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SUCI (C) strongly condemns Congress-led Assam government for failing to quell communal conflagration and demands stringent punishment of the culprits as well as safety of and suitable compensation to the affected families

Expressing grave concern over the large scale communal conflagration in Bodoland and its adjoining districts in Assam, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), in course of a statement issued on 24-07-12 strongly condemned the Congress-led coalition Government of Assam for its indulgent attitude towards and utter failure in quelling the communal disturbance that has suddenly flared up. He also demanded immediate deployment of army to the affected area for stopping this communal bloodbath and handling the situation with a firm hand. Apart from demanding stringent punishment of the perpetrators as well as instigators of this heinous crime, he also demanded adequate compensation to the families of those killed and injured, creation of congenial condition for return as well as rehabilitation of those rendered homeless and wanted of the government to guarantee security of lives and properties of the innocent victims.

From Teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

Bourgeoisie try to destroy revolutionary forces resorting to various means

“Earlier the bourgeoisie used to think that if a small party was posing a threat, do not create a stir about it and thereby provide some publicity for it — just avoid it, sidestep it and dismiss it as being an insignificant force. Because the bourgeoisie know very well that if something is commented about such a party, or even if there is an attempt to oppose it, it would simply receive some publicity and come into the limelight. So if they consider the party to be of such a character, their attitude was to simply ignore it, to assign no importance to it and dismissively reiterate its insignificance, so as to make it non-existent from public view. Such have been the tactics adopted all through by the bourgeois class in respect of a party which it considers dangerous for being revolutionary even if that party is small. On the other hand, you must remember that when the bourgeoisie thinks that some smaller parties could be used to serve its class interest, it gives them enough indulgence to make them appear as big. But normally it seeks to wipe out the small party posing a danger to it by ignoring that party. But history has taught the bourgeoisie one more lesson. It has seen that by ignoring in this way it is not possible to vanquish a revolutionary force — its strength goes on increasing. And when it grows on its own, it does pose danger. The bourgeoisie has observed it happening in many countries. Those whom it looked down upon as insignificant, those whom it considered to have no strength in terms of manpower to speak of, who could achieve nothing, had nothing, only talked big — it was found that since that very party’s theory was correct, its political line was correct, in other words, since they tell the truth and possess the ability to correctly determine and show the true path for fulfilling the real necessity of the people, solely on its basis, that is to say, on the basis of correct ideology and political line, that tiny force, despite being ignored by the bourgeoisie, in the course of time grows into a massive force — when it becomes impossible to resist it. The bourgeoisie have drawn this lesson from history.

As a result, they are now on guard a bit. So, they do not dismiss, do not ignore such a force, even if tiny, which they consider dangerous, or in their parlance, extremists or dangerous meaning thereby the revolutionary party that causes fear and panic in them; they do not ridicule it as insignificant and they do not pose as if they are seeing nothing in it. Maybe they do not step forward to give it publicity and increase its importance. But they keep it under close surveillance, very critically watch its every move and in spite of apparently not giving any importance to its political campaign, harass it through police and local administration and such other machineries at the first available opportunity and try to destroy it by continuous oppression. We are feeling the pinch of such tactics of theirs through and through, and have been able to detect it. No doubt, the bourgeoisie considers itself much more intelligent than the revolutionaries but it moves with a fanciful theory while the revolutionaries base themselves on science. Hence, there is a wide difference in this regard. What it considers as very shrewd moves become crystal clear to the revolutionaries in the light of science, and all such

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From Teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

Without correct process, simply by pious wish and honesty, no problem can be solved

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crafty manoeuvres get exposed to the revolutionaries. Therefore, we can detect them. But it is not enough to detect. What is of utmost importance is whether we can after detection adopt appropriate measures to guard against these tricks and crafty manoeuvres and gain necessary strength well in time to implement such measures. Otherwise, it will be wrong to think that since our ideology is correct, we shall win. If we fail to quickly take appropriate steps to mobilize necessary strength for materializing the ideology, it would pose a grave problem.

..... the CPI(M) and its students' front, SFI ... till the other day created in many parts of the country a widespread confusion among the common people with its air of being a very militant, a great revolutionary force. And keep in mind that such serious confusion about them is still prevalent in places where SUCI has not been able to reach as yet. It will be a grave mistake if you assume that the entire people of India have understood that such parties will do nothing of this sort. There is a lot of confusion among the people from different walks of life about these Leftists or Leftism in general. And amidst all these confusions, there is a common notion prevalent almost everywhere that, after all, the CPI(M) is a left party opposed to the Congress or the Indira Congress. Hence, wherever anti-Indira Congress or anti-Congress mentality is growing among the people, there is a swing, a tilt towards the CPI(M) as the alternative because of its larger strength. But such a party enjoying moral and emotional support of the majority of the left minded people — just look at its own morale! It is not true either that this party never enters the arena of movement, never participates in the various struggles at different points of time. They remain intermingled with the peasants' and workers' struggles and sometimes do build up movements over economic demands. But you have seen from the discussion made just now, how their courage to fight and the very foundation of their character got eroded from the days of the last United Front. They cannot think of any movement today unless there is police backing though apparently their militant cadres and all such things continue to be there.

Then what is being found? It is being found that their courage, their bravado is sustained only when backed by government and police. If that is behind, then only is their wielding of revolutionism, their strength to fight. These things they have learnt now. It means that, despite all limitations and shortcomings of the Indian left movement, whatever grit to fight, firmness of character, courage of the cadres, mental make-up to confront the police, resist onslaught and, if need be, readiness to go to jail and die, had existed even fifteen to twenty five years back in the CPI-CPI (M), who were not genuine Marxist-Leninists as we are, or had existed even in the Lefts who were yet more moderate than them, have all vanished today. And up to which level has it disappeared? Such mental make-up has disappeared not only among the moderates, but even among the rank and file of the CPI(M). This is the result of what? What does it prove? It proves that the very base of ideology and ethics-morality at the various layers of the society has been eroded.

On the other hand, have a look at the students and youth community of the country. They all observe the birth and death anniversaries of Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas, Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Nazrul. I do not know whether they understand the meaning of all these. The teachers also deliver lectures on all these. But I do not know as to what they understand by all this. Because, one thing strikes me in this connection. Those who have understood Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Nazrul — whether they have understood like us is not an issue — yet if they had understood even a little of the great men like Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Kshudiram, Netaji Subhas and others, they ought to realize at least one thing, that if as a human being I lack the courage to rise in protest against injustice, then I am not fit to be called man. At least this minimum ethical standard should grow in a person first then only comes the question of whether one has duly acquired the ability to judge right and wrong. Because, to correctly determine right or wrong is a complex task, which requires adequate knowledge and education. But if I lack the courage to protest against what I consider unjust out of fear of being arrested by the

police or losing my job or if I do not feel any twinge of conscience in committing an act of injustice myself, then I am not worth being called man. But you see, anyone who likes to move with this understanding of human life and existence today is perceived to be foolish even by his own parents. He who refuses to tell a lie, cannot give or take bribe or build up his career by indulging in any kind of wrongful act — people consider him a fool. Not only other people, even his own father, who has given birth to him, thinks that he is foolish — he could have prospered had he buttered up but he did not; he could have made personal gains by bartering away his human values but he did not. Because he is foolish. And I am very clever because I have sold myself. Again the same parents display the books of Vidyasagar, Rabindranath, and Saratchandra in their library at home. Society has come to such a pass. Even during the pre-independence days, the sense of right and wrong, attachment to religious values, concept of ethics and morality had not fallen to such a low level at various levels of society and family — do not forget these words of mine. When the struggle against the British rulers had not yet assumed that proportion in this country — then also there was a standard of ethical and moral behaviour in the society which people used to abide by. But that edifice of ethics, morality and culture is no more in existence. And because it exists no more, those political parties talking of ideology and intending to initiate a political movement, who are nowhere in respect to such ethics and morality, they, too, themselves are infested with the germs and deadly virus of extreme amorality.

That is why way back in 1966 when the Leftists were not yet saddled in governmental power in West Bengal, I had made an observation in this very University Institute Hall. The leaders of other left parties had taken umbrage at it. I was saying that the left parties were delivering speeches on the corruption of the Congress and rightly so. As such I had nothing to say about it. Because, after assuming power the character of the Congress leadership became like that. Since the Congress has been trying to establish and consolidate capitalism, this is the inevitable outcome in the present era. There is

nothing surprising in it. During the freedom movement, we who were supposed to provide alternative leadership, the working class leadership, the radical forces and others had together either committed a mistake in charting out the right path or indulged in petty squabbles among ourselves at that time or fostered mutual ill-feeling or resorted to armed clashes from sectarian party interest born out of the circle mindedness centring round small pocket-based activities. Because of various such reasons, we could not provide that alternative leadership during the freedom struggle. As a result, we fought, so did the people but the leadership went to the rich people and their political custodian, the Congress.

The political representatives of the bourgeoisie emerged as the national leaders in those days. Not that a handful among the Leftists as well did not emerge as leaders. But owing to the newspapers, the propaganda machinery of the foreign rulers, as well as the particular conduct and tactics of the bourgeois leaders, the political representatives of the bourgeoisie caught the imagination of the people as god-like personalities. With absolute faith, the people took them to be very good persons. The people thought: since they are doing so much for the country's freedom they will also do a lot for us. Only a few could realize in those days that they would do nothing, that they were political agents of the capitalist class and would exploit the whole country and, for that matter, usurp the fruits arising out of the immense sacrifice of the people in the freedom struggle in order to consolidate Indian capitalism. But this realization could not be brought home to the broader sections of the masses. Neither could it be disseminated even among a large section of the intellectuals. In the context of the freedom movement in such a vast country as India, this realization remained confined within a very small circle. So, it was the political representatives of the bourgeoisie who rose to power through the freedom struggle and being in power in the present era, have done what they came for to do within the confines of the bourgeois state structure.

Though one thing, I think, needs to be borne in mind in this regard. That is: even among the

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CPI (M)'s criminal face laid bare in Kerala

A stream of political killings that took place in Kerala in the recent past has shaken the state with continued quivers and unprecedented aftereffects. Out of four such macabre incidents in the immediate past the CPI(M) stands squarely accused of plotting and executing the murders in three cases. Quite a number of older cases are also once again being raked up wherein the CPI(M) is equally incriminated. So long the CPI(M) was in power, it went on to see that the truth does not surface and the police was dissuaded from pursuing with the investigations. But, there has been widespread resentment among the people against this politics of murder. After change of regime, the Congress-led UDF government, under public pressure and also to gain electoral mileage by way of exposing its parliamentary opposition has adopted some unusually stern stand to probe into the cases and bring the culprits to the fore. The accentuated group conflicts and factional feuds that have gripped the Kerala state CPI(M) has come handy to the Congress and its government.

Whatever arguments the CPI(M) is putting forth to prove their innocence are simply boomeranging and becoming self-expositions. With the government allowing the police to proceed with the cases, the investigation teams, generally found to be formed without known pro-CPI(M) officers, appear to be making a crackdown, collecting solid evidences and exposing not only the perpetrators and accomplices but also their abettors and gradually unmasking the high-level conspirators. Thus including some top-ranking leaders of the CPI(M), many of their local leaders and important activists are taken into custody or summoned for questioning. This is now happening almost daily, widening and enlarging the circle ever bigger. The people of West Bengal have experienced this over the last 35 years. Now, even the people of Kerala have come to know this. It has become increasingly clear to them that the CPI(M) is such an organized force that has no hesitation in annihilating individuals belonging to other political parties or their own deserters whom they considered a serious hindrance on their way. This is gathered from their own proclamations. In a chilling throwback to medieval politics, M M Mani, who was elected Idukki district secretary of the CPI(M) 8 times and now a staunch supporter of Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, openly boasted at a public meeting in last May in the following language, "Yes, we have killed the enemies of the CPI(M). We have shot, stabbed and beaten them to death. A hit-list of party enemies was prepared and each of them was executed in that order." As now evidences connected with a number of pre-meditated brutal political killings in the state are daily surfacing added with virtual self-admissions of some of their leaders and utterances in consequence to intensified group fight within, the dark shadow of the image of the CPI(M) among the people as a party led by a gang of criminals is

thickened. The charges against them range from cold-blooded murder engaging even hired killers, scams involving several crores of rupees, mafia connections, land grabbing, to sexual abuses and rape. Incidents connected with recent brutal killing of Shri T. P. Chandrasekharan, a dissident CPI(M) leader who came out disagreeing with present state leadership under Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala state secretary, and formed Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) in 2008 has caused to lay bare many of the hidden skeletons in their cupboards.

Chandrasekharan was able to draw almost the entire CPI(M) organization to his fold in Onchayam and nearby Panchayats in north Kerala which were traditional strongholds of CPI(M). In the last Panchayat election RMP could gain absolute majority in those Panchayats contesting alone. In Parliament election also Chandrasekharan was a candidate and his contest caused miserable defeat of the CPI(M) candidate by a margin of 50,000 votes. It is to be noted that in the previous election the CPI(M)'s same candidate was elected from there by a thumping majority of 1.5 lakhs votes.

Chandrasekharan was an avowed follower of Shri Achuthanandan, former CPI(M) chief minister of the state whose personal antagonism with Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, the CPI(M) state secretary is well known. Vijayan himself stands accused in bribery case of Rupees 160 crores and CBI inquiry is in progress. Achuthanandan while he was the Chief Minister in a manner pursued the case and had darkened the shadow. Group fight intensified to such an extent that their central committee was compelled to suspend both from the politbureau. At present, Vijayan is reinstated in PB but Shri Achuthanandan, the seniormost and the only living CC Member who came out from the CPI in 1964 to form the CPI(M) is still not taken back in PB. And in

the last state conference prior to their 20th party congress, Shri Vijayan was able to thrash out all those belonging to Achuthanandan group and gain absolute control over the party in the state.

Shri Chandrasekharan was so brutally killed with 51 slashes mostly on his face and head that the shudder it generated within the state has not yet subsided. Two more gruesome political murders in the recent past were already causing tremors in people's mind. One is that of Abdul Shukkoor belonging to the Youth wing of Muslim League party. The CPI(M)'s bigwig Kannur district secretary along with one of their MLA's while passing through a tense area in a car was stopped and allegedly manhandled by Muslim League activists. As revenge, within hours of the incident this youth was mercilessly butchered in public in one of the CPI(M)'s nearby stronghold villages.

The slaughtering of Muhammad Fazal is still more felonious and conspiratorial. Fazal was an active member of DYFI. Later he crossed over to a Muslim fundamentalist out-fit and started attracting youths of the locality in large numbers. He was hacked to death one morning. The murder took place in a locality where RSS also was active and tensions already prevailed. The killing took place just on the eve of Muslim festival days in 2006. LDF government under Achuthanandan was ruling and the then home minister, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Kodyeri Balakrishnan rushed to the scene and declared on the very next day of the incident that RSS has done it. Some RSS activists were subsequently arrested. But local police failed to establish the case against RSS, rather needle of suspicion was turning to the CPI(M). Thereupon investigation was handed over to crime branch and then also it dragged on. Fazal's mother approached the High Court seeking CBI enquiry. Erstwhile the CPI(M)-led LDF government went up to the Supreme Court to oppose that. But with strong indictment, the court ordered CBI enquiry. Completing enquiry CBI has now filed chargesheet in the court which is shockingly revealing. According to it, the CPI(M) Kannur district secretariat member, one LC secretary and six others including hired criminals are the real perpetrators of the crime. They selected the time and place in such a way that suspicion may fall on the RSS. Also they wanted to precipitate a communal riot so that they can jump in as saviours of

minority community and win back the lost ground among them due to the activities of Muhammad Fazal. These conspirators themselves pasted provocative posters in and around the locality in the name of the Muslim organization to which Fazal belonged so as to fan up communal frenzy.

Much more sinister deeds got revealed in this connection. Initially a senior police officer of the rank of DSP was investigating the case. Contrary to the wish of the CPI(M) leadership including home minister Shri Balakrishnan, he could not establish any evidence against the RSS. Rather he observed possibility of the CPI(M)'s involvement in the crime. He was abruptly removed from the charge of investigation and the case was handed over to crime branch. There it did not end. This police officer was trapped in a false case under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. Not only that. It has come to light that the CPI(M) criminals beat him so brutally that he is unable to lead a normal life even today.

Such felony on the part of the CPI(M) is nothing isolated. In the past few weeks following the assassination of T. P. Chandrasekharan, a number of macabre political killings that took place earlier in the state in which CPI(M) stood accused has vehemently surfaced again for re-examination and re-investigation. One is that of Jayakrishnan, a Upper Primary School teacher who was a known BJP leader. He was slain in front of his pupils in the class room in 1999 in an unthinkable measure of cruelty that shook the entire state. Now the prime accused caught in connection with Chandrasekharan murder case has confessed that he was in the gang of killers of Jayakrishnan but was not chargesheeted. Except one CPI(M) local secretary all others chargesheeted then were dummies provided by the CPI(M) in collusion with some senior police officers. Evidently the case did not stand and all were eventually acquitted. People had suspected an underhand deal between CPI(M) and BJP also in not taking up the case strongly. Now it is all confirmed.

Many more such appalling things have got revealed in course. It was already known that in cases of finishing off political opponents, be it of Congress (I), BJP, Muslim League, CMP or any other outfit by the CPI(M) — the number is not few when public outcry raised, the CPI(M) will provide a list of

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Politics of murder seriously resented by terribly shocked people of Kerala

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dummies hiding the real culprits by arrangement with the police. Even key prosecution witnesses and close relatives of the murdered individuals changing allegiance under threat or intimidation or other means of manipulations nullifying the case as such, have happened many a times. Instances of the opposite political party leaders secretly joining hands with the CPI(M) and the criminals going scot-free are also not rare. With brutal strength in some of the northern districts and in high-range areas, their definite men implanted in police and administration while almost alternatively assuming governmental power in the state and with the help of media also, they have been able to do any kind of nefarious deeds and manipulations with alacrity.

But this time viewing the unprecedentedly strong and widespread resentment among the people even extending to the CPI(M) supporting rank against the heinous killings and also taking advantage of severely groupism-ridden and crisis-haunting condition in the CPI(M), the ruling UDF government has decided to make a crackdown. They have declared this time that no dummies will be accepted and the real culprits will be brought to book. Even the conspirators, however big they may be, will also be caught. Already 70 persons have so far been arrested out of which 10 are prominent CPI(M) leaders ranging from two district secretariat members to several LC secretaries and the remaining are known habitual criminals having firm link with CPI(M). The all-powerful Kannur district secretary of the CPI(M) is under question. The reported confessions of the arrested people are such that the apprehensions about the CPI(M)'s malfeasances are getting further confirmed with clearer evidences.

The exact picture will emerge only when viewed in the background of certain other developments. Achuthanandan viewing the public anger has taken it as an opportunity to settle scores with the state leadership. He visited Onchiyam and declared T. P. Chandra-sekharan a brave communist. It must be remembered that Pinarai Vijayan had repeated even after the assassination of T.P that he was a traitor and renegade. Again on the day of a crucial bye-election in the state, Achuthanandan visited the house of

Chandrasekharan expressing condolence to his wife and mother in presence of thousands of supporters. He openly branded state leadership as right deviationist and equated Pinarai Vijayan to S. A. Dange. Achuthanandan also dared the leadership to take disciplinary action against him adding that it is not he but the state leadership which is responsible for putting the party in acute predicament.

By way of retaliation M M Mani, bluntly blustered, as mentioned earlier, that it was not the first time their party is eliminating enemies; in 1982 also a list of 13 were prepared and one by one were executed in due course. This was to show that during the time when Achuthanandan was state secretary also party had performed political killings. Mani's outburst instead of serving the desired purpose stirred up a hornet's nest and placed the party in a more difficult position that the central committee had to direct the state leadership to suspend him from the post of secretaryship. Not only that. Re-investigation in the murder cases mentioned by Mani is now ordered by the government putting the CPI(M) further in the dock.

Added to this, it is to be noted that two more powerful district secretaries belonging to Pinarayi camp now stand expelled from the party following the finding of party's internal inquiry as guilty in sexual abuses and misdeeds. The accused in turn are leveling charges of large scale corruption and other grave malpractices against leaders in their opposite camp within the party. Achuthanandan, himself is charged with nepotism, favoring his son to get undue positions and a close relative to get illegitimate allotment of 2.5 acres of land. Vigilance inquiry is in progress in both the cases.

Now, it is to be noted that other than fractional feud, no ideological questions are involved in Achuthanandan's fight against the present state leadership. While he was CM he was equally instrumental in implementing all the anti-people globalization policies in the state. Whenever people's movement broke out he was in the forefront to brand it a terrorist activity and attempting to crush it. He appeared as a crusader against corruption, but during his tenure also corruption was rampant and he himself is now charged of nepotism with substantial evidence.

The CPI(M)'s arguments with regard to T. P. Chandrasekharan's

murder is that the party has no hand in it, rather the ruling UDF which was facing a bye-election at that time and was in a very bad situation "endeavored to overcome this crisis by making use of the murder with the help of corporate media". They also state it was known to the government that Chandrasekharan's life was in threat but government showed "criminal negligence" towards protecting his life, implying UDF had a role in the murder.

But who had threatened the life of Chandrasekharan? Right from the day he formed RMP, the CPI(M) leaders were openly proclaiming that he would be finished off. Recently the video recorded speeches of two CPI(M) leaders have come out in the electronic channels. There they are found uttering that Chandrasekharan's head will be chopped off and people will see his brain shattered in the street. When the reaction of P Jayarajan, their Kannur District Secretary was sought by reporters on these speeches, he quipped "Are we to tell that we will kiss and embrace those who come to assault us?"

Chandrasekharan's wife, all other relatives and the people of Onchayam have testified that he had no other enemies but the CPI(M). Chandrasekharan himself had spoken in a public meeting just two days before his assassination that the CPI(M) was out to kill him. Now, according to the police and media report the entire gang of killers is caught and their connection with the CPI(M) is established. As per their confessions, after the killing they were sheltered in the CPI(M)'s safe havens. One after another they were caught from such places also. Not only that. The names of important leaders, who deployed them, have also come out. Two prominent district secretariat members, an ex-state secretary of the CPI(M) controlled powerful NGO union and so many others at various levels who are involved or have helped to hide the culprits are under arrest or in remand. Police sources have stated that as per strong indications the conspiracy was hatched at still higher levels and they are on the track of collecting further evidences. But the real apprehension of the people is that the investigation may not now proceed much further as a clandestine understanding with top Congress leaders and the CPI(M) is probable especially in view of their joining hands in the Presidential

election. As for utilizing the murder in the recent bye-election and thereafter, it is quite natural for Congress-led UDF to attempt to harness maximum political gain out of it viewing the tremendous public reaction.

Another argument of the CPI(M) is that the whole proceedings is part of a game plan hatched by the Congress, police and the corporate media in order to destroy the CPI(M). But curiously enough other than the CPI(M), no one else subscribes to this argument, not even their partners in the Left-Democratic Front. The CPI has rather openly condemned politics of murder and blamed the CPI(M) for weakening the left movement. Achuthanandan has declared that the version of the CPI(M) state secretary does not reflect the view of their party. The question now is, who has to endeavor further to break the CPI(M) when they themselves are doing it from within?

The CPI(M)'s state secretary in his article in People's Democracy, the CPI(M)'s central organ, has delved in bringing out so many discrepancies in media reports and police disclosures. Who does not know that media in order to create sensation indulge in exaggerations or even fabrications and police sometimes deliberately give false statements to the media for the purpose of confusing the culprits and trapping them? Highlighting those things for finding an escape route is simply evading the cardinal question of their sordid indulgence in the crime.

Another argument of the CPI(M)'s state secretary is that the police are applying third degree measures and brutal torturing to make out false confessions. Rebutting this allegation, the police are saying that they are applying only scientific methods counterposing one another's statement so as to find the truth. The arrested are being promptly and regularly produced before the court. Out of the nearly 70 persons arrested and questioned only two have complained of torture in custody and they have been immediately taken for medical examination. The doctors have certified that there is no finding of torture. In the above said article it has been stated: "Party leaders asked why they did not give statement about torture in the court. The reply was that it was due to apprehension about further and

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Society craves for thousands of Barun Biswas

In a rainy July evening ten years ago, a motley group of villagers from Sutia in the Bongaon area of North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, gathered at the local market to protest the spate of rapes that had left the area terrorized. In the two years running up to the meeting at Sutia market, the locality had been ravaged by a gang of rapists – stated to be led by one notorious criminal Sushanta Choudhury — who used sexual torture as a weapon of dominance. Though 33 rapes and a dozen murders were recorded officially, the actual number of rapes was many times more because victims were too petrified to complain. These armed goons roamed free with firearms and other weapons, used to extort villagers under the garb of holding kangaroo courts. Civilized world might be shocked to learn that any women who even murmured in protest was gang-raped for weeks. Sometimes the criminal gang raped every woman regardless of age, in a family, who dared to oppose this ghastly crime going on unabated in front of the passive, if not indulgent, administration and police. Still a few of the local citizens took heart to congregate at the local market and speaking in hushed tones, they distributed leaflets asking people to join the protest. Some took the leaflets hesitantly, cast a furtive glance, and threw them away. A hired microphone lay silent in a corner. Suddenly, a young man walked boldly through the anxious crowd and grabbed the microphone. He stood tall on a wooden stool and started speaking. “If we can’t protect our daughters, sisters, wives and mothers, then we shouldn’t be living in a civilized society. If we lack the courage to take on the

rapists, we deserve more severe punishment than they do.... So come and join us to protect the honour of our women.” He was a fearless youth, Barun Biswas, in his late-twenties who had just started working as a schoolteacher after doing his masters in Bengali and then a B Ed. Son of a landless farmer, he even cleared the state civil services examination but his heart was set on social work. Chucking a bureaucrat’s cushy life, he settled for a teacher’s job. Till selfless, bold-natured Barun Biswas broke the fear barrier that rainy evening and sparked a spontaneous protest by pleading passionately to rapturous applause from the crowd, no one, angry but terrified of reprisal, even dreamt of opening their mouth. Along with a few others including veteran teacher Jiten Bala, he then formed the *Sutia Gonodhorshon Protibadi Mancha*. (*Sutia Gangrape Prevention Committee*) a protest forum in August 2002 and waded into battle. Apart from raising voice against mass rape, he also was active against other anti-social activities like extortion, running liquor dens, misappropriation of funds for road repair by unscrupulous contractors, corruption centring on the Ichhamati dam and so forth. As an important member of Save Education Committee, he was active in the education movement including ongoing protest movement against abolition of pass-fail system upto class VIII. He was also associated with the Forum for Artistes, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals that played a key role in organizing the civil society to rise against social injustices during the period of Singur-Nandigram movements. Barun knew his life was under

threat but he didn’t bother. He always had a daring streak, nerves of steel. He was scared of no one and he loved helping people, often at the cost of his own comfort. It was his movement under the banner of the Forum that forced the administration to act and four of the accused were arrested and jailed.

But the criminals hatched a conspiracy from the jail. Barun was brutally murdered in the evening of 5 July near Gobardanga railway station allegedly by appointed contract killers. His murder sparked

a day to pay homage to this shining character throughout the state. At the memorial meeting of late Barun Biswas organized by Sutia Protest Forum on 15 July at Sutia, Comrade Tarun Mandal, SUCI(C) MP from Joynagar called upon the youth to follow his ideals and imbibe the true spirit of youthfulness which lies in one’s audacity to stand firm against injustice with grit, determination and valour. He exhorted that shouldering the unfulfilled task of the late martyr Barun would be the best way to pay due homage to his fighting character. He also informed



Comrade Tarun Mandal, SUCI(C) MP from Joynagar, WB, addressing the memorial meeting of Barun Biswas on 15 July at Sutia

a whip of protest from every corner. People took to the street and burst into rage. Sutia Protest Forum swung into protest agitations. Forum for Artistes, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals organized a protest rally in Kolkata. In a statement issued to the press on 7 July, Comrade Soumen Basu, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI(C) vehemently protested the ghastly killing of Shri Barun Biswas, paid rich tribute to this exemplary character and held that this incident once again proved how the criminals and anti-socials are thumping around in the tenure of the present government as well. He appealed to all to observe 9 July as

that he had met the government officials on 9 July at the state secretariat and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and meting out exemplary punishment to them. A message from Shri Tarun Sanyal, President of the Forum for Artistes, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals was read out by Smt. Rupashree Kahali, noted recitation artist. Under pressure of people’s protest, the administration became a little active and is learnt to have arrested five persons, including the prime accused. Let there be a firm resolve to create more of Barun Biswas to signal inevitable triumph of human essence over barbarity, injustice and decadence.

Comrade Tarun Naskar in the West Bengal Assembly

Participating in the debates and discussions, Comrade Tarun Naskar, the SUCI(C) MLA in West Bengal State Assembly has been reflecting the voice of the people and extra-parliamentary movements inside the legislature over various issues. Appended is a brief account of Comrade Naskar’s interventions in the recent sessions of the assembly.

Protesting against the hike in power tariff four times in the past five months, Comrade Tarun Naskar said that the present TMC-led government which promised not to toe the line of the former CPI (M) government of periodically raising electricity charges under false pretexts to, among other things, appease the monopoly houses like the Goenkas owning the CESC

(supplier of electricity in Kolkata and some adjoining areas), is unfortunately treading along the same path and thereby forcing the small farmers, small industries, small businessmen and ordinary domestic consumers to bear the brunt of additional payout. Goenkas have not even prevented from hiking the charges with the Monthly Variable Cost Adjustment process introduced in CESC areas and also taking advances from the consumers based on that. He demanded of the Power Minister to immediately rollback the hikes.

Dealing on the issue of Contract Farming, Comrade Naskar argued that if this avidly anti-peasant system takes a firm grip, the middle-lower- marginal farmers would be

enslaved by the profit-seeking corporate financial oligarchs since under such contracts everything right from inputs like seeds, manure, pesticides to selling of the produces would be totally controlled by the giant MNCs eyeing the agriculture sector like vultures to mint maximum profit.

Comrade Naskar demanded a speedy solution of the long pending problem of non-distribution of ration-cards to about 70-80 thousand residents of Joynagar area despite several petitions submitted to the local BDOs from the platform of organized movement. He also brought notice of the House to the plight of some 2817 Public Service Commission examinees of the year 2009, who have been unjustifiably

left out of the list of employment as Group D employees in the departments of Health and Family Planning. Frustrated, one of the candidates has even appealed for euthanasia, he mentioned. He requested the Chief Minister through the speaker to protect their interest.

Pointing at the terrible situation prevailing in Howrah Municipal Corporation areas as also some other localities due to acute crisis of potable water, centring around which there has been a sad incident of loss of one precious life, he wondered if both the municipality authorities as well as the Minister for Development could still not take necessary remedial steps with due

From Teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

SUCI(Communist) alone is trying to provide the tune of ethics, morality and culture to political movement

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bourgeois politicians also there were some persons who, no matter what was their political outlook, had a certain base of honesty, foundation of education and culture. If the question of class-conflict or class-struggle is kept aside, then they had a dream of nation-building, of service to the nation, as per their own understanding of nationalism and patriotism. They tried to build the nation in their own way. But that was a fanciful dream of theirs. No doubt, they wanted to build the nation but they did not consider it necessary to judge which was the correct path to do that. They thought that since they intended to bring about the welfare of the nation, they would be able to do so by any idea or plan that came out of their contemplation. But they failed to understand that it can never be so. It does not depend only on the mere intention of someone. Science does not approve it to be the way to achieve anything. Science states that every event that takes place is law-governed, every action is determined by the law of causality. This law-governance is not only operative in the realm of natural science. The truth arrived at today by integrating the theories accumulating from all branches of science indicate that it is the law operative in every sphere including a subject or incident about which one knows nothing. If something is unknown, then it is incumbent on one to get to know the same. Hence if anyone thinks something to be correct or just with respect to a plan, programme, mental make-up, politics or ideology and thinks that since he wants to achieve it on that basis, why shall he not succeed, then he should remember that he cannot achieve it simply because he desires or thinks so. Because I have already said that every phenomenon, every action is law-governed, follows a definite

methodology. No one can avoid that law. Remember that to recognize and operate within the bounds of this given law is the mark of our intelligence, consummate knowledge and restraint. As in trying to disregard the law we lose self-control in our day-to-day life, so also we fall victim to utopia in the field of knowledge.

So the utopians among the bourgeois politicians who in their own way might have thought of welfare of the common people, individually even those whose heart truly ached for the people, in reality also served the interest of the bourgeoisie because of having failed to follow the correct scientific course. Because their line was wrong. They never wanted to critically examine the fact that the line pursued by them would only build up capitalism. What is more they could not develop the right attitude towards those who tried to make them aware of this truth. They thought that since they were honest, making so much sacrifice, seriously desiring to do good to the people — how could they possibly be accused of subserving capitalism? Did not their mind ache for the people? But they failed to appreciate that all these were less important and immaterial in the perspective of realizing what they longed for. They could not understand that howsoever honest a person might be, he can never achieve what he wants merely by dint of that honesty alone. No doubt the question of honesty and dishonesty is fundamental in doing anything. Because a person bereft of scruple, determination and honesty can do nothing. It is a primary condition that if anyone intends to do something, he must possess honesty, grit and dream for doing that. He cannot but have all these. But can he accomplish his objective only by having these? No, despite possessing all these, if he treads the wrong path, then his creative

faculty may be led astray, destroyed. So for doing anything, it is very important to determine the correct path. Because, as there is a law, a causal relation governing every phenomenon, or in other words as every phenomenon is law-governed, there is also a law operative behind social development. Without grasping this law, if anybody thinks that since he is honest, has the capacity to undertake fast, can court death by starvation, has the strength to sacrifice his life, can renounce everything for the sake of the people, he is in a position to turn back the society as he wishes, take it back to the hermitage age, the age when society was divided into 'four caste' system, or can shape or reshape society through his fanciful formulation, then he should know that if this could be achieved it might be satisfactory to him, but such never happens, there is no way that it can happen. It is simply out of question. Hence, even those among the bourgeois politicians who were honest also failed because they could not determine the correct course and at the cost of their endeavour, capitalism only has been consolidated.

Be that as it may, this has been the story of the Congress. But let me revert back from where started my discussion. I told the Leftists at that time that they were eloquent about the corruption of the Congress, calling every Congressman corrupt, saying that the Congress was practising corruption, indulging in theft, swindling, deceit, that there was no honest person in the Congress, everyone had become rotten — all these were true. But the Congress had degenerated, got mired in corruption only after being saddled in power. Prior to that, during the freedom movement, they also participated in the struggle, the Congress workers were very much in the struggle. At that time, all of us were within the Congress. These Congress workers, Gandhite workers, had made lots of sacrifices then. At that time they had the mettle to sacrifice. But now after being in power, they are all running after their share in the booty. However, I had asked the Leftists way back in 1966 whether they were looking at themselves in the mirror. Till then, they had not assumed power. But could they detect that before being in the seat of power, corruption had surged

into their house like flood waters? Already they were plunged in corruption. Then let them fight against the corruption which, I said, had made its way into their own house. I said, those who were so sunk in corruption before assuming power, what would they do if they came to power? They would invariably bring about total ruin and disaster. They would take the country to doom by waving the red flag. But on hearing me, the leftist leaders got furious. I had said this at that time having observed many incidents — let me not go into all these now. I remarked that the leftist movement has become a haven for the worst self-seekers. They say something but do something else. They have no scruple at all. Even the common norm of "word of honour" that had been evident in bourgeois politics — to that also they attach no value at all. If anybody asks them, "You had said like this earlier, then why are you doing otherwise now?" Unperturbed, they would promptly reply with a smile, "Did we say so? If we said this, so what? This is quite usual." Or immediately they would allude to Marxist theory to say, "Truth is subject to change". Their pet argument runs, what is the meaning on insisting that as because we said like this, we shall have to keep to it, even if necessity of revolution is felt to be otherwise. So you see, their conduct is something like the proverbial *arsoproyog* which means whatever is said by a sage is by itself right — and similar to that whatever they say is by itself right. To suit their own convenience, they have no doubt understood this much from Marxism-Leninism or dialectical materialism that since there is no God, there is no question of sin or reward for virtue, or condemnation to hell in the religious sense, so what is there to fear! So, to them it is a matter of saying or doing at any given time whatever suits their convenience, in other words, they do not care at all for any principle.

Remember that as against the influence of the debased ethics and morality which has eaten into the very vitals of the left movement, our party, SUCI is trying its very best, and all alone, to build up the left movement on the edifice of a higher ethics and morality."

(Left Movement in India and task of the students, 1974: SW Vol. III p 475-486)

Protest against Privatisation of Water and Electricity Tariff Hike in Delhi

Protests against privatization-commercialization of water and other issues like extreme electricity tariff hike was held in Delhi by the Gulabi-Bagh Shastri Nagar Unit of Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) on 29 July as also by the Water Privatization Commercialization Resistive

Committee, Karol Bagh on 23 July. Public meetings were held and addressed by Delhi State Committee members of the Party as also by leaders of the local units of the Party and different mass and frontal organizations, highlighting the intent of the design to serve the interests of the monopolists.

Masquerading as leftists-Marxists, CPI(M) is practising rotten criminalized bourgeois politics

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more terrible torture if reported to the court." These arguments are flimsy and untenable since the CPI(M) top leaders and team of MLA's are regularly visiting them in the lock-ups or jail on one side and on the other, that party is demonstratively flexing its muscles in the street in an attempt to keep up the morale. In case of the murder of Abdul Shukkoor they have practically admitted their role justifying it as retaliation by angry supporters when their leaders were attacked. About the murder of Muhammad Fazal they still hold it as the handy work of the BJP. But evidences coming out are proving otherwise. Because of the vile politics of murder pursued by the CPI(M) for long the democratic atmosphere of the state of Kerala is also seriously affected.

Now public anger against the CPI(M) in the state is in its peak and the party itself is in great shambles. Taking fullest advantage, the Congress-led UDF govt. is trying to further tarnish their image and also to denigrate Marxism itself. By repeatedly calling CPI(M) as Marxist-leftist, the bourgeois media is also leaving no stone unturned to show leftism-Marxism in bad light and holding out to

people that leftism is no different from rotten corrupt bourgeois politics and hence dispossessed of any scruple or honesty whatsoever. That is why, perhaps there is no cogent reason to believe that all these investigations would be led upto their logical end as the CPI(M) like the Congress or the BJP, enjoys considerable confidence of the ruling capitalist class whom they have served faithfully during their governmental tenure in both Kerala and West Bengal. Notwithstanding having been dislodged from the power, the CPI(M) as a social-democratic force with a cloak of Marxism-Leninism still continues to be in the corridor of power and might well stage a comeback at any opportune time with the blessings and backing of the ruling class. One is reminded in this connection of the words of great Stalin who observed that "it is impossible to put an end to capitalism without putting an end to Social-Democratism which is an ideological support of capitalism." So the ruling class in its aggregate class interest is not likely to allow the judicial proceedings to go beyond a certain limit lest such a social-democratic party like the CPI(M) which can on occasions serve its class interest much better

than the known bourgeois outfits, should fade out from the arena of bourgeois parliamentary politics. Still, whatever is coming out, speaks eloquent about the political bankruptcy of the CPI(M) and increasingly making people aware of the fact that under the garb of leftism, this party is nakedly pursuing worst bourgeois politics of violence and murder so much so as to feel no qualms in brutally assassinating political opponents, both inside and outside the party.

Our Party is trying hard in this situation to explain to the people that such politics of individual killing and assassination of political opponents as well as party dissidents has nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism. Rather, Marxism-Leninism staunchly opposes such heinous activities and imbibes people with the nobility of revolutionary politics which, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has taught, is the noblest feeling of heart which spurs on a revolutionary to bring about a revolutionary transformation of the obsolete decrepit society by cultivating finest human essence.

At the same time, our Party would like to point out that decadence of capitalism has reached such a depth that

corruption and criminalization of politics is going beyond all bounds. And these vices are being sustained, supported and practised not only by the branded bourgeois petty bourgeois parties. Rather, the horrid situation and the hated fascistic acts of CPI(M) show that social-democratic forces masquerading as leftists-Marxists do not lag behind. In fact, these acts are typical of social-democratic forces who, as Lenin said, are agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement engaged in emasculating the movement from within to serve the ruling capitalist class. Upholding the nobility of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought we are engaged in extensive campaign among the people. A number of public meetings involving eminent personalities have been organized under party's initiative condemning the politics of murder and upholding true democratic values which are attracting the left-minded people widely. Also our party is singlehandedly building up sustained democratic mass movements on burning problems of the people and striving to maintain healthy-democratic atmosphere of meaningful political activities.

Protests sweep across states against rising gruesome atrocities on women and girl children

Comrade Ina Hussain, Secretary, Assam State Committee of All India MSS expressing grave anxiety and strongest indignation at the horribly tragic incident of atrocious molestation of a woman at **Guwahati** on 9 July, said in a Press statement that the way transgressing upon all limits of civility and humanity, attempts were made to thrash the helpless woman severely, to put burning cigarette stubs on her body and finally to strip her in front of a camera, all this prove once more without doubt that the Congress government of the Assam state has failed totally and miserably in protecting rights and ensuring security of women here. Comrade Hussain further said that in these days of decadent capitalism, the youth, are fast falling victims of perversions. Unabated addiction towards drinks, drugs, pornography and rampant spread of vulgar materials through blue films through mobile phones, internet, facebook and such others

are dragging the youth of the country towards a disastrous end. The 9 July incident at Guwahati is a glaring eye-opening instance of that. She demanded impartial investigation of this ghastly incident and severe punishment for the persons involved in and responsible for it. At the same time she pointed out the only way to save the youth rests in developing cultural movement on the strength of correct ideology and values and ethics.

All India Committee of the AIMSS also registered its strong protest against this incident and on 16 July demonstrations were held on the same cause in different states of the country including West Bengal (in Kolkata), Delhi, Gujarat (in Ahmedabad) by the women's organization AIMSS, the youth organization AIDYO and the students' organization AIDSO.

A convention against rising spate of rape of girl children was held at Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Peace

Research Centre, **Ahmedabad** on 28 July by the All India MSS and All India DSO in association with AWAG and Gujarat Mahila Federation. It was presided over by Sh. Ilaben Pathak. Eminent personalities of the Gujarat state and others like Sh. Naliniben Trivedi, Sh. Aameeban Yagnik, Sh. Mehroonisaben Desai, Sh. Prakashbhai N. Shah, Sh. Rohitbhai Shukla, Sh. Dwarikanath Rath, Sh. Leelaben Desai, Sh. Jagdishbhai Chaudhary, Sh. Bhartiben Parmar and others expressed their concern over increasing incidents of rapes, particularly on girl child, debasing mentality towards women, indifferent attitude of the Government and administration. Sh. Mayurbhai Chavda, Asst. Commissioner, Crime Branch confessed that Police and administration need be more sensitized. Sh. Meenakshiben Joshi conducted the entire convention. The Convention condemned the atrocious behaviour of the

authorities of the M. S. University of Varodara, towards the hostel girls.

A women's conference (Sammelan) held at **Rewari** on 22 July also addressed, among others, the issue of the rising atrocities on women. Dr. Jaylakhsmi, the All India General Secretary of AIMSS, addressed the house.

A massive dharna was staged at Bhagat Singh Chowk, near Gandhi Maidan, in **Patna** on 26 July, against the police inaction in arresting the rapists of a teenage girl in Patna. It was organized by the 'Mahila Atyachar Virodhi Sangharsha Morcha' of which the AIMSS is one of the important constituents. Leaders of the Bihar State Committee of the AIMSS, including Com. Sadhana Mishra, Secretary addressed the dharana among others. Under pressure of the movement the police had to arrest three out of five rapists. The movement continues.

Mass protest of land acquisition in Haryana

Peasants of 16 villages of Bawal sub-division, district Rewari in Haryana state are struggling hard to save their 3500 acres of fertile agricultural lands. SUCI (C) and AIKKMS along with other peasant organizations like BKU and a number of political parties have extended their support to the peasants. Instead of paying due attention to their demands, the administration is taking resort to brute coercive measures. It forcibly demolished hutments and houses; ignoring plea of a local kisan pachayat, it registered case against those who opposed demolition. The peasants organized sit-in dharna at the District Collectorate office at Rewari on 11 July and without any response from the government, when on 16 July the peasants wanted to submit their memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, they were lathi-charged at the office which injured many including old aged women and an old aged retired Colonel. Undaunted, the peasants continued their movement, even acquiring support from other sections of people. District court bar association observed work suspension against the injustice made on the peasants. On 18 July

Rewari and Bawal towns observed complete bandh at the call of the struggling peasants. A kisan mahapanchayat was held on 22 July, which was attended by peasant leaders and representatives of different opposition political parties, including Rakesh Tickait, a prominent peasant leader of western UP. With no response from the government, the peasants decided a road blockade on the adjacent NH8. A heavy deployment of police resorted to, without any warning, fierce lathi charge, tear-gas shelling and finally firing on the struggling peasants, injuring hundreds of them. An all Haryana protest day was observed on 24 July against the police oppression

In Haryana peasants are also struggling against forcible acquisition of fertile agricultural land in Fatehabad for the last two years. As the government makes the move for final award of acquisition, the peasants including women prepare themselves for a greater struggle, if necessary with lathis in hands. The AIKKMS, a participant in the movement have submitted memorandum to the Chief Minister Haryana, demanding withdrawal of the plan for unjust acquisition of lands.

Comrade Tarun Naskar in W B assembly

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expediency.

Comrade Tarun Naskar has been the only MLA to have opposed the Techno India University, West Bengal Bill 2012 aimed at ratifying setting up of Universities by private houses. He asserted that this is a move to carry the legacy of the erstwhile CPI(M) government who had initiated setting up private engineering and medical colleges even by the top monopolist groups like the Ambanis in keeping with the anti-education recommendations of the Ambani-Birla Committee, National Knowledge Commission and the Yashpal Committee. He urged the Minister for Higher Education to consider the question of ascribing to the existing colleges under Techno India group, affiliation with the West Bengal University of Technology so that it could be eligible for conducting post-graduate and doctoral courses.

Taking part in the debate on education budget and conveying thanks to the government for ensuring disbursement of salary of the college teachers on the 1st day of the month and the decision to set up new colleges and universities based on an education map, he drew

attention to the fact that the government has not honoured its commitment of freeing the education from worst nepotism and indirect control of the party in power as well as not filling up vacant posts of college teachers, creation of need-based new posts, is silent over implementing certain UGC rules in salary fixation, promotion, age of service etc. He also criticized the government for introducing no detention policy upto class VII which is destined to spell disaster.

While supporting the essence of the proposal mooted by the government to lead an all-Party delegation to Delhi for exerting pressure on the central government for putting a 3-year moratorium on payment of both principal and interest on the huge central loan that the previous CPI (M) government had availed of, he held that the government need to work for developing a consensus on the matter and the charter of demands must also incorporate other issue like no FDI in retail, release of receivable share of coal cess collected, increase in central aid, more central grant for proper distribution of essential items through PDS etc.

SUCI (C) strongly opposes another dose of steep hike in petrol-diesel prices in various states consequent on withdrawal of subsidy component of fuel surcharge

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), has issued the following statement on 26-07-12 :

We strongly oppose the most unjust and avidly anti-people move on the part of the Congress-led central government to withdraw the subsidy hitherto provided to the oil companies as compensation for the taxation under state surcharge as a result of which there is steep rise in petrol-diesel prices in many states while the others would soon follow the suit. With this, the government besides the customary plea of increase in international crude price and falling rupee has found out another pretext of periodic hike in domestic fuel tariff and made one more step towards complete deregularization of retail fuel tariff which would push the spiralling price rise further and spell yet more disaster in people's life. This is evident that this government is avowedly committed to protect maximization of profits by the oil behemoths crying hoarse for being compensated for what is known as 'under recovery' or difference between international and domestic tariffs of refined oil and shows cruel indifference to, if not indulgence in, the escalated plight and penury of the rapidly pauperized common people.

We call upon the people not to accept this draconian attack on their life and livelihood calibrated as 'economic logic' for rescuing a shuttering economy, not be misled by the deceptive slogans and pretended opposition of the forces subservient to bourgeois class interest and come forward to embrace the path of organized sustained conscious democratic movement under correct leadership which is the only way to thwart such sinister designs of the bourgeois government and repel the mounting onslaughts perpetrated by it on them.

SUCI (C) vehemently opposes the proposal to hike power tariff and calls upon the countrymen to resist it by developing powerful movement

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 19-07-12 :

We vehemently oppose the utterly anti-people pro-capitalist recommendation of the Planning Commission reportedly accepted by the Congress-led central government to ask the state governments to substantially raise electricity charges as pre-condition for receiving proposed bail-out package to rescue, what it states, 'the ailing power sector' and to withdraw subsidy to all the state electricity boards. This draconian decision is going deal another severe blow to the common people including the poor peasants reeling under harrowing price rise of all essential commodities and increasing fiscal savagery. The very plea that the power sector is incurring loss is a hoax and the customary alibi of rising cost of production does not stand reason or fact. While the government is on a spree of doling out plethora of concessions, financial assistance and tax exemptions to the corporate sector, it is shamelessly squeezing the pauperized masses of the people under the fraudulent pretext of boosting economic growth. This proposal which is welcomed by the industrial houses and MNCs, both domestic and foreign, is a precursor to the impending roll-out of a slew of economic reforms in keeping with the prescripts of capitalist globalization and thus destined to wreak havoc in people's life and push the suffering multitudes further to the precipice of ruination.

We call upon the countrymen to rise in protest and build up a countrywide organized powerful democratic movement with due expediency to stall this proposed power tariff hike and thwart implementation of the other reform measures like subsidy withdrawal, FDI in retail and banks, opening up pension fund for stock market investment, deregulation of fuel prices and so forth.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH