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60 year celebration of Indian Parliament

Conceals bitter truth beneath glib eloquence

The Indian Parliament, the so-called sacrosanct pillar of the bourgeois parliamentary democracy of the country celebrated its 60th anniversary on 13 May, 2012. As usual there were customary ritualistic words and display of sentiments, frothy recollections and piercing self-criticisms or iron-strong pledges, warm eulogy of millions and fitting media coverage. But the vast humanity of the country living around this institution of their country apparently remained as placid as a frozen sea on this 'august' occasion. Rather, certain odd notes disturbed the symphony of celebration. And certain associated pronouncements seriously questioned the intent and purpose.

First, there were different meets of the two Houses, Lok Sabha (LS) and Rajya Sabha (RS) and together. The evening joint meet was held in a packed central hall; but in an earlier meet of the Lok Sabha, all its members did not feel inclined to place due importance on the occasion and they were absent for different reasons. Nevertheless, in every meet members expressed resolve to 'maintain the dignity of the Parliament' asking the government to commit 'to nation-building'. They expressed grave concern over 'frequent disruptions' of the sessions and need to address the problem on a 'war footing' looking for a mechanism. They even lamented that 'The daily disruptions ... are leading many outside to question the efficacy of this institution and its place in public affairs'. Incidentally, in 1997 on the 50th anniversary of the Independence, too, the Parliament had expressed the same concern and in 2012 it was still searching for mechanism! At the same time they expressed pride to have often burnt 'midnight oil' to 'discuss and debate' 'some of the most important issues' concerning 'people of India and the world', though some important members pointed out that 'Deliberation is less frequent', 'legislation at times hasty' or asked the members to seriously consider to make '100 sittings a year' 'mandatory'. They eulogized 'millions of poor people' for their having 'kept the portals of democracy alive by their participation', for their ensuring that only the ballot will change the government' in India and held firm belief that 'the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest'. Yet cutting 'across the party lines, while members asserted

that the supremacy of the Parliament must be preserved', they looked down upon people holding that it is the Parliament that makes laws and not the 'mobs'. In their service to this august occasion concerning one important bourgeois institution, the bourgeois media even stepped ahead to comment that in democracy the parliament is supreme and that there is no place for 'politics on streets' in democracy.

It is not at all difficult to understand that beneath this flurry of words on the occasion of 60 year of the Indian Parliament there is flowing a clever intention of concealing bitter truths with a view to further sustaining in people of the country, the illusion of parliament and parliamentary democracy. At the same time it is also true that this prolonged parliamentary system of governance and more particularly the constitutional functioning of the parliament have raised serious questions in the thinking section of the society. How far the 60 year celebration of the Parliament is significant in people's life must be judged on the anvil of these points.

Parliament, as an institution, is the concrete expression of the bourgeois parliamentary democracy. The latter is presently the system prevailing in our country as well as in many capitalist countries of the world, which along with the government it elects, are in charge of framing legislature concerning governance and day-to-day functioning of the capitalist state, covering all aspects of life and society, economic-politics- social-cultural. To that extent they are accountable to people for whom they govern the country. So, if one

decides to judge performance of the Parliament on the occasion of its celebration of 60 years of its existence, should it not be the right thing first to look for the fall out in the country and on its people during these years? Only that would provide the real yardstick to grasp the whole gamut of the function of the Indian Parliament during these long years.

People's condition during 60 years of the Indian Parliament

During this slightly more than six decades of independent Indian capitalist state and its marginally younger parliamentary democracy, as the ruling class have ruled over the people of the country waving the banner of 'sovereign parliament' and 'sacrosanct rule under

parliamentary democracy', the vast majority of the Indian people, however may the rulers try to manipulate the exact figure of 'below poverty level line', have been dragged down to live a subhuman life virtually without even two square meals a day, without proper education or any at all, without minimum health facilities and clothing to maintain dignity and decency, without shelter, even without a job to earn the minimum of live lihood. During these years and under this cruel capitalist regime they have not only been bled white from ruthless exploitation, discrimination and oppression, rather they are being thrown nearer and nearer to virtual extermination. Leave aside the

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SUCI(C) vehemently opposes sinister US design to move naval fleet in the Bay of Bengal to escalate tension and war psychosis in South Asia and calls for developing powerful anti-imperialist militant peace movement worldwide to thwart this heinous move

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes sinister US design to move naval fleet in the Bay of Bengal to escalate tension and war psychosis in South Asia and calls for developing powerful anti-imperialist militant peace movement worldwide to thwart this heinous move Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in a statement issued on 15 June 2012, said : We vehemently oppose the sinister move of the US imperialists to deploy 60% of its naval fleet in the arc extending from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean for increased surveillance on South China Sea and clandestinely set up a naval base for its monstrous infamous seventh fleet in and around Chittagong port on the ostensive plea of containing China and thereby precipitate a perpetual tension throughout the entire region. It is evident that in the absence of mighty socialist camp that worked as deterrent to war machinations by the US imperialists and their associates, the latter is now unbridled in pursuit of its military offensive round the globe for extending its sphere of influence. It is also worth noting that India, as an emerging imperialist power, is shrewdly playing on the contradiction between China and US by maintaining an apparent good diplomatic relationship with both but at the same time is developing increasingly close economic, political and particularly military relationship with the US imperialists to buttress its expansionist aspiration. This undoubtedly poses serious threat to the peace and security in the entire South Asian region and hence we urge upon all peace and freedom-loving people round the globe to realize the gravity of the situation and close their rank to develop worldwide a powerful organized well-coordinated anti-imperialist militant peace movement which alone, in the given condition, constitute a powerful bulwark against the war offensives of the US imperialism and its allies.

60 year celebration of Indian Parliament

Decadent capitalism has affected parliament gravely

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graver issues like fabulously consolidated, hence immensely powerful utterly pro-monopolist, pro-rich economy accompanied by an equally strong parallel economy of black money being generated daily and continuously with full support and backing of the government, or the highly corrupt, criminalized political arena developed into a source of power and pelf, rather a lucrative business for moneyed people, even on the questions of minimum security of life, basic social support, minimum yearning for a social ambience of values- ethics and morality free of corruption, nepotism-favouritism, a dark void stares blank in the face of common people. Hapless, helpless, radarless the vast majority of Indians stoop with the drudgery of life; parliament and parliamentary democracy appear as unfamiliar notes resonating from faraway lands of the moneyed people, the monopolists and their cohorts: this is what the people have earned from this prolonged parliamentary system of governance of the country.

The Parliament and the government elected by it, are also aware of this abject plight of people. They know it well that this totally exploitative rule they have helped to continue during the post-independence period and which have brought people to this condition only benefiting the handful of monopolists and their stooges, is naturally generating strong resentment and wrath among people. May be people are yet to realize it precisely that it is the exploitative capitalist system that lies at the root of all these evils for them, of all their plight. But from their experiences of life, they are at least not ready to accept the hollow words ringing out from the houses of the Parliament celebrating its 60 years.

Why has the parliament been through this drastic degeneration?

All those who feel deeply concerned at this rapid decline or degeneration of the parliament and parliamentary democracy, should note that there is a definite history behind the emergence of the bourgeois parliamentary system. Any student of history is aware that the modern Parliament and the bourgeois parliamentary system were introduced by the rising bourgeoisie during their fight

against feudalism and monarchy to establish their own rule through the bourgeois democratic revolution. The bourgeoisie were then a progressive force for society to advance; they pleaded for equality-liberty and fraternity; they stood for individual freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of people to choose their own government; they promoted a laissez-faire economy with free competition between individual capitals. Hence the fundamental premise of their new system was: Not a few landlords or monarchs would rule the country. Rather people hold the sovereign power to rule over their country. As direct rule of people is not feasible, there arose the concept and method that people must elect their representatives to take charge of legislature and governance. The Parliament became the house of those representatives of people and the parliamentary system of governance gave effect to the principle of rule of people. The founding fathers of the bourgeois democracy, Bentham, Mill, Rousseau, Voltaire and others thus conceived their system of governance. In this parliamentary democracy though a handful of people actually formed the government, they ruled with the consent of people and they remained accountable to people for their activities. So it was a Rule by Consent; at the same time, it also provided the Right to Dissent, and the Right to the Minorities who dissented. It offered Freedom of Expression and free thoughts. The bourgeois parliamentary government was thus a government "Of the people, for the people, by the people", the famous categorization of democracy by Abraham Lincoln. To ensure that the government gives effect to people's aspirations- demands and desires in totality, it will be fully accountable to the Parliament, while the latter will be accountable to people themselves. At the same time, to prevent democracy sliding down into 'mobocracy', these makers of bourgeois democracy also called for development of people's consciousness, so that they are aware of their rights and responsibilities, they are capable of judging the performance of the government and the Parliament. And this is to be attained through constant debates and discussions on thousand and one problems of people's life, which would hold the activities of the Parliament and the

government open to people and in concrete expression of which process the British Parliament used to hold virtually continuous sessions for days together. There also arose the concept of the Fourth Estate, the free Press, which bore the responsibility of constantly gauging people's opinions and even framing those which would help the Parliament to carry on its business in people's interests. Later, in further elaboration of these concepts, men like Harold Laski, the well known liberal democrat, maintained that there should be innumerable voluntary organizations of people beyond the Parliament to act as watchdog of democracy. Those will help the people to keep the parliament under constant vigil and scrutiny. Hence there must be unfettered freedom of association and freedom of expression to help people form those organizations and present their views and opinions. Those organizations will see to it that the members of the Parliament do not stop at framing laws only for people; they themselves must abide by those. Those will also find out if under changed conditions, it is necessary to frame new laws to meet the demands and aspirations of people. And these voluntary organizations included the political parties, trade unions, associations and unions of people of different walks of life, who through their extra-parliamentary movements involving people raised their demands on burning problems of life and kept constant pressure upon the government, the Parliament and its members. Thus in the heyday of bourgeois democracy, the bourgeoisie stood not only for the democratic right to movement, they even guaranteed the freest right for people's democratic movement outside the Parliament on their democratic demands. Even there were thoughts and discussions on whether people should enjoy the right to propagate cause and need of rebellion. People's opinions and people's extra-parliamentary movements 'on the streets' were considered decisive providing people with the power to assert upon the Parliament and the government.

These were the tenets the founding fathers of bourgeois democracy envisaged to ensure that it is fundamentally different from the autocratic monarchy. Even, to prevent such democracy itself sliding down into autocracy, to prevent concentration of power in

the hands of a single organ of the state, namely the Parliament, there emerged the theory of separation of power into the hands of legislative, executive or bureaucracy and judiciary each stipulated with their own specific duties and tasks. Thus, even though parliamentary democracy evolved to uphold the interests of the rising bourgeoisie, the newly emerging capitalists, it reflected people's aspirations to a large extent. The period was however brief and faded away as capitalism slid down into crisis.

Decadence of capitalism changed character of parliament too

But as soon as monopoly appeared in society, that brought about a marked change in the system of governance and in the functioning of the state. In place of free competition, there developed strong concentration and consolidation of capital in the hands of a few, the monopolists; in place of equality and liberty, the change led to concentration of power in the hands of a few and curtailment of rights and freedom of the vast majority. History has delineated how the intense market crisis of the capitalist system led to all out social crisis, monopoly leading into imperialism, the highest and most decadent stage of capitalism, where unable to get over the crisis within the country, the highly consolidated finance capital ventures out into exploring and exploiting markets of other countries and in that process curbs the independence and sovereignty of the latter. The proponents of liberty – equality and fraternity have turned into ruthless colonialist-imperialists and presently the neo-colonialists. In the realm of culture there came up mechanization and regimentation of thoughts effected by a fusion of spiritualism resting upon faith and technological aspects of science thus circumventing the true secular scientific rational outlook towards life. Thus in the present age of decadent capitalism, that is the imperialism, the ruling capitalist class, rather the monopolists in one and all countries are moving towards fascism, as pointed out by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of the post-Lenin era and the founder General Secretary of our Party, even keeping the façade of parliamentary democracy and the Constitution in tact.

Thus, as the crisis of capitalism

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Bharat Bandh of 31st May : What gift it brought to people

What is going on before everybody's eyes? Lately, the government at the centre— at the moment it is the Congress-led UPA government— once more increased petrol prices by a steep margin of Rs 7.50 per litre, and, this, with the old alibi that several times meanwhile international crude prices had risen; hence any more subsidies towards keeping the prices level were unsustainable. Except for a lunatic, everybody else understands that this measure is certain to set off a chain reaction leading to rise in prices of all essential commodities. And that would shatter the life of people still more, who are already overburdened. Earlier in it, before the election to four state assemblies, the government had indicated that prices of petroleum products would be raised by another instalment. Evidently, the announcement was held back for the election to pass off without casting shadow on the electoral fate of the parties in power. The election over, the dose has been administered, but in part. Part remains, obviously in consideration of the impending election to the post of President of the country.

Raising the prices of petroleum-products recurrently has been an instrument of choice of the capitalist rulers and their subservient parties as one among the most convenient means to fetch benefit for the class, especially when it comes to warding off threats to its interests at the expense of the interests of the masses. The reasons are obvious. Being the most workable source of energy, petroleum and petroleum-products together with coal and gas enter into industries, agriculture, transport, and the like — in a word, the entirety of modern life — as the omniscient energy-component of production activity. This indispensability within framework of private ownership of the means of production makes the energy resource a useful instrument in the hands of the rulers with which to fleece people under the smokescreen of talks of compulsiveness of 'national interests'. That the capitalist rulers and its most trusted agents will take this recourse goes without saying. The points to note are that this wretched capitalism has not only taken the repressive state machine in its grip, it carries out its design by politics of chicanery, which is use of deception; on the other, the parliamentary opposition thrives on duping the people and capitulating to the capitalist master.

Consider the instance of the latest increase of price of petrol. It followed on the trails of four instalments of price-increase last year, 2011, and three instalments the year before, i. e., 2010. On every occasion Government of India spared no effort to justify its action with the stock alibi of the external factor of increased crude prices. Then comes the argument of internal factors, namely, the government's compulsion of protecting public sector and private sector oil marketing companies which, the government says, are suffering 'heavy losses'; thereafter, the argument of the need to provide subsidies to these companies in order that, in the given situation of the present deregulated floating market, they do not have to charge higher prices for petroleum products, and to allow these companies make up, in part at least, for the 'under recovery'.

The talk of heavy losses is simply a deftly played hoax. By now it is generally known that around fifty per cent of the prices charged in the national market owes to taxes, duties, cess, and commissions levied by the central and state governments. The larger share of price increase is not due to rise in international crude prices but due to the concealed component of government levy of taxes duties, and others. Therefore, petrol price increase owes itself more to governmental manipulation of prices than to any external factor. This at once knocks out the other alibi of the government that the public sector and private sector oil marketing companies are suffering losses which cannot be sustained any longer by way of providing subsidies to these companies in a bid 'to protect public interests'. Height of perfidy indeed! Consider the net profits earned by the major oil companies. The Indian Oil Corporation's net profit earned was Rs 2,950 crore in 2008-09. The same rose to Rs 10,998 crore in 2009-10. Or, for a quicker glance at figures, consider the net profits earned by these companies in the last quarters of the years 2010-11 and 2011-12: IOC— respectively Rs 3905 crore and Rs 12,670 crore; HPLC— respectively Rs 1123 and Rs 4635 crore; BPLC— respectively Rs 935 crore and Rs 3963 crore; ONGC— respectively Rs 2791 crore and Rs 5644 crore. So, it is a matter of fabulous increase in net profit — three to four fold rise in profit for these companies, amounting to almost loot of the market. But we are told to look at the matter through a

mirror when we will see an image of the profit, which is an inverted version of the profit, i. e., profit appears as loss. Sheer banditry in daylight! Even more falsity surrounds the issue of subsidy. For one instance, the government states that it provided subsidy to the companies to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore in 2009-10. What the government does not say is that the exchequer at the same time received Rs 50,000 crore from the petroleum sector under heads of taxes, duties, dividend, etc. So, the government received more than it gave as subsidy. Why then say that any more subsidies are not sustainable and therefore the government is obliged to raise prices? Worse than lies!

Now the people have begun to question. So sophistication has been imported into trickery to make tricks look like sound reasons. The government talks of profit and losses in the language 'under recovery', implying unrecovered quantum of money spent on production. It is said that over a period of 7 years, 2005-2012, these companies have incurred a 'national' loss of Rs 5.4 lakh crore while selling petroleum products. There is the implicit suggestion in this claim of 'under recovery' that the sales prices fall short of cost of production and marketing. If so, then why does the government shy away from calling it losses straightway? The trick lies here. The government is concealing the fact that 'under recovery' is no loss actually, it means less of profit, i. e., the amount by which profit actually earned falls short of maximum possible profit possible to earn if the sales prices were raised. It is a perverse infringement of the law of capitalism. In the eye of the bourgeois it is not profit *strictly* because it is not the maximum possible profit; neither, of course, it is loss. It is the unrecovered part of maximum possible profit.

This shows the chicanery of the politics of the ruling class and whoever is in government— either the Congress and its allies, or the BJP and its allies— the twin trusted caretakers of the ruling class. Prices of petroleum products, and of all essential commodities, had similarly been raised during the rule at the centre of the BJP-led alliance.

Such a measure naturally aroused deep indignation among the masses. Overburdened by taxes and price rise, ravaged by unemployment and means of living, cheated, duped and robbed any powers they had earned with sweat

and blood, they are desperately looking for the way about, they are ready for waging struggle to win relief, to win demands for rolling back the prices. The necessity was to give it right the direction, to organize broad-based, united, sustained democratic mass movements to win the demands. This was, and is, the duty, the indispensable task of all left and democratic parties and forces, let alone of the revolutionary forces. Our party, the SUCI(C) cannot yet perform this task, for we do not have the required organisational strength to do it on our own, the required strength to develop a countrywide movement. The CPI (M) and its allies did not come forward to organise the masses on this line and to this end. The CPI (M) pursued its pragmatic social democratic line of not entering into conflict with the ruling class, so, therefore, not to embarrass the Congress by participating in any sustained struggle aiming at forcing the government to concede people's demands. Not that the CPI (M) does not share any plank with the BJP. The CPI (M) maintains its ties with the BJP through floor coordination in Parliament, its leaders regularly meet the BJP leaders. Press report goes that the party had entered into collusion with the BJP on the issue of the *bandh* on 31st May. The CPI (M)'s hobnobbing with the BJP and its conduct and gestures on the eve of the *bandh* gives sufficient reasons to believe that the party continued to placate the BJP. At the same time, with its lip service to the *bandh*, the CPI (M) sought to prove to the people that it is with the people. Thereby the ground to exploit this burning issue was left open to the BJP, the arch reactionary force and one of the twin trusted agents of the ruling capitalist class. To reap electoral dividends, the BJP gave call for Bharat Bandh with 48 hours' notice. And the people, bent upon. This opportunist, social-democratic role of the CPI (M) and its allies handed over to the BJP an opportunity to refurbish its tarnished image and gain renewed vigour to try to win at the next election to the Lok Sabha. It is the CPI (M)'s betrayal to the people, its object to play the second fiddle to the capitalist rulers that denied the masses their rightful demands and instead help the BJP to grab further ground.

It shows, had a genuinely left and revolutionary force with adequate organizational strength been at the helm of the *bandh* movement, it would have been

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Parliamentary democracy proves itself a hoax

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deepened, the character of democracy even underwent changes. Liberal democratic approach is more and more dispensed with. Democratic rights are curtailed at different levels, in different forms. The parliament, which started as true representative of people, directly elected by the people at regular intervals, is fast losing its position as the supreme authority, the authority now resting with a few chosen faithful of the monopolists who act as executives even from within the Parliament itself. Free debates and discussions on people's problems, aspirations and demands in the Parliament, are gradually reduced by that small group acting as the authority. Instead of promulgating legislations through democratic process of debates and discussions in the Parliament, and instead of the parliament having the sovereign power for making legislations, under the pretext of making rules and regulations, virtually the power of legislation becomes vested in the hands of those few who even from within the Parliament act as the executives. As a result, it is often being found that governance and legislation are being run with the help of ordinances. The role of opposition by any minority within the Parliament is brutally curtailed. The Parliament has thus become filled with those forces who acted with all sincerity to establish their loyalty to the ruling monopolists. The Parliament, which was supposed to act as the representative body of people thus has become a stooge of the ruling class, the monopolists. Outside the Parliament democratic movements and democratic rights of people are brutally curtailed; movements are denounced; parliamentary democracy which once guaranteed freest dissent, has gradually started to look down upon people's movement going against the interest of the ruling class or their subservient parliamentarians as the action of the 'mobs'. All these manifestations of administrative fascism even maintaining the façade of parliamentary democracy, are reflected in the functioning of the parliamentary system of governance in different forms in this or that capitalist country including ours.

Election or farce ?

Whereas parliaments of the bygone days were set up and rested upon free and fair elections, in the

present days of intense decadence of capitalism- imperialism those elections are being constantly reduced virtually to a farce in all capitalist countries to a greater or lesser extent. Elections today are controlled by an all-powerful nexus of money (of monopolists or regional capitalists in the main), mafia (who, openly in countries like India and under cover in others have not just made politics criminalized, but have made politics a coveted profession of criminals) and media (the major, large section of it, print or visual, comes out of the pocket of the capitalists themselves). With this combine of 3-Ms join the administration-bureaucracy not only to conduct the elections but also to monitor those to the benefit of the real masters, the ruling monopolists. In fact, it is the latter aided and abetted by its ancillaries, that sets up its dictatorial rule under cover of parliamentary elections. It is the capitalist state which decides, which political party or which combine will be the best suited for the ruling class at a given particular stage of political scenario and then use the above mentioned means or machineries to get it seated in power. In cases the monitoring system and the ruling class may find their choice so hated and rejected by people that they cannot but stand behind an alternative, obviously their subservient. Such an alternative may even include a combination of mutually bickering parties of different names and interests agglomerated in just 48 hours to take up the rein, as it was the case in India in 1977. Before elections, all these means or machineries create such a hype that people tend to think they have been made the king. Soon after elections they find they have been duped. How can such elections reflect, by large, people's opinions? With these, there is always a chance for parliamentarians even of name and fame holding high office of the ministers, even of prime minister, to attain that position without coming through the so-called mandate of people, because of their not being confident to face the electorate. Again the Indian parliament has seen quite a few of them, who chose the back-door entrance through nomination as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

What kind of people now adorn the Parliament?

And what other kind of people's

representatives do such monitored elections produce? India presents a typical instance, though other capitalist countries even the traditional democratic countries of the western world do not lag behind. Everywhere presently these parliaments are mostly filled with most moneyed people of the country monopolists-industrialists, profit-hungry sharks, heartless apologists of capitals and capitalists of the country and abroad, high-browed former bureaucrats, mafia 'dons', infamous serial murderers, rapists, arch communalists, people submerged head to foot in utter corruption, shameless flatterers and such other 'elites' of the society. The list also includes distinguished individuals with records of sexual debauchery and all kinds of perverse acts often performed using not only their privilege of being members of parliaments but even their offices which may go as high as that of a president of a country or the like. In sharp contrast to the bygone days, men of letters, men of integrity and character have become rare, rather absent or even abhorring to join the parliamentary politics today. If, by any accident, any of the present members earns conviction on the grounds of corruption or such others, and even is sentenced to jail, he or she enters the custody with tears rolling down. Bigger bosses of their own party or alliance, it may include none other than the Prime Minister too, make haste to vouch for them; and a few days later they come out of jail smiling. In plain and simple words they enter the Parliament for pelf and power, and make full use of it for their own benefits.

Debates reduced

With decadence of capitalism and its accompanying parliamentary system, free debates and discussions on people's problems, aspirations and demands in the Parliament, are being gradually reduced by that small group of executives asserting its authority. Instead of promulgating legislations through democratic process of debates and discussions in the Parliament thoroughly and intensively analyzing the pros and cons of the proposed legislations, the entire power of legislation has virtually concentrated with those few executives. They simply guillotine debates and discussions to get their proposal rather the designs through. The role of opposition by any minority within the Parliament

is brutally curtailed. The Parliament has thus become filled with those forces and individuals who acted with all sincerity to establish their loyalty to the ruling monopolists. Instead of acting as the representative body of people the parliament has thus turned into a stooge of the ruling class, the monopolists. In fact who would expect any serious debates on socio-political- economic- cultural issues confronting the country from those members who have joined the parliament for power and pelf ? And why should they be interested too ? They even do not attend the sessions too.

Hence it is a recorded fact, that the sessions are being reduced drastically in the Indian Parliament; and even those sessions are marked by violent disruptions and stalled, as admitted by the Parliamentarians themselves on the present occasion of 60 year celebration. Some of them lamented about 'less frequent' deliberations and hasty 'legislation' at times without proper discussions or asked for mandate to hold a minimum number of '100 sittings a year'. Serious debates have vanished into thin air. In the last 3 years in the all- important budget session, the Lok Sabha worked for 66% of the scheduled hours in 2010, 12% in 2011 and 14% in 2012, the worst record in 25years occurring in the Winter session of 2010, when the Lok Sabha used 5.5% of time available, Rajya Sabha used 2.4%. When the country and its people are tormented with thousand and one severe burning problems of life including price rise, unemployment, poverty, lack of proper cheap education, shelter and even potable water, the Indian Parliament gets busy with issues like this or that cartoon digging it out from the distant past. When numerous vital projects of the country are stalled for so-called want of fund, huge LAD fund allotted for each MP is simply wasted, rather squandered; to the MPs it has become a profitable business; they even receive money for questioning in the House, which is supposed to be their duty; in fact many, if not most of them act as agents of monopolists; as MPs they encourage horse-trading and get purchased for any hefty amount of money to vote for this or that combination, ; without caring for the millions of poor people, they enhance their own fabulous salaries and perks at their sweet will and

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Disruptions have become a menace

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ridicule any conscientious MP who may happen to oppose those. Many, if not most MPs do not express any prick of conscience, any concern for these vital issues. In fact, the Parliament has become a den of corruption, in which party colour of the MPs or their status from ordinary member to the ministers hardly matter.

Growing phenomenon of disruptions

It has already been mentioned when the parliament emerged in history, it stood as ardent advocate of extra-parliamentary legal and democratic movement of people. It is because, it was accepted that the extra-parliamentary movements are really decisive in wresting people's demands. At the same time to raise the voice of these movements inside the parliament it was felt necessary to hold debates and discussions there. In those days of early history of parliament distinguished personalities of integrity and character and of letters were elected by people to represent and reflect their voice in the parliament. They took up threadbare debates and discussions of very high standard and at length on various vital issues of people and their life and often sharply criticized the government to expose its anti-people measures and misdeeds.

With decadence of capitalism and parallel, rather concomitant, degeneration of the parliament and parliamentary system, particularly the abominable condition they have reached today, such characters themselves keep away or are carefully kept silent or even weeded out by the monopolists. It has also been mentioned what kind of people now adorn the parliaments. Hence in capitalist countries almost one and all, the parliament sessions instead of holding meaningful debates and discussions of adequately high standard on right or wrong are simply avoiding any debate at all. Disruptions in various ways, even to the extent of extremely ugly rowdy scenes have become quite common. In the Indian Parliament of 60 years of age, such disruptions have assumed such a menacing shape that can not but cause deep concern in any right thinking person. It only reminds one of Lenin's words: Parliament is a 'pig sty'. All the bourgeois parties, national or regional whatever be it or even the social democratic forces share more or

less responsibility for such disruptions. When in opposition they smell the wrath and discontent ever mounting in common people against the policies and measures of government that are typically and invariably pro-monopolist and anti-people. But they do not dare to or rather care to wage any people's movement standing by them for their genuine cause and demands, as that may earn displeasure from the ruling class, the master, the monopolists and tell upon any future prospect of their coming to power. Rather, exploiting people's grievances with an eye to cash upon those in future elections, they pose as champion of people's cause inside the parliament and become 'heroes', create uproar on such issues which would not invite the monopolists' or the government's displeasure and disapproval, stage mock fights even nasty rowdy scenes and finally disrupt proceedings of the parliament. But when the same parties of opposition happen to reach the seat of power and form government they start to shed crocodile tears for disruption of the sessions. Even such parties are now raising their voice against disruptions on this occasion of 60 year celebration of the Indian Parliament. In the long run, however, disruptions are continuing and are paying dividend to both parties in power and those in opposition; those parties in power are rescued from embarrassment of being criticized and questioned; they simply guillotine debates to get their designs through. Parties in opposition make use of the mock fight of disruptions to further their image. It is the people and those political forces that stand by the cause and demands of people through launching mass movements, who are the victims and suffer most. Of course, on some grave issues, alongwith powerful extra-parliamentary movement it may be necessary to develop protests in the parliament to such a height as to cause temporary disruption. But that does not mean in any way that disruptions on flimsy grounds be continued for days together.

Obviously nothing more can perhaps be expected from the galaxy of superstars of anti-people even criminal antecedents and outlook who adorn the Parliament. At the same time, parliamentary democracy which once guaranteed freest dissent, and welcomed extra-parliamentary movements of

people is now brutally curtailing democratic movements and democratic rights of people and is now looking down upon people's movement as riots or mob actions if they go against the interest of the ruling class or their subservient parliamentarians. Thus even movement against rampant and unbridled corruption perpetrated by even MPs and ministers are being denounced by the present members of the Parliament and any force or individual that may dare to raise voice against this are being suppressed. The same signs of administrative fascism are ominously evident in such behaviour of the Parliament and its members, emphasizing the contention that Comrade Ghosh repeatedly elaborated in his many momentous discussions and writings.

In this dangerous nefarious game being played by the ruling class, not only all major bourgeois parties, national or regional, play the same tune in the symphony, even the social democrats, still passing on as 'leftists' do not fall back. Rather as dangerous deceitful forces against revolution with their apparently pro-people vocabularies and slogans, they often come out as more trusted appendages of the ruling class, proving the Marxist contention that social democracy is the last prop in the hands of the despotic rulers, the dying capitalist system.

People's reactions and tasks before them

People, in their turn, are getting more and more disenchanted with the parliamentary politics and happenings and activities of the parliament and its members. This explains their indifference on the 'august' occasion of 60 year celebration of the Indian Parliament. On one hand, ruthless exploitation and oppression by the reigning capitalist system which are relentlessly pressing harder upon people bleeding them white, are constantly generating intense resentment and wrath in people leading them to mass movements more and more. On the other hand, though people are not theoretically disillusioned about the vote politics particularly from their experience with the Parliament and the bourgeois petit bourgeois as well as social democrat parliamentarians, they are losing their feelings that election is a matter of high value for their them and their life. It is true that many of

such people not only in our country but in other capitalist- imperialist countries too, by virtue of their uncritical approach or failure to get into the depth of the problem, may get frustrated with the present shape of the parliaments and the bourgeois parliamentary system. They have only to realize with conviction that any political force or party that survives on this bourgeois parliamentary politics to serve the monopolists and maintain this capitalist system can not but behave in a different way. Some of them are even choosing not to cast their votes. By this act of theirs they reflect their failure to understand that though extra-parliamentary movements are decisive for defending people's interests, so long as capitalism exists with its parliamentary system, it provides an additional means to people to fight against the government and the state by raising the voice of people's movements inside the parliaments. So genuinely pro-people forces must fight election battles as part of their movements without losing heart with defeat or losing head with victory. People uncritically sceptic about parliamentary system have also to confront and countercharge the sugar-coated comment of the Speaker of the Indian Parliament on this occasion of celebration of 60 years that Indian democracy draws its strength from people without discrimination. They must put this comment to question : What strength does Indian democracy or for that matter democracy of any country, bear with the severe and obvious discrimination expressed in the coexistence of a handful of world's richest and vast millions of hapless, abjectly poor people? In another comment during this celebration another important member looked for a democracy in India as giving equal opportunity to the weakest and the strongest. The question is: how the Indians divided into two such severely discriminated parts, the toiling people and the monopolists can have the same opportunity from democracy in terms of the basic necessities of life? Is not the severe discrimination an inevitable outcome of ruthless capitalist exploitation and rule that the Indian parliament has successfully defended and helped consolidate its power through all these 60 years?

So, these vast millions of common toiling people fleeced to

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Karnataka State Level Conference of AIKKMS

On May 17, 2012 poor peasants and agricultural labourers in thousands marched the streets of Bangalore from more than 20 districts of Karnataka to give voice to their legitimate demands, in the open session of the first Karnataka state conference of RKS (Raitha Krishi-Karmikara Sanghatane), affiliated to AIKKMS. The marching peasants' dignity, discipline, determination and fighting spirit left a deep impact on the vast public gathered.

Earlier in the run up to the conference the response RKS volunteers and comrades received, the warmth, affection and hospitality of misery-stricken peasants, steeled them in their resolve to fight against the inhuman capitalist system.

The open session began with flag hoisting and placing garlands at the martyr's column by Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, Politbureau member SUCI(C), Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Central Committee member and the State Secretary of SUCI(C), Comrade Dr. Sunith Kumar and Comrade H V Diwakar, the state President and state Secretary of the Organizing Committee of RKS respectively.

Comrade Radhakrishna, addressing the huge gathering said: globalisation has wreaked havoc in

the life of the peasantry making their life unbearable and suffocating. Discussing the role of the bourgeois parties in this context and their anti-farmer land-bank policies, Comrade Radhakrishna said, the notorious POSCO was offered by the government thousands of acres of fertile land which generated widespread protests from the farmers in which RKS also took part. BJP finally backed out from the plan under tremendous pressure of movement but now has again made a U-turn, hinting to go ahead with its acquisition plans. He called for imbibing the lesson from Nandigram and Singur movement and rejecting the caste creed and other narrow mentality fostered by the ruling class to create division.

At the delegate session along with the resolution on poor management of drought situation by the government, the main resolution pointing to the root cause for the deadly impasse in the agriculture sector was placed consisting of 18 demands and was discussed in detail with great enthusiasm.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharya spoke both in the open and delegate sessions. Pointing to the agrarian crisis under oppressive capitalist

rule Comrade Bhattacharya said, when no other peasant's organization is in the arena RKS Karnataka has taken up the great responsibility to unite and lead. He discussed that the situation could not be changed radically through elections but alone through organized sustained revolutionary struggle. However, he exhorted, "you should fight for cleansing of electoral system to maintain and expand the democratic atmosphere from Panchayat up to the Parliament and in the process you shall prove the futility of the elections and ultimately make them understand that their real emancipation lies in the anti-capitalist socialist revolution". Comrade Bhattacharya concluded: "What you should remember is that constant elevation of ethics, culture, morality on the edifice of which your movement has to be built is of utmost importance. Democratic

movements of peasants in this country have taken place several times in the past but have gone astray because these lacked in this most essential characteristic. Finally I conclude by saying, go to the rest of the peasants, stay with them, imbue them with teachings of Comrade Ghosh, recruit cadres from the poor peasantry, strengthen the organization and prepare them for the ultimate battle for emancipation."

A new state committee consisting of 49 members was elected unanimously with Dr. T S Sunithkumar as the President, H V Diwakar as the Secretary, M Shashidhar, Sandeep and H G Desai as the Vice-Presidents and V Nagammal as the treasurer. The conference ended with the decision to launch a statewide agitation on 28 May to force the government to fulfill the 18 point charter of demands.

60 years of Indian Parliament

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bleed white really face clear and simple tasks. Without having any illusion about the 'dignity, sanctity and sovereignty of the Parliament', without getting entangled with the election-oriented bourgeois politics, they must take to the streets and develop democratic movements in a massive and sustained way on thousand and one burning problems of their life, on the demand of restoring the democratic rights which the capitalist state aided and abetted by its parliament is continuously curtailing. They must have the understanding that so long as the capitalism will exist neither their plight nor the deceitful role of the Parliament subservient to the monopolists will end. All the democratic movements, people's struggles must thus be oriented

towards this ultimate goal of overthrowing capitalism at the stroke of revolution. But till then, with the Parliament reigning supreme in service of the monopolists, people have the dual tasks of developing extra-parliamentary movements to create as much pressure as possible on the parliament through them. Along with that they must also be on the vigil that the ruling monopolists do not have a free play to frame the parliament and the government entirely fitting to their design; people must try their utmost to fight even the parliamentary battles, so long as it is not exhausted and so much so that there may be even a minimum representation of people in the parliament to uphold people's voices and demands.

Bharat Bandh of 31st May

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possible to build it into a sustained struggle so as to force the government to concede people's demands, prevent it from going on raising the prices recurrently, and create anti-capitalist mental makeup. What has turned in actuality? The self-proclaimed left and revolutionary party, the CPI(M) in particular, made clever gestures but stayed away. This situation gave the arch reactionary party, the BJP, further ground with its game of cheating the people. Thereby a potential movement went awry, giving a brazenly anti-people force further strength.

.What the people are to do now? They ought to see through this game. They are to know, by the yardstick above, which force is their friend, which force has to be strengthened, thus which force to rally round.

The parliamentary opposition including the CPI (M) and its allies, patently in a show of protest, called for Bharat Bandh on 31st May. No preparations for the Bandh had

been made although. No contemplation was there, too, to build massive struggles to force the government to roll back the price increase. No plan either to develop sustained mass movements against the atrocious crimes being perpetrated by the subservient government of the capitalist rulers. This happens every time, every time these parliamentary outfits jump into the fray, only to vie with each other for snatching the booty of electoral dividends. The masses of the people are left in the lurch in the end. But people want to fight against this perpetration, against this rule of exploitation-oppression-deception. Because, it is they who are the victims of capitalist exploitation, of capitalist oppression, of capitalist deception. They are those who have been forced to shoulder the burden of the crises of capitalism, who have now their back against the wall. They need being led in the right direction. On their own, they stood by the Bandh call, and that massively.



Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) addressing All India Camp of All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan at Bangalore held from 24 to 27 May, with Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, President, AIMSS and member, Central Committee, SUCI(C), Comrade H. G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS and others seated on the dais.

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