BUDGET MOCKS AT NAGPUR DEGISIONS MA 7=1959 Cont. Hits Common Man Hurts National Economy

To what extent have the pronouncements and sentiments of the Nappur Congress found place in the scheme of Sri Morarji Desai's Budget, asked Bhupesh Gupta addressing himself to members of the Congress Party in Parliament and the country as a whole. The leader of the Communist Group was inisition side on Sri Morarji Desai's maiden Budget.

SITION SIDE ON STI MIORAFJI DESAI'S MAIDEN BUDGET. N OBODY expected social-ism to be advanced by Sri Morarji Desai but still being a Congressman, "at least as a matter of courtesy" one would have thought the Finance Minister would not flinch from using that expression. "Now it is a significant fact" said Bhupesh Gupta, adding that it was essential nevertheless "to take into ac-count realistically the actual situation that obtains." In the Finance Minister's whole speech there was hardly any reference to unemploy-ment. "Yet the facts are tell-ing," said Bhupesh Gupta. "When we started the First Five Veev Plan unemplop-Morarji Desai who is a case-hardened businessman in many matters, has chosen not to use the word 'socialism'

once." "It is symptomatic" Bhupesh Gupta proceeded to add "of the present mental-ity that is coming about in the financial policy of Government....

"The Nagpur declaration has gone by the board as far as the Budget proposal concerned".

The Nagpur resolution on Planning, had clearly stated that public enterprises and State trading should be conducted so as to yield resources for public purposes. Bhupesh Gupta recalled the Prime Minister's speeches, the Nag-pur decisions on cooperatives, on land cellings which was considered "a commitment to the nation" "to be completed by the end of the year". He asked Congressmen and Conaress members to examine the

gress members to examine the Budget in terms of those de-clarations, stating: "The Budget proposals mock at the Nagpur decla-ration, if I may say so. They run counter to the good de-clarations made at Nagpur."

Three Basic Propositions

At the outset he had asked the House to keep in mind "three basic propositions" in discussing the Budget:" first, the present economic situation in the country in general and the crisis of the Second Plan in particular, secondly, the need to prepare for the Third Plan and finally, the Nagpur decisions of the Indian National Congress.

Having dealt with the Bud-get vis-a-vis the Nagpur de-clarations Bhupesh Gupta turned to the economic assement stating:

"The Hon. Minister, like all his predecessors, has given a distorted account of the eco-nomic situation in the country as though he is afraid of fac-ing the reality and I do not think we can go ahead and make things better by shying away from reality and trying to draw imaginary pictures that do not exist.

country's economy is going to

A DE TRANSFERRE

whole speech there was hardly any reference to unemploy-ment. "Yet the facts are tell-ing," said Bhupesh Gupta. "When we started the First Five Year Plan, unemploy-ed persons on the live register

Unemployment

He recalled that Sri D. N.

Ghosh the Director of Na-tional Employment Survey in his recent report to the

Employment Advisory Com-mittee had pointed out that in West Bengal alone there were 2,14,914 unemployed persons on the live register

and that a new feature that had emerged was that of these, 74,000 were women. Sri Ghosh had also pointed

out that the rate of creation of employment opportunities

was declining in the coun-

Bhupesh Gupta also cited figures of the new job-seekers entering the market given re-

cently by Prof. Mahalanohis.

centry by Prof. Manalanonis, the Statistical Adviser to the Cabinet—one million every year in urban areas and $2\frac{1}{2}$ million every year in rural areas. As for underemploy-

areas. As for underemploy-ment, according again to Prof. Mahalanobis, 20 million. peo-ple have hardly an hour's work per day, 27 million less than 2 hours' work per day, 45 million less 'than 4 hours' work per day and 53 millions less than 15 days' work in a month

month. "Now," said Bhupesh Gupta,

"the Second Five-Year Plan envisaged eight million new employment opportunities and

employment opportunities and now they are saying that it would not be even five millions That is to say, all the en-trants into the labour market after the second year would not have been absorbed in the five-year period. So a backlog is created and this is a new phenomenon in our economy

phenomenon in our economy.

and the state of the second second second

Growing

Let alone the creation of em- ' ployment opportunities for the new job-seekers every year, we are not able to find jobs even for the old job-seekers. So the position is re-versed and unemployment is growing.... but here the Hon. Minister gives us a somewhat over-optimistic picture which is not at all sustained either by reality or even by official

VOL. VII NO. 10

and that fertilisers are also being used and in some cases productivity per acre has also

COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1959

ADO Shen Per

Food imports in 1956-58 had been 8.87 million tons costing about Rs. 350 crores and in the whole Second Plan period even at the existing scale they would go up to 12 to 14 mil-lion tons costing Rs. 560 crores. "Is it a crisis of bad har-vest only?" asked Bhupesh.

very high we find it declining. taking the industrial sector as a whole. While balance of payments

25 nP.

4060 -1.

while balance of payments position too remained bad, trends in export trade also showed stagnation and alarm-ing symptoms. Deficit in baling symptoms. Deficit in bal-ance of trade in 1956-57 was 460.5 crores, in 1957-58 Rs. 580 crores and in the first half of 1958-59, Rs. 272 crores. The problem was going to be more acute because of the Euro-pean Common Market. In face of all this the Finance Minis-ter remained absolutely happy and unperturbed. Bhupesh and unperturbed, Bhupesh Gupta pointed out.

The major reason for decli-ning trade he pointed out lay in the fact that this trade followed certain fixed lines. Some 70 to 75 per cent of our exports continue to go to capitalist countries in Western Europe and North America and the commodities which

Indictment numbered 3.37 lakhs_almost 31 lakhs— in 1951. "At the start of the Second Five-Year Plan it had risen to Five-Year Fian it that fisch to 7,05,000 and now, in December last year, the number is 11,83,229.... This is only an index; the real rise is much higher." Of Morarji Desai

up to for the remaking of our country? Is it only the U. S. A. we must look up to to find the resources or must we turn our attention to the we turn our attention to the idle labour, to our unutili-sed labour, in the urban areas and in the country-side so that human endea-vour could at once be harnessed into great productive channels, so that economic development could go on? It is a question to which we must find an answer", Bhu-

pesh Gupta said. Coming to the food situa-tion he said it was not merely a question of good or bad har-vest as the Finance Minister had tried to make out. "After all the crisis in agriculture all the crisis in agriculture today is essentially a crisis of the existing agrarian rela-tions, which is the reason why the Nagpur session of the Congress took the decision to go ahead with the imposition of ceilings.... It is acknowgo anead with the imposition of ceilings.... It is acknow-ledged even by the ruling party that there is something wrong in the agrarian rela-tions. But this attitude finds unfortunately no reflection whatsoever in the Budget proposals of the Finance Min-ister".

Stagnant Agriculture

Giving figures of cereal pro-duction and of its availability —per capita to consumers Bhupesh Gupta showed the state of stagnation in our ag-riculture—"despite: the fact that 40 lakh acres have been brought under new irrigation brought under new irrigation

on the part of these antisocial people against whom, I must confess, to our eternal shame, no action is taken by this Government. This is the crisis of the food situation, and yet you see that in the matter of State that in the matter of state trading the Government is not moving fast. In fact, the State trading scheme re-mains still on paper.". Referring to the constant rise in prices of foodgrains-occurring even at harvest

occurring even at harvest time, the leader of the Com-munist Group showed how besides causing endless misery to the people the process was having a baneful effect on the whole economy: fall in con-sumer demand for other comsumer demand for other com-modities, upsetting of the price structure as a whole. "It upsets the calculations and the price structure of the Plan and it pushes the econo-my into a state of continued

uncertainty and crists." The wholesale price index had risen from 102.6 in 1956 to 111 in 1958 and 112:3 in January 1959.

ary 1959. No proposal whatsoever had been made in the Bud-get for holding the price line, not even in regard to essential commodities, Bhu-cesh Gunta nointed out pesh Gupta pointed out.

Decline in the rate of grow-th of industrial production as indicated in the Budget pro-posals was from 8 per cent in 1955-56 to 3.5 in 1957-58 and this was another indication of the seriousness of the situation. At the approach of the fourth year of the Second Plan when the tempo of development should have risen

figure dominantly in this trade as a whole have shown a con-tradictionary trend.

From whichever angle you look at it, Bhupesh Gupta said, "the economic situation said, "the economic situation is far from so encouraging as is sought to be made out, "I should have thought that the Hon. Finance Min-

ister would have taken the Nagpur Resolutions a little more serionsly and formu-lated the Budget proposals. That would have helped to carry forward whatever, good declarations have been made, in practice. But then he has belied the hopes of some and falfilled the hopes of others. He has belied the hopes of many delegates at the Nagpur Session of the -Congressmen and Congress—Congressmen and the country—and he has fulfilled the hopes of Mr. Chinai who was defeated and walked out at the Nag-pur Session, the Big Busi-ness and those elements who are well up in finance, who are well up in finance, who are gainst the public sector against State trad-Congress sector, against State trad-ing, against big industrial development."

Big Business lubilant

Bhupesh Gupta cited press reports of jubilation and "un-bounded enthusiasm" in Stock Markets over the Morarji Budget and the satisfaction being expressed over it in the Big Buziness Press and asked "If the Nagpur Resolutions were sought to be implemen-* SEE PAGE 4

statistics. "What are we budgeting for? What are we planning for? Whom are we looking relations, Bhupesh Gupta's

gone up.'

"It is a crisis of agrarian elations, aggravated by

relations, aggravated by profiteering and hoarding

WORDS AND DEEDS

ALL those who felt elated with Pandit Nehru's words and the resolutions words and the resolutions of the Nagpur Congress ought to now feel indignant over Morarji's budget passed by the Cabinet, headed by Pandit Nehru himself. All the relief that the budget gives is to Big Business. The Wealth Tax, the Excess Profits Taxs, etc., have been scuttled as demanded by India's well-organised and vociferous moneybags. New and big burdens have been put upon the common people through increased in- ganged up to run a countrydirect taxation on the necessities of life

The common man has been taxed the utmost and yet a vast gap of deficit remains uncovered, clearly pointing out the danger of further attacks on the standard living of our working people and leaving our economy weak; unstable and open to pressure by native and foreign

The Congress leaders never tire of pointing out the contradictions between ends and means of the Communists and they try to be philosophical and self-righteous about it. One needs no philosophy but common sense to see the gross contradiction between the declared economic aims and the actual budget proposed by the Congress Government. It is the budget that is the actual instrument of implementing whatever economic policy one seeks to pursue.

D. F. Karaka fairly accurately forecast the budget when "relying purely on my knowledge of the make-up of the new Finance Minister, on my awareness of his line of think-ing, and his attitude to national problems' in general," he wrote in the Current, that will be "one of the mos it will be one of and most reasonable budgets presented to the people. By this I mean that it will not have any nasty shocks, any elements of exp rimentation, any touches of sensationalism." The Current s the paper which one must d to know the mind and the links of the American Lobby in our country.

Sri Asoka Mehta found in Morarji's budget speech "great clarity and honesty." The PSP leader was not being sar-PSP leader was not being sar-castic but sincere. It is high time the PSP friends plainly ask themselves where their leadership is leading their party when their leader, in the company of D F Karaka the company of D. F. Karaka, pays tribute to the intellecand moral integrity of Morarji. Even the Times of India headlines the M.P.s' reaction ctions to the budget as Brickbats and Bouquets for Mr. Desai."

The share market began to boom soon after the budget. The rise in price of indus-Ministers, he said: "The Nagtrials ranged from five per

speak blunt truth that needs knowing.

THE REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE

THERE is a tendency to inderestimate the signifi-cance of the planned offensive of reactionary elements against land reforms. Their campaign, however, is sus-tained and well-planned and the reactionaries, within and outside the Congress have wide campaign.

The Dehati Janata Party of the Punjab held its second conference under Raja Mahender Singh's presidentsh It was inaugurated by the Congress M.P., Sri Nagoke. The slogans were cleverly de-magogic: "Sanjhi kheti (cooperative farming) nahin ka-renge", "We will not pay bet-terment levy," "Impose ceilings on urban property", etc., etc. The Raja declared that he was not opposed to Social-ism, but only to "lame Socialism, but only to Tame Social-ism". The Congress leader, Sri Nagoke, proclaimed that it was not 'a princes' party,' but of the 'tolling tillers', and he affirmed his resolve to re-main in the Congress! He warned the Congress against the Communist support to its agrarian policy, which he said was bound to recoil on the Congress before long.

Once upon a time, M. R. Masani tried to become the workers' leader. He is now trying to become a "kisan" leader. He inaugurated the Karnatak Kisan Convention Reader. He inaugurated the Karnatak Kisan Convention, presided over by N. G. Ranga, where he called the Nagpur resolutions "a red herring across the nation's trails."

The Zonal Council of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in South India in its meeting last inched a frontal attack against ceilings, State trading in food and a big Third Plan

Soft Spots Revealed

This reactionary offensive is revealing the soft spots. The Congress Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Sri V. V. Giri, has begun begun to advocate "a more cautious approach to the proto advocate blems of agriculture and production and issues such as land ceiling could proceed slowly.

Pandit Nehru, addressing the Congress Parliamentary Party, "stressed the need to implement the Nagpur resolu-tions in the teeth of the opposition from the vested inter-ests. He warned the members that it would be detrimental to the interests of the country and the Party, if the Congress faltered." (Hindustan 'Times, February 25)

trials ranged from five per cent to nine per cent in one day. The speculators are hav-ing a field day. We print on another page the budget organisation. The Congress



Nehru's regime there was

He refused to answer spe-

stated that "generally the Jan

The RSS has won a new

The RSS has won a new admirer and supporter in no less a person than General K. M. Carlappa. As reported in the Organiser, March 2, spea-king in the annual function of the Mangalora branch of the

Jan Sangh he said: "There have been misconceptions about the RSS that it is com-

A few weeks ago, General

Cariappa was busy in the

Punjab along with the Pa-

tiala Maharaja, Prof. Ranga,

K. M. Munshi & Co. helping

work up the campaign

against ceilings. Now down

South he is again busy ask-

ing the youth to rally under

the organisation of dark re-

Mangalore branch of the

should be remoulded on the basis of that resolution. If this needed the parting of the ways, it should be accepted. After all, the Congressmen who left the organisation after Mahatma Gandhi's assumption of leadership were not bad persons. Yet they had to go because they could not accept the change." (Times of India, March 2.)

der

make!

The above are yet only words, for, there is no organised counter-offensive, from der Nehru's regime there was no freedom for the indivi-dual." It is a clever attempt to turn the oft-repeated anti-Communist slogans of the Congress leadership against whatever progressive propo-sals it is now compelled to make! within the Congress against the well-organised offensive of reactionary elements who work from within the Congress as also from without and also through joint platforms. This is just the weakness of the situation that cific questions on the foreign the Central Executive Com- policy of the Sangh but mittee of our Party has un-Sangh supported alignment with Western democracies bederlined, which can make the Nagpur resolutions recause neutralism did not pay in the present context." main a paper affair.

SABHA-SANGH-CARIAPPA

A SITUATION of confusion and division inside the Congress is the ideal opportucongress is the ideal opportu-nity for the reactionary com-munal organisations to raise their heads and make a bid to stir up and rally the reaction-ary elements. They are not missing their chance.

Prof. Ram Singh in his presidential address to the 44th session of the Hindu Mahasabha stated on February 20 in Banaras that the Nagpur resobanaras that the Nagpur reso-lution of the Congress on agrarian policy was "seriously defective to the extent of being impracticable....The ex-periment is bound to meet with failure and frustratio would follow.... I may warn the Congress Government not to take any hasty step in this

The Mahasabha chief did The Mahasabha chief did not stop here but went over to propagandising that the worst failure of the Congress exhibited itself in its foreign policy which was based on **Panch Shila** and its corol-lary of "non-alignment with lary of "non-alignment with one or the other of the Power blocs." He concluded by popu-larising the old Dulles thesis that "strict neutrality was an impossibility in the present closely-knit world. India had made enemy of every nation and had been left without any friend or ally."

Offensive Against Foreign Policy

It is a very bold attempt to exploit the vested inter-ests concern over land reforms to mount an offens against our independent foreign policy itself. The pro-feudal is unmasking his pro-imperialist self.

The Jan Sangh chief has also got busy with the same musical score, only louder and more clear-cut. The India more clear-cut. The India Press Agency states that Sri Devi Prasad Ghosh, the Sangh

President, said in Madras on February 25 that "the Con-gress was trying to bring about a Chinese type of socie-try in India based on compute distance of the society of the society facturing paints, mineral pro-ducts calabet bats. ty in India based on compulducts, cricket bats, surgical instruments and knitted pro-ducts. The Minister admitted Asked what his alternative that the factories to Congress policies was he "preferred the status quo with were running at a profit but advanced sangh, he said, stood for pri-vate ownership and individual liberty and alleged that "unthe astor the astounding argument that their transfer was being con-sidered to encourage the private sector

The above is symptomatic and no isolated incident. Speaking on the Budget, Denocratic National Conference leader Dogra stated that agri-cultural and industrial production was declining and unemployment increasing and he characterised the situation he characterised the situation as "grim, hopeless and des-perate." He suggested that the whole house sit as one com-mittee and find ways and means of arresting "further driff, towards disastar" The means of arresting drift towards disaster spokesmen of the Bakshi Gov-ernment talked complacence and spurned all offers of cooperation.

It is power-drugged politicians who run Kashmir and under them corruption and chaos reign supreme. It is the duty of the rest of us in India not to let such a criti-cal situation prevail in our border State.

munal.... The Sangh stands for pure and selfless service of the nation and all the allega-FRONT OF tions levelled against it are only deliberate attempts of STRUGGLE interested people motivated by some sort of selfishness....

THE struggle for food at fair prices and against the unjust betterment levy con-tinues unabated in Punjab. But what is of paramount importance is the creation of the portance is the creation of the spirit of service of the mother-land. I find that this much-felt need is filled by the RSS. Inces unabated in Punjab. Its strength has already made the Chandigarh Ministers come rushing to New Delhi for consultations. "You are all developing in exactly the way in which I have always liked the youth to develop. This is indeed my

Even the bourgeois Press has to feature the struggle. Confabulations are going on inside the Congress circles as to how to deal with the situation where the popular opinion is turning against them and a rising mass movement is on. The struggling peasantry is rapidly advancing towards winning its just demands.

Equally good news comes from Calcutta whose tradi-tionally militant students have been patiently and peahave been patiently and pea-cefully fighting a long strug-gle against the increase in college fees. Their demands have been accepted by the privately-run colleges but the Government colleges have yet to see sense. to see sense.

It is noteworthy that des-pite the lakhs the Congress leaders and Government spend upon building up the "Student's Federation that has won the Celevite University Won the Calcutta University Union elections with record majority. It is not in Calcu-tta alone that the students are going Left in a big way. The latest news is that the Student's Federation has also won in the Allahabad Univer-

-P. C. JOSHI the Government admitted that March 3, 1959

INSIDE OUR NEWS & Economy

U. S. OFFICIALS GET JITTERY

Impact Of Soviet Aid On India

progress.

THE United States Gov- which the two aids help to ernment has suggested develop. For, on one side is the Government of In- the Bhilai project, to proto the Government of India that in future it would progressively like aid to this country to be available mainly for large specific projects instead of being allocated as at present. for a large number of program-mes, said the Hindustan Times on March 2.

Recalling the testimony of the U. S. Under-Secre-tary of State, Douglas Dillon, before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the newspaper reported that Mr. Dillon pleaded for this change in pattern so that the projects might be named as U. S. projects thus "making a greater impact on the receiving country." Citing the example of the Soviet assistance which had been rendered for specific projects, he said that "by operating that way the Soviets have gained a lot of propaganda advantage."

THE TRUTH

What however, is the truth? Is it correct, as Mr. Dillon suggests, that the secret behind the Soviet's evident popularity in the sphere of economic assist-ance consists in its being earmarked for specific projects? If it is so, how is it that assistance, rendered by countries like Canada, or even the USA (for the USA. too, has not been wanting in very often giving aid strictly for specific proiects) has not won an equal acclamation?

To give a few examples of the U.S. assistance of this nature, it is sufficient to recall that only a few months ago the U.S. Development Loan Fund----a rovernmental agency granted to India a loan of \$100 million, 33 per cent of which was earmarked for se by the private sector. Similarly, the World Bank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank have given a number of loans for specific expansion projects of the Tata and Indian Iron and Steel Companies. Hence to suggest that the USA has all along been allocating funds to India on an omnibus basis—regardless of the use to which they could be put by the Indian Govern--is a travesty of truth.

What then is the reason behind the enormous goodwill that the Solvet offers are able to generate among the people, and the "un-easiness" which they instinctively begin to feel when the U.S. Government husiness circles evince an extraordinary interest in the country?Principally, consists in the contrasting character of the lines

Hence, in looking for the reasons behind the impact International Cooperation Agency to cover risks due of the Soviet assistance on the Indian mind in super-ficialities like the "package to appropriation or nation-alisation for political or other reasons." (The Hinapproach" Mr. Dillon is merely helping to expose the bankruptcy of his thodustan Times, March 2) As for the President's ught, for, no mere rearrangement of the outward ap-pearance of the U.S. offers, which his "new look" policy might initiate, will be able scheme, the inclusion in it of demands for tax incentives, "like avoidance of double taxation, enjoyment of tax concessions offered to divest them of their hard kernel of essentially serving to foreign capital and corthe ends of imperialism allowance in the U.S. for income Imperialism in the United States being but another purposes to the accelerated depreciation allowed by unname for expansionist private enterprise, it is to-wards pulverising the re-sistance of the Indian Govderdeveloped countries to foreign investors," etc., is enough indication of the ernment to the acceptance weather that too-much of its irksome terms that the entire force of U.S. dipcamaraderie with U. S. capital might have in store lomacy has been lately directed. It is borne out as much by the pattern of the new scheme which the U.S. for us. In view of the above is it too much to hope of our Government, and the party by which it is led, that the President is reported to massive participation of have evolved for would not now, especially in the post-Nagpur period, private investments" in the even willy-nilly succumb to development of countries like ours, as by the "new idea" believed to be under the tactics of Mr. Dillon and the interests he represents? the examination of the Administration at Wash-ington to extend "the con- March 2, 1959 ---ESSEN

MARCH 8, 1959

sity Union.



thwhile investigating what dangerous nests he has left behind inside our armed forces.

KASHMIR's economy has been backward and there

more than anywhere else one

more than anywhere else one would expect a rapid streng-thening of the public sector. Exactly the opposite is, how-ever, taking place under the

Inside the State Assembly

Bakshi Government.

INSIDE

KASHMIR

heart's work."



A MAR

duce one million tons of steel by 1961, and on the other-well, even Mr. Dil-lon will be hard put to name a single project in the public sector which the U.S. might have helped to build for the country's basic

THE DIFFERENCE

Moreover, while the Soviets have already con-tracted to set up a number tracted to set up a number of other projects—like the heavy machine - building and mining equipment plants, or the factory to produce optical glass—and propose to set up a number of others in the near future as for example the five drug units, the farthest that the U. S. financiers have lately been willing to go is colla-boration in setting up small industries, and that too if they are allowed to participate in the equity capital. The contrast in character of the projects, however, only partially explains the divergence in the people's reaction to the two aids. The terms on which they have been offered have as much contributed towards determining their attitude in this respect. For, even a layman knows the difference between 21 per cent, the rate on which the Soviet credit has, as a rule, been given, and 5 to 6, even 7 per cent, which has been the rate in respect of the U. S. governmental and bank credit.



Members of the Soviet Government Delegation with Union Food Minister A. P. Jain and Union Agriculture Minister P. S. Deshmukh.

PROMISE OF EXPANDING ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEHRU'S GLOWING TRIBUTES TO SOVIET UNION

G ROWING economic cooperation between India the Soviet Union was and highlighted by N. A. Mukhitov in his speech on behalf of the visiting Soviet Govern-ment delegation at the recep-tion given by the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society on February 26 in New Delhi.

Mukhitdinov said: "The Soviet Government with pro-found understanding and sympathy considers the task of up-lifting the national economy, which India is faced with It is reflected in the constant growth of economic cooperation bet-ween our countries."

BHILAI

"One of the most important results of this is the recent putting into operation of the first stage of the Bhilai Steel Plant," Mukhitdinov continued. "The supply of modern industrial equipment to India, participa-tion in designing and constructing plants of heavy engineering —the very basis of independent economy - successful cooperation in prospecting mineral re-

vertibility guarantee of the

NEW AGE

sources, cooperation in the field and cultural cooperation with of science and the training of our friends." national personnel of techni- N. A. Mukhitdinov conveyed cians and specialists all this still further cements the friend-

ship between our nations." "To give an example of our economic cooperation," said economic cooperation," said Mukhitdinov, "it is sufficient to mention one heavy machi-nery plant which will produce during a year the whole equipment needed for a com-plete steel plant with the capacity of one million tons of steel annually. A mining machinery plant has been designed. which upon commission ing will help to considerably increase the coal output in this country. As a result of joint efforts of the Soviet and Indian geologists large quan tities of oil were found at Cambay. The volume of economic cooperation is constantly and rapidly increasing year by year. Mutually bene equal basis between the USSR and India increased 44 times since the year of 1953."

7-YEAR PLAN

He spoke of the grandiose plan of the development of the national economy of the Soviet Union for 1959-65, approved by the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and said:

"It will not only facilitate the further rise of the welfare and ulture of the Soviet people, but will also create such conditions under which we shall be able to widen and develop economic

wishes and cordial greetings" from K. E. Vorost President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and from N. S. Khrushchov, and paid tri-bute to the work of the ISCUS.

Prime Minister Nehru attended the function and paid warm tributes to the Soviet Union in a short speech. He spoke of it as a "country we admire and look at with admiration, from whom learn and go on learning." Each country, he added, had to find its feet and not get blown away by any wind. The Soviet Union, he said, had become such a mighty Power that the destinie the world are influenced by whatever it does or does not not do.

Earlier Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew welcoming the guests on behalf of the ISCUS had stated: "As the Soviet Union embarks upon its Seven-Year Plan, everybody, even an old man like me, has a feeling that Soviet knowledge and progress will reach the highest point in the world.

"Your untiring efforts for world peace since the October Revolution are known the world over and it has become amply clear that Socialism and peace are essentially related to each other. We are all keenly waiting for the day when your efforts will bear fruit and manyour kind will usher in an era of brotherhood, equality and pro * SEE PAGE 14



PAGE THREE

Don't Barter Nation's Future

*** FROM FRONT PAGE**

ted would it cause so much jubilation and acclamation?" Coming to Budget proposals Bhupesh Gupta said on foreign assistance accounts up date indebtedness was to the tune of Rs 1 211 65 crores and for this year the Finance Minister takes credit for Rs. 337 crores on that account.

Another negative feature was deficit financing which already in the first three years of the Plan had reached Rs. 950 crores and Rs. 222 crores more are to be added to it this year, thus closely approaching already the Rs. 1,200 crore figure provided for for

the entire Plan period. Union Excise duties which in 1950-51 accounted for Rs. 67.54 crores have risen in the present budget to Rs. 325 cros—that is res—that is indirect taxation which falls on the people.

"Foreign assistance is un Deficit financing is up indirect taxation is there which has an adverse effect on the market and which is regarded as regressive by the United Nations Financial Surveys. All these are there. Well pay him tribute if you like. But mind the interests of the nation? Bhúpesh Gupta warned. He dwelt at length with

foreign assistance from the West and foreign investments and the nature of these. "It is the policy of the World Bank and American capitalists," he pointed out "not only to infiltrate into our economy but to retard and distort the development of our economy. It is disfiguring our economic growth by having joint partnership with the Indian concerns and by strengthening the private monopolist sector in our economy. These Budget proposals are a surrender and a capitulation to that line

How Will These Loans Be Repaid ?

Then, the question of repayment of loans was going to come up soon in a big way of loans already incurred repayment will have to be made as follows: 1958-59 35 crores; crores: 1961-62-Rs. 123 crores: and 1962-63-Rs. 107 cro-

Bhupesh Gupta quoted an American journal, New Re-public, December 1958, writing as follows; "The total amount of re-

payment in foreign exchan. ge due during the Third Plan period may well ex-ceed one billion (Rs. 500 crores) equalling and even exceeding the amount of foreign assistance India will eceived for the Second Plan."

He asked: "How will you manage it? How will you fulfill your obligations in the matter of repayment? On the one hand you have these loans and there are your efforts for fresh loans. 'Obviously, the Hon. Minis-

ter thinks that the Americans will be very good and write off some of the things or at least defer the time for repayment. Maybe; they may or may not give more time, but the country is heing mortgaged. We partering away the country's future when it is possible to find other alternative sources of revenue, especially by mobilising the internal re-

unutilised manpower, by using the unutilised installed capacity and above all by reorganising the trade pattern of our country so that our export trade pays for our ma-chine tool requirements at home." Showing how instead of

creating conditions for any of these things being done, Morarii Desai's Budget continued the policy of pampering the same Big Business which indulges in manipulations and frauds to cheat the public exchequer of invaluable reve-nues, Bhupesh Gupta gave documented factual instances of these malpractices.

Civil Administration Costs Up

Taking up the revenue side of the Budget he showed how revenue deficit in current year despite strong criticism from the Public Accounts Committee had gone up from Rs. 27 crores to Rs. 32 crores. And additional taxation now contemplated according to the Finance Minister's figures was Rs. 23 crores. There is an increase of Rs.

25 crores (from 197.72 crores making his recommendations, to 222.75 crores), provided for and if his calculations had under Civil Administration despite all talk of economy

drive. The economy drive Bhupesh Gupta said affects only the Grade III and Grade IV employees. For the rest the expenditure on Civil Administration goes on rising. "What is the use of talking fine language when we do not even bring down the expenditure under Civil Administration by proper economy and by reducing the salaries of high-salaried officials who are getting even today—much to our shame—Rs. 4.500, Rs. 4.000. Rs. 3,000 and so on apart from other advantages and perquisites."

In the Capital Budget he pointed out to the fact that only Rs. 25 crores has been provided for investment under capital head in the public sector. How this paltry figure fitted in with the Nagpur resolution about strengthening the public sector, Bhupesh the public sector, Bhupesh Gupta asked. "This is a paradox, paradox of profession and practice. Solve it if you

We Oppose

Every Item

The taxation part of the Budget, Bhupesh Gupta said was very serious. The Finance-Minister was very happy about it and Big Business too. "But I beg of the Congress members opposite not to feel so sure about it. I say so not because I expect them to ac-

cept my point of view.... "Here is a series of taxes: taxes on art silk, rayon varn. vegetable? products, vanaspati, levy on Khand-sari sugar, duty on cigarettes, etc. We oppose every item of this taxation. They hit the common man in one way or another."

Bhupesh Gupta said that this money could be easily found by other means, by a slight adjustment in the tax-ation at the upper level and if the Government had a mind to collect Expenditure and Wealth taxes properly. "Who gets exemptions? Kindness and generosity is sources for the reconstruction overflowing in the Treasury of the country, by using the Benches and in that usually

the Big Business is the gainer. "Who asked you to abolish this Wealth Tax? They (Big Business) have been asking for it for the last few years and now it has been done.... Then Excess Profits Tax, gone. Com-It has been abolished. pany Tax which could give

Rs. 30 crores, abolished. Now you see the whole scheme. "Where is the Kaldor Scheme? Where is Kaldor? He is gone, gone with the wind, gone under the pressure of Big Business. Kaldor had expected Wealth Tax to yield Rs. 17 to 25 crores and the Hon. Finance Minister thinks that it would give us only Rs. 12 crores or so. Kaldor expected the Expenditure Tax would get us Rs. 10 to 15 crores, but the Finance Minister thinks it will get one crore. The Hon. Minister in the Budget for this year thinks that the Gift Tax will yield Rs. 1 crore whereas Kaldor says that he would get by Gift Tax Rs. 30 crores.

"Either Kaldor was right or was not. If he was no right we should not have wasted time on his suggestions. But he had some hasis in any relevance, then I can say that the Hon. Minister completely gone back on his recommendations, or rejected them and the Kaldorian scheme has been finished, scuttled in the Treasury Benches.

"Our aim is an integrated scheme of taxation. How can we have it when we allow all these exemptions? It is a serious thing that even after the Nagpur resolution the Hon. Minister and his Cabinet colleagues should give such unabashed exemptions in fav-our of the rich who have to be tapped. The whole scheme is so palpable."

Strengthen **Public Sector**

Giving his suggestions Bhu-pesh Gupta said that the first thing was to give up the pre-sent policy of relying so heavilv on indirect taxation. 84 per cent of total revenue at present is drawn from indirect This should go and taxes. should be found. The public sector should be expanded. other Some industries should be taken over, nationalised, and in some cases the leases to British concerns should not be extended. (Leases of Calcutta Electric Company and the Tramway Company should not be extended, and if possible, certain revenue-yielding un-dertakings should be brought into the public sector and their yields or profits should be utilised for national reconstruction.

Big banks should be nationalised forthwith. They are creating havoc in our economy. Apart from en-couraging speculations in foodgrains, they are advancing money to the private sector in a manner which is harmful to our economy. They are encouraging in-flationary tendencies. These amounts should be at Gov-

ernment disposal. Some coal-mines if not the entire coal industry should be taken over. Andrew Yule, Co. control more coal than the total coal production in the public sector. Jessops should be taken over and similarly This is very important. some plantations too.



66 THE best news in India today is that its leaders are finally aware of the menace of Red China. Impres-

sed by Communism's achievements but repelled by its thods, they are now facing up to the fact that the world's most populous democracy is in crucial competition with the world's most populous dictatorship. Either they or the Chinese will become the model for Asia's awakening peoples.

This has been the underlying theme in all the talks I have had with India's top leaders, including the Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, as well as local officials."

These are the opening sentences of the first serial article entitled "A Report on India" by Averill Harriman in the Times of India of March 2. It has been simultane-ously published in the leading Anglo-American imperialist papers, the London Daily Telegraph and the New York Times. Mr. Harriman is the former Governor of New York and ex-US Ambassador to Great Britain and the USSR. He is a top U.S. Democratic leader, a prospective Presidential candidate after Eisenhower and is currently visiting India,

Pakistan, Russia and Europe. Another discovery that he made after his New Delhi talks with India's rulers is that their "feelings about Ame-

rica in the past two or three years" have "softened". Mr. Harriman is an influential and important American statesman and no mere American journalist. India is no American colony but a self-respecting independent country We must take his words seriously especially when he has violated all the decencies and courtesies which the Indian Government accords to such visiting dignitaries.

First and foremost. Pandit Nehru owes an explanation the Indian public whether Mr. Harriman has correctly reflected his views. If he has distorted them, what mea sures does he propose to take to ensure that leading American visitors do not misuse Indian hospitality. The Prime Minister's name has been bandied about. The country must know where he stands.

Secondly, Indian views on the path of India's deve-lopment, the differences among Indian parties and how they seek to solve them and lead the Indian people are our own internal affair, the concern of Indians alone and not foreigners. Dollar-drugged Harrimans are used to throwing their weight about, lecturing and dictating to weak nations, seeking their "aid". Will our proud and great country, however needy and underdeveloped, let a visiting American imperialist leader violate Panch Shila on our own native soil?

Thirdly, the proclaimed policy of the Indian Govern-ment towards China is one of friendship, mutual trust and cooperation. The popular attitude towards the People's Republic of China is embodied in the slogan Hindi-Chin Bhai-Bhai. It is open American policy to soil India-China relations and break our solidarity against the imperialist colonisers and warmongers. Can we let a leading Ameri-can statesman cast doubts about the sincerity and stability of our independent foreign policy, sell the American impe-rialist line of "menace of China" against the Indian national line of friendship with China and Afro-Asian solidarity against colonial enslavement and for world peace?

Mr. Harriman in the tone of the true American imperialist has referred to Kerala as "where the Communis have come to power by exploiting the discontent of a suddenly impatient people." How is it the concern of a fore-ign American whom the people of Kerala elect as their Government? The American brand of "democracy" cannot stomach the Communists being elected as the legal Government in any part of our country even under an orthodox bourgeois constitution through the free vote of the people. Anti-Communism is the American slogan not only to turn India against China, but also to divide Indians themselves. This is neither respect for Indian democracy nor independence but gross interference against both.

India's traditional hospitality has been arrogantly abused and our national dignitudy has been allogandy U.S. front-rank statesman. We call upon India's Prime Minister to promptly act in defence of India's honour and dignity, not let imperialist foreigners interefer in our inter-nal affairs, and save our foreign policy from being discre-dited and slandered. This is no partisan but national demand.

public sector which will stren-gthen our economy and en-

able us. if I may use the words

of the Prime Minister, to get

at strategic heights in our economy—and it will give us

more revenue to be channel-

"Here it is not merely a

(March 4) ********

"This is how we create a question of strengthening what is already existing. It is a question of taking over a question of taking over something. Taking over may take various forms. You can use the Industries (Develop-ment and Regulation) Act for getting control of units in led to planned development. private sector which are not

> * SEE PAGE 13 MARCH 8, 1959

FOR FINAL ASSAULT ON IMPERIALISM, FOR PEACE

It was just over a year since the historic Cairo ments, sending of delegations, Conference of the Afro-Asian peoples. And now, in holding meetings and observ-February 1959, we were meeting, again in Cairo, as the Council, appointed by the Conference, to review our work and plan for the future.

ences.

action.

pressive red through the

T had been a year of great Lebanon and Jordan." for the Cairo spirit, for Afro-Asian solidarity, for national

(UAR) in his Presidential

address: "Much has been done and much has taken place since we last met in Cairo: colonies have emerged as independent States: national movements have been given an impetus and have gained ground; nations have advanced: and events have occurred which to say the least, have caused imperialism to alter, if not to

revise, its policies." Smt. Rameshwa Smt. Rameshwari Nehru (India), Vice-President of the Council, in what was considered by many as the key-note address of the session, stressed the vital significance of the Afro-Asian Peoples'

"Millions upon millions of our people raised their voice test against injustice and aggression, forgetting the differences of race, creed or colour or of ideologies or the physical distances separated them. It was the united challenge given to the aggressors which sucthe aggressors which suc-ceeded in averting the great dangers to which the aggrieved countries were exposed. The unity of our two conti-nents helped Indonesia to defeat the foreign-supported 'rebellion'. The unity of our two continents helped the Iragi people to defend their revolution from the threats of intervention. It was again the same force of unity which helped to bring about the withdrawal of American and British troops from

A N All-India Conference for Afro-Asian Solida-rity will be held at Calcutta from April 2 to 5, 1959, to voice united Indian opinior on the most urgent ques-tions of peace and independence. The Conference will chalk out a programme for the strengthening of Afro-Asian solidarity and international cooperation in the cultural, economic, social and political fields. Independent India work-

ing for peace and freedom. has contributed her best to forging and strengthening this new solidarity of the Asian and African peoples. This new movement for Afro-Asian solidarity—symbolised in the great Governmental Conferences of Bandung and Accra and in the People's Conferences of Cairo and Accra—has already been playing a vital role in stabilising world peace and it holds immense promise for the future. We are with ing today a new era of emancipati

ed a memorable role Fast

But imperialism, though forced to reckon with the formidable united forces of peace and freedom, is stubbornly clinging to its old ways. Tension in the Far remains at a high pitch. The independence of some of the Arab peoples remains in peril. The re-pression and tortures in Africa continue to be ominous and a serious danger to world peace. All attempts to reach an acceptable agreement for ending nuclear tests for all time have failed so far. This is the grim world picture before us today. Systematic attempts have

independence and world pea-ce. —had strengthened and car-Said Mr. Anwar El-Sadat ried forward the spirit of the Bandung and Cairo Confer-

> unite the Afro-Asian peoples more firmly than ever. The Conferences of Afro-Asian

holding meetings and observ-ing solidarity days on a num-

ber of urgent questions. Apart from the political issues, which naturally claimed "the overwhelming atten-Above all, during 1958, Afri-ca had come into its own and the two Accra Conferences— been done also in the economic. cultural and social fields -of which the Afro-Asian Conferences of Chambers of Commerce, of Writers and of Our activities had helped to Plans are afoot for the holding of an Afro-Asian Women's

Conference this year. A monthly Bulletin and a Writers (Tashkent, October Quarterly Review had started 1958), of Chambers of Com-merce (Cairo, December 1958) and of Youth (Cairo, Febru-the Indian member of the

lar aims and to decide on the date and place for the next Conference. An immense amount of work

was done by the Commissions -both organisational and political. And at the end, each one of the representatives of the 40 countries participating felt that a real new chapter had opened to take the movement ahead, building on the victories of the past year, and taking into account the realities of today and the perspectives ahead. The organisation of the

movement was examined in detail. A constitution for the organisation was prepared

Afro-Asian Solidarity Council's Programme Of Action

ted, beyond any doubt, that "Afro-Asian Solidarity has been transformed into real

Precisely because of our victories more and more was being expected of the movement and of its permanent

organisation. Secretary-General Youssef el-Sebai, in his speech at the opening session of the Council, stressed the need for the expansion of the activities of the organisation to meet the demands of the peoples of each country-who increas-ingly looked towards the movement for assistance, moral and material, at every crucial movement in their struggle. The Report of the Perma-

'ary 1959) had been in the Permanent Secretariat. words of the Council's Decla-ration "death blows to impe-rialism" and had demonstra-sed its opinion that what it had done was insufficient, taking into account the vast growth of the movement. Secretary-General Sebai urged all delegates to help to improve the work of the Secre-tariat by making criticisms and suggestions.

The Council meant business: on the first day itself, it divi-ded into three Commissions: the first, to discuss the constiution and the budget of the organisation; the second, to discuss the Secretariat's Report, work out a plan for future work and prepare such resolutions on political as were necessary; the third, to examine the development of the national committees of the movement and to take nent Secretariat was an im- steps to help them forward, to record of activity work out means of cooperation the issuing of state- with organisations with simi-

and adopted—a sign of the realisation among all that the Afro-Asian solidarity move-ment had come to stay. Various steps were decided upon for the promotion of solidarity committees in countries where they do not exist.

Of particular significance is the decision in regard to cooperation with the Secre-tariat of the African People's Conference at Accra and all organisations with similar aims: representa-tives will be exchanged; complete cooperation in the realisation of resolutions; exchange of publications: cooperation in directing public opinion in connection with the cause of freedom, peace and equality; and so

on. It must have made the blood of the imperialists, who hoped for an Accra-Cairo conflict, boil to see that the General Secretary of the Accra Con-

6 by ROMESH CHANDRA

ference was himself a leading participant in the cil session.

A programme of publications has been envisaged. Concrete steps have been taken to strengthen the personnel of the Secretariat and the staff.

A number of campaigns have been planned which include those on Algeria, Kamerun, Belgian Congo, Portuguese Colonies in Africa, racial discrimination in South Africa, a "Hands-Off China Day" against American imperialism; for the release of solidarity workers like Maulana Bhashani and Faiz Ahmed Faiz; against aggres-sive military pacts like the Baghdad and Seato Pacts, the proposed NEATO and bilateral pacts; for peace and disarm-ament and banning of nuclear tests and weapons especially supporting the Fifth World supporting the Fifth World Conference Against A & H-Bombs (at Hiroshima this August) and the World Peace Council Session (at Stock-holm this May).

The main document—the Declaration—stresses the great victories achieved by the unity of anti-imperialist forces and warns against the desperate last-ditch battle being waged by imperialism. Pinpointing clearly the major demands embodied in the various resodemands lutions, the Declaration concludes by appealing to the peoples of Asia and Africa and of the rest of the world "to unite and intensify their common struggle for the final assault on imperialism and for the establishment of lasting beace.

We left Cairo full of hope and confidence. The Council decisions guarantee that next year will take the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement yet further forward.

Appeal For National Conference

Country `after country in Asia and Africa has sma-shed its chains and won its freedom. Aggressive wars and threat of war, attacks on national independence, have been scotched and ended, one after the other. In all these successes for the cause of peace and independence, India has playbeen made in the past to defeat our independent policy in world affairs. That game has not been given up and we have to be lant more than ever now in the face of new threats against our country from across the borders, where military dictatorship strengthened by foreign military aid allows us no room for complace

Now is the hour for action on the widest possible scale by all who love peace and freedom in Asia and Africa and everywhere, Now is the moment for In-dia to act as it has never acted before to fulfil the hopes which hundreds of millions place in it against the forces of war and imnorialier

With this end in view and confident of the power of the peoples to ensure peace and independence for all times, the Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity Solidarity has taken the initiative to sponsor the

All-India Conference for Afro-Asian Solidarity, in cooperation with all other bodies and individuals who subscribe to the aims of the Conference.

We appeal to all organi-sations and individuals who stand for peace and inde-pendence, for Afro-Asian solidarity, to give the Conference their fullest support, to participate in it as delegates, to join its Reception Committee and to contribute liberally to its funds. Signatories to the Appeal are:

Smt. Rameshwari Nehru, Dr. Anup Singh, M.P., Sri M. Govinda Reddy, M.P., Diwan Chaman Lal. M.P. Dr. Triguna Sen (Mayor of Calcutta), Sri A. Kales Rao (Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Hyderabad), Sri N. G. Ran-Hyderabad), Sri N. G. Ran-ga, M.P., Prof. A. R. Wadia, M.P., Choudhry Brahm Frakash, M.P., Sri A. K. Gopalan, M.P., Sri Indulal Yajnik, M.P., Sri Bhupesh

Gupta, M.P., Smt. Ila Pal-choudhuri, M.P., Sri Radha Raman, MP Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray, M.P., Sri Man-gal Das Pakvasa, Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir. M.P., Pandit Sunderlal, Sri R. K. Patil, Sri Mathuradas Mathur, M.P., Sri M. H. S. Nihal Singh, M.P., Sri V.K. Dhage, M.P., Dr. Waman S. Barlingay, M.P., Sri Naravanan Nair M.P. Sardar Udham Singh Nagoke, M.P., Sri N. R. M. Swamy, M.P., Sri Nawab Singh Chauhan MP. Sri MH Samuel MP Sri-Bhagirathi Mahapatra, M.P., Sardar Bahadur Singh, M.P., Sri Ramesh Chander Vyas, M.P., Sri Panna Lal Barupal, M.P., Sardar Ighal Singh, M.P. Sri Deen Bandhu Parmar, M.P., Sri Deen Shobha Ram, M.P., Sri P.B. Bhogii Bhai, M.P., Sri Bhau Sahib Hirey, M.L.A., Maj.-Gen. S. S. Sokhey, Sri P. K. Atre, Sri P. B. Satputey, Sri B. M. Gaikwad, Sri Samiullah Khan, Sri A. B. Bardhan, Dr. Gyan Chand and others

NEW AGE

Food Situation Will Become Alarming If Government Does Not Change Its Policies

The text of the resolution on the Food Situation adopted by the Central Executive Committee of the Com-munist Party of India at its meeting in Delhi from February 21 to 25 reads:

THE Central Executive L Committee of the Commu-nist Party of India expresses its deep concern over the food situation in the country.

Although harvesting of the started main paddy crop started two months ago, the price of foodgrains has not registered any appreciable fall in the greater part of the country. In the background of the fact

that the Government has im-ported four million tons of foodns this year and together with the carry-over from last year's imported stocks and this year's harvested foodgrains the country has a stock of about 68 million tons of foodgrains it is clear that the situation has been brought about entirely by the anti-social activities of hoarders aided by the policies of the Government

The tragedy of the situation brought out in all its magnitude in the fact that the Central Government has had to supply 1.1 lakh tons to the sur-plus State of Punjab for three onths with the promise to uply more. Even this has supply more. Even this has not brought down the price of per cent over the harvest price. The tragedy is further burged. wheat which has increased 100 tragedy is further brought out by the fact that the Central Government has had to supply to West Bengal over two lakh tons more than was estimated as the State's deficit by the West Bengal Govern-Faced with the rising tide of

mass struggles against these

irst with aluminium

- ACSR (Aluminium Cable Steel Reinforced)
- AAC (All-Alumini um Cables)
- ALIND ALL-WEA THER (for HSOS applications)
- ALIND KER-AL-LITE building wire for house and factory wiring.



INDUSTRIES LIMITED KUNDARA HIRAKUD KERALA ORISSA Managing Agents: sayce Bros. (Trav.) Private Ltd. soaring prices, the Government of India in November last announced the acceptance in principle of State trading in foodgrains. The Communist Party ply of foodgrains at reasonable of India welcomed this anprices.

nouncement. It may be recalled that the Communist Party demanded State trading in foodgrains even in its resolution adopted at the Palghat Congress of the Party and the National Council of the in its Madras meeting held in October last year em phasised that without State trading in foodgrains neither the peasant could be saved

************************************** CHINESE METHOD:

ing the same.

N. PRASADA RAO. General Secretary of the All-India Kisan Sabha writes: Sri Kaki Lakshma Reddi, Branch Secretary of the Committee of the Communist Party in Ravipadu nillage Suryapet Taluk, Nallagonda District, Andhra Pradesh, had attempted to grow rice in a small plot according to the Chinese methods. A similar attempt had been made by Sri A. Venkata Reddi, Communist leader of Surya-pet Taluk, in Ramannapeta nillage.

The results achieved are stupendous. As they do not fully know what the Chin-ese method is in its entirely and as they are guided mostly by newspaper reports, also, as their resources are limited they could not avoid certain losses. still, after about half the crop is lost, Sri Lakshma Reddi got an yield which to about 322 maunds per acre. This is eight times the normal yield of the flield of 40 maunds per acre. If the losses were not incurred, the yield in the experimental plot would beén more than 20 have times the normal yield. Sri Lakshma Reddi writes as follows about his expe-

rience: I saw in Visalaandhra, (Telugu Communist daily), in first week of October, the news-item regarding Chinese crops. I then decided to experiment with similar trans-plantation. On October 5 and 6, I dug half a cent of land (24 square yards) in stand-ing water and put soft earth from a neighbouring plot, four inches deep layer. One cartload of compost, four headloads of Vempali (green manute), four pounds of groundnut cake and four pounds of super-phosphates were put in the plot. On October 7. we trans-

planted crop from a neigh-bouring plot of about six cents (288 sq. yards), the plants numbering about 11,000. The plants were in flowering at that time.

Besides the labourers working for pulling out and carrying the plants, eight labourers were needed for transplanting alone in this half cent of land. These eight labourers took half a day to do the transplanting. From the second day of

this transplantation, the leaves began to turn yellow. We then mixed four pounds of ammonium sulphate in water and drained it into the fields. The crops again turn-ed greenish and began to

within ten days the crop in this experimental plot not only became greener than the crop in the neighbouring field, but it also grew one foot taller than the other. Passers-by used to feel the crop and say that this would give a good yield. The plants grew so close that sticks could not be thrust into it. The ears of grain came out meek later than in the other field. There was 50 the per cent increase in grains. Each ear had 200 to wri 350 grains in it. We had to on. stand on the field bund on

We planted Krishna Katuto this and also due to the cing. By the second day, it had fallen by half a yard. were planted. The crop is grawing well. It is just now f were ripe then. Because light and air could not freely pass inside, the stems began rot-ting and the crop and the ears began to dry up. were planted. The crop is grawing well. It is just now flowering, Every week we are watering the plot. I will write about the yield when it is gathered. (The letter written on January 21 Let Y

NEW AGE

labourers

Andhra Experience

Within ten days the crop

kalu, whose stem is hollow ash, four pounds of super and leaves are heavy: due phosphate, four pounds of

Then we reaped the crop and threshed it. The grains in the ears which were good (the outer ring crop was good) and half the grains that were ripe in the crop inside, were gathered and the total yield amounted to 84 seers and eight bundles o hay [52 seers is one maund]. This works out to over 320 maunds on an acre.

Learning the lessons from this experience, I am start-ing work on the summer crop on 12 sq. yards. In my backyard we have dug 18 inches deep and removed the soil completely. We kept the pit dry for 15 days. Then we filled it with pati mannu (rich soil) and cowdung in layers and for every layer we have put two parts of super-phosphate and one part of ammonium sulphate. We put all this manure by mixing them well and keeping the layers dry for some time. This procedure i vet over. After the whole pi is filled, we have to water it, plough it in the wet, and then put green manure. We are intending to retransplant from a neighbouring field seedlings which by that time will be one month old. I will write about the details later

I have planted groundnut high was the crop. In the same manner. First, the soil was dug ten inches deep. Four baskets of wood ammonium sulphate and o to this and also due to the ammonium supplies the one rain water on the leaves cartload of pati mannu, were (one day it drizzled), the put in the plot. In squares of crop fell to one side. It was not possible to raise it and keep it with the aid of fen-cing. By the second day, it plot, a total of 9,720 seeds were planted. The crop is

State trading in foodgrains. The fate of the millions of consumers and peasants continues to be in the hands of the very wholesalers who have played havoc with people's food. Al-ready, with a view to sabotaging the building up of even the announced targets of stocks by the Government, and with a view to beating down the pri-ces of poor peasants, these wholesalers have stonned in some States buying from the peasants on the false allegation Many of the rice mills

The Central Executive Comnittee of the Communist Party of India warns that the situ tion will deteriorate alarmingly if the present policies are continued. It demands that the Government should take the following immediate steps arrest further deterioration: steps to

Fix fair prices of the major foodgrains at village site, in addition to the maximum price.

Fix the retail price which should not exceed the pro-ducer's price by 15 per cent.

S Ensure the fair price for the peasant by affording facilities to the peasant to sell affording direct to the Government at the village site and by ensuring immediate cash payment on

 Government should compulsorily procure surplus foodgrains at the fair price from the landlords.

Pending impleme full State trading in foodgrains, dealers should be made agents of Government and all purchases made by them should be under the strict control and supervision of the Government. A limit for the volume of trade which a wholesaler should do in foodgrains should be fixed so that one or a few of them will not be able to control the entire local market.

Government should open retail shops in all towns and big villages and sell food-grains at the controlled prices.

The stocks purchased by the State should first be supplied to deficit areas in the food zones.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party desires to make it clear that all these steps, however, will not constitute State trading in food-grains, which can become a reality only if the private wholesale dealers in foodgrains are totally eliminated.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party desires to point out that the banking system in our country continues to place enormous resources in the hands of speculators, despite all the steps nounced by the Government

The Central Executive Committee, therefore, demands the nationalisation of scheduled banks as one of the most essential steps for placing adequate resources in the hands of the Government for State trading in foodgrains and for pre-venting the utilisation of these resources for speculative pur-

MARCH 8, 1959

Communist Party's Land Reforms Week In Andhra

ago, Andhra Pradesh had squads which have gone out witnessed pad yatras by Ministers and Congress leaders. As everyone knows. these pad yatras went "unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

But today Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a different kind of pad vatra, Squads of Communist and Kisan Sabha workers, their strength varying from ten to hundred members, have gone round the villages for days, walking miles and miles, holding scores of meetings, addressing thousands of people. The message they carried to the people everywhere was : agi-tate for radical land reforms. oppose the pseudo-reforms proposed by the Congress Government

Mass Contact

Reports are pouring in from. every Taluk, every District throughout the State about

The

forms Week.

KISAN SABHA SESSION POSTPONED

HE Sixteenth Annual Reception Committee Session of the All-India Kisan Sabha which was scheduled to be held from AIKS office-bearers a scheduled to be held from April 3 to 12 will now be held from April 25 to May 3, 1959, at Mayavaram in Tanjore District, says an announcement from the AIKS office. The Central Kisan Council will meet from April 25 to 28, the the Delegates' Session from April 29 to May 2 and the open rally will be held on May 3.

The postponement has been necessitated, says the announcement, in view of the ensuing municipal elections in Tamilnad in which all the kisan comrades in State will be engaged the the request

In view of these develop ments, it was decided to postpone the session for three weeks. The announcement also says that the Central Kisan Council will NOT meet from March 6, 1959, in Perinthalmanna. The date and venue will be announced latter.



wholesale dealers. Although nearly four months During the last one month, have elapsed since this policy the Government has fixed prideclaration by the Government of India, it is yet to formulate ces of many varieties of foodgrains and announced its inpractical steps for implement-

tention of compulsorily procuring ten to twenty per cent The pronouncements of resof the purchases by the wholeponsible Ministers, however, make it clear that the only steps the Government contemplates are licensing of wholesale tra-

sale dealers and millers. All these steps make a mockery of the declared policy of

Resolution Of The C.E.C. from the exploitation of the ders, fixation of wholesale prisharks of the market nor could ces and the building up of lar-the consumer be assured sup- ger buffer stocks of foodgrains ger buffer stocks of foodgrains by Government through purch-ases from the millers and

that the peasants refuse to sell. also been closed.

ONLY a couple of months the experiences of these of the Communist Party of India to observe a "Land Re-

> As they turned out, these yatras not only propagated land reforms. People in their hundreds flocked to the squads everywhere, poured out their grievances and implored them to take up their case and so on. Real, live contact with the people was established during the yatras and the squad members came back enthused, inspired and determined to pursue their mass activity.

Response

Here is just one report from Podili Taluq of Nellore Dis-trict to show the experience of the squads.

The propaganda squad here, its strength varying from 25 to 50, started on its yatra on January 30, went

postpone the session by three weeks. AIKS office-bearers and some members of the Cen tral Kisan Council who dis-cussed this question also took into consideration the anti-hetterment levy satvagraha launched by the Punjab Kisan Sabha and the arrests of hundreds of Kisan Sabha leaders and cadres and warrants against many others.

round seventy-eight villages for thirteen days, travelled 170 miles and held 80 public meetings in which they ad dressed over 30,000 people.

In the squad was the Legisator from that constituency. Communist leaders of the Taluq, ordinary Party mem-bers, kisan and agricultural labour cadres and ordinary people, including a twelve-year old boy and a seventyyear old peasant who said : "I don't know whether I will live for long; I want to come along with you and tell the people what I think about these land reforms." Despite his age, he walked with the squad for seven days.

Everywhere, the squad was welcomed at the entrance to the village amidst enthus-iasm; taken into the village, their food arrangements looked after and their message about land reforms was heard with attention.

Opposition To Tax Burden

A microphone was set up on a bullock-cart and with this cart in the lead, and the squad members behind holding pla cards, banners, flags, the march started. En route, in every village, they were told of the untold sufferings of the people.

The problem of fresh water wells, cultivable waste lands, construction of roads and such other problems, particular and peculiar to those villages, were narrated to the squad leaders and they were requested to intervene to get their demands

Reviewing the thirteen-day tour, a leader from the Taluq Committee of the Communist Party said :

"We learnt many invaluable lessons from this pad yatra. The squad learnt many things from the people. The squad from the people. The squad members came into personal contact and touch with the problems of each village, of ach section in every village.

"While the squad took the message of land reform to the people, the squad itself was enthused, seeing the response among the people. As the squad moved forward, its number used to increase

"The squad mainly took up and propagated the issues of land reform, banjar lands and the Nagarjunsagar Project. Kerala and China, of course, were the subjects they deal with at length in every meet-

"We also spoke on the minor irrigation projects of impor-tance to the particular area, of cultivable the drought the question lands, drought

FROM OUB COBBESPONDENT

situation and other problems and called on the people to build and strengthen the organisations in their mase own villages.'

PAD YATR

W I

FRENC

The faces of the peasants turned bright, when the Communist Party's programme of land reforms was explained to them. A peasant remarked : "if land reforms are implemented as you say, then it will be good for all." Another peasant observed : "It is not our lands that will be distributed but of those who have got huge tracts. After all, however much we struggle, we do not get enough for our families now."

A fifty-year old woman, her hands folded in appeal, said : "Four times the usual tax is being collected from me this year. Please see that this tax burden is reduced." "Why don't you come often to our village and take up our problems?" she gently our problems?" she gentl chided the Party workers.

In some villages, people were cross with the squad, for not holding public meetings there.

In another village, some people asked : We have been working in the Party for such a long time? Why are you not admitting us into the Party? Can't we join or are we not fit for joining the Party?

now, try tea with

moter at all times

add a few drops of lemon

to taste, stir and sin in

ØA

Into a piping hot cup of tea

(not milk) and sugar

the goodness of tea with

lamTea - 1 am your friend

e richness of lemon.

Yet another strange, but natural, question they asked : When are "votes" coming again? "No question of voting Congress this time. We are selling our belongings to pay taxes. That is our state of affairs.'

Taxes of about nine lakhs rupees which include arrears for the last two years are being collected in a most merciless manner and every one was heaping abuses on the Government

The thirteen-day tour was rounded off with a huge public meeting and the memoranda collected from 35 villages were submitted to the Tahsildar on the last day.

-The squad dispersed, but not before attending the Taluq Council meeting, where the experiences were reviewed and a new programme for work was chalked out.

This is only one experience. Scores of similar reports are reaching the Communist Par-ty's Provincial Headquarters in Hyderabad.

A fresh breeze is blowing in Andhra. Peasants in the villages workers in the towns. middle-class employees in the cities—they are all on the march. And the march has got off to a good start.



PST-214

LABOUR CONTRACT SOCIETIES IN KERALA ★ HIGHER WAGES, BETTER CONDITIONS : WORKERS BENEFIT **BETTER WORK AT LOWER COSTS : STATE BENEFITS**

T HE Labour Contract So-cieties, organised last year in Kerala, introduce a new popular element in national reconstruction.

The Planning Commission had suggested that itself since a major portion of the Plan expenditure was on construction works, labour on cooperative basis should utilised to the max possible extent. Labour Contract Cooperative Societies were to be organised for this and the opportunity afforded to them to undertake con-struction work on reasonable

What the Kerala Covern nent did was to take steps to implement this proposal of the Planning Commission. ding to the scheme prepared by the Governm Labour Contract Societies were to be formed in N.E.S. Block areas in the State with the Block Development Officer as Chairman, and the Societies were to consist of actual labourers as membe These Societies were to be entrusted with the oublic works in each N.E.S. lock area, costing not more

than Rs 25,000 without calling for tenders. Forty-two societies registered in 1958.

BIG BLOW

Naturally private contractractors were not happy over this development. One has to only see what they do to understand their resentment. The contractors usually spend only 40 to 50 per cent of the estimated cost on exeof the estimated cost on exe-cuting the work and pocket the other half as profits for themselves and their sub-contractors. To make the maximum profit, they ruth-lessly exploit the workers and use material of the lowest quality. The result is that generally public money is wantonly wasted and the works are badly executed.

Formation of Labour Contract Societies came as a big blow to the private contrac-tors. They led a deputation to the Government some time ago to protest against the policy of encouraging Labour Contract Cooperatives. The leader of the deputation was Kalathil Velayudhan Nair, a former Congress Public Works Minister of the erst-while Travancore-Cochin

The leaders of the Opposition parties, simultaneously started a vicious slander campaign that this was a subtle device of the Communist Party to make money for Party leaders and Party organisations. This slander found a place even in Sri Dhebar's report to the Con-gress Working Committee.

What are the advantages that have accrued to the State and the workers as a result of the formation of these conistiss?

The Government now does not have to pay any advance as it had to do when the work was being given to private contractors. Since the npetent authority of the Government has been asked to inspect the progress of the work every week and make necessary payments without delay, the work proceeds without hindrance. The Societies get all credit facilities as any other type of coope-

ratives. The workers get higher wages and better working conditions. Since they feel that it is their own respon sibility to execute the work as best as they can, the Gov-ernment also gets the full value for the money spent. An instance is that of the Pulikizh Labour Contract Society in Alleppey District. It has a membership of nearly 200. Except for the Secretary and two social workers, all other members are workers themselves. The Society has undertaken this year public works like building schools, repairing roads, lift irrigation schemes and ing a commercial canal, costing in all about Rs. 160.000.

All the members of the Society are assured of work the whole year. Unskilled workers are paid Rs. two per day as against Rs. 1.50 in other places. Skilled and semi-skilled workers like carpenters and masons get Rs. three to 3.50 as daily wages.

The same is the story of the Kazhakoottam of

Labour Contract Society in Trivandrum District. There are 174 members in the society, 95 per cent of whom are workers. The Society has undertaken this year 18 minor works, costing Rs.

struction of school buildings.

repairing tanks and canals.

HIGH STANDARD

76.000 which include

ote

The Ankamali Labour Contract Society has 300 members today. They hope to increase the membership to 1,000. The society has under-taken to execute works costing nearly three lakhs of rupees. Many of them were executed in record time and so neatly that the engineer were very much -impressed and said that no private contractor has maintained such high standards. The Society was entrusted.

with even bigger works works costing more than Rs. 25.000.

The workers get a slightly higher wage and the hours of work have been fixed as eight per day. Most of all, they get fair and good treatment. Twenty-five per cent of the profit will be distributed among the workers as bonus; the members get div dend also in addition to bonus.

Of course, this does not mean that everything is running smoothly. Any depar-ture from the old system is beset with big difficulties in the present administrative set-up. The rules and procedures as well as the training and the mental make-up of some of the officers are attuned to the old system of entrusting public works to private contractors.

Recently, the Government called a meeting of representatives of all the Labour Contract Societies along with departmental officers to discuss the practical difficulties they were facing. On the basis of this discussion, the Government is now taking necessary steps such as amending existing rules, etc., to remove all obstacles in the way of these societies.

The Governor's Address came against the background of the tremendous enthusiasm evinced the people from one end of the State to another in taking up developmental activities. While Congress Governments and leaders of that party including the topmost ones have been complaining about the lack of people's cooperation in national reconstruction work, here in this State of Kerala had been witnessed in recent days unprecedented scenes of tens of thousands of people offering shram-

dan to expand irrigation facilities to increase food production, to take electricity to the villages, etc

State

lities in the shape of technical

BOLD PROGRAMME TO TACKLE KERALA'S PROBLEMS A

FOLLOWING aré some extracts from the Governor's Address to the Kerala Legislative Assembly inaugurating its budget session

FOOD: There was famine or at least near-famine conditions prevalent in some parts of India. Naturally Kerala beng a deficit State—in fact. this State has the largest perof food deficit in India-had to share the strains and stresses of high food prices. Although there was no actual food shortage, the prices began to rise from Rs. 18 per maund far back in April to Rs. 26 in November 1958. to Rs. 26 in November 1958. This was not higher than prices ruling in other parts of India including in surplus States like Andhra and Madras

Centre Stops Supply

In accordance with the de-clared policy of the Government, we have tried to stabi lise the prices of rice by distribution through fair-price shops. This policy required the regular supply of about 20,000 regular supply of about 20,000 tons of rice to the State, to be channelled through fair-price shops, besides the quantity of available through ordinary trade channels.

Formerly, this was being supplied by the Go of India. But, since the formation of the Southern Zone in July 1957, the Gov. of India took the view that it was neither ne-cessary nor possible to sup-ply any considerable quan-free from anxlety because with the announcement of the policy of State monopoly of tity of rice to Kerala to be channelled through fairprice shops. They, therefore, gradually reduced their sup-plies from 25,000 tons to 10,000 tons for several mon-ths and then completely

stopped supply. This created a very difficult situation for my Government. Although we were told that we could buy rice from Andhra State for our purposes, we found it well nigh impossible to get any considerable quantity of rice in the open market in Andhra, because in the four Districts of Andhra which constituted the surplus area, the Government of India had entered the market and fixed a ceiling price at which they

were buying. My Government could not buy at this price, because we had no power to compel And-hra traders to sell at that rate to us. The practical result of this was the non-availability of supplies for our fairprice shops for a considerable length of time which created very difficult situation for a very difficult situation for the people in our State. After prolonged negotiations

with the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, my Government was at last able to secure some quantity of rice from Andhra Pradesh at prices to be fixed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. After the harvest in Andhra, some more purchases have been made and I hope it will be possible to run the fair-price shops as before. But the situation is not yet

wholesale trade in foodgrains, the situation has again be-come uncertain so far as the supply to Kerala is concerned. My Government entirely My Government entirely agree with the policy of State monopoly of wholesale trade in foodgrains and my Govern-ment are cooperating whole-heartedly with the Government of India in the steps they are taking to implement it. My Government are taking steps to license wholesale dea. lers and have also decided to fix wholesale prices for rice in the State. But, with all these measures, we are not still free from anxiety and that is because of the peculiar situation of Kerala... Unless we have a buffer

stock and are also able to stock and are also able to make a steady supply to the fair-price shops, it will not be possible for us to main-tain a steady price in Kerala. For this, it is obvious that we have to get a suffi-cient guantity of rice from cient quantity of rice from outside the State at reasonable controlled prices. For this, the Government of India must come to our help. I hope this special difficulty of Kerala will be appreciated....

Increasing Production

Having thus spelled out the roblem, the Governor's Address went on to say how it was being tackled Th food crisis cannot be

solved permanently unless the production of rice in Kerala is doubled or trebled. I am glad that my Government has realised the necessity for this and have taken steps to increase food production. Some success has already

been recorded in this direction My Government have devo-

ted considerable attention to the matter of developing our irrigation irrigation facilities, major, medium and minor... My Government (has) produced Master Plan for utilising th water resources of Kerala for irrigation and power produc-tion. I am sure the production of this. Master Plan will be acclaimed as an act of supre me importance by future ge-nerations, because it has given a great vision to the people and invested them with self. confidence that the problem of food can be solved even in Kerala where the deficit is of the order of 50 per cent

My Government also have realised the importance of minor irrigation projects. They have set apart more funds for minor irrigation and a campaign was started to complete as many works as possible in the course of this year itself. The people were called upon to cooperate with the efforts of the Government by offering shramdan and in all possible ways. Rules wer relaxed, procedures were sim-plified and every facility was placed at the disposal of associations of local people like panchayats, cooperative socie-ties and Karshaka Sanghams to take up minor irrigation works in their locality.

I am glad the call met with great and enthusiastic response.... It was an ins-piring sight to see young men, students, policemen and others march with pickaxes, spades and shovels to the workspots and engage themselves in manual labour for hours together in the burning sun inspired by the urge to produce more food for our people and thus serve the country ...

For maximising food pro-duction, attention has to be paid not only to irrigation but also to the improvement of methods of agriculture and supply of fertilisers, foodseeds, etc. All these can be achieved only if credit is supplied the poor cultivators on a large scale. The only sure method of achieving these objectives is the organisation of cooperatives on a mass scale. My Government, therefore proposes during the course of the coming year to initiate a big programme of organising cooperative societies of oultivators intended for the adopion of better farming me-

What Saved The Situation

UNEMPLOYMENT is too big a problem to be tackled suc cessfully during the course of two or three years, especially in a State like Kerala which has the largest number of un employed, both educated and uneducated. But I am glad that the various steps taken by the Gov-forment for the reorganisa-tion of cottage industries like coir, handloom, etc., have have to be provement in the capacity of the cooperative form of orga-nisation... the problem of the various departments to discharge their responsibilities coir, handloom, etc., have helped to stabilise employ-

ment in these sectors. It must, however, be stated frankly that the one fact that has helped us to maintain em-innumerable industries which a compension of a coopeployment with some degree of stability is the steady demand for export products like coir, cashew, pepper, etc. Ours is a State the prosperity of which depends to a very great ex-tent on the stability of demand and price for export products in the world market. started on a cooperative As long as the sole market for basis... these products were the Western countries, we were in a tion about the cooperative precarious position and great sector. That does not shut out distress was always caused to the necessity for promoting the people of Kerala by the big fluctuation in the trade and prices of these commodities.

We were facing a very critical situation in the beginning of this year, but the policy of diversification of trade followed by the Central Government has been of benefit to us also because it paved the way for the entry of East European countries also into ou port market. This has help-ed to stabilise prices and employment in a number of industries

This should not, however, give rise to any complacency. We should exert ourselves more and more for rapidly inlustrialising our country by starting big, medium and small-scale industries throughout the State and creating new employment potential. INDUSTRIES: In the field

Performance CONSTRUCTION: We have xtended the principle of cooperation also to the field of construction. I am referring to the labour contract coopeto the labour contract coope-administration suggested by rative societies which help to eliminate the contractor and his profits....My Government provide the to the elected rehis profits....My Government intend to still further widen the scope of the activities of labour contract and other cooperative societies engaged in construction, production, distribution and servicing. tasks of nation-build PLAN PROGRESS: There choose to undertake.

Better

thods and increase of production....

E. M. S. Answers **Opposition** Critics

The speeches made by the leaders of the Opposition even went to the extent of com- the responsibility to remedy parties during the debate on the Governor's Address in the Kerala Legislative Assembly have again served to mark the ernment had not made any wide gap that exists between their policies born out of anti-Communism and the aspirations of the vast majority of the people of the State.

 $\mathbf{T}_{of}^{\mathrm{HE}}$ current budget session of the Assembly and this year's Governor's Address have been significant—not only be-cause the Communist-led Government is the first Government which has lasted long enough to present a third budget for the

period that it has been in office, has been able to instil confidence in the people that what they do is to the benefit of the nation and themselves, that what they do will not go to enrich the vested interests in land and industry and the contractors who money out of every bit of de-

velopmental programme. Governor's · Address made sober estimate of the State's problems — food, unemployment, $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ industrialisation, the main among them — and made practicable and bold suggestions to face these problems. But the Opposition found no-

thing in the Address, no new statement of policy. They repeated their usual

slander that the State Government was escaping responsibi-lities by trying to put all blame on the Centre.

This charge was directed mainly against the Government's This was because the Kerala food policy. One Congress Government, despite the short member, Sri R. Raghava Men

efforts to learn how to solve this problem from States like West Bengal. Sri Raghava Menon perhaps did not realise that his proposal would have been ridi-culed by Congressmen themselves in West Bengal, the State mentioned, where people have been suffering for months under near-famine conditions created by the pro-hos arder, promiller policies of that State Govern

What They

Another of the usual slanders which was repeated again was that the Labour Contract Societies in the State were in the hands of a few Co munists and they were being used to entich the ruling party. The leaders of the Opposition have not taken Opposition have not taken kindly to what precisely has helped to enthuse the people -the elimination of contractors, the cutting of all red-tape in the sanctioning of schemes, speeding up their implementation, etc.

While the Congress leader of the Opposition, Sri P. T. Cha-cko, demanded an enquiry into the societies, PSP leader Pattom Thanu Pillai charged the Gov-ernment with encouraging all sorts of unlawful activities by members of the ruling party. He challenged that if an enquiry was held he could prove that those who were sitting in chairs of office were a set of murderers.

Sri Chacko also charged the State Government with being a propaganda vehicle of the Communist Party. He said even a part of the Governor's Address had been utilised to boost up some countries in the Soviet bloc. Sri Chacko was referring to the remark in the Governor's Address that a certain amount of stabilisation had been ensured as a result of orders from East European countries for products of the State's indus.

tries like handloom and coir. Some of these leaders repeat-ed the Nagpur resolutions of the Congerss as a formula but what they said meant in effect that the Nagpur resolutions even would not be safe in their hands, if they were left to them for implementation.

And as evidence of the democracy they champion, the PSP member Joseph Chazhikad gave the verdict: the Communist have the right to live and die out not to rule. Chief Minister E. M. S. Nam-

boodiripad's reply to the three-day debate took up the basic trends in the Opposition speeches. His 50-minute speech began with an appeal to the Opposition leaders not to allow their anti-Communis o`come in the way of finding solutions to the State's burning problems. The points the Chief Minister made ade were:. TRADE WITH EAST EU-

ROPE: The recent fall in the prices of Kerala's commercial crops was serious and the neople, the Government, th lature and the Centre had all

this situation.

But from the nicture present. ed by the leader of the Opposition, it would seem that the State Government had the final word in fixing the prices of these commodities, that the State Government was escaping all its responsibility by lay-ing the blame on the Central Government. This is not a portrayal of the truth. Did the fall in prices of the

commercial crops begin only from April 5, 1957, the day the Communists came to office? Is it a phenomenon which affects only the Kerala State? It is a problem which faces

the whole of the country and it has to be seen as such. And the Centre has to take certain

steps to meet the situation. The leader of the Opposition made fun of India's trade with the Soviet Union and East Eu ropean countries, But if this trade had not expanded, Kerala's commercial produce not be getting even the price they get today. It was in this sense that the Governor's Ad-dress referred to stabilisation.

Baseless Allegation

There is the allegation that this is to boost the Con this is to boost the Commu-nist Party. But a journal like the AICC Economic Review itself has written that India's trade with the Soviet Union and the East European countries was expanding and these markets should be utilised to develop India's trade further. If this trade was only to the penefit of the Communist Party, would the organ of the Congress have expressed such sentimente?

The market of the Socialist countries will help to expand r trade in a way beneficial to Kerala's economic advance Without in any way curtailing our trade with the West, we should be able to avail of this market. Ridiculing or obstructing it in the name of anti-Communism will not be doing the right thing by the State.

FOOD: On this issue again, the intention of the State Government is not just to blame the Centre to escape responsibility. But there are a few questions on which the Opposition leaders have to declare where they stand

G First, on the question of running fair-price shops, on which side are they? Are they with the State Government which believes that rice should be sold at cheap rate through fair-price shops? Or are they with the Centre which is against it, which demands the closing down of even the existing fairprice shops?

Second. do the leaders the Opposition agree that rice has to be imported from outside the State for distribution through the fair-price shops? It is the view of the State Govern that only then will there be enough stocks for distribution. The State Gov ernment says that the Central

unemployment on a mass scale rative basis, if adequate faci-

advice and finance are pro-vided. My Government's policy is to see that, as far as possible, small-scale industries are I have already made menthe necessity for promoting industries in the private sector. In fact, my Government are doing everything possible within its power to encourage every effort at industrialisa tion. whether it be in the public sector or private sector.

in the field of developmental activity and fulfil the Plan targets The target of expenditure in the first year of the Se-cond Five-Year Plan was Rs. 18.60 crores and the fulfilment figure stood at Rs. 10.81 crores, while the corresponding figures for the second year of the Plan were Rs. 17.90 crores and Rs.

10.04 crores, respectively. This indicates that the percentage of fulfilment has increased from 58 per cent From the data available for the first ten months of the current year, it is evident that there has been still greater progress... I hope it will be possible to reach cent per cent fulfilment in all but few departments, when the final accounts of

the year are made up. ADMINISTRATIVE RE-FORMS: My Government are examining the various recommendations of the Adminis-trative Reforms Committee and are taking steps to implement them wherever possible. The radical reorganisation of presentatives of the people at lower levels will, I am sure, build up a structure of administration which will smoothlyand ably carry out whatever tasks of nation-building we

provement in the capacity of the various departments to discharge their responsibilities

Andhra: No Fresh Taxes In Budget, While this may be quite a But They Come Before And After normal practice in any horse-trading, what is beyond the But Incy Come Defore Allo Allo and trading, what is beyond the comprehension of the ordinary people is how a political body like the Andhra Pradesh Congress Strength Reduced a non-member and how an "independent" organisation organisation

Rajasthan Bus Operators Allowed

To Continue Their Monopoly

BYDERABAD.

Usually attention during budget sessions are centred on the taxation proposals of the Government. But in Andhra, this time, when the budget session of the State Assembly began on February 16, all atten-tion was on the new political developments which had led to a number of Congressmen quitting the Congress Party and cossing the floor to sit in the Opposition.

L taxation proposals in the budget presented by the Fin-ance Minister, but that is poor consolation to the people of the State. Just the day before Minister made his budget proposals, an additional burden of Rs. 75 lakhs had been imposed through an increase

in bus-fares. And just to see that there was no scope for misunder-standing, the Finance Minister himself indicated that the gap between available resources and expenditure "will have to be met by other suitable means." What these "other means.' suitable means" are likely to be can be seen from the case of the Anantharaman Committee on the land revenue system whose report has not yet been submitted to the Government. But all indications are that the recommen- Independent. By the week-dations of this Committee will end, two more had crossed the



itself." THE NEW FARTY : The House, on the very first day of the budget session, heard the Speaker's announcement about the formation of a new group in the Assembly with 28 members—25 drawn from the Congress Party, two from the Nationalist Party (the party of Congress rebels formed three years ago) and one

taxes in the budget speech

floor, bringing the strength of ¹ the newly-formed group to 30. Then came the decision of the Praja Party, another cons-tituent of the United Congress Legislature Party, to secede from the Congress and as a result of this, two members have guit the Congress Party by now and are sitting in the

Party

Position Now Twenty-nine members having thus left the Congress Party, its strength in the Assembly, has now dropped from 214 to 185. The party week-end was : Congress-185; Communists_ and Democrats Legislature Front-37: Democratic Group-30; Socialists-16 (including the member recently elected from Gajapati-

nagaram but not yet sworn in); Independent Group-8; Praja Party-1; Praja Socialist Party-1; unattached Inde-pendents-9; Nominated-1; vacant seat-1; making a

fill the gap that has been created by the latest revolt. These efforts are in two directions : ONE, to get some of the parties to dissolve themselves, and TWO, to buy over members from some of the other parties with various inducements. These tactics are already evident in its dealings with the Nationalist Party. The dis-

ciplinary action against the members of this party was for period of three years. Now that this period is over, the Congress Party is free to take them back. But even before any formal

permission has been given by the Congress High Command, the leader of the Nationalis Party has already found his way into the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee through the back door. The Congress opened this back door to him with the decision ot take him into the APCC as the representative of the cultural sec-tion. And the Andhra Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi total of 302. The Congress Party is not sitting quiet and watching members cross the floor. It whose President the National-ist Party leader is, agreed to nominate him as its repre-sentative on the APCC. whose President the National

like the Sangeet Natak Akahas also begun its efforts to demi which gets a handsome grant from the Government, chose to send its representative on a political body. The Congress Party is at the same time dangling certain posts before a couple of Sociaist Party members and a few Independents to bring them

into its fold. About the Democratic Party in the Assembly itself, it is too premature to make any assessment of its attitude—it is still busy getting more members and consolidating its position Pressmen, politicians and other circles are all asking the same question these days

how many more will cross the BULE THROUGH CLIQUE The first week of the budget session saw the Opposition firing away at the discrimi-natory policies of the Congress Government through adjournment motions and interpella-

subject matter of one The such adjournment motion was speech made by the State bour Minister. At a meeting of top district officials of Khammam and top Congress leaders, he had told the officials to better obey the Con-gress leaders of the District since they belonged to the ruling party. Another such motion was

on a speech made by the Chief Minister himself in a town in Adilabad District where without mincing matbluntly said that people could expect development works to be undertaken in their areas only if they came through Congressmen and not through members of the Opposition parties.

The mover of these two motions expressed the fear that this attitude of the party in power would seriously circumscribe the possibilities of democratic functioning.

The Speaker disallowed both the motions. But the Opposition parties succeeded to the extent they were able to put the ruling party in the dock and bring to light the realities of Sanjiva Reddy's rule of Sanjiva Rec through a clique.

e in the second

COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKL

lan Estate, M. M.



period.

Effects Of

Price Rise

sent itself?

period.

chean.

nore time.

THE Central Government graph Office Cooperative Credit employees' case for a second instalment of interim relief was powerfully presented in the Lok Sabha by S. M. Banerji, Independent member from Kanpur. The occasion was a debate on a non-official resolution tabled by him.

A victimised Central Government employee himself and the leader of the Defence employees, Sri Banerji combined his intimate knowledge of the feelings of the employees with his trade union acumen and made out an unassailable case for this

urgently required relief. Sri Banerji told the House that of a total of 17 lakh Central Government employees according to the information furnished by the Government itself, the total number of employees receiving a salary of Rs. 100 or more per month was 243,605 and those drawing less than Rs. 100 were 1,375,742. Only 52,000 employees drew Rs. 250 or more.

Their Conditions

How were the low-paid ones

faring? Sri Banerji revealed in the Lok Sabha that on the Rail-ways itself the incidence of tuberculosis was 3,454 in Class IV, 1,078 in Class III, two in Class II and none in Class I. So, it was the unfortunate low-paid Class IV employee and also the Class III one who were being subjected to this deadly disease which thrives on malnutri-

We have no figures concern-ing dependents. The picture is undoubtedly much more alarm-

Indebtedness was growing among Class IV and Class III employees. The Central Tele-

******* AROUND ASIA ARUUINE ASIA P.)LTD. BANARAS-2 INDIE *************** MARCH 8, 1959

Union Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant went to Jaipur to inaugurate the Northern Zonal Counci meeting. On his way he dropped in at Jodhpur and there he was presented with purse of Rs. 21,000 by the Congress.

It is an interesting story -the one of this purse col-lection and it has a lot to do with the big bus opera-tors of Rajasthan and their nermits

These permits to ply buses on the various routes for carrying passengers are the Regional issued by Transport Authority for three years. They are to expire on March 31 next and the question of inviting fresh applications for issumits for the next three years is on the

This business of fresh applications is not very palatable to the big operators who have by various means continued to secure various all these years permits far in excess of what they should have got. There is one, for instance, the biggest of them all, who in the names of relatives and others controls about 80 permits. There are others who enjoy virtual monopoly over some of the most pro-fitable routes like Jodhpur-

Jodhpur-Shergarh, etc. They do not want even one new permit to be issued on these routes.

However confident they were of pulling the necessary strings to maintain their positions, calling of fresh applications, etc., carried a certain amount of risk which they wanted to eliminate altogether. So a deal, it is said, was struck. The contractors were to collect Rs. 45,000 as dona-

tions to the Congress--the purse to Pantji came out of these donations. In return they were given the guar-antee that no fresh appli-cations would be invited for granting permits.

The Regional Transport Authority also came to take the same view. By a resolution the RTA "decided that for such old routes no fresh applications need be invited and that all that needed in their case was renewal of the existing permits. Thus their virtual monopoly was protected. While talking about this

monopoly, it is necessary to know a bit about the State's Transport Department's history.

Two years ago, the All-India Conference of Road Transport Workers had heen held at Jodhpur when naliga

FTER the Nagpur Ses- Pali, Jodhpur-Nagpur, sion of the Congress, Jodhpur-Shergarh, etc. Union of the Congress, They do not want even one ritlal Gablot, a local worker and the District Organiser of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, published a booklet making out an unassailable case for nationalisation of at least the best routes. According to the facts and figures he presented, such a measure would add lakhs of rupees to the State's

revenue. The Transport Department also is understood to have prepared a scheme. The idea was that such nationalisation should com-mence from April 1, 1959. This date was chosen be-cause on that date the pernits were all to expire and if certain routes were na-tionalised on that date, no compensation would have

to be paid: The scheme had been departments and despite the lapse of lapse of about two rs, no decision has so vears. far been taken-and for obvious reasons like safe-guarding the interests of the existing bus operators. Otherwise, there is no reason why the State Gov-ernment should not have

taken any steps to initiate such a beneficial scheme. The mileage under nationalised routes in Rajasthan is about the lowest in the country-hardly a few miles. At the Conference of

Transport Ministers held at Dehradun last year this fact was sharply commented upon. U.P. and Punjab, Kerala and Bombay are all making profits out of their State Transport system. Recently the Punjab Roadways, when it operated two routes in Delhi during the routes in Delhi dui India 1958 Exhibitio 72 naye paise per mile as net profit. The profits of U.P. Roadways were about Rs. three crores last year and are expected to be more this year. If the Rajasthan Government nationalised the sixty routes that had been included in the scheme, a net profit of about two crores of rupees would have been easily possible apart from all the facilities it would have meant for the passengers.

🛧 From H. K. VYAS

But, then the bus ope would not like all this tors and the Congress Govern-ment of the State is reluctant to antagonise them-they are the ones who pay big money at the time of elections. Congress sessions

etc. Thus it is that nationalisation is put in cold storage. The Nagpur session talked about expanding the public sector. And Pandit Pant went straight from there to Jodhpur to accept a purse-made out of donations from bus-operators who did not want nation

Editorial Board AJOY GHOSH BHUPESH GUPTA P. C. JOSHI (Editor nted by D. P. Sinha at th NEW AGE PRINTING PRESS ad New Delhi, and public ry him from 7|4, Asaf Ali Ros 'Phone: 25794 Telegraphic Address : MARXBADI SUBSCRIPTION RATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE INLAND: Yearly Rs. 12-0-0; Half-yearly Rs. 6-0-0 and Quarterly Rs. 3-0-0. FORMEN: Yearly Rs. 16-0-0; Half-yearly Rs. 8-0-0. All cheques and drafts to be made payable to T. MADHAVAN and not to NEW AGE.

MARCH 8. 1959

Society, Calcutta, records a ris in the number of members tak ing loans from 987 in 1950-51 to 1,377 in 1954-55 while the amount of loan has risen from Rs. 985,240 to Rs. 2,040,000 dur-

ing the same period. Similarly the records of the East Indian Railway Emplo-yees' Cooperative Credit Society. Ltd., shows a rise from 12,153 in 1946 to 23,322 in 1955 in the number of men seeking loans while the loan amount shot up from Rs. 5,227,900 to Rs. 12,982,400 during the same

How did the price curve pre-

sent itself? In spite of the fact that the "Nehru budget" last year pro-mised a fall in prices and the Deputy Finance Minister actu-ally told the Rajya Sabha that wholesale prices had gone down already and this would be re-flected in the consumer price index in the course of three to four months, we see that these "predictions" have been belied and the prices, cruelly manipulated by the monopolists, have continued to rise.

With 1949 as the base year, the all-India consumer price index rose from 111 in April 1958 to 123 in October while the food index alone went up from 112 to 127 during the same

Such are the compelling circumstances which have given rise to the demand for the and Interim Relief.

Food is dear, disease is The Pay Commission is sit-

ting, a report may come, im-plementation will take much Hence the demand of the Central Government employees becomes irresistible.





Textile Engineering Much imore! They are fully backing the new United Union in Bombay whose president is S. M. Joshi and General Secre-Workers On The March

T HE textile engineering workers of Bombay doing mechanical and electrical work ranging from coolies, ropemen and oilers to fitters. turners. electricians and boiler attend ants have mobilised behind the Textile Engineering Committee,

Bombay. In active collaboration with their counterpart in Ahmeda-bad, the Ahmedabad Textile Engineering Mechanic Seva Mandal, they propose to orga-nise an All-India Textile Engi-neering Workers' Conference in March this year to back up their wage demands. This new awakening among

the textile engineering workers is a welcome feature and will go a long way in strengthening the textile workers' movement as a whole, specially when the textile bosses are making all efforts to attack the living and employment standards of the

So far all the Committees and Tribunals have been literally ignoring the textile engineering workers and the textile engineering workers were ignoring the unions.

Infuc's Betrayal

But the biggest shock was administered to the textile en-gineering workers of Bombay when the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh (INTUC) reached an agreement with the Bombay millowners towards the end of 1950, completely betraving the workers. The agreement reads as follows:

"(2) Each worker shall move to the next immediate higher rate of wages and the grade in which falls shall constitute that the grade of the worker.

"(3) Having ascertained the grades of the workers by this method, these grades shall be frozen or pegged for that particular n

signed This agreement was signed in spite of the favourable report of the Textile Engineering Standardisation Committee (March 1950) which clearly recognised that "the occupa-tions in the engineering section of the textile industry were similar to the corresponding occupations in the engineering industry itself." This Committee recommended incremental time rated scales for all categories of textile engineering workers in Bombay. When the Committee

commended incremental time scales, the INTUC agreed to 'frozen grades". The same has been the experience of the Ahmedabad textile engineering workers. That is why they too, revolted against the INTUC union there and despite all opposition formed the

NEW AGE

Textile Engineering Mechanic Seva Mandal.

The Textile Engineering Committee Bombay submitted um to the a detailed memorandum to the Central Textile Wage Boad in February 1958.

The Committee, in its memo that the randum, complains that the "representative" INTUC union has neglected their claims and entered into damaging agreements against them. The me-morandum says, "A representative trade union on whom is bestowed by law the right to represent all the workers of an industry, must also by law be compelled to adopt maximum democracy in its internal functioning."

They have made it clear that they are "unequivocally oppos-ed to building departmental or craft unions." They have no intention of separating themselves from the family of textile

tary S. A. Dange.

Wage Demands

They are demanding a grade of Rs. 50-2-85-21-90 for all coolies and cleaners in engineering sections. The skilled grades that they sections. The semi demanding range from Rs. 90-4-130 for boiler attendant II to Rs. 110-5-160 for cabinet-makers. The skilled according to should be placed in Rs. 150-5-180-10-200 for m ists, turners, fitters and boiler attendant class I, etc., while an electrician should reach a maximum of Rs. 225 in this very grade. For highly skilled cadre they are demanding a grade of Rs. 200-10-260. A foundry maistry, as head welder, head fitter, head turner or a head motor mechanic would come this category. under

textile We hope that unions in the country would send their engineering repre-sentatives to the Conference in March, and the Conference will strengthen the textile workers'

Patrika Bosses Out To Defeat Wage **Board Recommendations**

T is more than a month now since the employees of the Amrit Bazaar Patrika (Allahabad edition) went on a a deep game. strike led by their strong The attempt is to defeat the strike led by Amrit Bazaar Patrika Em-ployees' Union. The U.P. Working Journalists' Association ing is going on in Allahabad itself. and the entire labouring population of the city has mobilised behind these working journalicte

No one would say that the Amrit Bazaar Patrika was not wanted and was living a desperate life. The game in closing down is something differ-

The Hindi edition was closed down—as if Hindi dailies are not wanted in U.P. itself.

New Company

Takes Over

Overnight another com-pany was floated with Rs. 5,000 (imagine the amount!) from amongst the heads of the departments in Amrit Bavaar Patrika itself as share olders and directors. And a "new" paper Northern India Amrit Bazaar Patrika was started. The printing press belongs to the "old" company with its head office in Calcutta and continues to print

the new paper. Sri Tushar Kanti Ghosh wants that the employees should agree to work in the new paper and those who do not agree to do so could go. The management is playing

new wage scales proposed by the Wage Board. Hence the decision to close down "some paciation is fully backing pers" to unnerve the employees them. Round-the-clock picket- and create panic in the Board

What has happened in Al-lahabad is part of this game. The Hindi paper is closed down The English paper changes lits "new poor comname and a nany" runs the show appa-

Govt. Plays

Hide And-Seek

The workers demand that their case be referred to a Tri-

bunal. The U.P. Government says that since the Patrika head office is in Calcutta, ou U.P., it cannot do anythi outside ing. The Union Government says

that the U.P. Government should tackle the question. If is prepared to "lend its ser-vices". This game of hide-and-seek must end. It is costing the employees heavily.

A national tribunal is the only authority to which Union Government can refer this case. • We are sure that the story of

the Hindustan Standard will be repeated. The moment a reference is made, a settlement would be arrived at

PAGE ELEVEN



Railway Budget Disappoints All Sections

MORE EXPENDITURE, LESS ACHIEVEMENTS, WORKERS COMPLETELY IGNORED

In a speech generally complimentary during the general discussion on the Railway Budget Sri Asoka Mehta made a very uncomplimentary remark about Sri Jagiiyan Ram's Railway Budget speech. Sri Asoka Mehta said it was a "Max Factor picture" of the state of things that the Hon'ble Minister had given. The remark was perhaps involuntary for it does not fit with the general tenor of Sri Mehta's contribution but it served well to neatly sum up Parliament's reaction to the Railway Budget.

D EPUTY Leader of the Communist Group in the Lok Sabha A. K. Gopalan referred to the disappointme that the Railway Budget had caused among the various

"Passengers are disappointed because there is no hope of reduced overcrowding in the near future and there is no guarantee also against accidents. The business community does not feel enthused because there is nothing to indicate that goods will be carried quicker and safer. On the other hand there is a fear that a other impediment will placed on road transport in the, name of eliminating competition. As far as the railwavmen — a million strong—are concerned there is nothing except the promise of some elementary schools for their children

FROM CENTRE PAGES

ders of the Opposition?

tion. The Opposition

Government should

Government and the Opposi-

should be bought at any price.

But the Government believes

Kerala Government

of the State, the

that the State's resources are

agrees that the Andhra peasant

must get a fair price. If that

price is beyond the capacity of

the purchase. That is why the

Kerala should get rice from

Andhra at the price fixed by

the Central Government. What does the Centre says in

are necessary, building up the

ment on this basis decides to

nake purchases, the Centre

insists that it can only be at

the prices fixed by the Cen-

tre Rice is not available at

not prepared to buy it and

sumly the State. In short, it

is a dog in the manger policy.

ose rates and the Centre is

ecessary stock becomes

own responsibility.

PAGE TWELVE

ent de

says rice

subsidise

nande that

necessary help. With

millowners.

he people

The

of tightening up of the punitive measures against them."

The Second Five-Year Plan had allocated Rs. 1.125.5 crores to railways. Of these Rs. 675.82 crores had already been spent and Rs. 235 crores were going to be spent this year. There was no dearth of foreign loans and assistance as the Minister catalogued in his speech—showing that the railways had consumed far more than what was normally due to them in the form of foreign exchange in the Plan allotment.

What has been the Plan performance up-to-date? As Comrade Gopalan described it in the Lok Sabha

"The target of the Plan was to provide for an increase in the goods traffic of 42 million tons over the asses-sed goods traffic of 120 million tons at the end of the First Plan: to provide 50 per

increase in passenger traffic. 842 miles of new lines, re-newal of 8,000 miles of existing track and doubling of 1.607 miles, conversion of 265 miles from metre broad gauge, electrification of 826 route miles and procure-11.575 ment of 2.364 locos baches and 1,07,277 wagons." What has been achieved so coach far?

"New lines opened for tra-flic and under construction---698 miles; doubling open for traffic in progress—190 miles; locos—1,704; coaches — 4,801 and wagons 67,673; and track renewal 4.416 miles. Capital investment too had

risen from Rs. 860.55 crores in 1951-53 to Rs. 1,125.64 crores.

A point pressed home, therefore, from all sides in the discussion was-"Compared to expenditure the nievements are not satisfactory."

The Report showed that in the closing year there had been a fall both in goods tra-ffic as also in passenger earn-ings. In 1957-58 fall in goods traffic was to the extent of Rs. 4.62 crores. In 1958-59, it went down by Rs. 14.10 crores This decline is accompanied by increased expenditure which from Rs. 316.34 crores in 1957-58 rose to Rs. 320-21

Kalathil Velayudhan Nair

they spoke on the floor of the

workers. They swear by the

workers and at the same time

lead deputations of contrac-

These societies are of the

men. Opposition leaders seem to

consider that the tender system

is without any blemish. But is it fair to insist that workers

should compete in calling for

tenders, etc., with contractors who have all the resources and

have been in the field for 20 and 25 years. Even if the Gov-

ernment has to bear some losses

in the process. these societies

JUSTICE TO MALABAR

The State Government is not of the opinion that full justice is

being done, to Malabar in the

matter of appointments to ser-vices, etc. Quite some injustice

has been done. The Govern-

ment is prepared to discuss the

matter with the members from

Malabar and take steps to re-

One of the instances mention-

medy the situation.

have to be helped to grow.

tors!

in the name of the

The reasons given by Sri Jagjivan Ram for this decline are interesting: the poor pur-chasing power of the people due to increase in prices and the competition from road transport.

Both these arguments and the conclusions they were meant to sustain were subjected to criticism by members from different sides. While it was true that purchasing power had gone down due to rising prices, this, it was pointed out, had not affected the net volume of passenger traffic if the increasing num ber of people travelling comparatively shorter distances by buses was also taken into consideration. Irregula r i t y and late running of trains and the lack of passenger amenities were responsible for decline of j railways. of passenger traffic on

Gopalan quoted Estimates Committee Reports to show how money allotted for providing necessary minimum passenger amenities like drinking water were diverted to such items as conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge tracks and pro-viding fire-fighting equipment.

As for the real reasons for decline in goods traffic on railways it was conclusively shown in Parliament's discussion that it was not unhealthy competition from road traffic but the inefficiency and management on the railways itself which was the culprit. The speed with which goods are transported over the railways has been steadily going down. In 1951-52, on broadgauge lines the speed was 10.7 miles per hour. In 1957-58 it had come down to 9.68. Coal consumption during the same period had gone up from 8.5

to 10.64. The claims for compensation too had risen—from Rs 2.91 crores in 1951-52 to 3.27 crores in 1957-58.

"When the businessmel when the businessmell find," Gopalan said in his speech, "that not only there is delay, not only there is pilferage, not only there is waste, but there is also loss and they have to go and ask for compensation for the loss of goods in transit— they know that it is not worthwhile to take to rail transport and they have re-course to road transport."

The amount of waste that goes on on the Railways was referred to and the 1957-58 (Fortieth) Report of the Public Accounts Committee quoted as mentioning loss of Rs. 4.74 lakhs incurred on purchase of defective springs and of Rs. .23 lakhs on purchase of defective axle boxes. To these were added instances of bridges built with defective ce-ment only to be demolished later on, of sheds first built then demolished because they were considered to be of no

Speaking of labour relations railways, Gopalan said "I have many cases here. Under rule 148 of the Establishment Code about 20 persons have been dismissed in the South and about 40-50 persons in the North.... When Rule 148 is used on a large scale and people are dismissed the workers do not know what will happen to them. It is victim sation and nothing else. It is not a case of punishment. I punishment can understand punishment being given, but I cannot understand a man who has put in years of service being dis-missed even without his being charge-sheeted. He is not even told for what reason his services are being dispensed with. Even if he is told that, he is not given a change to answer the charges and prove his in

E. M. S. ANSWERS CRITICS In welfare measures, although some money was spent in the First Plan period there were some lapses. "There are about two lakh essential staf for whom no quarters have been provided. Only one-third members in the Assembly who is been provided. Only one-third hold that even Ministers should of the total number of work-

> Speaking of the practice rampant on railways of keeping men temporary, Comrade T. B. Vittal Rao pointed out that 19 per cent of workers were temporary. "Out of the 11 lakhs of railwaymen, barring about two lakhs who are casual lab-ourers we find 1,92,300 temporary men. Some of them have put in a service of have put in a service of three years. What is the justification? You have been increasing staff at the rate of about 50,000 a year. In 1956 it went up by 35,000 and this year by about 50,000. At least those who have put in more than three years should be confirmed straightaway and made perma-

On the question of granting recognition to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation the can be mentioned: the Kerala reason for denying it was Government has done its best finally stated by Sri Jagjiwan to get a Muslim Judge ap- Ram in the Rajya Sabha in pointed in the High Court and real Great Mughul style as the leader of the Muslim Lea- { follows. "What is the criterion Three members have to by me. It is decided by me. I be appointed on the Public Ser- 3 do not mince matters. I am vice Commission and the Chief Very frank. When I feel that Minister said one of them would & deserve recognition, they will { get it.'

MARCH 8, 1959

PUNJAB STRUGGLE {

FROM BACK PAGE

was shocked to find that ins tead of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, it was a satya-grahi who was replying to his phone call.

Now the police, after arresting the satyagrahis, instead of taking them to jail, are taking them to far off places and letting them off late in the night.

In reply to this repression the volunteers have intensi-fied their satyagraha and have begun to offer it not only in the District Headonly in the District Head-quarters but also in the tehsil offices. On February 24, satyagraha was offered at Moga, Muktsar, Mansa, Barnala, Dhuri and so on. At Moga more than 8,000 peasants demonstrated and 180 courted arrest: at Muktsar 46, at Mansa 101, at Barnala 81 and at Dhuri 50. Where repression has failed, neither has disruption suc-ceeded. A satyagrahi jatha was scheduled to start from small village of Sardar

Gurubanta Singh, Minister of Cooperatives. The Minister rushed to his home village to prevent the jatha. He sat in his house and on February 25. sent word to the peasant elders to go and see him. The peasants replied, "When he wanted our vote, he came to our house to ask for it. Now he sits in his house and asks us to go there." Nobody went to see the Minister. Instead they contributed Rs. 100 to the

struggle fund and sent a jatha of 20. The whole village turned up to see them off. From the Provincial Con-gress Committee Chief Darbara Singh's village, a hundred volunteers have already courted arrest and many more are coming forward.

Those who hoped to disrupt the movement are get-ting disrupted themselves. Congressmen in large numhers have begun to participate in the movement-and not only rank-and-filers but even members of Man-

dal Congress Committees. The jatha of satyagrahis in Jullundur District on March 2 was led by S. Raghbir Singh who is said to be the uncle of Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

Even District Congress officials of Jullundur have been forced to admit that "the "the tatha included some Congressmen and members of the Mandal Congress Comittees." The echo of the movement

is being heard again and aga-in in the Legislature. During the debate on the Governor' address, some Congressmen had come out against the Betterment Levy. Twelve Con-gressmen in a joint statement had demanded that the Centre should bear the main por-tion of the unproductive cost of the Bhakra-Nangal Pro-

During the discussion on the Budget, Professor Sher Singh, Independent MLA and leader of the Harlana area

'Gram : "AGRAHOTEL" AGRA HOTEL 16, Daryaganj, DELHI-7. Comfortable rooms—Courteous service—Rail and air booking—Guides for sight-seeing. Air-con-ditioned rooms—English, Indian and Vegetarian cuisine. MARCH 8, 1959

0

Whenever these facts are mentioned, the Opposition says it is to lay the blame on the Government must help in this. The Centre does not think it Centre. Why does not the Cento extend any such tre which buys four lakh tons of rice for other States supply With whom are the lea-Kerala also? The Opposition Third is the question of price, if rice has to be should be able to see the truth if it is not blinded by antibought outside the State. On Communism. this question, there is a diffe-CONGRESS RECORD: The rence of opinion between the

Opposition leader quoted some statistics about food production. It was these same gentlemen in the Opposition who had taken credit for having not for giving profits to the solved the food proble increased production during the First Plan

During the First Plan, Tra vancore-Cochin was the State spent the least of the which amount allotted for agriculture The State spent 43 per cent while the all-India percentage was 90. What were the of the Opposition doing then? They say that the Nagpur re-

solutions of the Congress been adopted to be implemenreply?: It says that fair price shops are not necessary. If the State Government thinks they ted. The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee's report came nine years ago. But it has yet to be implemented. Opposition to its the implementation of the Nagpur resolutions comes from When the State Governinside the Congress itself.

> LABOUR CONTRACT SO-CIETIES: If any discrimination is being done in favour of the Communists, let it be enquired into. But the leader of the Op-position spoke in the name of the worke

When the first steps were ed is that of the selection of 40

NEW AGE

being taken to form these Gram Sevikas. The decision was labour contract societies, the of the Public Service Commisof the Public Service Commis-sion. None from Malabar was contractors made representations to the Government ag-ainst them. The man who led among those selected. There are the deputation was none other be appointed by the Public Ser- { ers have been provided vice Commission. If any change { these." than the Congress leader, Sri former Minister). Some other is made in the decisions of the Congress members of the As-Public Service Commission sembly were also in the de-putation. Next day, of course, they create an uproar.

MUSLIM INTERESTS: The Muslim League leader raised some problems of the Muslims. The League says it stands for the interests of the Muslims. If that is so, they have to answer one question: which other Government has so well protected Muslim interests? If the League workers. The workers have to be protected from the middle has no interests other than the of the Muslims, should it not support this Government? Obviously the League's interests are not the same as those of the

> There is complaint that no Muslim Judge has been ap-pointed to the High Court. If the entire correspondence between the Central and State Government could be released, the Muslim League leader could have been told of all the facts. Still one fact ed: the Kerala

be a Muslim.

SAMPURNANAND IN TIGHT CORNER

From RAMESH SINHA

A new stage in the jockeying for power in the U.P. Cabinet and the U.P. Congress Legislature Party seems to have reached with the sudden and unexpected announcement in the State Assembly by the Chief Minister, Sri Sampurnanand that he would personally enquire into the grave charges of corruption and nepotism against his Home, Education and Information Minister, Sri Kamalapati

by this announcement be-cause all this time Sri Sampurnanand had been stoutly oppo-sing even the mention of these

Tripathi.

charges.

For a fairly long time any number of scandals and stories of corruption and bribery at the highest level have been talked about and discussed in the political circles as well as among the common people.

It was in this background that the present set of charges about "faulty designing", "wrong planning", "inefficient pitching at the dam", "purchase of machinery and material not wanted", "flictitous purchases" and "favouritism in giving contracts to the son of a Minister", whose name was taken, were levelled in the State Assembly

It was also charged that during Sri Tripathi's term as Irri-gation Minister, huge amounts of money had been drawn from the State treasury for raising

made a forceful case massed with facts and figures against the betterment levy. On March 3, when the Com-

munist Group gave notice of an issue of urgent public importance arising out of the death of Malkiyat Singh and the Chief Minister refused to make any statement on the issue, only promising to refer to it in his reply to the Budget debate, the entire opposition staged a walk-out.

The impact of the movement on the Congress back-benchers is visible. Even some leading legislators are feeling perturbed because their own mass base is being drawn in. The mood of the peasants can best be seen in what they are telling the leaders of the movement. "The Government has crushed every movement so far. If the peasantry is also cru-shed, there won't be any movement left. The Government must not be allowed to crush the Anti-Bet-terment Levy struggle."

In the coming few days, the Government is expected to intensify the already heavy repression. In these same days the peasants are determined to take their movement to new heights, they are deter-mined to win their demands: @ Release all arrested satyagrahis, stop repressi Withdraw the Ordinance for collection of Betterment Levy;

Cancel the realisation of



P EOPLE have been surprised the level of villages which never existed! Earlier when this charge had

been made the Chief Minister had vehemently denied it. But now, in the course of the debate on the budget, the Revenue and Irrigation Minister, Sri Charan Singh himself had accepted the truth of this charge.

Sri Kamlapati Tripathi, was also openly accused of having spent huge sums of money on providing extra irrigation facili ties to the people in his own constituency.

It was stated that if all the charges levelled against the then Irrigation Ministry are investigated into it would be found that several crore rupees were misused and squandered.

The Minister was also accu sed of using some costly machi-nery of the irrigation department in his own house for private purposes when Irrigation Minister.

Not even all of these charges

were entirely new. They had been mouthed before and, in any case, they were known to the people of the State.

But this time when they were made on the floor of the Assembly, the Revenue and Irrigation Minister, Sri Charan Singh kept joyously quiet and, in fact; at one time, purposefully said that all charges could not be ans-wered in the Assembly and anyone who was interested in them could see him in his office! And then the Chief Minister surprised everybody by declaring that he would personally enquire into them He had made this announcement, it is learnt now, without consulting or even informing anyone of his colleagues in the Cabinet.

What has happened suddenly for the Chief Minister to abandon his friend and supporter at this time? The an this lies in the deeper than ever crisis that has seized the Congress Ministry and the shaken position of Sri Sampurnand himself.

He has proved to be an utterly incompetent adminis-trator. Corruption and nepotism have flourished under his very nose. Some of his own near relations are sus-pected of having used his

position for their personal ends. And though today, he has suddenly turned into an ardent supporter of ceilings and the Nagpur resolution, it is known that only last year he had innited Sti Minon Masani, the present campaigner against the Nagpur resolution, to speak in a sympo-sium on democracy in Luck-now. He had himself presided over that infamous sp eech in which things were said even

against Pt. Nehru. At this time it was no more possible for him to shield his colleague whom he had been offering blanket support and protection all this time. Now he support and had to worry about saving his own position. So he made that hasty declaration in the Assembly, which, though it is a victory the people of the State, ha in fact, assured nobody. People have no faith in his enquiry. They want a judicial probe into the grave charges.

It is indeed doubtful, however, whether even this strategem is going to save him his Chief Ministership for long. From all accounts, it appears that his days as Chief Minister are numbered. Sr Tripathi will perhaps go first and then it will be his turn. The crisis in the Cabinet and the. Legislature party has never been more serious

Simple, Bold Measures Suggested

* FROM PAGE 4

properly run or which can vield revenue to the State.

"Then we must start State trading. It should be started in foodgrains and other com-modities. We shall get reve-nue and I don't think it is at **a**]] advisable to leave this matter in the hands of the private sector or industrialists and others who have been brought into the picture. We should develop State trading in major items of our export commodities like jute and tea....It is not an ideological question. Here even capitalist countries in some parts of the world do such things. take them over and you will have better deversification trade and also have plenty of revenue in order to invest for evelopment purposes."

Diversification of trade was important and neces-sary because scope for ex-panding exports to Western countries is limited and hence also the possibility of import from them for development purposes. Instead of keeping our trade with socialist countries at five per cent of the total figure trade should be developed in all directions including various non-committed countries, for instance in the Middle East.

Gold reserves and goin non-the Levy; Capitalise the cost of the project. Gold reserves and goin non-ings in the country of the order of Rs. 3,000 crores in Indian currency and about Rs. 1,700 crores in international currencies—are there. The bullion part of it should be compulsorily mobilised, borrowed against bonds. This accumulated gold could be utilised for development purpose. It would give a cushion to the economy and strengthen the foreign exchange poistion. In times of dire need we can have absolutely essential machinery, if necessary by payment in gold.

NEW AGE

ted and company deposits should be got at. Schemes men should be met—adequate should be formulated by which company deposits and reserves could be mobilised not like our army authorities, for development purposes.

Income tax on higher slabs should be stepped up and and wealth tax and expenditure like i tax should be tax should be provided for on companies as well as private ndividuals.

In field of agriculture it is essential that agrarian reforms are carried out. There should be ceiling on holdings and as much as possible land should be distributed to agricultural labourers and poor peasants. Co-ope-ration is good but I have. doubts about our co-opera tives unless and until these are preceded or accompa-nied by radical agrarian reforms which give land to the tiller. We do not think it is a good proposition that the surplus land should vest in the Panchavat. The land hunger of the peasant has to be met in order to pro-vide for the incentive to production and to see that human energy is brought into this work of production and in order to bring about an upsurge in our economy by mobilising the human sector.

We must earn a lot of more money from foreign trade Government should take a lot more hand in foreign trade. It is also very important to have real economy drive in the administration:

In defence industries we want the public sector to be strengthened. We should try to be self-sufficient in our de fence requirements. We should come out of the position where we have to rely for our armaments and equipment on Bri-tain. We should develop trade for defence, purposes with other countries, also, And simultaneously our Dividends should be restric. Own defence industries.

The demands of the army our generals going to too many Conferences in the U.K. the USA....I would not like those people to take political interest in the matter and try to make political capital."

Democratic rights and liberties should be respected. Repression taking place in Jamshedpur, in Kesoram Aills, in Punjab where people oppose the betterment levy should be stopped. Parliamen-tary institutions should be respected.

Concluding Bhupesh Gupta said that the Budget had struck at the common man and at the national economy. It had overfulfilled the hopes of Big Businessmen. Parliament should advise Morarji to retrace his steps and instead try to put the economy on an even keel by taking measures suggested to meet the present crisis of the Plan and in the context and perspective of the Third Plan.

EXAMS?

For sure success, always rely on PAGODA KEYS, contain-For Sure Success, always Fely on PAGODA KEYS, contain-ing important Questions with Answers on World History, Civics, General Knowledge, Indian Administration, Ele-mentary Economics, Current Essays, Modern Interviews, Indian Constitution, (ONE RUPEE EACH). Indian Economics, Mercantile Eace, Jurisprudence (TWO. RUPEES EACH). I.A.S. Essays, General Eng-list, & General Knowledge Papers (Es. 2.50 nP.). Landmarks in Indian Admi-nistration & Constitution (Es. 2.55 nP.).

I.A.S. lish & General Papers (Rs. 2.50 nP.). Landmarks in Indian Admi-nistration & Constitution (Rs. 2.95 nP.) Available all Bookstalls. Send mount by M.O., including There for postage The for postage

Available all 500-amount by M.O., incluame 8 nP. per ruper for postage. PAGODA PUBLICATIONS, D Laxmi Estate, Andher

PAGE THIRTEEN

TWENTY LAKHS ARE JOBLESS

CALCUTTA. March 2

been fixed at Rs. 9.48 crores or only 6.2 per cent of the total

In the draft Plan, the target

for new jobs during 1956-61 was placed at 600,000. But it

was cut down to 235,000 in the final Plan.

What is the achievement till

At the end of the third year

of the Plan very few addi-

tional employment opportuni-ties have been created, and even if the Plan picks up

maximum tempo in the next two years the total employ-

While the prospect regarding

new jobs is so dismal, at least

39.000 have been thrown out of

employment during the first three years of the State's Se-

have also resulted in large-scale

An indication of the present

retrenchment in _ mercantile

alarming state of affairs is pro-

vided by the steady increase in the number of applicants on the live registers of Employment

Exchanges in West Bengal: 1951 — 55,000; 1955 — 112,000; 1957 — 162,000; 1958 (June) —

175,000; 1958 (December)— 214,916.

this connection that according

to the estimate of the National

Same Survey, the number

on the live registers re-

present merely 20 per cent of those seeking jobs!

What has been the rate of

placements in 'new jobs? Take November 1957, to serve as an

ployment Exchanges are not at

fault because there are no jobs

te go round. The educated middle-classes

The following figures give an

gineering graduates on live re-

gisters in 1958 got jobs, nine of 125 medical graduates, 610

employment.

It should be remembered in

ment potential will not

more than 13.000!

The problem of unemployment in West Bengal has assumed alarming proportions. It is estimated by non-offi-cial experts that the total number of unemployed and under-employed is now well over twenty lakhs. It continues to swell daily, and if it goes on mounting at the pre-sent rate it will cover at least 30 lakhs or ten per cent of the total population of West Bengal in the next five years!

CCORDING to a survey in the State's Second Plan has A carried out by t Sta Government's Statistical Bureau in September, 1953, the total outlay! number of "unemployed em- In th em-that ployment-seekers" on date was placed at 10.1 lakhs—4.5 lakhs in urban and The 5.6 lakhs in rural areas. Bureau further estimated that the net annual increase in the employment-seeking population West Bengal was of the order of 120.000.

Both these estimates — the unemployment figure for 1953 and the annual rate of in-crease—tend to minimise the actual position. Nevertheless, even according to these com putations, the total number of unemployed now stands at over 16 lakhs. Though West Bengal is the

most industrialised State in India, agriculture still remains the main sector of its economy The majority of people (57.2 per cent) depend on it for their

But, it is in this sector that a crisis has been steadily matur-ing over the past decade. Naturally, the problem of unem-ployment and under-employment has become increasingly

A survey conducted by the Calcutta University in 1955 showed that 40 per cent of the total working force in rural areas were unemployed. During the past three years the problem has become still more acute as the result of periodic floods and drought. recurring food crises, mounting burdens of taxation, ing indebtedness and evictions from land.

Stagnation

In Industries Industries, which could have

relieved the growing pressure on land, are themselves in a state of stagnation and decay. Leave alone the question of establishment of new industries, many of the existing enterprises are working below capacity and a good number of smallscale and cottage industries are dying out. The handloom in-dustry, once the pride of Bengal and on which about seven Middle Classes lakh people depend even now for their living, is on the verge of collanse

No wonder that in the industrial sector, too, employment opportunities are rapidly shrink-

example. In that month regis-trations totalled 20,200, but During the First Plan period (1951-56) there was placements were only 1,126that is, just 5.6 per cent of those who had registered. The Emlarge-scale retrenchment, and the number of workers employed in registered factories fell from 654.901 to 617.739a decrease of 38,170. In the jute industry alone, about 20,000 women workers lost have been most severely affec-their jobs. ted by the growing crisis in

Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister, admitted in his budget speech of 1955-56 that "West Bengal is idea of the magnitude of the the only State in which the problem: only 25 out of 91 envolume of factory employment has been decreasing for some years no

West Bengal's. Second Plan out of 6,682 other graduates, period, therefore, opened with a 721 out of 10,711 Intermediate huge backlog of unemployment. graduates and 1,554 out of Yet the allotment for industries 32,711 matriculates.

PAGE FOURTEEN

The number of women em-loyed in various industries n West Bengal which stood at 57,000 in 1947 dropped to 38 000 in 1958. Between 1953-58, the number of women applicants on the live registers Employment Exchanges eapt up from 37,000 to 74,000. About 45 per cent of these applications belong to families with an income of less than Rs. 100 per month.

Unemployment Among Technicians

Unemployment is not confined to people with general qualifi-

graduates are without any job or underselling them due to sheer want. Some time ago the figure of such medical graduates in this State was estimated at about 17,000!

Now-a-days there is so much talk about augmenting the pool of technical personnel. But, in West Bengal, it is not easy for oma-holder to secure a job. The Statesman of December

Unemployment Threatens To

have got jobs."

the truth

nual labo

been sausned .. 200 per month.

Not Averse To

Manual Labour

It is often heard in official

circles that unemployment is so

middle-classes because they de-mand high, salaries.

widespread among the educated

to the natural growth of popu-lation. Dr. B. C. Roy himself admitted in his budget speech of 1955-56, "No blame can be laid on the rate of growth of population, for West Bengal's rate of growth is now the low-est in the whole of India."

The causes of the present malady have to be sought elsewhere.

West Bengal, which has been the traditional stronghold of British capital in this country, was literally bled white during 150 years of British rule. Even after eleven and a half years of independence, the stranglehold Quite a number of medical of British capital on the State's economy is very considerable. And with this, there has been enormous strengthening of incapital. monopoly digneous since 1947.

But there has been no expansion of the industrial sector worth the name in the course of the last eleven years. On the contrary, small-scale and cotan engineering graduate or dip- tage industries are in a state of decay. About 20 per cent to 80 per cent of the capacity of small

thrown upon the earnings of a left with only 60,000 acres of decreasing number of earners." Surplus land as against the ori-This crisis cannot be ascribed ginal estimates of 600,009 acres. And, in the name of resumption for personal cultivation, thousands of peasants are evicted from land.

Remedial

Measures

Under the present set-up in India, there can be no permanent solution to the unemployment problem.

But the Communist Party has repeatedly pointed out that even within the present set-up it is nossible to mitigate the effects of the crisis and to solve the unemployment problem in West Bengal to a certain extent if the Government adopts the follow ing measures: -

Nationalisation of British concerns. It will stop the drainage of about Rs. 20 crores every year from West Bengal and will enable the Government state's economy. to plough back the money into

Curbing the monopoly capital, especially in regard to rationalisation, clo-

sures and retrenchment. Extension of the public sector to all major industries especially foreign ex-change-earners like tea, jute,

All-round assistance to cottage, small and medium industries and their coordination with large-scale in-

Implementation of radical land reforms, rapid extensupply of adequate loans, fer tilisers, etc., bringing ten lakh acres of cultural waste land under cultivation and a deter-mined drive to raise the yield cultivation and a deterrates of the principal crops

jute mills and a number of said: "The hopes of many en- are lying idle due to acute other establishments. Severe gineering graduates raised by shortage of basic raw materials. import restrictions, slump, etc., Mr. Nehru's repeated statements The Estates Aquisition Act and Take effective steps t the discriminatory treatment meted out to Bengalis in several European and non-Bengali firms in West Bengal. @Efforts to establish trade and relations

SOVIET DELEGATION

to ignorance, slavery and colo-nial repression."

reception was given to the So-viet delegation at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by Vice-President Dr. Radhakrishnan and in the evening the Soviet delegation gave a reception at the Ashoka evening the Soviet Hotel where A. A. 'Andreeyev

"The Soviet people entertain the best feelings towards the Indian people, they wish to see friendly India a strong, powerful State with a highly deve-loped industry and flourishing agirculture.

Replying, Pandit Nehru in his speech said, "the friend-ship of India and the Indian people with the Soviet Union and the Soviet people is based not on some passing fancy or. ie passing advantage but has much deeper roots which can survive occasional diffe-rence of opinion." "I think," Prime Minister Nehru said, "that that friendship is cerfor my I hope it is good for your

for the rest of the world too.' He said the schievenorth said the achievements of the Soviet Union have been tremendous and they have become one of the remarkable stories of the world.

He recalled "the nowerful reactions" the Great October Revolution had produced in the the Great October minds of the younger generation of those days, including himself: "Ever since... we followed with the deenest interest the developments in the Soviet Union. ... We tried to understand the broad trend of this might event in human history which was a mighty event changing the face of things not only i the Soviet Union but affecting the rest of the world also pow-

erfully." "Whether we agreed or disagreed about small matters." said Sri Nehru, "at no time during this period was there the slightest feeling, if I may say so, of hostility in any section of the Indian people." "Why?" asked Sri Nehru, replying, "because, I say there was this basic feeling of friendship."

MARCH 8 1959

"Live And Let Live"

THE British Prime Minister's sojourn in the Soviet Union continues to occupy the centre of world's attention. If anything, it provides an in-contestable testimony to the of a very strong emergence public opinion demanding the easing of international tension and the consolidation of peace, on the one hand; and to the urgency for taking concrete steps towards the solution of the German problem, on the other.

blem, on the otner. While awaiting the final communique about the out-come of Macmillan's talks with the Soviet leaders important developments high-lighted by the visit and reflected in the world Press may be.

immediately discerned. They mainly indicate the flasco of the cold war policy, the positive impact of Soviet initiative on the world public opinion, and the further sharpening of contradictions within the Western Powers.

Admits, Walter Lippman: ..we have now agreed among ourselves that we can protect our vital interests in Europe while we negotiate on a number of subjec have until recently ber of subjects been re-

even Eisenhower declined to comment on the widely comdeclined to mented statement of the U.S. mented statement of the U.S. Senator Mansfield, recom-mending direct negotiations between the German Demo-cratic Republic and the Fedeal Republic of Germany, and throwing in the idea of with-drawing U. S. troops from Western Europe and of limiting atomic weapons in Central Europe—the idea which is winning increasing popularity in the U.S.

In Britain, several newspapers have approved Khrush-chov's proposal for a summit meeting. Everything should be done to have the summit meeting held (News Chronicle). The time is ripe for it (Daily Herald). Let us talk now (Reynolds News). Mr. Dulles' illness leaves the Prime Dulles' illness leaves the Annual Minister (Macmillan) in a minute position (Sunday

Even the British Government's leaders have had to talk in the same vein in the Soviet Union.

Macmillan is unrecognise ble with : "When I reflect upon the present situation in the world, I wonder whether we have not at lea great a common interest today. That common interest is est is peace. Somehow, in spite of all differences and obstacles, let us combine for Deace."

And Selwyn Lloyd to Mikoyan's 'Live and let live': "per-haps more than anybody else I support the doctrine of which Mr. Mikoyan spoke today.'

Descending from the realms of words, to down to earth politics, the next question is: Where do we stand now, as far where do we stand now, as far as any concrete step towards the solution of the East-West tension is concerned, and par-ticularly at this moment, to-wards the solution of the German problem is concern-

The recent replies from the The recent replies from the Governments of the U.S., France, Britain and the Fede-ral Republic of Germany, to the Soviet proposals of Jan-uary 10, show that the Western Powers are still behaving ostrich-like.

MARCH 8, 1959

country and I hope it is good

with agoinsing stomach paili-the result of 1000 poisoning. South Vietnam's Prime Minister Diem ordered the burning down of the buildings of the concentration camp. In the flames were burnt alive a number of desperately ill survivors who could not move. A wave of indignation has swept across Vietnam, at this most heineous crime. Worldwide protests are pouring in against this atrocity.

* FROM PAGE 3

Nothing can be farther from The Calcutta Emperity, putting an end for ever ployment Survey showed that

over 90 per cent would have been satisfied with less than Rs. On the same day, a luncheon

Another slander levelled ag-gainst educated Bengali youth is that they are averse to masaid: This big lie has been nailed down by no less a person than the Regional Director of Resettlement and Em-ployment, West Bengal.

Moreover, an investigation by the State Statistical Bureau in Calcutta showed that out of 237,100 Bengali youths out of 231,100 Bengali youths in search of jobs, as many as 168,100, i.e., 71 per cent, were prepared to take up jobs involving manual labour. But, where the number of the second where are even such jobs? The Census Report aptly summed up the situation in these words: "The crisis in employment is gradually intensifying both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, and an increasing population is being

NEW AGE

that their services are needed in was passed in 1954, but big the building up of the country landlords torpedoed land re-remain to be fulfilled. Only two forms by evading the ceiling on out of 11 Bengali students from land holdings, statutorily fixed at 25 acres per owner, through mala fide transfers, partitions, the first group who obtained an Agricultural Engnieering de-Agricultural Engileering de- mala fide transfers, partitions, economic gree from the Indian Institute etc. So the Government is now East Pakistan. of Technology at Kharagpu last year, are understood

garded as untouchable." Characteristically enough



Engulf W. Bengal dustries. **From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA** sion of irrigation facilities, cond Plan due to closures of 4, 1958, carried a report which and medium engineering firms



FIRST, - under the garb of discussing the German problem in all its aspects, they want to thrust a daggr into the G.D.R. and do away with it. Instead of leaving the pro-blem of reunification to the blem of reunification to the two German States, they want to imprese a reunification of their own choice—and on top of it, they are asking for So-viet Union's connivance in accomplishing this dark deed against the German people!

Sharp was the Soviet Prenier's retort to the Western

Powers:

no case

"We believe that this is not a matter of the four Great Powers and if we assumed such a role it would infringe the sovereignty of the two German States. This would amount to gross in-terference in the internal affairs of the German people. Of course, this does not mean that we refuse to take part in the solution of the German problem ... But in we agree to disss the question of German unification. This is a matter on the talks.

INTERNATIONAL for the German States themselves, G.D.R. and F.R. G. Let the Germans them-selves sit down at a confer-ence table and solve this problem. We will not interfere in Germany's internal affairs."

SECONDLY, the Western Powers want to confine the Foreign Ministers' Conference-to the Four Powers only. The Soviet Premier legitimately sks: "Why should one exclude other countries that fought against Hitlerite Germany?" The Soviet proposal is for the inclusion of Czechoslovakia and Poland, for instance, in the conference.

THIRDLY, the Western rejection of a direct summit meet, where the participants being the heads of governbeing the heads of govern-ment, having all the rights and responsibility for safeguarding world peace, might provide a better possibility for a speedier solution, could only mean that their idea is to drag a speedi

In this background of con crete proposals of the Soviet Union for the solution of the German problem and its determination to go ahead with it despite the West's obduracy, Macmillan's visit has brought to the fore the contradiction centered around the German problem between the Western Powers themselves.

From Bonn, A.P. reports "Adenauer is firmly against nearly all compromise plans set forth in other. Western capitals." The West Chancellor does not like re-ports of British "weakness" in dealing with the Berlin pro-German blem and he "did not like the idea of the trip" of Macmillan to Moscow.

So the Chancellor has de-cided to pay a visit to de Gau-lle "without consulting Britain previously." Angered with Britain over the "Free Trade Area", de Gaulle is expected to support the case of the West German Chancellor. But then, there is also the problem



raised by the cheana French rolled steel resulting from the devaluation of the adversely Franc, which has affected the West German suppliers and has caused a nsion between these two partners of NATO as well.

The fresh Soviet proposals, accepting a Conference even on the level of Foreign Ministers to lead to a Summit, and the reports of discussions between the Gov-ernment of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Ambassador there on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, have made it still more difficult for the Western Powers to stick to their intransigency.

And if the British Premier. after his return to London, will not drag the British Government and the West half-way towards meeting the So-viet proposals, the Western Powers will soon be finding themselves kicking in their be finding

PROTEST AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM MASSACRE

Thirty-three kilometers north of Saigon is the Phu Loi concentration camp in South Vietnam. The U.S.-supported Ngo-dinh-Diem clique has given it the name: "Central Political Training Centre." In it, six name: "Central Political Training Centre." In it, six thousand human beings—mostly former resistance members, patriots from all social strata, workers, pea-sants, students, intellectuals—condemned for their only "crime" of desiring the peaceful reunification of the fatherland, national independence and minimum freedom for a citizen, were being systematically pushed into the grave. Their food: a handful of rotten rice, soaked in lime water and a little salt. In the beginning of December, last year, screams of agony of the inmates of this hell on earth, brought the inhabitants in the surrounding areas, out of their homes. The six thousand prisoners were writhing

homes. The six thousand prisoners were writhing with agonising stomach pain-the result of food

Picture above is of a rally in Hanoi held to protest against the massacre of their compatriots.

THREAT FROM U. S.-BACKED LAOS

W HEN in July 1954, fol- horse's mouth: Laos "bolstered ference, the guns in Indo-China were silenced, the world heaved a sigh of relief. India was happy, too, for the role she had played in bringing about the settlement. Restoration of peace in Southeast Asia was our concern as well

Today, when the Geneva Agreement is being jettisoned provided for no reprisals or dis-by the Royal Laotian Govern- crimination against for moment and guns made in the USA are being mounted again, our concern should be still more. For, India had also accepted a chairmanship of the International Commission for Indo-

On February 11, this year, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Laos, Phoui Sananikone, chose to announce that Laos had completely fulfilled the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities as well as the other objectives assumed under the other agreements signed at the Geneva Conference, and that Laos would not recognise any inter-national body other than the United Nations; hence, it was no longer bound by the Geneva Agreements and the International Commission need not bother to meet again and re-

the Laotian Premier's stand, gleefully went on to express the view that the United States was now free to establish a military mission in Laos.

Immediately after the Lao-Immediately after the Lao-tian Government's repudia-tion of the Geneva Agree-ment, the United Press Infer-national's Vice-President and General Manager, Earnest H b e r k c h t, wired from Saigon: "Diplomatic quarters here felt the Laotian Governmere jett the Lautan Govern-ment must have acted only after receiving strong encour-agement from the Western agement from the Western Powers, especially the United

The U.S. imperialists are appy about their work in happy Laos. To have it right from the

lowing the Geneva Con-by timely American aids, finally ce, the guns in Indo-stood up." (New York Times, February 23).

With the direct abetment of the U.S., the Laotian Government far from fulfilling the Geneva Agreement has been vio-lating all its principal clauses. And now the Laotian Premier has the temerity to denounce the Agreement outright.

The Geneva Agreement had crimination against former members of the resistance; it had ensured their freedom and democratic rights. The Laotian Government instead, intensified reprisals and persecuted the freedom fighters, with bestial ferocity.

In flagrant violation of the final declaration of July 20, 1954 at Geneva large quantities of U.S. arms and ammunition are pouring into Laos, U.S. military bases are being built there, and U.S. military personnel arriving in increasing numbers The Laotian Governm even sent a delegation to parti-cipate in the U.S.-Thailand military manoeuvres that were held in Northern, Thailand

from February 3 to 6. The talk of Laos joining the SEATO bloc can be heard from the U.S. as well as from the U.S. lackeys in Laos. India, as a Chairman of the

sume its activities. on February 20, the spoke-men of the U.S. Department of State, indicating U.S. support to build it in the Lock in Laos. India, as a Chairman of the International Commission, must not idly stand by, while fresh plots against peace in Asia are plots against peace in Asia are being hatched. The International Commis-

sion, which had adjourned "sine die" in July last year, should resume its duties in Laos. the Laotian stooges of the U.S. imperialists must be told that there is no getting away the implementation of the Geneva Agreement.

China and North Vietnam have already spoken up. Their Foreign Ministers have de-manded a stop to the U.S. intrigues in Laos and have asked for the resumption of the duties of the International Commis-sion. Our Government should speak up unambiguously for the imnler itation of the Geneva Agreement

Against The Betterment Levy

CONTINUES UNABATED

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MOVEMENT

Seven thousand peasants of the Punjab were in jail on March 2 when the Punjab peasantry's united mass movement against the unjust betterment levy entered its second month.

D EFYING brutal repression —teargassing, lathi-char-ges, manhandling indiscrimi-nate arrests and attachment of property — the struggle which began on February 2 has assumed proportions which the Congress rulers of which the Congress rulers of Punjab had certainly not ex-Punjab nad certainly not ex-pected, which have gone be-yond the expectations even of the Kisan Sabha which had initiated the satyagraha.

Every passing day has seen more and more pea-sants coming forward seen more and more pea-sants coming forward voluntarily to court arrest and on just one day on March 2, 1,500 satyagrahis

marcu 2, 1900 to 1997 courted arrest. Two weeks after it started t spread to four more istricts, Bhatinda, Sangit spieat to inda, Sang-rur, Karnal and Rohtak and with Patiala joining the mo-vement on the 23rd, the mo-vement had gripped all the nine districts affected by the levy.

Brutal Repression

The Congress rulers, ins-tead of seeing sense and con-ceding the just demand, have totally lost their heads at this totally lost their nears at this unprecedented upsurge among the peasantry and have tried to meet it with repression of the most brutal kind.

he most brutal kind. In Dhaliwal village in Jullundur District, the poli-ce are reported to have re-sorted to firing on March 2, seriously injuring some per-sons, including' women. Communist leader Harnam Singh Chamák has said in a statement that "martial law conditions" exist in Sangrur District. District.

In Dhuri and Garnala Sub Divisions in Sangrur District, severe lathi-charges were made on peaceful satyagrahis made on peacerul satyagrams on the 25th and 26th and again on the 27th literally breaking the heads of the satyagrahis. Even the women's satyagranis, even the women's satyagrahis jatha of 16 with nine children at Sangrur was not spared by the police.

Old Man Dies Of Police Manhandling

In village Bhainimaraj in Sangrur Distrct, 70-year old Godhamal, father of Ved Per-kash who had been arrested earlier, was manhandled by the police who raided the vil-lage. The old man who was already ill has died as a result lage. The old man who was already ill has died as a result of the manhandling. He is the second victim of the repres-sion against Anti-Betterment the first. Mal-Levy struggle—the first, Mal-kiyat Singh of Kandola Kalan in Jullundur District died of prieumonia in jail as a result of the callous negligence of the authorities.

he authorities. Truckloads of armed po-lice are rushing from village to village in search of Com-munist and Kisan Sabha workers and in an attempt to terrorise the peasants. That they have not been able to arrest any of the leading organisers of the

movement has only added to their ire and they are making indiscriminate arrests. Even students and shop-Even students and shop-keepers are being arrested for the only reason that their fathers in the villages had sympathised with or participated in the satya-graba graha.

The villagers are most sho-The villagers are most sno-cked to find that the leaders of the Kisan Section of the Congress, who had first tried to counteract the movement with propaganda, are now moving along with policemen, pointing out Kisan Sabha activists. the

In their blind fury, In their blind rury, the authorities of the Punjab have disregarded all consider-ations of old age, ill-health, etc. Baba Karam Singh Chee-ma, 90-year-old Ghadr hero, who is at present in failing who is at present in failing health, has also been arrested and put behind the bars.

In Sangrur District, the po-lice on their rampage beat up the sister of a sharecropper in Comrade Hardit Singh's farm and later have started prose-cutions against her and some others on a charge of clashing with the police. Comrade Harwith the police. Comrade Har-dit Singh's wife Jagir Kaur had led the women's jatha which had been beaten up severely by the police.

Lathi Charge At Midnight

When they raided village Hathan at midnight, the armed police began a lathi-charge and the people were forced to take shelter in the folde fields.

Properties of leading kisan Properties of leading Kisan workers are being attached as also those of satyagrahis who have been sentenced to pay fines. In Sangrur District, for instance, the entire proper-ties of Hardit Singh Bhattal, former, MIA Longt Singh former MLA, Janak Singh Bhattal, Ghagwan Singh Dangarh and others were attached.

All this repression has not frightened anybody—as can be seen from the great mo-mentum the movement has gathered and the women and abildeen who have been dream gathered and the women and children who have been drawn into the struggle to become militant participants of the Anti-Betterment Levy struggle.

nti-Betterment Levy strug-le. In fact, rarely before has Funjab seen such large-scale participation of women in any movement. Not only do the women bring out processions and demonstra-tions daily; they are in the forefront in beating back the police raids and their attempts to make arrests and attach property. In Lit-ran village, a big posse of police arrived to attach the property of the satyagrahis who had been sentenced to pay fines. The womenfolk of the village came. together and with cowdung and whatever, other missiles they could lay their hands on they drove away the po-licemen.

If this mass participation

licemen.



All nine seats in the Cheharta Municipality were won by Communist candidates, An nine seats in the Chemarta Municipancy were won by Communist cannuates, Picture shows the elected Councillors. Chairman Satyapal Dang is sitting third from left.

SUPPORT PUNJAB PEASANTS' STRUGGLE

AJOY GHOSH'S CALL

G ENERAL Secretary of the Communist Party of India Ajoy Ghosh has in a statement to the Press condemned the brutal recondemned the brutal re-pression against the Pun-jab peasantry and called on the people to express their solidarity with the Punjab struggle. The Kairon Government has resorted to the most brutal repression against

brutal repression against the peasantry of the Punthe peasantry of the run-jab who are unitedly put-ting up a heroic resistance to the unjust betterment levy the Congress Govern-ment has imposed.

ment has imposed. The climax of this one month's repression came on March 2—the day the pea-sants' struggle entered its second month—when the police opened fire in Dhali-wal village in Jullundur District resulting in serious injury to many women. injury to many women.

Two persons have fallen victims of this repression— a 70-year old man has died a 70-year old man has died as a result of police man-handling and another has died in jail of pneumonia due to the callous negli-

due to the canous from gence of the police. Inhuman lathi-charges have been made, literally breaking the heads of the people including women people satyagrahis.

Indiscriminate mass ar-rests have taken place and large-scale attachment of

the properties of satyagra-his and kisan leaders. With all this the Kairon

Government hopes to im-pose on the peasantry the

unjust levy. The Punjab Government The Punjab Government has no case for collecting this levy. The Punjab Kisan. Sabha, the Communist Party and Independent leaders have massed eno-ugh fasts and figures to rarty and Independent leaders have massed eno-ugh facts and figures to show that Punjab's share of the capital cost of the irrigation part of the Bha-kra Project can be met without this levy, with the existing taxes which the Government has gone on increasing during the last few years. Even Con-gressmen have in open statements demanded that the Central Government should hear the main part of the unproductive cost of the Foigett.

the project. When the Kairon Gov-ernment has not been able to refute this unassailable case, when it has not been able to put forward a sinable to put forward a sin-gle fact or figure to prove that the levy is necessary, it should have withdrawn the ordinance ordering its

collection. Instead, it has unleashed this repression reminiscent of the British and princely

days. The Punjab peasantry is putting up a glorious re-sistance to this repression.

They have upset all the calculations of the Govern-ment, their movement has become the biggest united mass movement of the pea-santry of the Punjab in decades. All party barriers have been . broken, Con-gressmen and Akalis are offering satyagraha in large numbers. Even the Govern-ment's own revenue offi-cials are tearing up the or-ders for collection of the levy and leading satyagrahi jathas. jathas.

Jatnas. The Government must not be allowed to crush this glorious struggle. The Pun-jab peasantry's resistance has to be supported by the rest of the country. The Punjab Government must be forced to stay its hands. I call on the neonle in

be forced to stay its hands. I call on the people in all States, specially the peasantry, to express their solidarity with the fighting peasant of the Punjab, to protest against the brutal repression and demand that the Punjab Govern-ment stop its repression, release the arrested satya-grahis and withdraw the betterment levy. betterment levy.

I hope the Punjab Gov-I nope the runtab Gov ernment has enough wis-dom to see that repression will be of no avail. I earnestly call on it withdraw all repressive measures and concede the just demands of the represente of the peasants.

of women shows the strength of the movement, the spon-taneous children's demons-trations all over the struggle area show the hold the movement has come to have on the entire peasantry of these dis-tricts of Punjab. Children below 12 years of age are com-ing out in big squads of 100 and 200.

This Correspondent has already reported of the enthu-siastic scenes that are being

the satya-

witnessed when the satya-grahis court arrest. The first few days, they were arrested and convicted for contempt of court. But seeing the rapid filling of jails, the authorities have changed their tactics. Before the satyagrahis arri-ve, the Magistrates and others leave the courts. But the sat-yagrahis determined to court arrest, occupy the courts for arrest, occupy the courts for many hours till they are ar-

rested. On the 16th, Smt. Jagir Kaur occupied the chair in the Deputy Commissioner's Court at Sangrur. The Deputy Commissioner hurriedly left when he heard the women's jatha was arriving. At Barnala the satyagrahis occupied the court of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The Deputy Commissioner telephoned the court from the

The Deputy Commissions, telephoned the court from the District Headquarters and he SEE PAGE 13