

SADH-PER

46607

DHEBAR SEES



COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

VOL. VI NO. 13 SUNDAY, DEC. 28, 1958 25 NP.

The Congress President, Sri Uchhrangrai Navalshanker Dhebar, talks a lot about Kerala. Everything that the Communist-led Government does there is a matter for criticism as far as the Congress President is concerned. It does not matter to him whether what the Government does is for the good of the people. The chief of our biggest political party has rarely, if at all, made any political criticism of the Kerala Government's policies and actions: his usual charges are discrimination, favouritism, terror, etc., etc. Perhaps he is seeing Kerala in his own mage—that is exactly what used to happen in Saurashtra when Sri Dhebar was the State's Chief Minister before his elevation to Congress Presidentship.

KERALA IN HIS OWN IMAGE

A PAGE FROM SAURASHTRA HISTORY

★ by CHIMAN MEHTA

LET us have a quick glance at this page from Saurashtra's history.

And when Saurashtra took its final shape, a number of high official posts were rapidly filled with Congressmen who had no past administrative experience.

The State was formed on April 15, 1948. The first financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs was secured from a leading industrialist to run the State apparatus. That is how Dhebar and Co. entered the scene.

One Congress worker was appointed Secretary to one of the Ministries (later he got promoted to become a Minister in the Central Government); another Congress worker suddenly became the Collector of Gohilwad Region; a third, a teacher in a school was appointed as Director of Industries and Supply; yet another began as Secretary to the Revenue Tribunal and became a Collector; a clerk in the rationing department—he was

the son-in-law of a Congress Minister in a neighbouring State—rose to become the Collector of Zala-wad District; the headmaster of a school in a small town, father-in-law of a Central Minister, became Assistant Director of Education; an ordinary pleader just because he was a Congress worker became the Advocate-General; a clerk in the Congress Office was straightaway appointed as Deputy Director of Food Supplies and Assistant Secretary to the Food Department.

Administrative arrangements were very carefully worked out. The Public Service Commission was rarely consulted before appointments, and in cases where the Commission refused sanction, the recommendations were ignored.

with fresh hands, mostly Congressmen;

● At a lower level, posts of Circle Inspectors of Police were also filled with Congressmen;

● At the level of District Collectors, though in the beginning they were slow, they moved quite fast later.

The next phase began when a number of small States were taken over. In every tiny State, an Administrator was appointed to take over from the retiring rulers and in almost every case the administrator was either a Congressman or a person overnight turned Congressman.

When one examines the administrative arrangement that was worked out in Saurashtra, under Sri Dhebar's Chief Ministership, the broad pattern that emerges is the following:

Yet another device was also evolved. Seniority of officials was not fixed for three long years and the Government employees had to be on the right side of the Ministers if their case was to be considered favourably. The rules of administration did not matter, what mattered was the bosses' pleasure. Even transfers of petty officials were controlled by the Ministry.

● Most of the posts of Deputy Collectors were filled

Thus non-fixation of seniority, transfers controlled by Ministers, Congressmen entering key posts of administration, etc., kept the whole administrative set-up not above party but turned it mainly into a party affair.

AITUC PROPOSAL ON AUTOMATIC LOOMS TO AVOID

Massacre Of Employed Workers

TO allow automatic looms to replace the existing looms is to allow the massacre of employed workers, to add to unemployment and retrenchment and to create unrest, says S. A. Dange, General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in a note to Sri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour and Employment, for circulation in the Conference for consultation on automatic looms held on December 22.

carrying out rationalisation, sometimes with the consent of unions who would agree to it, but mostly without such consent. The subject became very hot two years ago and had to be discussed in the 15th Indian Labour Conference which was held in Delhi in June 1957.

The AITUC has made its standpoint clear during the debate and before. We do not object to technical improvements as such. But when these would mean retrenchment, unemployment and increase in workload, the AITUC cannot endorse them just on the ground that they are necessary for other reasons.

own way, if he so chooses. This reply was given to us when we pointed out cases of retrenchment and unemployment resulting from rationalisation. In view of this, the Delhi Convention has not become an instrument of protection to the workers as was expected. Unless the Delhi Convention takes the form of a national agreement valid as between all employers and unions, whether recognised or not, it will not prove useful.

Now for the Judiciary and the way it functioned under Sri Dhebar's regime.

Out of the three High Court Judges who were first appointed, two were Congressmen.

One of them was signatory to an open statement on the eve of the municipal elections on February 17, 1949, calling for support to Congress candidates.

The Note makes certain proposals and if these are not found acceptable, "the AITUC should be taken as not having agreed to the introduction of automatic looms as envisaged by the Government and the employers."

Now, once again, the specific proposal for installing automatic looms has been brought forward as being an urgent national necessity.

It is pointed out to us that the effects of the introduction of automatic looms on the workers can be discussed and controlled in terms of the Delhi Convention on rationalisation, agreed to by all.

As regards the present proposal, the AITUC submits the following for the consideration of the Government and the Conference.

The statement said: ".... There is no other organisation yet in the country which can compete with a party like the Congress. The Congress is the only party that can efficiently serve the city through the municipality.... Bearing this fact we request you to vote for three Congress-sponsored candidates in our Ward...."

The text of the Note reads: A section of the textile millowners in India have been pressing for a long time for Government help in the import and installation of automatic looms on a large scale. The grim results in relation to labour of large-scale introduction of automatic looms came out, when the Kanungo Committee discussed the proposal.

The Government of India endorses and patronises the proposal on the ground that export of cloth has to be increased to earn foreign exchange and that such export can be stimulated only if cloth on automatic looms is produced in India.

In this connection, the AITUC has to point out that rationalisation has been carried out by the millowners without reference to the AITUC in many centres and hence it is not responsible for them.

The Government is endorsing the textile millowners' demand for automatic looms only for exports and for foreign exchange. They put it forward as a national necessity.

The other one resigned and at a farewell party arranged for him, he openly criticised the administration for its attempts to interfere with the judiciary.

During all these years, the textile millowners have been

The millowners seem to have convinced the Government of India on this score. The agreement between the Government of India and the millowners was very much visible during the debate in Parliament on December 3 and 4, 1958, on the question of exports

Secondly, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, has informed the AITUC that the Delhi agreement is not an agreement but only a recommendation—thereby meaning that any employer is at liberty to go his

So we propose that Government itself undertake to instal units of automatic looms and organise production and export in the State Sector, so as to earn foreign exchange directly on its own account. The Government has enough agencies through whom this can be done. The Government is already directly involved in the Ambar Charicha and handloom pro-

Everyone knew that the reference was to a letter asking that a landlord not

* SEE PAGE 13

* SEE PAGE 13

DEFEAT THIS ATTACK !

LAST week Pandit Nehru delivered two speeches in New Delhi in which he replied to the reactionary opponents of the public sector and advocates of a smaller planning effort.

These represent the reactionary Big Business circles aided and reinforced by the imperialists and monopolists from abroad. They have been carrying on a cold war against India's planning efforts and utilising every excuse and difficulty to run it down.

They have developed a two-pronged attack on planning. They attack the Second Plan as too ambitious, point to Government's inability to raise adequate resources and demand that the Third Plan should be more "realistic" i.e. smaller in scope. Secondly, they direct their fire against the public sector. They utilise every shortcoming, every inefficiency and scandal in the state sector to run it down and demand that Government should restrict its scope to industrial overheads—to transport, hydro-electric power, etc., and leave the entire industrial field to private enterprise.

India's heavy industry is being developed mainly in the state sector. It is obvious that the private sector will not be able to do it. The attack against the public sector is thus an attack against heavy industry without which the country cannot industrialise itself nor develop an economy free from dependence on imperialism.

This is the selfish and anti-national character of the attack against the State sector. This is also the line of the foreign monopolists and imperialists who do not like the prospect of India ending her economic dependence on them. This line was clearly seen in the course of the recent session of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund held in India. Above all, it was clearly expressed in the World Bank Mission's report on India. It demanded that the State should confine its activity to transport, etc., and give up investing in industry, give up heavy industry, it demanded a slowing down of the economic effort in the Third Plan and wide concessions to private foreign capital. It attacked the Government for taking the new oil industry under the public sector—angered by the fact that the Government had declined to turn it to American oil monopolies.

This attack against heavy industry, the State sector and a wider planning effort has been intensified since India secured a few loans from the World Bank.

It is, therefore, good to find Pandit Nehru uttering a few home truths for the edification of this gentry though he failed to expose and unmask their real character before the people. He has been still more charitable to the imperialists whom he has hardly mentioned.

Exposing their claims to talk in the name of democracy, Nehru correctly points out that the argument that democracy must necessarily be freedom for what was called private enterprise with the public enterprise functioning within stated limits, meant that the millionaire should remain a millionaire and the poor must become poorer.

To those who demand slowing down, Nehru rightly says: "We should keep the tempo of our development and work more and more and have bigger plans. Our Third Plan will be a bigger one." Too shy to refer to direct imperialist pressure, Nehru admonished foreign journals who suggest that we should slow down our planning activity. Nehru need not have gone abroad; the World Bank representatives to India cried sufficient pressure to make us toe their line.

The assurance that the Third Plan will be big, the reply to the attack of the private sector—are good indeed. The point is: how much are they worth? In the first place, it is obvious that Sri Nehru's Government has done its best to discredit the public sector by its mismanagement and corruption and supplied ammunition to the reactionary advocates of the private sector.

Under the dispensation of the Nehru Government, the public sector has become the bureaucrat's paradise—a bureaucratic sector. The public comes in only to find the capital resources. Its representatives are kept out of management. In the name of promoting efficiency the Nehru Government sets up autonomous corporations in the State sector free from parliamentary control over management.

These bureaucrats excel in their anti-working class outlook and are the last persons to work for the cooperation of workers in the public sector. The Government is chary of accepting for itself the labour legislation it approves for the private sector. The worker becomes an object for the attention of the Intelligence Department and the least sign of independence on his part is met with dismissal and victimisation. And above all, episodes like the Mundhra affair chill people's faith in honest functioning of the public sector.

So long as Pandit Nehru does nothing to meet this genuine and legitimate criticism of the public sector, so long as there is no radical change in its practice, the ad-

SCRAP - BOOK

NAGPUR STAGE

I HAVE been looking forward to going to Nagpur to attend the coming session of the Congress. So, naturally, I have been reading all the material I can get hold of about the Congress session.

Thus it was that I came across an ignominious piece of advertisement issued by the Directorate of Small Savings of Bombay State.

As is the usual custom, there will be a cultural programme during the Congress session. This time cine artistes will grace the occasion. And, the Small Savings Director has hit upon a bright plan:

"If you wish to attend the programme, please go to the nearest post office and purchase National Savings Certificate or Treasury Certificate or 15-Year Annuity Certificate of the value of Rs. ten to Rs. 25,000, for purchasing certificates of lesser value does not qualify for admission."

So, when you purchase one of these certificates, the post office will give you an "authority card" and you will have to exchange this authority card for admission tickets to the cultural programme: "You will be given admission tickets of seats according to the value of the certificates you have purchased."

What a marvellous idea to step up the sale of Small Savings Certificates: tamasha plus capital formation, plus gathering a

crowd for the Congress show! The Small Savings Director makes no bones about it: "You have seen them on screen; now see them on Nagpur stage by investing in small savings."

And so far as Congress is concerned, it will of course provide its own star attraction: "Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the programme."

Will he be talking on small savings or Congress culture? I shall let you know from Nagpur.

BIRLA GUTS

WHEN we hear of Birlaji going abroad, we look out for some big catch of some dollar king to invest in our poor country and we feel so grateful to the power of the Birias.

But how many of us know, how many amongst Indians also Birlaji has bagged during his trips abroad?

Some time ago, Birlaji's

C. E. C. MEETING POSTPONED

Since the fraternal delegation to the 21st Congress of the CPSU has to leave for Moscow on January 22, the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party, fired for January 20 to 24 has been postponed to February 20 to 25. The meeting will be held in Delhi.

Hindustan Times made a sensational attack on Sri Krishna Menon, mentioning him by name. I was impressed by the boldness of the columnist and felt that the man must have guts to write so openly against a Minister. The columnist only put his initials at the end of the article, "S.M." Thanks to Karaka and his Current, it has been given out that "S.M." is S. Mulgaokar, the editor of Hindustan Times.

I pondered and pondered: Where did S.M. pick up his guts? A friend made some commonplace research and discovered that S.M. was the Special Correspondent in New York of Dalmajji's Times of India.

Now, when Birlaji went on his dollar-earning mission to the United States last year, S.M., I am told, worked almost like his P.R.O. Birlaji never forgets to reward the deserving, and soon after, S.M. became the editor of Birlaji's own paper.

I wish S.M. well in his Big Leap Forward—not the Chinese "totalitarian leap" but Birlaji's Free Enterprise Leap—though I hear that in his office, he has at times to take orders from one who has been grazing in the Birla pastures for years—our old friend Eric DaCosta, who runs the Eastern Economist.

—DIARIST

STORIES OF USSR

25 STORIES FROM THE SOVIET REPUBLICS 2.75

UZBEKISTAN SPEAKS (Short Stories) 0.50

Sharaf Rashidov: THE VICTORS 0.94

Nora Adamyan: FOUR LIVES 0.50

Sadriddin Aini: PAGES FROM MY OWN STORY 0.62

V. Korolenko: THE BLIND MUSICIAN 1.12

A. Chekhov: THE CHERY OCBARD 0.56

M. Tevelgov: HOTEL IN SNEGOVETS 0.50

Turgenev: MUMU 0.31

PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE (P) LTD.,

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.

MAO TSE-TUNG TO GIVE UP CHAIRMANSHIP OF REPUBLIC

A DECISION approving Comrade Mao Tse-tung's suggestion that he will not stand as candidate for Chairman of the People's Republic of China for the next term of office was adopted by the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at its Sixth Plenary Session on December 10. The text of the decision follows:

In the past few years, Comrade Mao Tse-tung has more than once expressed to the Central Committee of the Party the hope that he should not continue to hold the post of Chairman of the People's Republic of China. After full and all-round consideration, the Plenary Session of the Central Committee has decided to approve this suggestion of Comrade Mao Tse-tung, and not to nominate him again as candidate for Chairman of the People's Republic of China at the first session of the Second National People's

Congress. The Plenary Session of the Central Committee deems this to be a completely positive proposal, because, relinquishing his duties as Chairman of the State and working solely as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Mao Tse-tung will be enabled all the better to concentrate his energies on dealing with questions of the direction, policy and line of the Party and the State; he may also be enabled to set aside more time for Marxist-Leninist theoretical work, without affecting his continued leading role in the work of the State. This will be in the better interests of the whole Party and of all the people of the country. Comrade Mao Tse-tung is the sincerely beloved and long tested leader of the people of various nationalities of the whole country. He will remain the leader of the entire people

of various nationalities even when he no longer holds the post of Chairmanship of the State. If some special situation arises in the future which should require him to take up this work again, he can still be nominated again to assume the duties of the Chairman of the State in compliance with the opinion of the people and the decision of the Party.

Party committees at all levels should in accordance with these reasons, give full explanations to the cadres and masses both inside and outside the Party at appropriate meetings of the Party, sessions of the People's Congresses of various levels, meetings of workers in industrial and mining enterprises, and meetings in people's communes, offices, schools and armed units, so that the reasons in this matter may be understood by all and that there may be no misunderstanding.



The Private Sector

THE Prime Minister has often deprecated lately what he calls the private sector's "regular campaign of running down the public sector". He has also been cautioning the people against falling a prey to its "cry of democracy in peril".

In sounding the tocsin against the nefarious campaign of the private sector, Nehru has no doubt been reflecting the sentiments of all lovers of Socialism in the country. The trouble with him, however, is that the actions of the Government, of which he is the leader, seldom reflect the same seriousness in curbing the activities of the very people against whom he has been directing his invectives.

Even his colleagues often convey the impression of not seeing eye to eye with him on this question. A case in point is that of the Defence Ministry's contracts with a foreign firm to produce military vehicles in the country. While the Deputy Defence Minister and also Pandit Nehru all but agreed with Comrade Dange's criticism that the private manufacturers were holding the Ministry "to ransom," the Minister for Industries, Sri Manubhai Shah, held the Government responsible for "the delay in enabling the automobile producers to obtain enough foreign exchange to buy necessary tools and step up indigenous manufacture of essential components".

While this divergence between the head of the Government and one of his important juniors might be a good example of the "democratic" functioning of Panditji's Cabinet, where "not all the members were

one hundred per cent similar in their thinking", it cannot by any means lead to that unity of purpose which is needed today to defeat the game of the detractors of Socialism.

Take their latest brochure on "The Progress of Industries in the Private Sector, for example. How can a Government whose Ministers enabled the leaders of trade and industry to get special treatment in the allotment of import quotas, and thus achieve significant progress, now turn back and say that its own sector could have done better? Certainly not when its own deviations from a far-from-perfect Kaldorian tax pattern handed over quite a few millions of rupees to the leaders of private sector on a platter. Even in the award of contracts for some of the public enterprises—e.g., Rourkela—it is the private firms, foreign and indigenous, which, on the testimony of so respectable an official as the Auditor-General, benefited the most at the expense of the taxpayer.

RENEWED DEMANDS

Thus while the Government's solicitude for the private sector and the bunnings of its bureaucrats in financial as well as administrative spheres continue to inhibit the fullest growth of public enterprises, the private industrialists have renewed their demand for further incentives. Basing its case on the so-called inhibitory effects of the present tax system on their propensity to "save and accumulate", their premier organisation, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has represented to the Tyagi Committee, in-

vestigating into the issues of administration of direct taxes, that "unless more is left in the hands of the people (as represented by the FICCI), the problem of capital accumulation... will continue to thwart the efforts of private enterprise to fulfil itself."

THEIR PROFITS

In what does this "fulfilment" precisely consist, one wonders? For, reading the contents of the brochure on the Progress of Industries one would think that the achievements of the private sector have already attained spectacular proportions. In fact that seems to be the running theme of the brochure which has been written in manifestly self-adulatory a style. Only its findings do not seem to square with the supposed "air of uncertainty" which its authors so much shout about. How could a private sector, hidebound by a series of taxes, highly disincentive in their effect, as the brochure says, manage to have its joint stock companies increase their paid-up capital by more than 100 per cent in ten years? The effect of high taxation, one would think, should have been otherwise.

Similarly in the case of profits, we witness the strange phenomenon—strange if the FICCI's version is to be believed—of their index soaring up even as the restrictive effects of the new taxes get intensified. Even according to official figures this index for all industries (with 1950 as 100) rose from 114.4 in 1951 to 149.1 in 1956—with certain industries recording even higher levels. To name a few, the index in engineering industries stood at 388.2 in 1956 compared with 106.6 in 1951 in shipping it

INSIDE OUR NEWS & ECONOMY NOTES

rose from 506.7 to 988 and in cotton textiles from 116.5 to 133.1.

While the case of the FICCI in buttressing its members' alleged grievances against the Government is thus basically weak, its rebuttal at the hands of the latter has not been very effective either. It has been so not only because a

good many of the Prime Minister's colleagues do not view the inter-relationship between the two sectors, as he does, but also because even he has not cared to lay down the line beyond which the private sector may not seek the area of its "fulfilment".

—ESSEN

GANDHIJI

(a study)

BY PROF. HIREN MUKERJEE, M.P.

Some opinions about the book: DR. RADHAKRISHNAN (Vice-President of India): "Shri Hiren Mukerjee has written a very valuable book on Gandhiji. In some passages, there is, however, a slight slant, but it is written with great insight and distinction." MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI: "(His) book will do a great deal of good to the intellectuals of present-day India, most of whom have learnt to admire without study...."

HINDUSTHAN STANDARD: "Provocative of thought and at times challenging conventional belief, the book will find a secure niche in the study of the Mahatma."

STATESMAN: "What distinguishes a study of Gandhiji from most of others is that it is from a Communist angle."

THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA: "... a dialectical understanding of the great man in relation to the spirit of the times is the raison d'etre of the volume under review."

PRICE: RS. 5.50

NATIONAL BOOK AGENCY (PRIVATE) LIMITED
12, Bankim Chatterjee Street, Calcutta-12.
BRANCH: 172, Dharamtola Street, Calcutta-13.

A MAHARASHTRA STATE NOW !

People Have Already Given Their Verdict, All They Ask For Is The Implementation Of A Popular Demand

2,000 SAMITI VOLUNTEERS FROM BOMBAY OFFER 30-HOUR NON-STOP SATYAGRAHA BEFORE PARLIAMENT

● FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A sectional view of the women satyagrahis before Parliament House.

Two thousand volunteers from Maharashtra, braving the biting cold of Delhi's winter night (the mercury fell to 9.6 degrees centigrade), sat in front of Parliament House in a non-stop 30-hour satyagraha and focused the attention of the nation on the injustice done to the Maharashtrian people by the Congress Government which has refused them the right to live in their own linguistic State.

AS the demonstrators marched up to the ramparts of Parliament House and squatted outside around portraits of Shivaji and Vasudev Balwant Phadke, the revolutionary leader of Maharashtra, Opposition M. P.s inside sought to raise the question of bilingual Bombay through adjournment motions and walked out when the motions were ruled out.

All-Night Vigil

Through the day on December 18, the volunteers sat in front of Parliament House and as evening came, they lit bonfires and made shift with a few blankets and small food packets. They continued the vigil till next evening when they dispersed after so spectacularly presenting their case.

Once before, Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti volunteers had trekked to Delhi to protest against the decision to set up the bilingual State of Bombay. Since then the Maharashtrian people have again and again given their verdict against the bilingual State and demonstrated their determination to win a unilingual State.

If the General Elections with its debacle for the

Congress in Maharashtra did not teach the Congress leaders and Government anything, there have been seven bye-elections held since, all of which have been won by the Samiti ramming home the one fact again and again: Maharashtrians won't have the bilingual State.

Verdict Against Bilingual

Three of the seats—one in Parliament and two in the Assembly—had been wrested from Congress hands in these bye-elections.

● The Jalna Parliamentary seat had been won by the Congress in the last General Election with a majority of 32,000 votes. The Samiti won this seat with a majority of 2,815 votes and the Congress candidate who was defeated was the President of the Marathwada Congress Committee.

● The Basmat (Marathwada) seat which had been won by the Congress with a majority of 800 votes was won by the Samiti in the bye-election with a majority of 1,325 votes.

● The Congress had won the Nagpada seat with a majority of 2,476 votes, in the

bye-election the Samiti candidate polled 512 votes more than the Congress.

The other seats were not only retained by the Samiti; in the bye-elections, in every one of them, the Samiti improved its position.

In the Mazgaon constituency, the Samiti won the bye-election with a majority of 6,213 votes and in Gangapur the majority increased from 61 to 913 votes. The biggest victory was in Savantwadi where the Samiti improved its position by 7,000 votes. The Congress candidate lost his deposit polling 2,561 votes against the Samiti's 32,686. The other seat which the Samiti retained was in Pandarpur.

Again and again, thus, the people of Maharashtra had given the verdict—even in Marathwada which the Congress leaders thought after the General Elections to be unaffected by the movement for Samyukta Maharashtra.

The demonstration which came to the capital had the most representative character.

There were volunteers from all the taluks and districts in Marathwada, Vidarbha and Bombay and from the border areas.

500 Elected Representatives

And it was representative not only geographically. A huge chunk of the satyagrahis were elected representatives of the people—members of gram panchayats, local boards, municipal

polities, Corporations and the Assembly. Among them were—

—S. S. Mirajkar, the Mayor of Bombay;

—Over a hundred members of the Legislature, notable among them Udhav Rao Patil, Leader of the Opposition, belonging to the Peasants' and Workers' Party; Communist Members V. D. Deshpande, S. G. Patkar, V. D. Chitale, Bhalerao, Bapurao Jagtap, Gaekwar and others; PSP legislators like S. M. Joshi, Varty and others; Bhandare of the Republican Party; Datta Deshmukh and U. N. Patil of

the Lal Nishan Party; Atmaran Patil of the Mazdoor Kisan Paksh; Dr. Narvane of the dissident Congressmen; Independent members like Editor P. K. Atre;

—Four members of the Mysore Assembly—Sukhthankar, B. P. Naik, Birje and Shamjee;

—In Delhi the demonstrators were joined by 19 Members of Parliament led by S. A. Dange and S. V. Parulekar of the Communist Party, Independents like R. K. Khadilkar and Bharucha; N. G. Goray, Nath Pal and others of the PSP; Khobragade and Babu-

rao Gaekwar of the Republican Party and others.

There were over 500 of these elected representatives of the people in the demonstration outside Parliament House.

Apart from them, there were leaders of various parties constituting the Samiti like G. Adhikari and S. G. Sardesai of the Communist Party and Deshpande of the Hindu Mahasabha. The volunteers belonged to all parties constituting the Samiti—the Communist Party, PSP, the Republican Party, Hindu Maha Sabha and Congress Jan (Dissident Congressmen).

There were over 300 women in the demonstration; 150 from Bombay city alone, about half a dozen of them carrying small children. Such a representative demonstration had rarely been seen in the Capital.

Many stories could be heard about the enthusiasm of the volunteers who had undertaken to go through this ordeal in their struggle. For instance, there was the story of the 30 volunteers from Belgaum, all mechanics and small garage owners who decided to come to Delhi chartering their own truck.

They contributed each a



During the 30-hour vigil—a woman satyagrahi raising slogans for Samyukta Maharashtra.

hundred rupees and made all preparations. It seems the police created some trouble about the truck permit. The volunteers put a huge Bharat Darshan board on the truck and did the 1,400 miles to Delhi in eight days reaching just in time to participate in the demonstration.

Appeal To Highest Forum

Sri Khadilkar said that those who had come "recognise the sovereign body and so have come here. They do not challenge it. They come here to appeal to the highest forum in this land... whether you have done justice or not is not the question. The people must feel that justice has been done."

When the Speaker, who himself comes from Andhra, was criticising the satyagraha, one M. P. shouted, "Do you forget the satyagraha which brought into being the Andhra State?"

The Home Minister refused to respond to the suggestion that he should go and meet the demonstrators.

People Sent Them

Equally enthusiastic were the people of Maharashtra whom they came to represent. Almost every one of the delegates was sent by people who collected the money and sent them to represent their villages and streets even.

As volunteers squatted outside Parliament House, inside the Lok Sabha the Opposition sought to raise their demands.

S. A. Dange said that "the demonstrators have not come here to upset the law of Parliament... They have come to persuade Parliament to change its own Act and not to upset an Act of Parliament."

Referring to border issues he said it "was surprising why this principle of arbitration is not being accepted by the Government."

Sri Nath Pal said: "...a very large assembly which comprises among others the Lord Mayor of Bombay, a very large number—nearly 100 MLAs from Bombay and all the City Fathers from the leading cities of Bombay State is a matter that deserves earnest consideration from this

House. They have come here to seek justice from this House."

Addressing the demonstrators, S. A. Dange commented on the Home Minister's opposition to the satyagraha and said: "Through years of satyagraha this Parliament has been born and today you are condemning satyagraha. Satyagraha is older than Parliament itself."

Bhupesh Gupta, Leader of the Communist Group in the Rajya Sabha told the demonstrators of what had happened in the Upper House and expressed solidarity with them.

Acharya Kripalani made a brief appearance before the demonstrators the next day, as if to make up for the previous day's lapse. But the atonement was worse than the sin—the Acharya had not a word to commend the Maharashtra demand for a unilingual State.

Confidence In Victory

As the demonstrators after their 30-hour vigil packed up and left the precincts of Parliament House, one could see their confidence in the ultimate victory of their struggle.

The spirit of the demonstration was best summed up by Mayor Mirajkar, "The people of Maharashtra have expressed their opinion decisively in favour of a unilingual State. They are now only asking for the implementation of that popular demand."

The Congress Government cannot for long resist it in face of a determined people.



A partial view of the demonstration before Parliament House. Satyagrahis grouped round portraits of Shivaji and Phadke. — Pictures by SALUJA PHOTOS.

NEWS FROM BROTHER PARTIES

DANISH COMMUNISTS REJECT REVISIONISM

THE National Congress of the Danish Communist Party held on October 31 to November 2, 1958, gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the Central Committee and rejected the revisionist position of its previous Chairman, Axel Larsen.

Larsen's political position was developed in a memorandum, after the Congress of the Yugoslav League of Communists, at a special Central Committee meeting of the Danish Party on May 31 and June 1. It was printed in the Party paper, *Land og Folk*, along with the statement of the majority of the Central Committee which completely rejected it.

