteism-communalism to gain easy support, awarding unwarranted favour to party of choice in print and other media, all this was gradually reducing elections to a farce. With more crisis of capitalism and concomitant more exploitation of the masses and consequently, more and more isolation of bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties from the people, the process went on to lower and lower depths. Rigging using administration and through capturing of polling booths, manipulation of ballot boxes or

even during counting, assumed alarming proportions all over the country, not excluding the states run by the so-called lefts like CPI(M). This way the total electioneering process is thus mutilated and distorted, fast and increasingly. And in the manner it degraded, it has also become gradually virtually impossible for genuine representative of people to win an election battle and get elected to the legislative forum. The capitalist system thus takes to a technique of effectively disenfranchising common people, while offering them franchise and while chanting alluring slogans of democracy. The 14th Lok Sabha election of the last year was not just the latest, it represented the worst of its kind hitherto experienced by the people.

Electioneering has thus been simply an interplay of money, mafia and a major and influential section of the media, sponsored, steered and blessed by the monopolists-capitalists. It is anything other than a reflection of people's opinion and participation. No serious political issues or questions concerning hard-pressed people's life, are confronted and combated by any major party, be it Congress(I), BJP, or their like or even the so-called big lefts headed by CPI(M)-CPI. Rather, there is the rat race for power and the pelf associated with it. It involves any and every combination and alliances attempted. Once a foe becomes the closest ally. Once lieutenant, is thrown out as the deadliest enemy. Once denounced as fundamentalist, is greeted warmly in so-called secular party. Diehard criminals are made captain of the electioneering brigade. Mafia-dons that once acted as hirelings of bourgeois political parties, are found to have been promoted to the status of party-bosses. Media help in creating the hype, even if people remain passive onlooker. They dish out make-believe opinion polls, keeping in line with the monopoly house or combination they work for, though in most cases these prove bogus. In summary, the media trumpet for a system that is betraying itself as a moribund one.

But the most glaring is the flow of money, that goes on like anything. The high ceiling of Rs 25 lakh for each parliamentary seat

looks paltry in the face of vulgar extravagance of candidates of one and all the parliamentary parties, national or regional. Mind that, spending by the party itself is kept beyond the purview of this ceiling, obviously leaving a loophole to circumvent the law, and a scope, as well, for black money to flood the electioneering process. Then again, in addition to the usual heads of expenses on campaign, which were already sky-high, there are liberal cash handouts to local musclemen, film or TV stars or 'celebrities' from other fields to stage crowd-pulling show business.

The question that comes up naturally in people's mind, as it did during this last instance of election is : wherefrom this huge sum of money is coming and why , to be spent in such a bane exercise of electing this or that political party, all of which have proved their uselessness in giving people the minimum relief amidst the all-out crisis of this society. People know it from their daily experience, but are not always sure of the answer. They may have missed the irrefutable truth that it has become the order of the day in every capitalist country, big or small, the traditional like the USA or the upstart, emerging through counter revolution as in Russia. In these days of intense general crisis of capitalism, bourgeois parliamentary election faces the same degradation everywhere in these countries. Glaring examples are still living in memory from the last two presidential elections in the USA, the presently self-proclaimed champion of democracy.

In any case, ever since the early days of the bourgeois parliamentary system, the election itself has acted as a prop in the hands of the ruling capitalist class to chose parties or forces for governance; legislative forum has always been an appendage of the class rule. Yet, in the days when the parliamentary system was an upcoming force it could allow common people and the working class a relatively liberal democracy, including electioneering and could rely upon popular opinion to seek support for its class parties. But the more the system plunged into crisis, the more the parliamentary political parties had to take to anti-people measures with

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Remembering sixty years of victory over Fascism

People must know no fear in this war of liberation

Historic call of Comrade Stalin to Soviet people in July 1941

Comrades ! Citizens ! Brothers and sisters! Men of our army and navy ! I am addressing you, my friends !

The perfidious military attack on our Fatherland, begun on June 22nd by Hitler's Germany, is continuing.

In spite of the heroic resistance of the Red Army, and although the enemy's finest divisions and finest airforce units have already been smashed and have met their doom on the field of battle, the enemy continues to push forward, hurling fresh forces into the attack.

Hitler's troops have succeeded in capturing Lithuania, a considerable part of Latvia, the western part of Byelo-Russia, part of Western Ukraine. The fascist airforce is extending the range of operations of its bombers, and is bombing Murmansk, Orsha, Mogilev, Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa and Sebastopol.

A grave danger hangs over our country.

How could it have happened that our glorious Red Army surrendered a number of our cities and districts to fascist armies? Is it really true that German fascist troops are invincible, as is ceaselessly trumpeted by the boastful fascist propagandists? Of course not!

History shows that there are no invincible armies and never have been. Napoleon's army was considered invincible but it was beaten successively by Russian, English and German armies. Kaiser Wilhelm's German Army in the period of the first imperialist war was also considered invincible, but it was beaten several times by the Russian and Anglo-French forces and was finally smashed by the Anglo-French forces.

The same must be said of Hitler's German fascist army today. This army had not yet met with serious resistance on the continent of Europe. Only on our territory has it met serious resistance. And if, as a result of this resistance, the finest divisions of Hitler's German fascist army have been defeated by our Red Army, it means that this army too can be smashed and will be smashed as were the armies of Napoleon and Wilhelm.

As to part of our territory having nevertheless been seized by Germany fascist troops, this is chiefly due to the fact that the war of fascist Germany on the USSR began under conditions favorable for the German forces and unfavorable for Soviet forces. The fact of the matter is that the troops of Germany, as a country at war, were already fully mobilized, and the 170 divisions hurled by Germany against the USSR and brought up to the Soviet frontiers,

were in a state of complete readiness, only awaiting the signal to move into action, whereas Soviet troops had still to effect mobilization and move up to the frontier.

Of no little importance in this respect is the fact that fascist Germany suddenly and treacherously violated the Non-Aggression Pact she concluded in 1939 with the USSR, disregarding the fact that she would be regarded as the aggressor by the whole world.

Naturally, our peace-loving

Germany proposed to us in 1939.

Could the Soviet Government have declined such a proposal? I think that not a single peace-loving state could decline a peace treaty with a neighboring state, even though the latter was headed by such fiends and cannibals as Hitler and Ribbentrop. Of course only on one indispensable condition, namely, that this peace treaty does not infringe either directly or indirectly on the territorial integrity, independence and honor of the peace-loving state. As is well known, the Non-Aggression Pact between Germany and the USSR is precisely such a pact.

What did we gain by concluding



and attacking the USSR?

She has gained a certain advantageous position for her troops for a short period, but she has lost politically by exposing herself in the eyes of the entire world as a blood-thirsty aggressor.

There can be no doubt that this short-lived military gain for Germany is only an episode, while the tremendous political gain of the USSR is a serious lasting factor that is bound to form the basis for development of decisive military successes of the Red Army in the war with fascist Germany.

That is why our whole valiant Red Army, our whole valiant Navy, all our falcons of the air, all the peoples of our country, all the finest men and women of Europe, America and Asia, finally all the finest men and women of Germany—condemn the treacherous acts of German fascists and sympathize with the Soviet Government, approve the conduct of the Soviet Government, and see that ours is a just cause, that the enemy will be defeated, that we are bound to win.

By virtue of this war which has been forced upon us, our country has come to death-grips with its most malicious and most perfidious enemy—German fascism. Our

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On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the victory over fascism, we, along with the people of the world recalled the heroic struggle and sacrifice of the Soviet people under the leadership of the great Proletarian leader Comrade Joseph Stalin. Immediately after the ferocious sudden attack on the Soviet land launched by 170 divisions of the Nazi German Army, on 3rd July 1941, only the tenth day of the attack, Comrade Stalin delivered a historic radio address to the Soviet people. The address soon proved to have provided the Soviet people with the ideological-emotional pedestal on which they found firm footing to wage their epoch-making great patriotic war. The speech has thus made its worthy place in the annals of human history as an emblem of unscathed conviction of the leadership about the victory over as strong and fierce an enemy as the Hitler's Nazi Germany was, of unwavering faith of the leader on the led that helped convey the conviction of the leadership onto the people, and created in turn unflinching confidence of the latter on their great leader! As committed by us in the last issue of the Proletarian Era, we reproduce the speech here, as transcribed and translated by Soviet Russia Today, August, 1941.

country, not wishing to take the initiative of breaking the pact, could not resort to perfidy.

It may be asked how could the Soviet Government have consented to conclude a Non-Aggression Pact with such treacherous fiends as Hitler and Ribbentrop? Was this not an error on the part of the Soviet Government? Of course not. Non-Aggression Pacts are pacts of peace between states. It was such a pact

the Non-Aggression Pact with Germany? We secured our country peace for a year and a half, and the opportunity of preparing its forces to repulse fascist Germany should she risk an attack on our country despite the Pact. This was a definite advantage for us and a disadvantage for fascist Germany.

What has fascist Germany gained and what has she lost by treacherously tearing up the pact

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conflict for market among themselves. There developed a mighty socialist camp, headed by the Soviet Union under the leadership of the great Proletarian leader Comrade Joseph Stalin, along with the People's Republic of China led by Comrade Mao Zedong, and a score of East European countries as well as a vast array of former colonies and semi-colonies emerging as newly independent sovereign countries. The world market was further and unthinkably squeezed to the imperialists. After the demise of Comrade Stalin, as modern revisionism emerged with Khrushchev usurping power in the leadership of Soviet Russia and the CPSU, the situation started changing. As our leader, the founder General Secretary of our party, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh characterized this: "...in the post-Second World War situation, imperialism was almost cornered and the superiority and victory of the socialist system were being revealed — what a calamity befell it just at such a time!" The imperialist camp headed by the US imperialism, stepped up their tirade against socialism and communism and also their tentacles of neo-colonial exploitation. The impact of existence of the socialist camp was nevertheless evident. In Vietnam under the leadership of Comrade Ho Chi Minh, people inflicted upon the US imperialists their most ignominious defeat of the last century. But soon the attitude of the Soviet revisionist leadership since Khrushchev towards imperialism and their nuclear war-phobia also left their mark. Countries like Korea was divided; Cuba suffered from imperialist sanction; the Vietnamese people had to undergo prolonged sufferings. Even the international communist movement suffered from serious ideological differences between the Soviet and the Chinese Communist leaderships.

