

WAIVER OF FARM LOANS

Surging peasants' movements must be intensified and led to logical culmination

It started with glorious struggle of Singur-Nandigram peasants against forcible land grab and eviction. Now the suffering poor peasants of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka are on a warpath with the government pressing for their just demand of loan waiver,

minimum support price, irrigation facility, lower cost of electricity and diesel, etc. The BJP-led government which has overtaken all its predecessors in gimmicks, false promises as well as in multiplying economic-political onslaught on the toiling masses including the distressed peasantry has long been criminally unresponsive to the peasants' demands and pretended not to take any cognizance of the brewing discontent. Now when the accumulated wrath and grievances have burst forth in massive spontaneous protests, it has bared its fascist fangs by killing six agitating peasants and inflicting grievous injury on many more at Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh on 6 June last. This has added fuel to fire and agitations have intensified further and spread in other provinces as well, putting the government on the backfoot. Under pressure of movement the BJP-led governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar

Pradesh have announced farm loan waivers, albeit attaching some stringent conditions which do raise questions about the benefits reaching out to the neediest i.e. the marginal and poor peasants. But within no time of this announcement, the echelons in the governmental hierarchy as well as the economists-columnists-commentators-bankers-bureaucrats subservient to the ruling capitalists have started lamenting how bad is this costly bailout of farmers for the country's economy, how it would jeopardize credit discipline that means proper disbursement and recovery of loans, perpetuate a bad credit culture, threaten to undo the recent years of parsimony by the BJP-run central government, worsen inflationary risks, limit the Reserve Bank of India's ability to bring down interest rates and so forth. Not limited to citing how the economy consequent to such 'benevolence' and 'profligacy' of the government

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SUCI(C) strongly opposes Goods and Services Tax terming it as brazenly anti-people and calls for building up powerful movement to resist it

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 29-06-2017 :

SUCI(C) is strongly opposed to introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) which will immensely increase the burden of indirect taxes on the common people entailing spurt in prices of almost all essential commodities and services and thus would be another bout of fiscal savagery brought down on them day in and day out by ruthlessly oppressive capitalism to stave off its escalating crisis endemic of the system. On the other hand, this new tax regime will substantially relieve the capitalist manufacturers and corporate sectors of their tax liability. In this connection it bears recall that the character as well as implication of any economic reform initiated in capitalism cannot be understood estranged from the system. The move initiated in the aggregate interest of the capitalist class would facilitate concentration of the power of taxation in the hands of the central government. This glaringly violates the cardinal principle of a federal structure after independence. Clearly this move of further concentration of economic power in the hands of the Centre will push the country more towards administrative fascism. No less important is the fact that as a result of this, it will become more difficult to develop movement against imposition of unjust taxation by the Centre.

We call upon the toiling masses to close in their rank and develop powerful movement countrywide to thwart rolling out of GST and observe 30 June as all India protest day against GST.

Hacking of US presidential election

Ugly rickety face of bourgeois parliamentary election exposed once again

The bourgeois parliamentary system and its lifeline, parliamentary elections, have exposed once more their own rickety and rotten skeleton. Starting from mere accusation, and stepping it up day by day, degree by degree, now most of the political establishment and the mainstream media of the USA, and at their instance increasingly larger number of people, appear convinced that a hidden hand of present imperialist Russia was active in hacking the election process in the ring-leader of the capitalist-imperialist world, viz., the USA. It may have gone to the extent of being responsible for the electoral victory of President Donald Trump, no matter how loudly President Trump may deny it. Be that as it may, the event through all its proceedings and manifestations has rocked the bourgeois parliamentary world. It has even shaken the unflinching faith that a large section of democratic minded people still hold in this system.

Newer and newer means of rigging make free and fair election a thing of the past

Presently, without exception across the world, people involved in the bourgeois parliamentary system and still carrying illusion about it, are facing a stark reality. In every capitalist country, big or small, powerful or weak, with

parliamentary system operative in it, elections are swerving further and further away from reflecting people's opinion. Free and fair election, as it had been once even in capitalist countries, has become a day-dream with rigging vitiating it in thousand and one ways. A vicious powerful triumvirate nexus of money of the monopolists-media pliant to them and mafia on their payroll, aided and abetted by the administration-bureaucracy are leaving no stone unturned to make victorious the candidates of choice and confidence of the ruling capitalists-monopolists. Generally, the ruling class using the nexus to the full, whip up a hype for the chosen candidates in the pre-election campaign so as to create an apparent opinion in favour of those candidates. But apart from that, to ensure the return of their choice, the same nexus sponsored and monitored by their master, the ruling capitalist-monopolists, do not fall back from taking any and every kind of rigging methods to manipulate the election results. Thus in the present age of utterly decadent world capitalist system gasping in the death-throes, elections seem to have only one aim and that is to bring those political parties- forces and individuals to power which would serve the system and the ruling class unhesitatingly and in

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Rising number of peasants' suicide indicates the extent of penury and misery of the peasants

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would be on a slippery note, the ruling quarters have also been alleging that the peasants willfully default loans in expectation of waiver. Some fertile brains even have shown the audacity to accuse the peasants of using loan amount for luxurious living and branded their demand for loan waiver as fancy. But, they do not find any wrong in liberal waiver of bank loans to defaulting big industrialists, large agro-business houses and kulaks. Nor do they see any discrimination when hapless peasants defaulting loan under duress are tortured, physically assaulted and their land is confiscated or crops seized but large defaulters are shown amnesty or granted fresh loans. In other words, they seek to pass on the onus of economic downturn on the peasants.

Devastated life of the peasants

What is the scenario of rural India? Is it rosy for two-third of Indians who stay there? Or is their life torn apart by growing penury and misery? In terms of indicators that measure volume and scale in agriculture, India is among the first five countries in the world. But when it comes to the peasants who constitute over 95% of rural populace, the spectacle is harrowing. Fragmented land holding, water table sinking down, absence of irrigation, deteriorating soil quality, galloping rise in input costs, low productivity, non-remunerative output price, vagaries of monsoon, natural calamities like drought and flood, corrupt procurement machinery, spurt in distress sale, soaring debt, growing suicide —this is what marks the devastated life of the peasants. Driven by rising poverty and destitution, the peasants are unable to hold on to their land. They are either selling whatever land they have or are mortgaging the same to somehow tide over the immediate financial crisis. In the process, they are losing land. Dispossessed of land, which is getting more and more concentrated in the hands of the landed gentry or rural bourgeoisie, the middle peasants are transformed into marginal peasants, marginal peasants into sharecroppers and bargadars (tilling land on lease system), sharecroppers and bargadars into landless peasants to agricultural workers. Even agricultural workers in absence of work in cultivation are offering themselves as labour in any manual job. Particularly after ruinous

economic reforms of capitalist globalization, the situation turned from bad to worse. A sizeable number of Indian peasants, paralyzed by low productivity, heavy loss of produce and earning, lack of post-harvest storage facilities, growing pauperization coupled with inability to stand the competitiveness of international market, have become proletariats, hopping from place to place, province to province in search of work as migrant labourers for eking out the barest living. Over half of the rural households are landless. 50% of these landless households rely on casual manual labour for the larger part of their income, enjoying no rights, no job protection, and no income security, while being subject to the immensely oppressive drudgery of arduous manual work. Many a times, they are forcibly displaced from their home and hearth by the governments overzealous to hand over large stretches of agricultural land to private investors for serving their commercial interest. Left in the lurch, these peasants are turned into beggars, rag-pickers, starving vagabonds and footpath dwellers and die unnoticed like cats and dogs on the roadside. Socio-economic census reveals that on an average, 2035 peasants have been losing 'cultivator' status every single day. 50% of rural families are surviving on casual manual labour. 6.68 lakh families survive on begging while 4.08 lakh families earn their livelihood by rag picking. 40 per cent of peasants want to quit farming if they find any alternative means for survival. India is the home of largest under-nourished and hungry population. 195 million people go hungry every day. Most of them are rural poor and wretched peasants. This is the picture of transformation of the destitute half-clad starving rickety peasants from the status of semi-proletariat to proletariat. A good number of them take extreme step of committing suicide indicating how unbearable and meaningless life to them is. Any sensible person having minimum human feeling and concern for suffering humanity cannot hold their tears if they behold this appallingly tragic life of the Indian peasants.

How the peasants are debt-trapped

It is clear that had the bourgeois governments at the Centre and in the states instead of lauding the peasants to the sky as backbone of the country for playing to gallery,

taken rudimentary care to improve the lot of the peasants, the growers of food grains, after independence the situation would not have been so precarious for them today. Besides paying lip service to the cause of the peasants, the governments, the ruling parties, their 'erudite' economic advisers and pedantic agriculture experts felt no concern for the deteriorating life condition of the poor peasants. These bourgeois governments pretend to be doing so many things for the people but in reality have nothing to bestow on the peasants other than pauperization and devastation. When these governments talk of peasants' welfare, they hardly mean the poor and marginal peasants, the sharecroppers or agricultural labourers. It is the handful of rural gentry, the rich peasants, the owners of huge farmland and large farming houses who feature in their mind. This is true in case of farm credit or agricultural loan as well. With much fanfare and for playing to the gallery, the central government irrespective of which trusted party of the ruling capitalists runs it, announce during the annual budget how many measures they intend to adopt for betterment of the peasants. The present BJP Prime Minister has even gone a step ahead in promising doubling the income of the peasants by 2022. His party, the BJP, in its election manifesto promised that support price of crops would be minimum of 50% profits over the cost of production in agriculture. The peasantry along with the other sections of the toiling masses have been tired of seeing how such promises, whether during election time or on the floor of parliament, are made only to be broken with alacrity.

One of the budget announcements made with much fanfare in every budget is how much fund is allotted towards farm credit. But no government including the present incumbent has ever reported to parliament let alone informing the common people how much of this budgeted amount has flown as credit to the poor peasants. We know they cannot do that as the bulk of the credit is cornered by the affluent and privileged with the delivery mechanism in tow. Only a small portion trickles down to the poor and marginal peasants. It ought to be clear at the outset that farm loan does not mean institutional credit (loans from banks and financial institutions including lately sprung

microfinance outlets) to individual peasants only. It includes institutional credit offered to corporate farmers, cooperatives of farmers and other organisations that are fed into dairy, fishery, animal husbandry, beekeeping, sericulture and the like, to the agro-businessmen for construction of warehouses, godowns and silos, market yards, cold storage units — and for soil conservation and watershed development, seed production, bio-pesticides and plant tissue culture. Apart from these, there also is lending for ancillary agricultural activities — such as agro-business centres, agro-clinics, food and agro-processing, to customer service units managed by moneyed individuals or institutions who maintain a fleet of tractors, bulldozers etc. So when it is said that total farm loans are estimated at a little under Rs 10 lakh crore, it comprises all kinds of agricultural credit as described above. For the purpose of lending, a marginal farmer is defined as one with a landholding up to one hectare, while small farmers are those whose landholding is between one and two hectares. Amount of loan availed of by these impoverished segments of peasants after managing to overcome a plethora of hassles and procedural formalities is reported to be just Rs 72, 000. Moreover, while lending rate to big industrialists including big agro-business is less than 8% now, that of loans to peasants ranges between 12 to 15%. Since the needed loan is not available from the banks and microfinance institutes, most of the poor and marginal farmers, landless peasants, and rural artisans, are compelled to turn to the unscrupulous private money-lenders for loans at exorbitant interest sometimes as high as 24% per month. A survey shows that around 80 million small and marginal farmers across India (with farm holdings of less than 1 to 2 hectares in size) rely on informal sources of credit. The other 22.1 million farmers depend solely on moneylenders and relatives for borrowings. This is how the poor peasants are entrapped in debt.

What compels the peasants to default loan?

But, why they cannot repay the loan? Is it that they can but they do not? Or, there are some compelling factors? A cursory glance at bare

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Decadent moribund crisis-ridden capitalism is entrapping wretched peasants in debt

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facts would be revealing. For cultivation, a peasant needs some inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, diesel and facilities like irrigation. The prices of all these inputs are sky-rocketing like anything particularly after the giant MNCs and big corporates were allowed to virtually take over this sector following economic liberalization. An analysis shows that between 2004-05 and 2014-15 in Madhya Pradesh, the cost per hectare of fertilisers and seeds for wheat simply doubled. Having no other alternative, the peasants are compelled to buy these essential inputs from open market at exorbitant price. Even costs of diesel or electricity needed to run shallow pumps for watering have been soaring menacingly. Next is about irrigation. It is flabbergasting that huge dams constructed after independence with public money cannot any more store adequate rain water during monsoon to release that for irrigation purpose in drought condition or to places having less rainfall. Instead they release water in and in the aftermath of peak monsoon season causing man-made flood which washes away the crops and thus plays havoc in the life of the peasants. Added to all these is the helplessness of the penury-afflicted peasants when natural furies like flood, drought, hailstorms, unseasonal rains and cyclones strike and cause considerable damage, if not complete loss of crops. When the rulers boast of technological superiority of the country by pointing at sending powerful satellites or test-firing of highly sophisticated missiles, the peasants are left to fend for themselves during natural calamities. Over and above are the attacks of wild animals, epidemics and fall in production due to defective seeds and the like.

Naturally, the peasants desperately need government support in the form of relief, compensation and insurance payment. Pretending to be responding to this long standing demand, the present BJP-led government has launched a new scheme christened the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna' (PMFBY) with much fanfare. But in no time, the scheme, an old wine in new bottle, has proved to be a big hoax. The scheme with flawed features, hazardous operational procedures and rampant corruption of the delivery mechanism is virtually of no

avail to the suffering peasants. Instead of rescuing the peasants, it is found to be a conduit to siphon out thousands of crores of public money to the exchequer of private insurance companies. Customarily, the central and state governments announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procuring crops. But there too, one can find a host of trickeries. For example, while the central government declared fixing MSP for 23 commodities, official procurement is limited to only two – wheat and rice – and that too in only a few states. It is estimated that over 90% of India's farmers do not get the MSP price. Now, the Centre ostensibly with a view to dousing the fire of the raging row has announced increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of pulses, oil-seeds and cotton for the 2017-18 crop year and asked the states to procure it by all means so that the farmers are not forced to sell it at low prices. But all the suffering peasants know that mere announcement has no meaning unless there is a concerted honest effort to dismantle the vicious nexus of utterly corrupt village touts-panchayat officials-hoarders-administration-middle men-ruling party satraps-rural kulaks-MNCs which control the procurement mechanism and virtually dictate terms to the peasants. This nexus operating under the very nose of, if not in connivance with, the government forces the peasants to sell their produce at abysmally low price, hoards the procured crops at various points colloquially known as gates and then makes its way to the wholesalers or cold storages in exchange for much higher price. Finally, when the produce arrive at retail market after all the intermediaries have extracted their pound of flesh, there is a huge difference in price between what the peasants get and what the end consumers pay. Paradoxically, if there is a production glut, the prices invariably collapses because of the handiwork of the corrupt procurement system circumscribed by the nexus, and the income of the farmers goes down consequently. No government either at the Centre or in the state irrespective of hue has ever made any effort to remedy the situation because the constituents of the nexus constitute the support base of the ruling bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties in elections. The oppressed peasants hopelessly stare at this

flourishing plunder and are rattled.

Added to this are continued spurt in prices of essential commodities in the market and systematic dismantling of the rationing system for distributing foodgrains and edible oil as well as a few other items of daily use at subsidized costs. The all-out exploitation of capitalism is not only confined to price rise but is extended to every sphere of life, every day, every moment on an alarming proportion. As a result, the poor and have-nots the pauperized peasants included, have been bleeding white. Their buying power has reached the bottom. The air is rent with the wails of the deprived tormented humanity crying for holding onto their life. Stripped of flesh and blood, the society is turned into a skeleton. It is in this backdrop that the peasants are defaulting loan. Who other than the crooks, rogues, fiends or arm-chair commentators estranged from reality can heap bizarre allegations of intentional loan default on poor peasants suspended between life and death to shield the truth?

Alarming rise in peasants' suicide and inhumanity of rotten bourgeois politicians

What is more heart-rending is that out of ignominy of loan default and unable to bear the overbearing distress, pain of prolonged starvation, the peasants are committing suicide in large number. More than 3.5 lakh farmers are reported to have committed suicide in last two decades. Peasants' suicide has reportedly increased by 26% in last two years. In first fortnight of June, 2017, 12 peasants ended their life in Madhya Pradesh. 5 peasants committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh during the same period. Even in Uttarakhand, a 56-year-old peasant committed suicide on 16 June after he failed to repay his loan. One can imagine how excruciating is the pain of hunger, how intolerable is the sight of starving family members that a person is prompted to take out his own life. Would anyone opt for this extreme step unless all means of somehow coping with the situation become elusive?

But, the hypocrisy, notoriety, depravity and criminality of the bourgeois politicians and ministers and their bootlickers have gone to such an extent that they feel no qualm in attributing the cause of such tragic suicides to 'alcoholism, family problems, illness, drugs,

dowry, love affairs and impotency'. One can find what level they have stooped to for suppressing truth and serving heartless demonic rule of oppressive capitalism.

Legitimacy of the demand of loan waiver

In view of what has been discussed above, does it not occur to anyone sensible that economic destitution, utter ruination and wrecking devastation are making the peasants defaulters of loan? If that be so, is the demand for loan waiver by the peasants unjust? Let us benignly ask these jewels in the crown of decrepit bourgeois economics, when the government allows lakhs of crores rupees of bad debt or NPAs to be written off or grants over Rs 50 lakh crore worth tax concessions-waivers to the industrial houses, big business and monopolists in 10 years, what positive gain it brings to the country's economy? How is it that the RBI refuses to make public the list of loan defaulters with public sector banks despite an order of the Supreme Court, on the pretext of safeguarding citing economic interests of the country? Why is the central government not realizing a due close to Rs 3 trillion that the giant telecom companies owe to it for spectrum they have already bought? Does it not prove that by "economic interest of the state" is meant interest of a handful of embezzlers of public fund, swindlers of public money or wilful defaulters? And when it comes to the question of loan waivers to farmers, it is deemed to be a hit on the economy. Incredible indeed!

So, the economists-commentators who find peasants' default of loan a deliberate effort to benefit out of 'compassionate' waiver, are either grossly ignorant of the objective reality or are tutored to dish out trashes wrapped in scholastic overture. The peasants' cry for debt waiver is a fervent appeal for survival. They are not candidates of receiving preferential treatment, leniency or amnesty which the super-rich, big corporates and agro-giants are favoured with in capitalist India. They are not cunning like the ruling class or its pets who weave ploy to defraud and dupe others, thrive and rejoice at the predicament of others, merrily indulge in palpable lies and deceptive manoeuvres to hide the reality. Let it be clear that the peasants are not

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Blockade of Qatar exposes overlordism of US imperialism to bully West Asian countries to submission

Close on the heels of US President's rapturous welcome in Saudi capital Riyadh in May last and his consent to sell \$110 billion worth of weapons to the host country, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the UAE, and their pliant Yemeni government severed their diplomatic relations with Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism. US alongwith these GCC (Gulf Coordination Committee) also slapped an economic blockade on Qatar. Other countries dependent on Saudi Arabia like including Mauritius, Mauritania, the Maldives, the Saudi-backed government of Yemen and Libya's eastern-based government also dutifully signed on to the blockade. But, Kuwait and Oman, though members of GCC, did not agree to this decision. Turkey though friendly with US and Saudi Arabia also refused to endorse move and pledged Qatar to provide immediate food and water. Similarly, Germany, a NATO-ally of US imperialism blasted the blockade and boycott as "completely wrong" and warned that it could "lead to war."

Qatar is a small peninsula adjacent to Saudi Arabia and with a monarchical regime. Its native population is just 2.50 lakhs. But, it has more than made up for its size with its enormous wealth of natural gas. As a sequel to that, Qatar's economy expanded from \$8.1 billion in 1995 to an astonishing \$210 billion in 2014. Qatar's only land crossing is through its border with Saudi Arabia from whom it receives 40% of its food supply through road transport. Also, it depends a lot on Saudi for other essential items. Again, the pipe lines for supplying its natural gas to other countries run through Saudi territory. Hence, till mid-1990s, it was virtually viewed as a satellite of US-backed Saudi regime after its independence from British rule in 1971. In fact, US has one of its biggest airbases in Qatar at al-Udeid and the biggest concentration of its armies in the Middle East for command and control of air power over Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and 17 other countries. The forward headquarters of the U.S. Central Command (Centcom) is also located in Qatar. The Pentagon has maintained that the base has been crucial to the US military in its operations in Syria and Iraq.

But after technology became so developed that gas could be loaded onto ships, bypassing pipelines that would run through Saudi territory, the aspirant Qatari rulers found a huge commercial opportunity to

thrive by adding enormous economic muscle and come out of dependence on Saudi. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the crown prince of Qatar, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1995 rolled out plans to transform the country from an appendage of Saudi to a powerful Gulf country of reckoning. So, the contradiction between two monarchy-oriented capitalist powers centring on achieving economic supremacy ensued. And naturally the Qatari rulers started closer relationship with anti-Saudi groups like Muslim brotherhood of Egypt, Hamas of Palestine and anti-US anti-Saudi powers like Iran. It also floated a well-organized electronic news channel Al Jazeera which began to criticize and expose US gangsterism in the Middle East like occupation of Iraq, destabilizing Libya and overthrowing President Assad from power in Syria. The channel also fuelled popular pan-Arab nationalism against US imperialism and also aggressively criticized Saudi Arabia for betraying the Islamic nation by allowing a US military presence in the region. In 2002, Saudi Arabia withdrew its ambassador to Qatar, citing displeasure over Al Jazeera's criticism of it. Clearly, it was not comfortable with Qatar's rise as an alternative economic-political power. It also charged Qatar of not faithfully implementing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) line on isolating Iran. But around 2008, Saudi had to accept that Qatar is no more its client regime. The Arab Spring, which saw uprisings across the region in 2011, provided Qatar with another opening to consolidate its position against Saudi domination and the mutual rivalry came out in the open. The Emir of Qatar is said to have praised in one of his speeches the resistance movements that Hamas of Palestine and Hezbollah of Lebanon are conducting against the machinations of US imperialism in alliance with Israel and Saudi Arabia. This further irked the US-led axis since it for obvious reason has been branding those organizations as terrorists. After winning the bid to hold World Cup football in 2022, a new vista of stupendous economic gain opened up before Qatar which obviously caused heart burning among Saudi rulers and their allies.

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia always assisted the proxy wars US launched against the regimes it considered non-pliable in the region, funded, armed and trained fanatical religious groups like Taliban since

the 1980s war in Afghanistan. In order to keep Saudi Arabia under their command, the US rulers once used a pressure tactics by describing Saudi Arabia as the "world's biggest funder of terrorism" and added that it was using petrodollars to fund terrorists that seek to destroy US while the Saudis rely on US for their own protection. When US rulers struck a nuclear deal with Iran in 2015, obviously to diffuse a bit the growing tension between the two countries and buy time to weave ploys to contain Iran later, it did not go well with Saudi rulers. But they did not dare to make US hostile and hence kept mum. So, they refrained from mounting pressure on Qatar at the time to cut down on its tie with Iran. But Qatar could not be frightened by such threats. It is not willing to bow before US. Qatar is also, it seems, emboldened by the fact that US rulers are unable to make Iran bend before their dictates. The newly elected US President Trump has even talked of a grand Arab-NATO military alliance supposedly to bully Iran to submission. But Iran could not be cowed down even by that. Rather, Iran is increasing its political and economic influence jeopardizing US imperial interest considerably in the region. Seizing the opportunity, Qatar questioned the wisdom of a confrontation with Iran. Qatar is also the first country in the Middle East to open a clearing house that allows gas and oil to be traded in Yuan, the Chinese currency. This has caused problems for US dollar to call the shot in trade of oil and gas and gave banks in Qatari capital Doha an edge over other Gulf financial centres. Moreover, if Qatar's export of natural gas is disturbed, the US companies who are the second largest exporter of LNG gas would stand to gain. It is also reported that though Saudi Arabia consented to buy huge armaments from US during US President Trump's recent visit to that country, Qatar, despite being persuaded by the Pentagon rulers to buy "beautiful American-made weapons", did not sign a multibillion-dollar deal with the US.

Immediate ostracism followed with Trump discovering that Qatar was in fact an aider and abetter of terrorism all the time. And in no time, the US imperialist rulers decided to corner Qatar by pitting Saudi Arabia, their trusted ally, against it. Encouraged by that, Zionist Israel, face of US imperialism in the Middle east, is also reported to be clandestinely

encouraging Saudi Arabia in its dangerous game of provoking a war against Iran. Hitherto neither US nor Saudi Arabia raised any finger at Qatar though Qatar had been sending troops to aid in the destruction of Libya and continually funding rebel forces in the war against the Syrian government. Qatar has also been aiding Saudi Arabia's war against a popular people's movement in Yemen, the poorest country in the Gulf region. In fact, the US foreign ministry has hitherto been arguing that an alliance of the Gulf States is important for the goal of combating Iran. But, in view of the attempt to make Qatar genuflect before US directives, President Trump in a somersault expressed the view that Qatar, the world's biggest gas exporter strategically located near the Straits of Hormuz, is guilty of overfriendliness with Iran and funding and befriending terrorists and is of no real consequence to safeguarding US imperialist interest in the Gulf. And within no time stringent economic blockade is slapped on it. The scheme is to force Qatar to capitulate to US imperialism and not take any step to imperil its economic-political domination on the entire Middle East. There is also a suppressed threat of facing an internal coup in case of non-compliance with US dictates. Saudi Arabia is being used as a pawn in this sinister game just like the way Israel is used as the face of US interest in the region. It is to be seen how far this threat works out and how the various forces with their respective economic-political interests play role in this brewing tension. Because, there are also contradictions both within the GCC as well as the Saudi allies. Many of the Gulf countries such as Oman, Kuwait and, for that matter, the emirate of Dubai, a constituent of UAE, as it appears from various incidents and talks, like to have good relations with Iran. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, which controls the UAE with its immense oil-generated wealth, currently drive the GCC's foreign policy. The UAE, though a staunch ally of Saudi Arabia in Syria, Libya and other places, is also covertly trying to carve out its own zone of influence in Yemen, Libya and the Horn of Africa.

But people of all these Gulf countries need to understand that unless US imperialism is forced to beat a retreat and their respective reactionary monarchical rulers are

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Hacking of US presidential election

Free and fair election has become a far cry these days

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the best possible available way, would keep the system from collapsing and that way would thwart anti-capitalist revolutionary movement from growing. And for that the elections are being turned into worst forms of farce with newer and newer means of rigging being tried for desired results. With technology advancing fast and electronic and / or online voting system having been introduced in many countries, those have provided further more improved, cunning and penetrative means of rigging. Host of scientists and technologists worked selflessly to bring science and technology to this phenomenally advanced stage. And the rulers, as it had been always, are making the best, or say, the worst use of this phenomenal rise towards inventing newer nefarious means to reap their harvest.

Reports of Russian hand in US presidential election

Reports of Russian hacking of US presidential election need be judged in the light of above discussion as one of the latest examples. First, the sequence of events. The election took place on 8 November 2016. A month before on 7 October 2016, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) of Election Security stated in a joint statement that the Russians have orchestrated the hacking of US Political Organizations and personal email accounts during US election campaign and disclosed them on *DCLeaks.com* and *Wikileaks*, with intention to interfere on US election process. Thousands of emails were stolen and made public, many of which included damaging revelations about the Democratic Party and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the party's nominee. This was even held as one of the major factors for the defeat of Hillary Clinton. In December, a Senator from Trump's own party the Republicans, commented: "It's clear the Russians interfered...whether they intended to elect a certain candidate, that's subject to an investigation" (Sbs news 16 December 2016) . The CIA , FBI and the director of national intelligence (DNI) were also in accord in mid- December to conclude that Russia intervened in the US presidential election aiming to help Donald Trump win. It was also reported that the Russian broadcaster Russia Today (RT) and the website Sputnik tried to

"consistently cast President-elect Trump as a target of unfair coverage from the traditional U.S. media outlets that they claimed were subservient to a corrupt political establishment". So allegations were pouring in from different spheres, so much so that the then President Obama ordered expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats from the US and a review of election-related cyber-attacks to be completed before he leaves office on January 20. (Hindustan Times 17 December referring to 15 December reports from The Washington Post). One may wonder about the motive behind this what-is-called the Russian hacking of the US elections. There are guesses, including the one that it may be a repercussion or Russian response to the US ruling power for their imposing sanction against Russia after it had annexed Crimea, when the US-NATO engineered coup had divided Ukraine. The Russian imperialist rulers might have envisaged a change in Trump as the president. The new President Trump initially agreed that Russian agencies may have been involved in the hacking of the Democratic Party headquarters, but vehemently denied allegations that he or his associates acted in league with the Russian intelligence agencies. He even called the report that hacking by Russia helped him win the presidential election was ridiculous. However, later when the FBI director James Comey was preparing for an investigation of alleged ties of Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn with Russia, Trump requested Comey to stop it saying Flynn was a "good guy", "I hope you can let this go.". Comey was finally fired. Trump administration insisted that the FBI had lost confidence in Comey and was otherwise in disarray. Comey publicly rebuffed these allegations as, "lies, plain and simple". In any case it was clear that the Russian case was sensitive to Trump.

Incidentally Michael Flynn, along with Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, met Sergei Kislyak, the Russian envoy to the US in December 2016 at the Trump Tower admittedly to "establish a line of communication". (Reuter's news in Times of India Kolkata 28-05-17). Seven current and former US officials told Reuters that Kushner himself had at least three previously undisclosed contacts with Kislyak during and after the 2016 presidential campaign that included meeting as also phone calls. So,

Trump associates were well in touch with the Russians as the reports said and though Trump had denied it.

In the long run, The *Intercept*, an online news organization or the website, published a top-secret highly classified National Security Agency (NSA) report, dated 5 May 2017. The document is said to have brought to the fore, so far the most detailed US government account of Russian interference in the election; an attempted launch of a Russian spear-phishing campaign on local governments in advance of the US election. The extent of breach was not revealed in the earlier reports from the CIA, NSA and FBI.

Cyber-attack or hacking might have taken place in multiple ways.

Before more details, let it be mentioned that in our analysis on the

role of EVM in the last state assembly elections in India, we showed that whatever may be the claim of the Election Commission of India, the highly centralized organized election system of India bears every chance of highly centralized and organized rigging. The U.S. voting system is a highly decentralized patchwork of more than 3,000 jurisdictions (the American equivalent of constituencies of India) overseen by the constituent states, with almost no federal oversight or standards, which the US administration claim to serve as the best defence against vote-rigging and sabotage. Even that was penetrated by foreign hackers, as the reports go. So, for rigging to take place, it did not matter whether the bourgeois election was centralized or not.

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Countrywide protest day against GST on 30 June



Karnool, AP



Patna, Bihar



Guna, MP



Vadhodara, Gujarat

Hacking of US presidential election

Cyber-security is becoming a myth

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A word or two on what is hacking. Hacking is an unauthorized intrusion, that is without the knowledge or consent of the owner, into his or her computer to manipulate, damage or steal data. Keylogger is one of the common techniques used for hacking. In this method, a small software called keylogger gets installed into the users' computer without their knowledge. This keylogger software records every keystrokes typed (including passwords) by the user in a log file and uploads it to a secret server (another computer owned by the hacker). The hacker can then read the password from this log file and login to the users' email accounts. As reports go, the Russian military intelligence appear to have decided to and made attempts to hack into the election systems of many US "state or local electoral boards". If that be so, it was meant for targeting software used by poll workers on election day,

to get a foothold into the IT systems of election offices around the country to infect machines and launch a vote-stealing attack.

That was why Alex Halderman, a computer security expert at the University of Michigan said that the Russian hackers not only carried out targeted leaking and information warfare style campaign to interfere with the election. They were also taking major steps down the route of trying to interfere with the methods practised in the election by targeting a voting system vendor and their customers who are election officials.

Though not directly naming, the NSA document mentioned above says that in August 2016 the hackers, evidently to obtain information on elections-related software and hardware solutions, may have first targeted employees of VR Systems, a Tallahassee, Florida-based company, a supplier of software for on-site voter registration at polling stations and backend systems for voting management. The Intercept

website says VR Systems has customers in several crucial states like California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Data obtained from this company was used, most likely to launch a spear-phishing campaign on 24 August, 2016 targeting US local government organizations ultimately to reach voter registration system. Spear-phishing is an information-gathering technique directed at specific individuals or companies, through email-spoofing that is by sending personalized fake e-mail messages with a forged sender address, to try to trick the recipients into entering their passwords into a fake Google login form so that the sender may get access to the computers of the targeted individual or company to steal sensitive information without their knowledge or consent.

Voter registration system or electoral list and voting machines were the targets

Thus, posing as employees of the voting technology company to attack election officials in jurisdictions that used the company's products, the hackers sent spear-phishing emails to 122 local election officials days before the poll on 8 November, intent on stealing their login credentials and breaking into their systems, the document says. It is said that using real documentation stolen from VR Systems, the hackers created malicious Microsoft Word documents that compromise a victim's computer when they are opened. The documentation was for EVID (Electronic Voting Id), a software that manages the voter check-in process at a polling place. The hackers hoped that by posing as a VR Systems employee and sending out what looked like real voting software documentation, they could avoid arousing the suspicions of election officials. This way, the hackers had targeted voter registration systems in more than 20 states, which in fact the US Department of Homeland Security might reportedly be knowing even in September 2016.

It is unknown "how many of those 122 election officials clicked on the malicious link and had their computers compromised and what potential data from the victim could have been ex-filtrated," the report says. "However, based on further information, it was likely that at least one account was compromised." It was also not known, the NSA admits, if the hackers, taken as Russian spies did anything malicious

once they gained access.

But rather perplexed at the massive hacking, the US administration behaved queerly. On the one hand the 7 October 2016 DHS-DNI joint statement referred above, clearly suspected Russian hand. The same statement, however, assured that it would be extremely difficult to alter actual ballot counts or election results by cyber-attack, as the voting machines are not connected to internet and there are numerous checks and balances as well as extensive oversight at multiple levels built into their election process, which claim may not be not right. The US administration said that to date, no evidence of tampering with vote tallies or registration rolls has emerged. On the other hand, VR Systems' electronic poll books (electoral lists) which are electronic systems used to verify registered voters at polling places, was found to experience problems on the poll date at least in Durham County, North Carolina. The issue forced officials to abandon the system, issue paper ballots and extend voting hours. It is also claimed that the Russian cyber-attack on the US electoral system affected almost 40 states during the 2016 election. According to *Bloomberg* the hackers accessed dozens of voter databases and at least one campaign finance database. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said that hacking into state voting systems ahead of the 8 November vote was more widespread than has been disclosed.

What could the hackers do ?

On the polling field, the administration feared that the hackers would delete voter rolls or otherwise tamper with the voting process in order to undermine confidence in the election. Attackers could also have simply caused registration systems to crash in precincts (i.e., districts of a city or town created for election or policing) that were likely to vote heavily for one candidate over the other. That could have caused delays and long lines that would suppress turnout in those precincts. More concretely, they could have deleted records for voters registered with one party to help candidates of the other party. Deleted voters would have still been able to vote, but they would have had to cast provisional ballots — a cumbersome process that could have discouraged many from casting their votes. This

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AIDYO Foundation Day Observed in Rajasthan

A mass meeting was organized at JDA colony E-block park, Luniabas area in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 26 June to observe 41st foundation anniversary of AIDYO. During preparation of the meeting, local RSS goons attacked the AIDYO activists and try to vandalize the meeting. But the AIDYO volunteers alongwith local people boldly resisted them and forced them to beat retreat. Comrade Kuldeep Singh, Rajasthan State Convenor, AIDYO, delivered the introductory speech while other leading organizers of state AIDYO in their speeches appealed to all to develop AIDYO to strengthen youth movement against unemployment, cultural degradation, drug addiction and such other menaces.

Martyrdom Day Observed in Assam

The martyrdom of one of the martyrs of Indian freedom movement-Kushal Konwor was observed with due honour under the initiative of AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS and teenage organization KOMSOMOL of Cachhar District Committee.

Placing the portrait of Kushal Konwor beside that of Martyr Khudiram, tribute was offered through garlanding. A meeting followed, with Comrade Bijit Kumar Sinha, AIDYO district secretary and Comrade Gourchandra Das, AIDSO district secretary conveying the fact that during the Quit India movement Kushal Konwor was arrested on suspicion of being involved with a train- accident. Despite his innocence he owned the responsibility and sacrificed his life following the order of hanging. He had children of his own, yet on the question of sacrificing his life for the country it was no bar.

AIDSO Jharkhand protest against cut in SC ST students scholarship earns victory

AIDSO, Jharkhand has been conducting a powerful prolonged movement for the last few months against the autocratic decision of the BJP-led state government to slash scholarship of SC ST and OBC students from Rs. 50,000 to Rs 15,000 through organizing huge rallies and dharnas, collection of mass signatures, and sitting in hunger strike in Ranchi for days together. During the programme of blocking the gate of Project Bhawan, the agitating students faced police atrocities also. Finally, under pressure of movement the welfare ministry has agreed to withdraw the decision. AIDSO leadership has announced that militant movement will be launched if the demand is not fulfilled within 15 days of the next cabinet meeting.

Hacking of US presidential election

For people, the only road lies in organized sustained resistance

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happened exactly at Durham, North Carolina mentioned above. The voter registration system there malfunctioned, leading to long lines. Officials there say they don't believe they were hacked — they say the problems they encountered appeared to be the result of user error. But Alex Halderman points out that if a sophisticated hacker were targeting American elections, it would do what it could to make any glitches appear to be accidents rather than deliberate sabotage. Computer experts also say someone trying to cause chaos and discredit an election could delete names from registration rolls prior to voting — or request absentee ballots *en masse*. In the latter case, a voter showing up at the polls on Election Day would be recorded as having already cast their ballot. That could force voters to file provisional ballots and provoke long lines, even voters giving up out of frustration.

The most alarming possibility, Halderman says, is that hackers could use access to these poll officials' computers as a "stepping stone" to attack voting machines themselves. Though there was no immediate evidence, the officials who manage voter registration records often, for sure, work closely with those who manage voting machines themselves. So gaining access to voter registration systems was a first step to hacking voting machines themselves. And computer scientists claim to have proven in the lab that once inside an election network, skillful attackers could manipulate pre-election programming of its systems and alter results without leaving a trace.

Cyber-security is a big challenge now to run a free and fair election

Uncertainty existed in the US administration over how successful the Russian operatives were and the intelligence could not reach a

conclusion about whether it affected the outcome of the election, in three closely contested states on which hinged Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton. But the suggestion that Russian hackers may have gained at least a foothold in electronic voting systems raised serious question about the voting system conducted by electronics. The extent of dent into the system was far more than revealed in the early report of the CIA, NSA and FBI. It was also likely that more striking information may come out with time. Even the US administration and media thus had to admit that cyber-security has become one of the biggest challenges to running a secure and trustworthy election.

Today, the US poses to be a victim. But it is the same U.S. that started cyber-warfare in a big way and patented the art of influencing election outcomes in other countries. It is the U.S. and its all-weather ally Israel that developed the malevolent *Suxnet* virus, which caused extensive damage to Iran's nuclear, industrial and petroleum sectors. The mobile phones of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and the U.N. Secretary-General were hacked by the National Security Agency (NSA). The NSA's hacking of Chinese targets has been going on for many years. Besides, among other instances, the Bill Clinton administration helped rig the 1996 presidential election in Russia in favour of otherwise unpopular Boris Yeltsin to be re-elected.

All these instances and events ring the warning bell for even the entire world. These reveal the weakness of the existing information security in spite of advanced technologies and security frameworks and highlights how the personal information, political organization information and government information can be

used by the rivals to tamper the entire electoral process of any country which follows electronic voting system. These also indicate that it has become rather impossible to keep any information and documents secret and private.

Elections now essential part of growing fascism: people need to build powerful movement against it

But over and above that, more ominous spells are looming large in the horizon, threatening democratically minded person of the world. We now live in a world dominated by abjectly decadent capitalist — imperialist system precipitating all out crisis, including horrible cultural-ethical- moral degeneration. As a part of it, as we mentioned earlier here, free and fair election has become a day-dream. The money-media- mafia nexus along with the administration sponsored and monitored by the ruling capitalists-imperialists have reduced election process to a farce. To ensure victory of the chosen candidates of the rulers they leave no stone unturned. Not only that, not just minimum democratic norms and values are being trampled with impunity. It appears, unthinkable though, that one country is stealing into the election process of another country to determine and establish the kind of government there. Where will it end into? Now it happens with X country; who knows which weaker Y country will be a victim of this process, which totally brushes out the minimum basic norms of national sovereignty. And what is pathetically striking is that no major political —social force, party even individuals across the world are found to be raising any effective voice against this menace. On the contrary, what could have been the only antidote to this heinous trend, is powerful movement across the world on demand of stopping this most undesirable trend and restoring the minimum free and fair election. These concepts of sovereignty and freedom were introduced and entrenched into the human society by none other than the bourgeoisie themselves. The then proponents of these concepts-ideas and thoughts would now turn over in their graves to find what is happening to their fond creations. Now the same class, the world bourgeoisie with the death-knell ringing on their ears are

shamelessly throwing away all these cherished wealth of human civilization and nonchalantly inching towards establishing fascism, the worst enemy of mankind with a view to keeping their class dictatorship carry on. Fascism, contrary to often misconceived idea, does not necessarily mean brute naked oppressive dictatorship. These days fascism creeps in from behind the garb of parliamentary democracy, keeping up the façade of parliamentary democracy. However, in that democracy, the ruling capitalists-monopolists no longer care for any free and fair election; the ruling class only desire their subservient forces to be in power. So, elections today are thus becoming an essential ingredient to the growing fascistic trend. So long as capitalism will exist, these evils will go on driving their roots deeper and deeper into the society. The ruling class and their henchmen will find out any number of means usurping the benefit of phenomenal growth of science and technology to ensure the continuation of their rule. And as revealed in the last US election, this may lead to naked transgression upon national sovereignty.

People need to stand face to face with this dangerous development, just as they have to stand against all other exploitation-oppression. They should use their only weapon, powerful united sustained and organized resistance to compel the rulers bend to the demands of people, including the one for ensuring free and fair election. It should be understood that the more powerful the movement would be, of course with an eye to the final goal of uprooting capitalism, the greater will be the chance to have election free from unwarranted intervention, foreign or indigenous, to the extent possible at any moment even within the prevailing system.

Sources :

(The Hindu 02-06-17; The Independent 15-06-17; Vox News 06-06-17; Sbs news 16-12-16; Idaho Statesman—Associated Press 07-06-17; Frontline17-02-17; New York Times 08-06-17 & 13-06-17; The Statesman Kolkata-17-06-17; Hindustan Times 17-12-16; Guardian 05-06-17; <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/07/politics/us-blames-russia-for-targeting-election-systems/> ; <https://theintercept.com/2017/06/05/top-secret-nsa-report-details-russian-hacking-effort-days-before-2016-election>)

Blockade of Qatar

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restrained from either toeing US line directly or surrendering before its arm-twisting tactics, peace would never come in the region. It would continue to be a war-ravaged zone and millions of innocent citizens would be further killed, maimed and evicted from their home and hearth as refugees. It would also continue to be a

hunting ground of fundamentalist-terrorist groups who are equally inimical to people's interest. Need is to develop a powerful united anti-imperialist particularly anti-US imperialist movement in the entire gulf rising above any sectarian mentality or religious overtone that alone can guarantee people's interest in the region at this critical juncture.

WAIVER OF FARM LOANS**Renewed surge of countrywide peasants' movements over just demands must be led to logical culmination***Contd. from page 3*

betraying the system, the system is betraying them.

Waivers are limited and conditional

Under pressure of people's movement, both the central and various state governments are now announcing farm loan waivers. Now, it seems there is a competition among the various governments as to who is more "peasant-friendly" in terms of 'generosity' in regard to waiving of farm loans. But a little insight into the matter would reveal the gross anomalies and height of deceptions concealed in such much-trumpeted waivers. First of all, on average, a third of Indian small and marginal farmers have access to institutional credit. This means no more than 10.6 million of 32.8 million of estimated small and marginal farmers in the eight states demanding loan waivers would fit the eligibility criterion. But, the waivers are all conditional. There are caps on the amount as well as exclusions over the type of agro-loans. Moreover, a section of corrupt bank officials in connivance with unscrupulous agents and middlemen automatically renew farm loans without any formal recovery by extracting cut money from the peasants. Thus a sizeable chunk of such loans availed last year but renewed for another year through this corrupt route would not qualify for waiver. Also, the paraphernalia are so clumsy and riders so many, that hardly 10% farmers would be benefitted, if the relief is granted at all. Moreover, there is a dilatory tactics in implementing the waiver. But, sowing season is imminent. Hence, the peasants do not know whether their past loans would be waived, if waived when and how they should secure funds for buying the inputs for the coming season. In other words, there is an all out endeavour to restrict the scope of the benefits in every possible way.

Crisis-ridden capitalist system turning peasants into loan defaulters

It is to be remembered that the crisis of capitalist economy is not due to some extraneous factors like loan waiver. It is endemic of the very system. Because of this insolvable escalating internal crisis,

capitalism is digging its own grave. There is no way capitalism can stave off this crisis through any quackery or by applying any palliative. Endowment of decadent moribund crisis-ridden capitalism is mounting unemployment and job loss, harrowing price-rise, appalling poverty and hunger, all-pervading corruption, rotten culture, inhumanity and insecurity. Like all other sections of toiling masses, the peasants are also assailed by the tyranny of oppressive capitalist system. This system only swells the coffers of the few capitalist rulers and their lackeys while pauperizing the myriads of poor and down-trodden working people and pushing them to the verge of ruination.

This very capitalist system is turning the peasants into loan defaulters. So there is no respite for the peasants till this obsolete reactionary system is overthrown by revolution. Till this task is not accomplished, the demand for loan waiver and waging struggle for realizing it is 100% legitimate. Why should the oppressed people carry the burden of capitalism? Why should the poverty-stricken peasants bear the load of capitalist crisis? Hence, their struggle for resisting such deleterious move on the part of the ruling capitalists and their pliant governments is justified to the core.

Task of the peasants

The renewed surge of peasants' movements round the country over the demands of loan waiver and Minimum Support Price has created a new situation conducive to revive powerful organized conscious peasants' struggle. Peasants must be helped to come out of the shackles of despair, pessimism and fatalism and dissuaded from the path of opting for extreme steps like committing suicide and instead initiated into the path of struggle to realize their just demands. All progressive peasants' organizations must unite to sustain and intensify the movements based on a minimum common agreement and take firm resolve not to allow any further suicide of indebted peasant. The movements should not only demand what is not given, but also demand adequacy and promptness of whatever little is conceded by the governments under pressure. Every broad-minded large-hearted person

who empathizes with the cause of the peasants must come forward and help in whatever way they can to strengthen the movements. In course of the struggle it would be incumbent on the peasants to acquire the courage and conviction to thwart all onslaughts on them, develop a mindset of prolonged unwavering struggle even in the face of any adversity or temporary setback. And for channelizing the struggles along right track, it is imperative that the leadership is not passed on to the compromising bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties. The question of leadership is of

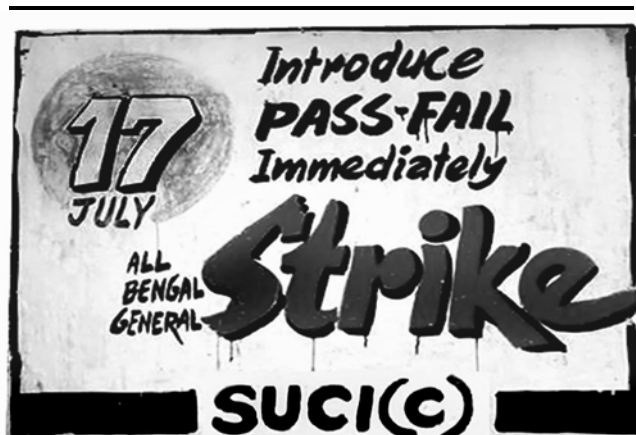
utmost importance. The struggling peasants must identify the genuine revolutionary leadership who do not compromise or backstab the struggles for narrow sectarian electoral gains, do not abort the movement midway and do not sell themselves to the vested interest for lucre or power. The SUCI(C) and its peasants' front AIKKMS are pledge-bound to firmly stand by the just struggle of the peasants, sustain this struggle by cementing their unity and elevating their political consciousness and to take their just struggle to its logical culmination in the process.

Peasants pledge to continue fight in MP

Some 20 SUCI(C) leaders and cadres who were arrested earlier on 14 June on their way to the martyrs column to pay tribute to the peasants killed at Mandsaur, in MP were greeted and garlanded by the people when they were released from jail on 16 June. People gathered also took the pledge to continue the movement under the leadership of these leaders.

Tripura AISEC Endorses the Demand for Re-introduction of Pass-fail

The CPI (M) government in power in Tripura had, in compliance with the orders of the central government, abolished pass-fail system from class V till class VIII. It was from that time Tripura chapter of the All India Save Education Committee was conducting movement to restore it. But the Government has not yet taken steps to bring back pass-fail system in the state. On 10 June, an eight-member delegation of Tripura chapter of the AISEC met the Director of Elementary Education to submit a memorandum demanding re-introduction of pass-fail system and an improvement in the infrastructure of education. The delegation included joint convener of the Committee Subhaskanti Das and others of the Committee, as well as leaders of teachers' movement in the state. The Director acknowledged the legitimacy of the demands and assured steps from the Government.



CAMPAIGN GOING ON IN FULL SWING TO MAKE THE 12-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE AND HARTAL IN WEST BENGAL ON 17 JULY IN DEMAND OF IMMEDIATE REINTRODUCTION OF PASS-FAIL SYSTEM FROM CLASS I A COMPLETE SUCCESS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH