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“Certain people ... think that there is too little freedom under our people’s democracy and that there is more freedom under Western parliamentary democracy. They ask for a two-party system as in the West, with one party in office and the other in opposition. But this so-called two party system is nothing but a device for maintaining the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie; it can never guarantee freedoms to the working people. As a matter of fact, freedom and democracy exist not in the abstract, but only in the concrete. In a society where class struggle exists, if there is freedom for the exploiting classes to exploit the working people, there is no freedom for the working people not to be exploited. If there is democracy for the bourgeoisie there is no democracy for the proletariat and other working people. The legal existence of the Communist Party is tolerated in some capitalist countries, but only to the extent that it does not endanger the fundamental interests of the bourgeoisie; it is not tolerated beyond that.”

— (Mao Zedong on Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People; SW : Vol. V)

WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

How Far For Women

For quite some time, the demand for reserving 33% of the seats of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas for the women is being raised from some circles. It is argued that this is a step towards empowerment of womanhood. Considerable discussions and deliberations on this have been going on in the pages of newspapers and journals as well. But it is intriguing to find that the capitalist class, the media controlled by it and the political parties subservient to it like the Congress and the BJP who are not at all bothered about the barest minimum for subsistence of over 90 % of the population, the toiling millions, are all very vocal on this question of reservation. It is also a fact that the CPI(M), the CPI and their associate parties too have joined them in the chorus on this question. The ousted BJP government, with the support of the then parties in Opposition like the Congress, the CPI(M), and the CPI, made several attempts to get the Women Reservation Bill passed in the Lok Sabha. But it could not be passed because of differences on the questions of percentage of seats to be reserved and the provision for special reservation along caste lines within the total percentage of reservation. The Congress and the BJP, along with the CPI(M) and the CPI, are sparing no efforts to get the Bill passed. The newly installed Congress-led government has once again declared its intention to get the Bill passed. Naturally, in the minds of many, including a large section of the women a sense of hope and aspiration has also been generated. An impression is sought to be created among the women — neglected, tortured, oppressed and smarting under capitalist and

patriarchal exploitations, that their problems would be considerably mitigated if the proposed measure is adopted. In this situation, it has become extremely necessary to deliberate upon all aspects of the proposed measure of reserving a quota of seats for the women in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha.

Women’s problems stem from the socio-economic condition

It goes without saying that the problems of women arise from the problems of the particular country, society they live in, and so if viewed in isolation from the social perspective their problems cannot be scientifically analyzed, the actual nature of the problems cannot be understood and the correct

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Before we march against the Convention,
on Thurs. **AUG. 26** in NYC
BUSH GOES ON TRIAL FOR WAR CRIMES

3-9 PM

IRAQ WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL
THE PEOPLE WILL JUDGE GEORGE W. BUSH

www.PeopleJudgeBush.org

The International Tribunal has indicted President Bush as a war criminal in New York. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Vice-President of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum has placed his testimony against Bush before the gathering in New York on the occasion.

(Left) Poster published in the USA about the International Tribunal.

Capitalist system — stumbling block in path of progress

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solutions cannot be found out. So, to understand the character of the problems of Indian women, different aspects of the present capitalist economic and political system of India would have to be examined.

Everybody knows that after independence a capitalist state and a capitalist economic system were established in India and a social-cultural framework suited and conducive to these has been built up in post-independent India. In this system, it is the ruling capitalist class that possesses all economic power. The political power is also concentrated in the hands of the capitalist class. 95 % of the people of the country, irrespective of their gender, do not enjoy any political power in the true sense. Despite some rights on paper, talks about democracy, equality, fraternity on the surface and holding of the election spectacle at definite intervals of time, these have no value in the lives of 95 % of the population, irrespective of gender. These rights conferred on them with so much trumpeting have no effectiveness in changing their poverty-stricken existence, their fast deteriorating condition. The ruling class and its agents try to create illusion among the exploited masses by a grand show of such "rights" devoid of any substance in order to both nip in the bud the possibility of an organized, revolutionary movement of 95 % of the population oppressed and suppressed under the grinding wheel of capitalist state machine, as well as to protect the exploitative capitalist state machine from being overthrown. Viewed from this angle, these serve as the safeguards of the capitalist class in practice on the one hand, while on the other, by deceiving the exploited masses, they hide from them the truth that in reality they have no political rights under capitalism. Unmasking this nefarious and deceitful conduct of the capitalist class, Lenin repeatedly said that although they make a loud noise about the democracy and the rights under the capitalist system, the point that must be grasped is that in a class-divided society, in the context of conflicting class interests of the exploiters and the exploited, the concept of democracy cannot be the same for all classes; the democracy and the rights of the

exploiters can never be the same as the democracy and the rights of the exploited. It is in this sense that democracy and rights have class character. Exposing their hypocrisy, he raised the question: Democracy for which class, against which class? He stressed that those who talk about "democracy for all, rights for the whole people" sidetracking this question, are either utterly ignorant, or else cunning, seasoned agents of the capitalist class, subservient to it and protectors of its interest.

Manipulations galore in bourgeois parliamentary elections

Such being the condition, it is not difficult to understand that in a capitalist system, simply winning elections or getting elected does not mean anything as real power lies elsewhere. Secondly, it is also true that although elections may be held from time to time under this system, true representatives of the exploited masses can never get elected in significant numbers in such elections. Election results are swayed in favour of the capitalist class through clever ploys and stratagems, use of money power, concerted, all-out propaganda by the media controlled by monopoly capital, indiscriminate use of muscle power to intimidate and terrorize the common people, confusing and deluding them by raising the issues of religion, community and caste or race, and if necessary, even naked or clandestine all-out rigging, shedding all pretence of democracy. Conduction of elections in such manner has been the hallmark of all capitalist countries including our, and it is in this way that this or that party of the ruling capitalist class is coming to power. This is clear as daylight today. The capitalist class of the country totally and indisputably controls the elections, not only in India but in all capitalist countries of the world. Most of those elected are wedded to and controlled by this or that industrial house or monopoly group. It is known to all that these so-called elected representatives of the people are utterly powerless to cross the limits set by big business and monopoly capital. In such a condition, even if one or two real representatives of the exploited masses, that is, one or two candidates of the revolutionary

party of the proletariat come out victorious in the election by overcoming all obstacles put up by the capitalist class, they are unable to do anything to even somewhat mitigate the intensity of exploitation on the people, because the government that is formed through such elections is deeply wedded to the capitalist class; what is more, in a capitalist system, exploitation by the capitalist class can never get lessened, it only intensifies more and more - such is the system. So, those few genuine people's elected representatives, if they are really imbued with revolutionary ideology, can do only one thing and that is they can to some extent, portray the heart-rending picture of the merciless oppression of all downtrodden people irrespective of community, caste, creed, language or gender, and raise their legitimate demands inside the legislature and simultaneously reveal to the people the real character of the ruthless exploitation of the capitalist class. If a legitimate movement of the exploited crystallizes, they can project its voice inside the legislature, and any elected representative imbued with revolutionary ideology, whether a man or a woman, can do this. That the elected revolutionaries, if they are men, would speak about only the oppressed men, or if the elected revolutionaries are women, they would solely focus on the destitution of the oppressed women is, it goes without saying, something inconceivable. Such unrealistic, unscientific thinking is beyond imagination. On the other hand, it is futile to expect that the women members elected as representatives of a party serving the interest of the capitalist class would ever highlight the cause of the exploited, humiliated and tortured, oppressed women. So if the genuine proletarian class outlook dawns upon someone in search of truth, one would find that so long as this capitalist order is in vogue and the patriarchal domination continuing in our society under this capitalist system in the interest and with the patronage of the capitalist class, there can be no end, not even slightest amelioration of the plight and exploitation of the women just by earmarking 33 % of the seats for women legislators or even raising the quota to 50 % since women constitute half of the total

population. The elected women from this or that party serving the interest of the capitalist class would serve the capitalist class just as obediently as their male counterparts in the legislature. This is what is being daily observed in the parliamentary politics of the whole capitalist world.

Moribund capitalism - root of all evils

The second aspect to be considered is that in capitalist India, the basic factor hindering development of the womenfolk and as such acting as the basic cause of all their burning problems, is the lack of their economic freedom, the denial of even the minimum opportunity for them to earn a livelihood freely, without which all high sounding rights stand meaningless. It is known to all, that it is this economic freedom that is the determinant of all other freedoms and rights. No right can be established in its absence. The rights conferred on the women in writing or verbally in this capitalist system are all bereft of their essence. In the moribund capitalist system of today, there is no further scope of any industrial development to generate more employment. Under this system, not to speak of creation of new employment opportunities, even the existing opportunities are fast getting squeezed. It is not because of the unwillingness of any individual or group of individuals but due to the inexorable law of the capitalist production process. So practically no opportunity exists today for providing employment to the women constituting half of the population, making secure their economic freedom. But it is clear that this is not possible under the capitalist system. Not to speak of a permanent solution, there are no efforts to even partially fulfill this urgent need. It is well known that the key to emancipation of women from capitalist exploitation and terrible patriarchal oppression by society under capitalism lies in abolition of the capitalist system, the urge for which is gaining ground throughout the world.

Votaries of reservation — mute spectators to assault on women

Another important point to note

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CPI(M) does volte-face to oppose right to work

"The UPA government will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act. This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to begin with on asset creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every rural urban poor and lower middle class household." — says the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Congress-led UPA government duly endorsed by the CPI(M), CPI and their associates. The CPI(M) leaders claimed that inclusion of this agenda in the NCMP has been on account of their insistence and such has been an unprecedented achievement. They even apprehended that the vested interest would try its best to frustrate implementation of this pro-poor agenda. Hence, they called upon the progressive forces to remain alert and fight the opponents to this agenda both inside and outside the Parliament. Incidentally, such a policy announcement has been nothing new. The erstwhile BJP government too had made such policy declaration though the people's demand has been for guaranteeing work for 365 days at appropriate remuneration.

But then it has been a saga of incredible volte-face. When the

Prime Minister convened a meeting in Delhi on 29 June last to seek opinion of the states in formulating a scheme for implementing the agenda, Suryakanta Mishra, the CPI(M) Panchayat and Health Minister of West Bengal, stood up and opposed it. "This provision does not match the actual position" - said Mishra (Ganashakti, Bengali mouthpiece of the CPI(M) 30.6.04.) He further went on to add that "It is not possible to develop rural India without land reform. Land reform must be given priority." And then came two more arguments from him.

As per the scheme, 75 % of the financial assistance would be provided by the central government while the state government would bear the remaining 25 % cost. According to Mishra representing CPI(M)-led West Bengal government, the empty coffer of the state government is unable to meet this commitment. Further if guarantee for 100 days work is legalized, that would, Mishra observed, entitle a bonafide claimant to move the court against the government if he is not provided the stipulated employment. Even Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, the CPI(M) Politburo member and West Bengal Chief minister personally met the Union Finance Minister on

July 12 and requested him not to enact any law to confer this right of 100 days work on the have-nots and destitutes.

This is how the CPI(M) leaders are fighting for the poor and creating pressure on the UPA government to give effect to the pro-people clauses of the NCMP! They are openly advocating to deny the below poverty line poor the right to work, and that too for just 100 out of 365 days to one member of a family — something hardly adequate even for bare subsistence. It is also not clear as to how the issue of land reforms is linked to this. The CPI(M) leaders owe an explanation to the people in this regard. Had the CPI(M) leaders not scuttled the move, the Congress led UPA government, under public pressure, would have gone ahead with appropriate legislation to enact the provision. There is also another fallacy in the argument of the CPI(M) bigwigs. If the CPI(M) leaders think that this provision can not be effected unless land reforms take place, then what stops them to implement the same in West Bengal where they claim to have achieved a record success in this regard? Perhaps to avoid this too obvious but thoroughly embarrassing question, they have brought to the fore the issue of running short of

money to bear the proportionate cost. But while giving plea of depleted state exchequer, the CPI(M) leaders suppressed the fact that there has not been any shortage of fund in providing various subsidies and assistance to the industrialists and corporate houses, nor has there been any dearth of showing amnesty to tax-defaulters costing the government crores of rupees. Instances of pilferage and squandering of public money are also not short in number.

Then what would one conclude? The CPI(M) leaders are masters in double-speak, deceiving the exploited downtrodden, unmoved by recent starvation deaths, to serve the interest of the ruling capitalist class and its agents with a "left" cloak and it is the prosperity of the capitalist class that they pose as national development. Who does then represent the vested interest?

The people must come forward and organize powerful movement to compel the government enforce the guarantee to work, initially for the proposed 100 days, and, then gradually increase the period to 365 days and that too, for every able person in the family. If the CPI(M) leaders come in the way, they would face public outrage and fury and of course the consequences.

Bangalore

Convention of agricultural labourers

Raitha Krishi Karmikara Sanghatane (RKS), the Karnataka Unit of AIKKMS organized a State Level Convention of peasants and agricultural labourers in Bangalore, Town Hall, on 12 August last, to discuss the implications of globalization, liberalization and privatization and also to decide the future course of action to be taken

up by them.

Just before the convention a huge rally was held. The processionists raised slogans against the apathy of the governments towards the toiling people. It was notable that many hundreds of rural women having travelled the whole previous night in the train, enthusiastically participated in the

rally with their children in arms. Thousands witnessed the rally with great appreciation.

The Convention was inaugurated by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary, SUCI.

The main speaker was Comrade Satyawan, All India Secretary, AIKKMS. He said, that the plight of the poor has worsened and the gap

between the rich and poor further widened since the implementation of globalization, liberalization and privatization. Subsidies to agriculture have been withdrawn on the plea that the conditionalities of WTO do not allow it. 'If so how then

the rich imperialist powers such as USA, Japan, EU are aiding their agricultural sector with heavy, hidden subsidies?' — he questioned and asked whether these conditionalities are not applicable to these countries. However the result is unprecedented hike in the prices of agricultural inputs and so the agriculture itself has become costly. Thanks to the new import and export policies of the government, agricultural prices are falling so drastically that peasants are not getting back even whatever money has been spent on cultivation. So, finding no hope countless peasants are resorting to suicide, he exclaimed with deep pain.

Exposing the government's duplicity, Comrade Satyawan pointed out, that they while rendering help to the rich industrialists are quite generous but have given up all the welfare schemes for the poor even when they were groaning under

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A view of the procession of the peasants and agricultural labourers on the way to the Convention

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day Observed in the States

[Further reports received are given below]

Rohtak, Haryana

Haryana State Organizing Committee of the SUCI organized the memorial meeting at Rohtak, on August 6. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Satyawan, Secretary, Haryana State and the main speech was delivered by Comrade Krishna Chakraborti, member, Central Committee, SUCI. At the outset, Comrade Anup Singh, a senior member of State Organizing Committee, addressed the meeting.

The main speaker Comrade Krishna Chakraborti said that Fifth August is the saddest day in our life, when our beloved leader, teacher and guide, the great Marxist thinker of this era and the founder General Secretary of our party, SUCI, had breathed his last 28 years ago. Now, the party had spread all over the country, showing the path not only to the Indian proletariat but also to the world proletariat. Comrade Ghosh followed the Leninist principle of building a communist party — there can be no revolution without a revolutionary theory and there can be no revolution without a revolutionary party. Because of not following the correct process, united CPI could not become a true communist party. It turned into a petty-bourgeois party and later split into the CPI, CPI(M), etc. It became victim of left adventurism on one hand and of right opportunism on the other hand. Now, by putting the label of secularism on Congress they are supporting the UPA government led by the Congress. By deceiving the working people of the country these so-called communist parties stood fully exposed.

Continuing, Comrade Chakraborti said that two things were necessary to be a good communist — firstly, a Marxist-Leninist outlook, i.e. a dialectical materialistic approach not only in base political line but in every aspect of life, as because even after completion of revolution on the base political line, the revolutionary theory would remain, secondly, those who would come forward to build up a communist party would have to free themselves from individualism and private property mental complex. Only those who could attain higher proletarian culture, could integrate

theory and practice, thought and work. For this, an arduous struggle should be released. Comrade Ghosh released this arduous struggle. A band of professional revolutionaries emerged who built this genuine communist party, SUCI. These leaders had nothing other than revolution in their life. If old culture, old thinking and individualism had remained, such a party could not have been built up. Thus, CPI could not become a genuine communist party although its leaders had made many sacrifices and had been honest people. This struggle was hard but possible. This correct process of building a communist party was the only guarantee to save the party from degeneration, which came later in the CPSU, founded by Lenin and in CPC founded by Mao. Comrade Chakraborti wound up by saying that our own emancipation was linked with the emancipation of the working class. So we should have to acquire proletarian culture and Marxism. The more the development of the culture, the more would be the development of thought and vice-versa.

Kottayam, Kerala

Under the auspices of the Kerala State Committee, a memorial meeting was held on 8th August at Amrutha Auditorium, Changanacherry, Kottayam. Comrade Krishna Chakraborti, member, Central Committee of the party, was the main speaker. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee, presided over the meeting.

Comrade Chakraborti appealed to the comrades to dedicate themselves whole-heartedly to the two-fold struggle to build up class and mass struggles on the one hand and to acquire higher communist character on the other.

Patna, Bihar

The memorial meeting was held at IMA Hall in Patna on 12th August with Comrade Shibshankar, Secretary, Bihar State Committee presiding over. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff of the party, was the main speaker.

In his analytical speech Comrade Dhar said : Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has left for us a well defined political

line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution as the correct guideline to overcome the present impasse. He founded and then developed SUCI on Leninist principles as the genuine party of the proletariat, able to lead the proletarian revolution. The teaching of the great leader and teacher Marx inspiring Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to conduct relentless struggle in his own life is that those resolved to change society should change themselves first and this they can do only by leading their lives on the strength of higher proletarian culture and values. Otherwise, they would not be able to lead the proletarian revolution by dedication, sacrifice and struggle alone. By applying this truth unwaveringly in all aspects of his own life, Comrade Ghosh acquired the highest standard of proletarian character in this era of extremely reactionary individualism. On the occasion of his memorial day, we all must judge how far successful have we been in acquiring a high standard of communist character in the way shown by him and to what extent each of us have discharged our role in advancing the revolutionary cause. Based on this criterion, if we can achieve a higher proletarian culture on the one hand, while intensifying the struggle for developing mass movements on correct base political line as complementary to anti-capitalist socialist revolution, then and then only can we really pay our homage to the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

In his presidential address, Comrade Shibshankar pointed out that in Bihar thousands of men, women and children have died this year in the flood havoc. The state government has resorted to utter false propaganda denying its criminal negligence and apathy to come forward and provide emergency relief materials with food and rehabilitation on a war footing. Our party, on the other, with its objective limitation, was trying its utmost to provide relief work through setting up relief and medical camps.

Agartala, Tripura

On the occasion of 28th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a meeting was organized on 5th August at Jaksha Nibaroni Samiti, Agartala.

The main speaker Comrade Protiva Mukherjee, Central Staff and

a distinguished mass leader said: On this day we lost Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. When he was only 13, Comrade Ghosh joined the revolutionary line of the freedom struggle of our country. He realized in course of time that independence was coming through compromise, as a result people's emancipation would not come. He showed that the then undivided CPI had not developed at all as a real communist party. So, he built up SUCI as the genuine communist party along with a handful of compatriots.

Pointing to the international situation she said : In the absence of the socialist camp the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, are starting war at will, have turned the UNO into a rubber-stamp and are trampling upon the sovereignty of countries, killing thousands including children and women, helping terrorists in different countries, clamping economic embargo, installing puppet governments by organizing coup. On fabricated charges, they sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, causing havoc there. The only ray of hope is that people have been bursting forth against this aggression throughout the world. In India, the SUCI, guided by the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, is conducting anti-imperialist movement.

So the memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is the day to renew the pledge to carry forward the revolutionary movement.

Bangalore, Karnataka

A memorial meeting was organized by the Karnataka State Committee on 5th August 2004 at B.M. Sri Smaraka Bhavana at Bangalore.

Participating in the programme as the main speaker Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee, said : "Whenever the proletariat upholds its leaders and conducts such memorial programmes, allegations are made that there is hero worship in the communist movement. But every political movement belonging to any class, in the entire world projects its own leadership without which it can never develop, far less achieve victory. Hence the communist movement consciously projects its own leadership." Pointing out that it is the low level of consciousness within a party coupled with the

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

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mechanical process of thinking that is responsible for the birth of hero worship, he said, Comrade Ghosh fought such non-Marxist trends allthrough his life.

The memorial meeting was presided over by Comrade M. N. Sriram, member, State Committee.

Hyderabad, AP

Memorial day meeting was organized in Hyderabad party office on 8th August, 2004.

Addressing the meeting Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, the State Organizing Committee said that today Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts are the only way to develop revolutionary movements not only in India but also in the whole world. Comrade Ghosh's thoughts are the concrete and enriched expression of Marxism-Leninism in today's conditions.

Internationally and nationally also people's life is becoming miserable being faced with acute economic crisis. After dismantling of socialism in the USSR and other east European countries and also in China, the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists are attacking small and weak countries unilaterally, trampling underfoot all the accepted international norms and values.

Chennai, Tamil Nadu

The memorial meeting was organized by the Tamil Nadu State Organizing Committee at Chennai on 10th August at M.M. Hall, Strauhas Road. Comrade Narayanswamy, member, State Organizing Committee, presided and Comrade Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee was the main speaker.

On 5th August red flag was hoisted in the party office and portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh garlanded.

Sultanpur, UP

A meeting was organized by SUCI District Committee, Sultanpur on 5th August at Baintikalan village. The meeting was presided over by District Secretary Comrade Jagannath Verma and conducted by Comrade Prakash Maurya.

The main speaker of the meeting was Comrade V.N. Singh, State Secretary of the party. He highlighted the great teachings of Comrade Frederick Engels and

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrades Ram Murti Maurya, Ushy Singh, Jaiprakash Maurya, Raj Bahadur Pal also addressed the meeting. Pratabgarh, UP

A memorial meeting was organized by Pratabgarh District committee of SUCI on 6th August at Shivaji Shikshan Samsthan, Sarsatpur (Patti). The meeting was presided over by District Secretary Comrade Bechan Ali and conducted by Comrade Raj Mani Vishwakarma. The meeting was also addressed by Comrades Ram Kedar Verma and Pushpendra. Jaunpur, UP

Jaunpur District Committee of SUCI organized a memorial meeting on 8th August at Sabhagar of Sultanat Bahadur Inter College, Badlapur. The meeting was presided over by District Committee member Comrade Dinesh Kant Duvey and conducted by Comrade Surendra Nath Maurya. The main speaker of the meeting was Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary, UP State Committee of SUCI. The meeting was also addressed by Comrade Jagdish Chandra Asthana, District Secretary, Jaunpur and Comrades Moti Lal, Sripal Dubey, Jagannath Verma. Allahabad, UP

A meeting was organized by Allahabad District Committee of SUCI on 5th August at 'Nirala Sabhagar'. The meeting was presided over by Comrade S.K. Malaviya. The main speaker of the meeting was Comrade N.K. Sharma, District Secretary of the party. He could not speak due to cancer in throat. His written speech was read out by Comrade Purnendu Shukla. Comrades Deepak Ranjan Jha, Suman Shukla and U. P. Biswas also addressed the meeting. Kanpur, UP

The Kanpur District Organizing Committee of SUCI organized a meeting on 8th August in the office of the party at Satyam Vihar, Kalyanpur. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Raj Bali, District Secretary of SUCI. The main speaker of the meeting was Comrade Swapan Chatterjee. The meeting was also addressed by Comrade Valendra Katiyar.

Jabalpur, MP

As a part of memorial day observance, the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was garlanded at the party office in the morning. In a brief

speech, Comrade U.P. Biswas, explained the significance of the observance of the 5th August.

In the evening, at the party office, the concluding programme was held. Comrades listened to a tape-recorded speech of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The penetrating analysis in the beloved voice of Comrade Ghosh greatly inspired everybody present. The programme was conducted by Comrade Bhabani Ghosh, leading organizer of the party. Guna, MP

The memorial meeting was held on 10th August at the Jiwaji Library Hall. The main speaker was Comrade Pratap Samal. Comrade Lokesh Sharma of Guna District also spoke. Gwalior, MP

The 28th Death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed in Gwalior on 9th August last in all solemnity. Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee spoke on the occasion. The other speaker was Comrade Sunil Gopal.

Durg, Chhattishgarh

The memorial meeting of Frederick Engels, the great leader of the proletariat, and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held at Durg on 10th August last amidst great enthusiasm.

Comrade Dipankar Ray, a distinguished organizer of the party and a member of the West Bengal State Committee, as the main speaker, spoke on the different aspects of the teachings of Frederick Engels and Comrade Ghosh.

Nagpur, Maharashtra

On 5th August, a memorial meeting was held at the Rashtrabhava Hall in Nagpur commemorating the two giant revolutionary leaders of world proletariat — Comrade Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The veteran freedom fighter Shri Bamanraoji, held in high esteem, graced the occasion as the president. Comrade Dipankar Ray spoke as the main speaker on behalf of SUCI. Besides Comrades Madhab Bhonde, Secretary, Nagpur and Papadka Guruji also addressed the gathering.

Punjab

On 8th August a memorial meeting on 28th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was

organized at Mohali in Punjab with Comrade Avtar Singh, In-charge of Punjab Unit in the chair.

Comrade Pratap Samol, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee addressed the gathering as the main speaker. Others who spoke on the occasion were Comrades D.P. Singh, Prof. A. Dhabwal, Gurjendra Singh (Mansa), Than Singh (Patiala), Manu Kaushal (Roper), J. Sita (Chandigarh) and Inder Singh, AIDS organizer.

Berhampur, Orissa

A memorial meeting of the founder General Secretary of the SUCI, an outstanding Marxist thinker of this era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held at Comapalli, Berhampur, Orissa on 8th August. This meeting was presided over by Comrade Sishnu Dash, Organizing Secretary of Ganjam District, SUCI and Comrade Sankar Das Gupta, State Secretariat member, SUCI, was the main speaker.

Bangalore Convention

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severe drought for the last three years. Moreover, the central government is insisting that all the state government amend the 'Land Ceiling Act', so as to facilitate the rich capitalists' acquiring lands of the poor and middle peasants to establish big farms to cultivate cash crops. He also reminded that the governments are discouraging the cultivation of foodgrains and are insisting that the peasants cultivate floriculture, medicinal plants etc. This would deplete the country's foodgrains in the long run and make us beg before the USA and other mighty powers. He called upon the people to build up powerful mass movements under the leadership of RKS.

The convention then adopted three resolutions, with demands to withdraw from WTO, complete construction of pending irrigation projects, take action against seed company which cheated the farmers in North Karnataka. Comrade H.V. Diwakar, Secretary (RKS) Karnataka presided over the convention. Comrade T.S. Suneeth Kumar, President of the Organization urged the participants to join RKS.

Hypocrisy, Deception in the name of Women's Reservation

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here is that as regards the fast increasing incidence of molestation and torture of women, there seems to be no concern amongst those who are champions of women's reservation. Political parties which are so vocal for the demand for providing reservation to the women, are all conspicuously silent on this question though they run the governments at the Centre or in the states. Not to speak of building up a powerful social movement to put an end to oppression of women, they are making no efforts to adopt adequate legal measures, or even to strictly enforce the existing laws to alleviate the miseries of the female populace. And it is they who are overflowing with sympathy for the womenfolk and are so eager to provide seat-reservation to them! What can this be called except a mockery? But it is more than that. It reflects an evil design on their part to misdirect the growing awareness among the women about the right course of action to remedy their burning problems, taking the form of a movement. Improving their election prospects is also the immediate object of these parties' demand for seat reservation.

In this backdrop, it is clear that even if the women are elected in large numbers to the legislature, there would be no end to the growing miseries and ever increasing onslaughts in various social spheres afflicting the life and livelihood of the women. Obscene display of bare woman's body now having been converted into a commodity of the capitalist market would continue unabated despite its being so humiliating, so outrageous to the dignity of women. Only a united conscious democratic movement of the right-thinking people, irrespective of their gender, can resist such pernicious acts by the vested interests to commercially exploit the physique of women.

Women no inferior to men

At the same time, to uphold the cause of the oppressed and suppressed people it is also highly desirable that both men and women deeply committed to the cause of exploited have nots, enter the

legislatures in greater numbers and there ought not to be any numerical limit to the election of women legislators. It has been seen both in our country, as well as other countries, that whatever little opportunity for development the women got, they seized it, overcoming all hurdles and obstructions and proved that they were not inferior to men in any way. Given the proper opportunity women can achieve everything that the men can do. If this is properly realized, the issue can and should be viewed from another angle also. So far men could enjoy the right of constituting even 100% of the membership of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha - yet legally there is no bar for women to have the same right. If we presume that people can, to a large extent, ensure free and fair election, in that situation under the given condition the male candidates can, based on their character, competence and enjoying the whole-hearted support of the people, and without being protected by any 'reservation policy', get elected not only in a few but all seats by securing the votes of both male and female electorates. Then why would not a time come when on the same considerations women candidates may be chosen by the electorate in ever growing numbers? May be this is not happening today but can such a possibility be ruled out in future? Particularly when female candidates are winning elections with the support of both male and female voters, and are even making it to the highest position in government and State - is there any way that such an eventuality can be dismissed altogether? In view of this, to arbitrarily limit the number of women candidates will bar this future prospect by creating a cleavage between men and women. Although we revolutionaries believe in this profoundly, we know that those who are talking about reserving 33 % of the seats for the women will feel outraged on hearing this because their secret motive gets exposed thereby. So, why is it being attempted to restrict the women to 33 %? Why, while speaking about equality of men and women, in reality it is being attempted, by alluring the women in

this way, to make them unequal, to lower them into the status of weak, second class citizens?

Protagonists of reservation themselves do not nominate 33% women

We are of the firm view that simple increase of women representatives in the legislatures having allegiance to bourgeois parties will in no way help effectively confronting their problems. Yet viewing the issue from another angle we would like to raise another pertinent question. If the proponents of 33 per cent reservation are so keen, why are they not, irrespective of whether the proposed reservation is granted or not, maintaining the said percentage in their nomination of candidates? What prevents them from ensuring that 33 percent of their nominees are women? It would go a long way in increasing the number of elected female representatives in legislatures. This exposes their real motive. They are not at all sincere about getting the bill enacted. Each of them is trying to best conceal its own deceptive postures by holding others guilty of default so as to harvest election gains. The real motive is to misdirect and obstruct the movement for women's emancipation that is developing fast.

Overthrow of capitalism — only course to women's emancipation

We have said earlier that the urgent demand for emancipation of the women from the male dominated society is inextricably linked up with achieving emancipation from the capitalist system. Therefore, in order to ensure success of the women's emancipation movement, getting involved in antagonistic contradiction with the male segment of the exploited masses should be avoided under any circumstances. The movement should be conducted in such a way that firmer unity and greater harmony with the male population can be simultaneously developed in jointly building up the struggle against capitalism. No doubt, the women are oppressed in the male-dominated society. But there are no two opinions about the

point that no particular male individual can be held responsible for this, since the oppression is stemming from an impersonal system. The ruling capitalist class, afraid of revolution, is trying to keep the women, constituting half of the population, away from the revolutionary movement by all possible means. So, it has been trying to keep the women backward at any cost, by cultivating revivalism to keep alive blind faith and age-old superstition in them and through enlisting the support of the males in this heinous work by cunningly spreading anti-women malice. In such a situation, women will have to be conscious about securing the support of men as a very necessary precondition for success of women's liberation movement; they will have to forge fighting unity with the men by joining them in the movements on the burning problems in people's life. Just as the toiling masses of all sections irrespective of caste, creed and language would have to avoid doing anything that might cause a rift in their fighting solidarity to build up united movement against the exploitation and rule of the capitalist class, so also the womenfolk would have to shun indulging in any such thing that could hinder the forging of fighting unity with the menfolk. There is no doubt that the proposed measure for seat reservation for women that the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties have brought forward would seriously impede the process of forging this unity and that is what the bourgeois parties are after. So, the struggling women must realize this damaging consequence of the proposed measure and foil this conspiracy at any cost.

Reservation causes cleavage among people

In this connection, another important point should be taken into consideration. In any society that is undivided, indivisible on the basis of gender, any reservation measure, by its very character, is bound to create cleavage. So, the adoption of any such measure is not at all desirable from the perspective of the interest of the united movement of the exploited masses for emancipation unless and until there is an overriding necessity for certain genuine reasons, and only on condition that it would in no way counter-pose the cause of united

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Only path of struggle can lead to equality

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movement. All are aware that when the freedom movement against British imperialism was rapidly gaining strength in this country, the imperialist rulers, in a bid to scuttle it, instituted two separate electorates for the Hindus and the Muslims in order to drive a wedge between the two main communities of the country. Naturally the freedom fighters repudiated this British conspiracy.

Secondly, take the case of the policy of reservation on the basis of castes. Before independence, the exploitation of and oppression on the so-called low-caste poor Hindus by the so-called high-caste Hindus had reached such a level that it had become difficult to unite the two against the exploitation and rule of British imperialism. The national bourgeois class that was leading the freedom movement through the Indian National Congress, because of its fear-complex of working class revolution, made no effort to unite the Hindus of these two categories through a socio-cultural movement. Rather it tried to keep alive the ground of dichotomy between the

two. In post-independence India, in view of the caste-enmity and the extremely backward condition of the Dalits, reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was adopted in the spheres of election and employment, viewing it as a short-term measure. The conscientious persons believing in the unity of all people and democratic sense of values, correctly realized the pernicious effect of the measure but accepted it as a short-term measure, taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances prevailing at that time. It was their hope that after bringing about tangible improvement in the life of the Dalit masses within the shortest possible time, it would come to an end. Even those who were protagonists of this reservation policy were unanimous in holding that it would not be right to perpetuate the reservation policy in the very interest of all-round development of the Dalit masses themselves. People of all sections would have to step forward in unison and struggle to advance towards an improved condition. This process was sure to

be obstructed if reservation assumed a permanent form.

In joining struggle for social change lies dignity and honour of women

But subsequently the bourgeois political parties who rode to governmental power in succession did nothing to initiate the process of doing away with the reservation system. On the contrary, they took every initiative to extend the sphere of such reservation solely to create their respective "vote-banks". This inevitably led to fratricidal clashes and bloodbath among the Dalits and non-Dalits. This evil motive and deceitful conduct of theirs are no longer unknown to any one. Today, when these bourgeois parties are brandishing the gift of reservation of seats for the women in the legislatures, the womenfolk must be alert about the devastating consequence of the proposed measure. They should also bear in mind another important point: the nature of contradiction between the women and the men is not similar to that existing between so-called high and low caste people. There has been no reflection of this contradiction in the matter of nominating capable women candidates for election. In many instances, deserving women candidates have come out victorious with the support of male voters without facing any discrimination based on gender bias.

On the question of seat reservation, the women have to

consider all these aspects and understand that this move is dictated by the overriding interest of the ruling capitalist class and its servitors to widen the disparity and division between men and women. This clearly would open up the path for some women mainly from the affluent segment to enter the legislature as representatives of some political parties serving bourgeois class interest, but the essential task of making the women politically conscious, free them from the bondage of household work, as far as possible, and then nominate them in larger number as candidates for election and through this, ensure formidable presence of women in the legislature, would remain incomplete. The mentality of showing generosity towards the women by adopting the measure of seat reservation for them, considering them to be weak, has to be discarded. And the women having self-respect and dignity would have to contemptuously reject this proposal for seat reservation springing from an attitude of condescension.

In order to secure their rightful place in the society, women must come forward and engage themselves in building up a powerful democratic movement along with the men, move shoulder to shoulder with the male populace in organizing both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary struggle and in the process achieve equality with the men in all spheres.

AIKKMS, organizes dharna at Rohtak

Led by the Haryana Unit of All India Krishak & Khet Majdoor Sangathan, peasants and agricultural workers staged a Dharna at Rohtak recently. A memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister through the Dy. Commissioner, Rohtak.

Addressing the huge gathering, Comrade Anoop Singh condemned the Punjab Agriculture Produce Market (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2004 framed by Haryana government to introduce contract farming and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

Comrade Satyawan, State Secretary of the AIKKMS, severely condemned the CPI(M)-CPI for their support to the Congress which is conspiring to start fratricidal clashes between the peoples of Haryana and Punjab. He described the termination of mutual agreements on sharing of river water between neighbouring states including Haryana by the Congress led Punjab government, as a game of nasty politics in which the BJP was also fully involved. He

urged upon the Haryana Chief Minister for early completion of construction work of S.Y.L. For this purpose all-round people's support needs to be mobilized against the central government to bring pressure on it and make it accede to the just and legitimate demand of the people. Framing a coherent pro-people national water sharing policy was the key for amicable solution in this regard, he said.

In the memorandum, it was demanded to scrap the burden of heavy loans since the peasants are not in a position to repay it. Report by the National Sample Survey Organization also corroborates this contention.

The Dharna was presided over by Comrade Ramparshad, a veteran peasant leader. Other prominent leaders who spoke included Comrades Zile Singh (Bhiwani), Vijai Kumar (Rewari), Kartar Singh (Jhajjar), Jai Karan (Sonapat), Amarjeet (Bhiwani), Balbir Singh (Mahendragarh)

Demonstration at Muzaffarpur

1st August the SUCI took out a procession in Muzaffarpur and burnt effigy of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh protesting against the increase in the price of petrol and diesel and allowing the petroleum companies to fix prices of the petroleum products. The participants in the procession were shouting slogans like 'roll back the price of hike of petrol and diesel', 'build up mass movement against the anti-people policies of the UPA government. The procession was led by Comrade Md. Idris, Comrade Ramyash Mishra, both District committee members, SUCI, Comrade Biswanath Gupta, member, Panchayat Samiti, Comrade Naresh Ram and Comrade Argun Kumar.

After burning effigy, Comrade Md. Idrish, addressed the meeting saying that like the former NDA government the present UPA government has been following the same anti-people policies. There was no fundamental difference between NDA and UPA. This has been the second price hike in the petroleum products in only forty five days. The prices of all the necessary articles and consumerist goods would go up owing to the hike of the prices of petroleum products. He appealed the honest workers of the CPI, CPI(M) and the progressive thinking people to build up mass movements against the anti-people policies of the Congress-led central government.

Central TUs Observe National Demands Day

New Delhi

In response to the call given by the Central Trade Unions and Federations to observe 20th August, 2004 as the National Demands Day to press 7-point demands Delhi State Units of UTUC-LS, HMS, UTUC, TUCC, AICCTU, AITUC, CITU and the Federations including the Joint Platform of Action (JPA) organized a massive demonstration of workers and employees before the Parliament on the day. On this occasion, a meeting was held. On behalf of the presidium composed of representatives of central trade unions, Comrade R. K. Sharma of UTUC-LS conducted the meeting.

is a clear case of refusal on the part of the government to even compensate for the rapid erosion of value of money being caused due to price hikes. The government can write off, in effect, loans of thousands and thousands of crores of rupees taken by the corporate houses and their outstanding taxes of several thousands of crores of rupees but the refuses to pay the legitimate dues of the workers on the plea that the rate of interest would be determined by market forces. The workers do not deposit in P. F. for business purpose but as a provision for their future which is attended with uncertainty and

working people, one after another. Even the state government supporting the central Congress led government is providing red carpet welcome to FDI investment in the state while opposing in the same breath the central government's invitation to FDI participation in the Civil Aviation and Insurance sector.

Similar joint meetings were also held at Burnpur, Durgapur, Purulia, Jalpaiguri and elsewhere.

Bhubaneswar, Orissa

On behalf of UTUC-LS Orissa State Committee a mass rally was

organized on the occasion of All India Protest Day sponsored by All Central Trade Unions of 20th August at Bhubaneswar E.P.F. office. In front of the E.P.F. office under the Presidentship of Comrade Govinda Moharana, Vice-President, UTUC-LS, State Committee, a meeting was held where Comrade Sambhunath Naik, Secretary, UTUC-LS, Orissa State Committee and Comrade Raghunath Das, Secretary, AIKKMS, Orissa State Committee addressed. A memorandum was handed over to the Regional Commissioner II.



A part of the huge rally in New Delhi on 20 August, 2004

The 7-point demand charter, inter alia, included restoration of 12% interest for EPF, GPF, PPF deposits and small savings, social security and legislation for the unorganized sector including agricultural workers, no enhancement of FDI in Telecom, Civil Aviation and Insurance Sectors, scrapping of de-reservation of the items reserved for SSI and revival of sick Units, etc.

Among the speakers who addressed the massive gathering were Comrades Achintya Sinha (UTUC-LS), Swapan Mukherjee (AICCTU), M. K. Pandhe (CITU), D. L. Sachdev (AITUC), Abani Roy (UTUC), Harbhajan Singh (HMS) Rampratap (TUCC) and Ramananda (UF-BEU).

Comrade Achintya Sinha, Secretary, UTUC-LS said: reduction of interest on various PF schemes is a severe attack on social security as a whole and has far reaching adverse implication in socio-economic life. Not to speak of paying interest in the real sense, this

various risks. Hence we must resist these attacks and build up united sustained movement followed by a one day nationwide Industrial Strike in the first phase." Comrade Pandhe also in his speech opined in favour of the one-day Industrial strike.

Calcutta, West Bengal

The rally organized in Calcutta was addressed by Comrades Shankar Saha (UTUC-LS), Kali Ghosh (CITU), Ranjit Guha (AITUC), Ashoke Ghosh (TUCC), among others.

Comrade Shankar Saha in his brief analytical speech said: Governments change, but policy doesn't. We in the Sponsoring Committee, fought against NDA government's economic and industrial policies tooth and nail because of its anti-people, anti-working class policies. Turn of events have unfolded a situation to stage a comeback by the Congress at the Centre with the help of others and now it is the Congress again which mounts attacks on the



Anti-imperialist Demonstration on 27 August, 2004 in Calcutta (above) and on 26 August in Bhubaneswar, Orissa (below) in solidarity with the Trial of Bush in the Iraq War Crime Tribunal in the People's Court in New York.



Website for the Party

Our party SUCI has announced that a website www.suciweb.org

has been launched to facilitate dissemination of the revolutionary ideas of the party, more particularly the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of the party and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of this era.

For the moment seven major published works of Comrade Ghosh and the issues of Proletarian Era starting from January 1, 2004, can be viewed. The site will be updated on the second and sixteenth day of every month and on all important occasions. Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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