

Frantic all-out FDI reforms set to bring doom to Indian people

“Congress is giving nation to foreigners. Most parties opposed FDI, but due to sword of CBI, some did not vote and Congress won through backdoor.” While this was what Modi had to say on 5 December, 2012 referring to the erstwhile Congress government’s bid to introduce FDI with the help of its parliamentary strength, now he, as Prime Minister has turned 180 degrees in nearly 3 years and a half to state categorically on 20 June 2016 that “It has now been decided to permit 100% FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce.” Of course, to talk contradictory depending upon whether they are in power or in opposition is typical of bourgeois politicians. But here the truth lies deeper. The principal reason

behind this opening of floodgate of FDI finally lies in the desire of the ruling Indian monopolists. It is a part of their economic and political agenda purported to fulfil their class aspiration to grow as an Asian super-power and a formidable global power by even hobnobbing with the bigger powers including the US imperialists. No matter who is in governmental power as their trusted political manager, Congress or BJP, there is no change in this policy. At the behest of the ruling class, the Congress rolled the ball long back, though it was the same Congress which had once fought against the British imperialists, whose leaders had fought against foreign goods and which had led people in their anti-imperialist movement with a central focal demand of confiscating foreign

capital. Strong anti-imperialist sentiment of people forced the Congress to keep the slogan alive for quite some time after independence. But since the prescriptions of imperialist globalization- liberalization swept across the crisis-ridden capitalist countries of the globe, the Congress government under Narasimha Rao, in charge of the governance of capitalist India reversed the trend. Progressively since then, foray of FDI in newer and newer sectors like retail trade, banking, insurance, education, healthcare and even defence has been eased and limits enhanced. Present venture comes plainly in continuation of that trend. Of late, Prime Minister Modi just on the eve of his last visit to US announced a slew of FDI policies,

which was formally endorsed by the government on 20 June 2016. The policies covered 100 per cent FDI in civil aviation including domestic airlines and food processing sectors, further relaxation of FDI norms in defence industries, including manufacturing of small arms and ammunition covered under the Arms Act, 1959, permitting up to 74% FDI in pharmaceutical industries, increasing FDI limit to 74% in private security agencies, removal of the stipulation of local sourcing of raw material for FDI in single brand retail, 100 per cent FDI in several wings of the broadcasting carriage services like direct-to-home, cable networks, mobile TV, teleports, considerable moderation of FDI inflow rules in animal

Contd. on page 2

‘Dialogue and Discussion on Current social situation and cultural issues’ with Comrade Krishna Chakraborti

At the behest of senior progressive intellectuals and fighters in people’s movements of Dharwad, Karnataka, a session of ‘Dialogue and Discussion’ with **Comrade Krishna Chakraborti, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C)** was held on 23rd May 2016 at Dharwad. Dr. Siddalinga Pattanashetti, a renowned senior litterateur of Karnataka presided over the programme.

The discussion was initiated by Dr Pattanashetti, who, on behalf of the house, placed the following 3 main questions to Comrade Krishna Chakraborti:

1. I have heard that you were attracted by the thoughts of Shibdas Ghosh, at a very young age. How did it happen?
2. We are now living in a crisis ridden age - how do we attract people to revolutionary movement?
3. At a time when there are divergent opinions and clash of ideas on the questions of nationalism and patriotism, what is

your opinion on these questions?

In response to the questions, Comrade Krishna Chakraborti said that, an in-depth analysis is needed to answer these complex questions and these were the very questions of every one eager to come out of the current suffocating milieu in search of something new. “I came across the SUCI (C) in my school days. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder of the SUCI(C) was an extraordinary Marxist thinker and a great organizer. I was introduced to him in one of the programmes organized during my school days. I was attracted by the way he placed and expounded his ideas and his scientific and comprehensive method of analysis. I adored Swami Vivekananda in my younger days. The personality and scientific revolutionary ideas of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh steadily started to replace those of Swami Vivekananda in my mind. At that point, I could not follow everything he said. But I was definitely able to

understand and follow a few things, because of which I could remain in this struggle. He would discuss political ideology. He would discuss how to acquire high ethical and cultural standard. No other political leader or party was doing it. I felt this was a unique ideal and became active as a disciple of Comrade

Shibdas Ghosh.

It is a great challenge to attract people particularly the youth to the movements and to revolution in this age when ethical and cultural standards are falling. Not that everyone who is talking of struggle today participates in revolution.

Contd. on page 6



The dais : (from left to right – SUCI(C) Dharwad District Secretary Comrade Ramanjinappa, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Politburo Member of SUCI(C), Dr. Siddalinga Pattanashetti well known writer, Comrade K Radhakrishna, SUCI(C) Central Committee Member and Karnataka State Secretary and Sri Nagaraj Gurikar, Convenor, Dharwad Janajagruthi Abhiyana

FDI Reforms

Both Congress and BJP try to give shape to the design of the monopolists

Contd. from page 1

husbandry and trading of food products produced in India including e-commerce route.

What is FDI?

First question is what is FDI? To put in simple terms, FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) means a foreign company makes an active investment in local business and thereby develops a stake in it. There are two forms of FDI, Greenfield and Brownfield. When FDI is in a new project, it is Greenfield. If Toyota Motors, a Japanese company, sets up a new factory in India by investing its capital, it is Greenfield. But if Tata Steel, an Indian company, takes over an existing steel plant in UK, it is Brownfield. But why does a monopoly group or industrial house invest or, to be exact, export capital overseas? Surely it is not for any charitable purpose or on a goodwill mission. The obvious objective is to derive maximum profit as per law of capitalism in its monopoly stage. How and why? One of the principal factors is the lower cost of production. When they venture abroad, the investors assess how they could keep the production cost lowered by pegging down the cost of sourcing of raw material (which today also includes cost of infrastructural support like electricity, transportation, land etc.) as well as of labour at the minimum possible wage-level. When Narendra Modi is trying to woo FDI, he is also ensuring the foreign monopolists and corporate bigwigs about such lowered cost of production under the slogan of "Make in India". So, FDI is nothing but export of capital by the monopolists of a country to a destination country for exploiting cheap labour, raw material and other ancillary requirement available in the latter. It is nothing but export of finance capital which Lenin defined as imperialism. In the process, the suffering millions as well as the discerning intelligentsia come to know from experience that imperialism is no boon but bane to them. Earlier imperialist rules were in the form of ruthlessly oppressive colonial rule and limitless plunder of the natural resources and manpower of the colonies. But nowadays, finance capital dominates in the form of neo-colonialism (colonial exploitation without direct rule over the colony but through pliant or client rule in the targeted countries) or through FDI route and usury in the form of financial assistance or grant

of so called bail-out packages to bankrupt countries. Obviously, onrush of FDI cannot but aggravate the growing misery and penury of the people pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist exploitation.

How the protagonists of FDI are duping people

The bourgeois government as political mouthpiece of ruling monopolists as also the protagonists of increased FDI argue that it would spur economic growth, bring state-of-the-art technology and business principles as well as lower price to immensely benefit end consumers. It would also resolve problem of scarcity of investible capital. Over and above, inflow of larger quantum of FDI, they contend, would generate more employment and augment earnings of the peasants. Is it so? First of all, is there really any dearth of capital for investment in India? India is viewed as eighth largest economy in the world. Indian monopolists are among the topmost of the global rich and are also investing heavily overseas. So, airing such a palpable falsehood is fraught with *mala fide* intentions. Next, take the question of economic growth by which the bourgeois economists or governments do not mean improvement in the standard of living of the citizens at large but increase in GDP. If FDI was any panacea, how is it that the countries with liberalized FDI rules are experiencing economic meltdown or stagnated GDP and recession? The European Union countries, many African and Latin American countries are glaring examples of that. Thirdly, the countries which opened up their economy to foreign investments as a short-cut to so called growth without either adequate checks or having a strong domestic economy of suppliers, markets and technological capability, have ultimately yielded an economy that is inherently weak and vulnerable. It has been like fattening a person by injecting drugs.

Next is about benefit of the end consumers because of harnessing latest technology and fall in price line. There is already a decisive penetration of monopoly capital in retail trade as is witnessed by all in rapid proliferation of shopping malls like Spencer's, Big Bazar, Shoppers' Stop, etc., owned by large Indian corporates which has taken over considerable part of the domestic retail market 98% of which were at

the disposal of small *kirana* shops even 10 years back. Has that brought down prices or generated more employment? While many *kirana* shops particularly in urban areas have either folded up or substantially downsized because of being unable to compete with sprawling dazzling shopping malls offering variety of products under one roof in attractive assortment. As a result, a large number of persons employed in those *kirana* shops have lost jobs. On the contrary, new jobs created in shopping malls are miniscule compared to that. As has been experienced, a multinational retail store in a city or town will employ a few thousands at the most with so-called polished language and marketing skills, while it will uproot countless small shops and establishments in the neighbourhood throwing tens of thousands out of job. So unbridled FDI in retail makes the picture further harrowing. For example, a report published in 2007 indicated that as against retail sales per employee in *kirana* stores at about Rs.78,000, in Wal-Mart the same is Rs.74.18 lakhs, i.e., about 95 times higher because Wal-Mart applies highly automated technology and modernized business process to drastically cut labour cost yielding maximum profit. Internationally, Wal-Mart handles a turnover of over 80, 330 crore rupees [\$1.82 billion] per store with 10,195 employees. If Wal-Mart were to open outlets in cities with roughly one million population and reach the average Wal-Mart performance per store, a rough calculation predicts throwing out about 4,32,000 persons from the small retail arena. Now, with removal of mandatory sourcing from local producers and eventual penetration of FDI in multi-brand retail as well, big foreign companies or FDI providers will buy big from India and abroad and at the outset sell low in the domestic market here, severely undercutting the small retailers. And once small players are ousted, they would fix prices at higher level to fleece consumers. Similarly, when foreign giants like Wal-Mart or Carrefour enter Indian market, even domestic giants like Spencers or Big Bazar would hardly stand a chance in the face of uneven competition. Already many large-format or branded stores have up folded. Subhiksha in South India and Vishal and Sabka Bazaar in the North come to mind immediately.

That consumers will get lower prices is another hoax of the FDI

lobbyists. Whether it is Big Bazaar or Wal-Mart, prices never come down. Big retail can at best sell you cheaper potatoes or five such items carefully selected on seasonal variations or bulk deals with producers cheap for only a short time, a week and no more. For everything else you buy from them, you will pay more. That is how big retail works. To qualify this, read this comment from a KPMG expert who was arguing for FDI in retail: "To draw consumers, [big] retailers squeeze suppliers and ensure efficiencies in categories that drive foot falls. They balance it out by enjoying higher margins in categories where impulse buying is high" [Anand Ramanathan quoted in Economic Times, 1 December, 2011] So, the claim of food inflation coming down with FDI in retail is a plain lie. Food inflation is a derivative of the decadent moribund capitalism teeming with hoarders, black marketers and price manipulators, coupled with rampant malpractice and corruption of the administrative machinery with government as an indulgent onlooker. Penetration of FDI in retail has no role in arresting food inflation. Rather, the situation might worsen further.

The very contention about the farmers getting a better price for his produce if FDI in Retail is allowed is another hoax. The so called open market under capitalism does not work on altruism and social service. It negotiates the best for itself so it can corner the most for itself. Growing number of peasants' suicides is not because they have no place to sell. It is because they are unable to get remunerative prices for their produce because a vicious nexus of corrupt administration-police-hoarders-unscrupulous middlemen-ruling party leaders control the procurement machinery and force the peasants to distress sale. Just the other day, it was revealed that while peasants are compelled to sell onion at Re 0.50 per kg, the same onion is selling at s 20 per kg in normal market including big shopping malls owned by monopoly houses. To suggest that foreign retailers would be so teary eyed at the plight of farmers that they would offer a premium on produce which is available at less is plain childish. According to a 2004 paper by Andrew Shepard, an economist with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, large supermarkets push small farmers

Contd. on page 7

WEST BENGAL ELECTION

Puts the Party on a far more solid base

Results of the just concluded Assembly election in West Bengal have come as a big slap in the face of all the forecasts in the much trumpeted pre-poll surveys of sephologists and a large section of the media. Disproving all those, the voters made the Trinamool Congress (TMC) victorious in 211 out of 294 seats. In the entire two month long campaign the CPI (M)-Congress alliance was projected as sure to win and form government. Aided and abetted by the largest media house of the state, the hype reached such a height particularly during the last 4 phases of polling that even the TMC was visibly perturbed. On the other hand, the CPI (M) was so sure of returning to power that voice and body language of their leaders and cadres right from, their State Secretary, Surya Kanta Mishra down to the lowest rung changed. The arrogance and insolence they had betrayed while in power and which were subdued out of power, was found to be staging a comeback. The media was even guessing how the ministerial portfolios were going to be distributed in their government. In reality the result was just the reverse. The CPI (M) could secure only half of the number of seats they had managed during their debacle in the previous assembly election. Their ally Congress, however, sizeably increased its tally. Many wondered how could this be possible?

Before answering it, a digression to outlining a background may be helpful. In the immediate preceding 35 years of utterly undemocratic and suffocating misrule of the CPI (M), our Party conducted many democratic movements on the burning problems of life solely on our own strength. On occasions we launched joint movements along with 12 Naxalite parties. Through these movements we held aloft the banner of militant leftism and kept the voice of people's protest alive, though in course of these as many as 157 of our Party workers were killed either in police firing or by CPI (M)-backed criminals. In sequel to these, we forged unity with the TMC, a regional bourgeois party, against the CPI(M)-led government's bid to grab fertile agricultural land by force in the interest of the monopolists separately in Singur and in Nandigram. After historic victory of Nandigram movement, the people of this state dislodged the CPI (M) and brought the TMC to power.

But 5 years of this changed regime or *poribortan*, have made people extremely disappointed and frustrated. Aggrieved, they found the TMC rule to be nothing but a carbon copy of the preceding CPI (M) rule. In running the government, the TMC had picked up just from where the CPI (M) left. Prices of essential commodities went on soaring as before. Power tariff was hiked 12 times in 5 years. Pass-fail system was fast abolished up to class VIII. Though much hullabaloo was raised about opening super-speciality hospitals, the condition of the general hospitals have been worsening with paucity of doctors-nurses-beds and other minimal infrastructure coupled with rampant

malpractice and pilferage reaching a maximum low. Growing corruption, rise of mafiadom, nepotism, imposition of party domination on police-administration-academic institutions—on every count the TMC's has been an ugly copy of the CPI (M)'s misrule. Over and above this, in crimes like child and woman trafficking, atrocities on women, incidents of rape and gang rape, roaring and widely proliferating liquor trade and such others, the TMC rule appears to have surpassed even the CPI (M) regime. Peasants' suicide, tragic starvation death of the workers of shut-down tea gardens, initiation of women into flesh trade and selling children to eke out a bare living, closure of thousands of factories dooming lakhs of workers to starvation and death, everything is going on. So, there has been no *poribortan* in people's life. That is why, unlike assembly election of 2011, the election this time was virtually lacklustre with marked absence of any serious thinking, interest and emotion among people. Everywhere, it was a spectacle of aloofness or indifference.

In the election under review, there were three main contenders, the TMC, a regional bourgeois outfit in governmental power, the alliance between the CPI (M) masquerading as Marxists and the Congress, the most trusted subservient representative of the ruling monopolists, and the arch Hindu Communal BJP, another equally trusted representative of the monopolists. On the other hand, to preserve the honour and glory of leftism, our Party contested in 191 seats and entered into a seat adjustment with CPI(ML) Liberation by withdrawing candidates from 9 seats.

Much before formal

announcement of election, a new initiative from six left parties to launch countrywide movement against the menace of imperialism-communalism had left a deep impact on people of West Bengal. As against rise of right reaction, it set the hope of emergence of a left alternative. But the CPI (M) leadership caused fissure in the left unity by giving up the path of left movement and unilaterally announcing electoral alliance with the Congress. This alliance they built up at a time when, as a sequel to a planned move of and unstinting backing by the industrial houses and corporate sector, an arch Hindu communal party has been saddled in power with absolute majority. On the one hand, the ruling dispensation has been surcharging the atmosphere with communal tension and engineering communal bloodbath, fuelling blind irrational anti-science mentality to blunt thinking, killing noted rationalists, fomenting fake traditionalism and ultra-nationalism, and spreading mistrust and hatred among people to precipitate communal divide among the toiling masses. On the other hand, they have been strengthening tie with big imperialist powers particularly US imperialism, the biggest enemy of mankind today, at the cost of people's interest. Under the circumstances, the opportunist alliance of the CPI (M) with the Congress has been nothing but backstabbed left movement for narrow sectarian parliamentarian interest. During their election campaign, the CPI (M) projected the Congress as a secular and democratic force. Not only left-minded people, even common masses were struck dumb. During the Congress regime in 1950s and '60s, so many activists and volunteers of left movement have been murdered or subjected to brutal torture and maimed for life. People have not forgotten the harrowing days of emergency clamped by the Congress on the country. It is the Congress which introduced a slew of black acts like ESMA, NASA, TADA, MISA including UAPA under which any person can be jailed for 180 days without trial. This very Congress had framed and put in effect notorious AFSPA under which army personnel are licensed to kill anyone or commit rape at will without attracting any punitive action. Who does not know that the Congress on a number of occasions orchestrated communal riots in various parts of the country to drive

a wedge among people just for the sake of creating vote bank? The roads of Delhi are still stained with blood marks of anti-Sikh pogrom. In order to garner Hindu votes on communal line, a former Congress Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi broke the lock of Babri masjid and allowed worship of *Ramlala* there for the first time and another Congress Prime Minister Narasimha Rao remained virtually a passive bystander when frenzied Hindutva brigade demolished a historical monument like Babri Masjid. Such a force as Congress is today being certified as a secular-democratic force by the CPI (M) just for deriving some electoral mileage. Clearly, the CPI (M) has dumped leftism and forged unprincipled alliance with the Congress for grabbing power by hook or by crook.

As against this opportunist vote politics of CPI (M), people have seen that our Party, holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-leftism, has been relentlessly building up democratic mass movements with all might on the burning problems of people's life. They have also realized that our Party and its leaders and workers never hankered for pelf or power forsaking principles. So, people admire our Party and have lots of expectations from us. Giving full respect to their affection and expectation, as the genuine leftist party, SUCI(C), took part in this election to contest in 191 seats, with the revolutionary purposiveness of preserving the prestige and honour of leftism. It cannot be denied by any count, that in this age of decadent capitalism, free and fair election have become a myth, existing merely on paper. Election today, is controlled by money of financial tycoons, monopoly-sponsored and monitored media, and a nexus of police-administration and criminals. As revolutionary Party the SUCI(C) exists far from all these. That is why, people could easily found that there was no coverage of the SUCI(C) in any electoral campaign. In its turn, as the fighting force leading people's legitimate movements, the SUCI(C) conducts its election battle relying upon people and defying all obstacles set by the capitalist system, just as it builds up movements on the strength of people's power. This time the election took place during the peak of summer under the scorching tropical sun. Amidst such

Contd. on page 9

Governments' criminal neglect to save people from severe drought

While the ministers of BJP government have been busy reporting their 'spectacular' performance in the last two years, Prime Minister Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme is exhorting people to save every drop of water during the coming monsoon, and start preparations now to see where to save water, as 33% of the country is in the grip of severe drought. In June an estimated 330 million people in 254 districts were reeling under unprecedented drought condition. The situation is not just grim but harrowing. As reservoirs, tanks and wells dried up and water famine became widespread, people, desperate to catch the last trickle of water took to digging holes in dry river beds and tanks, etc., spending hours at times, just to fill a bucket or even half a bucket, and day after day, walking for miles just to find some water. Children had to stay away from school to help their mothers in the hopeless search for water. But what could be more illustrative of the cruel plight of common people and their children in their search for drinking water than the news cited in *The Times of India*, (May, 16, 2016), of how two young siblings in Telangana, aged 8 and 12 years, succumbed to thirst and died while desperately waiting for their mother to return with some water. The mother was later found lying unconscious with an empty water bottle at her side. Like them, hundreds have died of dehydration. By the week ending June 23 the water crisis grew even worse, as water level further dipped in 92 major water reservoirs across the country. 15% was the average water left in these reservoirs. And in the drought hit states it was a mere 8%. In Madhya Pradesh, where 94% of groundwater sources are also critical, the water crisis caused fighting and caste conflict, while conflicts and protests over poor water management and diversion of water to urban areas erupted in states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where groundwater sources too are critical. Section 144 Cr PC has been declared long back around water sources in Latur, the town in the media glare over water scarcity, and later around several major reservoirs in the state. The obvious question is why this desperate situation?

The readymade answer the authorities would provide is that there has been shortfall of rains. But this is a mere excuse. Are we to believe that the government which

boasts of being in possession of latest technology in every sphere, rejoices on successful launch of highly sophisticated space satellites and space shuttle model, cannot prevent recurring scourge of drought and flood that devastate the life and livelihood of millions of the countrymen? Everyone knows that a mere deficit in monsoon rains cannot create a water crisis or drought if proper planning, scientific water harvesting and groundwater recharge or management, as well as appropriate cropping pattern are undertaken. In fact, there have been scattered examples in this very country of how some conscientious individuals or some social organizations have been instrumental in successfully implementing rainwater harvesting principles on a small scale — often leading also to change in crop pattern and diversification of crops — by involving the entire community and, in many cases, helping them to avail of public funds. In many places this has helped in mitigating the problem of flood to some extent at least, and the farmers' income too had increased. If such is possible at individual initiative, what holds back the government from undertaking such projects on a larger scale in the interest of the poor peasants and other sections of impoverished populace? But, as every discerning person is aware, in the name of taking effective measures to tackle drought, different governments have only spent billions of rupees from public exchequer but it has not made any difference. According to the Ministry of Rural Development 12.3 million water harvesting and conservation structures were created in India in the last decade. 60 per cent of those fall into the 10 states that are reeling under drought today. Then how could such droughts not only persist but increase and affected areas suffer from water famine? Different investigations have all pointed to the fact that the millions of water structures built in the last decade have merely yielded a trickle. This is because either most of these water structures have been built in the wrong places without concern for topography or catchment resulting in tanks and ponds remaining dry, or by ignoring the basic principles of rainwater harvesting of working downward from the elevated part of the land, or there are technical flaws, like, check dams obstructing the water

flow instead of slowing it down and spreading water on adjoining fields, or substandard materials are used for building the structures as a result of which these are unable to retain rainwater. So, millions of such structures built are mostly useless. For example, Bundelkhand region situated in MP and parts of UP has been reeling under 13 consecutive droughts in the last 15 years (and unseasonal rain last year), although 116,000 water-harvesting structures have reportedly been built between 2006 and 2015, which should have made enough water available to tackle the problem of monsoon deficit. Can the government/administration explain that? One is apt to conclude that either the structures so created are faulty and useless or no such structures have been built. In either case, this means that huge public funds have been palpably wasted, if not misused or misappropriated, by an unholy nexus of corrupt administration/government officials/contractors/ vested interest with the powers that be as indulgent onlooker. Who does not know that when there is heavy downpour, the huge dams constructed by spending billions of rupees from public exchequer release water creating flood. Again, when there is drought, the dam reservoirs are found high and dry. Is it not faulty planning and sheer callousness?

In the water famine that has engulfed large parts of our country it is the downtrodden, the poorest of the poor irrespective of caste, religion or ethnicity that are the most affected. In Maharashtra the landless and the poor most of whom belong to backward *dalit* are systematically deprived of water supplied by state government in tankers, while the more wealthy people fill up their huge tanks at home with that water through 'arrangements' with the authorities or harnessing 'connections' at the top. Moreover, there are shocking instances of the rich and privileged trading in the thirst and hunger of drought-afflicted destitute. As Maharashtra battles against the worst drought in decades, the sale of water has become a most lucrative business as most of the water tankers in the state are privately owned. While politically-backed mafia is diverting water tankers to lucrative locations and selling it at exorbitant rates, the private owners, too, of tankers are minting huge profits. There have been media reports how some greedy power-

hungry bourgeois politicians — be it of the ruling party or opposition — having bought tankers in large numbers, are also making a fortune by selling water. But to score political brownie points, parties are competing with each other in claiming credit for drought relief. A glaring example being a water train sent to UP for relief in Bundelkhand by the Centre, only to be rejected outright by Akhilesh Yadav, the UP CM, claiming they provided enough relief to the drought hit people. As it turned out, however, the water tankers of the train did not even contain any water. Again when a farmer in Akola district of Maharashtra, prompted by the state's indifference to their problems, decided to do something on his own and sold part of his land to build a dam, a cement *nullah bund*, for his own and the villagers' use (as a canal running through his farmland would wash away part of his farm every monsoon), he was harassed by government officials. While some agricultural officers helped with expertise on what type and how to build the dam, other government officials began harassing him and filed police complaints for allegedly buying sand illegally. "On the one hand, the government spends crores on water conservation projects. On the other hand, when a farmer is spending money from his own pocket on something for the village, government officials still create problems", said Tidke, the concerned farmer. (*The Times of India*, May 25, 2016)

It is pertinent to mention that impact of drought on agriculture is huge. Apart from the fact that crops spread over 15 million hectares have been reportedly under threat this year, it has a devastating impact on soil quality, groundwater level, not to speak of its effect on cattle and dairy production. While the accompanying fall in agricultural production raises the question of food security, the fall in agricultural employment generation has also extremely serious socio-economic implications. It directly affects the economic and social life of rural communities constituting 60 per cent of our entire population. Millions or rather crores of people in the rural areas who were just above the poverty line get irretrievably pushed below, into bottomless misery and destitution, due to drought-induced income loss. And the fall in rural purchasing power will create even

Contd. on page 8

Comrade Sankar Saha at International Labour Conference on workers' cause in Geneva

This year the 105th International Labour Conference of ILO was held from 30 May to 11 June 2016 as usual in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of the leading Trade Unions from India including AIUTUC participated in the conference. While taking part in the debates and discussions at the General Survey, the Plenary of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Plenary of the Conference, as also at the General Assembly, Comrade Sankar Saha, the General Secretary of AIUTUC and member, Central



Comrade Sankar Saha addressing in Geneva

Committee SUCI(C), deliberated on the important issues of "Promoting Fair Migration" and "Violation of Standards". On the 'End to Poverty' programme initiated by the Director General to implement 'United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustained Development' he circulated a written statement among the delegates and observers who attended the conference. He also intervened and discussed on different cases of other countries also. We are reproducing hereunder the summary and salient points of his speech on "Promoting Fair Migration" and statement on "End to Poverty" and full text of the speech on "Violation of Standard".

Promoting Fair Migration

While speaking at the Plenary of the Committee on "Promoting Fair Migration" on the basis of the reports published by ILO, Comrade Sankar Saha highlighted the miserable conditions of Migrant Workers around the world adding that 'Millions of workers mostly from developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America with no means of livelihood for survival at hand in their respective native lands are migrating mostly to advanced countries every day in search of jobs. In 2015 there were 243.7 million international migrants in the world, about 3 per cent of the global population. 48.5 percent of migrant workers are concentrated in Northern America

and Northern, Southern and Western Europe followed by Arab states that hold 11.7 per cent of world's migrant workers. 48.2 per cent of such migrants are women. ILO report does not cover all the migrant workers. The intra-country migrants are kept outside the purview of the report. Actual number of migrants is much higher than the figures reflected in the report. Some of them migrate in lawful ways but many more through illegal ways via middle men or agencies involved in sex and other illicit trades. Migrant workers struggling for mere survival have become a commodity, detached from humanity, moral values and ethics. One out of six workers working in high income countries is a migrant. Most of the migrant workers are engaged in service sector and household works and very few in the economic sector. Due to unequal growth in regions, continents and countries the weaker nations cannot provide jobs and social protection to all. So, millions of helpless people of working age of 15 years and above are roaming from country to country to get a job at any cost for mere existence. They are subjected to discrimination in respect of wages, nationality, race, religion, sex, migrant status, dignity and social security in the countries of employment and it is increasing alarmingly. Several conventions were adopted relating to the interests of the migrant workers but most of the member countries did not ratify or implement the same. The legislations covering the protection, rights and benefits of migrant workers are being grossly violated in the countries of origin, transit and destination irrespectively. Proper record is not maintained in any route. Right to work, right of leaving jobs and repatriation are restricted whereby their basic right of freedom is denied. The committee itself finds that despite awareness and acceptance among member states of the principle of its application, there is less certainty about its actual application.

End to Poverty Programme in Conformity with UN 2030 Agenda for Sustained Development

In his statement issued on the 'End to Poverty' programme for implementing **United Nations 2030 agenda for 'Sustained Development'**, Comrade Saha recalled the precarious condition of the workers' lives of the present-day world based on the Director General's report as also on the reports and data from various

sources. He said that the ILO being the strongest body of the United Nations is fully aware of gravest- ever, and insoluble market crisis, that the whole of the capitalist economy is dipped into. The entire burden of crisis is imposed on the working class. Unemployment has reached to a great high and is increasing every day. The Director General's report also revealed that the number of unemployed will continue to rise though the figure reflected in the report does not match the actual number of unemployed. More than 75 percent of the workable population of the world are either unemployed or under employed. Poverty, hunger, malnutrition, economic inequality, job losses, insecurity of job, low wages, curtailment or withdrawal of pension and other social security measures, child labour, child death all are rapidly increasing. Working people are being more and more pauperized.

Comrade Saha firmly opined that when such is the situation, then raising sweet slogans of eradication of poverty and sustained development is nothing but a motivated act to befool the working people and the common masses, suppressing the actual reason of their destitution, which is the crisis ridden moribund decadent capitalism. Without taking concrete measures to provide every workable individual of the world with job and guarantee of sustained welfare and social security, poverty cannot be eradicated by any magical move. And this exploitative social order cannot provide such measures. Rather unemployment, poverty, hunger are certain to be more aggravated under the system. In the present socio-economic system, the idea of ending poverty and sustained development is an utopia. It is only aimed at extending the life span of the exploitative capitalist system by creating confusion in the workers and toiling people.

Address before General Assembly - On Violation of Standard

The full text of Comrade Sankar Saha's speech is given below:
Dear Chair,

I Sankar Saha, member of the Indian Workers delegation having closely observed the proceedings for the past two weeks and participating in the debate in the Standard Committee, express my deep concern at the rapid erosion of standard and values in society within the short span of two and half decades of globalization.

Unemployment, hunger, destitution, job losses, insecurity of job, curtailment of spending on Social Security, health care, education are in the main severe attacks on global working population. Crux of the attacks precisely are:

1. Today with tearful eyes millions of mothers send their little daughters to earn by selling sex for survival of the family.
2. Seven hundred million of global population now-a-days go to sleep at night with empty stomach.
3. Around 3% of world population is are migrant workers on record but in actuality many more go unrecorded, subjected to torture and inhuman treatment. Nobody likes to leave his or her homeland unless compelled for survival. The destination of migrant workers is mostly North America, Europe and Arab Region.
4. Unemployed parents in millions send their children to work for earning instead of sending them to school. Bonded Labour or Forced Labours are re-appearing in modern form.
5. Employers in most cases Hire and Fire workers at will.
6. Deliberations revealed that workers joining any union of their choice or attending a peaceful demonstration or participating in a just strike have been charged with batons, or put behind bars or murdered.
7. Collective bargaining is not acceptable to the employers.

In short, this is the global situation reflecting the standard of social justice. In this context referring to the preamble to the constitution of ILO when The ILO was created in 1919, "as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice", and also one of the five basic principles adopted by ILO that says "*Lasting peace* cannot be achieved unless it is based on social justice, grounded in freedom, dignity, economic security and equal opportunity", Comrade Sankar Saha said, the above facts reconfirm that "universal and lasting peace cannot be achieved without social justice". In the given circumstances working people of the globe have no other alternative than to go for the radical change of the society in order to achieve the cherished goal of universal and lasting peace as the prevailing social system is not only exploitative economically, culturally, morally and ethically, but it is also dehumanizing the humankind at the same time.

Inauguration of SUCI (C) office building at Dharwad, Karnataka on 22 May — a dream comes true

With assistance and contributions from several comrades, well wishers and supporters, the Dharwad District Committee of the SUCI (C) has been able to build an office of its own, at Sanmathi Marg, Dharwad. It symbolizes the growth of the organization in the district since 1992. Continual contact, interaction and involvement with several admirers, supporters, writers of the city has built an organic link with the heart of the city, known for its contribution to literature and culture. A significant aspect of the inaugural programme was the involvement of several literary personalities in this programme.

An office building is the nerve centre where plans are evolved to shape up people's movements and struggles conducive to revolution. It is the heart of ideological discussions for those who are attracted by its activities. Thus it is

here that the life of a revolutionary party pulsates.

The Party's organization has been spreading across Belgaum, Haveri, North Kanara, Koppal, Gadag districts with Dharwad as the centre. An office was the most urgent need. The old dilapidated rented building of the office was purchased and rebuilt. Villagers from surrounding areas were emotionally involved to come forward to contribute their mite. The day of inauguration turned festive with many turning up with entire families to see their extended family, their beloved organization with something to call its own, it was their home too.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborti, member of the Polit Bureau of the Party who inaugurated the programme, said in his inaugural speech: "We see a severe crisis in society today. We are fast degenerating morally, socially and culturally, and revolution is the only

path of emancipation from all this. Against this background it is a matter of great pleasure to have a Party office building of our own. This will help expansion and consolidation of our activities to nearby districts of Dharwad." He added that, today, all political parties are building up movements for votes and not with true interest of people in mind. Therefore people will have to unite and build massive movements on their real issues and burning problems. He called upon them to come forward, support and involve themselves actively in building up people's movements, just as they had supported the construction of an office building.

"When I came to Dharwad five- six years ago, I had felt happy to see the growth of the organization. Now, when I see this large gathering here, it is an indication of how the organization has grown qualitatively and

quantitatively in the past five-six years. I am very happy to see this," Comrade Krishna Chakraborti said. He added that hundreds of activists inspired by the ideology of the party are building up movements. The Party has grown similarly throughout the country, without any aid or help from capitalists, or the media, but with help from supporters and admirers. It is only on the strength of thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that the party has grown and expanded in a big way as the only genuine Communist Party of India, taking up mass struggles on burning issues of the people.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna, State Secretary of Karnataka, and member, Central Committee, SUCI (C) spoke on the occasion, to add that the party is similarly developing movements in several districts and there is a need for such office buildings of its own for the party everywhere.

Comrade Ramanjinappa Aldalli, District Secretary of the Party also spoke. Members of the party State Committee, Comrades Dr B.R. Manjunath, K.Uma, and others and members of the Dharwad District organising committee — Comrades H.G. Desai, Dr. N. Vasudendra and others were present on the dais. Comrades and well wishers from different districts of Karnataka were also present.

There was a music session in the evening with songs, sitar recital, and flute recital.



At the office inauguration in Dharwad, Politbureau Member of SUCI(C) Comrade Krishna Chakraborti addressing. Beside him seated is Comrade K. Radhakrishna (Central Committee Member and Karnataka State Secretary) and a part of gathering

Comrade Krishna Chakraborti meets Karnataka intellectuals

Contd. from page 1

Revolution is not mindless violence and killing as our Naxalite friends are doing today. Revolution means a basic change. Revolution does not occur as and when we wish it. Just as a seed sprouts into a sapling and then a tree, so also in society, change is a continuous process. Man plays a very crucial role in bringing about a change in this class divided society. Since there are reactionary forces in society who want to prevent social change, we will have to work for it consciously. The present capitalist society is in its decadent stage and will surely be replaced by socialism. It will have to be done by a revolution. Those who involve themselves, dedicate themselves in this process come to the forefront for revolution.

Capitalism is drowned in all out cultural, moral, economic, political crisis. People's life has become suffocating. In order to prevent them

from raising their voice against injustice, attempts are on to systematically sow seeds of fanaticism and blind beliefs in the people and in dividing them. Society is being led towards fascism. We need to enlighten the people on the reality that we need to liberate society from all this. The need of the hour is a powerful cultural movement on this basis."

"True patriotism means to love the common people, the exploited and the oppressed in the country. It is not patriotism to merely love the Himalayas in the north, seas in the south and forests in the country" he said. "Movements need to be developed to emancipate people from their miseries and not to pit one against another. If one cannot love all mothers, how can one love one's mother?" Further he added that it was ironic that those who did not fight for the country's freedom are now talking of patriotism.

Later, answering to a question, he said, "Communists love their country very deeply. They love the exploited, oppressed and the downtrodden people of their country. In the World War II, over 3 crore soldiers and people of Soviet Russia gave their lives fighting for their country, to save humanity from Fascist Germany. There is no such example of patriotism anywhere else in the world."

Dr Siddalinga Pattanshetti, who presided over the programme, said that the great task ahead of us is to understand and cultivate the correct ideology. The society should overcome the barriers of nation, state etc., and march towards the progress of whole humanity. To realize this dream, it behoves the conscious section of us to go to the students and youth, workers, peasants and the toiling masses to develop awareness in them.

Comrade K Radhakrishna,

Member, Central Committee and Karnataka State Secretary, SUCI(C) and editor, 'Karmika Drusthikona', who was a guest speaker observed that, the confusions and turmoils created in the name of patriotism, nationalism etc. were a result of the systematic conspiracy in an attempt to keep the people divided. People will have to understand this and fight it out by developing mass movements on the basis of higher values.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Ramanjinappa Aldalli, Secretary, Dharwad district SUCI (C), and advisor, 'Dharwad Janajagruthi Abhiyaan' said that though several social movements are breaking out, they are not able to reach their goal because of the lack of ideological clarity. Such a 'Dialogue' as this will go a long way in giving impetus to social movements. Sri. Nagaraj Gurikar, Convenor of 'Dharwad Janajagruthi Abhiyaan' welcomed the gathering.

FDI Reforms

FDI a great hoax for peasants, workers, traders and consumers

Contd. from page 2

out of business under the plea that they do not come up to expectations in terms of volume, quality and delivery. In a recent Oxfam study, a decade ago coffee farmers used to earn \$10 billion from a global market worth \$30 billion. Now they receive less than \$6 billion in a global market over \$60 billion. So the much trumpeted increase in scale or efficiency following monopoly penetration, instead of raising the incomes of the coffee farmers has substantially lowered the same. The lessons are clear. Bulk procurement by monopoly retailers plays havoc with primary producer's margins. It is also understood that emergence of giant private retail chain in Malaysia slashed the number of vegetable suppliers from 200 in 2001 to just 30 in 2003. The more clout a buyer has, the lesser the seller gets per capita. That is a law of the free market. FDI in retail cannot do any more than local big format retailers are already doing.

Those who argue that FDI in retail will bring succour to poor peasants and reduce prices for consumers need to explain why then such is not the case with home grown large format retailers. Initially, both domestic as well as foreign monopoly houses in order to establish their complete domination on procurement offer a slightly better price to the peasants. So they sell to these big capitals and gradually become dependent on them. Once the monopolists find that the primary producers have no other go but to come to them, they fix the procurement price of the agricultural produce as well as which crop should be produced and what fertilizer or pesticide should be used. If these big monopolists find tomorrow that a particular crop or agricultural raw material has a market (i.e. potential for being sold to intended buyers having affordability to buy at the price fixed) at home or abroad, they could compel the peasants now under their captivity to abandon cultivation of essential food crops and instead engage in plantation of such marketable stuff on a 'contract farming' basis. The farmers are thus compelled to sell at the prices so determined and forced to cultivate only such crops which have a market among the upper class consumers or are profitable for exporting abroad. They do it without any care for the needs and demands of the country's people, even of

environment. If Pepsi needs potatoes for their chips, peasants skip that season Dal and other such produce in favour of extensive cultivation and specialization towards potato cultivation. In the beginning, that particular peasant might benefit and presume contract farming to be profitable. But soon it would be evident that an entire range of products are in short supply. Precisely for that, Dal and cereals and vegetables are becoming costlier by the day. To bind the farmers to their conditions the big capitals arrange loans and advances for the farmers from their own sources and also supply them seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Thus the farmers are booked for selling their produce to those particular mega-retailers and to none else. These giant monopoly houses thus emerge as sole or monopoly purchaser of agricultural products as also seller of the same. This is a normal predatory strategy used by large capitals to drive out small and dispersed competition, and to form a big corporate empire in agriculture while the peasantry and small-scale producers face destitution and ruination. Thus the peasantry is only an emotional hook in the pro FDI lobbyist's scheme to hoodwink people. The truth is that more than 70% of revenues of large format stores come from non-food items where the farmer does not even figure.

Alluring the urban consumer with the idea that he will have more choice and better pricing is another bluff. Rather, worldwide fleecing runs the following way. Initially, consumers are offered lucrative concessions and are allured with pomp and extravaganzas of malls and their likes, which smaller traditional shops cannot do. The latter are undercut. With consumers thus trapped by the big business lobbies, these retail giants with their deep pockets, opt out to withstand a lower margin, even losses for the time being. Slowly they establish monopoly control and wipe out competitors, medium and small shops. The consumers have already fallen prey to the clutches of the monopolists who then dictate the prices, even items of the daily necessities.

The economic fall-out of unrestricted FDI would thus start from draining of the country's resources to result in widespread loss of livelihood of peasants, workers, and traders. Whipping up

of rural unemployment spills out ever-increasing rural migrant population to the urban areas. There itself, the entire small industries and small business sectors are at the mercy of the highly powerful foreign capital, facing total extermination with their supply line to the retail chain snapped. The huge number of people hitherto depending on these industries are thrown into wilderness, to be joined by rootless and jobless rural migrants. The entire army of unemployed find no alternative but to add to the band of lumpens and criminals. The social fabric of the country is shaken to its very core.

Even whatever amount of workforce will remain with these 'foreign' enterprises, will never have the privilege of enjoying any of the hard-earned rights, democratic or even trade union rights, that workers of this country would expect. Rather these enterprises will give effect to severe curtailment of workers' hard-earned rights and will impose atrocious harsh conditions at work places, of course apparently counter-balanced with an alluring pay packet, volatile with totally unstable work conditions. In other words, they will become dreaded SEZs in disguise, that have already brought devastations in different countries.

Permission for FDI under automatic route in several wings of the *broadcasting carriage services* will have another disastrous effect. Not only it will put the Indian telecom and related industries in stiff competition. It will open the floodgate for entry of putrid imperialist culture, as the FDI would set in to control cable networks, mobile TV etc. The deluge of vulgar, pornographic entertainment that has already infiltrated even into the families, will now extend its tentacle to every hand with a 'foreign mobile TV' available. What this will cost can be imagined, if we remember the rise in atrocities upon women and children finding a fillip with spread of IT industries along with the favourable ground of totally degenerated capitalist cultural ambience in the society. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is known for reverse engineering, efficient operations and technological skills and is a major supplier of affordable medicines to many third world countries. What substantial benefit will then increased FDI bring, other than allowing foreign monopolists to mint

maximum profit and take it away, to dislodge domestic, particularly smaller, farms and to establish their tightening hold on these sectors?

FDI in defence

FDI in defence is necessarily a part and parcel of the agenda of militarisation of economy that one and all capitalist countries are invariably taking to in these days of acute recession and market crisis of the world capitalist economy. This has become their compulsion from their ultimate goal of artificially stimulating the crisis-ridden market and economy, where the government invests in defence industries and purchases the produce; to keep the cycle on, what they need is a war-mania and war-phobia which helps the arms producer country to sell and the consumer country to buy. FDI increase simply fits in the process as an accelerator.

India is tipped to become the world's third-largest defence spender after the US and China by the next year, and equipment spending is reckoned to be nearly 100 billion in the next 5 years. It makes India a lucrative destination of the international arms manufacturers. Three year back, the then US deputy defence secretary Ashton Carter observed that if India increases FDI ceiling, it would commercially incentivize global firms more to invest. In their turn, the Indian monopolists are obliged to produce sophisticated arms in collaboration with foreign capital and then sell those to relatively weaker countries.

What concerns Indian people is that once the war-monger US imperialists and other imperialist superpowers and their giant war-merchant MNCs make decisive inroad in the country's defence, it would pose serious threat to our security. It would open the entire defence sector to them and along with that all military secrets, array of arsenal and other sensitive information of the country would be at their disposal. Foreign-acquired domestic firms could be used for surveillance, infiltration and sabotage against the Indian people, even the Indian government, if required. Vendors of 'reforms' contend that FDI would bring in sophisticated technology, but those could have been bought normally without FDI. How prudent is it to compromise the question of national security just for

Contd. on page 8

FDI Reforms

Absence of democratic movement emboldened Modi to hasten process of FDI

Contd. from page 7

procuring state-of-the-art arms? Besides, increased FDI in defence would also widen the rampant corruption, bribery and kickbacks in arms deals. The country has already experienced several menacing instances of that without FDI, in which top military officials, ministers and bureaucrats, supposed to be the defenders and governors of the country are merrily involved. As in the case of other industries, increased FDI in defence industries would surely cut off whatever little employment avenue is still there. Those will be extremely capital-intensive and driven by sophisticated technology requiring very little manpower. FDI in small arms manufacturing may lead to huge cache of arms available in the market which will sustain the already fattening band of criminals to carry on their activities with updated foreign arms.

Compulsion of the monopolists for FDI reforms

Precisely for what purpose then the Indian monopolists are welcoming FDI. With highly consolidated position, the Indian monopolists have grown to financial oligarchies which are exporting finance capital to and exploiting labour power of smaller or weaker countries of Asia-Africa-Latin America, even Europe. However, in the severe recession and crisis-hit world capitalist-imperialist system

the Indian monopolists face intense competition. They are thus set to take a two-edged course. They wish for greater share of world market and for that more power; so they aspire for hegemony, for rising to a superpower at least in these parts of south and south-east Asia. This is already finding expression in their bid to increase their military power, get into military agreements, including nuclear power agreements, with the US imperialists. And the heat of that hegemonic big-brotherly attitude of the Indian rulers are being felt by its neighbouring countries. On the other hand, to obtain the greater share of the world market, the Indian monopolists are eagerly opening up their own market to the imperialist powers, particularly the US imperialism to wrest some concessions from them and advantages elsewhere, to be allowed to invest their finance capital in and sell goods, including arms to other countries. This is the political compulsion that has driven the Indian monopolists to desperately develop closeness with US imperialists in particular, by either entering into economic accords and nuclear treaties or offering them surfeit of concessions and concurring, overtly or covertly, with many of their sinister moves and machinations. This is the compulsion that prompts the government to open up the country's economy including its defence sector to the US

imperialists via FDI route. Modi-led BJP government is obliging their mentor – master giving shape to their aspirations and wishes. All these point to the invaluable teachings of the great leader Lenin. He showed that once capitalism had a national character, when it took pride in nationalism. But in the age of imperialism, that is the age of finance capital, it has become cosmopolitan, when national interest is conveniently subdued to aggressive adventure of finance capital to explore and capture foreign market.

Absence of democratic movement emboldened the rulers towards these reforms

The question that remains : how could Modi government become so aggressive and frantic to make the move now, which the Congress had started long back, but could not dare to bring to this end due to strong opposition from people. It was urgently required for pro-people democratic forces of the country to strengthen that opposition against FDI. Obviously the responsibility lay mainly with those who speak of Marxism and boast of their strength, to expose the ulterior motive behind this move for FDI reforms, make people conscious of it and revitalize the traditional demand in anti-imperialist struggles to confiscate foreign capital. Unfortunately, under latter forces, including the CPI(M) masquerading

as Marxists seem to end their efforts with a lip-service without trying to wage an intense ideological-political drive against the move. Rather during the days of the Congress-led UPA rule, they behaved in the same way. Even when and where they were in power, as in West Bengal, the CPI(M) did not refrain from eulogizing and inviting foreign capitals in the name of bringing in development. They failed to realize that it only boosted up forces like the Congress or now the BJP. Now, the Modi-led BJP government finding any mighty opposition virtually absent, are trying to accomplish their deeds speedily, arrogantly and decisively. So, the need of the hour is to build an ideological campaign to expose the motive of these all-out FDI reforms, make people conscious of it, organize them on the strength of such realization and build up powerful democratic mass movements for foiling this design of the Indian monopolists to intensify the ruthless exploitation of the toiling people in collusion with foreign capital. Only such a movement can force the government to rescind their decision. As the revolutionary Party of the country, the SUCI (C) takes up the responsibility as part of its unwavering efforts at building class and mass struggles of people. It appeals to democratic minded people to step out and join hands with the movement.

Severe Drought : Orchestrated nexus involving government make use of the situation

Contd. from page 4

greater crisis in our capitalist market, while the huge influx of drought affected people into cities and towns already reeling under unemployment is bound to exacerbate existing social tensions and conflicts, among others. As crop failures are mounting as a result of severe water crisis, countless distraught farmers are committing suicide. As high as 3228 peasants committed suicide last year in drought-hit Vidarbha and Marathwada areas of Maharashtra. However, the ruling bourgeois leaders are unfazed. Rather, Gopal Shetty a BJP MP, has been so audacious that he felt no qualm in lampooning the tragic suicides by saying that "A fashion is going on. A trend is on." The inhumanity of the government is also testified by the fact that when a great part of

drought proofing measures had been tied to the MGNREGA, notwithstanding its implementation being dwarfed by bureaucratic procedures, rampant corruption and flawed operation, the Modi government has curtailed MNREGA funds.

All these bear glaring testimony of how the vote-merchants are criminally disdainful towards people's plight and misery and allow a corrupt nexus to rule the roost, whatever be their posturing and rhetoric! Fact has been that people are being doomed to distress and wretchedness, made to starve not only of food or means of livelihood but even of water. Because, that is what the avid servitors of heartless merciless capitalism want. When the poverty-stricken, homeless, wretched, ruined people cry for

survival, then the power-monger bourgeois politicians appear there with bowls of relief, that too far short of requirement, and pretend to be the saviours of the drought or flood-ravaged have-nots so that their votes come to them!

This is the murky face of capitalism, cruelty of capitalism, grisly holdout of a dying social system that thrives on oppressing the poor and deprived, profits from their predicament. This very drought and acute water scarcity is a glaring illustration of the fact that the very objective of the bourgeois government is not to meet even the bare necessity of people, of society, but to simply work out machinations that can fatten the swelling purse of the capitalist rulers and their lackeys which include a prominent section of the

bourgeois parties salivating for pelf and power, corrupt engineers-planners-bureaucrats and drum-beaters in media. That is why, the focus in the propaganda machinery is on how the country's GDP is beating global economic growth, how India has attained the status of the 8th richest country in the world, how the Prime Minister is hopping from country to country to secure support for India's entry into the group of mightiest military powers and such other foxing issues when billions or rather crores of people in the rural areas mostly below or marginally above the poverty line get irretrievably pushed further down, into bottomless misery and destitution at the loss of home, hearth, property, income and means of livelihood now due to drought, or then from flood.

WEST BENGAL ELECTION**SUCI (C) received unstinted support from people***Contd. from page 3*

a gruelling condition, the Party cadres carried on election campaign for nearly three months reaching people carrying the political views and opinions of the Party to them. They distributed more than a crore (10 millions) of Party propaganda pamphlets, sold to people more than 318420 copies of party literature including publications with the speeches of the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. 13527 comrades, from new recruits to old comrades including 321 of formerly active comrades worked untiringly to take Party views to the masses not just in areas with Party organization, even in numerous virgin areas. In return, the Party workers received from the masses unstinting appreciation of the Party as the only fighting force for people; they got boundless praise for the workers themselves for their sincerity and tireless effort. The sincerity, untiring struggle, purposive move all created lots of enthusiasm among the common people particularly among the saner section of the left-oriented masses within the fold of various other left parties.

While people were visibly upset and enraged at the mudslinging and flexing of money power by the media-backed mainstream parties, clandestine understanding between Mamata Banerjee and Modi and opportunistic character of the Congress-CPI (M) alliance, all without an iota of any serious political issues or problems of people's life, people had a world of admiration for the way our workers conducted the election battle with utmost devotion and commitment upholding the revolutionary political line of strengthening democratic mass movement against capitalist oppression-repression and menace of communalism.

With liberal patronage and support from even the poorest people of villages, an election fund of more than 1 crore 22 lakhs rupees has been raised. 5991 people including those from other parties like CPI(M), TMC and others as well as common people from different social sections, directly or indirectly helped the Party in the election battle. 819 mass meetings, 4653 street corner or campaign meetings and 2798 indoor small meets were held. This valiant fight of our Party workers and heartfelt boundless enthusiasm and support from people did not however find reflection in the election result.

Here we would like to point to a noteworthy feature of this election. At one stage of the election campaign it was found that the monopoly-controlled largest media house of the state as well as a good section of media undertook widest and strongest possible campaign in favour of the Congress-CPI (M) alliance. The ruling capitalist class, the monopolists, at least a section of them, had the concern that the CPI(M) does not become extinct. After all, it was a social-democratic force that has by this time abandoned the path of mass movement and has adequately proved its efficiency in playing subservient to the ruling class while in power. It was also true for the Congress, which is still one of the most trusted representative of the ruling monopolists. As both of them stood highly discredited in this state of West Bengal and none was in the position to fight the TMC alone, the ruling class made sure that the alliance be effected and be given a fillip to. And carried over by this design of the ruling class, the CPI(M), by joining with the Congress, helped the latter build a cleaner and people-friendly image for itself, which is basically a most undemocratic, pseudoscular, even soft communal force that has tormented people for years together and will be sure to do so in future given a chance to. So, there were repeated telecasting of the Narada sting operation video showing TMC leaders and ministers accepting hard cash from a fake company. Pre-poll surveys tried to convey how many seats the alliance would win and what would be the faces of its cabinet. One after another pre-poll surveys predicting possible win of the alliance or how tough a fight it was slated to give the ruling TMC came out in both electronic and print media. This created panic among the floating masses non-attached to any of the three main contesting forces. They saw the red in the horizon in the prospect of the CPI (M) with the Congress in tow staging a comeback. Many of them even expressed that fear in no uncertain term. Obviously this was an outcome of horrible experience people had during the CPI (M) rule, that made them scared of a return of that regime. A Congress rule was also not welcome to them. Emboldened by media propaganda, even a good number of CPI (M) leaders and cadres who till the other day had taken refuge in their shell after being ousted from power were again found in their former arrogant

high-handed attitude. This made the unattached floating masses further panicky. Even the enthusiasm in the TMC camp had considerably ebbed and they began reassessing their chances of victory. In such a situation, there had been a silent but all-out swing of the floating as well as anti-alliance vote in favour of the TMC to give the latter an absolute majority. The TMC leaders also never anticipated such a massive win.

It needs to be reiterated that in any election, the number of the floating or vacillating voters is much more than the organized vote of any party or alliance. It is with a view to influencing this overwhelmingly larger section of non-committed voters that the power that be and pro-establishment forces spend huge sums of money, adopt so many varied techniques. As these floating voters were haunted by the fear of a return of the CPI (M) rule, they, even unwillingly or instead of voting any other party, exercised their franchise in favour of the TMC. This is how there occurred a silent swing towards the TMC. The more the media raised the hype in favour of the CPI(M)- Congress alliance, the stronger became the resolve of the floating masses and the greater became the silent swing to go in favour of the TMC, however unacceptable they might have become during their rule.

In this backdrop, one has to view the results of Jaynagar and Kultali constituencies. In the state, over 3.5 lakh people have cast positive vote in our favour in 191 constituencies to strengthen the fighting image of the Party. In both Jaynagar and Kultali, we have a traditional mass base that has developed from round the year programme of class and mass struggles. In both these constituencies, we have been able to slightly improve our tally of votes that we secured when we fought the last parliament election all alone. In Jaynagar, it went up by 4000 to reach 39,000 while in Kultali it was 49,000 registering increase of about 1000 votes. In other words, there was no decline in our organized vote. Rather, it has gone up marginally. But the floating vote which decides victory did not work in our favour. The swing was there. Along with that the big parties, as characteristic practice in elections these days liberally distributed money and liquor. There was also lure of job, intimidation

and threat of stopping privileges from the panchayat. All these worked in combination or singly. In effect, these created pressure even on our well-wishers. Seeing the large youth force participating in our election rallies just a week before election, everyone was sure of our victory at least in Jaynagar. But the said late silent swing of floating vote and the other above said factors ultimately decided the result in both the constituencies.

Though we could not win a single seat, our gain in this election has been immense. First of all, people found that when the CPI (M) and its allies clearly betrayed cause of leftism and openly aligned with the Congress just for electoral gain, our Party courageously defended leftism and fought bravely in the election. Secondly, despite a total blackout in the media, we got over 3.5 lakh votes. Also, as indicated earlier we could reach out to a wide section of the masses with our political-ideological campaign, providing them with our political views by way of selling Party literature and organizing a good number of meetings at different levels in all the 191 constituencies we contested. There were other achievements listed earlier. Lastly, people have also noted that while electoral debacle made the CPI (M) and its allies frustrated and gave birth to fierce inner-party debate within CPI (M) on the question of alliance with the Congress, SUCI(C) remains unperturbed even at its electoral defeat and is on the streets with people's demands, as usual. There is not even a slightest of crack in their fighting spirit. Rather, it has gone up remarkably. This has visibly distinguished us from others reaffirming the invaluable teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide that 'although outwardly there appear to be many opposing forces in politics, and the press projects so many contesting forces,... only two contending forces are there in politics — one for revolution, the other opposing revolution.' The image of our Party as a genuine fighting left party based on higher proletarian culture has been strengthened. This support of the people would spur us on to intensify class and mass struggles, disseminate Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought more and more among the toiling masses and thus accelerate the process of anti-capitalist socialist revolution we are pledged-bound to accomplish.

50th Anniversary of All India DYO observed



Comrade Saumen Basu, Member, Central Committee, SUCI (C) addressing in Kolkata on 25 June with AIDYO leaders on the days

Bihar AIDS0 protest gross irregularities in examinations



AIDS0 Bihar State Committee led a Students' rally on June 21 from Gandhi Maidan- Bhagat Singh Chowk and on being intercepted by the police held a meeting near the statue of Netaji Subhas Bose

1500 court arrest in Save Democracy Movement led by Left Parties in Bhopal, MP



In continuation of the Save Democracy Movement initiated by four left parties - SUCI(C), CPI, CPI(M) and CPI (ML) Liberation in Madhya Pradesh, a huge protest rally was organized at Bhopal on 20 June against the fascist design of state BJP government to stop all types of protest demonstrations, dharnas, etc. by imposing 144 Cr.Pc. and other undemocratic measures. About 1500 people from different districts of MP participated in it and courted arrest

A protest meeting before the rally was addressed by Comrades Amarjit Kaur, All India Secretariat Member and Arvind Shrivastava, State Secretary of CPI, Comrades Pratap Samal, State Secretary and Sunil Gopal, State Organising Committee Member of SUCI(C), Comrades Pramod Pradhan, State Secretariat Member and Akhilesh Yadav, State Committee Member of CPI(M) and Comrade Devendra Singh Chauhan, State Secretary of CPI(ML) Liberation. The meeting was conducted by a four member presidium which included Comrade Uma P. Biswas from SUCI(C), Comrade Haridwar Singh from CPI, Comrade Ashok Tiwari from CPI (M) and Comrade Dharmendra Bhartiya from CPI (ML) Liberation.

SUCI (C) condemns unbridled FDI reforms by BJP government

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 21 June on new FDI reforms:

The BJP government at the Centre has announced its decision to permit 100 per cent foreign investment in civil aviation and food processing sectors and relaxed norms in defence and pharmaceutical industries and single brand retail. The Government claimed that the decisions will make "India the most open economy in the world for FDI" and "now most of the sectors would be under automatic approval route". These steps grant unbridled freedom to the multinationals to loot the country's natural and human resources and labour power and squeeze the last drop of blood out of the common people. Apart from security concerns regarding FDI in defence, the economic fall-out of unrestricted FDI would be : draining of the country's resources, widespread loss of livelihood of poor peasants, workers, and traders, curtailment of workers' hard-earned rights and atrocious harsh conditions at work places. Ignoring all these the ruling capitalist class is granting unrestricted license to foreign capital with the sole intention of winning the goodwill and friendship of the imperialist powers led by USA, to multiply its military capability with their aid, to win a leverage for the Indian monopoly capital to invest in other countries, and to seek the imperialists' support to establish itself as a regional superpower and fulfil its hegemonistic ambition in South and Southeast Asia. We appeal to the people to be conscious of this ulterior motive of the ruling class and urge them to build up powerful democratic mass movements for foiling the design of the Indian capitalist class to intensify ruthless exploitation of the toiling people in collusion with foreign capital and force the government to rescind their decision.

SUCI (C) demands immediate effective steps from Central and State governments to stop price rise

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 16 June 2016:

BJP's promise of bringing *achchhe din* is appearing as a cruel joke to the Indian people groaning under exploitation and grinding poverty and all out crisis in their life. Narendra Modi, before he became Prime Minister vowed to bring back all the black money stashed in foreign countries and put Rs. 15 lakh in the pocket of every Indian, but after two years not even 10 paise is put in the pocket of the citizens, rather what little they had is robbed from them through new tax, cess and curtailment of social security. In the State of West Bengal also TMC came to power riding on the slogan of *paribartan* (change). But after five years of TMC rule nothing has changed, rather the conditions have become worse. There is no amelioration of the crisis in people's life. Rampages of anti-socials, mafia dons and syndicate bosses are continuing. Murders, rapes, torture of women have become the order of the day. On top of all these, the prices of food items and all essential commodities have sky-rocketed to bring them out of reach of the common people; total ruination is staring them at the face. Neither the Central nor the State Governments are doing anything to control the price rise and save the people. On the contrary, in spite of the fall in oil price in the international market, the Central Government went on increasing the domestic price of petrol and diesel. It is well known that all the parties in power are beholden to big business, hoarders and black marketers; it is they who provide funds for winning elections and post-election they demand their pound of flesh, the freedom to loot. Under the circumstances we demand that to save the people from utter ruination the Government must immediately take the step of procuring the produce from farmers paying them fair remunerative price, and shoulder the responsibility of distributing the food grains and all essential commodities through all-out state trading system at fair and fixed price using government owned shops and retailers, doing away with the middle-man. We urge the people to build up powerful democratic movements to force the governments to take this very essential step of procurement and distribution.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH