

# MORE PRESSURE ON INDIA

AUG 9 1962  
COPY



VOL. X, NO. 22 NEW DELHI, JUNE 3, 1962 25 nP.

May 28 was called "Black Monday" by the brokers of Wall Street. For, it witnessed the biggest stock exchange crash in that centre of world capitalism.

The seriousness of the crash can be seen from the fact that, on that day alone, the New York stock exchange lost between 16,000 and 20,000 million dollars, i.e., more than the total outlay in the public sector for the whole Five Year period of India's Third Five Year Plan.

It is true that the next day witnessed a recovery. The leaders of the capitalist world hope that this recovery will continue and that Monday's crash does not become the beginning of a serious world-wide economic crisis on the lines of the 1929 crisis.

Whether these hopes will be fulfilled or not, it is still

premature to say. It is, however, significant that even the spokesmen of world capitalism are not so optimistic as to assert with confidence that President Kennedy's forecast "that this is going to be a record year in profits, wages, productivity" will be fulfilled.

The Times, London, for example, thinks that one of the results of the crash would be that "business confidence will be sapped and consumer spending reduced at a time when governments, because of their preoccupation with keeping costs down, are already curbing activity to some extent. This could lead to a

levelling off of economic activity in both Europe and North America".

The Guardian is of opinion that the "plunge of the stock market may in turn discourage consumers from buying as much as they might have done and cause managements to cut back their plans for investing in new plant and machinery. It might not be easy for the Kennedy Administration to offset such reduction in total demand by increased Government expenditure without endangering the dollar."

It is, of course, known that the situation today is different from 1929. The capitalist state is now playing a far bigger and more effective role in warding off any crisis which affects capitalist economy. Militarisation of the state leading to ever-increasing defence expenditure; increased governmental expenditure even in civilian fields; governmental control in the interest of the monopolists; foreign aid—all these have become normal features of capitalist economy. How these factors will affect the present crisis, it is difficult to assess correctly.

There is, however, one significant fact emerging out of the present crisis which shows the inherent weakness of such State intervention on behalf of the monopoly capitalists. According to all the commentators of Monday's Wall Street crash, the beginning of the present crisis can be traced to the refusal of President Kennedy to concede the demands of the American Steel Companies for higher prices.

"Here for the first time" says the London Times, "was

an indication that the U. S. administration was in no mood to allow prices to rise and was determined to take exceptional powers to stop inflationary moves of any kind".

In other words, the State can play its role as saviour of the capitalist economy from crisis only so long as it meets in full the demands made on it by the monopolists. The moment there occurs a lag between the demands of the monopolies and the action taken by the State, there is a loss of confidence in the stability of

the capitalist system. The foreign aid programmes will be so utilised as to enable the monopoly capitalists to export the crisis in the United States and Britain and solve their problems at our expense.

The stock exchange reports from Calcutta and Bombay already indicate that together with the reports of the crash in Wall Street, "uncertainty of the quantum of financial help from the Aid India Club due to the reported postponement of the decision on aid to India" also acted on them

By E.M.S. Namboodiripad

the system among the capitalists and a crisis breaks out.

From this emerges a picture of what is likely to happen in the future. Administration in all capitalist countries whose governments are controlled by the monopolists will be increasingly forced to take such measures as are dictated by the monopolists. Pressure will increasingly be put on them to launch still more severe attacks on the working class in the metropolitan countries and on the common people in the underdeveloped countries. Pressure will also be put for increasing the military expenditure of governments, and, to this end, for greater militarisation of States.

So far as our country is concerned, pressure will be increased to a far greater extent to adjust our economy to the needs of a crisis within

as a factor helping depression.

There is, therefore, a real danger that the Government of India will be put to greater and greater pressure for surrendering to the demands put on it by the monopolists of the United States and United Kingdom.

The question therefore is not whether the crisis will continue and further deepen or whether it be tided over but how and through what measures and policies this recovery will be brought about. Will it be at the cost of the working people or at the cost of the monopolists?

(May 31)

## UPHOLD INDIA'S HONOUR

### Editorial

Ambassador in the USA, B. K. Nehru.

Even Prime Minister Nehru who often takes his top officers under his protecting wings in difficult situations, had to express this time his uneasiness over B. K. Nehru's performance. Prime Minister Nehru said: "About this particular interview, I said I am not happy at it and I would certainly not have said those things. If I could not have said so, I would not like anybody else on our behalf to say so." This in itself should be the most convincing indictment of B. K. Nehru's performance.

But the question remains how and why does B. K. Nehru dare to behave so. B. K. Nehru is no novice in diplomatic affairs. He has been on many important assignments, the last important one was that of a roving Ambassador to negotiate economic assistance for India.

It will be recalled that in his earlier assignments B. K. Nehru was often found to adopt approaches and methods which could hardly be described as honourable or worthy of our country. He sought to fulfil his functions by means of crass flattery of the U.S. ruling class and by cringing before it and others of the West.

Some of his speeches and statements beseeching economic aid from the West, would prove this. At times he even went to the length of playing on the cold-war proclivities of the U.S. imperialists and find common accents with the Americans who are out to use their economic aid and lever for political pressure and blackmail as has been recently demonstrated over the India's negotiations to purchase Soviet MIG Jet planes.

So the present television interview of B. K. Nehru is not a sudden lapse. It is indeed the continuation of his old habit and approach.

The Americans are slandering Government of India and openly accusing Prime Minister Nehru of "folly". They are calling Defence Minister Krishna Menon "criminal" and all names. The Americans are threatening to hold India's Five Year Plan at ransom.

But this gallant Ambassador of ours speaks before the television as if India was the guilty party and in the dock. Instead of firmly nailing down the American lies and slanders against our country and rebuffing the blackmailing tactics, B. K. Nehru exhibits only servility, with no sense of dignity at all.

He should have known how to defend the policies of his Government and the honour of his country. But we are not surprised.

B. K. Nehru is notoriously well-known for his pro-American bias and sympathies. This, perhaps, makes this diplomat forget India and remember only his American friends.

B. K. Nehru has proved to be a misfit for representing India in a country where the values we cherish are despised and Prime Minister Nehru and the Indian Government are run down every day.

However, it will be now watched with interest by all patriotic sections of our people, all self-respecting Indians, what steps Prime Minister Nehru and the Government take to repair the damage B. K. Nehru has done and improve the functions of India's Embassy in the United States.

Speaking on the B. K. Nehru affair, Prime Minister Nehru said in Lok Sabha on May 29: "No pressure will induce us to change our policies." We sincerely hope that all requisite guarantees will be created in the work of our various Missions in the United States and other countries to uphold India's honour and her good policies.

Just Out

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MISCELLANY**

No. 4 Price: Re. 1.50nP.

Leading Articles:

- \* Postwar Cycle and Prospects of Capitalist Economy
- \* Communist Economy and Bourgeois Critics
- \* Soviet Economic Aid to Arab East and Africa.

Available with:

**PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Bani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1.



SPOTLIGHT

PSP's Cacophony On Consolidation

By GARUDA

THE PSP's Janata has brought out a ponderously titled special number—a "Special Number On Socialist Unity And Consolidation." One finds in it several stalwarts of the party having a look inward following the "clear decline in the fortunes of the PSP."

Many interesting things have been said in their introspection although one falls, understandably, to find a representation in this issue of the more desperate trends of thought inside the party following the last general elections.

For instance, the proponents of the view of merging with the Congress are conspicuously absent here. Equally significantly silent are those who wish to wind up shop and free all party members to take the path of their choice.

Again, while one finds in this number a contribution from PSP's ex-leader, J. B. Kripalani, one looks in vain for enlightenment on the present chairman's personal views or any elucidation from the erstwhile chairman Gangasaran Sinha whose name I had the pleasure recently to read in the columns of the Organiser, as one of the august company that gathered in the Constitution Club to felicitate the newly elected Jan Sangh MPs.

SIGNIFICANT OMISSIONS

The omissions are certainly disappointing in such a special number. Nevertheless the issue contains a certain amount of rich fare.

The introspection, whether shallow like the one which avers that "election reverses are exaggerated" and "if our power of retention had not been poor, the result might have been very flattering to us," or deep like the ones that admit "our Party has suffered a very serious setback all over India" (Dr. P. C. Ghosh), has something revealing to offer.

Why has the party lost? What is to be done for the future?

"Socialist dissension" is the major ailment, the National Executive seemed to diagnose at Patna. The political sub-castes among the socialist ranks "must be abolished", it pleaded. And this "analysis" seems to have succeeded in drawing a red-herring across the trail.

This many of the contributors have done little more than echo the battle-cry against "socialist dissension".

Kripalani called for ending of "personal jealousies and likes and dislikes of the leaders." He gives "both the PSP and Socialist Party full credit for adher-

ing to their socialistic principles and aims." "There is little to prove that they have deviated from them," he says. According to him there is nothing but personal jealousies in the way.

M. R. Dandawate too urges the need of a "new unified socialist party", although he is sorry that the process of socialist unity was being harmed by the "arrogance of the leaders of the socialist party."

According to him the real hurdles to socialist integration, on the ideological front, were a bare few, one of these being the role to be adopted by an Opposition.

DIGNIFIED OPPOSITION?

The PSP, he says, had declared at Gaya that Opposition must be "dignified and discriminative" but "the physical trial of strength in which some of the socialist MLAs engage themselves raises a doubt whether the SP has any faith at all in building up a dignified Opposition."

However, as the good old saying is: Man proposes, God disposes. (And vice versa, if you please.) Pursuant to the Patna resolution, from Bhasin proposed to the party of Dr. Lohia, and that he got a reply from the latter's lieutenant Ravi Roy who answered, rather pontifically, that the hurdles were a whole range of mountain peaks, not a few mounds.

The overture has fallen through. Thus the grand recipe has been still born! It also seems that the "socialist dissension" theory could not very much deceive the PSP ranks.

In Janata's forum itself, one finds the following pertinent observation:

"As it appears to me, the question of disunity does not touch the core of our problem. When the three major all-India parties united a few years back under the banner of the PSP, a remarkable achievement had been made in the direction of socialist unity. Unfortunately, however, the subsequent progress was not commensurate with the achievement." (What is wrong with the PSP—Sisir K. Dhar).

This axes the leadership's grand argument.

REAL CAUSE

WHAT really ails the PSP?

That it is the party's rank opportunism seems to be the realisation of some. Thus P. C. Ghosh has talked of "a well-knit party with clear-cut ideas."

Shovnick has urged "sharpening of economic and political programmes in furtherance of the socialist policy." And Sisir

K. Dhar has pointed out that "we have not been sufficiently consistent and persistent to create a definite impression about us."

He has also quoted these words of Peter Alvares: "In the minds of the people the PSP is not a left party, and since the advice is to merge with the Congress, the PSP is taken to be not very distinguishable from the former." But he has gone deeper and asked: "Where do we stand even in relation to socialism?... Are we merely anti-Communists?"

These are questions that go to the root of the matter. If honestly pursued,

these should lead to the realisation of the fact that the PSP has tried to thrive through a betrayal of real socialism, of the long-term and short-term interests of the masses.

Already in this forum, we find it recorded that "after the Pardi satyagraha, the party has hardly made any persistent and serious demands on any major problem, by which its character could be identified by the people. After the second general elections, the party has hardly given any call to the people on any important issue, excepting on Tibet and China."

This is damaging admission.

Incidentally, it is a denunciation of their great "struggle" in Kerala—a subject which has been treated in the whole forum as a skeleton in the cupboard. Not to speak of mentioning it with pride or justification, all have maintained discreet silence over it!

Where does this self-criticism lead to? What remedy do they offer for the ailment?

(To be continued)

On Art Silk, Woollen And Worsted Cloth

PROBLEMS OF EXCISE DUTY

By A Special Correspondent

JULLUNDUR

The policy of imposing excise duties on cloth has been sharply criticised in so far as it makes cloth dearer for the common people. Excise duty on quality like shannoon of the art silk cloth, for instance, means, tax on the poorest of the poor.

AS regards woollen and worsted cloth, already large sections of the people cannot afford to buy even the barest minimum yardage necessary in winter. Excise duty taxes woollen cloth beyond the reach of ordinary people. The principle aspect, the actual policy pursued both in relation to art silk and woollen goods has not only hit the people by raising the price of cloth, but also has done much damage to the industry and incalculable harm to the workers.

One of the main reasons for this is the frequent changes in the policy and complete failure of the Government of India to evolve a long-term policy, which has resulted in great uncertainty.

When excise duty was first imposed on art silk cloth in 1953-54, units with 25 looms were exempted. A number of units having more than 25 looms, afterwards, split themselves into units with less than 25 looms to avoid the duty.

Later on, the exemption limit was lowered to 10 looms and again to 4 looms under new names with the number of looms equal to the exemption limit or less.

Thus there has been what might be called "fragmentation" of industry. This has led to considerable deterioration in the quality of cloth products.

As a result of this process, workers have been hit very hard. Split-up were effected to escape excise duty but they brought many other "benefits" to the employers at the cost of the workers. The employers were able to terminate the services of old hands and re-employ them as new hands in "new" split-up units on reduced rates and wages. They were also able to

proposed is such that bigger units will have to pay less than before while the smaller units will have to pay much more than hitherto and none will be exempted.

In case of art silk cloth too exemption goes in the like manner. Duty, however, is on yard basis. This means that cheap cloth of 8 to 8 annas a yard is taxed as much as high quality cloth costing Rs. 3-4 a yard.

Most objectionable feature of the new excise policy is that hitherto exempted shoddy and other hand-loom goods too will have to pay excise duty. This will hit the genuinely small scale industry as also raise the price of poor people's cloth.

The so-called "small wearing units of woollen cloth are demanding reversion to old policies of different rates of duty and exemptions. Workers are not in sympathy with this demand.

Correct demands are those demands which serve the interests of consumers, workers as well as genuinely small scale industry.

These are as under:

- Abolition of all excise duty on cloth.
- In any case, and with immediate effect, handloom cloth as well as those qualities of power loom cloth which are used by ordinary people must be completely exempted from excise duty.

(This demand if accepted will provide relief to consumer as well as genuinely small units which usually manufacture cheap quality cloth.)

The Government must evolve a long-term policy with regard to the art-silk and woollen textiles industry along with representation of consumers, workers and industry.

Last of all, there is the question of "strike" by small-scale woollen units. Workers are not in sympathy with this as it brings hardships to them. The clearer among the striking employers have agreed to compensate the workers in one form or other.

In case of woollen cloth it is ad valorem but the rate

W. BENGAL YOUTH FESTIVAL CONCLUDES

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

The Fifth West Bengal Youth Festival in honour of the forthcoming VIII World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship came to a close on May 27. It had begun nine days earlier.

THE Festival was a big success, having evoked tremendous response from all sections of youth of West Bengal and of the citizens of Calcutta.

for solving the educational, social, economic and other problems facing the youth of West Bengal and of India.

Over 350,000 young men and women, boys and girls participated in different local, regional and State Festivals. About 20,000 youth took part in local and central sports and other competitions.

The rich fare of intellectual and cultural items presented on each day of the Festival attracted huge crowds, estimated at between 60,000 to 70,000. On the eighth day, when there was a Jatra performance (a traditional and very popular form of folk culture in West Bengal), there was a record gathering.

But, on the last day, the participation was so gigantic that it was rather difficult to move about freely.

The issues of world peace, complete and universal disarmament, international understanding and cooperation, national integration and the specific problems of youth received urgent attention at the festival.

From May 20 onwards, different days of the celebrations were observed as the Social Service Day, Rural Youth Day, Rabindranath Tagore Day, Special Sports Day, Working Youth Day, Young Girls Day, National Integration Day and Disarmament Day.

The last day was marked by a solemn ceremony. The young men and women took a pledge to work untriflingly.

for complete and general disarmament in order to ensure freedom, prosperity and democratic rights to the entire humanity and to banish war and to establish a lasting peace in the world;

for national unity and integration of India and for resisting the forces of disunity and disruption;

EVOLUTION OF AGRARIAN RELATIONS IN INDIA.

Bhowani Sen

A historical study on the agrarian relations in Ancient India, the British period and in the post-independence period.

Rs. 8.50

PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE (P) LTD.,

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.

In response to the appeal of the All-India Peace Council to observe May 27 as the Kashmir Day, the vast gathering, unanimously approved a resolution, which was passed earlier at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Festival.

The resolution noted with grave concern the attempts of certain interested States to confuse world public opinion by launching a campaign of lies against India's policy of peace and neutrality.

The resolution emphasised that Kashmir was an in-

separable part of India and that the people of the country stood solidly behind the policy of the Government of India on the question of Kashmir.

Pointing out that the youth and the people of India wanted a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue, the resolution opposed the discussion in the Security Council, as it amounted to a denial of India's undisputed sovereignty over Kashmir. A peaceful settlement could be arrived at only by India and Pakistan sitting across the table, the resolution concluded.

Apart from debates and lectures on subjects of national and international importance, prizes were distributed to successful competitors in different fields. Delegates to the World Youth Festival were also elected.



INDIAN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL FORMED

THE All-India Preparatory Committee for the VIII World Festival of Youth and Students was formed at a meeting of the representatives of various youth, students and cultural organisations which was held in Constitution Club, New Delhi, on May 29.

More than 30 representatives were present in this meeting from various organisations among whom were All-India Youth Federation, All-India Students' Federation, Continuation Committee of the Young Workers, All-India Buddhist Association, All-India Youth Conference,

Federation of Indian Youth, Progressive Writers' Association, Indian People's Theatre Association, Calcutta University and Allgarh Muslim University Students' Unions, Festival Preparatory Committees of Delhi, Punjab, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay and Madras.

The All-India Preparatory Committee which has been formed included representatives of the participating organisations and several well-known public figures.

The meeting of the representatives also adopted a resolution supporting the VIII World Festival.

Just Out

MUZAFFAR AHMAD THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA AND ITS FORMATION ABROAD

Originally written in Bengali. English Translation

by Prof. Hiren Mukherjee Double Crown 16 mo., 178 pp. Price Rs. 3.50

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

Years of Formation 1921-1933

Double Crown 16 mo., 42 pp. Price 56 nP.

Many do not know even today how, where and in what situation the Communist Party of India was first formed. These two volumes have been written in order to satisfy to some extent the curiosity in them. The author is one of the pioneers of the Communist movement in India.

NATIONAL BOOK AGENCY PRIVATE LIMITED

12 Bankim Chatterjee Street, 172 Dharamtalla Street, Calcutta-13

Nachan Road, Benachity, Durgapur-4



# CONGRESS, PSP FALL OUT

An agency report from Trivandrum dated May 29 says that a sharp cleavage of opinion has come out into the open between the Praja Socialist Chief Minister of Kerala and the Congress Legislature Party.

WHILE the Chief Minister had previously declared that it was the firm policy of the Government that no new lower primary schools would be established this year in the private sector, the Congress Legislature Party at a meeting held on May 29 took a decision to establish private schools in the primary section as well.

Behind this clash can be discerned the open bid made

by the Catholic Church of Kerala to assert its control over the coalition Government.

The demand of the Church has always been that, while the State and through it the taxpayer should meet the expenditure of running schools, control over these institutions should rest with private managements.

It was on this issue that the Church had whipped up

the mass of Catholics against the Communist-led Government of Kerala and supplied the manpower for the 'liberation struggle' launched by other sections and groups of the anti-Communist camp.

Ever since the present coalition Ministry assumed office, the leaders of the Church had fondly hoped that they would be allowed to open more and more educational institutions—Primary, Secondary and Higher—under their management.

A big blow was delivered against this hope in the 1961-62 educational year when the Government decided not to open any new schools in the private sector for the year.

A big agitation was launched against this by the Church. Chief Minister Thanu Pillai

lower primary grade were in the public sector.

This became the signal for a far more concerted and furious attack launched by the Catholic church.

There is, however, another factor which led to this educational issue being given a political complexion. That is the fact that, even in those cases in which new schools have been opened—whether in the private or in the public sector—they are all in those localities where the demand generally came from the Praja Socialist leaders.

Observers point out that far many more schools have been opened in the constituencies from which Praja Socialists have been returned than those from which other parties were returned.

This naturally roused the

Socialists are given far greater favour than even Congressmen, not to speak of the opposition parties. This has led to serious discontent among Congressmen which has very often come out in public.

More than once has the discontent of the Congress against the favouritism and nepotism of the PSP Ministers led almost to a ministerial crisis.

Demands have repeatedly been made by influential sections of the Congress Legislature Party and the KPCC for a break up of the coalition and for the formation of a purely Congress Government.

This demand would have long ago been accepted had it not been for the fear entertained by the Congress leaders that this would enable the Communist Party

# IN KERALA

however stuck to his guns.

In the current educational year, due to pressure from the Church, the policy enunciated last year was relaxed to a certain extent: a few private schools were allowed to be established in the Secondary and Upper Primary grades, but all the new schools in the

indignation of persons belonging to other political parties, and, above all, of Congressmen.

Nor is this an isolated incident. It has happened several times, and on several issues, that, in the matter of locating developmental projects or institutions, the Praja

once again to be returned in majority in the legislature and then to form its Government.

As a matter of fact, it was in these very terms that Chief Minister Pattom Thanu Pillai spoke at the recent rally at Cannanore concluding the State Praja Socialist convention.

He called on Congressmen to put a stop to their vendetta against the PSP and to continue the coalition and warned them that, if they refused to do this, the Communists would reap fruits of the folly which they (Congressmen) would be committing.

He is, of course, utilising this argument in order to force the Congress to allow the coalition to continue in his terms.

The position which the Communist Party takes in this situation has been made clear in a statement issued by the State Secretariat of the Communist Party, which inter alia says that the Ministers of the Coalition Government of Kerala are today more concerned with the division of spoils as far as schools in private sector are concerned, and that they engage themselves in inconclusive meetings of the cabinet, refusing to raise even a finger of protest against the policy of neglect pursued by the Centre regarding allotment of projects; neither are they interested in getting the plan schemes implemented without delay.

The statement goes on to point out the following instances:—

The two Central sector projects allotted to Kerala for the III Plan period are the Naval Shipyard at Cochin and the Phyto Chemical Plant at Neramangalam. The people of Kerala are as one man in the matter of desiring that these two projects are implemented expeditiously in the state; but we are in the second year of the III Five Year Plan and are nowhere near seeing the beginning of even the first steps being taken in regard to both.

The Minister in charge of shipping in the Central Tran-

\* ON PAGE 13

## In Calcutta University Campus

# POLICE ATTACK STUDENTS

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

WITHIN less than three months of the return of the Congress to power, the blood of students flowed on the campus of Calcutta University in the night of May 22.

The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Surajit Lahiri, defiled the sacred precincts of this premier seat of learning by calling in the police to "teach a lesson" to the medical students, who had been peacefully squatting there, demanding postponement for ten days of the first and the final MBBS Examinations, scheduled for May 29.

### First Time In History

This was the first time in the long and glorious history of Calcutta University that the police was brought in to resolve differences between the students and the University authorities.

Naturally, the highhanded action of the Vice-Chancellor has caused deep indignation among all sections of the people here.

At about 12 p.m., on the day of the occurrence, students of four Medical Colleges in Calcutta went in a deputation to meet the Vice-Chancellor at Darbhanga Building, where his office and other offices of the University are situated.

Some representatives of the students saw the Vice-Chancellor and requested him to postpone the MBBS Examination in view of the fact that the courses of study had not been completed in the different Medical Colleges and further that the standing rule that there should be a gap of 30 days between two examinations was not being followed in their case.

The Vice-Chancellor curtly told the deputations that he was unable to do anything in the matter.

The students then started peacefully squatting in front of his office and on the lawn of the University. Their number gradually swelled to over a thousand (the total number of students in the four Medical Colleges in Calcutta is about 2,800).

### Vice-Chancellor Calls For Police

The Vice-Chancellor asked for police help at 1 p.m. Five truckloads of police then arrived, but stayed outside the university premises.

The day wore on, but the prospects of a settlement were not in sight owing to the obduracy of the Vice-Chancellor. At one stage, however, the students did make an effort. They permitted the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Calcutta Central Division, and the Secretary of the Indian Medical Association, to meet the Vice-Chancellor.

But this last chance for a peaceful solution was thrown away by the Vice-Chancellor because he just refused to see them.

At about 9 p.m., the Vice-Chancellor asked the police to "rescue" him. Meanwhile, armed police reinforcements had started pouring

in. The D.C. declared the students' assembly to be unlawful and gave them an ultimatum to clear out of the university premises within two minutes.

When the time was over, the police launched a savage attack with lathis and teargas shells. The entire university campus and the public thoroughfare in front of it presented a ghastly scene.

### Ghastly Attack

The groans of injured students, the screams of unwary passers-by, the acrid smell of teargas and the wanton lathi-charge gave the impression of a battlefield, where the "enemy" was being literally mown down! Even ambulance workers were not spared.

About 65 students were the victims of the police savagery. Twelve of them were seriously injured. Arrests of medical students, which continued till 1 a.m. totalled 125.

While the blood of students was being spilled, the Vice-Chancellor was seen going away in a police van. He was greeted with boos and jeers from the students and the public.

Next day, the medical students went on a general strike in response to the joint call of the central students organisations and the Students' Unions of the four Medical Colleges in the city.

Later, a large number of

students assembled at the university lawn and condemned the Vice-Chancellor for having spoilt the academic atmosphere of the university by calling in the police. They pointed out that the police action had been preplanned to "teach the medical students a lesson."

The meeting adopted a resolution, demanding the: 1) resignation of the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; 2) unconditional release of all students arrested on the previous day; 3) appointment of a Committee comprising of a Supreme Court or a High Court judge to enquire into the police action; and 4) postponement of the MBBS Examinations till the recovery of the injured students.

After the meeting, the students brought out a big protest demonstration.

### Support To Students

Different Central students' organisations and College Unions issued statements condemning the police action. At a meeting of over 200 youth leaders, who have come to Calcutta from 12 districts of West Bengal to participate in the state Youth Festival a resolution was passed strongly protesting against the attack on the medical students and demanding unconditional release of the arrested students and a probe into the incident.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, deemed it fit to make an announcement cancelling (and not postponing) the MBBS Examinations in "view of the emergency that has arisen".

As a result of this ill-advised action regular examinees will lose six months while those who had failed in one

Satyapriya Roy, M.L.C., General Secretary of the All-Bengal Teachers' Association, demanded drastic action against the police officers concerned with a view to restoring a peaceful atmosphere for an amicable settlement across the table.

The leaders of the CPI, F.B., RSP, RCPI, Bolshevik Party and Marxist F.B. issued a joint statement expressing their indignation at the way the sanctity of the University had been sullied.

### Demand For Enquiry

Strongly condemning the brutal action of the police, they emphasised: "Whatever may be the happenings inside the University Campus, no democratic citizen can support the police action against the students".

"They demanded an immediate public enquiry into the incident and appealed to the State Government to release the arrested students and to see that an immediate settlement was arrived at on the issue raised by the medical students.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, deemed it fit to make an announcement cancelling (and not postponing) the MBBS Examinations in "view of the emergency that has arisen".

As a result of this ill-advised action regular examinees will lose six months while those who had failed in one

or two subjects in the 5th year examination in November last, will lose a year.

So the different students' organisations have jointly decided to press for the rescission of the Vice-Chancellor's fiat and for the holding of the examinations on a convenient date.

They have further planned to meet the members of the university's Senate and Syndicate, prominent doctors, educationists and other citizens with a view to seeking their cooperation and support for the demands of the medical students. They have also decided to see the Chancellor and the State Education and Health Ministers.

### Students On Strike

Today is the fourth day of the strike, which has already developed into a general strike of about 3,000 medical students all over the State. The strike will continue indefinitely till their demands are fulfilled.

The students are staying away from their ward duties and ward lectures. Emergency and Maternity wards, however, have been exempted.

Of the 65 medical students—victims of May 22 attack, 32 are still in different hospitals undergoing treatment—22 for bone fractures, six for head injuries, nine for injuries in the abdominal region and five for gaping wounds. Twelve students sustained serious injuries. The condition of three of them continues to be precarious.

The Vice-Chancellor has not attended office after the incident. It is learnt that his "blood-pressure has gone up" and a police guard has been posted outside his residence since last two days.

(May 26)

# Fight For Communal Harmony

## WEST BENGAL CPI COUNCIL'S CALL

Following is the text of a resolution adopted at the meeting of the West Bengal State Council of the CPI, which was held in Calcutta on May 16 and 17.

THE West Bengal State Council of the CPI notes with relief the recent improvement in the communal situation in both West Bengal and East Pakistan. It congratulates the people of West Bengal and also all democratic and secular-minded individuals, including the workers of our Party, who kept up their vigilance against the disruptive communal elements and helped the Id festival to be observed in a peaceful atmosphere.

The Council is also glad to note that the people of both the communities, in general, refuse to be drawn into communal frenzy, which is an expression of their democratic consciousness as well as their love for peaceful life.

The Council, however, thinks it necessary to remind the people that the communal situation still remains delicate and the move of the black forces have not yet ceased. The recent communal disturbances both in West Bengal and East Pakistan, which took a serious turn with the tragic incidents in Malda district, have brought to the fore the danger of disruption that threa-

tens the security of the minority community as well as the unity and integrity of our country.

With a view to disrupting the democratic movement of East Pakistan which was gathering momentum against Ayubshahi the Government and the reactionary forces of East Pakistan aggravated communal tension through publications of exaggerated and false reports regarding Malda incidents and organised attacks on minorities there. These developments further strengthened the disruptive forces in West Bengal.

The Council notes with grave concern that the forces of imperialism, specially Americans, are acting from behind with a view to embitter the relations between two countries and to disrupt the growing democratic movements in East Pakistan as well as in West Bengal. The conspiracy of imperialism is quite evident from the propaganda carried on by the American Press such as the New York Times.

These communal disturbances have given a serious setback to the democratic movement in East Pakistan and has also weakened the solidarity movement that was developing in West Bengal in support of democratic movement of East Pakistan. They also diverted the attention of the people in both countries from

the urgent democratic tasks facing the people.

These communal disturbances organised by the disruptive reactionary communal forces in the name of retaliation have, in reality, increased the danger to the security of the minorities in both countries.

In view of all these factors, the Council is of the firm opinion that all secular, democratic and peace-loving people should unite irrespective of political affiliations, remain vigilant and fight boldly for the protection of the minorities and against the dark forces of communal reaction. It is the democratic and moral responsibility of the majority community to stand by and protect the minorities.

In this connection, the West Bengal Council of the CPI notes that though in the later stages the Government has taken many steps to maintain peace and has thus helped to improve the situation, yet facts have proved that there was utter negligence in some cases and the police and administration were not always immune from communal feelings.

The role played by some newspapers in our country, too, has helped to aggravate the communal tension.

The Council urges upon the Government and the newspapers to help the peo-

ple in maintaining peace, improving the situation and restoring proper sense of security to the minorities. It appeals to all peace-loving and democratic people to remain vigilant and intensify their efforts to restore normal situation.

It calls upon the people of West Bengal to remain true to their glorious and democratic traditions and fight firmly to defeat the heinous game of reaction and the imperialist forces and preserve communal harmony and peace.

The Council feels that all secular parties should unite to evolve a permanent machinery and work out concrete measures to forge and strengthen unity. The decisions of the National Integration Committee are helpful in this respect and its decisions should be implemented at all levels.

The Council urges upon the West Bengal Government to take the initiative in forming permanent committees with representatives of all secular parties of the State and district levels.

The State Council of the CPI urges upon all its units and members to intensify their efforts to build unity of all secular and democratic forces, to educate the people about the disruptive activities of the reactionary, communal forces and to actively fight for communal harmony and peace.

## Protest Against High Taxes



The call issued by the Secretariat of the Communist Party of India for a broad mass campaign against the increasing tax

burdens, which the Congress Governments are putting on the common people, would get ready response from all sections of the people.

For, the issue on which this campaign is being run in such that nobody in our country, to whatever political party he is loyal, can afford to be indifferent. It is an issue which cuts across all political, regional, communal and other barriers.

Every opposition party has come out openly against this tax increase. Most of them have given calls for the observance of protest days and for the use of other forms of agitation against this policy of the Government.

Although not adopting these 'agitational methods', large numbers of Congressmen are also expressing their displeasure and discontent at the growing burdens of taxation that are heaped on the common people in the name of their party and of the Government led by it. Many of them in the Central Parliament as well as in several State legislatures have been giving open expression to their sentiments.

This, therefore, is an issue on which the broad unity of the people envisaged in the call of the Secretariat can really be brought about. The protest day which will be observed in the various parts of the country either on June 16 or on June 17 can well become the occasion on which the Party goes to the masses owing allegiance to other parties, joins hands with their local organisations and expresses the united voice of the common people that the tax burdens imposed on them shall immediately be withdrawn.

The Party, however, goes to the people not with a negative demand for withdrawal of the new taxes, as some other opposition parties are doing. Together with the demand for reduction of the tax burdens, the party places before the Government a positive policy of taxation and public expenditure—a policy which, if accepted by the Government, will enable it to implement all the plan projects in whose name the burdens are being imposed on the people.

The conflict of policies between the ruling party and the Communist Party is not a conflict between a positive policy of national development and a negative policy of opposition to taxation, as is claimed by the Congress leaders. The Communist Party is as anxious as, if not more so than, the Congress that our country should rapidly overcome its state of economic and cultural backwardness. The Party is also aware that a plan of rapid national development cannot be implemented without mobilising the financial resources of the nation.

But the question arises: Wherefrom and how are these resources to be mobilised? It is on this that the Congress and the Communist Party differ sharply: the Congress is trying to secure the necessary resources through more severe exploitation of the common people; the Communist Party, on the other hand, is advocating a policy of securing them through



# COMMUNIST MPs ASSAIL GOVT. POLICY IN LOK

**S**PEAKING on the resolution moved by Balkrishna Wasnik recommending to the Government the setting up of "a Commission to look into the reasons for lesser efficiency and more cost in some of the public sector enterprises than those in the private sector", Indrajit Gupta said in the Lok Sabha on May 18 that:

"The point of this resolution is the presupposition that it contains in its very text that the public sector enterprises are less efficient and more costly than the private sector."

"This resolution", he said "was part of the campaign to run down and denigrate the public sector as far as possible."

He said that a few months



Indrajit Gupta

back, these very interests, "who are very much concerned to prove that the private sector is superior to the public sector in many ways, were themselves advocating that some of these public sector plants should be thrown open to participation in equity capital by private interests."

Indrajit Gupta asked: "If it is presumed that the public sector plants are ipso facto more inefficient and more costly than private sector plants, why were these gentlemen coming forward a little while ago that they should be allowed to participate in the equity capital of some of these public sector undertakings?"

He said that the real reason "is somehow or other to sabotage the working of the public sector". He added that there was also the fact, "which they are forced to admit in the text of the resolution that some of the public sector undertakings have become profitable after a certain period of running."

"Therefore, the general idea seems to be that so long as these public sector undertakings are still in a nascent stage, in the teething stage, let Government bear the brunt and share all the responsibility. Once they get stabilised and begin to earn profits, they would put forward the demand that they should also be allowed to participate in the equity capital of these concerns."

He said that he was glad that this move was defeated and Government came forward with the assurance that this participation would not be permitted.

Referring to opinion prevailing in some quarters that these two sectors were complementary and not rival to each other, Indrajit Gupta said that the basic difference was that "the resources which are generated by the public sector undertakings go directly and wholly into the developmental fund of the State, and can be used for planning

purposes. That is not the case with the private sector."

Analysing the private sector attempts to increase its efficiency and lower its costs by various means, he said that "the meaning of the drive for more efficiency in the private sector is how they can increase that portion which will not go to the State but which can be pocketed by private interest."

Indrajit Gupta said that the establishments in the public sector were of such a type producing capital goods and other type of things which could not produce quick and easy returns. These were not like a factory for making baby powder, nylon or plastic goods or coca cola or something like that.

"This is a type of State capitalism, in our view," he said. "In the present conditions of our country we welcome it, because it helps to strengthen the foundations of our national economy", he added.

"But how would the private sector, we ask, whose interests are reflected in this resolution, be able to stand to do without the State sector despite all its limitations?"

He said, "The rolling-stock manufactured there is used for the private sector. The steel manufactured in Rourkela or Bhilai goes nowhere else but to feed their plants. The machine tools which are being produced increasingly and will be produced in the State sector will go to equip some of the private sector plants."

Indrajit Gupta said that "as far as finance goes, I would like an enquiry committee to see what proportion of these private sector firms can operate today without huge loans and grants from the State."

He expressed his apprehension that some firms, specifically those of Mundhra group, after the interim period of Government control, which was being exercised over them in order to put things right, were in danger of being handed back to the private sector. He said that he would like the Minister to set this doubt at rest.

Opposing the resolution, as moved by Balkrishna Wasnik, Indrajit Gupta said that, "if an enquiry is required at all, it should be an enquiry into the private sector of India, what they are doing, how they are carrying on various forms of malpractices etc."

After the discussions, Balkrishna Wasnik, the mover of the resolution, withdrew it.

## ELIAS ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

**O**PENING the discussion from the Communist benches on the demands for grants by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Mohammed Elias made pointed reference about the failure of the Government to keep the

promises made by various Ministers in regard to the Central Government employees.

He said that it was a matter of regret that even after the restoration of the recognition of the unions, "the grievances of the employees have not been settled and the disputes are every day growing in numbers. They are growing by hundreds."

Elias referred to the assurances given by the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Labour Minister for resolving the disputes of the Central Government employees and said: "These were the assurances given from the Treasury Benches, but we find from our experience that not a single dispute after the strike has been satisfactorily settled."

Elias said: "If these disputes remain unsolved and unsettled, they may one day flare up and something may happen, which neither the employees nor the Government wants."

Referring to the chronic shortage of staff in the P & T department, Elias said that the volume of work was increasing day by day and the staff was very short in relation to it.



Md. Elias

Citing specific examples, Elias stated that after the introduction of the new Savings Bank system, the shortage has further increased. The position, he said was almost same in all the places.

"An R. M. S. sorter has to handle a minimum of 1,600 to 1,800 letters per hour in place of scheduled 1,200. An A.P.O. clerk has to handle 45 to 50 registered articles per hour during peak hours in place of scheduled 30 and 120 to 150 money orders per day in place of usual 85 to 90. A telephone operator has to put through 20 to 30 trunk call per hour in place of scheduled 10 to 15 calls."

Elias said that here were the examples to show how Government employees were working more than the schedule. He added that our country was suffering from unemployment and there should be a proper recruitment for smooth running of the departments.

Elias demanded that some sort of incentive bonus schemes, as per the suggestions of the Pay Commission, should be introduced for the Government employees, so that they "may get a little more cash benefit and efficiency and production may also be increased."

Referring to the problem of ports and traffic congestions in the Calcutta area, Elias said that the Calcutta port

was on the verge of ruin now due to heavy silting of the Hooghly river and unless something was done soon, the port would be ruined.

The Calcutta road transport system, Elias pointed out has not received proper attention of the Government. He said: "The Chief Minister of West Bengal after his foreign tour every year comes and tells us that there would be mono-rails, underground rails, circular rails, and three bridges connecting Calcutta with Howrah; but nothing is happening."

He also referred to the heavy toll of accident on the Grand Trunk Road. There was a proposal to build another express highway from Durgapur to Calcutta but no such proposal could be seen in the report of the Ministry.

Regarding inland water transport Elias said that this system required to be properly developed. He referred to the instance of the Joint Steamer Company, whom the Government has paid Rs. 2.25 crores and which has made fabulous profits during the past hundred years and asked: "Instead of doing something themselves, why is it that the Government has allotted this money to be exploited by a foreign company?"

Elias demanded that in order to develop our inland water transport, Government should do something itself and nationalise the steamer services run by foreign companies.

Elias mentioned the case of the Jayanti Shipping Company and demanded a proper clarification from the Ministry as to why a sum of Rs. 20.25 crores has been advanced to this Company for acquiring oil tankers. This Company was started only in 1961 and has no experience of shipping.

Referring to tourism, Elias said that although a sum of Rs. 20 crores in the shape of foreign exchange has been earned, nothing much has been done to develop tourism in the country.

In this connection, mention was made by him about the non-setting up of Government of India Tourist Offices in the Socialist countries in contrast to such offices existing in other foreign countries.

Elias in conclusion remarked about the working conditions of the civil aviation employees and quoted from the joint recommendations of the ILO and International Civil Aviation Organisation concerning the conditions of employment of personnel engaged in air navigation services. He said that Government should examine these recommendations.

## POTTEKKAT ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**D**ELIVERING his maiden speech on May 24, in the course of debate on demands for grants to Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, S. K. Pottekkat, an Independent member of Lok Sabha from Kerala, suggested the formation "of a separate Min-

istry exclusively for cultural affairs."

According to Pottekkat, in the report of the Ministry, "more weight is given to scientific research and the like activities than to cultural affairs."

Referring to the statement issued by the National Integration Conference, 1961, Pottekkat said that in order to fight the evil tendencies and to achieve national and emotional integration, cultural and literary exchanges between the States should be efficiently organised on a wider scale, more especially between the North and the South.

istry exclusively for cultural affairs."

According to Pottekkat, in the report of the Ministry, "more weight is given to scientific research and the like activities than to cultural affairs."

Referring to the statement issued by the National Integration Conference, 1961, Pottekkat said that in order to fight the evil tendencies and to achieve national and emotional integration, cultural and literary exchanges between the States should be efficiently organised on a wider scale, more especially between the North and the South.

Pottekkat analysed the functioning of the Sahitya Akadami in the States and said, "There is no effective coordination amongst the Sahitya Akadami nor is there coordination between the Kendra Sahitya Akadami and the State Sahitya Akadami."

Pottekkat said that it was strange and ridiculous that "some State Sahitya Akadami, like the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, award prizes for the best book in a language while the Central Akadami chooses a different book in the same period in the same language as the best book for its annual award."

Pottekkat mentioned that in 1960, Bengal, Tamil, Punjabi, Sindhi and Oriya books were kept out of the award and that last year there was no award for Malayalam books. He said that the method, "which is being adopted by the Sahitya Akademi on choosing a book for annual award is ridiculous."

He also added that as a member of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, he could say that the State Akademi was not consulted in the matter of giving or denying an award to a Malayalam book.

Referring to the plight of writers, Pottekkat said that writing had not yet become a paying profession in our country, and that the writers have to turn to other jobs for a decent living. "The publishers are the chief exploiters", he added.



S. K. Pottekkat

Pottekkat therefore suggested that in order to help the authors in getting their works published and to assure adequate remuneration to them, Government should encourage formation of writers' cooperatives.

Pottekkat also dealt with various aspects of preservation of monuments and other relics of historical importance which reflected our

# SABHA

fourth or one-half or even more and consequently they have dragged on and would drag on into the Third Plan period and the Fourth Plan period.

"For a number of years, the taxes and revenue collected are being spent on these big projects leaving nothing substantial to take up new projects in new areas. So the people who are not going to be benefitted by these big projects, have to wait grumbling and paying for these projects." This would result in people becoming disgusted and demoralised, he added.

Reddy suggested that to avoid "this planless planning, more efficient and skilful type of work is needed and better coordination is required."

He referred to the pitiable state of irrigation schemes in Andhra and said that despite plenty of resources, the State was backward in many respects. He also demanded that the minor irrigation schemes, which were currently under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, should be taken under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

Regional parity and merit should be the main consideration for awarding such scholarships", he said.

Lastly Pottekkat stated that circus and other acrobatic feats in the country have not received due attention from the Government. He suggested that immediate steps should be taken to promote their development.

## REDDY ON IRRIGATION AND POWER

**S**PEAKING in the Lok Sabha on May 18 on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Eswara Reddy, Communist member from Andhra Pradesh, made a scathing criticism about the functioning of the Ministry.

Reddy said that it was true that there was some progress to the credit of the Ministry, "but the way the schemes are implemented has not been satisfactory." He said, "there have been either delays in technical clearance or perpetuation of regional imbalances or prolongation of construction work for years together."

"All these defects and weaknesses", he said, "have resulted in halting progress." He said that by the end of the Second Plan, the water potential in the country was estimated to be able to irrigate about 13 million acres but the actual utilisation was only to the extent of 9 million acres, which meant that 4 million acres were not irrigated.

Referring to the Third Plan target, he said that although the water potential would be 29 million acres, yet the actual utilisation was going to be only 22 million acres, i.e. 7 million acres would not be irrigated. He doubted whether this estimated potential would be utilised, "seeing the progress in the previous years."

"The Ministry might take pride in the increase in the percentage of utilisation, but the fact that 'seven million acres are not coming under cultivation is not a small thing.' He said that despite the potential for irrigation, so much land was going to be kept idle and therefore, "it reflects very badly on our wisdom and efficiency of planning."

He said that the very purpose of our investing so much money on these projects and undertakings at so much sacrifice, would be defeated, "if this is how we proceed."

Reddy pointed out that every estimate of costs of the big projects in the country had increased by either one-

justice to these people; only then will it eradicate famine in that area for ever."

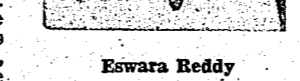
Referring to power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, Reddy said that the people in the State were the worst sufferers and that even the Ministry had now accepted the serious situation. Already there has been power cut in the Telengana area, he alleged, and added that the Government was considering the extension of this cut throughout the Andhra Pradesh.

As a result of this cut, he said, the rural electrification schemes will be jeopardised and the few industries which exist will receive a setback. "There is also the danger," he warned, "of the industrialists going out of the State and setting up the industries somewhere else."

Reddy said that for all these, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power was to be blamed. He alleged that despite knowing the backwardness of Andhra Pradesh in this regard, the Ministry sanctioned only Rs. 22 crores which was less by Rs. 4 crores than the allocation under the Second Plan.

"This injustice of nigardly allotment is more glaring", he said, "when we see that the allocation for power for all the States had been raised over and above the allocation made in the First Plan—the increase ranging from about 90 per cent and more."

Reddy referred to several instances of failures and de-



Eswara Reddy

He said that the Pochampad project of the Andhra Government has not yet been approved by the Central Government. Through this project, he said, about 3½ lakh acres of land could be irrigated and the waters of Godavari, 90 per cent of which were now going waste, could have been utilised. The sanction for this project, he demanded, should be immediately accorded by the Central Government.

Reddy also referred to the Tungbhadra high level canal and said that in 1945, when the works started, only the low level canal and left bank canal were taken up. The Central Government, he said, after prolonged representations, promised to take up the construction work of the high level canal in 1959. But even after taking it up, he alleged, the Government was delaying the speedy implementation of this project.

He added that instead of completing the project as early as possible, Government had split up the high level canal project into two stages—the first to be completed by the end of the Third Plan and the second to be taken up in the Fourth Plan.

Reddy said that this area was a famine area and people were very much dissatisfied. Although the second stage has received technical acceptance, no financial sanction has so far been accorded for it.

Reddy asked that the area being a famine area and so much money having been spent every year at the time of famine, "why cannot the Government spend Rs. 10 crores more and take up the whole scheme in this Plan period itself?" He added, "Only then will you be doing

justice to these people; only then will it eradicate famine in that area for ever."

Referring to power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, Reddy said that the people in the State were the worst sufferers and that even the Ministry had now accepted the serious situation. Already there has been power cut in the Telengana area, he alleged, and added that the Government was considering the extension of this cut throughout the Andhra Pradesh.

He also showed how a very

justice to these people; only then will it eradicate famine in that area for ever."

Referring to power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, Reddy said that the people in the State were the worst sufferers and that even the Ministry had now accepted the serious situation. Already there has been power cut in the Telengana area, he alleged, and added that the Government was considering the extension of this cut throughout the Andhra Pradesh.

As a result of this cut, he said, the rural electrification schemes will be jeopardised and the few industries which exist will receive a setback. "There is also the danger," he warned, "of the industrialists going out of the State and setting up the industries somewhere else."

Reddy said that for all these, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power was to be blamed. He alleged that despite knowing the backwardness of Andhra Pradesh in this regard, the Ministry sanctioned only Rs. 22 crores which was less by Rs. 4 crores than the allocation under the Second Plan.

"This injustice of nigardly allotment is more glaring", he said, "when we see that the allocation for power for all the States had been raised over and above the allocation made in the First Plan—the increase ranging from about 90 per cent and more."

Reddy referred to several instances of failures and de-

## TRADE UNIONISTS TO PROTEST AGAINST WRONG RECORDING OF TRIPARTITE PROCEEDINGS

**T**HE question of properly recording the proceedings of conferences and meetings, coupled with bureaucratic approach on the part of the Ministry of Labour, threatens to undermine the success of the industrial relations developed on a tripartite basis in the course of last few years.

According to trade union circles, the officials of the Ministry, while recording the proceedings and the decisions of the tripartite bodies tended to give them a twist which rendered them ambiguous and in favour of the status quo.

Even when drafting committees are appointed including the representatives of the interests concerned to give final shape and to put in writing the decisions and conclusions reached, the officials of the Ministry ignore the workers' representatives and take upon themselves the final drafting.

\*\*\*\*\*

lays on the part of the Central Government in regard to various schemes in the Andhra Pradesh and said, the present trouble stemmed

Both the INTUC and the AITUC are understood to have lodged strong protests with the Union Minister of Labour against this procedure which has given rise to many an odd situation and has created sharp misunderstandings.

They have also indicated the several cases wherein the official records show a particular decision having been reached, but the INTUC as well as AITUC have dissociated themselves from it, rendering thereby the entire work of the tripartite bodies in such cases infructuous.

Several such examples, among them many vital decisions in regard to abolition of contract labour, interpretation of Code of Discipline, etc., are cited in this connection.

Trade union delegates to the Twentieth Indian Labour Conference are expected to raise this problem as a major issue in the Conference and will demand necessary changes in procedure to put an end to such a situation.

from the nigardly allocation given under the second Plan. He called upon the Minister to look into this aspect of the matter.

## DANGEROUS GROWTH OF MONOPOLY

—Gopalan Warns Lok Sabha

**S**PEAKING on the resolution on the measures to curb monopolies on May 18 in the Lok Sabha, A. K. Gopalan, leader of the Communist Group, said that the policy of the Government was such that "it has led to the expansion and growth of concentration of wealth and means of production which has operated to the common detriment of the people in this country."

Gopalan pointed out that this policy of the Government was contrary to the Directive Principles of State Policy as laid down in the Constitution of India which enumerated that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community should be so distributed as best to serve the common good and that the operation of the economic system did not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.

Quoting from the Government statistics, Gopalan proved that as far as monopoly was concerned, it had not only grown, but also extended its sphere and as far as policy was concerned, instead of tightening and controlling this growth, concentration and monopoly was strengthened.

Gopalan showed that only 0.4 per cent of the total number of companies in the year 1957-58 had a total of 33.5 per cent of the entire total paid-up capital among the joint-stock companies in the private sector.

He also showed how a very

few companies controlled the greater share of output and thereby established that the productive resources of manufacturing industries had reached a very high degree of concentration in private hands, in spite of "all the lip service paid by Congress rulers to the ideals of 'economic democracy' and socialism."

In this connection, Gopalan extensively quoted the figures concerning tea, iron and steel, rubber, banking, insurance, and several other industries from the Census of Manufacturing Industries and pointed out the tremendous growth that has come about in those spheres in the course of a few years.



A. K. Gopalan

Gopalan also referred to the speech of H. V. H. Iyenger, who had stated some time back that: "one of the structural features of Indian planning is the concentration of power which, in some cases, is enormous in relation to the capital actually employed."

Gopalan emphasised that for this growth of monopoly in the country, the responsibility remained squarely on the shoulders of government. "It is the taxation and licensing policies of government that have fostered the monopolies", he added.

Referring to the taxation policy of the government, Gopalan said that the proportion of direct taxes in the total Union revenue had dropped from 60 per cent in 1947-48 to 28 per cent in 1960-61. He said: "... it is the taxation policy of giving more and more concessions and also direct financial aid that have fostered these monopolies."

In conclusion, Gopalan put forward three specific suggestions in regard to the curbing of monopolies. These suggestions were in regard to revision of the present taxation policy, nationalisation of banks and expansion of State trading in tea, jute and cotton textiles and lastly the abolition of managing agency system in all its forms.

Replying to the resolution, Planning Minister Nanda sought to establish that the growth was not unbalanced and the control of the industries, as they were, could not be described as monopolistic. The Plans, he said, were made keeping this aspect of the matter in view and Government was fully conscious to what was happening.

The resolution was later withdrawn with the permission of the Speaker.



# REBUFF THIS U.S. AND BRITISH INTERFERENCE

TO treat the behaviour of the U.S. and British Governments towards India in regard to her reported negotiation with Soviet Union to purchase some MIG Jet fighter planes as a mere fuss would be to condone a gross international misconduct. From the point of view of our country it would be nothing short of a folly.

Not only national defence but the larger national interests demand that India takes due cognizance of the U.S. and British attitude and its implications and draw the lessons for the future. The issue is eminently one that concerns India's national security and sovereign rights.

If India has sought to buy Soviet MIG, there is nothing unusual or extra-ordinary in it. The complaint should really be of some other way round. Why despite lavish U.S. military aid to Pakistan and other countries of the SEATO and CENTO, India should have waited so long to procure her essential defence equipments from the Soviet Union? It is no secret that every time a proposal was made to buy equipments from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, it was sabotaged.

## U. S. ATTITUDE

India's defence armour suffers from both quantitative and qualitative deficiencies—at least in some vital respects. One of these weaknesses has been particularly aggravated by the recent supplies of two squadrons (may be more) of F 104 Supersonic Jet fighters by the U.S. to Pakistan.

While sending such F 104s to Pakistan as a free gift, the U.S. Administration however, bluntly refused even to sell to India for money Supersonic Sidewinder missiles. The feeler by India to buy F 104s was equally discontinued.

Secondly, if India's defence were to be strengthened, modernized and made self-sufficient, how could the Soviet source be ignored? After all, the Soviet military science and

technology are admittedly the best in the world today. Besides the Soviet terms are always invariably more favourable to India than anything the West has so far offered—leave alone the glaring contrasts between the attitudes of the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. towards our country.

## SHARP CONTRAST

These contrasts have only recently been shown over Goa and Kashmir. However, it is not a small matter that the Soviet Union is not only prepared to supply India best equipments on Rupee payments (which cost no foreign exchange) and at reduced prices but is also prepared to help her build factories to produce combat planes and other vital defence equipments.

It may not be out of place to mention here that Indonesia, UAR, and several other small non-aligned countries are building up their defence space with the assistance of the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

Anyhow, where India gets her defence requirements from is none of the U.S.A.'s and Britain's business and the Defence Minister was absolutely to the point when, asked about the MIG negotiations by newsmen at Palam Airport on May 17, he said: "Remember this country is free. We have the right to purchase any equipments or arms from anybody we like."

Except the imperialists and their chorus boys, no one else will disagree with the Defence Minister. What we are really concerned with is not merely the assertion of the obvious but the steps the Government

takes to meet the situation which has clearly two aspects. One is India's defence requirements, the other the U.S. and British interference to sabotage the building up of a modern, independent defence.

## BLATANT INTERFERENCE

Hardly had the negotiations with the Soviet Union been reported in the Press, when the U.S. and the British Ambassadors in New Delhi suddenly became busy-bodies and called on the Ministry of External Affairs to "make enquiries", "to protest", "to deliver notes" and so on.

On May 19, the Commonwealth Relations Office in London publicly stated that the British High Commissioner in Delhi had delivered a note to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Affairs and that the High Commissioner was next day received by the Prime Minister himself.

In the same statement, the Commonwealth Relations spokesman expressed the hope that the Government of India might still decide otherwise about the deal. He did not also conceal the fact that the British Government and the U.S. Government were moving jointly, saying that both Governments were keeping each other fully informed about the matter.

As for the U.S. authorities, they went one better. The U.S. Ambassador Mr. John Galbraith was all-out with his black-mailing tactics which included an almost open threat to cut U.S. economic aid to India. He seems to have made it known that the U.S. would not like to give adequate economic aid if India were to turn more and more to the Soviet Union for her military equipments.

In this connection, India was even reminded of Eisenhower's insulting proposal

that India should fall in line with Pakistan and take U.S. military aid. According to New York Times, the U.S. Administration is further reported to have told the Indian Government that the purchase of Soviet MIGs "would be deemed foreign military aid to the foremost non-aligned nations."

It was clean forgotten that India has been so far purchasing combat aircrafts from Britain and France without being accused of receiving military aid. In fact, the U.S.A. itself had sold to India last year some C-119 planes for our Air Force. But this fantastic U.S. assertion which they know to be utterly hollow and false is not however without an ulterior design.

Evidently, the U.S. Administration wants to find an additional pretext to double up their weapons supply to Pakistan and other SEATO and CENTO powers. Further, it expects that by holding out a threat of such increased supplies to countries like Pakistan, India could be cajoled into abandoning the negotiations and submitting to the U.S. diktat.

So India is given two alternatives by the Americans: either give up the idea of buying defence equipments from the Soviet Union and remain weak or be ready for increas-

open blackmail and national humiliation by the U.S. and British authorities. Surely this needs to be dealt with on a different plane—worthy of a great nation like ours.

The length to which the Americans can go in their blackmailing and bullying tactics was demonstrated the other day in the U.S. Senate for economic aid to our country.

On May 11, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, arbitrarily slashed the promise aid to India by 25 per cent and the occasion was fully utilised to heap slanders, abuses and insults on India and its Government especially Prime Minister Nehru and Defence Minister Krishna Menon.

Summing up the grounds on which the cut was made, Washington Post of May 11, wrote:

"The Senators voting for an aid-cut last Friday criticized Indian take-over of Goa in December, her repeated refusal to negotiate a settlement of the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan and Defence Minister Krishna Menon's repeated anti-West attacks, particularly in equating U.S. underground nuclear tests with Soviet atomic tests."

"The Senators also indicated that they were in ag-

## By Bhupesh Gupta

ed arms supplies to Pakistan and others and for reduction in economic aids.

What else could be a greater pressure, a clumsier blackmail or a more blatant interference in our internal affairs and indeed with India's sovereign rights? How would the U.S.A. and Britain have reacted if India were to meddle in their shady arms deal including free arms supplies to a whole number of countries of the NATO, CENTO and SEATO?

Would Kennedy and Macmillan listen to Nehru or tolerate any demerch on this score from the Indian side? Everybody knows that the Americans and the British did not allow India within 100 miles of their affairs in such matters.

## PRESSURE TACTICS

The Americans have even refused to give India any broad idea of the military equipments they are pouring into Pakistan. In fact all that the Government of India's entreaties to U.S.A. against arms aid to Pakistan produced was the supply of Super-sonic F-104 jet planes!

Naturally one wonders why the Government of India is not telling these Americans and the British interlopers to lay off and mind their own business. We know Prime Minister Nehru often speaks of politeness and moderation in international relations. One can understand that.

But here it is a question of downright interference,

## ATTEMPT TO BLACKMAIL

Later, of course, this cut was restored but then those who voted for the restoration left their intentions in no doubt. To them aid to India is necessary to build up India as a counter-blast against Communism.

Speaking in favour of restoration, Senator Dodd, for example, said that India must not be punished for "the folly of Mr. Nehru and for the crime of Mr. Krishna Menon."

This is enough to show that the basic aim of the American Senators, whether they support cuts or not, is the same if the Americans want to thus treat India as a charity baby and involve our country in their cold war manoeuvres there is all the more reason that the people and Government of India must show greater vigilance and vigour in defence of our national security and national honour.

One may or may not agree with the wisdom of Indian Ambassador B. K. Nehru, saying in his television interview in the United States that "India's defence forces were in fact totally insufficient for the protection and security of India."

But what he said is no untruth nor was it any news

to the Americans. Only he should have added that for this lag in our defence forces, India's reliance on the West, especially on Britain and the U.S. was largely responsible.

With the partition of India, her defence forces and equipments were also divided between India and Pakistan. This was followed by an arbitrary deduction of £100 million (Rs. 133.3 crores) out of India's sterling assets "as the price for the installations and stores," much of which was to be later found as sheer junk.

## RECOVERY FROM WEAKNESS

For the first few years of independence, India's defence remained badly equipped, badly organised and pitifully dependent on Britain. Many of the weapons had become out-moded, some were perhaps good only as museum-pieces.

It was however only when the present Defence Minister, V. K. Krishna Menon, whom the Americans openly call "criminal", took over that things began to look up a little and an orientation started. The Second Five Year Plan with some of its vital industrial projects made its contributions in this respect.

Ordnance factories came up, producing more and more equipments, although progress still remains very partial and slow. Over the last five years, the annual production of the Ordnance factories both for services and civil consumption has roughly gone up from Rs. 14.08 crores in 1956-57 to only Rs. 30.36 crores in 1960-61.

But the latter figure includes such items for Services as army uniforms as well as Rs. 7.21 crores worth of stores supplied to civil department and trade. From this one can easily understand how meagre must have been the production of the vital defence equipments and weapons.

Even these little efforts have been resisted not only by British and American interests but also by some of India's big business circles connected with them. In this they have been also joined by not a few army brass-hats who have still to live down their British past and adjust themselves to the changing conditions of free India.

## ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE

Inspired by the British and Americans, not a single opportunity was lost to assail the public sector defence industries and obstruct its growth. This story of sabotage and treachery is unfortunately little known to the public and for this the meaningless secretiveness on the part of our Defence Ministry is largely responsible.

Since 1950-51, India has spent about Rs. 2,400 crores on defence. Out of this amount Rs. 1,100 crores or 40% has been spent on stores and equipments. Much of this expenditure has gone to swell the profits of the foreign firms, particularly British. In the seven years between 1952-53 and 1958-59, the imported

"defence stores" totalled about Rs. 300 crores.

Even to-day, India is almost wholly dependent on the three countries for her defence supplies—Britain, France and U.S.A. Britain has of course, the lion's share. India has had to make heavy imports of defence equipments. Our foreign exchange expenditure under this head was:

1957-58	Rs. 86.85 crores
1958-59	Rs. 74.11 crores
1959-60	Rs. 53.97 crores (estimate)

It will be seen from the above that production of our Ordnance Factories is still far behind our defence imports. This is mainly due to the fact that India does not still produce many of the essential equipments such as guns, artillery tanks, planes, etc. India has to go a long way before this anomaly and weakness is overcome. But that is not all.

The West has shown unmistakable reluctance to supply India with modern and latest model weapons. Usually, the best in their arsenals are reserved for their allies in the NATO, SEATO and CENTO, that is, for equipping these aggressive military blocs.

## U. S. MILITARY AID

There is the case of Pakistan, for example, which is said to have been given military hardwares worth over Rs. 225 crores under the U.S.-Pak military pact of 1954. Mention has already been made earlier of the supply of F 104 jet fighters to Pakistan. But Pakistan is only a link in the chain of these military alliances.

Already by 1957, the U.S. military aid to Asia and Near-East and Africa respectively totalled 4,500 million and 2,500 million dollars. (New York Times, Sunday Weekly Edition, August 18, 1957).

Needless to say, these figures would be of a much higher order today. This military aid not only provokes bellicosity in the recipient countries but causes others, like India, threatened by such aid, to divert a big part of their resources for defence, with an annual defence budget of over Rs. 300 crores. We know this to our bitter cost.

The kind of materials supplied by Britain and U.S.A. has been the subject matter of public criticisms many a time. Here is what the military correspondent of Indian Express has recently observed:

"Six or seven years ago when the Canberra bombers were due to arrive, it was found that they were without the installation of latest radar equipment. Arguments followed as usual, and the suppliers were said to have yielded but whether we ever got the best nobody knows. And when they came the heat in the cockpit was unbearable even for the Indian who at a pinch can insulate himself against 115 degrees F" (Indian Express, May 26, 1962)

Such instances can be multiplied. Often the commitments in regard to supply of even obsolete and second-rate materials are

not kept. The Government's hand-out on Defence Services' estimates frequently admits that "mainly due to the non-receipt of the stores and equipment to the extent originally anticipated" the full allocation could not be spent.

The prices for the supplies from the West are of course much higher and the terms equally unfavourable. But perhaps the most sinister aspect of the whole business is that the West is not interested in helping India to build her own independent defence industries. The reasons are not far to seek.

Firstly, India's reliance on heavy imports means fabulous profits for the armament firms in the West. Secondly, this keeps India always in a relatively weak position from military point of view. Thirdly, the continued exclusive dependence on the West for essential defence requirements gives the imperialists a leverage for their pressure on India.

## CALCULATED POLICIES

It is in the context of such calculated policies that the U.S. and British attitude in regard to MIG negotiations must be understood. Imperialists want to perpetuate this state of affairs. Nothing can, therefore, be more dangerous than to allow this old imperialist game against India to succeed.

On August 14 last year, this question of purchasing Super-sonic fighters from the Soviet Union came up before Parliament. Prime Minister Nehru said that the possibility of India going in for such purchases could not be ruled out. Evidently some sort of negotiations must have gone on since then.

It also appears that these negotiations may have been leaked out by some interested

elements in order to sabotage them. This sort of practice however is nothing unknown in the quarters that control India's defence.

In 1959, the Top secret letter of the Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. Thimmayya, to the Prime Minister mysteriously found its way to the press and the planned leakage was immediately seized upon by right reaction and the opponents of India's foreign policy to discredit the Defence Minister and bring him down. This time similar methods seem to have been used to facilitate the U.S. and British designs and create an uproar in the ruling circles in Washington and London.

## TAKE PEOPLE INTO CONFIDENCE

Be that as it may, the Government of India must take the public into full confidence and place before the Parliament and the people all that has passed between the Indian Government on the one hand and the Governments of U.S.A. and Britain on the other.

No military secret at all is involved here and our people are entitled to know the full details about the conduct of the U.S. and British authorities. Such information is also necessary for the Parliament and the public to check on the attitude of our Government and give the latter necessary advice.

In this connection, one cannot but view with concern the Government of India's attempts to keep things in dark from the public. It brings no credit to our country when we often find that the American Senators and newspapers know more about our affairs than our MPs or the press.

Nothing short of a frank statement of all facts as well

as a bold stand on policy questions will meet the needs of the situation. 14 years' of experience since independence should convince any one that by overmuch and exclusive reliance on Britain, U.S.A. and France, India is never going to build up an independent defence industry or become truly self-sufficient.

## NO YIELDING TO PRESSURES

If the present state of affairs continue, our country is likely to be badly out-distanced by those whom American imperialism is bolstering in our region. It is significant that when the U.S.A. is supplying super-sonic fighters to Pakistan, Britain has expressed inability to fulfil her promise to supply engines for combat aircrafts which Hindustan Aircrafts is supposed to deliver to our defence forces. It looks as though the HAL scheme is about to remain on paper.

However, coming to the question of reported MIG negotiations, the Government should realise that if these negotiations were not to materialise after all that has happened, the only conclusion the world will draw is that India has spinelessly submitted to the U.S. and British pressures.

This injury to national prestige apart, our national defence will suffer and our adversaries will be emboldened. It would amount to allowing the Americans and the British to hold our national security and our country's sovereignty to ransom.

Hence under no circumstances must this blackmail and this interference in the internal affairs of our country and with its sovereign rights be allowed to pass.

May 27, 1962.

## U.S. PIRACY ON HIGH SEAS

"The American military have of late been increasing their provocations against Soviet ships carrying non-military cargoes under the trade agreement between the USSR and the Cuban Republic," Pravda said on May 27.

SINCE the beginning of this year air pirates with U.S. identification marks have been buzzing Soviet ships off the shores of Cuba on more than 150 occasions. About twenty times U.S. warships staged police interrogations, seeking to frighten the Soviet seamen.

Pravda cited numerous instances of these provocations off the shores of Cuba.

At dawn on May 17, the American warship "Lawrence" (which more than once tried to stop Soviet ships carrying non-military cargoes to Cuba) staged a police interrogation of the Soviet motor cargo ship "Ivan Sechenov". "Every thing looked as if the incident did not take place on the high seas but at an immigration office near the Statue of

Liberty in New York," Pravda said.

Several hours later the Moscow radio station of the Ministry of the Merchant Marine received a message from the "Ivan Sechenov" reporting that U.S. aircraft No. 136431 carrying six suspended rockets was buzzing the ship before the same "Lawrence" approached to a dangerously close distance to the Soviet motor ship.

The Soviet turboship "Yuri Gagarin" which was sailing from Odessa to Havana, was subjected to a police interrogation by an American warship on April 15. An American aircraft carrier and the destroyer "Lawrence" were rushing towards the Soviet tanker "Peking" on April 19 in the windward passage. A bomber took off from the aircraft carrier and was buzzing the tanker.

Victor Bakaev, Minister of the Merchant Marine of the USSR, interviewed by a Pravda correspondent, said: "The American military are hampering the normal development of international eco-

nomic relations. The pirates are systematically violating agreements on freedom and safety of navigation and are taking arbitrary actions."

## NEW AGE

EDITOR: P. C. Joshi

Printed by D. P. Sinha at the NEW AGE PRINTING PRESS, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi, and published by him from 74, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi.

Telegraphic Address: MAEXBADI  
Phone: 225794

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

INLAND: Yearly Rs. 12.60  
Half-yearly Rs. 8.00 and  
Quarterly Rs. 3.00.

FOREIGN: Yearly Rs. 20.00  
Half-yearly Rs. 10.00.

All cheques and drafts to be made payable to T. MAEDAIVAN and not to NEW AGE.



FORCED LANDING?

—Courtesy Hindustan Times



# SPANISH WORKERS ON THE MARCH

## strike struggles spread throughout country

Santiago Carrillo, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain made the following statement in Paris to a L'Humanite correspondent on May 22:

THE number of Spanish workers who participated in different strikes has by now reached approximately 300 thousand. These workers were supported by the students in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia who bravely staged street demonstrations.

They are also supported by a powerful popular movement including Madrid women, students, small and medium businessmen who are rendering material aid to the strikers.

Even Jose Maria Roblez, the head of the government, against whom the miners of Asturias demonstrated in 1934, today speaks in support of the very same miners. This, Carrillo said, is an evidence of the results achieved by the policy of the Communist Party of Spain in the struggle against the Franco dictatorship.

The objective situation today is that a genuine front of all national forces is forming behind the fighting working class, despite the deep differences existing between these forces.

This proves that the working class is a force which by its struggle can unite and rally the broadest sections of the Spanish population against the dictatorship.

Indeed, S. Carrillo continued, the workers go on strikes in order to get acceptable minimum wages, the right to strike and freedom of trade union functioning.

But at the same time, the position of the government which proclaims the state of emergency, mobilizes huge police forces and arrests hundreds of people, on the one hand, and the position of the entire anti-Franco public opinion which expresses solidarity with the strikers, on the other hand, prove irrefutably that this movement is basically of a political nature.

### Struggle Against Power

One thing does not contradict the other: in conditions of a fascist dictatorship, any struggle of broad masses of working people against exploitation means, at the same time, struggle against power. This is just the process now developing in Spain.

Turning further to the position of the Church in this struggle, the General Secretary of the Spanish Communist Party pointed out that one must distinguish between the position of the higher Church dignitaries and that of the Catholic masses, including many priests.

The Catholic working people and their organisations, he said, are taking an active part in the struggle, together with communists and workers of other trends. A genuine combat unity between Catholic workers and communists is being born these days.

A familiar reaction can be witnessed also among workers belonging to the National Confederation of Labour and

the socialists, although their organisations, as such, do not take part in the struggle. The people, however, have strong, and naturally quite justified, suspicions with regard to higher Church leaders, and until they have clear and concrete proof they will doubt whether the Church wants to disclaim its ties with Franco.

There are only scanty reports on the repercussions of the strike had in the countryside, Carrillo said. The news agencies do not report this, and in the absence of legal channels the news comes much belatedly. Nevertheless it is known that broad action has taken place in the countryside. The Spanish countryside constitutes a tremendous

anti-Franco and revolutionary reserve.

After seven weeks of the strike, not only the end of the struggle is not in sight, but on the contrary the struggle is apparently flaring up with fresh force.

The workers of the Asturias did not allow themselves to fall into the trap of the authorities who had declared that until the miners return to work, they will neither get a wage rise nor will their arrested comrades be released.

Actually on May 13, the strike spread to new districts of the Asturias, to the entire mining zone, also to the big metallurgical Moreda Plant in Jijon and to the works in Mieres. The workers of Biscay together with miners of the other parts of the country, metallurgists, textile mill and other work-

ers are continuing the strike with remarkable courage.

The strike movement, in which so far two such great industrial centres as the Asturias and the Biscay province are taking part and in the course of which workers of other provinces are also displaying their determination and strength, may turn into a general national strike which will bring about the downfall of the dictatorship, Carrillo stressed.

The working class has realised its strength and will not return to the past. Within a few weeks, within a few days, significant changes have taken place in its organisation and unity.

The strike would have turned into a national strike against the dictatorship already now, had all the anti-Franco forces not only pro-

claimed their solidarity with the strikers but also worked out an action plan, a "political alternative" to the dictatorship. This process of unification of forces, he said, is not developing quickly enough as yet.

The Communist Party, Carrillo went on, offered all opposition parties, including the monarchists, a plan of peaceful actions, designed to extend the struggle and to form a government of broad national unity without any discrimination, a government which would temporarily assume power until elections, at which Spaniards will freely decide the destiny of the country, are held.

Were there agreement on a formula which would give guarantees to the toiling popular masses, to broad seg-

\* ON PAGE 11

## Triumph Of Rumanian Socialist Planning

There was great jubilation in Bucharest, the capital of Rumania, a few weeks back. The people were celebrating a historic event in their life—the victory of socialism in the countryside, the completion of collectivisation of agriculture in the Rumanian People's Republic.

THE Extraordinary Session of Rumania's Grand National Assembly convened to mark the occasion was attended, apart from the deputies, by 11,000 invitees who included collective farm chairmen, experts working directly in agricultural production, workers from the state farms and the machine and tractor stations, people active in the field of science and culture, foremost engineers and workers from the machine-building works and the chemical industry.

The report on the completion of collectivisation and managerial reorganisation of agriculture was submitted by Gheorghiu-Dej, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and President of the R. P. R. State Council.

Discussions followed on the report submitted and on the bill concerning the setting up of the Higher Council of Agriculture and of the regional and district agricultural councils. Many speakers took part in the debate.

A characteristic feature of the process of the socialist transformation of agriculture in Rumania has been the gradual, continuous advance, in step with the conviction of the peasantry in socialist agriculture from the results obtained in the production and in the rise in the living standards of the collective farmers, and in step with the creation of the material-technical base necessary for such a transformation.

One of the most important features of this process was the continuous rise in the agricultural production during this entire period.

The socialist sector in Rumanian agriculture now in-

cludes 96 per cent of the country's arable area, and the collective farms embrace 3,201,000 families, almost all the peasant families.

In agriculture, the annual average of the total cereal output during the 1956-1960 period exceeded by 1,170,000 tons, and in 1961 by 2,600,000 tons the average of the 1934-1938 period.

The national income was over 3.5 times bigger than in 1949.

During the last 12 years the real wage grew two-fold, and the state appropriations for social and cultural purposes five-fold; the volume of sale of goods through the socialist trading network was in 1961 almost five times as big as in 1949.

The numerous speakers who addressed the Extraordinary

Session of the Grand National Assembly presented the bright picture of the Rumanian village today, in contrast with the past when it had been plunged in the dire misery to which the bourgeois-landlord regime had doomed it.

with the new stage in its development.

The new form of organisation—the setting up of the Higher Council of Agriculture as a body under the Council of Ministers and the setting up of the regional and district councils, as bodies under the people's councils—will create conditions for the participation of the best trained cadres, working directly in production, in agricultural management.

As pointed out in the report of Gheorghiu-Dej:

"This victory raises the worker-peasant alliance and the moral-political unity of the whole people to a higher level. The two friendly social classes, the working class, leader of all the working people, and the class of collective farmers, together with the intellectuals, are forging ahead shoulder to shoulder, under the experienced guidance of the Party, towards the completion of socialist construction in the countryside, has rendered necessary the reorganisation of agricultural management in keeping

with the building of communism."



Invitees from the Oltania region of Rumania, at the Grand National Assembly session.

NEW AGE

JUNE 3, 1962

## Opposition Protests In U.P. Assembly

### UPSHOT OF RULING AGAINST PRIVILEGE MOTION

THE storm in the U. P. Assembly over criticism of Justice Mulla by the Chief Minister himself has aroused more than usual interest in the State.

The ruling of the Speaker on the privilege motion moved by the Opposition on the Chief Minister's conduct and the walk-out by the Opposition members only further heightened the interest in the issue.

The Chief Minister, C. B. Gupta, in his anxiety to defend the State police—which for quite some time has been a subject matter of strong criticism by public opinion here—thought it necessary to attack the now famous remarks of Justice Mulla on the functioning and conduct of the police force. The Chief Minister went to the extent of saying that the judge's observations were far from the truth and lacked balance.

Such an astounding statement from the Chief Executive of the State brought forth sharp reaction from the Opposition, and even Congressmen appeared to be dismayed over the performance of C. B. Gupta. C. D. Yadav (CPI) N. N. Pande (SP) came forward with breach of privilege motions against the Chief Minister on the ground that his remarks, besides being unwarranted, dealt with an issue which was sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

They further pointed out that Article 21 of the Constitution forbade criticism of a judge of the High Court and the Chief Minister by criticising the judicial conduct of a judge had tended to impede the free functioning of the judiciary in the country. The case made out against the Chief Minister on this issue appeared so formidable that even the Treasury Benches were thrown into a state of nervousness.

The Speaker, however, chose to withhold his consent to the privilege motion, though he also administered a rebuke to the Chief Minister that his remarks on a matter that was sub-judice were "out of order" and "should not have been made". The remarks were ordered to be expunged from the proceedings.

Since the Opposition was not satisfied and pressed for the hearing at least of the Advocate General's views on this matter, the walk-out followed.

Besides a number of rather complex constitutional and legal issues that this episode has posed, it has been noted as significant that the Jan Sangh, which is the main Opposition in U. P. Assembly, did not join in the walk-out.

The key question that is being asked here in this connection is the implied threat to the free functioning of the judiciary by the conduct of the Chief Minister.

conduct, had done violence to it.

The controversy on this issue has aroused interest not just as a question of general principle, but also in terms of the recent tragic incident in Allahabad in which police was again involved in rather a poor light.

It has been found now, for instance, that the much-criticised police firing in Allahabad was not even ordered by a Magistrate who, according to rules, is the lowest authority given powers to use force

to disperse a mob after duly declaring an assembly of men unlawful.

The police "Thanedar" took the decisions by himself. The stand taken by the Chief Minister that the Police Inspector decided to use force in self-defence and in defence of Government property failed to convince.

The Opposition in the Assembly very pertinently pointed out it was precisely because a comparatively junior police officer may not be able to discern rightly what was the extent of the threat in a given situation and what was

## Indian Volunteers Offer To Join Protest Ship To Christmas Islands

A young boy from Julundur, a lady doctor from Mysore, two students from Nabha, a newspaper editor from Himachal Pradesh and many more like them are among the 250 persons who have already volunteered to sail to Christmas Islands from the Indian shores to protest against the nuclear tests being conducted there by U. S. imperialists.

Mohammad Elias, MP, who had announced on the floor of the Lok Sabha that he was ready to steer a ship to the Christmas Islands and to whom Prime Minister Nehru had written that if any private person

would do so (take a ship to the Christmas Islands), "we shall not intervene", has already received a number of letters in which the volunteers have expressed their willingness to accompany him.

In a communication to Md. Elias, a lady doctor from Mysore writes: "I have been waiting for just this opportunity to lay down my life, my all, if it is of any use in the cause of peace and disarmament. As I am also a doctor, you can be assured that I will be of service to the others if need be."

Every day such letters containing offers to volunteer for this project are being received by Md. Elias

and the All-India Peace Council.

In an interview with New Age, Md. Elias disclosed that he has written to Bertrand Russell and the World Council of Peace for effecting close coordination between the two ventures. He also said that, "attempts are being made to charter an Indian ship for this volunteer mission, falling which, he would request Russell to take the Indian volunteers in his ship."

Md. Elias said that he had been overwhelmed at the response and the appreciation his offer had received in the country but still, he felt, "it is not one-man job" and he therefore "proposes to request various important persons" to help him in this project.

## IRATE MANAGEMENT'S ATTEMPTS TO KILL JUTE WORKER

NOORUL Hussain, a worker of the Howrah Jute Mills, who was missing for 19 days, was discovered at the Howrah station, bound hand and foot in a steel trunk and left in an empty third class compartment of Moghul Sarai passenger, on May 22 morning.

According to reports available, a constable of the Railway police was going on his usual rounds on the platform. At that time the empty train was still standing on the platform and the constable suddenly heard a faint cry from one of the compartments.

He entered the compartment and located the steel trunk from where the sound was coming. Immediately, he called another person and both of them brought the trunk down on the platform from the compartment. When the lock of the trunk was broken open, they found out a man inside the trunk with hands and feet tied.

This man was Noorul Hussain. He was at that time on the verge of death and police immediately removed him to

a hospital. In a semi-conscious state, Noorul Hussain was able to identify himself.

The news of this discovery spread like wild fire and hundreds of workers rushed to the hospital to see him. Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the West Bengal Committee of AITUC, Naresh Dasgupta, and General Secretary of the Howrah Jute Mills Workers Union, Debabrata Ghosal, came to the hospital but the police authorities did not allow them to see Noorul Hussain.

It is learnt that Noorul, in a statement at the hospital, has disclosed that he was forced to eat something and some strong stuff was held before his nose. Noorul is having pain all over the body and is not fully conscious.

It may be recalled that since May 4 Noorul had been missing when he went to see the Labour Officer of the mill in response to his call.

have enraged the management of the mills.

On May 4, he was called by the Labour Officer of the mill and before going there, he had informed his brother and another co-worker about it.

On May 5, when Noorul did not return, his brother made a report at the police station. No action was taken by the police. Following inaction of the police to arrest the Labour Officer of the Mill, the workers started an agitation demanding immediate enquiry about the missing person. Police on May 6 made a lathi-charge and fired tear gas shells on the workers who were peacefully squatting in the mill premises.

In the subsequent days, more than 40 workers were arrested and about 60 workers suspended. Finally, the management imposed a lockout which, according to a report, is still continuing.

The District Magistrate is reported to have stated that he was awaiting the recovery of Noorul Hussain from the shock and strain and after he was fit to make a statement about the happenings, action would be taken against the culprits.

the amount of force necessary to meet it, that the law provided for a Magistrate to take the responsibility.

## SPAIN...

\* FROM PAGE 10

ments of society, to certain institutes (such as the Church and the Army) separating them from Franco, the isolation of the regime would have been complete and Franco would not have been able to continue to usurp power.

Thus a possibility of a peaceful democratic development would have appeared. If, for the time being, things did not go far enough, nevertheless the current events constitute an introduction to mass struggle which in the nearest future will destroy the dictatorship in our country.

We are also convinced, said the Secretary General of the Communist Party of Spain, that if the social forces which could facilitate these changes, despite our desire to achieve changes peacefully, fail to respond to the will of the people, the people later on will achieve their goals through struggle.

The Spanish people will not agree to the preservation of Francoism without Franco, to a monarchy imposed on the people against its will, to a parody of freedom.

Any such attempt today will meet the resistance of the working class and the people, who have already embarked on the road of struggle to achieve genuine democratic changes. The destiny of Spain will be decided by all Spaniards through free elections, excluding coercion.

In conclusion, Carrillo urged greater international working class and democratic solidarity with the struggle of the people of Spain.

JUNE 3, 1962

NEW AGE

PAGE ELEVEN



# SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN MADRAS CONGRESS

THE Kamaraj leadership of the Congress and the Government in Madras is not as unchallenged as it has appeared hitherto.

According to informed Pradesh Congress sources, group rivalries and dissensions, so far conspicuous by their absence, have now come into play in the Congress camp in Madras also. Despite all painstaking denials, there was even a move for a signature campaign, directed against Kamaraj and purporting to pin the blame for the Party's "debacle" in the recent elections on his "dictatorial leadership".

The move, however, did not materialise, probably because the "important man" operating from the background called it off at the last minute due to pressure from an influential section of the High Command in Delhi.

C. Subramaniam's recent assertion in Madras that there was no pressure group functioning within the Pradesh Congress is not being taken seriously and at its face value. But what has attracted wide attention is the open admission made by Subramaniam to the effect that "there are and will continue to be" differences of opinion and approach within the Pradesh Congress. Hitherto, the practice was to claim the virtue of "monolithic solidarity" and hence the revelation caught many in utter surprise.

The first indication of "troubles" within the party was available when an influential member of the party from Coimbatore publicly criticised Kamaraj for being complacent and for committing the Congress Party to the support of the Dravidian Kazhagam, "an abominable communal force by every token".

N. Mahalingam, the member in question, is known to

be the closest friend of C. Subramaniam. His criticism was delivered in the very presence of Subramaniam who, surprisingly enough, did not dissociate himself from what was said.

His even more surprisingly mild reaction then was: "Certain things have been said with which I agree and with which it is possible I may not

agree also. There, they are and it is for you (the audience of Congress workers) to judge them!"

Following this criticism of Kamaraj, there were violent reactions. The Youth Congress demanded a formal apology from Subramaniam and suggested the summary expulsion of the member concerned.

There was also a group from the southern districts that expressed its approval of the criticism and proclaimed its intention to press it forward to the stage of "logical conclusion".

Kamaraj has, however, met the implied challenge to his leadership with firmness. He convened the general meeting of the Pradesh Congress, made

an admission of his "short-comings" and challenged the critics "to come out in the open to provide the alternative leadership". The talk of "signature campaign" was given the quietus.

After a period of lull, the subject cropped up again for public discussion, last week, thanks to Subramaniam. There was the casual question addressed to him by pressmen in Madras on reports about group rivalries within the Pradesh Congress.

Instead of indulging in a shrug of shoulders, with its matching utterance "no comment please"—the usual line of reaction expected of him—Subramaniam showed willingness to talk on the subject and at length!

In the course of the talk he admitted more than he cared to deny. He admitted that "there are people within the Congress who have differed from Kamaraj's election strategy".

In this connection, Subramaniam's "courtesy call" on Rajaji has also come in for significant comment and attention from Congress circles close to Kamaraj. In Madras politics, Subramaniam was known for a long time only as the trusted man of Rajaji.

It was Rajaji who pitched-forked him into Ministerial office in 1962. In 1954 when there was a contest for leadership, Subramaniam has "pulled together" apparently well.

The strains, if any, should have developed only during the recent elections, many think. These moves and counter-moves look strange and make for even a stranger analysis. Subramaniam himself has explained these moves in a very succinct way.

He has said: "In politics anything may happen. Don't go in for the logic behind any move. It just happens and that is all to it."

(India Press Agency)

## RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS

### Surjeet's Appeal To Punjab Chief Minister

Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Secretary of the Punjab State Council of the CPI has written a letter to Pratap Singh Kairon, Chief Minister, Punjab, regarding release of Teja Singh Swatantra and others. His letter of May 11, inter alia, reads as under:

I AM sending herewith a copy of the resolution passed by our National Council in its meeting of April 26, 1962 on the release of long-term political prisoners. We had raised this demand from the platform of the Party Congress held at Vijayawada in April 1961.

In response to the popular demand for release of political prisoners, the Madras State Government has released 12 long-term political prisoners undergoing imprisonment in that State.

You are aware of the fact that some of our comrades are languishing in Punjab jails since many years and some have warrants pending against them. The comrades undergoing imprisonment in Punjab jails are: 1) Nasib Singh; 2) Fakhar Singh; 3) Malan Singh; 4) Kehar Singh; and 5) Fritam Singh.

Against those warrants pending are: 1) Teja Singh Swatantra; 2) Raja Singh of INA; 3) Sardha Singh; 4) Darshan Singh and 5) Inder Singh Murari. Bagga Singh of INA and Harbans Singh Mahuru have already died in jail because of continued hardships and lack of medical aid. Those who are undergoing imprisonment in Punjab jails have already undergone more than 8 years of rigorous imprisonment. All of them played an important part in the struggle of our country's freedom. They have won popularity in the jails because of their sincere work. It is perfectly in your purview to review their cases and order their immediate release.

The comrades against whom warrants are pending are perhaps known to you personally. There is no need of mentioning the sacrifices made by Teja Singh Swatantra in our freedom struggle. He organised the Indians abroad to help the liberation movement. He was kept as a State prisoner by the foreign rulers and while in detention, he was elected to the Punjab

Assembly. As an important leader of the Communist Party, he worked hard in organising the workers and peasants.

Now since 1948, he is deprived of serving his people openly for whose freedom he has devoted his life. Now it is 13th year of his hard life as a proclaimed offender. This is a very difficult life, more difficult than a prisoner's.

Similar is the case with the other comrades. They are deprived of normal life, their families have been ruined. Political considerations should not stand in the way of dealing with the political opponents especially in such cases.

Therefore I make an earnest appeal to you to withdraw all warrants pending, if any, against these comrades and send a request to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh asking him also to withdraw cases against them.

Orders of release of those undergoing imprisonment in the Punjab jails be issued immediately. Hope you will not lag behind in following the steps taken by Madras State Government in this respect.

Expecting an immediate reply,

sion of its two-day session on May 17, has decided to launch mass campaigns on the high prices of food and essential commodities, enhanced railway fares and freights, mounting burden of taxation, high water-tax in canal areas etc.

Among others, it has also decided to press for fair price for raw jute, total remission of rent for hoestead land and reduction of other rents, distribution of surplus land and

stoppage of the eviction of peasants, introduction of adult franchise in the elections to the corporations and municipalities and adequate provisions for drinking water in urban as well as rural areas.

The State Council has called upon all its units to organise mass meetings, demonstrations etc., on these issues.

## DISTRIBUTE EVACUEE LANDS AMONG RURAL WORKERS

### Dehati Mazdoor Sabha's Demand

JULLUNDUR:

IN order to press for "fair distribution" of evacuee lands among the rural labourers in the Punjab, Dehati Mazdoor Sabha, an organisation of rural workers, has decided to launch a campaign.

A Jatha will start its march to the State capital, Chandigarh, on June 14, in this connection.

According to Dehati Mazdoor Sabha, the Jatha, during its 12-day march would cover scores of villages in the four

districts of the Punjabi region—Ferozepur, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Ambala—mobilising the peoples support for the Sabha's demand.

The 25-man Jatha which is to be led by Daya Singh Frem, Vice-President of the Sabha, will include MLAs, sarpanches, panches, members of the block samities, besides top leaders of the organisation.

On reaching the State capital, the Jatha will seek an interview with the authorities there. The further program-

me of the Sabha would depend upon the reaction of the Punjab Government towards their demands.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Rehabilitation, Frem Singh Fran, explaining the position of the Government says that existing occupants of evacuee lands would not be evicted and would be given legal rights over their lands. He, however, added that the remaining land would be disposed through auction, a procedure which has been bitterly resisted by the Punjab Dehati Mazdoor Sabha.

## Patil's Claims

★ From Last Page

term which Patil uses in relation to the agricultural community—the "farmer"—and you will see that his policy of fighting lower prices actually hits rather than helps the majority of the rural population.

It is also significant that, while Patil speaks of "protection to the farmer" and uses that argument to maintain agricultural prices at a high level, he has no word of cheer to the mass of the peasants who are ground down by the still continuing huge burden of landlord's rent, the ever-increasing burden of direct and indirect taxes and the colossal burden of debts and interest.

The Report of his Ministry supplied to the Members of Parliament along with the Budget admits that "in several States the normal level of rent is about a third of the produce or more". It is only in three States, i.e. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, that rent reduction has gone to the farthest limit, at one-sixth of the produce.

Is it not clear that the mass of tenants would stand to gain by still further and drastic reduction in rents, rather than by the increase in prices? After all, rent reduction will be an absolute gain for the peasants.

## INCREASED PRICES OFFSET GAINS

As for increased prices of commodities, they will increase their expenditure on commodities which they have to buy. This would very often more than offset any gain they may make out of high prices of agricultural commodities.

As for the increasing burdens of taxation, direct and indirect, one need not read or speak at length. Agricultural interests belonging to the ruling party have themselves come out clearly and sharply against the increase in land tax, water rate, betterment levy, etc., as well as against indirect taxes which fall on the consumption goods of the common people.

They are also deeply concerned over the heavy burdens of debt and interest. One would, therefore, like

to tell Patil: "If you are so solicitous about the farmer, as you claim to be, and if by the term 'farmer' you do not mean only a narrow stratum of rich peasants and landlords, you would better start by reducing these burdens of rent, interest and taxes on the mass of peasantry."

"Secondly, you would do well to see that prices of essential commodities which every peasant has to buy for his own living—cloth, provisions, school fees, railway fares, etc.—are reduced. The real farmer—the one who toils with the sweat of his own brow and makes it possible for production to grow, will look upon these reductions in the burdens imposed on him and in his domestic expenditure as far greater and more effective incentives than the high prices which you assure him."

It is, however, this approach that is conspicuous by its absence in Patil's speech. He talks a lot on improving the technique of agriculture. He is pleased that Member after Member of Parliament spoke on the various aspects of improving agriculture. He pleads with them to see that such problems as seed, manures, implements, etc., are all discussed properly.

All this, however, is a continuation of what even the British Government used to do. We remember very well how the agricultural "experts" of British imperialism headed by Lord Linlithgow made an exhaustive study of all these problems and produced a voluminous report in the 1920s.

It was stated against that endeavour of British imperialism by the national movement that the imperialist plan of improving agricultural technique in India missed the major element in the situation—the man who sweats and toils on the land.

It was against this approach of imperialism that such simple questions as reduction in land revenue and rent, abolition of salt tax, cheapening of the administrative system, abolition of landlord exploitation, etc., were demanded by the national movement. It would, however, appear

## KERALA CLEAVAGE

★ FROM PAGE FOUR

sport Ministry stated the other day in reply to Communist Members' questions that the question of technical financial collaboration from foreign countries for the building of the shipyard at Cochin has not been settled so far. It is clear that the powers that be at the centre, presumably under the influence of certain vested interests, are pursuing a policy of go-slow in regard to the shipyard being started at Cochin.

The question of the Phyto Chemical plant to be started at Neriamangalam with Soviet Co-operation is a more pitiable story. The construction of the three other Chemical plants elsewhere in India is proceeding apace. But the Neriamangalam project is still "under consideration". It has become common knowledge that the State Government

## BOOK REVIEW

# Nine Hours To Rama

"Nine Hours To Rama"—the book on which is based the Hollywood film over which a storm burst in the last Lok Sabha—has now arrived in this country.

IN Parliament, Dr. Keskar had assured the critical Members that the Information & Broadcasting Ministry had seen the script and found nothing objectionable in it, and so they had okayed it for film-shooting.

Reading the book, one is amazed at the low moral taste, and the lack of patriotism of the person in the Ministry—whoever it may be—who had passed it for film.

It is a wicked account of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, written by an American Professor of Indian history at Southern California University with an eye on neighbouring Hollywood. Stanley Wolpert, the author, has no doubt been amply rewarded.

The main protagonists, Mohandas Gandhi and Nathuram Godse, are identified by name in the novel. Other leading characters take ingenious forms: Gupta, "one of the world's wealthiest individuals" who is the Mahatma's host; Cabinet Minister P. K. Shan-karacharyarao, "bull-necked leader of the Congress Party and formidable power in the land" who is helpless before the Mahatma and powerless to stop his murder; H. H. Shivaji Rao Mulkar II, Shyam Prasad, "leader of the rightist splinter group opposition," and Guraji Dhondo Kanetkar, who are among the assorted personages wishing and plotting for the death of Gandhi from a variety of motives.

All through the day Nathu has had reveries; so have memories of other central figures flashed back to some traumatic experience in their lives, which as an American psychiatrist might say, would account for their present actions and attitudes.

On viewing Red Fort,

## SAVE GIZENGA'S LIFE

Peace Council Cables To U. Thant

ANDIT Sundrala, Chairman of the Presidential Committee of the All India Peace Council has sent a cable to U Thant, Secretary General U.N.O., appealing to him to see that no harm comes to Antoine Gizenga, former first deputy premier of the Congo. The cable reads as follows:

"All India Peace Council and Indian people feel deeply concerned in Congo's unity integrity and inde-

pendence necessary for African advancement and world peace, appreciate your efforts and efforts of Congo patriots for this. We feel greatly perturbed and shocked at reported danger to Gizenga's life. Therefore on behalf of All India Peace Council, Indian people and myself beseech you take all possible steps to save Gizenga's life and avoid another tragedy like that of late-lamented African patriot Lumumba."

have not expeditiously fulfilled their commitments in regard to the plant—such as acquiring necessary acreage of land, planting the medicinal plants and guaranteeing the supply of raw materials. The reply to the question on the floor of the Lok Sabha from the Central minister was suggestive only of this.

Similarly the delay in the matter of issue of licences for the 1½ lakh spindles for textile mills was mainly due to failure of the State Government to send up appropriate recommendations at proper time to Centre; and the work of the National Highway had to be held up in our State due to the State Government not sending up estimates in right time. These have become clear from replies from Central Ministers.

All this is not new to the people of Kerala who have they not known that the

centre has been following a policy of discrimination against this state all these years. But the question that comes up is—what is the State Government doing? The people of our State have the right to expect a clear answer from the State Government as to what they are doing about all this.

What the ministers and the leaders of the ruling parties are interested in is the matter of allotment of running educational institutions for profit and the division of such spoils on community and party basis and not on such vital issues as the industrialisation of our State.

The Secretariat of the Communist Party exhorts all patriots and honest men of Kerala to raise their voice of protest against the policy of neglect continuously being pursued against our State by the Centre.

The newspaper editor from Poona is a pastmaster in wenching and has a passionate weakness for liquor, from Nasik whisky to French champagne.

In cold print, Nathu appears as a debauch, a socially mistreated malcontent rather than a politically misguided fanatic.

This is the stuff Hollywood's "nobody understands me" heroes are made of and one can visualise in CinemaScope and Technicolor a heart-wrenching portrait of India's most ignominious assassin, supported by glamorous stars.

Wolpert, who has written a less dramatic book on Gokhale and Tilak, knows his Maharashtra lore and locales; However, his commercial, unscholarly exploitation of one of the greatest tragedies in Indian history and of the noble as well as piteous actor drawn into it, is in poor taste and can hardly strengthen his academic worth.

As a fictional chronicle of that day of infamy, "Nine Hours To Rama" adds to the outrage with its literary act of violence. Both the filthy book and the film based on it should forthwith be banned. Even that will not wipe out the ignominy heaped on India by these "friends".

—By BHASKAR

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST TAXATION GROWING

### West Bengal And Punjab Take Lead

A MASS campaign against the imposition of new taxes by the Government, increase in cost of living, enhancement of railway fares etc., has already started gathering momentum in various parts of the country.

In the Punjab, the latest taxation measures of the Government are the focus of all attention in the State.

The Punjab Government legislation in this regard is itself a novel piece of fiscal legislation. Through it, the State Government has levied

surcharges on existing quantum of sales tax, goods and passenger tax and land revenue.

The gross income for the levy of professional tax, has, at the same time, been lowered to Rs. 1,800 per year, bringing within the purview of professional tax a larger number of small artisans and working people than was the case hitherto.

The income from these levies will not form part of the normal budgetary resources of the State but will form a special fund to be used for the construction of houses for Harijans. The levies, furthermore, will be in force for a period of one year only, according to the provisions of the enactment as it stands for the time being.

The Communist Party has already given a call to the people of the State to launch a strong movement against this taxation measure. All Opposition Parties in the Punjab have decided to jointly conduct the campaign.

A convention of all the Opposition Parties, Legislators and Parliament members be-

### MASS DRIVE FOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP

THE West Bengal State Council of the CPI, following its meeting on May 16 and 17, has decided to start a mass drive for the recruitment of new Party members and renew the present membership within August 31 next.

It has also decided to take steps to increase the circulation of its Bengali daily—Swadhinat.



# SPEED-UP OF POWER GENERATION

## Joint Indo-Soviet Plan

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**G**REATER coordination between the Indian and the Soviet authorities to remove some of the bottlenecks in the construction of the Soviet-aided power generation plants during the Third Plan period is expected to be achieved as a result of high-level discussions recently held between the two sides.

According to the terms of collaboration, the Soviet side is to provide the project reports and equipment for the various projects, while Indian authorities are to undertake civil works and other construction.

The Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission, Kumar, during his recent visit to Moscow explained to the Soviet authorities the difficulties confronted by the Indian side in connection with these projects.

He has also conveyed the results of his discussions in Moscow to the Union Government, which have been satisfactory.

The position of the four thermal plants now being undertaken with Soviet help has been causing anxiety, largely on account of the delay in the initial phases of the projects.

Of these four projects—Neyveli, Singrauli, Korba and Patharu—only the lignite-based Neyveli thermal plant has commenced power generation. The first 50 thousand K. W. generator was commissioned at a time when need for power that it will generate was great indeed.

But the project is still con-

siderably behind schedule. Equipment for the second, third and fourth generating units and most of the equipment for the fifth unit has already arrived at the construction site from the Soviet Union. Work to set up the second generator is now in progress.

However, equipment for the third, fourth and fifth generating units is lying idle. The delay in completing the preliminary works, which the Neyveli Corporation has to undertake, is learnt to be due to shortage of trained personnel and special construction material.

Soviet engineers who have visited the site have expressed anxiety that if these equipments remained idle for long, and exposed to the hazards of weather, they may be damaged.

In the light of these delays, the expansion of the Neyveli plant in the second stage, has been somewhat altered. Instead of having three generating units of 50 thousand K. W. each, the second stage of the project will now consist of one 50 thousand K. W. generator and another of one lakh K. W. It is hoped that this alteration will considerably make up for the delay caused in the project's first stage.

As for the other three thermal projects proposed to be set up at Korba, Singrauli and Patharu, even the preliminary stage has not been completed. The Korba project contract was finalised by the two sides a month ago, but has yet to be signed.

The Soviet side, represent-

ed by Chief Engineer Ermilov, who has flown to Delhi to finalise talks on Korba, has expressed anxiety that the time scheme may be upset unless quick decisions are taken by the Indian side.

Plants supplied to India, he has pointed out, have to be specially conditioned for tropical climate by Soviet manufacturers, and Soviet industry has to be given due notice for manufacturing such huge equipments.

In the case of the Singrauli project, the detailed project report is now being prepared by the Soviet engineers and is expected to be ready by the first quarter of the next year.

There appears to be less anxiety about the Bhakra right-bank power house, for which the Soviet Union has to provide and erect four giant generating plants of 120 thousand K. W. each. This project is by far the biggest among those four with which the Soviet Union is collaborating.

The left bank power house units will be the biggest single generating plant to be set up in this country during the Third Plan. The last of these units is expected to reach here towards the end of the Third Plan.

(IPA)

## In Memory Of Ajoy Ghosh

### BURGOS JAIL PRISONERS SEND MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

Sebastian Zapirain, Member of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Spain, has sent a letter to the Central Executive Committee of the CPI, forwarding the original copy of a condolence message received by him from the Burgos prison on the sad demise of Ajoy Ghosh.

The message has been sent by the communist prisoners who are undergoing sentences imposed on them by the fascist Franco Government.

Following are the texts of the letter as well as the message:

"We have received from our comrades in the Burgos prison a note of condolence at the death of Comrade Ajoy Ghosh, to be forwarded to you.

"We enclose this authentic and valuable note which comes from the prison itself.

"We take this opportunity of expressing to you our fraternal communist greetings."

For and on behalf of the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain

—Sebastian Zapirain

#### MESSAGE

"The sad news has reached us in prison of the death of our very dear friend and comrade Ajoy Ghosh. His exemplary revolutionary life has made him one of the most outstanding figures in the international communist movement.

"The Leninist temple of Comrade Ajoy Ghosh stimulates and encourages us in our difficult struggle against General Franco's dictatorship.

"At this moment of mourning of all communists, please accept our most sincere condolences which we extend to the working classes and all the people of India."

—From the Communists in the Central prison of Burgos.

## RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS

### Concerted Move In Pakistan

A concerted move for the release of political prisoners, will be made in the National Assembly of Pakistan immediately after it opens on June 8, on the expiry of the Martial Law regime.

SEVERAL members of the National Assembly from the former Frontier Province and from East Pakistan are reported to have already come to a common understanding on the issue.

They are now contacting members from former Sind and the Punjab provinces, holding similar views, in particular, those genuinely seeking revival of political parties, in order to put up a strong front in the National Assembly.

The release of political prisoners, according to them should be made the central issue of their programme and should be considered as the sine qua non for the revival of political parties, which have been outlawed beyond the Martial Law period by a recent Presidential Ordinance.

Though six journalists and some student leaders of East Pakistan have been released recently, it is, however, unlikely that President Ayub would accede to the demand for the release of all political prisoners or declare an amnesty.

On the contrary, more arrests are being made in the Western wing and the Government has extended the term of detention of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan by another six months.

President Ayub by his ordinance extending ban on political parties has also been quick to forestall the move of Choudhury Khaliquzzaman to call a convention of former Muslim Leaguers, immediately

has been universally recognized—but so long as they are not allowed to function, groups of like-minded persons will fill the vacuum, making it necessary for the President to enlist their support."

Referring to the process of growth of the parties it significantly warns: "It is for the President and Legislators to see that the growth of this process is not interfered with."

Meanwhile, the entire situation is in a state of flux. It will take a few days more for the position to become clear. Meetings of National Assembly members on the basis of provinces and political thinking are being called to evolve some kind of a unified or what may be called group approach and functioning in the National Assembly.

(IPA)

### PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

A very large number of prisoners in the Bikaner Central Jail is reported to have gone on hunger strike since last several days.

This step, it is stated, followed the death of a prisoner as a result of merciless beating.

The striking prisoners have decided to continue to remain on hunger strike till the concerned officials are removed and a thorough probe is made into the causes of the death of their co-prisoner.

Prefacing its sharp reaction with the safety plug of approval for President Ayub's permission for the functioning of "groups" inside the National Assembly, the same paper writes: "Parties appear inevitable now—their inevitability

## ON BERLIN ISSUE

# BONN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE SETTLEMENT

★ From P. KUNHANANDAN NAIR

### BERLIN:

After President Kennedy's letter to Chancellor Adenauer this week giving a firm assurance that West Germany's interests will be fully safeguarded in the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on West Berlin issue, Bonn Government submitted a memorandum to the United States that Dean Rusk may negotiate with Ambassador Dobrynin on the basis that access routes to West Berlin be put under control of the big four disregarding GDR's sovereignty. This proposal is counter to thirteen-member international authority suggested by the United States.

Regarding three other proposals contained in the leaked-out American plan for Berlin settlement—non-aggression pact, no spreading of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear power and East-West German Commissions—qualified proposals were believed to have been made by Bonn.

The West German conditions attached to the idea of an undertaking by USA and USSR to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons was that it would not be binding on NATO and that it should not be directed against West Germany alone or its efforts for independent nuclear power.

The condition attached to idea of establishing commissions of East and West German representatives was that it should not have any governmental authority leading to recognition of GDR, nor should it substitute the big four responsibility of bringing about German reunification.

The idea of exchange of non-aggression declarations between NATO and Warsaw pact nations was described as unworkable and undermining the very purpose of NATO.

That the basic responsibility of access of route would be with the big four (USA, USSR, Britain and France).

That, there can be an operating body of neutral nations (Switzerland, Austria and Sweden) but it should take decisions only by unanimous votes.

That the German Democratic Republic which exercises full sovereignty over its territory should have only "technical responsibility" over the traffic control through its territory.

West German proposals are identical to Western powers' proposals during the 1959 Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva which was rejected by the Soviet Union and GDR. This is the first time ever since German problem came on

### Disarmament Congress Preparatory Committee Meets

THE Preparatory Committee for the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace (Moscow, July 9-14, 1962) held its first meeting at Eskilstuna, Sweden, on May 19 and 20.

There was a broad exchange of views on the character of the Congress and on what needs to be done to ensure a free and thorough confrontation of the different trends of opinion represented by those who, at the request of the World Council of Peace, have agreed to assume responsibility for organising the Congress.

Both the nature of the discussion and the messages received by the Preparatory Committee bear witness to the general feeling that agreement on disarmament is

is the primary condition for settlement.

Prime Minister Khrushchov has already warned United States that it would be dangerous to allow Chancellor Adenauer to delay an agreement on West Berlin and Germany.

This was in the joint Soviet-Bulgarian communique issued in Sofia at the conclusion of Khrushchov's six-day visit. There were extensive references in the communique to German problem and on the necessity of good neighbourly relations in the Balkans.

The communique accused West German Chancellor of attempting to complicate talks between Secretary of States, Rusk and Soviet Ambassador, Dobrynin and warned:

Talks could not be permitted to be used for a constant dangerous putting off of the settlement of German question. A separate peace treaty with German Democratic Republic will be signed by peace-loving nations if Western powers continue keeping to unreasonable and unrealistic position on German question.

### Attempt To Sabotage Settlement

While fresh attempts are made to delay and sabotage West Berlin settlement, West Germany's military possession in NATO is increasing danger-

ously.

### IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA AGAINST DISARMAMENT CONGRESS

While on one side, preparations for the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace are well under way in various countries, the campaign against the Congress is also growing apace in many countries, in USA and Britain in particular, on the other.

ACCORDING to a report available, a number of Americans had asked for advice from the State Department in regard to their participation in the Congress.

The State Department decided to advise them against such participation on the pretext that since this Congress has been convened in Moscow, it would be "fully under control of Soviet propagandists and the delegates from abroad will be unable to influence its outcome."

The entire propaganda machinery of the United States seems to have been mobilised against the Congress. But in this respect, the leadership of the British Labour Party has gone one step ahead of Washington officialdom. It has threatened to expel from the party all its members who would attend the Congress.

It is interesting to note that following Lord Russell, other prominent members of the Labour Party—former Mayor of Coventry, William Callow and his successor, A. Vaugh; Secretary of the Parliamentary Group of the "Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament"—Joyce Butler, scientist Mrs. Wootton and others, have recorded their support for the Moscow Congress.

By turning over the eleventh West German panzer Grenadier division to NATO States that it would be dangerous to allow Chancellor Adenauer to delay an agreement on West Berlin and Germany.

Its present strength is 380,000 comprising of 240,000 soldiers, 90,000 airmen and 30,000 sailors and the rest being miscellaneous units. Over and above, 350,000 trained reservists can be pressed into service any moment.

The French President, a few days ago made it clear that the inner alliance (of NATO) would be based on the joint leadership of France and West Germany and would be relatively independent of U.S., Britain and Canada.

### Increase In Military Strength

The present twelve division army will be growing to sixteen divisions as wished by American imperialists against all decisions of Potsdam agreement. The present West German army is greater than Hitler's peace time force.

The five polaris submarines with atomic warheads, already handed over to NATO command by U.S., will come under control of the West German Navy commanded by ex-Nazi Generals.

Nikita Khrushchov, who warned against this threat, told a mass rally in Sofia a few days ago that he did not want to compete with President Kennedy as to who will be the first to press the button to start an atomic war.

After the recent conflicts between Washington-Bonn-Paris, President Kennedy is trying to win over Adenauer against de Gaulle who had challenged American leadership in European "defence".

Kennedy replying de Gaulle's challenge said a few days back that U.S. will continue to dominate in European military affairs. He said, "United States cannot withdraw from Europe unless and until Europe should wish us gone. We cannot distinguish our contributions to Western security or abdicate responsibility of power". (New York Times, May 18).

The French President, a few days ago made it clear that the inner alliance (of NATO) would be based on the joint leadership of France and West Germany and would be relatively independent of U.S., Britain and Canada.

"With its own nuclear force, it would provide a 'strictly European balance' against the socialist camp", he dreamed aloud, creating consternation in Washington for there has been some fears that Chancellor Adenauer was finding it increasingly attractive.

Nikita Khrushchov, who warned against this threat, told a mass rally in Sofia a few days ago that he did not want to compete with President Kennedy as to who will be the first to press the button to start an atomic war.

general and complete disarmament.

The Moscow Congress will be a meeting precisely for the sake of realisation of this lofty idea.

Its task is to mobilise all international forces in the struggle for peace and disarmament.

The US officialdom seem to have quietly ignored the fact that peoples the world over, who really cherish peace, would just not be fooled by their propaganda and other steps like the threats of the British Labour Party.

### NEW AGE

MAY 1962

(Political Monthly of the Communist Party of India)

Leading Articles:  
• Internal Conflicts inside the Congress and the CPI  
—E. M. S. Namboodiripad  
• Communique of the National Council of the CPI  
• The Basic Economic Law  
—M. Atlas, L. Kadushin and others  
Price: 50np.

Book orders with:  
Peoples Publishing House  
Rani Jhansi Road,  
New Delhi-1.

## MYTH AND REALITY

by Prof. D. D. Kosambi

(STUDIES IN THE FORMATION OF INDIAN CULTURE)

PRICE: RS. 12.50.

\* These essays based upon the collation of field-work with literary evidence, cast fresh and novel light on the origins and development of Indian Culture.

\* From original discoveries of megaliths and microliths, and from the dismal swamp of rustic superstition and peasant customs, Prof. Kosambi attempts to discover and logically interpret the physiological process whereby the beautiful lily of Indian philosophy grew.

\* The conclusions may appear startling to some readers, but they are undeniably important as a landmark in the study of Indian tradition.

EVERY SERIOUS READER SHOULD ORDER HIS COPY FROM:

PEOPLE'S BOOK HOUSE

Laxmi Road, Near Sambhaji Bridge, Pooana-2.



# Patil's Tall Claims Hide Situation Full Of Dangers

It is not unusual for the spokesmen of the Government of India to make tall claims regarding the "great achievements" made in the country under their stewardship and promising to make "still greater achievements" in the future.

But Food Minister S. K. Patil has beaten them all hollow. For the claims and promises which he makes relate to the food problem, considered insoluble for more than a decade.

MINISTER after Minister has tried his hand in making our country self-sufficient in the matter of food-grains. Each of them, however, failed in the effort. Most of them had to give up the post in despair or discredited. Here, however, is "strongman" Patil making the tall claim that he has at last won the battle in which his predecessors had failed.

"I may be allowed," he claims, "to be optimistic on this occasion. The food situation today is as it was never before in the history of India. All our granaries are full with the things. If anybody starts mischief by raising price, whether it is the retailer or the wholesaler, I shall use them and show that that can never be done."

Together with this claim that food scarcity is a thing of the past, goes his promise for the future: "For the first time in Indian history, we have taken a very historic decision for the protection of the farmer. The minimum price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 13. It can be rupees one or two more, but if it comes below 13, I shall enter the market and buy that wheat. The farmers can sell their wheat through co-operatives and in other ways if they want money. But if the price falls below Rs. 13 the Government machinery is there for buying it. So also for the other commodities..."

"The whole range of agricultural commodities will be protected hereafter so that the 30 crores of rural families would be assured that if they produce more, they would not be punished by way of price slump as a result of overproduction and their interests would be protected. That is exactly the policy the Government wants to follow."

## Speech Conceals Reality

The friends and admirers of the Minister hailed the speech as a great performance. But any one who followed the speech with a critical eye would see that the demagogic claims and promises made by him conceal the reality which is by no means so rosy as Patil claims. No amount of speeches by the Minister can cover up the basic weaknesses of the agrarian economy of our country.

Patil himself was conscious of one weakness in his claim that the country is now having an abundance of food. He admits that there is one relevant question asked of him: "If we are really producing 80 million tons of foodgrains—this time it may be 82 million tons this year—why is it

that we are importing food-grains?" He proceeds to answer the question but the answer fails to convince those who know the facts.

He has still to continue importing, he says, not because there is an actual scarcity but because "I could have four years of comparative peace—every year and every day the price of something or the other was going up because we had shortage of food—once for all we must solve this question of shortage of food."

With this objective in view he is building a buffer stock of five million tons. Such is his explanation for imports.

## Heavy Imports

But the very figures that he gave in the House show up the baselessness of this argument.

● His plan is to build a buffer stock of 5 million tons.

● But the actual import for the four year period in which the buffer stock of five million tons is being built up is 17 million tons on the PL-480 account of the United States alone (over and above the imports from Burma, Australia, Canada, etc.)

● Deducting the 5 million tons used for building up the buffer stock, no less than 12 million tons for four years or 3 million tons per year is thus imported on PL-480 account from the United States alone.

● This 3 million ton import per year is no less than the average import before the "achievements" which are now claimed by Patil in the matter of production and stocking of foodgrains.

And that is why many of the daily newspapers have pointed out in their editorial comments on Patil's claims that the present abundance is based on American imports. They point out with apprehension that once these imports are stopped, the condition described by Patil ("granaries are full", etc.) will also disappear.

It is one of the paradoxes of the agricultural economy of the country that the improvement in the matter of food production has not been accompanied by any appreciable fall in the necessity for imports.

Even in the worst days of food scarcity (1949-50), the annual imports of foodgrains remained at about 3 million tons. Production in those days amounted to between 50 and 55 million tons.

This has now increased to about 80 million tons—an absolute increase of about 30 million tons and a proportionate increase of about 60 per cent.

Despite this increase in production, imports have remained more or less at the same level—as we have seen above.

A number of explanations are offered for this paradoxical situation. One of these, for example, is that production figures of the earlier years were defective, that they were an underestimation and that, therefore, the actual increase in production is less than can be seen from this figure. Another explanation is that population has been increasing and that demand, has, therefore, correspondingly increased. It is further pointed out that a good section of the people have had their incomes augmented so that it has become possible for them to consume more.

Which of these explanations is valid and which is not, it is difficult for one to be sure about. There is, however, no doubt that the increase in production which has taken place during the last 11 years is not adequate to feed the increasing population as well as to meet the additional requirements of those sections of society whose incomes have increased and who

essential commodities and to be prepared in advance with a strategy for corrective action before difficulties actually become acute. By and large, what has to be guarded against is an upsurge of inflationary pressures, although a situation of relative abundance in respect of some commodities with consequential price falls can emerge from time to time. Measures to counteract both types of trends have to be kept in readiness. Even apart from any persistent price rises or falls, large seasonal fluctuations and regional price disabilities will call for corrective action. Stable and reasonable prices for what the farmer produces are likely to provide him a better incentive than high but fluctuating and uncertain prices." (Ibid, p.125, emphasis mine).

It seems that Patil does not agree with this policy. He does not want, it seems, corrective action to be taken both against unduly high prices as well as against steep falls in prices. On the other hand, he is pleading with Parliament and through it with the people of our country for a policy of high prices.

## Says

# E. M. S. Namboodiripad

therefore, are in a position to consume more food.

Is there any room for the hope expressed by Patil that the food situation will be different in the future? There is none if we are to believe the Planning Commission. For, the Report on the Third Five Year Plan mentions three factors which may unsettle all the "balances and safeguards" which the Commission proposes to stabilise prices. They are:

First, there is the usual uncertainty in regard to the monsoons. A five per cent shortfall in agricultural output in a single year can reduce the marketable surpluses substantially and raise prices more than proportionately.

Secondly, the various restraints on consumption implicit in the Plan may not always operate to the full extent so that a situation of excess demand may well persist over a part of the Plan period.

Thirdly, while the plan envisages a certain balance between the rates of growth in various sectors, some imbalance is almost certain to appear from time to time; investments in output in various lines cannot, in actual practice be phased out with precision; there might well be 'lags' in the system at various stages." (page 125)

On the basis of such an assessment of various possibilities the Commission comes to the conclusion that "it will be necessary during the Third Plan to keep a watch on prices, especially on prices of

about the mass of working agriculturists for whom, as was correctly stated by the Planning Commission, "stable and reasonable prices are a better incentive than high but fluctuating and uncertain prices."

Patil, however, disagrees with this. He pleads for a policy of high prices. "When people talk about price line maintenance, etc. it gives me jitters. I do not understand what it is. So far as agricultural price line is concerned, it cannot be lower than what it is today.... If there is any demand that the prices must be artificially brought down, no matter what happens to the farmer, that would be a suicidal and ruinous step to take and nobody in this House must seriously advise me that I should be the man to do it."

Since it is in the name of the farmer that Patil is pleading for a policy of high prices, it is necessary for us to ask him who is the farmer? Is it the mass of working peasants and agricultural labourers who, after all, form the majority of the rural population? Or is it a narrow stratum of rich peasants and landlords? Obviously for him it is the latter, since it is they that

stand to benefit from Patil's policy.

Those who know the reality of our rural economy, know very well that the poor peasants have very little surplus to sell. They have to cut very much into their own food consumption if they are to sell a little in order to secure some cash for the purchase of essential consumption goods as well as to meet such cash liabilities as payment of rent and repayment of debts.

Nor is the condition of the middle peasants much better. They, too, have to discharge various commitments in cash and also buy the essential consumption goods as are required according to their living standards.

These two sections of the agricultural classes stand to lose by the ever-increasing prices of consumption goods. Though they may get a little more in cash for the foodgrains that they take to the market, they have to pay more for their cloth, provisions and other essential commodities.

What the middle and poor peasants require, therefore, is not ever-increasing prices, but stable prices at a fair level. As for the agricultural labourer, it is obvious that he stands to lose as much as the industrial labourer or the middle class employee.

Remove these sections of the rural population—agricultural labourer, poor and middle peasant—from the deceptive

"We would like to inform Patil that we are solicitous about those very people whom the Planning Commission had in mind when it pleaded for stable prices—solicitous not only about the non-producing consumers of foodgrains in the towns and cities, but also