Rise of reaction reached its height with the debacle of socialist camp. The deterrent effect that the socialist camp had on the imperialists, was simply lost. The latter started fresh and intense attack on the world without socialist camp, the so-called unipolar world of theirs. It ventured to rein in the entire global market from behind the smokescreen of the newly hyped slogans of denationalization of economy, slogans of globalization-

liberalization. It was the same character of imperialism that Comrade Lenin had explained in his invaluable thesis on imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism. Imperialists, headed by the US imperialism also thrust war, entirely unilaterally, on this or that weaker developing countries of the world, using the UN as a rubber stamp and ignoring worldwide people's opinion against war. The communist forces also were pushed to complete disarray and confusion. Peace-loving people of the world started to believe that it was the capitalism-imperialism that was going to decide the destiny of mankind. At that stage, our party, SUCI, realized that it was all the more necessary to develop mighty anti-imperialist struggles in countries all over the globe, forming broad-based anti-imperialist fronts or forums with communists at the core, in each respective soil. Those struggles, made conducive to the struggles for emancipation in each country, would weaken the world system of capitalism-imperialism. Also when elevated to militant peace movements and coordinated and integrated into a massive global movement in the long run, they could emerge as the only course left to the toiling people of the world to put a brake to and thwart imperialist war efforts and onslaughts. We also made it clear that we were prepared to extend our fullest cooperation and support to any party that were to take initiative in fulfilling this historic task at a critical moment of the world revolutionary movement. With this understanding and idea, we approached the PTB, as they were already successfully carrying out the task of conducting international communist seminar. We had also realized that to bring about proper coordination and integration of anti-imperialist struggles of different countries into a massive global movement, it was necessary that communist and workers' parties and forces of different countries must not only form the core of the movement in their respective country, they must



A party-to-party talk was held between our Party, SUCI and the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks (AUCPB) in Brussels. Here Comrade Manik Mukherjee (extreme left) is seen discussing with Comrade Nina Andreyeva, General Secretary, AUCPB (second from right) and Comrade Anatoly Arkadievich Maevski, Secretary, AUCPB, Ukraine (extreme right)

also strive for coordination and concurrence among themselves at the international level, based on the principle of unity-struggle-unity, through exchange of their experiences of struggles in their respective soil. It was the course for the communist and worker's parties to create a congenial atmosphere and the ground for ultimately developing a communist international. However, painfully enough, it did not materialize into concrete efforts.

We convened the Calcutta Convention in November 1995, with representatives of a number of fraternal parties, including the PTB, Communist Party of Cuba, All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) from Russia, The New Communist Party of the Netherlands, Socialist Party of Bangladesh as also representatives from Germany, Zaire and others. From there, we set up an All India Anti-Imperialist Forum to organize anti-imperialist movement in India. Since then the Forum has constantly tried to develop anti-imperialist struggles in India and maintained constant and close contact with fraternal anti-imperialist forces as well as communist and worker's parties of different countries of the world. But never did we take the idea into our head to develop an international platform at our unilateral effort and leadership.

Events to follow have proved that we were not far from truth. Apparently without any communist leadership, the resolute freedom-loving people of Iraq have foiled the

US imperialist effort of occupying their land. Also the series of unprecedented massive anti-war demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of militant volunteers of peace on the streets of even the mightier imperialist countries, including the USA itself, have suggested that the ground was ripe. All this revealed that people's power to stand in favour of peace and freedom was in the offing. It only required our efforts to weave these and other anti-imperialist movements into a coordinated and organized mighty global peace movement. Had we been able to develop such a movement globally, it would have stood up as a solid support to victims of brute imperialist aggression and killing and would have dragged the US imperialism and its accomplices into such plight as they faced in Vietnam. As communists, we feel, our proletarian internationalist obligation prompts us to release all our initiative towards building up a movement of that kind. The communist and worker's parties of each and every country must also come forward unitedly to the same end. It is heartening to find that the Brussels Seminar has introduced this subject for discussion. We welcome it wholeheartedly. We sincerely believe that through threadbare discussions and exchanges we will be able to evolve and frame concrete programmes and steps to build up massive anti-imperialist movements globally. We know there are important political differences among the communist

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State funding of election

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a view to serving the ruling capitalist class and maintaining its class rule. Thereby they only earned increasingly more and more wrath of the vast masses of common toiling people and thus was discredited to and isolated from them. In such a situation the ruling class could no longer take the risk of any free and fair election lest it might bring some such force into power that would stand by the people for their cause. In result, the semblance of parliamentary democracy, the electioneering has thus become, meant for only the people to consume. The soul concern of the ruling capitalists boils down only to ensuring some such party or alliance to power, from among those in the fray, that would help maintain the capitalist rule in the best possible way at a particular moment; the colour of the party, the jargon, any shady antecedents, nothing does matter; loyalty to the class rule, subservience to the ruling class are the only passwords. It is also now an open secret that the election contests among parliamentary parties largely reflect conflicts and contradictions among the interests of this or that combination of industrialists-monopolists who are locked in severe competition among themselves amidst the acute recession-ridden crisis of market. They thus look ahead towards grabbing power by any means to meet their ends, at least towards apportioning the administration and governance among themselves to secure their respective interests. However, in the final analysis they chose that force or party which will serve the aggregate interest of the class in the best possible manner and to the maximum extent possible in a given situation. The contestants, the parliamentary parties and their local or regional allies, too, scramble for governmental power and privilege. They face one hard task of hoodwinking people to draw at least the minimum support. So they pose as their saviour from the clutches of poverty, misery or the "terror", the champions of democracy or of secularism or 'cultural nationalism' or any convenient sort, while at the bottom of their heart, they remain the subservient henchmen of the ruling class, the aspirants to rise as the obedient and efficient caretaker of the prevailing capitalist system.

This is what the election means in essence in one and all capitalist countries today. It no longer reflects people's opinion by any stretch of imagination; it no longer carries the least of the ideal 'of the people, for the people, by the people' for which even the bourgeois statesmen once fought. Thus questions, that were already simmering, are about to come to the surface in mass mind: questions about the source and motive of this vulgar extravagance in electioneering that has reduced the vital political process of even the bourgeois society to a farce; questions if it should continue like this and for how long. After all, people realizes that the monopolists, the industrial houses that spend unlimited sums to have the parties of their choice in power, are never philanthropic. They invest their money to ensure their control and clutches over the process and its outcome; they make sure that only their henchmen are allured and finally returned to serve them. In return, they fetch what they have spent, in full or even more. And here lies the main concern for the people. The whole spending, the whole extravagance will be met with by fleecing the people further; the monopolists, the industrial houses will squeeze back their investment in one form or another. They know it well that they never lose much with any change; they keep on earning their whole lot of maximum profit; the government takes care to ensure it. It may be recalled here that in spite of all tall claims, no amount of law has been able to prevent black money, that runs a parallel economy itself. And now, in the bid of the ruling class to establish and exert its absolute control over the electioneering process, that black money plays havoc there. This is a compulsion the class faces for its survival; so no redresses are possible from deceptive legal measures, as conceived in the state funding. Rather, the net effect of the proposed state funding would then be, the black money will continue to play its role; only added to it, the same political parties, that are themselves involved in the nefarious game of grabbing power by any and every means, will be allowed to carry on with their business, this time squandering with public money. At the same time, in the face of mounting resentment about this colossal wastage for which people

has to bear the brunt, the ruling class tries to put up some show with a view to appeasing the questioning minds and covering the truth, the real cause of the problem as well.

One more point is relevant here. When the committee recommends state funding for recognized parties only, at the same time professing it would bring in 'an element of equality' to electoral contests, it smacks of sheer hypocrisy. Even in a bourgeois sense, equality is not perceived thus. It clearly means all candidates found eligible must be treated equally, even if they may represent a minority voice. In reality, the brand of 'equality' that the committee professed for, means debarring so-called unrecognized parties from contesting. In other words it is nothing but an attempt to maintain and sustain those political parties, who have the blessings of the ruling class as they serve them the best and weed out, at the same stroke, the voices, the forces, the parties that stand for people's cause, and give exposure to the root of people's misery, that refuse to play subservient to the exploiters, the rulers. It thus leaves the ground more open to those chosen few political parties with which the ruling class wishes to run its system of so-called parliamentary democracy, a two-party system of that, which the Indian capitalists are now bent upon to establish.

In this malicious move for state funding of elections, the role of CPI(M)- CPI is singularly striking. They go by their leftist placard and

jargon. Yet not only did they extend their support to this move; they are among the enthusiast important members of the committee which is given the charge of designing this move. The ruling class and their branded representative, BJP did not fail to recognize their worth and thus included them as accomplices in planning the whole design.

It is thus clear that the electioneering process of the bourgeois parliamentary system has rotten to the marrow. All the pretensions of fairness or of democratic norms are being ripped apart. Hence to eliminate fraud and farce in election, to preserve and give effect to even the barest minimum of democratic elements in electioneering processes, democratic-minded people, the toiling masses will have to rely on their own strength, their mighty mass-movements to these ends, which can create and exert pressure on the power that be. They need to realize that no alleviation of their suffering and plight is possible through election and mere change of governments. At the same time there remains no other way left to the people to put an effective brake, if any, to the unbridled inflow of black money leading to vulgar extravagance in the electioneering process. Neither there is any alternative to such a movement to make the voice of people's genuine representative heard in the parliamentary system, that is increasingly turning deaf and dumb to the misery and plight of common people of the land. Our party SUCI will always pledge to initiate and keep on with any such effort to stand by people's cause.

Communist Seminar

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forces and parties of different countries, on questions of international communist movement as well as stages of revolution and such others for different national scenes, which find their roots in the serious ideological differences between the Soviet and the Chinese Communist parties prevailing in the seventies of the last century. We can resolve those and such other differences through elaborate polemical struggle involving intensive bilateral discussions between different communist parties, conducted with a free mind with a view to reaching the truth. Strength of any party should not

come in the way of such ideological struggle; the criteria should be how correct its views and opinions are. For it, publication of journals may be undertaken. Let the Brussels Seminar initiate and try to develop unity among the communist forces and parties of different countries on common minimum agreed points with a view to strengthening the all important fight against our common enemy, capitalism-imperialism, and in particular against their henchman, the warmonger US imperialism. We assure our best efforts to extend all possible help and support to such initiatives. And with this I conclude with full optimism and expectation.

War for freedom of Soviet land merges with struggle of people of Europe and America : Stalin

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troops are fighting heroically against an enemy armed to the teeth with tanks and aircraft.

Overcoming innumerable difficulties, the Red Army and Red Navy are self-sacrificingly disputing every inch of Soviet soil. The main forces of the Red Army are coming into action armed with thousands of tanks and airplanes. The men of the Red Army are displaying unexampled valor. Our resistance to the enemy is growing in strength and power.

Side by side with the Red Army, the entire Soviet people are rising in defense of our native land.

What is required to put an end to the danger hovering over our country, and what measures must be taken to smash the enemy?

Above all, it is essential that our people, the Soviet people, should understand the full immensity of the danger that threatens our country and should abandon all complacency, all heedlessness, all those moods of peaceful constructive work which were so natural before the war, but which are fatal today when war has fundamentally changed everything.

The enemy is cruel and implacable. He is out to seize our lands, watered with our sweat, to seize our grain and oil secured by our labour. He is out to restore the rule of landlords, to restore Tsarism, to destroy national culture and the national state existence of the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelo-Russians, Lithuanians, Letts, Esthonians, Uzbeks, Tatars, Moldavians, Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaidzhanians and the other free people of the Soviet Union, to Germanize them, to convert them into the slaves of German princes and barons.

Thus the issue is one of life or death for the Soviet State, for the peoples of the USSR; the issue is whether the peoples of the Soviet Union shall remain free or fall into slavery.

The Soviet people must realize this and abandon all heedlessness, they must mobilize themselves and reorganize all their work on new, wartime bases, when there can be no mercy to the enemy.

Further, there must be no room in our ranks for whimperers and

cowards, for panic-mongers and deserters. Our people must know no fear in fight and must selflessly join our patriotic war of liberation, our war against the fascist enslavers.

Lenin, the great founder of our State, used to say that the chief virtue of the Bolshevik must be courage, valor, fearlessness in struggle, readiness to fight, together with the people, against the enemies of our country.

This splendid virtue of the Bolshevik must become the virtue of the millions of the Red Army, of the Red Navy, of all peoples of the Soviet Union.

All our work must be immediately reconstructed on a war footing, everything must be subordinated to the interests of the front and the task of organizing the demolition of the enemy.

The people of the Soviet Union now see that there is no taming of German fascism in its savage fury and hatred of our country which has ensured all working people labour in freedom and prosperity.

The peoples of the Soviet Union must rise against the enemy and defend their rights and their land. The Red Army, Red Navy and all citizens of the Soviet Union must defend every inch of Soviet soil, must fight to the last drop of blood for our towns and villages, must display the daring initiative and intelligence that are inherent in our people.

We must organize all-round assistance for the Red Army, ensure powerful reinforcements for its ranks and the supply of everything it requires, we must organize the rapid transport of troops and military freight and extensive aid to the wounded.

We must strengthen the Red Army's rear, subordinating all our work to this cause. All our industries must be got to work with greater intensity to produce more rifles, machine-guns, artillery, bullets, shells, airplanes; we must organize the guarding of factories, power-stations, telephonic and telegraphic communications and arrange effective air raid precautions in all localities.

We must wage a ruthless fight against all disorganizers of the rear, deserters, panic-mongers, rumor-mongers; we must exterminate spies, diversionists and enemy

parachutists, rendering rapid aid in all this to our destroyer battalions.

We must bear in mind that the enemy is crafty, unscrupulous, experienced in deception and the dissemination of false rumours. We must reckon with all this and not fall victim to provocation.

All who by their panic-mongering and cowardice hinder the work of defence, no matter who they are, must be immediately haled before the military tribunal. In case of forced retreat of Red Army units, all rolling stock must be evacuated, the enemy must not be left a single engine, a single railway car, not a single pound of grain or a gallon of fuel.

The collective farmers must drive off all their cattle, and turn over their grain to the safe-keeping of State authorities for transportation to the rear. All valuable property, including non-ferrous metals, grain and fuel which cannot be withdrawn, must without fail be destroyed.

In areas occupied by the enemy, guerrilla units, mounted and on foot, must be formed, diversionist groups must be organized to combat the enemy troops, to foment guerrilla warfare everywhere, to blow up bridges and roads, damage telephone and telegraph lines, set fire to forests, stores, transports.

In the occupied regions conditions must be made unbearable for the enemy and all his accomplices. They must be hounded and annihilated at every step, and all their measures frustrated.

This war with fascist Germany cannot be considered an ordinary war. It is not only a war between two armies, it is also a great war of the entire Soviet people against the German fascist forces.

The aim of this national war in defense of our country against the fascist oppressors is not only elimination of the danger hanging over our country, but also aid to all European peoples groaning under the yoke of German fascism.

In this war of liberation we shall not be alone. In this great war we shall have loyal allies in the peoples of Europe and America, including the German people who are enslaved by the Hitlerite despots.

Our war for the freedom of our country will merge with the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their independence, for democratic liberties.

It will be a united front of peoples standing for freedom and against enslavement and threats of enslavement by Hitler's fascist armies.

In this connection the historic utterance of the British Prime Minister Churchill regarding aid to the Soviet Union and the declaration of the United States Government signifying its readiness to render aid to our country, which can only evoke a feeling of gratitude in the hearts of the peoples of the Soviet Union, are fully comprehensible and symptomatic.

Comrades, our forces are numberless. The overweening enemy will soon learn this to his cost. Side by side with the Red Army many thousands of workers, collective farmers, intellectuals are rising to fight the enemy aggressor. The masses of our people will rise up in their millions.

The working people of Moscow and Leningrad have already commenced to form vast popular levies in support of the Red Army. Such popular levies must be raised in every city which is in danger of enemy invasion, all working people must be roused to defend our freedom, our honor, our country—in our patriotic war against German Fascism.

In order to ensure the rapid mobilization of all forces of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and to repulse the enemy who treacherously attacked our country, a State Committee of Defence has been formed in whose hands the entire power of the State has been vested.

The State Committee of Defence has entered upon its functions and calls upon all people to rally around the Party of Lenin-Stalin and around the Soviet Government, so as to self-denyingly support the Red Army and Navy, demolish the enemy and secure victory.

All our forces for support of our heroic Red Army and our glorious Red Navy! All forces of the people—for the demolition of the enemy!

Forward, to our victory!

One year of UPA Government

Congress fiddles, CPI(M) wriggles, People bleed white

It has of late become a fashion in bourgeois parliamentary politics to celebrate anniversary of a government's stay in power. Big advertisements are released splurging taxpayers' money to highlight the "successes" claimed by the ruling dispensation in the years that have gone by. Hype is created in the pliant media as if such happens to be an occasion to rejoice, make an assessment of the achievements and chart out future road map. The current Congress-led CPI (M)-backed UPA government has been no exception to that. While the Congress and its allies expressed satisfaction over the performance, the CPI (M) and its associates pretended to be cautious critic of the government though renewing their pledge to support the government for full 5-year term.

Everyone knows that the Congress as the most trusted representative of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie had run the government for about 45 years since independence. The hallmark of its rule has been sustained pauperization and ruination of the poor while fortune and prosperity of a handful of rich has been on a continuous spiral. The malaise afflicting the common people in every sphere of life knew no bounds. It was the same Congress which after being out of power for some years, regained the governmental seat capitalizing on the anti-BJP wave and taking full advantage of the abject betrayal to the people's cause by the CPI (M), CPI. Saddled in power once again, it took off from where the BJP, the other trusted agent of the ruling class, left the job, and began pursuing the same anti-people pro-capitalist policies that have been wreaking havoc in people's life. People's mandate was against capitalist globalisation or capitalist economic reforms that the BJP had carried out in full swing. The Congress government gave a new lease of life to the policies of the BJP by following the same agenda of economic reforms bringing further disaster to the life of common people. In the last one year, thousands of factories have been closed, hundreds of thousands have been thrown out of job. Indiscriminate retrenchment, lay-off, compulsory and early retirement, premature termination of job have been on the rise. The government has announced that henceforth the policy will be to appoint contract and casual work. It has taken no initiative to arrest whopping unemployment. Rather it is continuing systematic reduction of vacancies in government departments, semi-government concerns and PSUs.

Similarly no effective step has been taken to provide rudimentary

relief to the rural population afflicted by appalling poverty and impoverishment. The government has taken no effective move to provide job to the millions of rural poor who are dying of hunger and malnutrition. From unbearable poverty thousands of peasants are committing suicide; parents sell children for a pittance; women are forced into flesh trade; while the media publish buoyant accounts of refrigerators, TVs and washing machines making inroad into rural households. What a cruel joke with those doomed to a sub-human livelihood!

While the government felt no obligation to these downtrodden people, it went on adopting policies and measures to accentuate the economic onslaught. The two budgets presented by the Congress have been blueprints of capitalist globalization. Preposterous taxation, fiscal savagery, huge borrowing to finance budget deficits and hefty concessions to the monopolists and big business have been the key items causing further rise of price-line and increased squeezing of the people. Twice this government within a span of six months of its maiden year, effected steep hike in the prices of petro-products outside the budget. Now it is contemplating to impose another dose of price hike of petrol-diesel on the pretext of neutralizing the effect of the additional cess and import duty levied in the last budget. When the people bleed white under this barbaric assault, the profits of monopolists and big business soar sky-high. Like the BJP, the Congress too continued, if not increased, hobnobbing with the US imperialists, the worst enemy of mankind and Zionist Israel as main plank of its foreign policy. In the same tune with the BJP, it is talking of labour reforms as mandated by globalization-liberalization in the interest of exploiting capitalist class.

And on a close analysis, it will be observed that this Congress government has no intention to effectively confront the BJP either ideologically or politically though the latter is flaunting its vile communal character with much more ferocity. Instead, as it happens in bourgeois two-party democracy, the Congress in the name of seeking cooperation is following the policy of non-engagement with the BJP. This reality, this naked truth are sought to be suppressed under the pomp and propaganda of anniversary celebration so that the deprived millions remain in a snare of delusion. And the pliant media has been hyperactive in embellishing this camouflage with bounteous publicity as if such is an occasion worth observing with elation and gaiety.

In playing trick with the people, the Left (!) of the CPI(M), CPI, who proclaim themselves as watchdog to the Congress-led government, are showing much superior skill. There has been a policy of reaping twin advantage. While they enjoy all the benefits of being on the side of the government, claim to be providing "content and character" to the government policies, they manage to disown any responsibility of the misdeeds and wrong doings of the government. For last one year, this 'dog' has only been watching the looters running amuck but played no role other than that of an indulgent spectator with occasional show of mock opposition. On the pretext of keeping the BJP out of power these self-styled Marxists have taken an oath to keep this government alive no matter what disastrous effect it has on the people. But lest their anti-Marxist social democratic character and capitulation to the ruling class get exposed, they feign to be a critic of some of the policies of the government and pretend as if they have been instrumental in scuttling a few anti-people moves. Whenever they find that their unstinted support to the Congress-led government is questioned by the people, they try to quell the voice of discontent by switching over to thunder mode, criticize the government for its obsession with FDI-led growth that is spawning wrong decisions and policies and even accuse it of bringing legislations in the "interest of big business and foreign finance capital". But simultaneously they

renew their pledge to extend their support to the government for full term and thereby signal a covert go-ahead to the government in pursuance of its policies. Also the apparent thunder is never backed by necessary action to stall any of the anti-people legislations as was seen recently in the case of safe passage to the black Patent (Amendment) Bill and tabling of Banking Reforms Bill. That is why the Congress leaders often say that they do not have any difficulty in carrying on with the CPI(M), CPI. In fact, Union Finance Minister on May 26, thanked his Left (!) friends by saying that "as far as economic policies are concerned, the Left has been helpful and alert."

And there is nothing surprising in it. While the CPI(M) and its associates make big show in Delhi over increased FDI dependence, opening up of key sectors to foreign capital, privatization spree, disinvestment of PSUs, forced retirement and retrenchment of workers and employees, contract labour system, imposition of cess and duties on petro-products and so forth, the CPI (M)-led West Bengal government is doing all these things with alacrity in the name of development. So advanced is the CPI(M) government in this regard that spokespersons of foreign imperial capital and top brass of Indian monopolists are overwhelmed in their praise for the CPI (M) chief minister whom they have ranked the best in the country. So the Congress leaders chuckled in amusement when the CPI(M) and its allies decided to abstain from the one-year celebration function saying that they had differences (!) with the government. At the same breath, the CPI(M) clarified that this absenteeism should not be seen as boycott of the function. In order to reiterate that this exhibited opposition for public consumption is not for straining but cementing the mutual relationship, the CPI (M) and its associates shoot out letters to the government the very next day assuring their full support for the remaining period of its tenure. Sensing the public rage and ire against the Congress-led government for another year of its misrule as well resentment within their rank, they used this occasion to don the cloak of a critic and spat at

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AIMSS censures provisions for night arrest of women

H. G. Jayalaxmi, General Secretary, All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan issued the following statement on 18 May 2005 :

Since the passing of an order permitting the police to arrest women at any time of the day or night even without the presence of a lady constable, by a Division Bench of the Supreme Court, AIMSS has been organising movements against it all over the country and on 1st December 2004 (last year) launched a massive protest demonstration before the Parliament and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and another to the Chief Justice of India along with lakhs of signatures demanding total ban on arrest of women at night time on any plea.

Recently, both the houses of the Parliament have amended the Section 46 of the Code of the Criminal Procedure 1973 prohibiting arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise save in "exceptional circumstances". We welcome the main contention of the amendment to the extent it negates the aforesaid dangerous judgement of the Division Bench of the Supreme Court. At the same time we cannot but strongly criticise and condemn the scope left in the amendment for gross misinterpretation and above all the expression 'save in exceptional circumstances', though some so-called safeguards are laid down like seeking permission from a superior officer before arrest or reporting immediately after arrest. In case permission can not be obtained beforehand, a provision is left for reporting to the Magistrate within whose jurisdiction the arrest has been made. Considering the present attitude and behaviour of the police administration as such, there is every possibility of abusing this provision of the amendment.

So, we strongly urge upon the government to immediately remove the above-mentioned part of the Amendment and ensure that no woman is arrested on any plea during night time. We are sorry to note that left parties like CPI(M) and CPI did not raise a single point in the Parliament against this negative portion of the proposed Amendment Bill .

It is also to be noted that when the Division Bench of the Supreme Court passed the dangerous order in 2003 neither these parties nor their women wings protested against it, let alone develop movement.

We call upon all right-thinking democratic-minded people, particularly womenfolk, to come forward and continue movements throughout the country till the disputed portion is removed, especially when atrocities on women, particularly by the men, in uniform are alarmingly on the rise in the country.

Baikunth Shukla Day observed at Muzaffarpur

AIDSO and AIDYO observed martyrdom day of Shaheed Baikunth Shukla at Muzaffarpur on May 14, 2005. Baikunth Shukla, with assistance of Chandrama Singh, assassinated Phanindra Nath Ghosh, a Central Committee member of HSRA, later turned a British spy, (on whose witness Bhagat Singh and Rajguru were hanged and many others sentenced to life imprisonment) on November 9, 1932. He was hanged on May 14, 1934 at Gaya Central Jail.

The martyrdom day was observed with offering of floral tribute to the portrait of Shaheed Baikunth Shukla. A memorial

meeting was addressed by Shri Shasikant Jha, a well-known litterateur, freedom fighter Shri Shubh Narayan Sharma, Shri B. Prashant, District Secretary, Save Education Committee, Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, former All India President of AIDSO and member, Bihar State Committee, SUCI. Comrade Raj Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Muzaffarpur district committee, AIDSO, and Comrade Sanjay Kumar Yadav, President, AIDSO, Muzaffarpur district committee. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Lalbabu Mahato, district in-charge, AIDYO.

Massive Rally in Delhi

The Delhi State Organising Committee of SUCI organised a massive protest demonstration on May 18 last against water tariff hike and water privatisation plans, privatisation of electricity supply and consequent problems faced by consumers, problems of public transport, education, health, eviction of colonies/ settlements, forcible closure of industries, crime against

Member, Delhi State Organising Committee and addressed by State Secretary Pratap Samal, Comrades J.N. Mandal and Harish Tyagi, as well as leaders from different localities, including P.P. Singh, Ram Babu, Pushpa Chamoli, P.K. Powar, Rakesh Kumar, Bhanwarpal, R.K. Bhat and Bihari Lal Nirmal. A delegation led by Pratap Samal, submitted a memorandum to the



women, price-rise due to VAT and Patents (Amendment) Act 2005. Hundreds of demonstrators from various parts of Delhi marched from Ferozeshah Kotla towards Delhi Secretariat braving the summer heat. A public meeting was held there presided over by R.K. Sharma,

Chief Minister, signed over by people of Delhi and urging fulfilment of their above demands. Memoranda pertaining to specific problems of each locality were also submitted. The Additional Secretary in the CM's Office promised action on the demands soon.



A Secretariat Dharna and Rajbhavan March was held in Trivandrum by SUCI on 23 May 2005. The march was stopped midway by the police. Comrade C K Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee addresses the huge rally.

One year of UPA Government

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the Congress seemingly to confuse the people, camouflage their tacit understanding with it, and securing their position in the coming elections. This is perfidy at its best.

Perhaps both the Congress and its pseudo-Marxist friends are grossly mistaken in assuming that the people would remain ever vulnerable to their hoodwinking acts and deceitful manoeuvres. Political

consciousness is dawning upon the toiling millions who are increasingly becoming aware of the hoax of bourgeois vote politics and drawn towards the path of democratic mass movement over burning issues of life and in the process are learning to distinguish between mask and face of the servitors of the exploiting bourgeois class. People's enemies will never escape the wrath of history.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE