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National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

— a deceptive sop to befool the people

After 62 years of highly flaunted independence, toiling millions of the country are still wailing under cruel poverty. The long dark shadow of sufferings is leading them to ruination. All hopes of economic security with promises of standard livelihood in their lives have belied and dashed off. India ranks 94th in the Global Hunger Index of 119 countries. More than 27% of the world's undernourished population lives in India while 43% of children (under 5 years) in the country are underweight. The figure is among the highest in the world and is much higher than the global average of 25%. It is this country where people on poverty line are almost 80% out of which those living below poverty level constitute 90%.

Rural India—a spectacle of total ruination

The spectacle is more harrowing in rural India that is inhabited by

over 75% of the total populace. It is, in fact, a saga of multiplying plight and penury. With increasing penetration of monopoly capital in rural economy, the farmers are grimly facing eviction from land as well as losing their livelihood in the villages. In collusion with the rural bourgeoisie the farmers are being denied remunerative price of their produces. While escalating prices of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides are making cost of farming extremely high, moneyed rural gentry and its hangers-on like hoarders, dishonest rice mill owners, unscrupulous middlemen, ruling party goons and an utterly corrupt administration are depriving the poor peasants of remunerative price of their produces. This is leading the peasants to distressingly destitution under which they have been groaning years together accompanying starvation, chronic malnutrition, severe ailments, deaths and suicides. Being dispossessed of

whatever little land they had, denied the basic necessities of life and unable to eke out a living in the villages by securing even job of agricultural labour, these hapless farmers also are roaming on the city streets with bowls of alms, dying like cats and dogs on the streets without food, without medical treatment, without shelter, out of flood, and out of starvation Unable to pay back the loan secured from local money lenders at high interest and, many are queuing in rows for self-annihilation with their nearest and dearest ones. With urban job market shrunk with every passing hour because of the insoluble market crisis world capitalism-imperialism is now ridden with, searching alternative livelihood to the evicted rural poor is a myth.

Naturally, there is mounting discontent among the peasants which are bursting forth in sporadic movements. Lest these movements take shape of an organized

prolonged struggle along correct base political line, the ruling Indian bourgeoisie needed to embark upon some measures to scupper any such possibility. It is from this objective that the erstwhile Congress-led Central Government, beside occasional gimmicks like waiving of farmers loan, announced with much fanfare the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). After their victory in the last Lok Sabha elections, the Congress leaders claimed that among other things, success of this scheme has rallied the support of rural poor behind them on a large scale. Let us see what the scheme has been and what the track record of its operationalization is.

The Scheme and its operationalization

Transcribed into an Act, NREGS was introduced in the form of a Bill in the Parliament and was

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Farce of G-20 summit

Imperialist sharks wrangle over business interest when people gasp in increasing pauperization

Current global economic meltdown of capitalism following bursting of 'bubble economy' premised on unlimited speculation is destined to turn things worse. Already, the same is visible round the globe. The entire imperialist-capitalist world including US has slipped into a recession of unprecedented dimension and heading towards stagflation, which is characterized by a prolonged combination of mounting unemployment, severe job loss, stagnant incomes and rising prices.

Unlike any other downturn since the 1930s, this one has affected everyone, either the fact of it or the fear of it. And as this crisis is getting accentuated making people to bleed white yet more profusely, waves of mass protest are surging forth throughout the world. In order to quell this surging protests and make a show of their concern about the multiplying plight of the toiling millions, the leaders of G-20 countries, the most rich and powerful in the imperialist-capitalist world met in a summit on 2 and 3

April last at Royal Bank of Scotland in central London ostensibly to seek possible remedy to the unprecedented crisis the global capitalist economy is now mired in. However, the fact was that this meet was hurriedly convened to somehow patch up some of the differences brewing among the G-20 members in particular over their respective narrow sectarian economic interests and pose as if such would mitigate the hardship of the people. Exactly that happened. At the end of the summit, the participating leaders

exuded customary confidence of arresting the downfall and 'return to the path of growth', although facts speak otherwise proving the whole show as nothing but a farce. It may be added that when leaders of G-20 countries were wrangling about how to fix the tottering economy, thousands of angry anti-imperialist, anti-globalization and anti-war protesters alongwith climate campaigners were raging outside the venue demanding more help for the poor and the punishment of the

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Scheme does not guarantee job — people have to demand for it

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effected in February 2006 with much fanfare in 200 backward districts of India. In 2007 another 130 districts came under its jurisdiction; and from 1st April 2008, the Act is claimed to have covered all 596 districts of the country. The government claimed that it was the world's largest employment guarantee scheme and public work programme aimed at poverty eradication. The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, went a step further to say that this scheme will enhance the security of livelihood, strengthen the rural infrastructure and reduce "distress migration" from one village to another. The constituents of erstwhile Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the pseudo-Marxists like CPI (M), CPI, then extending support to the same government, showered full-throated praise on the scheme asserting that the scheme would bring about a dramatic transformation in rural India. The CPI (M), CPI were so mesmerized about the Act that they even claimed that it was they who were not only instrumental in framing up the scheme but forced the UPA Government to play positive role in favour of the Act.

The government aired such a tall claim purportedly because the Act guaranteed 100 days employment against a wage of Rs.70 per day. The government contended that this would make the poor find means to live happily. Queer indeed! First of all, as records of last three years show that as against guarantee of 100 days, job made available was for far less number of days. We shall give the account at appropriate place. But given that one gets full 100 days' work with the stipulated daily wage, does it really mitigate the sufferings of the unemployed and help millions get rid of starvation? Moreover, 100 days do not make a year. Out of 365 days, 100 days constitute around one-fourth of a year. What will happen of the remaining three-fourths days of the year? How will the jobless and unemployed millions eke out and be saved from starvation on the rest of these days? Secondly, is not the daily wage of Rs.70 even less than the stipulated minimum wage in the country? NREGA has talked about the minimum wages, but there is no mention about the fixed wages to be given to the job-card holders uniformly all over the country.

Besides one or two states like Delhi, Kerala where little higher wages are paid, what the labourers in most other states finally get varies between Rs.30 and 40. In fact, the whole scheme runs under contract system. The contractors backed by the administration in collusion with the mandarins of the ruling parties are driving steamroll of deprivation against the workers. The administration either connives or remains an indulgent onlooker. That is why in Rajasthan where the average man-day work is shown to be much higher (almost 75 days) than most other states, the rate of wages there is Rs.51. In the CPI (M) governed West Bengal, it is further lower. Here a male agricultural worker is paid R.47.88 and a female worker, Rs.33.15 a day. Many states like West Bengal do not even give unemployment allowance regularly, which is mandatory under the Act. Not only this, these labourers are forced to overwork for hours against this slender wages. So a dizzy embedded corruption denies the poor even what is statutorily mandated.

Next question is can this paltry amount, which is quite unable to meet square meal a day for a single person at the present time of suffocating price rise, give relief to a family of minimum 7-8 members, a usual family structure in rural India, a stark reality that the government tries to conceal and ignore? Is it humanly possible to manage such a big family with such meager income and that too only for a few days? It should be noted, in this connection, that a job card (the document of being eligible for job providence under the scheme) is issued on the household basis. That is, whatever number of members might constitute a family, not all of them will get the job cards. Only one card will be allotted for a whole family which in rural India, as we have mentioned above, generally consists of 7-8 members of which three or four members are usually unemployed. So, by getting 100 days work to be done by any member of the family against even the above meager wages can never bring any relief into a family stricken with acute poverty. This is a hoax, plain and simple. Still this remains the main focus of the government's propaganda in the media controlled by them rendering the air and the land as a 'historic event'!

Government itself admits default

Those, being either carried by government propaganda or out of confusion hoped the scheme to deliver would be dashed in no time with the fact unfolding a different story. Studies from various sources reveal that the scheme is nowhere to success. The scheme is claimed as 'development initiative' for creation of durable assets and jobs. Enormous public funds collected through extortionist taxes and revenues are invested into it. But no appropriate infrastructure has been created for implementing the scheme as evident from miserably a scanty number of executing personnel being manned. The state governments were required to appoint a full-time programme officer (PO) in each block; an employment guarantee assistant (EGA) in each gram panchayat exclusively dedicated to implementation of NREGA. But CAG report says that 70% blocks of 19 states, and 52% of 513 gram panchayats surveyed did not arrange for any such appointments. Instead, the Block Development Officers (BDOs), already entrusted with a host of assignments, have been asked to oversee this as additional responsibility. The number of Junior engineers (JEs) who carry out the work at the grass-root level has been far less than required. For example, in the entire Bolangir district of Orissa consisting of 140 villages, there are only 5 junior engineers to look after the scheme. In Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh which has 72 gram panchayats, only four technical assistants are bestowed with the vast responsibility which they are to perform in addition to their regular assignments. These personnel are just part-timers. They work for the scheme along with scores of other schemes such as Backward Region Grant Fund, Indira Awas Yojana, MPLAD, DPAP etc. So they can put in just casual not exclusive attention towards the scheme. There is no pool of engineers either. With this acute shortage of manpower, naturally there can be no documentation and procedural requirement of NREGA, there causes failure in preparation of plans, scrutiny, approval, monitoring and gauging of works, as also maintenance of records at the block and gram panchayat level. This is creating inordinate delay in

implementation. Moreover, the people's participation in working out the plans and their ratification through Gramsabhas (village committees) laid down in the Act is conspicuously absent in the process. It is the portfolio holders of the Gramsabhas which only ratify the plans. As a result, despite enormous spending, quality of execution is poor.

Glaring fact is that out of 210 million households whose members were employed under NREGA during its first year, only 2.2 million received full 100 days' job promised under the Act. The highest average per day employment per household was 42 in 2006-07, that further reduced to 35 days in 2007-08. Out of 27 states, 15 could not provide 40 days' job. Some states like Bihar, Nagaland and West Bengal could afford still much less number of days. While in Bihar and Nagaland this employment per household was respectively 23 and 22 days, in West Bengal it was 18 days in 2007-08, in 2006-07, it was merely 14 days here. The performance indeed by a "Marxist" ruled state that boasts of excellence over all other non-Marxist bourgeois government! It is these so-called "Marxist" rulers who blare out disproportionately to inform the world in every breath that they work for the poor, they protect the interest of the workers and peasants by bringing them under more welfare projects thus alleviating their poverty and misery! Are they anywhere to the target as shown? Another survey conducted in 14 states in 2007 bares naked the false claim of the Act. The survey revealed that 94% of the households there, were far from getting minimum work out of 100 days.. Many even did not get any work at all. This distressing feature of performance particularly prevails in those states where the rural poor are heavily concentrated. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, UP, MP, and Maharashtra apart from Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat and Nagaland are such states in the poorest villages of which employment generation record is pathetically miserable. This highly publicized poverty alleviation scheme has not performed there at all.

The condition of the woman workers mostly belonging to scheduled castes, 'backward classes', or 'most backward classes' and most of whom are illiterate, is

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Economic meltdown — Inevitable fallout of inner contradiction of capitalism

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perpetrators of the crisis the entire burden of which are being squarely passed on to the common people.

Situation worsening with every passing hour

Before we take an overview of the summit outcome, let us have an idea of the spectacle of devastation that moribund decadent corrupt capitalism has brought in the life of the people round the globe. We first turn to US, stated to be locomotive of world capitalist economy. Recession has already destroyed 3.6 million jobs in US, half of them in the first three months of 2009. The number of unemployed persons increased by 563,000 to 13.7 million in April 2009 and the unemployment rate rose to 8.9 percent. (Source: US department of Labour — Bureau of Labour Statistics — May 08, 2009) 3 million Americans are slated to lose their jobs in 2009. Almost 40 percent of Americans say somebody in their households lost a job or suffered cutbacks in hours or pay during the past 12 months. Fifteen percent report that someone in their household had been fired or laid off. 26.5 million people (approx 1 in 10 Americans) were below the official poverty thresholds way back in 2006. (Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia) 100 million US citizens do not have the ability to incur an expenditure exceeding 2 dollars a day. Leading US psychologists are saying that 80% of the US citizens from 14 to 90 years of age are suffering from severe depression and mental stress in face of the anxiety and uncertainty centring on their depleting income and economic destitution. Most affected are the women who worry most about running the kitchen and family.

Likewise, as a result of economic meltdown, economic pillar is crumbling not only in the USA but in the entire imperialist-capitalist world. Decline in GDP rate has touched the bottom. Japan and Germany, the second and third largest imperialist economy as well as all other imperialist countries including Britain and France are all so crisis-stricken as to be nearing the abyss. In the EU, the number of unemployed stands at 17.5 million, 1.6 million more than one year ago.

By 2009, it is projected that 3.5 million jobs will have been lost. Number of unemployed, according to UK government statement on 19 March 2009, has already crossed 2 million mark. In November 2008, the total number of unemployed in Japan has crossed 2.5 million. The collapsing demand for Chinese products overseas has led to factory closures, leaving an estimated 23 million migrant workers in China jobless. Another 6 million Chinese workers are waiting to be axed. In the world, the total number of unemployed

in 2008 was around 190 million. It is apprehended that the number could rise by another 51 million throughout 2009 to cross 240 million. Poor workers (who earn just two euros daily) will number 1.4 billion; that is, 45% of the economically active population on the planet. (Source: - ILO report 29 Jan 2009). The effect of this economic meltdown on Indian people is equally devastating, if not still worse on every parameter. One after another industrial units are getting closed. The figure of job loss as per official version has already crossed over a hundred million by March, 2009. However, if one takes into account the unorganized sector which accounts for 90% of the total employment as well as underemployment and pseudo-employment in rural sector, the actual figure would be several multiples of what is being declared officially.

What caused this crisis?

While trying to provide a genesis of this global financial crisis of capitalism in the wake of 'sub-prime' crisis in US, we had (vide Proletarian Era dated...) shown that this crisis has not been due to certain faults in the system that escaped notice of the regulators and policy maker. This is a mere attempt on the part of the bourgeois class and its servitors to shield the truth. The crisis is inevitable fallout of the inner contradictions of the very capitalist economic order which is based on ruthless exploitation of labour by capital. More the capitalists amass wealth by increasing profit through impounding of surplus value, more squeezed are the working people. More the working populace is

squeezed, more pauperized it is and hence dispossessed of the purchasing power. If the purchasing power of the people falls, there is no sale of goods in the market at the price fixed by the capitalist owners to ensure booking of maximum profit. So there is stockpiling of goods leading to recession. If there is no off-take of goods in the market, the capitalists stop production. So industries get closed rendering millions jobless. On the other hand, with scope for maximum profit plummeting, the capitalist owners try to cut production cost by drastically reducing manpower and opt for a few higher technology-driven productions. So unemployment soars. Bereft of employment, income of the households dips even lower causing further squeezing of the market for the capitalists. On the other hand, more the market is getting shrunk, more capitalism is tilting towards rampant speculation in various forms and trying to entangle common people into the same through massive resort to unregulated credit-drive the latest sub-prime crisis being one of the worst fallouts of the same. This is the vicious cycle of capitalism now in its death throes. In fact this crisis has thoroughly exposed the fragility of capitalist economy. All boastings about the omnipotence of globalization and market economy have proved to be bogus. And as we have been iterating at every step, the entire burden of this crisis is borne by the suffering oppressed people.

So the current crisis, as we all know, is not just confined to housing mortgage sector and stock market mayhem. As the root of this crisis lies in the capitalist system, tendencies towards widespread speculation, dismantling of controlling mechanisms and all other accompanying aberrations would surface again and again. Hence it is not going to be remedied simply by certain procedural changes or structural readjustments within the system. But that does not mean that we should not raise demands for enforcing stricter control over financial operations, identifying and meting out stringent punishment to the shady operators and manipulators, putting in place appropriate measures to slacken the grip of monopoly over economic

operation and preventing wild speculation so as to stem to some extent the economic bloodbath. In other words, adequate pressure of movement must be created on the government to bring back appropriate check and balance within the system and reflect a sense of moderation.

Circus of G-20 summit

Notwithstanding all pretensions and swirling around high-sounding economic jargons, did the G-20 summit address the problem from people's point of view as discussed above? After the meet, the leaders of these countries simply stated that they "are committed to take all necessary actions to restore the normal flow of credit through the financial system and ensure the soundness of systemically important institutions" without making it clear what such measures would be. If one goes through the proceedings of the summit, it would be observed that the bigwigs of the respective imperialist-capitalist countries were mostly busy in patching up their internal differences and contradictions over respective commercial interests. It may be added that before commencement of the summit, global leaders too were airing their differences. Germany and France had worked hand-in-hand in preparing for this summit and made it amply clear that they would present a united face in London to resist pressure from the US to spend more to revive their own economies. French President even threatened to quit the meeting if his demands were not met. He also firmly opposed and even stalled ahead of the summit a proposal of British Premier Gordon Brown for a new G20 deal of \$2-trillion-package, to end global recession as he felt that would benefit the US-UK duo at the cost of the interest of France and its allies. On the other hand, both US President Barack Obama and Gordon Brown sought to play down the differences, with Brown saying he saw likely agreement on issues including a possible \$100 billion boost for global trade, financial regulation, and support for economic growth and job creation. Though India in the previous WTO meetings had shown apparent belligerence against US-UK bloc over agricultural subsidy and other issues, given Indian rulers' increased hobnobbing with US imperialism, it could be envisaged that this time, the role of

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Compel governments under pressure of movement to ensure necessary check and balance in the system

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India would be to strike compromise, wrest some financial benefits like increased global institutional loans and thereby cement her position at the top table. The facts corroborate to this. The summit once again confirmed that centring on market, there is intense contradiction among the imperialist-capitalist countries. The anti-US tirade of the European bloc is not on principle or based on genuine opposition to the tyrannical acts of the US regime but stemming out of this contradiction. At the same time, there is also simultaneous endeavour to reconcile by way of some re-division of the global market and slackening of some rules through mutual agreement. In other words, though there is conflict over market domination, there are also constant efforts to minimize the conflict from aggregate class interest of imperialism-capitalism and keep it within a limit for the present.

That is why, though there was some apparent belligerence on the part of France, Germany and others before commencement of the summit, it was found that once the session started, the participants were keen to bury the hatchet and come to an understanding through mutual give and take. It did not take much time for them to come to a consensus that the present crisis is not due to any major flaw in the economy but due to certain lapse in regulatory mechanism and non-conformance to certain agreed principles of World Trade Organization. Once the required corrective steps in this regard are taken, economy would be back on its trail. And as expected, the suggested corrective steps included pumping in some additional funds in the economic system through IMF or World Bank. The entire plan as spelled out was to make this fund available for bailing out the bankrupt monopoly-owned speculative financial behemoths and culprit institutions, speculators and market manipulators, either as grant or in the form of easy term loan, so that they could be revived to carry out the same shady operations detrimental to the interest of the common people. This is exactly what the G-20 leaders meant while expressing their 'determination' to reform and modernize the institutions to reflect changes in the

world economy or 'bringing back buoyancy in the system'. Only to assuage the feelings of the rulers of countries like India and Brazil bargaining hard for an increase in their share of the booty, the summit declared that henceforth 'emerging and developing economies should have greater voice and representation'. In other words, the summit instead of addressing people's issues abetted a palpable crime, sought to demonstrate a kind of unity among the top twenty rich imperialist-capitalist regimes and projected G-20 as the world's main decision-making forum in regulating global economy.

Cunning argumentations of bourgeois economists

Thus it is amply clear that the so-called economic package or IMF grants are not aimed at ameliorating the suffering of the people but to somehow stave off the crisis. This is just a camouflage to shield the actual root cause of the problem. The apparent conflicts among the superpowers is not over giving any relief even to their respective own people but for wresting more concessions and privileges in international trade. Lest this camouflage should get exposed, a section of the watching bourgeois economists have swung into action to lend credence to the G-20 decisions. Cunningly, they, by creating a smokescreen of high-sounding economic phrases, terminologies and verbiages, have been trying to impress that the crisis has not originated because of the inherent flaws and aberrations of capitalist economy but because of explosive growth, what they call, financial capitalism which is nothing but sweet-coated term to denote rampant speculation. As we have shown above that crisis-ridden moribund decadent capitalism, among other things, is now increasingly tilting towards worst kind of speculation under the garb of financial and banking sector reforms, a euphemism for largescale privatization and dismantling of all control mechanisms. In order to hide this fact, the gentlemen holding brief for capitalist-imperialist economy are arguing that because of some lax in regulatory mechanism, financial capitalism had moved 'way ahead of the demand and supply-based real economy' and global financial assets

were more than three times the value of world output in recent years. They also hasten to add that for too many years the financial system had been 'hijacked by an overweening financial oligarchy which got away with compliant monetary policy, lax credit standards and crony credit-rating agencies'. Thus they, indirectly, admit that speculative bubble was inflated too much as we have seen in case of sub-prime crisis where speculative instruments like mortgage-based securities were having monetary value several times more than the actual value of the underlying assets i.e. the houses because loans were granted to people otherwise not eligible (lax credit standards) and rampant speculative trading over the mortgage-based securities or in their words, 'range of complex financial products and investment vehicles', was not just acquiesced in but encouraged by the so-called valuation agencies (crony credit-rating agencies). Yet their prescription for remedy is not for total ban on unscrupulous speculations but for 'somewhat taming it'. According to them, after the G-20 summit which decided to 'reform the financial institutions through massive bail out packages', would slow down the 'enhanced opacity of risk packages in the name of financial innovation'. What they intend to say is that true and full information in regard to actual valuation or the associated risks of the financial instruments like mortgage-backed securities in which speculative trading was soaring, were not available because the agencies entrusted with the responsibility were not making proper disclosures. Hence dishonest speculators and arbitrageurs (the market manipulators making speculative gains by buying or selling shares or securities in two trading centres or capital markets to take advantage of price differentials) were making fortunes at the cost of original issuers or holders of the instruments (producers). So there was 'opacity' in the 'financial innovations'. But now with G-20 taking the initiative, 'there will be a likely discernible movement back to producers from traders and arbitrageurs.'

Bail out suffering people, not shady operators

The glimpse of the stark reality

described in brief above bear eloquent testimony to this fact.

It goes without saying that the entire argument of theirs whatever pedantic opulence it may be variegated with is a big hoax. Everyday under camouflage of reforms or bringing back buoyancy in economy, the capitalist rulers in order to pass on the burden of their crisis on the toiling masses would bring out yet stringent measures that will wreck people's life and livelihood on a much intensified scale. If anyone possesses minimum concern for the suffering millions and feels little obligation to give minimum relief to them even within the prevailing bourgeois economic system, he, instead of playing a second fiddle to the concocted arguments of the pliant economists, would insist on measures that would increase the purchasing power of the people as well as arrest spiralling priceline of essential goods. That can be done if more job opportunities could be created and some of the discernible loopholes plugged. So pressure must be created on the governments to open the closed factories, set up labour-intensive industries in the public sector to provide permanent remunerative employment. If jobs cannot be offered, adequate unemployment allowance should be given. The necessary funds could well be arranged by curtailing huge unproductive expenditures on defence, refraining from allowing public exchequer finance, directly or indirectly, to share market speculation, stopping massive drainage of public money by reining corruption and enforcing austerity in the expenses of top-heavy administration.

Surely, these are implementable suggestions and people will welcome G-20 like summits only if the members meaningfully deliberate over modalities of operationalizing the same with due expediency—something that is, we all know, is never going to come by. And in fact it has not. While all proposals of G-20 meet were over fixing modalities of bailing out the corrupt and bankrupt speculators and cheaters basking under a flawed regulatory mechanism, there was no promise for spending 'additional funds' for any concrete step towards increasing the purchasing power of

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Sudan — the latest target of US imperialism

Sudan, the oil-rich mineral-rich East African country is now a prime target of the US imperialists after Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and Palestine. For a long time, US imperialists were trying to enter Africa in a domineering manner and devastate the people there. In Sudan, they are trying to get this sinister design materialized. Of late, it has been discovered that Sudan already known for its rich mineral and natural gas resources is a repository of huge oil. Its oil reserve is even richer than that of Saudi Arabia. That has made the US sharks slobbering and adding momentum to their intriguing activities. Finding the current regime of independent Sudan led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir unbending, their latest move has been to have him falsely indicted of war crimes and crime against humanity by requisitioning the intervention of the International Criminal Court (ICC) pliable to their dictates in July 2008. Just the way they had attacked and occupied independent sovereign Iraq under fraudulent pretext of President Saddam Hussein possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), so also here they have brought some fabricated charges against the Sudan President pointing at the large scale killing at Darfur in Western Sudan. Before narrating Darfur incidents, it is necessary to have an idea of the recent history of Sudan.

Sudan is a land of great ethnic diversity, with people having lived in harmony over centuries, intermarrying and sharing common cultural and religious traits. However long under the yoke of the imperialist rule, the British, it remained undeveloped and poor, despite its resources. Moreover, famine, drought, and other calamities caused acute food shortage followed by rampant starvation and malnutrition. Naturally, there have been accumulated grievances among the poverty-stricken hungry tribal people seething to break out in revolt. Lest this outrage should be directed against the exploiting British imperialists and their local servitors, the imperialist rulers in pursuit of their age-old policy of divide and rule to perpetuate their colonial rule, instigated various ethnic groups against each other to divert the outburst of rage. They planfully fomented mistrust and division among the different ethnic groups so that they are interlocked in internecine clashes, and remain ever poor, underdeveloped and weak. Thus, the tribal-populated south Sudan has remained a hotbed of sinister imperialist machinations and torn apart by sustained ethnic conflicts and clashes shattering normal life. The situation so worsened that being instigated by the imperialist sharks, ethnic conflicts and divisive mentalities not only lingered on but have led to protracted war between the north and south Sudan ever since the British left the country in 1956. Fratricidal bloodshed has so far taken a toll of around two million lives, millions more were displaced. The imperialist powers, principally Britain, France and the US, have

kept alive this internal conflict by playing off one group against the other. Independent Sudan, fostered by a nationalist fervour, tried to follow a policy of development of its economic resources not guided by the imperialist dictates. It has not granted the US access to its oil resources, nor did it support the US-led war against Iraq and its subsequent occupation. So it incurred infuriated displeasure of the US imperialist regime which in order to destabilize the country had launched in 1998 a missile attack on one of the largest pharmaceutical plants of Sudan, producing 60% of medicines needed for its domestic consumption on the plea that chemical weapons were being manufactured there. Not unexpectedly though, the allegation was later proved to be false by an investigating team led by Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney General, a noted Human Rights activist and President of International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee. No reparations were given for this destruction which annihilated the facility that used to produce 60% of the available medicines in Sudan. Since then, Sudan has to perforce purchase medicines from other countries.

Given such a backdrop, in Darfur and in different parts of Western Sudan, groups rebellious and militant in nature have been operative-fomenting ethnic chauvinism and abetting secessionist frenzy among the disgruntled. It is no secret that these groups were instigated by foreign agencies and NGO's which also provided them with arms, finance and all sorts of backing. Reportedly these agencies are in direct or indirect link with

imperialist-capitalist forces like the US, France, Israel, etc. That is to say, the sympathy and support of the capitalist-imperialists in the US and Europe went to the rebel groups in Sudan. Some of the rebels backed thus by the imperialists had even gone to the extent of organizing coup d'etat in order to engineer secession of certain parts of Sudan which served as the ground for Darfur crisis. That the Sudan government was intent upon getting over the 'Darfur Crisis' continuing over the years is apparent from their allowing the African Union for Peace Keeping Force to intervene to stop killings at Darfur and extended all cooperation. After protracted negotiations, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed at Nairobi in 2005 by the Sudanese government and the largest group of Darfur militants, with the beleaguered Sudanese people looking forward to the prospect of peace and reconciliation. But just when the first tentative steps for a peaceful solution to the ethnic problems were being taken, the US and its allies stoked the fire in Darfur, seeking to intervene and encroach. Rending heaven and earth with cries of 'equality', 'justice', 'freedom', etc. and branding Darfur killings as 'genocide' the US imperialists were trying to fix President of Sudan. In 2006 at the initiative of the African Union the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed by the Sudanese Government and the largest group of Darfur militants as a step to promote the process of healing and reconciliation. But imperialist interference had been blocking the resolution of the conflict, and other groups enjoying the support of imperialist powers had been and are still keeping the conflict alive. Finding most of their machinations to overpower Sudanese government led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir falling through, the imperialist powers led by US imperialists brought false charge of human rights violation against President Omar citing the ethnic conflicts they themselves had engineered and fraudulently implicated him by influencing the ICC, now functioning almost as a stooge of the imperialist bloc. Seemingly, at the behest of the imperialist powers, ICC started criminal proceedings against Sudanese leaders. In 2007 the ICC judges issued warrants against two high level Sudanese officials for

crimes against humanity and war crimes. On July 14, 2008, ICC indicted President Omar for war crimes and crimes against humanity. It may be added that ICC came into being on 1 July 2002 to investigate genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Though US initially did not join it directly, experts, of late, have "detected a positive change in the attitude of the US... noting in particular recent American "offers to assist the prosecutor in areas consistent with US interests". (source: Guardian as printed in The Hindu 04-05-09) It is a clear indication that like the UNO, ICC is also becoming a rubber stamp of US imperialist interests. Otherwise, how can one explain its complete silence over, among other incidents, the illegal aggression and occupation of sovereign Iraq by the US imperialist regime?

A section of Western bourgeois media is attempting to point out Darfur killings as a failure on part of Sudan government to handle ethnic strife's and as an expression of conflicting interests of the government and the Sudanese people. Acting with ulterior motive, the same media had unleashed another malicious campaign portraying the civil conflict of Sudan as a racial one, between the Arabs and the African Blacks. But as pointed out by one commentator, "All parties involved in the Darfur conflict whether they are referred to as 'Arab' or as 'African' - are equally indigenous and equally Black. All are Muslim and all are locals." The right-wing groups in US and Europe have launched a propaganda highlighting the sufferings of the people of Darfur and are calling for direct military intervention and a permanent presence of western powers to manoeuvre the situation.

Another group of the Western bourgeois media sought to describe it as a planned ethnic cleansing organized by the Sudan government. But in face of questions from members of public the very same media was forced to admit that the conflict exists in that region alone but the members of same ethnic groups are safe in Khartoum and other cities. Although the US has levelled the allegation that African tribes are being destroyed, the leaders of African Union have strongly condemned the arrest

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Dizzy embedded corruption denies the poor even what is statutorily mandated

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still worst. While working if some of these women conceive, they never get any maternity facilities, essential in any civilized society. Even after giving birth to a child, the mother is not entitled to take her infant who is still fed on breast milk to the working place. In NREGA this issue of childcare is criminally neglected. What is more inhuman, these mothers who cannot fancy to have a few more days' rest immediately after the childbirth, thanks to tearing poverty, are snubbed or refused work, if they attend their work a little late because of pressing need of their child's care on any day. In the absence of crèche, these infants are left uncared, unsafe with mothers pining away.

Moreover, the Act does not provide the right to a job automatically. A person enlisted as unemployed will have to demand for the job. So, it is a demand-based Act. This plays as deterrence to getting job. Owing to ignorance and absence of organization, a large part of the village population is unable to demand job and hence is deprived of it. Those who demand it are refused on a plea or other, often snubbed and rebuffed. Even one getting it somehow has to undergo great trouble and harassment to draw remuneration. So, what all this indicates is that the government is trying to create such a situation, most difficult and fraught with stumbling blocks, so that the people on their own lose faith and enthusiasm about the scheme itself. This is the conspiracy the government is going in the name of providing welfare to the rural people.

Further, opening of accounts in bank or post office for a job-card holder to draw wages is imperative under the Act. But no arrangement has been made to open such accounts of millions of such job-card holders, nor there is a system of regular functioning of these accounts. So, already in the understaffed banks and post offices following the job-squeezing mandate by the government, almost no A/c. has been opened. Though without this A/c., no one would be able to draw the wages. This has compelled a huge job-card holders have been thrown out of the

purview of this scheme. This is how the scheme has been operationalized, the tall claim notwithstanding.

Confession of deep-rooted corruption

Above all, there is no accountability of expenditure on the part of the authorities as revealed from the performance record of the Act. To give effect to the Act, a set of panels of engineers required to be set up to make timely and transparent costing of works in regard to payment of labour. But the CAG report unravels that in as many as 20 of the states it studied, there were no such panels. This betrays how deep the corruption has penetrated into the scheme eating up its very core. In fact, corruption has been institutionalized here. This venomous virus is playing havoc with its wild fangs. With no social audit, no financial accountability, no maintenance of records, no monitoring, no evaluation as well as complete lack of transparency at every level, the Act stands in gross violation of legal status. The scheme is fraught with instances of diversion, misutilization and delay in release of state share. Under this Act all the rural unemployed are entitled to get job cards. They can apply and demand the jobs. For this one need not belong to BPL list. Entitlement of the poorest of the poor to job is beyond question. But when these very poor people in the BPL list do not get job, the scope of those outside the list is simply extraneous. Only those get the job-cards, who have the political lineage and backing. So, Very few genuine incumbents have benefited from this scheme. Even the BPL lists according to which the jobs should be allotted have not included the genuine poor. Instead, ridiculously though, the employment rolls have been crowded with the names of the rich. It is quite amazing how the names of multi-millionaire cricketers and film personalities like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly, Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan in the Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh could enter the list of as beneficiaries! This not only underscores sheer negligence coupled with ill-conceived preparation of the lists but smacks of gaping corruption too. The ruling

parties, their representatives in Panchayats, the government officials especially those of the panchayats, the contractors, and the police forging a vicious nexus are the main players in this corruption. This nexus, the key executors of the scheme, has been plundering the fund making quick buck out of public exchequer. Not only cash, it is looting thousands of tons of food grains meant to meet the basic need of the poorest of the poor. Such naked corruption has completely defeated the purpose, if whatever had. The middlemen mainly the panchayet representatives and officials backed by the ruling parties' political managers often confiscate the job cards against false assurance of keeping them in safe custody. In reality, the wages against these cards are theft of and usurped through them by fudging the master-rolls. The corruption is so hideous that there exists a wide gap between the number of cards issued and that of actual households. The number of cards is much more than the existing households. Moreover, entries in the job cards and master-rolls are often found fictitious. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal are fraught with such fake entries. Funds are looted and distributed among the parties of the nexus to swell their coffers. In this context the Central Employment Guarantee Council specifically pointed to the corrupt political leaders in power who in connivance with their administrative hangers-on that is, the bureaucracy have turned the scheme, destroying whatever genuine beneficiary content it had for the poor, into their own source of minting pelf. In subverting and sabotaging the scheme this vicious coterie does not allot jobs to the real needy who apply for work under the scheme. Even they do not acknowledge the applications of the poor job seekers done properly through Form B-1. The panchayats hush up these applications and report to the higher authorities saying that the applicants did not turn up for interview – the worst deception, no doubt. This nexus rampantly embezzles the fund allocated for the purpose in its midway from sanctioning point to the disbursing stages. Such is the all-pervasive corruption that has

menacingly wrapped the scheme. Indeed, this has brought the scheme to naught almost totally with the governments criminally conniving at and allowing the culprits to go scot-free cocking snook at the Act.

The Central Government, which only the other day trumpeted in eulogy of the scheme, had itself recently admitted its failure. One year after initiation of the scheme, a review meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC) in presence of the Union Minister for Rural Development was held on 30 April '08 in New Delhi. In this review meeting it came to light that in most of the districts of the country this scheme miserably came a cropper. They had utterly failed to carry out the scheme to its mission.

According to Council, the vested interest in the rural society played havoc in scuttling the scheme. The land owning class, the rural capitalists, had colluded with the panchayat cliques in power in committing this misdeed. The cat has come out of the bag at last! The Council reports that the governments, both central and state, have no coordination between them, nor have they genuine intention to take the benefit of the scheme to the poor. Especially, the utter negligent attitude of the state governments is the great obstacle to its implementation, according to Council. In fact, the scheme has turned farce when viewed from implementation process. A vast scheme like this has no infrastructure for implementation. In fact, the scheme turned farce when viewed from implementation process.

The evaluation reports that have so far come out show that the scheme is providing least benefit to the deserving people in most states. It has turned into a programme of dishing out a little dole only to the favoured few. The glaring examples are West Bengal, North Bihar, Bundelkhand in UP, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In most cases, only a few out of vast number of applicants have been given the job cards, and that too has been done with brazen discrimination on the basis of caste, sex, religion and party affiliation. The weaker sections and the poor

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Organized people's movement must force government to provide 365 days' job at proper wage

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are meted out such ill-treatment at the time of allotting job cards that they, especially the tribes, feel reluctant to even complain to the authorities.

Scheme—another addition in the list of hoaxes

As it stands, the scheme turns out to be yet another farce public programme. It is an inane tall promise with no impact on alleviation of poverty, redress of destitution an distress of the poor. However, this is not the case with this scheme alone. All the public programmes as Food for Work, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) etc. introduced so far in this country have ended with the same consequences. The beneficiaries are not the real poor but the bureaucracy including police, the political mandarins, and the powerful lobbies of the downtrodden as mentioned already.

Farce of G-20 summit

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the people by taking concrete steps mentioned in the foregoing paragraph or giving adequate subsidy to food supply and other public utilities and services so as to bring them within reach of the suffering people. It is in this context of the perpetrators of the crisis trying to hoodwink people through surfeit of counterfeit moves as is the case with this G-20 summit declaration and the vile attempts from the quarters of vested interest to defend the same that the importance of people's conscious struggle against the capitalist economic assault assumes more importance.

People must assert their rights

It is true that there can be no escape from this until capitalism is overthrown. But that does not imply that till that happens as culmination of a revolutionary process, toiling people will take this as fate accompli and bear untold sufferings. While they remain alert of the various sinister measures adopted by the crisis-ridden ruling capitalism, they must raise their voice against all brutal financial savagery of the capitalist rulers and build up organized sustained movement on definite demands to defend and assert their legitimate rights, and to

They embezzle, siphon off and or usurp the fund raised through extortionist taxes and revenues from the public and is invested in such public programmes. The benefits never percolate to the lowest rung of the public to repeat and reemphasize. The latter are rather further impoverished. They cannot find any place within the ambit of the scheme or programme. It is this experience that forced Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of the country, had to admit that out of a rupee spent by the government, benefits of just seven paise reach the deserved beneficiaries.

Since the money spent in any public work is drawn from the public exchequer, a social audit is imperative. It is essential for transparency, to check whether the money is utilized properly and not gobbled up by the corrupt sharks. In the function of NREGA no such real social audit takes place in any stage. The system itself is not found

meet basic necessities of life. It is only under pressure of movement that they can wrest some of their genuine demands and impose some restraint on the ruling monopolists in their exploitative run. Toiling masses of all countries must therefore come forward and vehemently oppose the bourgeois conspiracy to shift the burden of this global capitalist economic meltdown on them. In every country, the working class alongwith other sections of the toiling masses must join hands, articulate their demands and create tremendous pressure of movement on their respective governments to stop bailing out crooked economic offenders and institutions and withdraw all measures to make common people bear the burden of capitalist crisis. It is heartening to see people rising up against capitalist globalization in different parts of the world. Even G-20 summit venue has also been witness to such outburst of people's rage and discontent What is needed is that all these protest agitations and stirs are well-coordinated and integrated into a worldwide massive people's movement to compel the protagonists of capitalist globalization yield to the legitimate demands of the people.

in the process. Even where such social audit takes place, it is not available for public scrutiny. The data on work done and payment made are kept rigorously hidden as was seen in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh., in Panchmahal and Dahod districts of Gujarat. Even the authorities defy RTI (right to information) stipulations and resist bringing out any record. This is common everywhere. Actually the NREGA does not have any system of monitoring and vigilance. Again, this social audit wherever undertaken has turned into a money-spinning issue, as evident in frantic competition to get this work. Even the NGOs queue for such lucrative job.

NREGS is nothing but the merger of the previous programmes. In this sense there was no need of the scheme as such. The Administrative Reforms Commission opposed its introduction. Naturally, the claim that the Scheme is a novel in nature or borders unique distinction for having a statutory status is futile. Multitude of previous projects contained such right to a few days' employment legally guaranteed, but no project had any impact on the poverty or unemployment. The simple reason is that the number of days of work actually provided to the rural people through these projects was far below the declared ones. Secondly, even if the announced number of days of work is ensured, they are so fewer and the wages associated so slenderer that it could not even touch the fringe of the problem of poverty. The glaring example is IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme). This programme was introduced with the original mission of fetching benefit to the rural people by eradicating indigence among them. But what happened during its 20-year operation was that 86% of its beneficiaries failed to go beyond the poverty level. Some economists then, as of now, harped on saying, that the lower growth of agricultural production was the main obstacle for eradication of poverty. But the argument does not hold good at all since the period under reference it was a highly publicized stage of 'green revolution'. With application of chemical fertilizers, high yielding variety of seeds, developed

pesticides the agricultural production was claimed to have risen to an enormous height even in this mostly non-irrigated country with fragmented lands. So lower growth of agricultural production during the period of the Programme was a lame excuse and not true at all. Still millions of people both rural and urban groaned under grinding poverty. Particularly it stared in the face of rural population menacingly. Despite such pretended attempt, this poverty could not be wiped off. Rather it entrenched deep into the society.

Task imperative

So it is clear that on every count, the much-trumpeted NREGS is a story of failure, whether by design or in implementation. But the toiling people should not take all these aberrations, injustices and deprivations lying low. They must close their ranks and be organized on the platform of united sustained democratic movement to compel the government yield to their legitimate demands. Same is true in regard to NREGS as well.

It is to be noted that only under the pressure of the people's movement, particularly of the peasants of the country, the government has been forced to introduce NREGA. But a frantic conspiracy is afoot on the part of the vested interests to foil whatever minimal benefits accrued upon the peasants from the Act. People must be on alert. However modicum for even a single person to eke out the need of life, this scanty benefit too, acquired through struggle cannot to allowed to be scuttled. The rural millions must fight against this conspiracy and ensure that the Scheme keeps on continuing.

Secondly, the government have very slyly denied the poor peasants to feed all through the year. They have offered job for only 100, less than one-third of a year. The government has not underscored how the days, less than one-third of a year. The Act is conspicuously silent about the rest of the year. people under the scheme would feed himself and the members of his family on the rest 265 days of the year. . It is simply a fraudulence making the people grossly victimized to it. So the people must

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Sudanese people only to decide fate of their motherland

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warrant and any attempt towards external intervention in Sudan's internal affairs. It has come out in the media that "On July 19, 2007 President George W. Bush, former US President, said that he had considered taking unilateral military action to halt the mass killing running rampant in Darfur. The US imperialists after instigating the internal conflict are now crying hoarse about 'genocide' in Darfur. The Western right wing organizations, the spokespersons of the capitalists, and even some confused liberal groups are raising the demands for external intervention to 'save' Darfur. US and UK leaders like George Bush, Condoleezza Rice, John Bolton, General Colin Powell, General Wesley Clark, Tony Blair, etc. have advocated intervention in Sudan to stop the 'genocide'. We are seeing a pattern in the modus operandi of the imperialists. However, it is facing difficulty in rallying international cooperation in its conspiracy to intervene in Sudan. The African Union and the Arab League have opposed the ICC manoeuvre to indict President of Sudan and the African Union has also considered the indictment scuppering the peace efforts in the Darfur region. Moreover, the Sudan Government had earlier commissioned Malaysia,

China and India, so as to counter the US infiltration. This has further infuriated the US, since its designs of grabbing oil assets of Sudan are foiled with US having to face China and India in its machinations.

It is known to all peace-loving democratic-minded people round the globe that the imperialist super powers like the US or UK first perpetrate communal or ethnic divisions in a country and then makes that a plea to prepare the ground for imperialist intervention. In order to topple the socialist government led by Nicholas Ceausescu in Rumania, the imperialist powers organized ethnic rebellion in Rumania's border areas and used the western bourgeois media to launch a hate campaign against him. Likewise in erstwhile Yugoslavia, the US and other Western imperialist powers first orchestrated ethnic conflicts among Serbs, Croats and Bosnians and then raised the hue and cry of genocide to dislodge the socialist government led by Slobodan Milosevic. We have witnessed the same design in Cambodia, and Rwanda. In Iraq, they have been instigating divides among the Shia, Sunni and Kurdish people and pitting one against the other to consolidate their illegal occupation. It is no secret how these self-proclaimed human rights champions are perpetrating barbaric

crimes in the prisons of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib. Given such a context, it is not unjustified to apprehend that the doctored indictment of the President of Sudan – Omar al-Bashir is but a prelude to planned, all-out attack and aggression on Sudan. It is now very clear that in the unipolar world today, any country or individual refusing to toe the line of US imperialists might at any time find being impeached by either International Court of Justice (ICJ) which held a trial of Milosevic over fabricated charges or ICC with a heap of concocted allegations stacked against. This is how US imperialism, chieftain of world imperialism-capitalism, is pursuing overlordism and brigandage throughout the world.

There is no second opinion to the fact that however grave the situation at Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan may be, it is for the Sudanese

people to decide their own fate. They are the sole custodians of their country. They only have exclusive right to decide fate of their own motherland. It is for Sudanese people to determine whether there is any war crime, violation of human rights and book those responsible for the same. No foreign interference or external pressure can be allowed, not to speak of any intervention or political blackmailing by the imperialists particularly US imperialists. It is incumbent on all democratic minded anti-imperialist people, forces and organizations to stand by the Sudan government and the peace-loving Sudanese people determined to protect the honour and dignity of their motherland. It enjoins upon the fighting working people to extend their solidarity to the people and government of Sudan in their brave resistance against US-led imperialist machination.

Decision to hold Third International Anti-imperialist Conference in 2010

In a meeting at Hotel Campanile in Paris held between 22nd -23rd May 2009, the Secretariat of the International Anti-imperialist and people's Solidarity Coordinating Committee (IAPSCC) decided the Third International Conference of the committee to be held in the second week of November in 2010. Regarding the venue the first priority would be Paris, while other countries suggested have been Syria, Nepal or Sudan. There would be about 150 foreign delegates and as many local delegates as the hosts may arrange. Those who attended the secretariat meeting were Manik Mukherjee – General Secretary, India, Alexander Moumbaris – France, Sara Flounders – USA, Mohammad Kassem – Lebanon, Muhammed Tay – Lebanon, Roberto Gabriele – Italy, Carolus Wimmer – Venezuela, Ninu Chapagain – Nepal and Mobinul Haider Chowdhury – Bangladesh. Serious illness of his daughter held back Ramsey Clark from attending the meeting. It may be mentioned here that this Committee was formed in 2007 in Kolkata, with Ramsay Clark, former US Attorney General and a distinguished figure of international anti-imperialist movement as the President and Comrade Manik Mukherjee as General Secretary. IAPSCC was the co-convenor of the Beirut International Forum, January 2009, and a large contingent of IAPSCC delegates actively participated in the Forum. Mohammad Kassem and Muhammed Tay, the two secretariat members, had played important roles in the Organizing Committee of the Forum. Another secretariat member, Alexander Moumbaris, took special initiative in organizing the last secretariat meeting. Ever since the first conference, the committee has undertaken the task of coordinating the anti-imperialist struggle and the fighting organizations of different countries. During the last one and a half years contacts were established with anti-imperialist organizations and individuals in several countries like Senegal, Sudan, Australia, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Syria, Iran, and the work of coordination proceeded satisfactorily. Incidentally, Comrade Mankik Mukherjee on his way to the meet, visited Syria and had long talks with the leaders of the Bath Socialist Party.

NREGS — a deceptive sop to befool the people

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demand not the 100 days of work only, the government must ensure the job for the whole year. At the same, the peasants must voice for increasing the daily wages offered to them under the Act. For, it is a common knowledge how soaring are the prices constantly in the present-day situation. It is completely going beyond the capacity of the common people to maintain life. Essential commodities to keep body and soul together are not within the reach of purchase of the poor. Given the situation, it is absolutely naïve to believe that that the wages of mere Rs.70 would suffice for a family however economic in size it might be to lead a normal life. So, the demand must be raised to augment the present wages of Rs.70 to

minimum Rs.100/. Simultaneously, the people must demand of the government also to ensure time to time upward revision of this wages keeping in pace with revision of the of price index.

However, it is to be remembered that the government surrounded by and succumbed to the vicious coterries of the vested interests and the nexus formed by the corrupt ruling parties and the government officials would obviously not concede to these demands. This entails the peasants to launch all-out struggle by forming people's committees at the grass-root levels. Not only all sections of toiling millions but well-meaning people from all walks of life should come forward to extend their support to this struggle of the most exploited section of the people.

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