Larsen's main position was that the Party was not a Danish Party and would not be seen as such until it criticised the Soviet Union. He said that the Yugoslav theory that the Socialist States bred bureaucracy was correct; and that the Yugoslav criticisms of the Communist Parties in the capitalist countries, that they were sectarian and had "tendencies" to allow their policies to be decided from abroad, was correct.

He attacked the principles of democratic centralism. In addition he advocated total unilateral disarmament for Denmark.

FACTIONALISM

For months the discussion in which Larsen indulged in open factional activity—paralysed the Party's work and virtually disrupted the Party. The Congress was called to resolve the position so that the membership could declare where they stood, end the factional and disruptive activity and clear the way for the Party's advance.

The Congress was attended by 224 delegates and after a two-day debate, the report of the Central Committee condemning Larsen's position was carried with only 12 votes against. The Congress resolution, based on the Central Committee report, was also adopted with the same 12 votes against.

The resolution said that "modern revisionism had made its appearance in the last few years in the form of an international trend intended to create suspicion and confusion among the working class in all countries. Our Party repudiates the Yugoslav Programme. The Danish Communist Party must take its stand on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and be guided by these laws in order creatively to apply general Socialist principles in accordance with the actual conditions in Denmark."

The resolution continued that the defence of peace was the decisive prerequisite to the safeguarding of mankind as well as the future of the Danish people.

It went on to state: "The cause of peace cannot be separated from international solidarity among the various Communist Parties. The Danish

delegates became more and more apparent.

When the Congress came to elect the Central Committee, he and his supporters recognised their isolation. The Danish procedure is for districts (corresponding to our State units) to make nominations which are circulated to the delegates. Out of these, a ballot paper is prepared with all the names, including the list advanced from the Elections Committee elected by the Congress. The delegates then vote on all nominations by secret ballot.

Out of 48 districts, only five nominated Larsen and his supporters for the Central Committee. After the vote on the resolution and the list of district nominations showed that Larsen's position was so overwhelmingly rejected, he along with his supporters withdrew their names from the ballot paper at the last minute.

The Danish Party Congress has, therefore, decisively rejected revisionism. It adopted an immediate programme for the Danish people, the struggle for peace, resistance to the employers' offensive, the growing unemployment and increased rents, and called for the Party to work and unite with all progressive people and sections of the working class movement for these aims.

It elected as its new Chairman, Knud Jeferson, a 35-year-old worker from Aalborg, a key centre of Communist support in Denmark.

Indonesia: Documents For Discussion

THE Indonesian Communist Party in a recent open letter has asked its members and the people of the country to study three documents to be submitted to the Party's Sixth National Congress and to put forward their opinions and criticism.

The three documents are the Draft Thesis of a general report for the Sixth National Congress prepared by the Central Committee of the Party; the Draft Resolution on the Revision of the Party's Programme and the Draft Resolution on the Party's Constitution.

Harian Rakjat published the open letter and a part of the Draft Thesis. The Sixth National Congress will be opened on May 23 next year, which is the 39th anniversary of the founding of the Indonesian Communist Party.

According to the open letter, four slogans will be submitted to the coming National Congress, and they will become the basic slogans for the Party in the period between the Sixth and the Seventh National Congresses. If adopted, the four slogans are:

- To stand with the Indonesian Communist Party in the forefront in carrying on the Indonesian people's struggle for full independence and democracy;

- To improve united front work and further isolate the diehard group;

- To strengthen the international front against colonialism and safeguard world peace;

- To carry on the building of the Party so as to strengthen the close relations between the Party and the masses of the people, and consolidate the Party ideologically, politically and organisationally.

The open letter says that the Indonesian Communist Party maintains that with the help of all Party members and non-Party people, the Sixth National Congress will achieve success and make tremendous contributions to the Indonesian national movement for independence and progress and to world peace.

According to Harian Rakjat, the Indonesian Communist Party will invite leaders of other political parties, military and Government officials, the Speaker of Parliament, the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, leaders of popular organisations and prominent persons in scientific and cultural circles to attend its Sixth National Congress.

KHALED BAGDASH ON

Arab Struggle Against Imperialism

ON December 15, in *Al-Akhbar* weekly in Beirut, Khaled Bagdash stated that the imperialists, especially the U.S. imperialists, after failing in direct aggression are now engineering conspiracies to split the growing Arab solidarity and cooperation.

The Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon—now established as two separate Parties—said: "It is impossible to defeat the imperialistic dangers except by the force of the people which should be set free so as to be able to act effectively. The only course to be followed was the course of democracy."

Bagdash added that if somebody believed that the current struggle against imperialism had ended and the battle in the Arab world had become as they described it— "between nationalists and non-nationalists"—and if they believed that the danger for the Arabs was not that of imperialism but "the other danger" as Nuri Es-said and his like used to say, "there is the danger of slipping to the brink of an abyss."

He said that the imperialist danger took the shape in the Arab North of the bilateral treaties between the USA and Iran, and between Turkey and Pakistan. In the Maghreb Arab, it took the shape of a brutal war of annihilation with which the French imperialists assailed the Algerian people.

In the Arab South it took the shape of massacres organised by the British imperialists against the people of Oman and Aden. There was Israel—the aggressive, imperialist, Zionist base—which did not remain quiet. There was the U.S. Sixth Fleet off the Lebanese coast. There were also the American and British bases in most other parts of the Middle and Far East. The situation in Jordan and Saudi Arabia should also be considered.

CONSPIRACIES

There were attempts at disturbing the relations of fraternal friendship between the Iraqi Republic and the UAR. There were imperialist conspiracies and attempts inside every free Arab State.

"Imperialism is a fierce enemy. It will never give up its strategic goals in the region—the policy of pacts and military bases and its economic loot—the policy of firmly fixing imperialist domination over the petrol of the region, taking possession of the markets and working for the infiltration of imperialist capital in various forms from the

West into all the Arab States," Bagdash added.

He emphasised that "as long as imperialism exists, the fraternity, collaboration and solidarity of all Arab ranks remained the principal and main item in the Arab liberation movement and furthermore remained the principal point that should be stressed in the present stage of the Arab unity movement."

"Everything that affected or harmed the solidarity and cooperation of the Arab peoples must be avoided. For this reason we say that the Arab unity movement, which arises out of the actual existence of the Arab countries, can never grow up firmly except on the basis of liberation from imperialism."

DEMOCRACY

"The Arab liberation movement and the Arab unity movement must be justified by true democratic processes. They must be built on a democratic foundation and on the basis of carefully considering the objective circumstances formed by history in each Arab country."

He continued: "It is inevitable for us to tighten our links of friendship with the Socialist camp that is led by the Soviet Union if we want to drive back the menace of imperialism, keep and protect our national independence and lead the national liberation movement forward."

He concluded: "We never chart our policy according to narrow considerations connected with the inclinations or interests of a particular faction or group. We always rely, in the first place on Arab opinion based on true Arab nationalism."

COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

Editorial Board

AJOY GHOSH
BEUPESH GUPTA
P. C. JOSHI (Editor)

Printed by D. P. Sinha at the NEW AGE PRINTING PRESS, 5, Jhandewalla Estate, N. M. Road, New Delhi, and published by him from 1/4, Anand All Road, Delhi.

Phone: 25794
Telegraphic Address: MARKBADI

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

INLAND: Yearly Rs. 12-0-0;
Half-yearly Rs. 6-0-0 and
Quarterly Rs. 3-0-0
FOREIGN: Yearly Rs. 18-0-0;
Half-yearly Rs. 8-0-0.
All cheques and drafts to be made payable to T. MADHAVAN and not to NEW AGE.

SALUTE TO FAIZ

POEMS by Faiz Ahmad Faiz. Translated by Victor Kiernan, People's Publishing House, Ltd. New Delhi: Price Rs. 6.

IT is, in some ways, an advantage reviewing these translations of the poems of a most gifted Urdu poet, without knowing the original. My Urdu-knowing friends are somewhat divided about the quality of Kiernan's rendering. Some are amazed at his skill, others feel that Kiernan has done to Faiz what Fitzgerald did to Rubaiyat.

I am more fortunate in not having my attention thus divided between the original poems and the artistic—Satish Gajral's cover broods in pain exactly to the right intensity—production of the People's Publishing House.

The poems in English are astonishingly subtle in their power. To one who has grown used to the tougher, metaphysical trend of modern poetry in his own language, it was refreshing waters, these lyrical outpourings of Faiz. Not so much intellect at the tip of one's emotions as the heart at the tip of one's pen.

The poems are divided into three chronological sections, covering some fifteen years. You find the earlier rather facile emotionalism giving place to real pain and the compassion of shared suffering.

One is tempted to quote the numerous striking lines but then this would be an injustice. For each poem of Faiz is closely woven and to remove a strand from its place would make it a thread, robbed of the value which comes from relationship.

Place Of Poet As Politician

It is enough to say that Faiz has understood the place of the poet as a politician, in that he has drawn into his soul the cries of the wretched and made beauty out of the slogans of their protest. It is all too rare, this quality to give concrete social and political questions the touch of human anguish.

Perhaps the secret to this magic lies in the poem called "Two loves". In that poem Faiz writes of the tension between his personal attractions and sorrow and the public, indeed national, suffering. Of which is he to write? He writes of both and, therefore, it becomes something more noble and human than either could have been.

Faiz has not let his individuality run away with him nor has he felt that he should stamp it out. He takes himself to the people and connects through creative tension, a dialectical unity which always requires two bound and conflicting forces.

The world of progress: has come to respect and even commune with Hikmet, Aragon, Eluard, Neruda, to mention a few who come readily to mind.

It would be a colossal pity if now they miss the chance of knowing one who is in no way unworthy of being their equal.

One can scarcely conclude, before noticing another poignant fact. Faiz is again imprisoned, again a tyrant pun-

ishes a poet, simply because he wanted something decent for his people. False causes have often enough found some Indian writers ready to get up sanctimonious petitions—Phadhye pleads for Pasternak! What about Faiz? Won't the conscience of the Indian writers make them utter withering condemnation and warm sympathy?

—ANIYA DAS GUPTA

MAO'S POEMS

NINETEEN POEMS by Mao Tse-tung Foreign Languages Press, Peking. Price 40 nP.

THE great masters of Marxism have, as a significant part of their contribution, left us also a legacy of style in writing. Marx's ironic passion, the flow of Engel's clarity, the intense penetration of Lenin's phrases, Stalin's utter simplicity and iron logic—all this has pitifully shown up the tired jargon of some Marxist writers.

But there is something else that immediately comes to mind, that should lead to fruitful controversy among us—

In the immediate present we have had the theoretical works of Mao Tse-tung. There has been a classical terseness and picturesque imagery, a combination of the universal science of Marxism with the idiom of China, which have made the most political of his works at the same time pieces of literature.

Classical Style

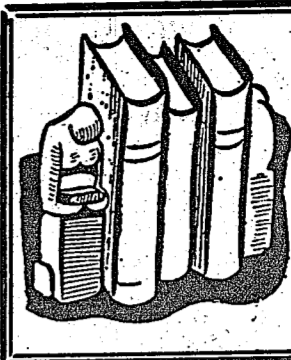
Nineteen Poems shows yet another aspect of this versatility. They are all written in the old classical style which we have been able to admire in the past through the efforts of Arthur Waley and, to a lesser extent, Robert Payne. Actually during the snobbish it should be added that Robert Payne's collection—very prim and proper—ends with a poem by Mao.

These nineteen poems cover the entire revolutionary period from the close of the 1920s to as late as 1957. We have memories of the first youthful stirrings in *Changsha*, the poetic transmutation of pre-Japanese invasion civil war in *Chingking Mountains*. The Long March—during that incredible trek itself—has been commemorated by at least four poems. Then there is the famous *Snow* written in Chungking during the 1945 negotiations with the Kuomintang.

In the post-liberation period we have two fascinating poems to Liu Ya-tse, a sort of united front political campaign carried on through a most intricate blending of brevity and suggestiveness. The collection ends with a poignant poem for an old school-teacher friend.

Despite the unfamiliarity of allusion and the filling of the poems with Chinese my-

who are trying at least to apply Marxism to literature.



BOOK REVIEW

Socialist Realism

The other point is of socialist realism in poetry. Perhaps the term has to be far more liberally defined than has been the case hitherto, unless we are prepared to say that Mao's poems are not examples of this trend in literature.

One feels personally that these *Nineteen Poems* if carefully studied will help to liberate many a poetic power from the shackles of narrowness and aid the achievement of a balance between all the resources of the poet and the simple daily issues of our struggle. Above all, they will help to make our poetry more poetic and bring more poets closer to the people.

—JITEN ACHARYA

READ CHINESE PERIODICALS

Unique new year gifts offered to annual subscribers

which give you information about diverse fields of life and activity of a resurgent nation building for an ever prosperous tomorrow.

Annual Subscription rates:

- CHINA PICTORIAL (fortnightly): Rs. 3/- instead of Rs. 10/-
- PEKING REVIEW (weekly): Rs. 12/-
- WOMEN OF CHINA (bi-monthly): Rs. 1.40 instead of Rs. 1.80
- CHINA'S SPORTS (bi-monthly): Rs. 7.80
- CHINESE LITERATURE (monthly): Rs. 5/-

SPECIAL NEW YEAR GIFT OFFER

Enter your 1959 subscription to any of the periodicals before 31-12-58 and receive the unique gifts:

- An exquisite 1959 wall calendar of Chinese paintings
- Annual subscribers for PEKING REVIEW will receive a copy of the new book "An Outline History of China" (over 400 pages) plus the calendar
- Subscribers to Women of China will receive a Pamphlet of Chinese Embroidery plus the calendar.

Send your subscriptions to:

People's Publishing House (P) Ltd., N. M. Road, New Delhi. M.P.F.H. Book Stall, 190-B, Khetwadi Main Rd., Bombay-4. National Book Agency (P) Ltd., 12, Bankim Chatterjee St., Calcutta-12. New Century Book House, 159, Mount Rd., Madras-2. Vikasandhra Publishing House, Buckinghampet, Vijayawada.

DECEMBER 28, 1958

Textile Bosses' Challenge

The textile millowners of West Bengal, led by Sri B. M. Birla himself, have flung a challenge to the entire trade union movement. They are out to circumvent and sabotage the omnibus Tribunal Award and go ahead with automation. All the talk of "textile crisis" and "stock accumulation" is only to mobilise public sympathy and attack workers' living standards and employment.

SINCE 1948, the textile workers of West Bengal have been drawing a basic minimum wage of Rs. 20-2-6 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 30. Every time the unions raised the demand for a wage revision, it was turned down.

It was in 1955, that 17 textile unions came together and formed the Cotton Textile Workers' Federation, thus beginning the big united mobilisation on these long-standing demands of wage revision, house rent and leave facilities. It was in September 1956 that the Government of West Bengal appointed an omnibus Tribunal to go into the demands of the textile workers such as basic wage, dearness allowance, house rent, gratuity, night shift allowance, leave facilities, etc.

In West Bengal, there are three types of textile mills: a) composite, b) spinning, and c) power loom. Birlas' Kesoram Cotton Mills are the biggest cotton mills of West Bengal, employing 10,000 workmen. And B. M. Birla is also the President of the Bengal Millowners' Association.

The millowners tried all their tricks before the Tribunal and their Counsel, Sri Mitter, the leading barrister of Calcutta, argued as if heavens would fall if any wage revision was considered.

Nevertheless, the Tribunal gave its award after two

years entitling the workers to draw a basic wage of Rs. 28.17 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 32.50. After ten years of struggle the workers were to get Rs. 10.50 more.

But the millowners, led by the mighty Birlas, refuse to take the award gracefully.

The Dunbar Cotton Mills of Shyamnagar has closed down a shift without giving two months' notice as contemplated by the Sixteenth Tripartite recommendation. The management arrogantly says that it is no party to the Tripartite. The award has abolished casual leave and granted ten days' consolidated payment on the eve of Puja. But mills such as Bauria and Dunbar are not implementing it.

Piece-rated workers and workers of the spinning and roving frames are not getting the awarded amounts.

Sri B. M. Birla, the President of the Millowners' Association, is reported to have warned the Government not to press the question of non-implementation. New machines, automatic looms are being talked of rather freely. Already in the Kesoram and the Dhakeshwar Mills, a weaver has to mind four to eight looms.

The textile magnates have flung the challenge. And the trade unions have picked it up.

ACCRA CONFERENCE

*FROM PAGE 5

as the *ONLY* form of struggle to be pursued by the enslaved peoples. But the delegates refused to be drawn into this dangerous discussion. Their views were apparent when there was strong applause and a standing ovation for the Algerian delegate who declared:

"The African peoples can adopt any method in their struggle for freedom. Means of violence should not be excluded in the face of armed-to-the-teeth imperialism."

And again:
"The method of violence was imposed on the Algerian people by the French colonialists."

At a Press Conference, a British Correspondent raised the question of non-violence. The Algerian spokesman replied by a counter-question: "Do you think it is possible for the Algerians and, for instance, the South African people, to win their independence by the method of non-violence?" "No," replied the British Correspondent, embarrassed, "I do not think so."

Imperialist Efforts Fail

But despite all their efforts to split the Conference on this issue of the forms of struggle, the imperialists failed. Unfortunately for them, the delegates were those who came from the battle-fields, who knew what they could do and what they

could not—who knew also that this was no simple theoretical question but one of hard reality: the forms were imposed on the liberation movements by the imperialist forces themselves and conditions varied from colony to colony.

And out of their wisdom, the delegates unitedly declared: "Recognising that national independence can be gained by peaceful means in territories where democratic means are available, it guarantees its support to all forms of peaceful action. This support is pledged equally to those who, in order to meet violent means by which they are subjected and exploited, are obliged to retaliate."

And the special resolutions on Algeria and Camerouns were proof positive of the support the Conference gave to the armed struggle for liberation, wherever it was forced upon the African peoples.

Again and again, the leaders of Africa repeated: We want to win our independence peacefully but we are ready to take up arms if it is forced upon us by imperialism. It is imperialist propaganda which always seeks to make out that the colonial peoples are violent and that their repressive machinery is "forced" to act against this violence. And our entire experience in India fully bears this out.

The debate on "non-violence versus violence" has no meaning for peoples who are in the thick of the war against imperialism.

LABOUR NOTES

● BY RAJ BHADUR GOUR, M. P.
SECRETARY, ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

CRISIS IN MINES

THE iron ore and manganese mines, particularly in the Singhbhum District in South Bihar and in Keonjhar and Sundarnath Districts in North Orissa, are in the grip of a crisis. Many mines have closed down, rendering about 10,000 miners unemployed.

Our reports indicate that neither the recommendations of the Sixteenth Tripartite giving three months' advance notice have been adhered to, nor has the Government of Bihar gone into the matter seriously and done anything to avert or mitigate the crisis.

Even retrenchment compensation has not been paid to the workers.

According to a spokesman of the mineowners, the crisis is a creation of the purchase policies of the State Trading Corporation. Their complaint is that the Corporation is purchasing only 64 per cent iron content ore and the iron and steel companies work their own mines and do not purchase from these owners. Moreover, the mineowners want higher rates from the Corporation and plead inability to supply at the rates it offers.

Above all, the Corporation is charged with showing favours to the big mineowners and the allotment of quotas has no uniform basis. In fact, this criticism was

levelled against the State Trading Corporation by the spokesman of the Bihar Government itself at the Mineral Advisory Committee meeting in Hyderabad in May this year. And the Bihar Government was asked to submit a detailed note to the Government of India.

The workers, the trade unions and the general public of Bihar have a right to know what the Bihar Government has done to solve this problem affecting the life of the workers and the economy of Bihar.

The matter is serious and needs a thorough probe and an urgent solution.

JUTE WORKERS' DEMANDS

OVER 300 representatives of the Jute Mill Unions affiliated to the AITUC, members of mills works committees and members of Provident Fund Trustee Boards met in Calcutta on December 14.

Comrade Bankim Mukherji, M.L.A., President of the Bengal Chatkal (Jute) Mazdoor Union, presided over the meeting. Comrade S. A. Dange, M.P., General Secretary of the AITUC, addressed the Convention. Comrade Indrajit Gupta, the Secretary of the AITUC and the General Secretary of both the West Bengal State TUC and the Chatkal Mazdoor Union, moved the main resolution.

It called on the unions, members of the works committees and all activists to be vigilant and immediately report cases of actual or suspected non-implementation or evasion of decisions by the managements.

The Convention expressed grave concern over the rising prices of commodities and called on the Government to:

- Appoint a wage board for the jute industry;
- Restore the Rs. 4.14 per month reduction in dearness allowance (effected by the tribunal award) by way of immediate interim relief;
- In the event of delay in setting up a Central Wage Board, to enhance the dearness allowance from Rs. 32.50 to Rs. 40 per month, and link it up with the cost of living at the rate of one rupee for every five points;
- Introduce a bonus scheme in consultation with the unions subject to a minimum annual bonus equal to a month's wage.

The Convention expressed great alarm at the fall in the prices of raw jute and the virtual refusal of the Government of India to do anything in the matter.

It exposed the monopoly grip of the LMA over the purchase of raw jute and the criminal manipulation in view of the bumper jute crop this year throwing into misery thousands of jute-growers in Bengal, Bihar and U.P.

The Convention demanded the fixation of a floor price for raw jute guaranteeing a fair return to the growers, compulsion on the millowners to maintain three to four months stock of jute in the mills, permission to export 200,000 bales of Indian jute to Pakistan, and import of corresponding quantity from Pakistan, and organisation of marketing corporations by the State Government to undertake purchase of jute and to advance the strivings of her peoples merged. The lamp of Africa's soul is lit. It is shining for all humanity.

At Accra, Africa rose in her mighty strength, as the paths of the strivings of her peoples merged. The lamp of Africa's soul is lit. It is shining for all humanity.

SAURASHTRA UNDER DHEBARSHAH

Sri Dhebar's constituency was in need of vacant possession of his house and hence the eviction case against him should be expeditiously disposed.

Plenty more can be said about all the interference with the judiciary but space won't permit it here.

Now to turn to another aspect of Congress rule. Earlier we saw how Congressmen had become officials. There are instances of a number of them who reverted back to politics and found places in the Cabinet. One Congressman who had become a Collector gave up the job to become a Minister. Another who became Deputy Secretary in the Labour Department was later taken into the Ministry.

Officials not only became Congressmen and Ministers, they also used to work openly for the Congress in elections. A district food officer resigned his job to participate in the election campaign. He went round the villages carrying a gun. When the election was over, this official who had resigned his job was reappointed in his post.

Corruption is rampant under Congress rule but in the then Saurashtra it can be said to have been legalised for big political advantage.

Saurashtra faced two severe famines after the formation of the new State. The first popular Government under Sri Dhebar's leadership decided to start relief operations through committees mostly composed of Congressmen and set up by the Government. These committees were given as commission four per cent of the allotment made to them as relief contribution in the name of relief operation charges.

Not only that. Relief works were also handed over to these committees. They rarely submitted plans and estimates of construction works and rarely were completion certificates produced before final payment.

Sri Dhebar's constituency was in need of vacant possession of his house and hence the eviction case against him should be expeditiously disposed.

Lakhs Through Relief Works

Detailed investigation in just one district—the Zala-wad District—brought out the following facts:

- No relief committee here submitted full accounts, what was submitted in the name of accounts was just hotch-potch.
- Depreciation of foodgrains at transfer stages was calculated at 14 per cent while the business community normally puts it at one per cent.
- Important food officers were most of them Congressmen.

Thus the final picture that emerges is that Congressmen and their organisations bagged a huge amount—four per cent commission as relief charges, lakhs of rupees in the name of construction works and 14 per cent depreciation in food-grains.

While this was the general pattern, inside this pattern Congress Ministers functioned in their own personal interests.

There is the story of the silver worth Rs. 22 lakhs secured from Bhavnagar State. No Government resolution was passed for its sale, no tender was called. The silver was not sold in Saurashtra but in Bombay—reportedly through the brother of a Minister.

Another is the case of the Congress worker who became a food officer and deposited Rs. two lakhs of Government money with the bank in his own name. Some of this money was stolen when a

clerk was cashing a cheque. The matter went to a court of law and the officer revealed that it was not his personal money but that of the Government.

Government auditors raised questions. But the officer was not made to reimburse the treasury in spite of their remarks. He was not sent to jail. He was asked to resign, only to be appointed later in a higher post.

The third instance is of an important officer who was involved in a big corruption case. A departmental enquiry brought out scandalous features. The officer concerned conveniently fell ill and the Government said on the floor of the House that since he was ill there was no need to proceed further with the matter.

In Kerala whenever the Government has formed any committee, Opposition members have been nominated on them. Still Dhebar says they are being packed with Com-

munists. What used to happen in Saurashtra?

Five District Development Councils were formed in the State. About a hundred members were nominated to these councils—only in one District Development Council was a solitary non-Congress member included. The non-Congress parties and people were not given any place in the boards constituted for backward classes, khadi and village development, small-scale industries and so on.

These boards are semi-governmental agencies but they do not have to submit the names of officers they recruit to the Public Service Commission, they have their own pay-scales and it is doubtful whether their accounts are ever scrutinised by Government auditors. These boards, packed with Congressmen, naturally worked to the advantage of the Congress Party and its factions.

It was also a method of distributing favours because there is no limit to the number of committees to which the same person can be nominated. The favourites used to bag all the nominations—it recently came to light that one Congress M.L.A. was holding membership in 30 committees. The members, of course, get their travelling allowance, daily allowance, honorarium and what not.

Apart from getting finances for their party from all these Governmental sources, the Congress is said to have had its links with certain notorious smugglers. The leader of an international smuggling gang who is at the moment standing trial in Bombay is reported to have given Rs. 35,000 to the Congress election fund.

Is it really surprising then that no smugglers could be arrested till Saurashtra was merged into Bombay State?

It was in the days of Sri Dhebar's stewardship of Saurashtra that notorious dacoit Bhupat used to terrorise the peasants of that State. That Bhupat was sponsored and groomed by a section of feudal interests is well-known. The way his escape into Pakistan was arranged cannot become part of this story.

With all this that took place in Saurashtra when Sri Dhebar was Chief Minister, one can only say about his utterances on Kerala: Sri Dhebar, you are trying to see the first Communist-ruled State in our country in your own image. But that is not how the people see it.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

TWICE DAILY after meals..

The Season's greatest restorative

for that extra sparkle in your health



SADHANA AUSADHALAYA

The world's Largest

DACCA Ayurvedic Institution

CALCUTTA CENTRE —
Dr. Nares Chandni Ghose,
M.B.B.S., Ayurved-Acharya,
36, Golepark Road, Calcutta-37

Adhyaksha: Dr. Jagesh Chandra
Ghose, M.A., Ayurved-Sastra,
F.C.S. (London), M.C.S. (America),
formerly Professor of Chemistry,
Bhagalpur College.

Textile Bosses' Challenge

The textile millowners of West Bengal, led by Sri B. M. Birla himself, have flung a challenge to the entire trade union movement.

SINCE 1948, the textile workers of West Bengal have been drawing a basic minimum wage of Rs. 20-2-6 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 30.

In West Bengal, there are three types of textile mills: a) composite, b) spinning, and c) power loom.

The millowners tried all their tricks before the Tribunal and their Counsel, Sri Mitter, the leading barrister of Calcutta, argued as if heavens would fall if any wage revision was considered.

years entitling the workers to draw a basic wage of Rs. 28.17 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 32.50.

But the millowners, led by the mighty Birlas, refuse to take the award gracefully.

The Dunbar Cotton Mills of Shyamnagar has closed down a shift without giving two months' notice as contemplated by the Sixteenth Tripartite recommendation.

Piece-rated workers and workers of the spinning and roving frames are not getting the awarded amounts.

Sri B. M. Birla, the President of the Millowners' Association, is reported to have warned the Government not to press the question of non-implementation.

The textile magnates have flung the challenge. And the trade unions have picked it up.

LABOUR NOTES

BY RAJ BAHADUR GOUR, M. P. SECRETARY, ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

CRISIS IN MINES

THE iron ore and manganese mines, particularly in the Singhbhum District in South Bihar and in Keonjhar and Sundarnath Districts in North Orissa, are in the grip of a crisis.

Our reports indicate that neither the recommendations of the Sixteenth Tripartite giving three months' advance notice have been adhered to, nor has the Government of Bihar gone into the matter seriously and done anything to avert or mitigate the crisis.

Even retrenchment compensation has not been paid to the workers.

According to a spokesman of the mineowners, the crisis is a creation of the purchase policies of the State Trading Corporation.

