

Indian People's Armed Forces Are Growing Stronger in Battle

THE Indian revolutionary people's armed struggles, led or supported by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), are developing and getting stronger in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. In the course of their struggle, the Indian revolutionary people constantly sum up their experience and have raised their political consciousness. Their grasp of the truth that **"political power grows out of the barrel of a gun"** is becoming more and more firm.

Following the armed struggle started by the peasants in Naxalbari and other areas in 1967 which shook the whole of India, the revolutionary peasants of Andhra Pradesh in the southeastern part of the country took up arms in 1968 to resist the brutal rule of the Indian reactionaries. According to the Indian bourgeois press, their struggle has now expanded from the remote mountainous area inhabited by the Girijans in Srikakulam District to 19 taluks on the broad plains of Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Warangal and Khammam Districts.

Since the beginning of 1969, the revolutionary peasants of Srikakulam District have scored many victories in countering the "combing" operations of the reactionary landlord armed bands and the reactionary police. The people's forces have been growing stronger day by day. Adopting flexible strategy and tactics, they skilfully pounded the enemy out on "combing" operations. They fought heroically and skilfully and armed themselves with weapons seized from the enemy. According to the Indian bourgeois press, the Girijan armed forces in Srikakulam District have in their possession large quantities of explosives and many guns in addition to spears, bows and arrows and axes.

It was reported that recently the guerrilla units in Srikakulam District made frequent, successful attacks on the reactionary police. Within two days in early June, the guerrillas in Sompeta and Parvathipuram areas of the district launched four comparatively large-scale attacks on the reactionary police, dealing them telling blows. On June 5, using home-made weapons, a guerrilla unit in Parvathipuram area, made a surprise attack on the reactionary police sent there on "combing" operations.

In late May, the peasants' armed forces in Bhadrachalam area of Khammam District raided a local police station and the residence of a police inspector at night.

They killed two reactionary policemen on the spot and wounded four others.

The peasants' armed forces in Srikakulam District also made frequent attacks on the estates of landlords, seized their weapons and property and executed landlords who had committed heinous crimes and had blood debts on their hands. On May 11, the armed peasants of Pathapatnam area executed a despot-landlord. On May 19, the armed peasants in Sompeta area put to death two big landlords who had committed monstrous crimes, and seized their property.

The continuous development of the peasants' armed struggle in Andhra Pradesh has struck terror into the hearts of the reactionary authorities. The Indian bourgeois paper, *Statesman*, said on July 5 that there has been an "alarming increase" in the armed struggle of the peasants in Andhra Pradesh. In the past, the reactionary police in Srikakulam District carried out "combing" operations day and night, but now, they dare not go out for such operations by day even in groups of 20 to 30 men. They dare not carry out activities at night even in greater numbers.

The armed struggle of the peasants in Uttar Pradesh is also forging ahead. In the last two months, the guerrillas in Pallia area, Lakhimpur District, repeatedly ambushed the reactionary police sent out on "combing" operations and won one victory after another. Recently the guerrillas raided three houses of the reactionary police and captured some guns. Despite wanton suppression by the police hurriedly dispatched by the reactionary local regime, the strength of the peasant guerrillas has more than doubled. In Unnao District, the peasants' armed forces recently killed a despot-landlord, who had led reactionary landlord armed bands in a counter-attack on the peasants, as well as a notorious usurer. In Nainital District, the armed peasants launched one attack after another on the local despot-landlords and their lackeys, and on the reactionary officers who were guilty of many crimes. In seven days they sent an armed squad to dozens of villages to mobilize the masses to launch a campaign to boycott the deceitful bourgeois election.

The peasants' armed struggle in Punjab has spread from Bhatinda District to three other districts — Rupar, Sangrur and Hoshiarpur. On April 30, the peasants' armed forces in Rupar District courageously raided a police station, killing two reactionary police officers on the spot.

While persisting in their armed struggle, the Indian Communist revolutionaries made timely summations of their experience and applied Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought to solve the problems arising in their revolutionary practice.

In a recent report on the peasants' armed struggle in Srikakulam District, the Indian Communist revolutionaries issued a call to launch guerrilla warfare on a still larger scale, build up rural revolutionary base areas and create a people's army.

Putting into practice Chairman Mao's great teaching "to learn warfare through warfare," the Indian Communist revolutionaries criticized and repudiated the erroneous viewpoint that the guerrillas can start a struggle only after they have received "special military training." They explained this with a local proverb: "Unless we go into the water, the depth of it is not known." They hold that guerrilla warfare should

be learnt in the course of heroic and indomitable battle against the enemy and guerrilla units will grow rapidly in the course of fighting.

The Indian peasants' armed struggle has won energetic support from the broad masses of the people. Group after group of peasants have joined the guerrilla units with great enthusiasm. Where there is a guerrilla unit, there are masses who bring them rice, vegetables and fruit. Thanks to cover provided by the masses, the guerrillas can carry out activities near police barracks without being discovered by the enemy.

With mounting militancy, the revolutionary Indian people are courageously pressing forward along the road of armed struggle. They encourage one another by saying that "whether we live or die, it must be for the people" and that they will dare to fight and dare to win as before, and carry on their heroic fight with the revolutionary spirit of not fearing death.