

Proletarian Era

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Long Live Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought

[In the fast changing international scenario during the post-second world war days, and the closely interlinked national scenario in India where the ruling Indian bourgeoisie was keen to consolidate its capitalist state structure and economy of the newly independent sovereign state, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Founder General Secretary of the revolutionary Party of India, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the post-Lenin era, presented his invaluable observations and analyses on different issues. One such was fascism which had developed in the post-second world war days as a unique phenomenon in the capitalist-imperialist world. Here, on the occasion of the 5th August 2016, the 40th Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, great leader of the proletariat, we are publishing some excerpts from his analyses and observations on fascism. Their relevance these days will amply attest to not just the depth and penetrability of those teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, but also to their invincibility and the foresight of the great leader and teacher. The excerpts are from online editions of different sources and arranged thematically without any chronological arrangement – Ed. Board, Proletarian Era] [Emphasis in bold fonts ours; emphasis in italics original].

“In fine, the second world war has, to the discomfiture of the capitalist-imperialists, deepened the general crisis of the world capitalist economy further ... owing to the new economic conditions obtaining ...

“The powerful capitalist countries have taken to militarized economy and centralization of capital to get out of the crisis of overproduction, excess capital and the market, whereas the backward capitalist countries are after concentration of capital and planning in order to achieve rapid industrial development, catch up with the powerful capitalist countries and emerge as their strong competitors in the foreign market. But, all the same, both the advanced and the backward capitalist countries are thereby laying the economic base of fascism.

“Fascism is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move. It is designed to save the crisis-ridden, chaos-discredited capitalist order from collapse in



August 5, 1923 — August 5, 1976

the face of mounting dissatisfaction of the people against the existing system. In a definite conjuncture of circumstances, when the normal form of its economic organization, political institution and administrative apparatus fails to cope with the mounting capitalist crisis, when it becomes next to impossible to maintain any amount of stability of market and earn maximum profit, when the masses of the people, hard-hit by insecurity in life owing to crisis, feel the necessity for change in the existing conditions, the bourgeoisie, in order to maintain the most effective operation of the basic law of maximum profit of the capitalist economy under the circumstances, throws aside all veils from class dictatorship which parliamentary democracy puts on. These historical conditions impart to fascism some common characteristics which are its **distinguishing features**. They are mainly economic centralization, maximum concentration of political power in the state, rigid firmness in administration—all this leading to more and more identification of the interest of the monopolists with that of the state—and cultural regimentation.” [from **Call of the Hour**, p. 3, 8-9]

“Since the introduction of bourgeois democratic system in our country, cultivation of spiritualism and supernaturalism in various forms has been in full swing in all quarters. Every one

has surely observed the increase and extensiveness of community worships, religious processions, religious meetings and discussions on the occasions of birth and death anniversaries of the Prophets. ... knowing full well that the ancient times cannot be brought back, the old ideas of chastity and Hindu womanhood are being upheld as true ideals and support is being mustered around it. Where lies the difference between this call of becoming a superstitious “ideal housewife” and Hitler’s “Go back to the kitchen and be a good mother?” These attempts for combining religion with politics, ... are helping the dissemination of spiritual beliefs and various supernatural ideas opposed to rationalism. ...

“On the one hand, because of the objective necessity for the growth of productive forces and military might of the capitalist society, the technological aspects of science are being cultivated, and, on the other hand, in the various fields of thoughts and ideas, supernaturalism, theism, dualism and various other idealistic philosophies opposed to rationalism and based on the ‘theory of belief’ are being fostered. The simultaneous application of science in the technological development and cultivation of spiritualism in every field of human thought, such as art, literature and values, etc., definitely carry indication of the growth of all-out fascism in our country. In my opinion, “in the fields of philosophy and culture, fascism is a peculiar fusion of modern science and spiritualism.” [from **Crisis in Culture, and Fascism**, p.5]

“The essence of all religion is blind faith in personified or abstract supernatural forces exercising control over worldly things and events. Since scientific reasoning strikes at the root of this blind faith, the bourgeoisie in our country like everywhere else have lost their past progressive role and have turned themselves into protagonists of spiritualism today.

The exploiters and the ruling class always conspire to dupe people with the opium of religion in order to prevent them from correctly diagnosing the cause of their present exploitation and becoming conscious of the laws of development and social progress. So, the fascists also have no other alternative than to preach spiritualism for keeping this blind faith in religion alive. “Doctrines beautifully defined and carefully elucidated with headlines and paragraphs might be

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Observe 5th August Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day with due solemnity

Fascism is a peculiar fusion of modern science and spiritualism : Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

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lacking but something was to take its place, something more decisive – Faith” – which tone was reflected in these words of Mussolini is, in the main, also being echoed by the bourgeois leaders and cultural protagonists of our country... [from Crisis in Culture, and Fascism, p.7].

“It has become the main characteristic feature of the neo-fascist culture in our country to go on spreading all bourgeois and petit-bourgeois evil ideas, like the theory of absolutism about the nature of the state, the principle of class-collaboration and cooperation between mutually conflicting classes instead of class struggle, virtual denial of the proletarian internationalism in the name of universal humanism, propagation of national chauvinism and above all cult of revivalism on the plea of national tradition. As they are fully aware of the dictum that *“the more the blindness, the more the fanaticism”*, the bourgeoisie are trying their utmost through the cultural movements to build up the sense of blind submission and discipline in the name of restraint, peace and order...

“Without these, the development of all-out fascism is impossible in any country. This is because blind obedience, sense of mechanical discipline and prejudices of all sorts are the foundation of fascism. In our country, the desire and mentality for free discussions, debates and exchange of views are fast disappearing from all walks of national life. In all controversial issues — either a boastful arrogance and big-power chauvinism or the same old theory of belief is being harped on.” [from *Crisis in Culture, and Fascism*, p.5-6]

“Fascist culture is thus a queer admixture of scientific or truthful and illusory elements..... **The aim is to turn the mental process of the people from the scientific path of causality to the mystic alley of blind faith, preconception and obscurantism, ultimately developing contempt for social action...** As such, non-class or supra-class ideas dominate the fascist culture.” [from *Call of the Hour*, p.10-11]

“Fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism and science. The adoption of the technological aspect of science in its bid to develop the

economic and military might of the fascist state and the dishing out of all sorts of anti-science religious fads and idealistic jugglery as the panacea for all the ills that are the concomitant evils of the exploiting capitalist system and the present society, go together in the name of national culture and heritage.” [from *Call of the Hour*, p.10]

“National jingoism has always been a powerful instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie to poison the mass mind against the ideology of class struggle and proletarian internationalism... Patriotism of the masses has no conflict with the ideology of proletarian internationalism; rather without being an upholder of the ideology of proletarian internationalism, one cannot be truly patriotic today. But reactionary bourgeois nationalism is incompatible with the ideology of proletarian internationalism... So fascism can ill-afford to tolerate the real patriotic feelings of people.

“...fascism bases itself on nationalism, class harmony and the so-called need for union of all classes as also on hostility to all non-nationalistic socialism, especially to communism. Social democracy, on these points, hardly differs from fascism. Before the rise of fascism, social democracy had propagated these very ideas and thereby prepared the ground for fascism. In conclusion, fascism grew and developed in the womb of social democratism. If it was true in the prewar days, it is thousand times more true now. Because, social democracy is the last prop of capitalism in the present era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. And we have shown that fascism has become the order in all the capitalist countries now. The two now have fused together. **Fascism is entrenching itself through social democratic plans and programmes.**” [from *Call of the Hour*, p. 11, 12]

“There are some people who regard the severe repressive nature of administration, any dictatorship as fascism. ...there is torture and repression in every anti-people administrative system, ... But fascism is more devastating than that. Mere repression cannot do so much harm to a country. But fascism is an all-out counter-revolutionary upsurge. On the one hand, it destroys the process of rational thinking in people, makes them self-centred, makes

knowledge, learning and education technology-oriented, that is, it engenders a group of technocrats in the country who have completely abandoned all sorts of human values, who have no sense of responsibility towards people and society, to whom employment and wage slavery are simply everything, and who are ready to do anything and everything in exchange of money — and in this direction they channelize the cultivation of science and learning. On the other hand, fascism fosters all sorts of spiritualism, age-old superstitions, irrational mindset and blindness. Fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism, obscurantism and irrational bent of mind with the technological aspects of science. When this happens in a country the reasoning faculty itself dies out in the country. ... To make man fanatic with the poison of national chauvinism, on the one hand, and, on the other, to foster out-dated traditionalism while raising vague slogans of socialism, revolution and progress — if all these three can be combined, then the ground for ascent of fascism is ready in a country. It should be borne in mind that the ruling bourgeois class after having misled the intelligentsia succeeds in masterfully combining these three things then only, when the mindset for carrying on mutual discussions on the basis of reason and logic really ceases to exist in society. This provides the golden opportunity for fascism to rise... **It is for this, therefore, that a struggle against irrational mindset is necessary, that an environment for cultivation of knowledge, science and history, of dialogue, discussion and polemics, of criticism of each others’ views, is essential. Alone if such an environment prevails, will it become truly difficult for parties wedded to the exploiting class to make inroads amongst the masses. ...**

“I need to draw your attention to the serious question of the crisis in ethics and morality. It is true that the food crisis in the country is intensifying, the price of essential commodities is increasing, industrialization is not taking place, unemployment is on the rise and there is shortage of electricity. All of us are getting extremely angry over all these problems. But what is of greater concern and more damaging than this is the severe crisis that has appeared in our social life as a result of the fast decline in ethics and morality and the accentuating

irrational bent of mind. It should be borne in mind that however much might be the torment of want and oppression — a nation cannot be crushed by that. The British kept us subjugated for nearly two hundred years but they could not destroy the entire nation. The USA has turned Vietnam into a veritable desert by extensive and indiscriminate bombing, day after day, and forced the people there to live in underground shelters but could not crush the backbone of the whole nation. But are the rulers of our country creating economic misery only? The arguments with which they justify their unjust acts and ask the people to support them; the way the police openly tramples the laws every day, and the way the political leaders and administrators give indulgence to such conduct of the police; and what is more, if irrational mentality has reached such a level that even the youth of the country do not want to see reason, behave indecently in public and elderly people too remain silent on seeing it; moreover, if there is so much lack of tolerance for the opinion of others among the people of all strata of society — then what does all this prove? Does it prove that we are merely starving and suffering from want? Rather, does it not prove also that our moral backbone is getting shattered? Remember, a nation can stand erect even if it goes hungry, can conduct struggle even without food, if it possess higher human attributes. But if fascism takes root very few will remain in the country worthy to be called man. Because, fascism creates hindrance in the man-making process. [from *Fascism and Moral Ethical Crisis in Left, Democratic Movement*, p.14-5, 17-8]

“...it (Fascism) has assumed different forms in different countries to suit the local conditions. Somewhere it has adopted the form of individual dictatorship, somewhere the autocratic rule of a military junta and yet in some other countries it has assumed the democratic garb, keeping the parliament still alive but limiting its power by way of economic and political centralization. *The appearance of fascism in a ‘democratic’ form through the two-party parliamentary system of government is certainly a post-war social phenomenon, having no historical precedent. Because of its seemingly democratic*

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Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Measure for centralization of economic power from behind streamlining taxation and fine-tuning tax recovery to suit need of monopolists

For quite a number of years, the Indian government has been talking of introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST). Now, the bill is on the anvil of the parliament. In our country, at present there are various indirect taxes like central excise duty, value added tax, octroi duty and entry tax, customs duty, luxury tax, countervailing duty, service tax and so forth. GST is envisaged to substitute and subsume all these taxes. In other words, henceforth only one tax will be levied on all goods and services and that is GST. It was the erstwhile Congress government which mooted the proposal in 2009 and now the BJP government is slated to put it in operation. As on today, almost all the opposition parties including CPI (M) have given consent to the proposal. Only the Congress is asking to put a cap of 18% on GST rate, not from any point of principle but more as a tool to bargain with the BJP government. But, on principle, none of the parliamentary parties including the CPI (M) is against GST. It shows that they have no concern about judging GST properly to find out if this would make people more back-broken and pauperized or not. In fact, they are putting up a stance to the people as if GST is a welcome move on the part of the government. Whatever little dispute was raised by the opposition parties had been in regard to the distribution of the share of the gross GST collections to the state governments many of which are run by regional parties and Congress. With Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's assurance of fully compensating the state governments for any shortfall in state revenue once GST is in place, all such mild voices of dissent have subsided. This being the ambience, the scheme is being implemented as per desire and in the interest of the ruling monopolists without encountering any opposition. The Finance Minister has claimed that roll-out of GST will convert India into one common market, prevent tax-on-tax, make goods and services cheaper, and will facilitate businesses far more. It is also claimed by advocates of GST that it would increase India's GDP growth rate by 2% per year. Let us proceed to examine the tenability of this claim and then see what has prompted implementation of GST.

No measure of reform in capitalism can be pro-people

Before entering into any such discussions on GST, it needs to be reiterated that there cannot be any step or measure or reform that the bourgeois government in a capitalist country would *suo motu* intend to take or initiate which would not be in the interest of the ruling monopolists. And in these days when the entire capitalist-imperialist world is frantically trying to stave off the growing intense insoluble economic crisis, albeit in vain, based on the prescriptions of globalization-liberalization, the capitalist rulers of one and all capitalist countries, their political managers and caretaker governments, will only formulate laws, impose regulations and revamp procedures simply to serve the vested interest of the monopolists and corporates, both domestic and foreign. And to hoodwink people, they seek to cover up their misdeeds by a slew of false promises and assurances. So it will be illusionary or self-deceiving if anyone pins hope of getting any relief from any of these measures, laws, regulations, reforms etc. At the same time, with the capitalist crisis aggravating with every passing day, the ruling capitalists-monopolists are also hell bent upon centralizing and consolidating both economic and political power in their hands so as to throttle any genuine voice of dissent or cunningly distract attention from the real issue or the hideous underbelly of any apparently sweet-coated proposition. We should get into the discussions on GST with this understanding. It needs to be realized that introduction of GST is part and parcel of the devastating policies and measures of ruinous capitalist globalization-liberalization that the Indian government has adopted and is persistently pursuing. So, the moot question is not how smooth and hassle-free would be the taxation system but to understand how it would make people bleed white on a larger scale with this centralized and consolidated power of unified taxation.

GST — explained in more details

Protagonists of GST argue that existence of multi-taxation system is creating lots of problems from tax evasion to wrong computation and

disputes. Moreover, with more and more foreign players entering Indian market through FDI route, joint ventures, strategic alliances etc., streamlining of taxation system has become a crying need. Further, cascading effect in multi-tax regime is leading to double taxation or tax-on-tax. GST would resolve all these problems. The final consumer would bear only the GST charged by the last dealer in the supply chain with set-off benefits (i.e. tax paid earlier would be deducted from the tax to be paid at subsequent stage in supply chain) at all the previous stages. Incidentally, supply chain is technical nomenclature of the value delivery mechanism from procurement of raw material to sale of a finished product at retail outlet — consisting of upstream and downstream partners forming a vital link between the firm and its customers. By the way, upstream from the company is the set of firms that supply the raw materials, components, parts, information, finances, and expertise needed to create a product or service while Downstream includes marketing channel partners, such as wholesalers and retailers. At each stage of supply chain, in terms of economics, there is value addition. When raw leather is processed as refined leather sheet, it is one value addition. When these refined sheets are cut in various shapes needed for manufacturing the leather bag, it is another stage of value addition. Then when these specifically shaped cut pieces are stitched to produce the bag, it is another stage of value addition and so forth. To illustrate, at present, if factory-end price of a mineral water bottle is Rs 100, and excise duty and service tax is Rs 10 each, the price of the bottle escalates to Rs 120. On that Rs 120, state government collects 10% value added tax (VAT). The final price of the bottle then becomes Rs 132 (100+20+12=132). Why so? Because A sells goods to B after charging sales tax, and then B resells those goods to C after charging sales tax. While B computes his sales tax liability, he also includes the sales tax paid on previous purchase. This is how it becomes 'a tax on tax'. For those who want to have a little more insight into the 'cascading effect' phenomenon, we take the example of producing a leather bag from leather and then sell it in the market. Let us assume

that 1 unit of leather together with 1 unit of labour produces 1 unit of a leather bag. Suppose the wage rate is Rs 100, the pre-tax price of 1 unit of leather is Rs 100, the profit margin in leather bag's production is 20% and the indirect tax rate, levied on the value of output, is 10% each both on leather and leather bag. Then a leather bag will sell for Rs 277.2: [(Rs 100 of leather + 10% tax on it + Rs 100 labour charge)(1+20% margin)(1+10% tax)]. The total tax amount will be Rs 35.2, of which Rs 10 will be from leather and Rs 25.2 from leather bag. Of this Rs 25.2 of tax paid on leather bag, Rs 1.2 is tax that is paid on an earlier tax, because the earlier tax had raised cost and hence final price of leather bag: [(Rs 10 of tax paid on leather + profit margin of 20% on this Rs 10 which has raised costs] multiplied by 10% tax). It is thus evident that tax already paid causes more tax to be paid. This is the alleged "irrationality", since taxation is deemed to be on the level of activity, i.e. on how much value is added at what stage of supply chain.

GST, it is argued, would remove this "irrationality". While all taxes at present are charged at production level, GST would be a consumption-based tax premised on "destination principle." As against current practice of paying excise duty when goods are moved out of production centre or VAT when goods are delivered, GST would be applied on goods and services at the place where the final consumption would take place. In other words, the liability to pay GST would arise at the time of supply. It would be collected on value-added goods and services at each stage of sale or purchase in the supply chain. GST paid on the procurement of goods and services would be set off against that payable on the supply of goods or services. The manufacturer or wholesaler or retailer would pay the applicable GST rate but would claim it back through the tax credit mechanism.

Since GST would be destination-based, there would be three kinds of GST — CGST (central GST), SGST (state GST) and IGST (Inter-state GST). If goods are moving from Lucknow to Allahabad (i.e. within state), both CGST and SGST will be levied. The

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Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Reforms, like GST, in a capitalist state cannot go against interest of monopolists, cannot serve people

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collection would proportionately go to the Central Government and the State Government. If the goods are resold from Allahabad to Agra, again a sale within a state, both CGST and SGST will be levied. Sale price would be increased and hence would tax liability. Later, if the goods are moved to Amritsar (inter-state) and sold, only IGST would be levied and it would entirely go to the central government.

Evidently it is the end consumer from whom the entire tax amount is recovered by way of loading combined GST on end price or retail price. The end price would depend on the movement of the goods as well as delivery point and go up based on that. The proponents of GST say that with the streamlining of multiple taxes with GST, the final cost to the customer would be lower on the elimination of double-charging in the system. They contend that for manufactured consumer goods, the current tax regime makes the consumer pay approximately 25-26% more than the cost of production due to excise duty (peak of about 12.5%) and value added tax. While there has not yet been any indication of the GST rate, bourgeois economists and those who are privy to policy making, opine that it would be between 18% and 22%. Based on this assumption, they hold that basic goods and services are likely to become marginally cheaper. But there is an incredible stipulation in the draft Model GST Law. As we have shown above, the GST is stated to be abolishing tax on tax because a buyer would be entitled to claim an input tax credit (ITC) for the tax supposedly to be paid by the seller on purchases made by him for producing the goods or services. But the draft bill provides that the onus of checking whether the seller has paid GST lies with the buyer. Already there are murmurs about how far practicable is implementation of such an onerous provision. Naturally question arises that if such ITC is not possible, how would the cascading effect be avoided? And if that tax on tax remains, how would the reformed taxing system be superior to the present one? For seeking an answer to all these relevant questions, it might be prudent to see if the 'principle' behind GST is anything novel.

Is the 'principle' behind GST anything novel?

Let us rewind to 1 April, 2005, when VAT (Value Added Tax) was introduced. Prior to that, the framers

of tax policies argued that revenue mopped up through direct taxation like income tax, municipality tax, wealth tax etc. fell far short of funds required for 'development'. So, those who were considered to be too poor to pay direct taxes because their incomes were low were also forced to pay taxes. Thus came the theory of indirect taxation which is borne by the common people as a component of final market price of goods and services. What the bourgeois government then hid and still hides is the fact that public exchequer is starved not because of inadequacy of revenue generation through direct taxation. It is due to large scale tax evasion and tax default by large industrial houses, monopoly barons and a handful of super-rich who bend rules with impunity to defraud the exchequer. They also suppress their actual income with alacrity and generate enormous black money to distort the economic system. Over and above, the government allows substantial depletion in accruals by giving unjustified irrational tax concessions and waivers to big business and showing inexplicable amnesty to wilful mega-tax defaulters. So, the pretext under which decision was taken to make more and more dent into the pockets of the pauperized millions, pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist exploitation, through progressively raising the level of indirect taxation had not only been flimsy but criminally deceptive.

Subsequently, after implementation of the directives of capitalist globalization-liberalization, VAT was introduced in keeping with the same policy of forcing the common people to shoulder the entire load of increased indirect tax. In the preface to the White Paper issued on January 17, 2005 by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers constituted by the then union ministry of finance, Government of India, Asim Dasgupta, then CPI (M) finance minister of West Bengal and convenor of the said committee had claimed that "VAT ... will abolish the burden of several of the existing taxes, such as turnover tax, surcharge on sales tax, additional surcharge, special additional tax, etc. ... VAT will improve tax-compliance... augment revenue growth ... and therefore help common people, traders, industrialists and also the

government." During introduction of VAT, it was argued that VAT would abolish the then prevailing 'tax on tax' or double taxation by way of "set off benefits of input tax" at every stage of supply chain. In fact, in the CENVAT credit scheme (earlier known as MODVAT) introduced in 2004 also, credit of excise duty paid at the input stages was allowed to be set-off against the liability of excise on removal of goods. In GST, similar arguments are extended to put 'old wine in new bottle' with an additional gimmick of imposition of a single tax against multiple taxes.

Has VAT brought any relief to people or exacerbated their fleeing?

But what is the experience of common people? Has any of the promises or assurances come to be true? Rather, in absence of any initiative to tone up the utterly corrupt tax administration—an inevitability in crisis-ridden decadent moribund capitalist system— increase in procedural hazards only exacerbated further malpractices and escalated harassment of the assesses who are also prompted to seek redress in either bribing the corrupt tax officials or shrewd evasion of tax in connivance with the corrupt administration. On the contrary, VAT is added to base price of goods and services and the end-consumer pays that as part of the final price. All claims of so called adjustment of input tax proved bunkum, if not a crafty manoeuvre to increase indirect taxation by squeezing common people. As a result, there has been no abatement to price spiral wreaking havoc in people's life. Now it is clear to people why the monopoly houses were so keen to introduce VAT and how their subservient government as well as ministers-politicians-economists trumpeted it as a 'novelty'. In our analysis of VAT (vide Proletarian Era dated 01-03-2005), we had explained how the introduction of VAT was fraught with grave danger and how the worst casualty would be the common people because over and above the ongoing fiscal savagery, the ordinary consumers would have to bear the brunt as this additional outgo will be loaded on the end-price. People now find from experience how correct was our explanation and conclusion based on the Marxist methodology of analysis.

Experience of VAT equally ruinous everywhere in the world

At the time of introducing VAT, all the votaries of this model said that experience of VAT in many countries had been positive for the toiling masses. One of the countries cited was Brazil. But now Brazilian economy is on the verge of total collapse with exorbitant price hike. The lesson, therefore, is that if one tries to view any economic restructuring or fiscal reforms or modification in tax mechanism estranged from the fundamental law of capitalism, one is bound to be in a maze of confusion making a wild guess about possible succour to the people through tax reforms:-

Secondly, even on the question of VAT, there is division among the economists-policy makers of the capitalist world. The anti-VAT lobby argues that countries with VAT have a much heavier total tax burden than those without VAT. Ironically, the ruling monopolists of European Union who were pioneers in introducing VAT with the same set of arguments that their Indian counterparts advanced a decade later, now find that the much-trumpeted EU is not only facing acute economic hardships but its very existence is under threat. Not that this economic downturn is attributable to VAT. But, it does show that whether an economy has a VAT or not, makes no difference as far as overall economic performance and betterment of people's economic condition are concerned.

Fallout of GST would be no different, if not worse

The brief discussion made above in regard to VAT, we believe, would help in understanding the hoax of GST. So far, 160 countries in the world have GST or VST. France was the first country to introduce GST in 1954. In what way, common people have been benefitted there? Have the tax burdens been lessened? Have the prices come down? Unequivocally, the answer will be a big 'no'. Rather, GST has helped business to make more profit, no matter what the masterminds of this uniform tax formula might claim with arithmetic. First of all, GST, as we have said earlier, is a destination-based tax. The argument of the advocates of GST is that it makes more sense to tax consumption rather than tax production because the person is

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GST plans all-out attack, needs to be thwarted by people

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wilfully consuming a product or service and hence needs to pay the tax. They contend that in income tax or direct tax, irrespective of whether one saves or consumes, one is 'penalized'. But, in consumption concept one gets taxed only if one consumes based on one's own choice. This is the catch point or the crux of the proposition. When a capitalist manufacturer or investor produces a goods or service for earning maximum profit, he should not be penalized. But a common man ought to be 'condemned' for consumption even it is for eking out a bare living. While supporting such fallacious argument that finds place only in the dictionary of bourgeois economics in dying capitalism today, a blogger on internet has provided two comparative charts of a scenario of sale of cell phones. Unfortunately, for them, those charts as appended reveal the truth.

today would be costlier given the expectation that GST will be 18-22% or even more. Moreover, of late, it has become a practice with the government to impose cess on and often, on this or that pretext, over and above the existing rates of hefty indirect tax. The recently imposed *swachhhbharat* cess and *krishikalyan* cess are cases in point. It is not clear if cesses would continue to be levied in GST regime as well, making people bleed white yet more profusely.

Experience of GST in an Asian country

However tall may be the claim of the rulers, GST like VAT has proved disastrous for people in other countries. It is reported that in Malaysia, ordinary people, especially wage earners, are suffering due to the enforcement of GST that has resulted in a chain reaction pushing up prices. Everything of daily life is

simple. It is the class need of the Indian monopolists. As it appears, the object is to give relief to the industrial houses, corporate behemoths and big business by concentrating power of taxation, in so far as procedural hazards of tax computation is considered. Rather they would pay a consolidated tax in the form of GST and then easily recover that from the end consumer as load on sale price just like current VAT or services tax. This would minimize cases of tax disputes, particularly with foreign firms making forays in Indian market through FDI or joint venture mode. In fact foreign monopolists also demand 'simplification' of tax rules so that there is no impediment before maximization and repatriation of profit derived from Indian business. Particularly those intending to enter defence, retail trade, pharmaceuticals, education and financial sectors after recent liberalization of FDI norms have been pressing on GST. It is equally desired by the ruling Indian monopolists who want to leverage this advantage to foreign capital in fetching similar benefits in their overseas business besides enjoying all advantages in domestic business. So, the entire scheme is against people's interest and designed to cater to the class interest of the oppressive ruling bourgeoisie.

No opposition party pointed to anti-people character of GST

What is noticeable that none of the parties who initially raised some mild objections about GST had pointed out such questions about GST being inimical to people's interest. All their objections were confined to percentage of share of GST revenue to be devolved to the states, whether states would be permitted to generate any additional revenue through imposition of any state-specific taxes etc. Even the CPI(M)'s resentment only was that with GST in place, "whatever little residual power left with the state governments to raise resources will be lost. In situations when national

disasters occur or to fund welfare schemes to improve people's livelihood, state governments will now have to remain at the mercy of the central government for funds" and hence "the mechanism to compensate the states that lose their revenue with the introduction of the GST will have to be properly addressed." And now that the CPI (M) chief minister of Kerala has said that his government has no objections to the GST Bill, it is presumed that even the earlier little resentment — may be for public consumption — does not exist anymore and they are also subsumed in the consensus on GST destined to slay the slain people further.

People must resist

It is thus clear that unified taxation system of GST is an integral part of the large scale economic reform process that the ruling Indian monopolists have embarked upon as last-ditch attempt to consolidate and centralize its economic power to save its tottering economic base from crumbling. It is turning out to be a blistering attack, if not a full-fledged war, on the poverty-stricken misery-struck toiling people. The BJP as the trusted political manager right now is entrusted with the task to give shape to the plan taking a cue from its predecessor Congress and obtaining support from all the vote-based power-monger parliamentary parties. Under these circumstances, people has no choice other than rising up in conscious protest and immediately unleash an organized long-drawn powerful movement under correct leadership against these monstrous economic reforms. It is the SUCI(C) guided by the ennobling ideal of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought which presents the above observations on the GST that may be claimed to be singular in character in defending people's cause. We call upon people to come forward, comprehend the reality and unmask the heinous motives behind rolling out GST and other reform agendas.

| | Present Scenario | | After GST | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | With invoice | Without invoice | With invoice | Without invoice |
| Manufacturer to distributor | | | | |
| Sale price of phone | 10,000 | 11,000 | 10,000 | 11,000 |
| Add: Excise Duty @ 12% | 1,200 | - | - | - |
| Add: VAT @ 4% | 448 | - | - | - |
| Add: GST @ 16% | - | - | 1,600 | - |
| Final payment | 11,648 | 11,000 | 11,600 | 11,000 |
| Distributor to wholesaler | | | | |
| Sale price of phone | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Add: VAT @ 4% | 600 | - | - | - |
| Add: GST @ 16% | - | - | 2,400 | - |
| Final Receipt | 15,600 | 15,000 | 17,400 | 15,000 |
| Payment of Tax by distributor | 152 | - | 800 | - |
| Net profit to distributor | | | | |
| Sale price | 15,600 | 15,000 | 17,400 | 15,000 |
| Less: Purchase cost | 11,648 | 11,000 | 11,600 | 11,000 |
| Less: Net tax paid | 152 | - | 800 | - |
| Net profit to distributor | 3,800 | 4,000 | 5,000 | 4,000 |
| Final Result | Distributor will prefer without invoice | | Distributor will prefer with invoice | |

(source:—quora.com)

If one notices carefully, while the distributor is found to make more profit in a GST regime, sale price of the goods with invoice in GST is Rs 17,400 as against Rs 15,600 in a non-GST environment. Common sense says that the end-consumer or common buyer in the market would thus end up paying higher price. What is happening today with VAT? The entire 15% is loaded as lump-sum tax component on the final price without any means for the buyer to verify whether there is input tax credit or avoidance of double taxation. With GST also, the same mechanism would operate, forget about who pays what rate of tax at what stage in the supply chain. One commentator has apprehended that services which attract 15% tax

getting more expensive. In Penang, second Malaysian city, a sundry shop which has been operating for 45 years is closing down because the owner cannot cope with the complexity of GST and he could not afford an accountant. Secondly, with the enforcement of GST, traders are merrily passing on the higher cost to consumers who are the ultimate losers. Those in the lower income group find it difficult to make ends meet and some are resorting to theft or robbery, resulting in worsening social problem. (malaysianchinese-news.com dated 31-03-15)

Why the Indian government so keen to introduce GST

Naturally, what one is prompted to ask is why GST then? Answer is

Round-Table Meet on NEP by AISEC Telangana- Andhra Pradesh

Telangana-Andhra Pradesh Chapter of All India Save Education Committee organized a round table meet on 18 July on the Draft NEP, 2016 released by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry. The meet was addressed by Professor P.L. Vishweswara Rao, the president of the meet as also the president of the Telangana- Andhra Pradesh AISEC, Sri Govindarajulu, the secretary of the organization, Sri. Hima Jwala, a renowned poet and others. They unequivocally criticized the Draft as only too ominous, pretentious, anti-people and anti-student, really a blue-print of Hindutva agenda with attack on scientific values, democratic norms and constitutional spirit. Among those also present at the meet were Smt. Sashikala lecturer in Chemistry, Indira Priyadarshini College for women and others of AISEC Telangana- Andhra Pradesh Committee.

Fascism bases itself on nationalism, class harmony, union of all classes as also on hostility to socialism, especially to communism : Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

Contd. from page 2

appearance it is, at the same time, the most deceptive.

"Fascism always and everywhere adopts a dual policy of suppression and persuasion or deception. Its aim is not so much to ruthlessly suppress the mass force as to win it over to its side as volunteers who will be willing to carry out the fascist plans and programmes for 'national reconstruction'. Without a cooperating mass force at its back, fascism can hardly hold its sway. Fascism, therefore, adopts social democratic plans, grants minor economic concessions to the people, tries to control anarchy in the capitalist economy and the insecurity in life flowing therefrom like unemployment, etc. ... In short, a fascist state takes the position of a so-called bourgeois welfare state. Along with these so-called welfare measures, it carries relentless ideological battles to weed out the revolutionary ideas. And when the unconscious masses take these measures to be anti-capitalist and pro-people and lend the fascists an enthusiastic support in the carrying out of their plans and programmes, the fascists concentrate all their powers to exterminate communism spiritually and the communists physically. In its crusade against communism fascism advocates its own fascistic culture, a queer

admixture of social democratism, national jingoism and mysticism.

"It is often argued that the danger of fascism comes from the right reaction. If by right reaction is meant social democracy then we do not see any error in this formulation. But the term right reaction is not being used in this sense; it is being used to mean conservatism. At least in our country this is the current connotation of the term... fascism requires mass backing for its growth and development. It is impossible to have the support of the people unless their imagination can be captured and sentiments won over. Conservatism has nothing to offer to people to drag them towards itself. It is the outmoded outlook of the discredited class or a section of the class and is hated by the toiling millions for its open and blunt advocacy for the vested interests and their old privileges. To capture the imagination of people and enlist their voluntary support is needed a relatively radical programme containing socialistic promises to the people and patriotic platitudes, which social democracy furnishes. In fact, **it is not conservatism but social democracy that has the potential danger of fascism in it.**" [from **Call of the Hour, p.9, 10, 11-12]**

"Although outwardly there appear to be many opposing forces in politics, ... but viewing the

situation from the context of ultimate struggle, I hold, only two contending forces are there in politics — one for revolution, the other opposing revolution — in whatever nomenclature might it be posed. One is the politics of countering revolution, ... And the other is the politics of organizing revolution.

This politics of opposing revolution has paved the road to usher in fascism — whether consciously or unconsciously, unknowingly, just as the intellectuals, youth and students in Italy and Germany objectively helped in installation of fascism, forgetting their heritage. They did not usher in fascism knowingly. Confused and duped by Hitler's fake progressive slogans and his hoax of national socialism, and Mussolini's deceit of democratic socialism, nationalization and social welfare measures, the intellectuals, students and youth of Germany and Italy objectively strengthened fascism. They sold out their conscience to the money power of the monopolists. In flocks they got enlisted in the troops of Nazi hooligans. They did not have any prick of conscience. Just see, Germany, that once stood out in the whole of Europe as a powerful nation with all-round great heritage in education, culture, cultivation of knowledge and science, industrial advancement and working class

movement, is discredited and divided today owing it to Nazism. Its earlier prestige in the world community stands no more. What havoc and harm has Nazism wreaked on Germany and the world at large, which people around the globe have condemned in one voice, calling it the worst enemy of humanity! But when fascism came in Italy and Germany, it came in a cloak of deceit spreading illusion. It came, hiding itself behind the smokescreen of confusing slogans of progress and socialism." [from **Mass movement in India and Tasks of the Youth, p.2,3]**

Sources:

Call of the Hour: First published in June 1962 in *Socialist Unity*, the then English organ of the Party: quoted from Selected Works, vol. II., Online edition.

Crisis in Culture, and Fascism: Article published in 1957 in *Ganadabi*: from SW, vol.IV, Online edition.

Fascism and Moral Ethical Crisis in Left, Democratic Movement: Speech on April 24, 1973, Foundation Anniversary of party. First published in Bengali on May 30, 1973 from SW, vol.IV, Online edition

Mass movement in India and Tasks of the Youth: Speech on June 21, 1975; first published 24 June, 1975: from SW, vol.III. Online edition.

AIAIF condemns the draconian measures introduced by President Recep Erdogan of Turkey

All India Anti-imperialist Forum has released the following statement on 22 July 2016:

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) roundly condemns the draconian measures taken by the Turkish President Recep Erdogan and the declaration of emergency with the suspension of European Convention of Human Rights. The AKP Government in the past also routinely unleashed the most brutal and violent attack on democratic movements, not sparing even the journalists reporting the events. Now President Erdogan is using the failed coup attempt as an excuse to crackdown on all opposition forces and has imprisoned thousands and thousands of police officers and army personnel including top generals, judges, prosecutors, teachers and university staff, and from the circulated photographs it is clear that many of them are tortured. President Erdogan is in fact on a move to clear out the opposition forces mercilessly persecuting them to muzzle any voice of dissent. A most autocratic fascist rule is clamped on Turkey. AIAIF strongly condemns these measures and demands immediate restoration of democracy. It stands in solidarity with the Turkish people fighting for their democratic rights and against the oppressive tyrannical measures of the state.

AIAIF urges urgent solution of problems of Kashmir and restoration of peace

All India Anti-imperialist Forum has released the following statement on 22 July 2016:

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum is gravely concerned with the recent events in Kashmir. Street protests that erupted in different parts of Kashmir at the death of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, allegedly in a fake encounter, were met with firing by the police which led to death of 45 people and injury to many. This triggered further protests and confrontation between the police and the protesters resulting in death of more protesters in police firing. The security personnel have become trigger happy and have indiscriminately used rubber bullets and pellets injuring people in the face and causing loss of eyesight. In the past also many times they quelled the agitation brutally by spraying bullets indiscriminately killing many as if they were dealing with the enemy. Now violence engulfed the whole of Kashmir valley, leading to more death and injuries. Curfew was imposed for days together; educational institutions, shops and market places, offices and firms were closed down; normal life was

paralyzed. Common people are subjected to untold suffering and hardship, and an atmosphere of deep fear, insecurity, distrust and a sense of uncertainty and alienation has pervaded the entire valley. AIAIF firmly believes that the problems centring which crisis situations are erupting again and again, cannot be solved by armed operations. People's distrust and alienation have to be erased and for that many a wrong doings of the past are to be eradicated, promises and agreements at the time of accession are to be fulfilled and honoured in totality, AFSPA is to be revoked, army is to be sent back to the border, and encouragement of communal passions and incidents is to be stopped forthwith. The gravity of the situation demands that effective steps be immediately taken to normalize the situation and restore peace in the valley through negotiations involving all concerned. We urge the Central Government to act urgently and we call upon the people to stand by the injured and wounded heart of the Kashmiri people and extend support to their just cause of achieving full autonomy as was promised.

Students take to streets in Chile against privatization-commercialization of education

In tune with student movements now rising all over the world against commercialization of education and demanding education for all, on July 5, the main thoroughfare of the capital Santiago, as well as other cities in Chile were reverberating with slogans of several thousands of students who had taken out enlivened protest rallies. They raised demands against commercialization and for free universal education.

Protest against commercialization – privatization of education erupted in Chile since between 2011 and 2013. Demands were raised for the government to bear the lion's share of expense for education. The present president Michelle Bachelet came to power on the pledge, among others, to stop privatization of education and make education free upto the university level, which promise he totally brushed aside later. In two years time students have come to realize that there is no other way but to take to the streets. In the last few months Chile came alive with repeated student movement, which faced brute and indiscriminate police atrocities. The July 5 rally was ferociously attacked by the police with water-cannon, tear-gas and trained dogs. They arrested hundreds of students and hauled them up in the vans brutally wrenching their arms and legs. Students demanded the Education Minister to retire and pledged to continue the movements till demands are met.

Death toll fails to stop school teachers from building up mighty movements in Mexico

Public school teachers in Mexico City were on an indefinite strike since 12 July 2016 called by CNTE union in protest of education reforms imposed by President Enrique Peña Nieto. Striking teachers from the Section 9 of the SNTE union, who support the CNTE union, also took part in the mega-march held in central Mexico City, where they were joined by parents and colleagues from the southern states of Oaxaca, Chiapas and Guerrero. In an official statement, the assembly of the Section 9 called on teachers in Mexico City to also join the blockades that protesters have been maintaining over the past months to demand the government discuss the reforms. The government plans to layoff tens of thousands of teachers and has also threatened those who are attending the massive protests. Government violence escalated to fatal levels in Oaxaca, where federal and local police repression has claimed the lives of at least eight people and has left dozens injured, with many arrested during the recent ongoing protests.

Comrade Nazmul Haque, veteran Member, Assam State Committee breathed his last

Comrade Nazmul Haque, veteran Member of Assam State Committee of SUCI (Communist) breathed his last at Ambari of Goalpara on 16 July at 2 am. He was 82. Instantaneously, scores of grief-stricken common people as well as leaders-cadres- supporters and sympathisers of the Party, as well as of other political parties came to pay their last tribute from around the entire district.

To start with, on behalf of Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Member, Polit Bureau of the Party, Comrade Kantimoy Deb, veteran Member of the Assam State Committee placed wreath on the mortal remains of the departed leader in tribute to him. Then Comrade Chandralekha Das, State Secretary, Comrade Joynal Abedin, Member, State Committee, Comrade Ina Hussain, District Secretary as also leaders of district committee and mass organizations placed wreaths to pay their last tribute to the departed leader. At around 12, the funeral procession started from Comrade Haque's residence for West Goalpara College, with which Comrade Haque was intimately connected. There professors and employees of the college placed wreaths in expression of their heartfelt respect. In the entire procession covering long six kilometres spontaneous participation of few thousands of grief stricken people was remarkable.

Comrade Nazmul Haque hailed from a poor peasant family. On completion of studies, he joined a school at Kalgatchia in Barpeta district as a teacher. He had immense love for exploited deprived people of the society. Poverty and suffering around used to create turmoil in him. It was from this feeling that he became interested in works of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong. In 1970, he got acquainted with Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya through late Comrade Indu Bhowmick, a trade Union leader of the Party. Having been introduced to Marxism- Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Comrade Haque could realize within a short time that exploitation and deprivation, poverty and sufferings could not be ended without the anti-capitalist socialist revolution for which SUCI (Communist), the genuine communist party of the country, was the only force to lead. On this realization he responded to the call of the Party and gave up the teacher's job to engage himself whole-heartedly in the task of building up the Party organization in Goalpara district. At that time, Comrade Nazmul Haque was among the handful few who had come out for expanding Party organization in the state of Assam led by Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, a student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He also came in touch with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in Kolkata. Later, he became the Goalpara District Secretary of the Party and State Secretary of KKMS.

In course of the growth of the Party in undivided Goalpara district, a number of movements were launched under the leadership of the Party. Comrade Haque played important role in all those. In 1973 led by the Party there was a powerful and successful movement on land mutation, a significant demand of poor peasants. Comrade Nazmul Haque took active role in it. With these movements of poor peasants on one side and ideological struggle of Party on the other, the Party started to spread out. In all those movements, Comrade Haque's courageous role and discussion of Party ideology and politics on the basis of sharp

class consciousness made him very near and dear to the poor peasants and common people of the entire area cutting across caste-creed-religion. In course of this, he became MLA in 1978 and also in 1991. Inside the Assembly too, as a representative of the revolutionary Party, Comrade Haque had been always vocal against the anti-people activities of the government. His concrete, thoughtful and rational discussions and opinions created considerable impression in the Assembly, which also helped in developing Party's image in the state. Besides, the way he had acted to give shape to pro-people measures and schemes like construction of roads, bringing electricity to villages, making arrangements of irrigation in the agro-based areas of his constituency, are still remembered by people there with reverence. During his second term as MLA he raised strong protest against the government move to increase salaries of ministers and MLAs.



Comrade Nazmul Haque played a significant role in the spread of education across the district. As a people's representative, and guided by the Party advice, he laid much emphasis on founding schools and colleges in his area among which there were West Goalpara College and Lakhmipur College.

Comrade Nazmul Haque had been ever vigilant in preserving people's unity. Towards the end of 1979 when the situation in the state had become terrible from the movement of the fanatic provincial force of AASU to expel the so-called foreigners and horrible torture was inflicted upon the religious minority community, a section of communal minded organizations, representing vested interests, tried to mislead the minority community people along communal path in minority dominated areas. Risking the dangerous situation thus developed, the Party had released all efforts towards thwarting this suicidal move. Comrade Nazmul Haque performed unique role in this effort. As a result of that there was no major untoward incident at that time in the area. Again in 1992 when communal frenzy was ignited all over the country on the background of demolition of the Babri Mosque, Comrade Haque's bold efforts helped maintain communal amity in the area. In some parts of Goalpara West Constituency the Party with Comrade Haque at the helm, stood as unwavering sentinel to protect the terrified people of some Hindu-community dominated villages. At the demise of Comrade Haque people of these areas felt the grief of losing their dearest guardian and friend.

In personal life too, Comrade Nazmul Haque was very simple and plain living that drew people close to him. His compassionate character was another bright feature. He deeply loved his junior comrades. Till his last days Comrade Haque maintained his loyalty to the revolution, Party and leadership. With his demise, the Party has lost a leading comrade.

Red Salute Comrade Nazmul Haque!

Odisha units of AIUTUC hold district conferences, study classes

All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) held two district conferences in Odisha, each for the first time. The Cuttack district conference held on 1 May was addressed by Comrade Biswabasu Das, secretary, SUCI(C) Cuttack district committee, as the main speaker, Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, All India Secretariat member and State vice-president of AIUTUC, who was also the chief guest of the conference, Comrade Jayasen Meher, Odisha State Secretary of AIUTUC and others.

The open session of the Anugul

District Convenor of AIUTUC presided over. Comrade Bhikari Pradhan, Comrade Jayasen Meher and Comrade Prahlad Chandra Sahoo AIUTUC Odisha State Secretariat Member also spoke.

The two sessions adopted a few resolutions and called upon workers to build up AIUTUC and militant movements making those conducive to the struggle for overthrowing the exploitative capitalist system.

Two study classes of leaders, organizers and activists of AIUTUC were held recently.



A part of gathering of the Cuttack District Conference

district conference was held on 10 July and the delegate session on 11 July. Comrade Dhurjati Das, Odisha State Secretary SUCI(C), was the main speaker on both the sessions. In the open session Comrade Shambhunath Naik, All India Vice-President and Odisha State President of AIUTUC and Ex-MLA of Jashipur Constituency from the SUCI (C) and the chief-guest, Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, and Comrade Jayasen Meher addressed the session. Comrade Bhikari Pradhan, AIUTUC, Odisha State Vice-President presided over.

At the delegate session Comrade Rajesh Ranjan Pani, State Committee Member and Anugul

Odisha state level class was held at the State Office, Bhubaneswar on 15 May, 2016 on the basis of the book of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, 'Shramik Andolanara Sathik Drustibhangi' (Correct Outlook of Workers' Movement) and was conducted by Comrade Dhurjati Das and Comrade Shankar Dasgupta. Besides a Jajpur district level study class was held at Bhumpan in Sukinda block of Jajpur district on 3 July 2016 with leaders highlighting the problems of the working class people in present international and national situations, the role of the Central and State Governments against the working class and the aims and objects of the AIUTUC.

Now ghost comes to the rescue

Ooff! At last the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh have found reason for farmers' suicides in the state. Some of the 418 farmers who committed suicide in Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's home district Sehore in the last three years took the extreme step because they were "possessed by ghosts", according to the state government. Home Minister Bupendra Singh said this in a written reply to a question by Congress MLA Shailendra Patel in the assembly on Wednesday. The

minister clarified that this information was based on the accounts of the family members. He also said that no farmer had committed suicide because of financial hardship. Family members of the farmer Hariom Parmar who committed suicide told that he took the extreme step due to the financial distress after a crop failure. There have been reportedly at least ten cases of suicide due to the indebtedness and crop failure. Who knows whether indebtedness is also a handiwork of ghosts! (Times of India-20-07-16)

SUCI(C) condoles the death of innocent civilians including children in terrorist attack

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

Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) expresses profound grief at the loss of life of so many innocent civilians including children and injury to hundreds in the terrorist attack on crowds gathered for Bastille Day celebration at Nice, France, and we strongly condemn such wanton killing of civilians. We record our deep concern at the spread of such violent terrorist attacks in different countries of the world, and call for cessation of such mindless killing, which do not serve any purpose other than disturbing the unity of the people of the world. At the same time we draw attention to the fact that it is the acts of imperialist aggression in different parts of the world, particularly in Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria etc., which is the progenitor of terrorism. It is a matter of history that many terrorist groups, created and nurtured by the imperialists, were used by them for their conspiratorial designs. The acts of imperialist aggression in different parts of the world are vitiating the atmosphere of peace and harmony of the people all over the world; and this is equally condemnable. These local wars have opened up a vast market for the imperialist-manufactured arms which are finding their way to the terrorist forces.

We demand that all such imperialist acts of aggression and war must be immediately stopped. While unequivocally condemning the terrorist attack on innocent people, we appeal to all the well-meaning, peace-loving people of the world to work for true eradication of terrorism by building up strong, united anti-imperialist movements in all countries which alone can restrain imperialist marauding and root out terrorism.

SUCI(C) holds peoples' movement against BJP government of Assam

BJP has been installed in state power of Assam just two months back, with Sarbananda Sonwal as the Chief Minister hailed by Prime Minister during poll-campaign. Yet within just two months disillusionment has set in among people with prices of essential items sky-rocketing. At the same time, the BJP Government under Sarbananda Sonwal is attempting to hand over not less than 12 oil-reserves of the state to private owners.

SUCI(C) has taken to the streets against such anti-people policies of the government. On July 12, SUCI(C) Kachhar District Committee staged a protest demonstration in front of the DM office and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister. The programme was led by SUCI(C) Kachhar District Secretary Comrade Shyamdeo Kurmi and others.

'Bhram'ki Baat

From the ramparts of Red Fort in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that India has saved Rs 15,000 crore annually in subsidy outgo for cooking gas thanks to DBTL (Direct Bank Transfer) and GiveItUp (calling upon consumers to give up their LPG subsidies) campaign. "We got the LPG gas subsidy under direct cash benefit transfer. We used the Jan DhanYojana and Aadhar cards. Because of this, middlemen and black marketers have been hit. We corrected the system and Rs 15,000 crore, which was stolen every year in the name of gas subsidy, has been saved," Modi said, addressing the nation from the Red Fort.

However, a CAG report to be tabled in Parliament has found that the saving from people voluntarily giving up LPG subsidy and direct bank transfers add up to less than Rs. 2,000 crore. The remaining saving is actually thanks to the dramatic fall in the prices of LPG that India annually imports. The audit has also found substantial systemic problems with the Direct Benefit Transfer in LPG scheme which is called Pahal by the government. Among them are diversion of domestic subsidy for commercial use and commercial consumption LPG being diverted to domestic use. What a startling example of 'Bhram Ki Baat'! (The Hindu 20-07-16)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH