SUCI(C) condemns inhuman torture of Rohingya people, calls for immediate stop to that and thwarting inhuman steps to drive them away from refuge in neighbouring countries

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 11 September, 2017:

We vehemently condemn the most brutal attack that the Myanmar government has been carrying out with the help of army on the Rohingya community at the hilly state of Rakhine of that country. Evidently, this cruelty and barbarity of the Myanmar government which can be termed as ‘crimes against humanity’ is driven by its racial hatred against this ethnic minority people. In order to save their life, the persecuted and tortured Rohingyas are forced to flee their home and hearth and seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh, India and other countries. We demand immediate stoppage of this savagery, effective arrangements to evacuate these wretched hapless people from India and other countries is an uncivilized as well as inhuman act. Such thoughts must be abandoned and attempts to drive them out must be stalled immediately.

Demonetization proved a big hoax

On 8 November, 2016, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to the nation that Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 currency notes would cease to be legal tender from midnight, he was unequivocal in asserting that the measure was aimed at breaking “the grip of corruption and black money”. There were hints that the windfall gains made from the scrapped currency notes that would not be deposited in banks, estimated at anything between Rs. 3 lakh crore to Rs. 5 lakh crore, would be deployed for larger purposes — social welfare schemes and infrastructure projects. Alongside, it was claimed that the cutting-edge of the move to scrap the old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes would eradicate corruption, curb terror-funding, herald cashless economy and widen the tax base. It was indicated that a sizeable part of the Rs 15.44 lakh crore (Rs 15.44 trillion) of the two high-value banknotes were held by as black money and would not be tendered back into the banking system due to fear of punitive government action. To make it amply clear what the government was expecting, the Attorney General of India told the Supreme Court on 23 November, 2016: “We expect people to deposit Rs 10-11 lakh crore in banks. The rest, Rs 4-5 lakh crore, were being used in northeast and Jamnu & Kashmir to fuel trouble in India. That will be neutralised.” The Prime Minister is even on record to have said that he should be “hanged in public” if proved wrong.

Reality check

Let us go for a reality check. Annual report of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published on 30 August, 2017 reveals that reality has been far from what had been claimed. The report shows that Rs 15.28 lakh crore out of 15.44 lakh crores, i.e. 98.96 percent of the immobilized cash has come back to the banking system. Only about Rs 16,000 crore worth of demonetized notes has not been deposited. Even this may be an overestimate, as the notes to be received from District Central Cooperative Banks and Nepalese citizens and Financial Institutions are yet to be added to the total value of notes returned.

Secondly, in its submission to the Public Accounts Committee, the Finance Ministry has said no counterfeit notes were seized by agencies from 8 November to 30 December, 2016. Now RBI says that the fake notes detected in the total

Reflecting on RBI annual report exposing fiasco of demonetization, SUCI(C) calls upon people to close their rank and thwart such bouts of economic onslaught on them

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 31 August, 2017:

Latest RBI annual report has clearly brought out that the so-called justification advanced by the BJP government in support of its bizarre move of demonetization like unearthing black money and cleansing the system of fake notes was indeed fake and clearly aimed at buttressing the hidden agenda of serving vested interest of the top monopolists at the cost of the common people. With return of more than 98% of immobilized currency notes into the banking system and detection of just 0.00135% of the deposited currency as fake, it is reaffirmed how the government had held the oppressed countrymen particularly have-nots and downtrodden into ransom, made their already dented economic life devastated further, took away several innocent lives and permanently snatched livelihood from the poor peasants, daily wagers, migrant labourers, hawkers, ordinary shop owners and small businessmen who are wholly dependent on cash for their earning.

Unfolding the heinous conspiracy behind the currency ban move, our Party had categorically stated in last November that capitalism today is not only corrupt but utterly inhuman, has not even an iota of concern for people’s plight, hardship or tears as its sole objective is to cheat people, squeeze their pocket up to the last pie and make room for the monopolist tycoons to thrive on their growing misery and destitution. Facts corroborate our analysis.

Our fervent appeal to the people is not to be swayed away by the sweet-coated words of the bourgeois government and immediately close their rank to thwart such bouts of economic onslaught on them under pressure of united organized conscious protest movement.
Hoax of demonetization

Every promised fallout of demonetization by government proved false and deceptive

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income tax returns filed in 2016-17 was almost 25% higher than in the previous year. But this is hardly unprecedented. In 2011-12, for instance, the number grew by over 80% and in the next year by 30%. Clearly, that happened without the shock and awe of a midnight demonetization.

Next is about the weird claim of some of the fertile brains belonging to the quarter of bourgeois economists that RBI would make a windfall gain after demonetization. While holding brief for government’s move to scrap currency notes, they had argued that roughly Rs 3 lakh crore out of Rs 15.44 lakh crores of invalid currencies would never be exchanged for new notes and hence would be deemed to be the ‘ruthless money’. That ‘extinguished black money’ would be a ‘bonanza’ to the RBI and transferred to the central government as dividend. But, the outcome is just the reverse. Deposit of 99% of the invalidated currency has eroded RBI’s earning. Adoption of all available conventional steps like reverse repo auctions (an exercise to remove excess cash from the banking system), hike in incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (the percentage of cash deposits that banks must keep with the RBI) at 100% on deposits accrued between September 16 and November 11, 2016 and increasing ceiling of issue of securities under Market Stabilization Bonds (which would suck out excess cash with banks), have been proved abortive. Additionally, expenditure of RBI on printing of currency doubled from last year. It is reported that while the printing and ancillary expenses have been Rs 21,000 crore, the invalidated cash not deposited with banks is just Rs 16,000 crores. Overall, while the income of RBI for the year decreased by 23.56%, its expenditure increased by 107.8% resulting in a sharp decline in the RBI’s surplus cash. So, those who said that RBI would transfer hefty sum to government treasury now find that the RBI has given a dividend of just Rs 30,659 to the government, half of what it paid in the previous year.

Finally, let there be a word on the status of lowering corruption. During the time of demonetization, reports poured in from across the country that money meant for release to the public in exchange for the old notes were being siphoned off to the influential and those with the capacity to pay for this. So, while the ordinary citizens including the aged and women queued for hours over days to have old currency replaced, India’s handful of rich and powerful have had the newly issued currency notes in multiples of crores delivered at their doorstep. Could this happen if the system was in the process of being cleansed of corruption? We also mentioned in our early write-up (P Era dated 01-12-16) that demonetization move has precipitated newer forms of corruption. For example, a group of vendors were in the field to buy old notes at hefty discount so that when they deposited the notes in the bank, they could make some quick income which obviously is also not newfangled or disappearing. These two instances are enough to prove how deeply entrenched is corruption in the system and who are the indulgers, aides, abetters and beneficiaries of this ongoing as well as growing malpractice, and who are shielding the truth from the sufferings masses by indulging in palpable falsehood cooked in customary sweet-coated words. And now a survey reveals that India is the most corrupt country in Asia-Pacific region where almost seven out of ten people have to pay a bribe to access public services. Compare all these with what the Prime Minister had claimed on 27 December, 2016 that his move has destroyed “in one stroke the sins of the world’s organised crime, drug mafia, human trafficking and underworld.” Incredible indeed!

Who paid the price of demonetization?

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) estimated the transaction cost of demonetization to be Rs 1.28 lakh crore. As our Party had categorically stated during demonetization, the worst sufferers of this hoax have been the common man and businessmen where cash accounts for 90 per cent of the transactions. Facts corroborate that. As many as 103 priceless lives of innocent honest citizens were lost because of the ordeal of standing in queues for hours and days for depositing as well as exchanging banned notes. Incidents of suicide for not being able to make both ends meet due to sudden invalidation of currency notes kept at home by a pitiable earner for meeting family needs is also reported. Among the more marginalised sections such as small peasants, brick kiln workers, small vendors, construction and casual labourers as well as migrant workers the effects were magnified and severe. Poor peasants and agricultural workers have been hit most by the twin blow of sudden ban of notes followed by a cascading effect on cash crunch and rising cost of crop inputs such as seeds and fertilizers coupled with rock-bottoming of the prices of the produce. Cash shortage led to vegetable prices crashing, non-payment of wages to workers and desperate need for food and inadequate inputs for winter crops as well as a fall in wages. Deflationary winds continued to blow in the thurf or summer crop season as well.

A study conducted by the All India Manufacturers’ Organisation (AIMO), which represents over 3 lakh of mostly micro, small scale, and medium scale industries engaged in manufacturing, shows a drop of 60% in employment and loss of 55% in revenue March 2017. The study stated that almost all industrial activities have come to a standstill, with the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) sector worst-hit. Another report by the Centre for the Monitoring of the Indian Economy (CMIE) stated that of the workforce who suffered most, 25 per cent are daily wagers and daily and small peasants, brick kiln workers, hawkers. For example, the ‘labour chowks’ or designated areas where men and women are picked up by contractors for work in industry or by individuals as daily wagers wore a deserted look. Daily wagers lamented that hardly 10 days job was available and also at very low wage and that too being delayed abnormally. Unorganized sectors complained that there was no money to pay wages to around 46% of the workers who were either casual or contractual.

Around 65% of daily wage earners were without work in urban areas in the wake of demonetization and returned to their villages. Corporate media also could not but admit the loss of 1.5 million jobs. The actual figure would be much more than what the official media has
Years of imperialism-generated war, appalling poverty and severe drought have left more than 20 million people facing famine in a vast stretch of African and West Asian regions. Two million hungry in Nigeria, three million in Somalia, five million in Sudan and 14 million in Yemen are staring at death. Over 1.4 million children suffering from severe malnutrition face “imminent risk” of death. “We stand at a critical point in history. What I saw and heard was distressing - women and children walk for weeks in search of food and water. They have lost their livestock, water sources have dried up and they have nothing left to survive on. Without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death,” Stephen O’Brien, U.N. humanitarian chief, has told his council members.

The dreaded pictures of rickety skeleton-all human beings wailing for food make one wonder if we are in the jet-digital age of 21st century. Even in medieval barbarity, people did not die like this out of starvation. But why is this procession of death? Is it because of paucity of resources or natural calamities? Facts speak to the contrary. This dreaded situation has been precipitated by the power-hungry avaricious imperialist forces headed by US imperialism and their allies. Let us go country by country.

Yemen

Situation of Yemen, the poorest nation in the Arab world, is catastrophic and largely out of view. It is facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with two-thirds of the population, or nearly 19 million people, needing assistance. Yemen has long been targeted by Western imperialism. For much of the 20th century, Yemen existed as two separate countries - the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in the north and the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in the south. Until the incredibly late date of 1967, south Yemen, then called Aden, was a British colony. After winning independence, a leftist government in South Yemen, called the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen, instituted many reforms, particularly in women’s rights and education. After the fall of the Soviet Union, however, South Yemen was forced to reunite with the Saudi-influenced, right-wing state to the north, under the brutal U.S.-backed dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Republic of Yemen was created. Yemen is strategically important because it sits on the Bab al-Mandab strait, a narrow waterway linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden, through which much of the world’s oil shipments pass. Hence, US-backed Saudi regime is desperate to hold on to its control on Yemen. In 2011, during the “Arab Spring”, Saleh was ousted and Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi became president. But Hadi too continued to toe the US line and allowed his country to be a hotbed for military and espionage activities of the Pentagon rulers. This infuriated Yemen people and grievances began to brew. Seizing on that discontent, Houthi-rebels forced the resignation of Hadi and his cabinet and took an anti-Saudi stand. Saudi Arabia feared that a Houthi takeover would threaten free passage of oil through the Bab al-Mandab strait. Naturally, Saudi with the approval of its other allies in the gulf and of course US imperialism began bombing Yemen to destabilize Houthi rebels. But this decision of the Saudi-US combine to launch a full-scale military action proved counter-productive as it was seen as an act of aggression by most Yemenis who stood behind the Houthis. Behind these aggressive moves by regional powers is Washington’s military escalation in the entire region, aimed at expanding the corporate, financial and strategic interests of the US super-rich. Now, the US rulers are directly involved in airstrikes on Yemen. Also Al Qaeda, another terrorist group allegedly funded by the imperialist sharks also started to extend its influence through armed interventions. As a result, Yemen remains wracked with internal conflict between militia factions and outside aggression in the form of sustained military assault by Saudi and US. The military assault on Yemen is clearly a part of a wider campaign for the US-NATO-Saudi-Israeli axis to secure their political, economic and military dominance in the region. Like the US—NATO war on Syria, the war on Yemen functions as an attempt to subvert the anti-US powers like the Iranian government which extends support to Houthi rebels. Most Yemenis are angry with the US for aiding and abetting the Saudi carnage in their country which has devastated them. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 13 Yemeni civilians die every day on an average as a result of the Saudi-imposed war. The UN estimates that around 2.8 million Yemenis have been forced to flee their homes because of the war. The country suffers from a long-standing acute water shortage which none of the governments has addressed nor had they done anything to conserve resources and improve the country’s ability to feed itself. Eighty-two per cent of Yemen’s population of 24 million is in need of aid of some sort or other. Sixty per cent are in dire need of food aid. More than 7 million people face hunger today, a staggering increase of 3 million people since January last. Moreover, people’s lives are ravaged by outbreak of epidemics, including cholera.

Somalia

Somalia, an East African country, is rich with enormous natural resources, including uranium, iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt and natural gas. It has two as yet untapped rivers. It has 8m hectares of cultivable land. It has a 3,000 km coastline, the longest in Africa, full of marine resources. Due to its proximity to the oil-rich Gulf Arab states such as Saudi, the US rulers are directly involved in airstrikes on Yemen. Also Al Qaeda, another terrorist group allegedly funded by the imperialist sharks also started to extend its influence through armed interventions. As a result, Yemen remains wracked with internal conflict between militia factions and outside aggression in the form of sustained military assault by Saudi and US. The military assault on Yemen is clearly a part of a wider campaign for the US-NATO-Saudi-Israeli axis to secure their political, economic and military dominance in the region. Like the US—NATO war on Syria, the war on Yemen functions as an attempt to subvert the anti-US powers like the Iranian government which extends support to Houthi rebels. Most Yemenis are angry with the US for aiding and abetting the Saudi carnage in their country which has devastated them. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 13 Yemeni civilians die every day on an average as a result of the Saudi-imposed war. The UN estimates that around 2.8 million Yemenis have been forced to flee their homes because of the war. The country suffers from a long-standing acute water shortage which none of the governments has addressed nor had they done anything to conserve resources and improve the country’s ability to feed itself. Eighty-two per cent of Yemen’s population of 24 million is in need of aid of some sort or other. Sixty per cent are in dire need of food aid. More than 7 million people face hunger today, a staggering increase of 3 million people since January last. Moreover, people’s lives are ravaged by outbreak of epidemics, including cholera.

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Italy. Italy and Britain colonized Somalia into British Somaliland (in Somalia’s northwest) and Somalia Italiana respectively. Britain wanted to take over the coast of Somalia, in order to guard the Suez Canal apart from plundering its resources. France also colonized parts of the Somali coast. In the event, the year 1960 brought independence both the British and Italian colonies, in June and July respectively. But, the independence was virtually on paper. It continued to be victim of neo-colonial exploitation with US imperialism having emerged more powerful after the Second World War that weakened the European colonial powers considerably, intervening with its policy of cash and violence. Violent interventions that may like the people of other African colonies, the Somalian people were also subjected to ruthless oppression. They were virtually treated as slaves, kept in the stupor of ignorance, denied education and healthcare and made to accept survival at the mercy of the colonial rulers. The colonial rulers used to find suitable people who would yield to the lure of power and privilege and govern their own fellow countrymen as stooges. In neo-colonial regime, the situation hardly changed.

Since 2001, the U.S. has carried out extensive covert operations involving reconnaissance missions, bombings and capturing Al-Shabaab militants, the jihadist group vying for power in Somalia. Rulers of Kenya and Ethiopia, two U.S. allies, have also invaded Somalia. The term “failed state” was coined by erstwhile infamous US President George W Bush to be the byword of US policy in Somalia. The country was put on the map because of its association with terrorism and, thereafter, any country that risked relations with Somalia was subject to American sanctions. True the country has been torn apart by warlordism, terrorism, piracy and sustained bloody clashes among various war groups. There have been problems of displacement and influx of refugees on account of that. But all these problems are attributable to sustained foreign intervention and the deliberate fragmentation of the country into fiefdoms, enclaves and tribal states. This trend is the latest of them being the US imperialists. Somalia’s Transitional Federal Government gets hundreds of millions of dollars annually from the US imperialists. 8,000 troops belonging to pro-US regimes are amongst the US imperialists. Somalia is currently a part of both the British and Italian colonies, in June and July respectively. But, the independence was virtually on paper. It continued to be victim of neo-colonial exploitation with US imperialism having emerged more powerful after the Second World War that weakened the European colonial powers considerably, intervening with its policy of cash and violence. Violent interventions that may like the people of other African colonies, the Somalian people were also subjected to ruthless oppression. They were virtually treated as slaves, kept in the stupor of ignorance, denied education and healthcare and made to accept survival at the mercy of the colonial rulers. The colonial rulers used to find suitable people who would yield to the lure of power and privilege and govern their own fellow countrymen as stooges. In neo-colonial regime, the situation hardly changed.

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occupy Somalia on the pretext of preventing rebel groups from seizing power. African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) troops numbering 22,000 operating in Somalia are funded, trained and coordinated by the Pentagon and the CIA. Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi government was supported militarily by the U.S., which has used that regime to occupy Somalia on its behalf. While the US is using its brute military power to keep that country under its domination, drought has left nearly 3,000,000 children on the brink of famine and caused death to many animals which are the main source of income for millions of nomads staying there. In 2011, Somalia experienced a famine that killed 260,000 people. Now, protracted war, drought and a collapsed economy have brought Somalia to the edge of a famine of much greater dimension. Some local officials of Somalia say they are digging mass graves because they fear large numbers of people will die quickly. Had not there been persistent conflict largely engineered by the US imperialists and their associates and people here could have adequate food and other resources to raise their standard of living.

South Sudan

Sudan has been a land of great ethnic diversity, with people having lived in harmony over centuries sharing common cultural and religious traits. But, like other countries rich in mineral resources, Sudan also was under British colonial rule for a long time. But, as it remained undeveloped and poor, despite its resources, and often faced with drought and other calamities causing acute food shortage followed by rampant starvation and malnutrition, discontent mounted among the people against the British rulers. Lest this outrage should be directed at them, the British rulers in pursuit of their age-old policy of divide and rule to perpetuate their colonial rule, instigated various ethnic groups against each other and got them locked in internecine clashes to divert the outburst of rage. As a result, the tribal-populated south Sudan has remained a hotbed of sinister imperialist machinations and torn apart by sustained ethnic conflicts and clashes shattering normal life. Sudan became independent from 1956. Since its independence in 1956, the history of Sudan has been plagued by internal conflicts and civil wars, the first continuing up to 1972 and the second one from 1983 to 2005 instigated by foreign imperialist powers. Later, when it came to light that Sudan has oil reserve even richer than that of Saudi Arabia, it became a prime target of the US imperialists. Finding that the then regime of independent Sudan led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir was un bending before their dictates, US rulers falsely charged him of crime against humanity and charged him of large scale killing at Darfur in Western Sudan. US even moved the International Criminal Court (ICC), a stooge of the imperialist bloc, against him and got him indicted of war crimes. It was just a repetition of the way they had attacked and occupied independent sovereign Iraq undermining Saddam Hussein. President Saddam Hussein possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Finally, the US intrigue succeeded and South Sudan seceded from Republic of Sudan on 9 July 2011. And in the process, untold misery and penury gripped the people of Sudan on either part with food insecurity reaching catastrophic levels. Needless to mention that this famine is man-made. Even the World Food Programme country director admits it. The people are predominantly farmers and this orchestrated war and ethnic strife has disrupted agriculture. People lost their livestock, even their farming tools. For months there has been a total reliance on whatever plants they could find and whatever fish they could catch to stay alive. Consequently, cholera which broke out in June 2016 has spread to more locations. More than one million children are estimated to be acutely malnourished across the country, including 370,000 children who have the imminent risk of death. Now, a famine has been declared. The formal famine declaration in South Sudan means people there have already started death from hunger.

North East Nigeria

Nigeria, world’s sixth-biggest oil exporter and a country with the largest gross domestic product (GDP) in Africa catching up with South Africa fast, it is also the world’s poorest oil-rich country. France controls the uranium mines in Niger area. The hand of Britain can be traced to the recent conflict in West Africa of unprecedented size. In the past four years, 200,000 Nigerians have fled into neighboring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. In absence of funds, there is a sudden cut to emergency rations which could drive out even more people from Nigeria in search of relief. Who is responsible for this horrendousness to oppressed humanity? As facts bear out, it is world imperialism-capitalism that has endowed this horrendousness to oppressed humanity. As the world capitalist economic crisis accelerates, people are facing poverty and imperialist machinations have prompted dislocation and unrest throughout the African continent. Africa has been subjected to the price fluctuations for raw materials and agricultural commodities sold to the West. Meanwhile, the Pentagon and NATO are intervening in the internal affairs of former colonial states. Big imperialist powers and their military forces are strangling Africa. The impact can be seen in East Africa. The Horn of Africa region and surrounding nations potentially face the worst drought in a six decades. Africa, it is reported, is the fastest-growing region for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment or finance capital of the imperialist powers) worldwide. From 1990 to 2013, FDI inflows in Africa increased 19-fold from $3 billion to $57 billion. Many bourgeois economists-scholars think that such huge inflow of FDI is a good thing for low-income countries especially in Africa, where most countries have small stocks of savings. Attracting FDI would trigger economic growth and create jobs. However, survey reveals, and expectedly so, that this rush of FDI is only good for the investing large corporates and powerful multi nationals who book enormous profit by using dominant technologies (often fortified by strong intellectual property protection) and employing least number of people. These imperialist giants have made it a motto to keep people poor, hungry, uneducated and bereft of any facility of modern civilization so that there is no rebellion against their loot and plunder. Moreover, they have also been pulling the strings from behind to precipitate and prolong religious-ethnic conflicts, arming the propped up ‘rebels’ and thus keeping the common people plunged in violence and abject poverty. These foreign powers and their local stooges treat African people as slaves and force them to survive on morsels of aid. Rabindranath Tagore, in the later phase of his life, captured the morbidity and helplessness of the oppressed persecuted wretched Africa: ‘Africa ’a few lines of which are apt
Anti-imperialist Rally in Kolkata

On September 1, the International Anti-imperialist Peace Day, a rally was taken out in Kolkata by the left parties. Thousands of workers and supporters of SUCI(C) joined the rally with well-decorated tableaus, banners and placards. Alongwith the front-ranking leaders of CPI (M), CPI, CPI (ML)-Liberation, and others, Comrade Amitava Chatterjee, Kolkata District Secretary, SUCI(C) addressed the rally.

Anti-imperialist meeting in Hyderabad

A public meeting was organized on 27 August, by All India anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF), Hyderabad city steering committee at the city central library against the threats and war-preparations of imperialist powers headed by US on North Korea. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Ch. Mururahi, Secretary, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State AIAIF. Comrade Mururahi in his address reminded that great Lenin had pointed 100 years back that imperialism generates war. Ever since the sad dismantling of Soviet socialism and the socialist camp, imperialists have been on a war path, attacking countries one after another to establish their economic and political dominance. Now their target is socialist North Korea whose inalienable right to self-defence is thoroughly justified. Others who spoke were Shri Jani Basha, Assistant Professor of GITAM University, Mr. Madhu, renowned advocate, Mr. Vijay Sinha, a software engineer, all members of the steering committee of AP and TS AIAIF. In the beginning a few short films were shown on the kind of life led by the people of North Korea and on the destruction caused by US attack on DPRK during 1950-53.

Rally in Bangalore against closing down of reputed UVCE College

An impressive protest rally was held in Bangalore on 17 August last at the initiative of AIDSO and All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) against the move by the Karnataka state government to close down 100 year old UVCE engineering college at Bangalore. Eminent educationists like former Vice-Chancellors Dr. N Prabhudev and Prof. Chidananda Gowada and K. Uma Secretary, AISEC, Karnataka State took part in the rally and addressed it. Internationally acclaimed scientists like Prof. Roddam Narasinga (recipient of Padma Vibhushan) and Prof. M. R Srinivasan (Alumnus of UVCE and Former Chairman of Atomic Commission of India) and many other eminent educationists have lent support to the movement.

Discussion on ‘The lessons of November Revolution and our task’ in Allahabad

As part of the yearlong observance of November Revolution Centenary, Allahabad unit of SUCI(C) organized a meeting to discuss on “The lessons of November Revolution and our task” on 15 July, 2017 at Shraddhikari Bhavan. Comrade Arun Singh, Bihar State Secretary, SUCI(C), was the main discussant. Comrade Ajay Bharti, Allahabad district President, Joint Council of UP state government employees, presided over. At the outset, many participants raised various questions. Then Comrade Arun Singh conducted the discussion based on those questions. Others who participated in the discussions were Comrades Punipendra Vishwakarma, Bejan Ali and Premendra Tamang of SUCI(C), Ramnagar and Arun Singh of CPI and Harisshandha Dwivedi and Avinash Mishra of CPI (M).

Rohtak SUCI(C) hailed Punjab-Haryana court ruling against the Sirsa Dera chief

Comrade Anoop Singh, Rohtak district committee, SUCI(C), Haryana, in a press note hailed the ruling of Punjab-Haryana court holding the the Sirsa Dera chief guilty of rape sentencing him 20 years rigorous imprisonment. He also criticized the Haryana state BJP Government in the state for using such a rapist and shady character for reaping electoral benefits and its failure to handle the orchestrated mob violence following the verdict.

Mass meeting in Bhopal

On 11 September, an impressive state level rally was organized by Madhya Pradesh state SUCI(C), at Neelam Park in Bhopal. The rally demanded total ban on liquor, stopping privatization of electricity and water, withdrawal of the order to close down 1.08 lakh government schools and handing over the schools to private operators, re-introduction of pass-fail system from class I, stringent punishment to the police officials and political elements guilty of opening fire on agitating peasants in Mandsaur, adequate compensation to the victimized peasant families and fair compensation for crop loss, waiver of farmers’ debt, appropriate step to stop crime on women, withdrawal of GST and proper rehabilitation of the poor people displaced because of Sardar Sarovar Dam project. Comrade Prapat Samal, MP State Secretary addressed the gathering and dwelt on how the BJP-led central and state governments were bringing one after another anti-people policies to wreck the life and livelihood of the toiling people. He also condemned cowardly killing of the rationalists including anti-communal journalist Gauri Lankesh. Comrade Sunil Kumar, State Committee member presided over. Also addressing the meeting were Comrades J C Barai, Rachna Agarwal, Mudit Bhatnagar and Manish Srivatava, all State leaders.

Public Meeting at Nagpur in observance of Great November Revolution Centenary Celebration

An impressive public meeting was held at Samvidhan Chowk (RBI chowk), Nagpur on 9 September 2017 under the auspices of the Great November Revolution Centenary Committee, Maharashtra state, to commemorate 100 years of the great November Revolution Centenary Year. People from different districts of Maharashtra attended the meeting which was presided over by Comrade Anil Tyagi, Secretary, Mumbai Organising Committee, SUCI(C). A well decorated rally with the portraits of great Lenin and great Stalin, was organised from the Nagpur Railway station to the venue of the meeting. In his address as the main speaker, Comrade Arun Singh, Bihar State Secretary of SUCI(C) dwelt on the historic significance of November Revolution and narrated how the first socialist state of Russia could abolish within a short time the problems of unemployment, price rise, education, healthcare, hunger, poverty, beggary and such other evils of capitalism. Introductory remarks were made by Comrade Yogendra Kalashreshtha, member of the Maharashtra State Celebration Committee. Comrade Vijendra Ragut, Secretary, Nagpur District Organising Committee, SUCI(C) also spoke on the occasion. Comrades Jayram Viswakarma, Madhuri Nikur, Pranod Kamble, Atul Udade and Ashish Lokhande, all members of the state celebration committee were present on the dais. (Photo below)

Horrific Famine Grips Afro-Asian Countries

Contd. from page 4 to describe the situation there today:—

Snatched you away from the bosom
Of the Oriental world, O Africa,
Confining you to the intimate
vigil of the tall forest trees,
In the sanctum niggardly in light.....

Behind your dark veil loomed
Unknown the silhouette of your humanity
Facing the vicious gaze of indifference.......

With nails far sharper than those of your packs of wolf
They approached you with their handculfs of steel,
Appeared hunters of men
Far more blinded by their conceit
than your sunless forests.

The civilised, out of their savage appetite
Stripped naked their shameless barbarity.
It is a shame that UNO says it has just 2 percent of the $5.6 billion it needs to avert disaster in Africa.
The situation is further worsened consequent on the Trump administration cutting about 40 percent from the US budget for foreign aid, which includes the UNO. So, it is time for the anti-imperialist democratic-minded people round the world to rise up unitedly against this brutal bestial assault on the African and West Asian people, force the humanitarian bodies including UNO to rush aid and assistance to the affected countries and save the starving African people from the jaws of death. Also it is time to spread the message loud and clear that the only way out is for people to unite against these heinous imperialist war machinations and obsolete world order.
Hoax of demonetization

Poor toiling masses bore the brunt of note-ban and plunged in more misery and penury

Contd. from page 2 reported. The situation has not changed that much even today. When the cash economy suddenly shut down, consumer spending was subdued as evidenced in the fading footfalls in the shopping arcades and malls. The shock to the cash economy continues to be felt even in the current financial year as household consumption remains sluggish. So, the entire brunt of this demonetization has been borne by the common oppressed people tormented day in and day out by repeated bouts of economic onslaughts by the bourgeois government at the behest of the ruling monopolists. Expectedly, the wealth of the top industrialists increased by leaps and bounds during the same period. 1% of the super-rich now own more than half of the total wealth of the country. The Prime Minister had said after demonetization that “because of his ‘bold’ move, the poor is having sound sleep while it is sleepless night for the rich.” Does reality bear out these words of his?

However, that it would create havoc in toiling people’s life was only to be expected. Immediately after notice of demonetization, our Central Committee had warned that the move would put entire economy in chaos and worst sufferers would be the common people, particularly the poor peasants, small traders, vendors, contract and unorganized labourers. Now, the fallout reality check makes that abundantly clear and confirms our prognosis. Even those who initially were carried by the deceptive propaganda and thought that demonetization would strike at the root of black money are also coming to realize how they were bluffed.

Slowdown of economy

On the other hand, despite all possible steps on the part of the bourgeois government and its plant quarters, the further slump in already crisis-ridden Indian capitalist economy could not be kept under the wrapper either. It is known that GDP (Gross Domestic Product) measures the economic output of a nation. The GDP growth rate measures how fast the economy is growing. This is done by comparing one quarter of the country’s GDP to the previous quarter. The GDP growth rate is driven by the four components of GDP. The main driver of GDP growth is personal consumption (C). The second component is business investment (I). Government spending is the third driver of growth (G). Fourth is net trade (export minus import) or NT. Exports add to GDP while imports subtract from it. To put it simply: GDP= C+I+G+ NT. So if C declines, or I plummets whereas G is not increased and NT is negative (i.e. Import is more than export), GDP will fall and reflected in slower growth rate.

It bears recall that in order to inflate GDP growth figure and project it to be more than the growth rates of other countries, the bourgeois think-tank on the promise of the government declared a new methodology of calculating GDP a year back with lot of changes in the parameters of calculation including changing the base year from 2004-05 to be 2011-12. This new methodology overnight inflated a growth rate of 4.7 to 6.9 in 2013-14 meaning a jump by 50%. But even that revised methodology could not suppress a sluggish growth. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth of the country has been reported to be only 5.7% in the last quarter (April-June) as against a much higher rate the governments and its apologists had projected. In the previous quarter also, it was 6.1% much lower than what was projected by the government. In other words there is successive fall in growth rate despite revised methodology. If reverted to old method, the growth rate of 5.7 would be around 2.8%

What is the implication of this fall in GDP growth? It means deep recession or slowdown of economy. A fall in GDP is typically reflected in economic indicators such as fall in industrial produc-tion, dip in investment, lowered public expenditure, plummeting household income and rising unemployment. If employment falls and wages decline, purchasing power of the people goes down. If purchasing power goes down (dip in consumer spending), produced goods stagnate and entail recession. Employment falls further during a recession, as with general spending plummeting, the capitalist owners seek to preserve their cost margins by revised methodology and reducing wages and also turn away from making any fresh investment in industries. Slow economic growth typically corresponds to a fall in spending in the economy, as unemployment rises, wages deplete and household incomes fall. As per official admission, all these features are glaringly manifest in post-demonetization period. So this fall in GDP growth is undoubtedly the fallout of the disastrous step of note ban.

Well-known economists also opposed demonetization

It is also pertinent to mention that everybody except the bourgeois government and a few of economists-commentators on the payroll of the ruling capitalism are holding that a major cause of this slowdown of economy has been the demonetization drive. Even seasoned economists who are known to be in favour of the capitalist system also could not but express their disapproval of the move. Raghuram Rajan, former RBI governor who was replaced on the eve of demonetization has revealed that he was never in favour of the government’s move of demonetizing the legal tender of Rs 500 and Rs 1000. He further stated that RBI during his tenure even cautioned the government about adverse fallout of demonetization. Bimal Jalan, another former RBI governor has also said that the move would not have been approved under his watch. According to Kaushik Basu, former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India demonetization was a very big mistake and it has had a big negative fallout on the economy. Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen had held demonetization move to be a “despotic action that has struck at the root of economy based on trust.”

The mismatch between what is now being said and what had been thundered from the rooftop on the eve of demonetization is so glaring. This is nothing but another shrewd attempt to befoul people and divert their attention.

Once more on black money

Earlier, quoting a source, we had shown that as high as Rs 72 lakh crore (Rs 72 trillion) of black money was reportedly lying in the personal accounts maintained by Indian industrialists, politicians and bureaucrats in the Swiss Bank five years back. Even World Bank, an organization of imperial capital, could not but admit, of course after a lot of exercises to suppress truth, that 23.2% of GDP or roughly Rs 37.5 lakh crore (Rs 37.5 trillion if GDP is estimated to be Rs 160 trillion ) of black money was in circulation in India in (as in 2015-16). Of late, another report estimate puts India’s black economy at about Rs 93 lakh crore. It is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together and larger than the size of the government (Centre plus States) spending. Because of so much of black money stashed abroad through notorious havala route is estimated to be anything between Rs 4.2 trillion (Rs 286 trillion) and $9.8 trillion (Rs 666 trillion) over the decade. (Frontline-26-05-17) But, the government has no intention to unearth this huge black wealth or stop the black means to unaccounted money in the country. On the contrary, as per latest ratification the global convention on automatic exchange of information on financial transactions, the information-sharing deal with Switzerland will come into effect from September 2019, (Economic Times—19-06-17). Why after two years? Why not now? Even if for

Contd. on page 7
Arguing the case, it is assumed that there might be some select leak of that information after the stipulated date. Indian black money holders would immediately shift illegal money from their Swiss bank accounts to other safer tax havens. It is clear that so called demonetization could never and can never touch a fragment of the problem.

**Rotten obsolete capitalist system is generating black money and breeding corruption**

While dwelling on black money, we had also shown (vide Proletarian Era dated 1 December, 2016) that the real beneficiaries of this much-trumpeted demonetization drive are the top monopolists, unscrupulous businessmen and a section of ever-sprouting middlemen who trade in the plight and misery of the common masses. There are who trade in the plight and misery of the section of ever-sprouting middlemen unscrupulous businessmen and a section of ever-sprouting middlemen who trade in the plight and misery of the common masses. There are also hoodwinkers of the people by the protectors, abettors and beneficiaries of the system, like the present BJP government or the erstwhile Congress government and the likes. The BJP came to power by promising among other things recovery of black money and even going to the extent of promising crediting bank account of every citizen with Rs 15 lakhs out of the recovered black cash. Since, that was never to be, the BJP leaders needed a stunt to bamboozle questioning people personally before the impending crucial Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

*Lessons to be drawn from this demonetization fiasco*

This fiasco of demonetization once more brings to the fore a few objective truths. First of all, it is futile to expect that those who are tied to this capitalist system, serving the system and the interest of its helmsmen would cleanse the system of black money, corruption and such other aberrations. The whole and sole objective of the ruling bourgeois parties is to squarely pass on the burden of the growing insolvable crisis of capitalism on the people at the behest of their masters in the name of so called economic reforms, prudent fiscal policies and surgical strike on economic offenders. Till the time capitalism is overthrown by revolution, corruption and other maladies would continue to be bred. In order to survive in this continuously degenerating, decaying capitalist system and try to stem the rot to the extent possible, it is imperative to build up united, organized, powerful mass movements on the burning problems of life, against the policies and practices wreaking havoc in life. Only a surge and intensification of such a massive movement can create an ambience which would provide deterrence to prolific rise of corruption and scourge of black money and thus give some relief to the oppressed suffering toiling people.

**Hoax of demonetization**

Ambience of a powerful mass movement alone can deter such repeated bouts of economic onslaught in capitalism

**Extraordinary State Conference of the Party in UP**

On 26 and 27 August, an extraordinary conference of UP State Party was held at Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran member, Polit Bureau and Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, Staff member and Bihar State Secretary were present in the Conference which was presided over by Comrade Jagdeesh Chandra Asthana, veteran member of UP State Committee. Comrade Jagannath Verma, State Office Secretary, conducted the proceedings. 136 delegates from different districts viz. Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Allahabad, Kanpur Lucknow, Balia, Muradabad, Amroha, Kanpur Dehat, Mau, Chandauli and Veneras took part in the conference. The Conference started with Comrade Jagdish Asthana hoisting the red flag, offering floral tribute to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat and garlanding of the martyrs’ column. Thereafter the delegates held lively discussions on the Secretary’s report. The Conference elected a new 32 member strong UP State Committee with Comrades Pushpendra Vishwakarma as the Secretary, Jagannath Verma as the office-secretary and Ravishankar Moraya as the treasurer. A 6-member secretariat was also formed.

At the concluding session of the Conference, Comrade Ranjit Dhar said that the newly formed State Committee would have to shoulder the responsibility of leading to the toiling masses of the state to achieve anti-capitalist socialist movement through intensification of class and mass struggles. To discharge this responsibility history has handed down to us, the cultural and political standard of all members of the Party have to be continuously elevated through an all-embracing life struggle based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

**AIMSS Demonstration at Bhiwani against growing atrocities on women**

On 22 August, Haryana AIMSS held a demonstration at Bhiwani city to protest against increasing crime against women, dowry system, female foeticide and infanticide, drug-addiction and obscenity, honour killing etc. It was demanded that all these atrocities against women be stopped immediately. Through the SDO, Bhiwani District, a memorandum was also submitted to the Chief Minister of the state. Comrades Bimla Jangra Bhiwani District President, AIMSS and Ramphal, Bhiwani District Secretary, SUCI(C) addressed the demonstration.

**Demonstration in Gujarat against children’s death**

Demonstrations were organized in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat on 18 August by the respective Party units against the tragic incident of death of a large number of children in Gorakhpur in UP. In Ahmedabad, another demonstration was organized on the death of 190 persons from attack of ‘swine flu’ in the state.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar addressing at extra-ordinary Conference of UP State
SUCI(C) vehemently condemns brutal assassination of journalist Gauri Lankesh, demands stringent punishment of the culprits and calls for people’s movement to thwart orchestrated communal killing

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), issued the following statement on 6 September, 2017:

We express deep shock over the cold-blooded murder of Gauri Lankesh, a veteran well-known journalist and editor who was shot dead outside her residence in Bengaluru yesterday.

We strongly condemn this heinous killing. We feel she was brutally murdered because of her sharp writing, bold views and outspokenness in criticizing communalism and Hindutva politics. Her brutal killing shows how dangerous the situation is in the country.

We demand of both the state and central governments to immediately probe into this ghastly killing, arrest the culprits and give them exemplary punishment. We also call upon all saner sections of the people to launch a countrywide protest movement against this heinous politics of communalism and killing.

AIMSS welcomes court verdict against Dera Sacha Souda Chief

All India Mahila Sanskrutik Sangathan (AIMSS) in a statement dated 29 August last, welcomed the judgement of CBI special court in Sirsa, Haryana sentencing 20 years of rigorous punishment along with Rs. 30 lakhs rupees fine to Dera Sacha Souda Chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim on the charges of criminal offence of rape and sexual intimidation against two of his women followers in 2002 in his Dera complex. AIMSS also strongly condemned the BJP led Haryana State Government for which surrendering before Dera criminals for its electoral interest and giving the anti-socilals a free hand to ran sack. Panchkula and Sirsa towns after the court order. AIMSS appealed to all right thinking persons to free themselves from this ‘Baba’ cult and fight unitedly to lead a dignified life of honour and organise militant movement against such type of criminal activities both in Haryana as well as the entire country.

Massive demonstration of ASHA workers in Bangalore

The flyover that led to the freedom park appeared like a pink stream. The visual left Bangalore residents and people of Karnataka awed struck on 7th Sept, 2017. The Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers under the aegis of the Karnataka State Samyuktha ASHA Workers Union affiliated to All India Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) thronged the streets of Bangalore from across the state with an indomitable and determined fighting spirit as part of their ongoing struggle for improved working conditions and in demand for permanent job and fixed monthly remuneration with arrears for the last 9 years. The ASHA workers dared Bangalore rains, faced the chilling night with infants and kids into the second day (8 Sept, 2017) as a part of the day and night indefinite sit-in demonstration. The spirit of fight reverberated in the freedom park which echoed with determined slogans in support of their legitimate demands

Addressing the demonstration, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Member, Central Committee and Karnataka State Secretary SUC(C) as well as the State President of AIUTUC, pointed out how the condition of the ASHA workers is worsening with every passing day. Hailing the spirit of the sustained determined movement, he discussed how both the state and central governments have been bringing many anti-worker policies which need to be thwarted under pressure of powerful mass movements based on correct ideology and higher culture. The SUC(C) and the AIUTUC have been with the ASHA movement since inception and would continue to be on the side of the fighting ASHA workers. The struggle for justice and appropriate political training would engender dawn of a new civilization which will be pro-people. Other state leaders of SUC(C), AIUTUC and eminent persons also addressed the demonstration.

Under pressure of movement, the Karnataka State government was compelled to announce a fixed enhanced monthly remuneration of Rs 3,500/-, performance-based incentive, housing, free bus passes or concessional bus passes, availability of interest-free loan of Rs 2,00,000.00 by forming Stree Shakti groups etc. Although what the workers got was aittance in relation to the need and the current price line of essential commodities, nevertheless all were happy that the determined movement could bend the adamant government to this extent at least. Everybody witnessed a historic movement that achieved a substantial victory. The movement kindled new hope and saw the dawn of a new era in the history of workers movements in the state and perhaps it has stood out as a unique movement in the country too.

In observance of Great November Revolution Centenary Celebration

Mass Meeting

at Saheed Minar Kolkata

on 17 November 2017 at 2 p.m.

Main Speaker : Comrade Provash Ghosh
Speaker : Comrade Satyawan (Haryana)
Comrade K Radhakrishna (Karnataka)
President : Comrade Manik Mukherjee

Comrade K. Radhakrishna addressing the rally

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[Left]

Protest against murder of Gauri Lankesh (from top) Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Similar protests were made all over the country.