

# Let the Peasants' Revolutionary Storm in India Strike Harder!

by "RENMIN RIBAO" COMMENTATOR

**T**HE flames of revolutionary armed struggle of the Indian peasants have been rapidly spreading ever since the peasants of Naxalbari launched their revolutionary armed struggle. Recently, the revolutionaries in the Indian Communist Party, guided by the great thought of Mao Tse-tung, have been leading the peasants in the northern part of Bihar State in a courageous struggle to seize land by force of arms. By now the Naxalbari-type of peasant movement has engulfed 50 areas in 8 of the 16 Indian states and regions under direct central control. Growing in scale, the peasants' struggle to seize land by force has assumed such proportions that, like thunderclaps and flashes of lightning breaking the dead silence of the overcast skies over India, it is shaking the reactionary rule of the Congress government. An excellent situation, never seen before, has opened up in the Indian revolution. We warmly acclaim and cheer this revolutionary storm let loose by the Indian peasants!

India is a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country, with the peasants constituting more than 70 per cent of the country's population of 500 million. The problem of the peasantry is the basic problem of the Indian national democratic revolution, and the peasants are the main force of this revolution.

The Indian peasants, under the crushing oppression of the three big mountains of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, exist in the most wretched conditions. In today's India, 75 per cent of the land is concentrated in the hands of a small number of landlords, rich peasants and maharajahs, while the poverty-stricken peasants who make up 80 per cent of the rural population own only the remaining 25 per cent. The landless peasants and those who have little land have to turn over from 50 to over 90 per cent of their annual harvests in land-rents to the landholders. Extortionate usury and exploitation have caused much of the land in India to go rack and ruin, with the rural areas plunged into bankruptcy and famine stalking the land. Each year famine claims the lives of millions of the hard-working peasants, and over 200 million must struggle at the starvation level. In Bihar, which is mainly inhabited by peasants, at least 40 million of the 50 million people in the state are short of food. For the broad masses of the Indian peasantry who can no longer lead such an existence, there is no other way out except to rise up and make revolution.

And now, more and more of the long-suffering Indian peasants are in rebellion. From Bihar in the north to Kerala in the south, large numbers of peasants have risen in the wide countryside. They are unfolding struggles to seize land and dealing violent blows at the foundations of feudal rule. So-called "law" and "order" designed to protect the interests of the landlord class are trampled underfoot by the revolutionary peasants. Imperialism, the local tyrants and evil gentry, and the patriarchal landlords are being beaten into the dust and kept there by the revolutionary peasants. Many revolutionary peasants have organized peasant associations to levy taxes on the landlords, confiscate their grain and seize their land. In some places, people's courts have been set up to try and punish the recalcitrant landlords and evil gentry. In others, the peasants have organized themselves into people's armed forces equipped with bows and arrows, spears and captured arms. This strikes terror into the hearts of the landlord class and is used for fighting the "suppression" campaigns of the reactionary troops and police. In short, the impoverished peasants, slaves of yesterday, have arisen wherever the peasants' revolutionary storm has begun to rage.

Face to face with this stirring and growing revolutionary peasant movement, the Indian reactionaries are scared stiff, and they howl in alarm that this is a "national catastrophe." They venomously scream: "It's terrible!" "It's terrible!" On the other hand, revolutionaries in India and throughout the world acclaim with joy: "It's fine!" "It's fine!"

Our great leader Chairman Mao pointed out 41 years ago: **"The national revolution requires a great change in the countryside. . . . This change is now taking place, and it is an important factor for the completion of the revolution."**

This is also the case with the current Indian situation. In the India of today, the roots of the feudal system lie very deep in the countryside. Maharajahs, patriarchal landlords and the bureaucrat-comprador bourgeoisie are the main social foundation of imperialist rule in India. The landlord class ruthlessly exploits and oppresses the peasants by the feudal system, and

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impedes the progress of Indian society politically, economically and culturally. This foundation of reactionary rule must be thoroughly overthrown and a great change must be brought about in the countryside if the Indian peasants are to achieve liberation and if Indian society is to progress and develop.

Only through such an earth-shaking revolution to strike down the landlord class, the local tyrants and evil gentry, to smash the feudal system to bits, and to make the poor Indian peasants achieve liberation, can the vast Indian countryside become the reliable base areas for the revolutionary forces to grow in size and strength and finally seize all-round victory. Only when such a great change takes place can the millions upon millions of peasants become the inexhaustible source of the people's armed forces and the firm participants and supporters of the people's revolutionary war. The road to victory in the Indian revolution can only be the road of Mao Tse-tung, the road of the Chinese revolution. This means, under the leadership of the proletariat, to rouse the peasants boldly, establish revolutionary base areas in the countryside, engage in protracted armed struggle, encircle the cities from the countryside and finally seize the cities so as to win ultimate victory throughout the country. The development of the Indian peasants' revolutionary struggle at present is precisely the great prelude to the Indian people taking this road to victory.

The vigorous development of India's peasant revolutionary struggle is a significant victory for the proletarian revolutionary line over the revisionist line in the Indian Communist Party. This sharp struggle between

the two lines has existed in the Indian Communist Party for a long time. It is centred around the issue whether the Indian revolution should take the road of the Chinese revolution or the revisionist "parliamentary road." The Dange renegade clique and the revisionists in the Indian Communist Party who oppose and hate the Indian peasants' revolutionary struggle have done all they could to sell the phoney idea of "defeating the Congress Party in the elections" and the so-called "non-Congress government" road. When the armed struggle of the Naxalbari peasants broke out, they showed their vicious nature and acted as the faithful hounds of the Indian reactionaries in suppressing the peasant revolution. Thus, the so-called "non-Congress government" road has gone completely bankrupt in India.

The revolutionaries in the Indian Communist Party are determined to take the road of the Chinese revolution. They have declared that "the strategy employed by the great leader Mao Tse-tung is one which the Indian Marxists should adopt." They have gone into the countryside to spread and propagate Chairman Mao's brilliant thought that "**Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.**" Once the Indian revolutionary peasants master the great, invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung, the flames of their revolutionary armed struggle will surely blaze up. Facts have shown that the Indian peasants, in their hundreds of millions, constitute an inexhaustible source of power for the revolution, and that, once awakened, they will not be held back but will smash all the trammels that bind them and rush forward along the road to liberation.

**"A single spark can start a prairie fire."** Let the peasants' revolutionary storm in India strike harder!

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