

Indian Peasant Armed Struggle Intensifies

THE year 1969 saw a vigorous development of the revolutionary armed struggle of the Indian peasants and a steady expansion and growth of their armed strength.

A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire

Under the leadership of the revolutionaries of the Indian Communist Party, the peasants in Naxalbari in Darjeeling District, West Bengal State, fired the first shot of armed struggle in March 1967. This shook the vast land of India like a clap of spring thunder. The broad masses of Indian peasants are awakening and the flames of their armed struggle are spreading fast and raging more fiercely.

Great progress was made last year by the peasants in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, in their armed struggles led and supported by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). The peasant guerrillas turned 300 villages into red areas for launching struggle, and more than 100 guerrilla squads were active in an area of about 500 square miles in the Srikakulam Mountains. One hundred square miles of mountainous area deep in the interior of Parvatipuram Agency came under the control of the peasant armed forces. The current peasant armed struggle in Andhra Pradesh has spread from the remote mountainous area of Srikakulam District to more than 19 rural areas in 10 districts on the state's spacious plains and the jungle areas of neighbouring Orissa State. At the same time, the peasant masses rekindled the armed struggle in Khammam and other places in Telangana in the northern part of Andhra Pradesh.

In West Bengal, the peasant revolutionary armed struggle has spread from the Terai (region at the foot of the Himalayas) in the northern part of the state to Midnapur and other coastal regions in the south.

Led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), the peasant masses in Mushahari, Muzaffarpur District, Bihar State, took up arms and organized small guerrilla squads to conduct repeated operations against the reactionary police, landlords and local despots. This has brought the peasant struggle in Bihar State to a new stage, that of guerrilla struggle.

The peasant revolutionary armed struggle is also developing unabatedly in the jungle areas of Gunupur

in Koraput District, Orissa State, in areas close to Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh, in Bhatinda and some other districts of Punjab State, and in Kerala State. All India is seething with revolutionary vigour.

Resolutely Take the Road of Seizing Political Power by Armed Force

Since its founding on April 22, 1969, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) has unswervingly taken the correct road of seizing political power by armed force. The Party has gone deep into the rural areas, boldly mobilized the masses, done propaganda work among them, organized and armed them. It has led the broad masses of revolutionary peasants to actively wage armed struggle in which agrarian revolution is its main content and brought about a completely new situation of vigorous development of the peasant armed struggle in India.

Since the beginning of last year, the peasant armed forces in various parts of India have made frequent attacks on reactionary police stations and landlord estates, seized guns, grain and land from the landlords, severely punished the crime-laden despotic landlords and corrupt officials, and ambushed reactionary police and landlord armed bands sent to conduct "encirclement and suppression" operations. The Indian paper *Hindustan Times* reported that in the first ten months of last year the revolutionary peasants of Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, fought more than 60 battles with reactionary police forces and local armed police and launched 38 attacks against the enemy. The acts of violence in the peasant revolution have dealt increasingly heavy blows to the reactionary Indian ruling classes.

Learning from past experience, the Indian Communists have begun to advance armed struggle to a completely new stage, the stage of seizing political power and establishing guerrilla bases. In the vast area of Srikakulam where the peasant armed struggle is developing vigorously, the peasants completely abolished the privileges enjoyed by the feudal landlord class for thousands of years and swept every bit of their prestige into the dust. The peasants established people's political power and set up people's courts to try the enemies of the people. Base areas for armed struggle have been set up in 300 villages controlled by peasant

armed forces. Officials appointed by the reactionary government cannot enter these areas and the reactionary state apparatus has ceased to function.

The great teacher Chairman Mao has said: **"The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them."** Wherever they went, the peasant revolutionary armed forces did propaganda work among the masses and organized and armed them. While fighting the enemy, the peasant guerrilla units publicized the great truth **"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun"** among the masses and mobilized them to take part in struggle. They established the closest relations with the broad revolutionary masses and won their support. In the Pallia area of Lakhimpur District, Uttar Pradesh, where the peasant armed forces are active, the peasant masses kept the guerrilla units fully informed of police activities. The reactionary government has sent armed police to raid various villages in the area on many occasions, but the reactionary police failed to find the guerrillas who are shielded by the masses. Once, over 1,000 peasants together with the guerrilla units attacked a landlord's house in Pathapatnam sub-division, Srikakulam District. The police stationed near by were so fear-stricken by the might of the masses that they dared not come out. Many peasants in the district voluntarily sent grain, vegetables and fruit to the guerrillas. Because the guerrillas and peasant masses are as closely related as flesh and blood, the Indian reactionaries are at a complete loss. Even the reactionary Indian press lamented that the peasant masses' support for the revolutionary armed forces is "the biggest obstacle the police met."

March Forward Victoriously in Shattering the Reactionaries' "Encirclement and Suppression"

The swift and vigorous development of the Indian peasant armed struggle has struck terror into the hearts of the reactionary Indian authorities. To prop up its tottering rule, the reactionary Indian Government headed by Indira Gandhi is intensifying its suppression of the peasant revolutionary armed forces and the revolutionary Indian people. The reactionary Indian authorities in Andhra Pradesh dispatched a big police force to "mop up" and round up the peasant armed forces in Srikakulam, and attempted to set up so-called "village self-defence guards" and "village volunteers" for putting down the peasant armed forces. Apart from setting up more police camps in various districts to suppress the peasant armed forces, the reactionary authorities in West Bengal State have enforced

a fascist rule over the people, and they even empowered the district authorities to compel every person to make a "guarantee of good behaviour" and pledge not to have any contact with the peasant armed forces. Anyone who violates his "guarantee" will be sentenced to imprisonment. To realize their criminal aim of suppressing the Mizo people's armed struggle, the reactionary Indian authorities set up "protective villages" like concentration camps in the Mizo area in a vain effort to cut off the revolutionary masses from the people's armed forces.

The great teacher Chairman Mao has taught us: **"All reactionaries try to stamp out revolution by mass murder, thinking that the greater their massacres, the weaker the revolution. But contrary to this reactionary wishful thinking, the fact is that the more the reactionaries resort to massacre, the greater the strength of the revolution and the nearer their doom. This is an inexorable law."** The reactionary Indian Government is vainly trying to stamp out the peasant armed forces by mass murder, but, contrary to its reactionary wishful thinking, the fact is that the more the reactionaries resort to wanton suppression, the stronger is the resistance of the people. The Indian peasant armed forces cannot be vanquished nor wiped out, but on the contrary will become ever stauncher and more powerful because they are steeled in their counter-attacks against the "encirclement and suppression" and "mopping-up operations" of the reactionary police.

In its external policy, the reactionary Indian Government headed by Indira Gandhi is hiring itself out to U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism and living on their alms, and getting itself buried in foreign debts. At home, it is stepping up its oppression and exploitation of the people and sucking their blood. Riddled by serious financial and economic crises, it has made large numbers of workers jobless and plunged the broad masses of Indian peasants and city poor into ever worsening impoverishment. The class contradictions in India are becoming unprecedentedly acute and the cut-throat struggle for power inside the reactionary Indian ruling clique is also becoming fiercer and fiercer. Bogged down by difficulties at home and abroad, saddled with countless contradictions and crises and finding itself in an impasse, the reactionary Indian Government is sitting on thorns. Every place in India is inflammable and the raging flames of the peasant armed struggle will certainly blaze fiercer and fiercer. So long as the Indian revolutionary people unswervingly take the road of seizing political power by armed force, they will certainly win nationwide victory in revolution through protracted struggle.