Comrade Bankim Mukherji, MLA, President of the Bengal Chatkal (Jute) Mazdoor Union, presided over the meeting.

Above all, the Corporation is charged with showing favours to the big mineowners and the allotment of quotas has no uniform basis.

In fact, this criticism was

levelled against the State Trading Corporation by the spokesman of the Bihar Government itself at the Mineral Advisory Committee meeting in Hyderabad in May this year.

The workers, the trade unions and the general public of Bihar have a right to know what the Bihar Government has done to solve this problem affecting the life of the workers and the economy of Bihar.

The matter is serious and needs a thorough probe and an urgent solution.

JUTE WORKERS' DEMANDS

OVER 300 representatives of the Jute Mill Unions affiliated to the AITUC, members of mills works committees and members of Provident Fund Trustee Boards met in Calcutta on December 14.

Comrade Bankim Mukherji, MLA, President of the Bengal Chatkal (Jute) Mazdoor Union, presided over the meeting.

The Convention expressed grave concern over the rising prices of commodities and called on the Government to:

The Convention noted that the Indian Jute Mills Association was in need of vacant possession of his house and hence the eviction case against him should be expeditiously disposed.

Plenty more can be said about all the interference with the judiciary but space won't permit it here.

Now to turn to another aspect of Congress rule. Earlier we saw how Congressmen had become officials. There are instances of a number of them who reverted back to politics and found places in the Cabinet.

Officials not only became Congressmen and Ministers, they also used to work openly for the Congress in elections.

It called on the unions, members of the works committees and all activists to be vigilant and immediately report cases of actual or suspected non-implementation or evasion of decisions by the managements.

The Convention expressed grave concern over the rising prices of commodities and called on the Government to:

- 1. Appoint a wage board for the jute industry;
2. Restore the Rs. 4/14 per month reduction in dearness allowance...
3. In the event of delay in setting up a Central Wage Board...
4. Introduce a bonus scheme...
5. The Convention expressed great alarm at the fall in the prices of raw jute...

There is another aspect of the Conference which the American Press has gleefully sought to misinterpret and distort.

Africa And Asia

There is no doubt that nothing would please the imperialists more than a break-up of the Bandung spirit.

Our hands are outstretched in friendship and solidarity with Africa. In India, we have celebrated the coming of age of the young continent with "Quit Africa" meetings in many States.

At Accra, Africa rose in her mighty strength, as the paths of the strivings of her peoples merged. The lamp of Africa's soul is lit. It is shining for all humanity.

countries together. Let those who seek to create these contradictions be forewarned of their failure.

The new united African People's movement will become stronger and stronger the more it builds closer and closer bonds among the countries of Africa themselves, the more it links itself with the countries of Asia and Latin America, struggling to defend their national independence, the more it becomes a part—and an effective leading part—of the world movement for peace and independence.

Accra is a bridge; from now on, Africa has crossed into the world that counts, that shapes destiny. It has left behind the past when it might have been called the Forgotten, Left-Behind continent.

Our hands are outstretched in friendship and solidarity with Africa. In India, we have celebrated the coming of age of the young continent with "Quit Africa" meetings in many States.

At Accra, Africa rose in her mighty strength, as the paths of the strivings of her peoples merged. The lamp of Africa's soul is lit. It is shining for all humanity.

SAURASHTRA UNDER DHEBARSHAH

Sri Dhebar's constituency was in need of vacant possession of his house and hence the eviction case against him should be expeditiously disposed.

Plenty more can be said about all the interference with the judiciary but space won't permit it here.

Now to turn to another aspect of Congress rule. Earlier we saw how Congressmen had become officials. There are instances of a number of them who reverted back to politics and found places in the Cabinet.

Officials not only became Congressmen and Ministers, they also used to work openly for the Congress in elections.

It called on the unions, members of the works committees and all activists to be vigilant and immediately report cases of actual or suspected non-implementation or evasion of decisions by the managements.

The Convention expressed grave concern over the rising prices of commodities and called on the Government to:

- 1. Appoint a wage board for the jute industry;
2. Restore the Rs. 4/14 per month reduction in dearness allowance...
3. In the event of delay in setting up a Central Wage Board...
4. Introduce a bonus scheme...
5. The Convention expressed great alarm at the fall in the prices of raw jute...

mitted plans and estimates of construction works and rarely were completion certificates produced before final payment.

Lakhs Through Relief Works

Detailed investigation in just one district—the Zala-wad District—brought out the following facts:

- 1. No relief committee here submitted full accounts, what was submitted in the name of accounts was just hotch-potch.
2. Depreciation of foodgrains at transfer stages was calculated at 14 per cent while the business community normally puts it at one per cent.
3. Important food officers were most of them Congressmen.

Thus the final picture that emerges is that Congressmen and their organisations bagged a huge amount—four per cent commission as relief charges, lakhs of rupees in the name of construction works and 14 per cent depreciation in foodgrains.

While this was the general pattern, inside this pattern Congress Ministers functioned in their own personal interests.

There is the story of the silver worth Rs. 22 lakhs secured from Bhavnagar State. No Government resolution was passed for its sale, no tender was called. The silver was not sold in Saurashtra but in Bombay—reportedly through the brother of a Minister.

Another is the case of the Congress worker who became a food officer and deposited Rs. two lakhs of Government money with the bank in his own name. Some of this money was stolen when a

clerk was cashing a cheque. The matter went to a court of law and the officer revealed that it was not his personal money but that of the Government.

Government auditors raised questions. But the officer was not made to reimburse the treasury in spite of their remarks. He was not sent to jail. He was asked to resign, only to be appointed later in a higher post.

The third instance is of an important officer who was involved in a big corruption case. A departmental enquiry brought out scandalous features. The officer concerned conveniently fell ill and the Government said on the floor of the House that since he was ill there was no need to proceed further with the matter.

In Kerala whenever the Government has formed any committee, Opposition members have been nominated on them. Still Dhebar says they are being packed with Com-

munists. What used to happen in Saurashtra?

Five District Development Councils were formed in the State. About a hundred members were nominated to these councils—only in one District Development Council was a solitary non-Congress member included.

The non-Congress parties and people were not given any place in the boards constituted for backward classes, khadi and village development, small-scale industries and so on.

These boards are semi-governmental agencies but they do not have to submit the names of officers they recruit to the Public Service Commission, they have their own pay-scales and it is doubtful whether their accounts are ever scrutinised by Government auditors.

It was also a method of distributing favours because there is no limit to the number of committees to which the same person can be nominated. The favourites used to bag all the nominations—it recently came to light that one Congress M.L.A. was holding membership in 30 commit-

tees. The members, of course, get their travelling allowance, daily allowance, honorarium and what not.

Apart from getting finances for their party from all these Governmental sources, the Congress is said to have had its links with certain notorious smugglers.

The leader of an international smuggling gang who is at the moment standing trial in Bombay is reported to have given Rs. 35,000 to the Congress election fund.

Is it really surprising then that no smugglers could be arrested till Saurashtra was merged into Bombay State?

It was in the days of Sri Dhebar's stewardship of Saurashtra that notorious dacoit Bhupat used to terrorise the peasants of that State. That Bhupat was sponsored and groomed by a section of feudal interests is well-known. The way his escape into Pakistan was arranged cannot become part of this story.

With all this that took place in Saurashtra when Sri Dhebar was Chief Minister, one can only say about his utterances on Kerala: Sri Dhebar, you are trying to see the first Communist-ruled State in our country in your own image. But that is not how the people see it.

ACCRA CONFERENCE

* FROM PAGE 5

as the ONLY form of struggle to be pursued by the enslaved peoples. But the delegates refused to be drawn into this dangerous discussion.

Their views were apparent when there was strong applause and a standing ovation for the Algerian delegate who declared:

"The African peoples can adopt any method in their struggle for freedom. Means of violence should not be excluded in the face of armed-to-the-teeth imperialism."

And again: "The method of violence was imposed on the Algerian people by the French colonialists."

At a Press Conference, a British Correspondent raised the question of non-violence. The Algerian spokesman replied by a counter-question: "Do you think it is possible for the Algerians and, for instance, the South African people, to win their independence by the method of non-violence?" "No," replied the British Correspondent, embarrassed, "I do not think so."

Imperialist Efforts Fail

But despite all their efforts to split the Conference on this issue of the forms of struggle, the imperialists failed. Unfortunately for them, the delegates were those who came from the battle-fields, who knew what they could do, and what they

could not—who knew also that this was no simple theoretical question but one of hard reality: the forms were imposed on the liberation movements by the imperialist forces themselves and conditions varied from colony to colony.

And out of their wisdom, the delegates unitedly declared: "Recognising that national independence can be gained by peaceful means in territories where democratic means are available, it guarantees its support to all forms of peaceful action. This support is pledged equally to those who, in order to meet violent means by which they are subjected and exploited, are obliged to retaliate."

And the special resolutions on Algeria and Cameroons were proof positive of the support the Conference gave to the armed struggle for liberation, wherever it was forced upon the African peoples.

Again and again, the leaders of Africa repeated: We want to win our independence peacefully but we are ready to take up arms if it is forced upon us by imperialism. It is imperialist propaganda which always seeks to make out that the colonial peoples are violent and that their repressive machinery is "forced" to act against this violence. And our entire experience in India fully bears this out.

The debate on "non-violence versus violence" has no meaning for peoples who are in the thick of the war against imperialism.

AUTOMATIC LOOMS

* FROM FRONT PAGE

The automatic looms project would be far easier to handle than these. Units of thousand looms each should be built in the various parts of the country, to meet the national necessity.

If purely State Sector activity is not favoured at the present stage, it can be undertaken in a mixed way. The millowners who are interested in exports can be given participation according to their capacity in capital contribution.

By this method, exports of cloth produced on automatic looms can be organised and needs of foreign exchange also met. It will not allow the private interests to use this national necessity for their own benefit.

Another feature of this method will be that when new units of automatic looms are built separately and are not introduced in the existing mills, questions of displacing existing employed workers and productive looms will not arise directly, and immediately.

By this method, we shall be serving the interests of the country, the workers and the industry.

We are, therefore, totally against allowing the existing mills to introduce automatic looms in their existing units. We can consider a proposal to build separate new units of only automatic looms. Such autonomous automatic loom mills and units exist even today in some parts of the country.

To allow automatic looms to replace the existing looms is to allow the massacre of employed workers, to add to unemployment and retrenchment and to create unrest. If our proposed method is accepted, this disastrous result can be avoided, even though temporarily. We say temporarily, because, in the long run, rationalisation under the capitalist system of private profit is bound to lead to unemployment for workers and super-profits for a few big employers.

We hope Government and the Conference will accept our proposals.

Advertisement for SADHANA AUSADHALAYA featuring 'Mritasanjibani' medicine. Text includes 'TWICE DAILY after meals.. The Season's greatest restorative' and 'Mritasanjibani (6 years old)'. Includes an illustration of a person and a bottle of medicine.

THE WEEK
IN
PARLIAMENT

by ZIAUL HAQ

Spotlight On Sorry State Of Land Reforms

The resolution moved last week in the Lok Sabha by Communist Member Chintaman Panigrahi served to spotlight attention on the sorry state of affairs that prevails in the country in respect of land reforms. The resolution called for the constitution of a 15-man Committee of the Lok Sabha to assess the progress so far made in land reforms and to submit a report to the House at an early date.

THE serious concern that prevails in all sections of democratic opinion in the country over the slow pace and steady scuttling of these reforms could not fail to be reflected in the Lok Sabha discussions.

Many Congress members joined in the Communist Opposition's criticism of the Government and even those who insisted on taking a complacent view could not help admitting the seriousness of the situation.

Panigrahi referred to the categorical statements made by the Prime Minister to the effect that he (the Prime Minister) "had no doubt" that there should be a ceiling on land and that the sooner it was done the better. Even Congressmen seemed to be having second thoughts on this question now, added Panigrahi.

In States where the reforms had been carried out in some form or the other, Panigrahi said, a minimum amount of land had invariably been provided for the landlord. But, for the tenant no such provision had been made. In the name of "land for self-cultivation," he pointed out, a large number of tenants had been evicted from land.

Similar, he said, was the case

with rent. Wherever land rent had been fixed by legislation it was not being implemented properly. The tenants were being coerced to pay more rent just because they want to retain a little piece of land for themselves.

Something should be done, Panigrahi demanded, to distribute the eight million acres of cultivable waste land to the agricultural labourers. Such a measure was necessary not merely to improve their miserable condition but also to increase the production of foodgrains.

K. T. K. Tankamani, Madras Communist M.P., said that several State Governments had not brought forward any legislation for a ceiling so far and had continued to treat the Land Reform Panel's recommendations with indifference.

Holding Up Of Kerala Bill

P. K. Vasudevan Nair, Communist member from Kerala, charged the Congress Party of breaking all the promises it had held out to the peasantry on land reforms. He pointedly asked what was delaying a

decision by the Home Ministry on the Kerala Jenmi-Karam Bill sent up for the assent of the President eight months ago by the State Government.

West Bengal, Renu Chakravarty pointed out, was a standing example of the ingenuity of the ruling party in enacting land legislations while enabling landlords to keep their holdings intact. The attitude of the Congress Party appeared to be that there was no need for fixing ceilings and that land should be distributed among those who have some of it rather than among those who have no land. How such an attitude could help raise the social and economic status of millions of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people, she was unable to understand.

Congressmen Criticise

Sri D. Thimmaiah, Congress member from Mysore, assailed his own party for not keeping the promises it had given to the people on the land issue. Fixing of ceiling, he asserted, would not lead to uneconomic holdings as was being propagated by the landlords. He cited the instance of Japan where he said each family had two to three acres of land. By means of intensive cultivation they produced more food. Why could the same thing not be done in India, he asked.

Sri Ganpati Ram, Congress member from Uttar Pradesh, said it was unfortunate that even after being in power for ten years his party had not been able to take any effective measures with regard to land reforms. Several things were being done in a number of States in the name of land reform which were not in the interests of the tiller at all. To begin with he insisted the Government must impose a ceiling on land holdings.

Socialist M.P. from U.P. Jagdish Awasthi said evictions and illegal transfers of holdings were on the increase. He demanded a comprehensive legislation in respect of land reforms.

The only two Congress members who participated in the discussion to "express gratification on land reforms carried out" were also not agreed on their emphasis. One of them insisted that no ceiling on land-holdings should be fixed till a ceiling had also been fixed on urban property and wealth, while the other said, the time had now come when "we, as a party should show our loyalty to the ideals we have set before ourselves."

The Planning Minister, Sri G. L. Nanda, who replied to the discussion followed a tactic which nowadays seems to be the favourite one of many Ministers including the Prime Minister—that of trying to drown and submerge the genuine and sincere anxiety about the fate of land reforms that prevades in all democratic elements in the

country irrespective of their party affiliations in a deluge of complacent, high-sounding and rather equivocatory words.

According to Sri Nanda there was now no controversy anywhere on the main objectives of land reforms like fixing of ceilings or abolition of intermediaries or ensuring security of tenure to the tillers. According to him it was only "certain details of implementation" that remained to be worked out.

After all that had happened at the Hyderabad AICC and the open attempts of landlord elements to mount a propaganda offensive against land reform measures besides going ahead with the grabbing of land that they have been quietly carrying on all these years under the protection of most Congress Ministries, Nandaji's statement in Parliament can only be described as a deliberate attempt to mislead the people and put them off their guard.

Elaborating his Government's philosophy regarding land reforms, Sri Nanda pompously declared that the general approach to the question was not a narrow one of giving more land to some people or of depriving others of the land but to make the rural economy of the country more dynamic and provide a sound foundation for our programmes of development—a statement that perfectly serves the purpose of the land grabbers in the present situation.

Raw Deal For Cane-Growers

THIS same hypocritical and equivocatory attitude characterised the Government stand on the question of meeting the sugarcane growers' demand for raising the cane price from Rs. 1.44 to Rs. 1.75. The issue came up in the Lok Sabha on December 18 which was the fourth day of the cane-growers' strike in U.P. Supplies to thirteen mills mainly in Western U.P. had been stopped by that time and more and more growers were preparing to do so in the next few weeks.

It is a long-standing grievance which arose out of the arbitrary reduction of the price in 1953 from Rs. 1.75 to Rs. 1.31 for the cane growers supply to the mills. In recent months, the Bihar and U.P. State Assemblies, both having big Congress majorities, passed resolutions supporting the growers' demands. The Union Government has persistently refused to accede to it.

The strength of feeling over the question was such that once again party barriers broke down and the Prime Minister, hardly a few hours in Delhi from his meeting with Vinobaji, had to intervene and a Congress whip was found necessary to get Sri Braj Raj Singh's motion negatived.

The Prime Minister, quoting Vinoba, spoke of some "big war" that was impending bet-

ween food production and sugarcane production in which, if the millowners were made to pay the growers 1.75 per maund, as they were getting in 1951-53, food production will be overwhelmed by cane production and food scarcity in the country would become greater.

The same Prime Minister who in recent days has spared no strong words to defend the public sector against the onslaught of the private sector helplessly pleaded that India's capacity to compete in the world sugar market would inevitably go down because millowners were bound to raise the price of sugar if the growers' demand was conceded.

Braj Raj Singh, supported by S. M. Banerji and Sarju Pandey, had anticipated and answered the Prime Minister's and the Food Minister's arguments about food production suffering if the cane price were to be raised. Congress M.P., Pandit Kishan Chand Sharma also pleaded against that argument.

Braj Raj Singh showed how the sugar millowners with a capital outlay of Rs. 70 crores had made a profit of Rs. 80 crores in the last four years, thanks to the reduced price the Government had imposed on the growers. He thoroughly exposed the millowners' malpractices by means of which they cheated the growers of lakhs and lakhs of rupees which the Prime Minister also admitted.

Sarju Pandey reminded the Lok Sabha of the old accepted formula that the price of cane per maund should be as many annas as the price of sugar is in rupees. He recalled that in pre-independence days, at the time when the price of cane was Rs. 1.25 per maund, sugar price used to be Rs. 20.87 per maund. The price of cane then went up to Rs. two per maund and sugar price rose to Rs. 30 a maund. Later cane was Rs. 1.75 a maund and sugar sold at Rs. 28.50.

"Ever since independence a strange phenomenon has appeared," said Sarju Pandey. "While the price of cane has been constantly brought down, that of sugar has been consistently pushed up. Today while sugar is priced at Rs. 38 a maund, cane remains at Rs. 1.31 to Rs. 1.44."

Where Is The Welfare State

Pandit K. C. Sharma recounted the sufferings of the peasantry today and his speech became a flaming indictment of Congress rule. He said: "May I ask, what is a welfare State? Ten years we have been in power... I say, we have not done our duty to the peasant."

He said, there was "no reason, no argument, no logic, no administrative mechanism whatsoever," which would justify denying the peasant the increase that he was demanding in sugarcane price. That is the only way, he said, "to do a little service to him, to save his life, to save his honour."

Yet the Government did not see its way to do this and turned down the demand.



it does not matter
if we win or lose
so long as
tea is there
to cheer us up!



I am Tea

I serve
those who play
and those who watch



PST 201