

1/B/224

Take Over Monopoly Concerns

-Says Congress M.P.

- ★ Nationalise Banks, Insurance & Foreign Trade
- ★ Break the Monopolies
- ★ Punish Tax Evaders
- ★ Enforce Austerity for Ministers; and
- ★ Let the Poor Man Keep his Last Shirt

MORARJI'S TAXES UNDER FIRE

The roles were reversed this week with the Lok Sabha embarking on a discussion of the general budget and the Rajya Sabha taking up the Gold Control Rules.

FOR a repeat performance, the Lok Sabha debate on the general budget did not suffer from a lack of interest or vehemence in tone, even though it had been complained by members that the upper House was not entitled to a discussion of the budget first. Also the debate revealed that the Finance Minister has not been able to effect any serious conversion to his side of members belonging to different parties by his grandstand speech in defence of his budget proposals before the Rajya Sabha last week.

As for the Gold Control Order, the upshot of the discussion in the Rajya Sabha was that Morarji Desai declared: "the more I hear the critics, the more I am convinced that the Order is needed." There, you have your man! Though many of the arguments heard in the Lok Sabha debate on the budget had a familiar ring about them after the previous discussion in the upper House and though the position of parties in relation to the budget proposals are now well-known, the tenor and tempo

of speeches showed that the apprehensions of a large majority of members on the effects of Morarji's tax proposals on the common man's living had become more strengthened.

This was more evident in the speeches of Congress members who continued to praise the Finance Minister but more forcefully urged him to relent and reconsider many of his proposals. Popular displeasure over rising prices and mounting burdens had clearly roused the political prudence of the partymen. Mere appeals to patriotism of the people would not suffice.

So, Congress members themselves brought into the debate a feeling of frustration at the failure of the government to arrest price increases, its wasteful expenditure on maintaining a bureaucratic administration and its open partiality for the rich and powerful business interests in the country. If socialism was talked about, it was only to dilute and soften the bitter taste of ruthless taxes imposed upon the common people.

Renu Chakravarty from the Communist benches, who initiated the debate, had quite a few strong words for the Treasury Benches on their callous disregard for the common man's condition. She said that the budget would impose a big burden on the lowest rungs of the salaried classes because their income is very obvious and cannot be hidden from the government's tax attempt. Not so are the richer sections.

She pointed out that the government had completely failed to control prices. Attention was drawn to the experience after the budget was presented in Parliament. Prices of even those commodities which were not subject to new taxes had gone up. In fact the prices of everything had gone up. She referred to the high rents for houses prevailing in cities and drew a picture of the poor man's family budget riddled with taxes, increased prices and now compulsory savings. After the fifteenth of every month, it is nothing but debts and debts for them, she complained and demanded that tax burden on the lower income group be eased and they be exempted from the compulsory savings scheme.

"If we need money, the resources are there. Take it from where it is. If you want an egalitarian society, break the monopolies and the con-

centration of wealth. That is our point", she said. Emphasising this argument, Renu Chakravarty recalled the report of the Mahalanobis Committee which had said that one per cent of the country's households own as much as 75 per cent of the privately held stocks.

Referring to the hue and cry raised by the big business community against the super profit tax proposed by the Finance Minister, Renu Chakravarty asked the government not to yield to their pressure. She pointed out that they had no reason to grouse since during the last three

there was suspicion that the House of Birlas was escaping.

She referred to the profiteering by contractors and exploitation of labour by them and demanded that they be brought under the provident fund scheme. Referring to the need for expanding our foreign trade, she asked government to check under-invoicing and other corrupt practices indulged in by the private sector.

Another strong point in her criticism was the reckless expenditure indulged in by ministers. The recent disclosures about excessive consumption of water and electricity in the

★ By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

years a number of concessions had been given to them by the Finance Minister.

There is no ceiling on profits. The wealth tax on company funds was abolished in 1960-61. The restriction on new bonus issues was reduced from 30 per cent to 12½ per cent in 1961-62. Then there are the benefits of the five-year tax holiday on newly started hotels.

She also referred to the large-scale evasion of income tax and asked the government why it could not use the Defence of India Rules against these people? Are the Defence of India Rules only for putting communists into jails?

Renu Chakravarty also criticised the government for sitting on the auditors' report on the new Asiatic and the Ruby General Insurance Companies owned by the Birlas. She wanted the reports to be made public and said that

houses of Central Ministers had created a stir in the lobbies and the subject came up for caustic comments by opposition members. Congress members felt genuinely uncomfortable over the scandal. One of them said in his speech that the government should have either seen to it that the affair did not get publicity or it should have prevented such high expenditure from being incurred.

Indrajit Gupta, who spoke on the second day of the debate, also had sharp criticism to offer about the failure of the government to hold the price line. He asked how the government could allow the traders by a notification to charge the maximum prices under the new excise duties, immediately after the budget even for stocks which have not been assessed for the enhanced duty?

He referred to the solemn

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MURDER IN IRAQ

editorial

THE BLOODY CAR-nage continues unabated in Iraq. A new crime of unprecedented horror has been announced:

three outstanding leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party have been executed.

The names of these martyrs are:

- Hussein Ar Rada (Salyam Adil), First Secretary of the Party;
- Mohammed Hussein Abu Al-Is, Member of the Central Committee;
- Hassan Uveini, another prominent leader of the Party.

These patriotic sons of their people were murdered by the Iraqi authorities, because they had all their lives fought for the freedom and happiness of their Motherland. There was only a farce of a "trial", all the canons of democracy, of civilised conduct, were thrown to the winds. The worldwide protests were rudely ignored. Progressive humanity's appeals were spurned.

The Indian people are aghast at the butchery raging unchecked on the streets of Baghdad and elsewhere. The Communist Party of India has voiced its vigorous condemnation. Organisations like the All-India Trade Union Congress and the All-India Peace Council have sent repeated cables of protests to the Iraqi Government.

Anti-Communist hysteria in Iraq has taken a heavy toll. All the new Government's talk of non-alignment, of anti-imperialism, of democratic principles rings false and hollow, as it proceeds with its brutal repression against all honest democrats and patriots in the country. Only the imperialists and the worst reactionaries are applauding the Iraqi authorities for the death-dance they have begun.

The death-dance must stop. The terror must end. The patriots must be released.

Let the Iraqi authorities take heed; the path of anti-Communism can lead only to their own doom. The blood of the Communist martyrs will nourish the tree of democracy and socialism in Iraq and help it to flower all the sooner.

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GREATER TAX BURDEN : S.G.P.C. AND P.C.C. SCENES

With the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister visiting the Punjab on consecutive days, the Punjab Budget following on the heels of the Central Budget, the meeting of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee leading to wild scenes, the race for the PCC Presidency pitting out unexpectedly and the fireworks in the Assembly during budget discussions, the Punjab scene has been particularly lively during the past ten days.

THE Finance Minister came to Jullundur soon after presenting his very onerous budget proposals in Parliament.

The first reception he received was a black flag demonstration by the goldsmiths at the railway station, despite all police "bandobust". Perhaps because this had sobered him a bit, he was very much on the defensive while addressing the District Defence Council, his first public engagement in Jullundur. He expressed regret over his proposals, but said he was only doing his "dharma". In order to take off the edge of criticism against him, he came out rather heavily against forcible collections for the National Defence Fund. It was quite unexpected from a person like Morarji, and the Chief Minister, sitting next to him, was obviously feeling embarrassed.

The public rally that Morarji addressed in Jullundur that afternoon was so thinly attended, despite all efforts of the district authorities stretching over full one week, that it was itself a reflection of the reaction of the people to his budget proposals.

The rally for the Prime Minister in Amritsar the next day was easily the biggest since the Emergency in the Punjab. And he had very pertinent things to say regarding Pakistan's role in the Pak-China border agreement. His firm declaration that India will not barter away her principles, though negotiations with Pakistan will not be called off, put heart into the people living only 20 kilometres from the border.

The negative feature of the Prime Minister's rally was the attempt to collar all sorts of people from places far and near and to put up a show of a rally of 100,000 Raksha Dal Volunteers. For this purpose, workers from factories of Ludhiana, Jullundur and Amritsar were mobilised and made to line up with a red cap or a red turban, though they had never handled a rifle in their life and had not even rehearsed for the parade for a single day.

While everybody appreciates the Punjab's contribution to the defence efforts, such bogus shows organised at a great cost and unnecessary trouble to the people concerned, may satisfy some people at the top, but cause a considerable discontent among those involved.

Bad Taste

The use of trucks for bringing people from all over the Punjab to add to the colour of the show also left a very bad taste. Only a few days before, the Government had been strongly criticised for mobilising trucks for transporting people to the officially sponsored or Congress-managed public meetings and the case made out by Home Minister Mohanlal that truck owners themselves offered their services gratis was most unconvincing. The Opposition charge was that when it is illegal to use trucks for conveying

human beings why were the truck owners not challaned under the traffic rules?

The fact that repetition of these tactics provided another opportunity to the opposition for sniping at the Ministry for these methods after the Prime Minister's rally does not respond to the credit of the Punjab Government. If it proves anything, it is only how unresponsive the Government is to the legitimate criticisms made by the Opposition.

Another feature about this big rally addressed by the Prime Minister and another one addressed two weeks earlier by Kashmir Prime Minister Bakshi Gulam Mohammed, is the extravagant manner in which public funds have been wasted to bring people from far and near, and to arrange sumptuous receptions for the dignitaries.

Two thousand and four hundred rupees were spent on a tea party thrown on the occasion of Bakshi Sahib's visit and twenty thousand rupees were spent on erecting the stage for Prime Minister Nehru in the public meeting.

As the Prime Minister had also criticised forcible collection of defence funds in the same vein as Morarji one day earlier, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon's defence of the bureaucracy in this matter in the Assembly three days later was, to say the least, very distasteful. Though everyone in the Punjab knows that people have to pay a handsome amount to have any deed registered or any license taken out in the state these days, the Chief Minister's total denial was astounding. Everybody expected that in the wake of the criticism made by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, Kairon would at least verbally pull up the officials concerned.

Collection Methods

Certain practices regarding not only National Defence collections, but also collection of other Government dues and assessment of people's income for the purpose of the professional tax have caused a great deal of heart-burning.

As is well-known, the Punjab was faced with unprecedented floods in the month of September 1982, but when the Chinese attack came peasants in many villages returned Government taccas loans granted for flood relief, in order that they may be given to the National Defence Fund. This should have made the Government change its attitude towards collecting its dues from the people.

But recently harsh measures have been taken not only to collect longstanding taccas, but also to realise the betterment levy which was kept in suspense after the constitution of the Darbara Singh Committee. Though the Committee had virtually accepted all the contentions of the Punjab Kisan Sabha and recommended

substantial reduction — if not total abolition — of the betterment levy, the Government has not thought it fit to publish the report of the Committee up to today.

While protesting against the forcible realisation of the betterment levy, the Communist MLAs also sharply brought up the question of the publication and implementation of the Darbara Singh Committee recommendations. Another such practice which has brought forward formal protests from the Ludhiana District and Amritsar District Urban Congress Committees concerns the assessment of the income of common people for the purpose of levying professional tax. It will be remembered that last year the Government imposed a special tax in aid of Harijans one of whose provisions was to bring all those with an income of Rs. 150 per mensem under the axe of the professional tax.

Inspectors of the Excise Department have used all sorts of threats to compel poor rickshaw-wallas, rickshawallas and common vendors to sign declarations to the effect that their income is Rs. 150 or above, though some of them do not earn even Rs. 50 per mensem.

One can imagine the strength of public reaction to these methods from the fact that not only the Communist Party and the trade unions have raised their voice against it, but Congress Committees themselves have come out with formal resolutions.

New Taxes

WHEN the Budget was presented in the Punjab legislature, one day after the Central Budget, the deficit of Rs. 5.95 crores was left uncovered. But the Kairon Government, keeping up its reputation for "boldness" did not take long to come out with their tax proposals. In fact, Home Minister Mohanlal openly said that they had to delay their own proposals, because Morarji had taken some of the very same items which the Government of Punjab were out to tax, under his own wings and so they had to think up the alternatives.

What do the Punjab proposals for taxation show? For one thing, there is not one item that touches the pockets of the rich. For another, it fills up the gaps left by Morarji in taxing the necessities of the common people and have sent up the prices at least by another ten per cent.

- 1. The sales tax which once (in the united Punjab) was only annas four in a hundred rupees, has been pushed up to Rs. 5 per hundred.
- 2. The entertainment tax which was increased only last year from 33% to 45% goes up by another 50 per cent.
- 3. The passengers' tax which was imposed only a few years back at the rate of 8.25 per cent is now taken to 25 per cent.
- 4. While Morarji has taxed the common people's kerosen, Kairon has taxed electricity, and the tax which last year was only 10 per cent of the consumption charges up to 30 units, has been taken to 40 per cent at one go.
- 5. While the Central Finance Minister imposed forcible saving of 50 per cent on basic land revenue, the Punjab Finance Minister has taxed sugarcane,

cotton and chillies at the rate of 3 to 5 rupees per acre.

GROSS MISMANAGEMENT

Punjab's taxation measures hitting the common people have been imposed at a time when a great deal of money is being wasted, according to the Public Accounts Committee, through mismanagement as also liberal grants to the dependents of the former rulers.

Two of the crassest examples are these:

- 1. The Rani of an ex-Ruler has been granted a special allowance of one lakh rupees for building a house and marrying off her children;
- 2. a mistress of an ex-Maharaja has been granted Rs. 125 per mensem for 25 years for the education of her grandson.

The Public Accounts Committee has pointedly criticised the moral propriety of obliging a mistress in this fashion.

Though the Punjab Communist Party had put forward alternative proposals for raising resources much in advance of the tax proposals, the Government has not paid any heed to them.

The Communist Party has advocated a graded tax on land instead of a flat burden on commercial crops; nationalisation of the entire transport service instead of further burdening the passengers by way of passenger tax; carrying out the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee instead of withdrawing the jebbs concessions to children above the primary classes; and abolition of the Upper House, as a measure of economy before imposing any further tax burden.

The Party has now given a call for the celebration of a week from March 17 to 23 to place its taxation policies before the people. While sharply differentiating itself from the parties of the Right, who deny the very need of raising resources, the Communist Party is fighting for the shifting of the burden to richer sections. Apart from the State leaders, members of Parliament and other national leaders of the

(March 12)

Award to Balwant Gargi Acclaimed

The Sahitya Akademi Award to Balwant Gargi for his book on Indian Drama has been widely hailed in Punjabi speaking circles. This is a unique book, perhaps, the first of its kind in any Indian language, tracing the history and development of Indian drama from ancient times to today.

BALWANT GARGI is a noted dramatist, who started out with themes affecting the common people and broadly incorporating the outlook of socialist realism. He also has been in active touch with the IPTA and the Delhi Art Theatre and has personal experience of difficulties encountered by the modern Indian theatre in its growth. Recently he has begun to experiment with what is fashionably called "new forms", and this has also affected his content. He recently

Communist Party will address public rallies during this week.

THOUGH Bhagwat Dayal has been elected unopposed as Punjab PCC President on the direct intervention of Prime Minister Nehru, the State Congress remains a divided house. The first act of the new State Congress chief was to remove one of the two General Secretaries, Meharchand Ahuja from office. Ahuja belongs to the Darbara Singh group, and eight members of the Congress Party in the Legislature belonging to the Darbara Singh Group have publicly protested against this.

Knowledgeable circles say that the Darbara Singh group agreed to withdraw its nominees on the understanding that at the time of general elections in June they will have a free go and Bhagwat Dayal will not receive any backing from the High Command. The proposal to put the resignation of Virendra as returning officer before the general body of the Pradesh Congress, when Darbara Singh has contended that the resignation was withdrawn long ago at his request, shows that the Kairon Group is already manoeuvring to replace Virendra by its own nominee for this office.

Alkali Squabbles

THE two Alkali groups are going T at each other with full fury and this was exhibited not only during the budget session of the SCPC on March 3 (when the so-called religious leaders indulged in American style free fight right in the presence of the Holy Granth Sahab), but also at the rival conferences held at Anandpur during the Holi festival.

Apart from the factional squabbles, political demarcation between the two groups is also coming to the fore. While Master Tara Singh has again demanded a joint Defence Pact with Pakistan, after the signing of Sino-Pak border pact and has endorsed the stand of Rajaji that India must join the Western camp, the Fateh Singh group is no longer moulthing the slogans of right reaction but is lending general support to National Defence.

On Punjabi Suba also, Fateh Singh has gone a step forward. His emphasis on Hindu-Sikh unity and a Suba strictly on linguistic basis is well-known. Now he has said he would not mind Punjabi-speaking areas from outside Punjab being tacked on with the proposed Suba, even though it adversely affects the Sikh percentage. He has also reaffirmed that he will not make it an issue of campaign till after the national emergency.

(March 12)

Release Communist Detenus—Now

DETENTION & SECTION 144 —BYE-ELECTION WEAPONS

Bye-elections to the Lok Sabha and to the State Assemblies are scheduled to take place in April and May. The election campaign has begun. Nominations of candidates have already taken place in some States.

BUT despite nationwide demands for the release of Communist detenus, State Governments refuse to make any move in this direction. Apart from the release of four Communist leaders in Kerala and 17 in Tamilnad — everywhere else there is complete inaction. And the prison-gates remain closed.

What sort of "free and fair" elections can these be? There is a non-stop propaganda barrage about "democratic way of life". Is this democracy? The major opposition party in the country is seriously crippled by the continued detention without trial of over 700 of its outstanding leaders — and a large number of

at a public meeting in the Calcutta Maidan, he solemnly pleaded for the release of Communist detenus, so that they may not "complain" during the bye-elections.

This was evidence of the fact that public opinion is aghast at the complete violation of all democratic procedures in the decision to go ahead with the bye-elections, while so many Communist detenus continue to languish in prison. And the Congress boss was merely bowing his head before the storm of public opinion when he called for release of Communist detenus.

Again, what is the guarantee of freedom to conduct election campaigns? On this page, we give a report from our Calcutta correspondent of the undemocratic use by the Government of West Bengal of the powers under Section 144 to ban meetings to be addressed by Communist leaders. Is this the way to ensure "free and fair" elections? On March 2, West Bengal Congress boss Atulya Ghosh created a mild "sensation" when

Women Delegation Meets Mysore Chief Minister

* FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MYSORE: detenues in the State. P. Raman, member of the Provincial Secretariat of the CPI, S. Rajagopal, MLA and L. R. Bhute who accompanied the above delegation also had an interview with the Chief Minister who gave them a patient hearing and promised to look into the matter.

Independent Legislator Demands Release of Communists

MYSORE:

Speaking on the Governor's address in the Mysore Legislative Council, S. Mukunda Rao, an independent MLC, demanded the immediate release of Communist legislators so that they could participate in the Budget session of the State Legislature.

HE urged upon the Government to give up its vindictive attitude against its political opponents.

Asking the Government as to who among the arrested is pro-Chinese and who had obstructed the defence efforts, Mukunda Rao said that as far as the

three Communist legislators were concerned, he was quite certain they did not belong to this category.

Deploping the arrest of people on the basis of police reports, he pleaded that before making arrests, the Government should at least get reports from prominent people of the locality.

43 PUNJAB MLAs DEMAND RELEASES

* From Our Correspondent

JULLUNDUR:

FORTY three members of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislature have signed a memorandum which was presented jointly by the Group leaders of all the Opposition Parties to the Chief Minister, demanding the release of four Communist MLAs and one MLC at least for the duration of the Budget session of the Assembly.

The Punjab Government has failed to respond to this unanimous demand so far. Nor has it granted better class to the Communist detenus as a matter of principle though factual data concerning better treatment in other States was forwarded by Communist Party Secretary Malhotra to Chief Minister Kairon about three weeks ago.

The demand for the release of Communist detenus and better treatment while in jail is being stepped up through public rallies and mass meetings all over the State.

Why Not Test Public Opinion? Daily Basumati Comments Editorially

Commenting editorially under the heading "Public Opinion Test?" the daily Basumati on March 3, 1963 made sharply critical remarks about the bye-elections scheduled to be held next month in West Bengal.

AMONG others, it argues: "Emergency persists in the country and the Defence of India rules are being administered and freedom of expression naturally has been curbed to a great extent. Those who would contest the elections in these 'unnatural conditions' and those parties which would take part in these elections, how would they express their opinions before the electorate?"

It adds: "Suppose, a candidate sharply criticising the Government policies and the present situation, seeks the vote of the electorate in various constituencies against Congress, what will happen to him? When the Government are holding elections even during the emergency situation, then, will they suspend the application of emergency laws at least in those particular constituencies? Or otherwise, by holding the elections this way, aren't the Government indirectly admitting the inexpediency of the 'emergency conditions'?"

Basumati further states: "The way the Home Ministry has fixed up the dates for the ensuing five bye elections, will make many a person to suspect that except the Congressmen, rest of the non-Congress candidates would not even get a chance for adequate preparation."

Proceeding further, the editorial points out: "Moreover there are 6 to 7 hundred prisoners or detenus in West Bengal. It is, of course, unnecessary to point out that these persons belong to the left parties and most of them are Communists. But neither in West Bengal nor in India has the Communist Party been banned. But certain quarters have stated that these persons have not been arrested because of their political affiliation; they have been arrested for their 'crime of treason against the country'. But some Congress daily newspaper in West Bengal

Bye-Elections But No Releases in West Bengal

* FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CALCUTTA: Bye-elections to five vacant seats in the West Bengal Assembly will be held from April 5 next.

THE Congress is putting up candidates in all the constituencies, while the Communist Party has decided to contest only two seats, those in Barjora and Bongaon. The Barjora seat was won by the Communist Party (Pramatha Ghosh) in the last elections. This time Aswini Raj is the Communist candidate.

In the Bongaon constituency, the Congress had won (Dr. Jiban Ratan Dhar, Health Minister). The Communist candidate here will be Ajit Ganguly, a former MIA from the same constituency and a member of the 24-Parganas

Whip of the Communist Bloc, Chief Minister P. C. Sen informed the Assembly that no decision had been taken by the State Government to release the prisoners. Some cases were reviewed but none were released, he said.

Section 144 Imposed

How free the bye-elections will be can be judged from this attitude of the Congress in the State! And not only this, the Government is interfering in a crude and blatant fashion to prevent the Communist Party and the trade unions from developing

their campaign on national issues.

On March 3, a meeting was scheduled to be held at Sonarpur, a few miles south of Calcutta. Bhowani Sen and Renu Chakravarty, MP, were to address it. While a number of processions, totalling several thousand people were marching towards the meeting place, the police suddenly imposed a ban under Section 144 and prevented the holding of the meeting under the excuse of an apprehended "breach of peace".

But more than two thousand workers moved over to Karbala Maidan at some distance from the Kabardanga Maidan and there the meeting was held for over two hours, without any "breach of peace" whatsoever! Workers listened with rapt attention peacefully to the speeches of Indrajit Gupta, Arun Sen and Dr. Anjalibhusan Roy Chowdhury.

Reaction's Great Conspiracy

What is the principal aim of the Rightwing attack on the budget? The main target, it is evident, is the super-profits tax. Deputations at the highest level are pressuring the Finance Minister. Interested newspaper reports are already busy forecasting that the super-profits tax will be modified.

THE Times of India (March 12) frontpaged a PTI and UNI report from Bombay under the title "Change Likely in Super Profits Tax" which said:

"The super-profits tax proposed in the budget might be modified with a view to reducing its possible harmful effects on the capital market and the prices of shares."

The Hindustan Times report on a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party Executive held on March 12, says that the Finance Minister "said he was prepared to have the grievances of the corporate sector against the super profits tax examined, but he saw no reason why companies making huge profits should grudge paying more to the State in times of emergency."

And then the report goes on to say that Morarjibhai "assured members that if industries made out a case and supplied reliable data about their difficulties, he would have them examined... He did not rule out modifications if justified."

The Times of India reports the same meeting under the front-page headline "Desai Has Open Mind on New Levy on Profits".

It is clear from all these reports that there was every reason for Communist MP Renu Chakravarty to warn against the monopolists' pressure against the super profits tax. Though the Finance Minister interrupted to say he would never yield to any pressure, there is every reason to be on guard against the reactionary vested interests' lobby.

Already the vested interests throughout the country are being allowed to get off comparatively lightly, while the poorer sections are being taxed beyond endurance. Any further lightening of the already light taxation on the rich will mean more loads on the mass of people.

The Communist Party's proposals for alternative measures to raise resources made in detail in the debates in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, deserve serious attention. A widespread campaign against the anti-people taxation measures and for the alternative proposals for raising resources has already been launched.

BHILAI

TARGET REACHED

The Bhilai Steel Plant has fulfilled its production target of ten lakh tons of steel for the current financial year of 1962-63 three weeks ahead of schedule. This production target is also the annual rated capacity of Bhilai. Besides, in 11 months and 10 days the plant produced 1,10,000 tons of pig iron.

THE Bhilai Steel Plant is the first steel plant in India to have reached the annual rated capacity fully in a very short time after the commissioning of the entire integrated Iron and Steel Works in March 1961.

★ By Romesh Chandra

The sinister character of this propaganda should not be under-estimated. It is a dangerous conspiracy which seeks to tag the anti-tax agitation on to the bandwagon of the rightist front's pro-imperialist policies.

Rajaji as usual, is the "theoretician" of the anti-national conspirators. His latest outpourings in the Swarajya of this week call quite unashamedly for emulating, of all people—Winston Churchill! This is what he writes:

"The blood and tears of Churchill and of the brave nation he loved and led were quite different things from the sadist tyrannies of our pinch-back Chancellors of the Exchequer."

"Our nation, too, will sweat and bleed bravely, but it asks for soft and sensible leadership with a due sense of humility and promotion and with an eye that looks around for true friends and attracts their trust and love, and comradeship as did Churchill."

Rajaji has forgotten what British imperialism and Churchill once meant for India. He has forgotten the blood and tears which the Indian people shed under Churchill's rule, the dead of the Bengal famine, the victims of British imperialism's bullets.

The Swatantra leader has forgotten all that; he wants an imperialist leadership of the Churchill variety to replace the present Government.

Rajaji is not alone in wanting a change in leadership in that direction. Last week President Ayub of Pakistan, in a

statement condemning Prime Minister Nehru's "pride" for standing in the way of an Indo-Pakistan settlement, quite frankly said that things might have been different, "if men like Rajagopalachari or Jayaprakash Narayan were at the helm of affairs in India."

Men of the Churchill breed presumably!

Unfortunately for Rajaji and J. P. it is still not Ayub Khan or his master Kennedy or Macmillan who nominate India's leadership.

Rampant Corruption

THE Rightwing parties' pro-imperialist conspiracy is helped by the rampant corruption and waste, for which the Congress Governments have become a byword.

The latest scandal about the electricity and water charges paid by Government for Ministers' houses naturally arouses the wrath of all decent Indians.

The Prime Minister's fulminations against ICS officers, who on retirement, join private firms on huge salaries, and thus use their positions and contacts for the profits of their companies, are perfectly justified and welcome. But the questions everyone asks are: How has all this been allowed to go on for so long? Is it not high time that a broomstick were used to clear out the corrupt dens in the highest circles in the land?

Misuse of national emergency powers to detain Communists without trial is bad enough. Denying them the rights previously accorded to Communist detenus is outrageous and tyrannical.

Detenus' Allowances

THE Deputy Home Minister, in reply to a question by Communist M.P. Indrajit Gupta, in the Lok

Sabha on March 13, said that the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments "that a family allowance may be granted on an *ex-gratia* basis in those cases in which the Government are satisfied that the detention of a person has substantially affected the means of subsistence of the family of the detenu."

Answering supplementaries, Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri said that in Assam, the State Government has decided to give family allowances for a short period; but in regard to other States, all he could say was that the Governments concerned had "accepted in principle". No further details could be furnished by the Minister.

The facts are well-known: family allowances are still not being granted to the vast majority of Communist detenus, and it is nearly four months since the countrywide arrests took place. This refusal on the part of State Governments can only be ascribed to crass vindictiveness. During previous periods of repression against the Communist Party, detenus won the right to family allowances: this time it is only the authorities' callousness, and abandonment of all democratic norms of conduct that allows the plea to be made after so many months, that there is still only "agreement in principle" by the State Governments.

Misuse of national emergency powers to detain Communists without trial is bad enough. Denying them the rights previously accorded to Communist detenus is outrageous and tyrannical.

The campaign for the immediate release of Communist detenus grows in volume every day. It will succeed.

COM. ARJUN SINGH GARGAJ

With deep regret and immense grief New Age announces the death of Comrade Arjun Singh Gargaj, one of the oldest leaders of the Communist movement in the Punjab, on March 10.

BEGINNING his political career at the age of nine, when he left school as a protest against the Jallianwalla Bagh shooting, Comrade Gargaj remained in the forefront of all political battles waged in the Punjab for the last four decades.

He was first arrested in 1921 in connection with the Akali movement, and on the last occasion, on November 21, 1962 when Communists all over India were arrested under Emergency. He went to jail times without number in the Akali, Bahbar Akali, Naujawan Bharat Sabha, Kirti and Communist movements, and suffered immensely both during the British times and after independence.

He was the first Communist to be arrested after the Second World War. He broke out in October 1939, when the first illegal pamphlet against the war was found on his working desk in the daily Akali Patrika. Subjected to indiscriminate tortures in the notorious

rited literary figure in the Punjabi language.

It is a measure of Comrade Gargaj's stature among Punjabis that all the Punjabi dailies have unanimously decided to bring out special editions devoted to his life and work on March 22.

Comrade Gargaj was born in poor circumstances, always struggled with want, spent all his conscious life either in jail or in the Party headquarters at his editorial desk. At the time of his death he was the editor-in-charge of the Party daily Nawan Zamana, which position he has been holding since the very founding of the paper. He was an honoured member of the State Executive, always chosen to preside over all important Party Council meetings and the treasurer of the Party in the Punjab. His life was an example of a steadfast revolutionary, a devoted Communist and a modest gentle human being.

We pay our homage to the immortal memory of Comrade Gargaj and pledge to follow his example in carrying forward the mission to which he gave his entire life.

West Bengal

CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUFFERING MASSES

CALCUTTA, March 11:

The debate on the budget proposals once again revealed the State Government's callous and indifferent attitude towards the sufferings of the masses of the people of the State. At the same time, the debate revealed their solicitude for the interests of the rich few. Blistering criticisms and constructive suggestions from the opposition benches found their echo when dissatisfaction was expressed by a section of the Congress members themselves.

IN a three-hour budget speech, the longest of its kind in the Assembly, Finance Minister Sankaradas Bannerjee presented a deficit budget and new tax proposals. The overall negative closing balance for 1963-64 will be Rs. 9.22 crores in a total budget of Rs. 429.39 crores. Revenue receipts will be Rs. 117.05 crores and Revenue expenditure Rs. 109.78 crores, leaving a Revenue surplus of Rs. 7.27 crores. But Rs. 17.99 crores' deficit outside Revenue account will result in the overall deficit. New tax measures relating to Sales Tax and Duty on electricity for industrial consumption are estimated to fetch Rs. 3.50 crores.

Noting the fact that the per capita taxation in West Bengal was highest in India, the Finance Minister said that there was scope for higher taxation in the State as "Trade and Commerce and economic activity in general have flourished in the State and the tax rates have had no adverse effect on them." He devoted a large part of his speech to a criticism of the recommendations of the Third Finance Commission and its failure to appreciate the special problems West Bengal had to face due to partition, and said: "West Bengal is paying the price of freedom for the whole of India."

He said that injustice had been done with regard to allocation of divisible pool, where West Bengal's share had been reduced; and also in regard to sharing of the burden of development of the Calcutta indus-

trial area, which yields a substantial portion of Centre's revenue in the shape of Income Tax and other taxes. Behind this criticism of the Centre, the State Finance Minister tried to hide the failure of the State Government to tap the resources from the rich and its continuation of the old method of putting the burdens on the shoulders of the poorer sections.

On the expenditure side, some curtailment has been effected in General Administration and Police. But as yet

government. The education budget is slashed by over Rs. 2.25 crores, Public Health by Rs. 28 lakhs.

During the general debate, many speakers laid stress on the nature of the budget, which helps the monopolists in the cities and the rich in the countryside, to the detriment of the poorer sections. Stress was also laid on securing resources from hitherto untapped sources and on curtailing extravagant and wasteful expenditure. Even such an arch anti-Communist Congress MLA Nepal Roy said that if the Government had put a stop to

FACTS ABOUT WEST BENGAL RURAL LIFE, 1963

The Budget debate in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly revealed:

- 2.7% of the rural population still garner 30% of the agricultural income
- 64% of the village population can spend less than Rs. 21 per month
- Only 118 of 1000 big bore tube-wells sanctioned by Government have been sunk

63% of land revenue collected is spent on collection itself, revealing grotesquely the top heavy character of the entire administration. The biggest cuts have been effected in Social Services, thus exposing the true character of the Go-

wasteful spending, there would have been no need for fresh taxation.

Initiating the debate, Communist leader Panchugopal Bhadury showed that despite some improvement, West Bengal's economy lagged behind and its rate of development was lower than that of some other states in India.

He said that as the private commercial banks were acting against the policy of credit restriction followed by the Reserve Bank of India, the only logical step was to nationalise the banking industry. He also suggested that the payment of Privy Purses should be kept in abeyance, and that the growth of private industry and commerce after allowing a certain rate of dividend, should be taken over by Government.

Sell To Govt. And Make Money

MERRY TIME FOR PRINCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

★ From Our Correspondent

Himachal Pradesh "Princes" pocketing privy purses paid out of the public exchequer have been netting large additional sums, also from government coffers, by a lucrative business of selling some of their lands and buildings for very high compensation, with the Administration obliging them in the name of development works.

THE facts as far as they are known have all the make-up of a first rate scandal. For the last five years the Himachal Pradesh Administration has been acquiring or purchasing lands and buildings from these princes and their families for generous compensation. In many cases, it is reported, the amounts paid out to the princes have no relation to the actual value or utility of the property acquired.

According to official figures, the Administration had already paid out over six lakh rupees in the years 1957-62 in the process of such acquisition. The properties were ostensibly ac-

quired for construction of roads, office buildings, schools, dispensaries, orchards and such other purposes.

But the allegation going round is that in very many cases, the deal was not above board. It is alleged that the Princes were allowed to sell dilapidated buildings and even stables to the Administration for high compensation. A list of compensation paid on various deals would make a long reading. However, it shows that unreasonable amounts had been paid in some cases. Public opinion in Himachal Pradesh will welcome a thorough enquiry into this compensation muddle.

SIMLA:

Condition Of Peasants

Fall in food production and the distressed condition of the peasantry were forcefully presented by many including Congress members. Communist MLAs showed that due to improper implementation of even the limited land reform measures, 27% people in the villages still garner 30% of the agricultural income, 84% of the village folk could spend Rs. 21 only per month, small-scale irrigation projects were neglected and only 118 of sanctioned 1,000 big bore tube-wells had been sunk so far; the cooperative movement was scarcely revealed.

Nikhil Das of RSP felt that though much was said about agriculture, a part of the budget allocation was not spent, showing the real attitude of the Govern-

★ From Ajoy Dasgupta

Budget Reveals A Dark Picture Of Gross Negligence By State Govt.

ment towards the peasants. A Congress member, Ambika Charan Das, complained of great distress of the village population and said that poverty of the peasants, lack of irrigation facilities, paucity of and delay in Government's assistance, seasonal unemployment, as well as growth of population, were the causes of distress. Another Congress member, Birendra Kumar Chowdhury, complained that agricultural allocations were not spent and in actuals, the budget deficit was wiped out, while at the estimate stage, new taxes were levied showing deficits.

In the field of industry and commerce and on the questions of conditions of the working class and unemployment, Congress MLA, Dr. Maitryee Bose was no less vehement in her criticism than Opposition members. Refuting the notion that wage increase led to inflation, she said that as soon as the coal miners wanted interim rise in their wages, the price of coal had been raised, but the Government did not say how much of this enhanced earnings of the owners would trickle down to the workers.

Lashing out at the doings of the jute mill bosses, she said that unless these people were curbed the workers and the peasants could not be saved. She asked why the Finance Minister was silent about fair price of jute for the cultivators. Baidyanath Bannerjee, another Congress member, spoke at length of the difficult situation faced by the middle class due to soaring prices and heavy taxation.

Condition Of Workers

Opposition members showed the high profits of organised industries such as Tea, Jute and Engineering, during the Second Plan period, which showed even a five-fold rise in some cases, and yet the real wages of the workers had fallen.

One-fourth of the citizens of Calcutta lived in bustees and their per capita income was less than Rs. 21 per month. Unemployment was on the increase. In spite of the Chief Minister's claim that there was no unemployment in "the Western sense" in West Bengal, the lie register in the Employment Exchanges showed the figure of 4,53,237 in January, 1963, a rise of more than 53% over last year. (See page 15 also)

Independent member Bejoy Bannerjee debunked the theory that the economy of West Bengal was being disrupted due to a population increase. He quoted a Brazilian expert of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations as saying: "Large population is not the cause of poverty, but only its fruit."

Curtailment under the head Education was criticised by all sections in both the Houses, Satyapriya Ray (All Bengal Teachers Association) making the most effective criticism and giving many concrete suggestions for improvement. The Education

Minister had to promise to make efforts to secure more funds for his department.

Speaking at the concluding stage of the general debate, Somnath Lahiri, Acting Leader of the Communist Bloc, pinpointed the weaknesses of the economy in the background of the need for development and defence of the country and suggested concrete measures to meet the situation. Contrasting the Chief Minister's speech in the Assembly winding up the debate on the Governor's Speech, where he had pictured a happy and prosperous West Bengal, with a report submitted to the Central Planning Minister a few months back, where P. C. Sen drew a dismal picture of West Bengal's economy and said that it was on the verge of collapse, Lahiri asked — which picture was the correct reflection of West Bengal economy?

Demand For Nationalisation

Lahiri added that the Finance Minister had cooled at the Centre's indifference and in the same breath, emphasised that there was still scope for further taxation in the state. Lahiri pointed out that the compensation payable to the Zamindars under the land reform act was more than Rs. 3 crores and if that payment alone was withheld for the period of emergency and tax evasions stopped, then the fresh taxation of Rs. 3.50 crores would have been unnecessary. Criticising the Central budget, Lahiri said that nationalisation of banks and oil industry, tea plantations and tea auctions would have placed huge resources, including huge amount of foreign exchange in the hands of the State. Pointing to the growth of monopoly in the country's economic field, he quoted from the Mahalanobis report and showed that 75% of national wealth was concentrated in the hands of 1% of the people and 50% of the stocks were held by 0.1% of the people.

While Horidas Mundhra could do business on his way to jail from the court, the Leader of the Opposition, Jyoti Basu, languished in jail and could not participate in the deliberations of the budget session, such is the attitude of the Government.

Somnath Lahiri repeated his appeals to the Congressmen and particularly to the Chief Minister, P. C. Sen, to fight unitedly for progressive measures and said:

"The Chief Minister was once with the poor people of the country. I appeal to him and others in the Congress, who still have their ties with the common man, to break the bonds of Capital, to break with Sankaradas and Tarun Kanti, and such other servitors of monopoly capital and devote themselves again to the service of the common man. I assure them that they will then find us also with them."

The Finance Minister in his reply could only say that he was not going to flinch from his duty and if necessary, would levy more taxes.

Industrial Relations During Emergency

Govt. Failure to Make Employers Abide by Industrial Truce Resolution

The appalling failure of the Government's implementation machinery to make the employers follow the Industrial Truce Resolution is a glaring instance to show how the Indian working class has been put to an inequitable position as against the employers during the period of emergency.

We are reproducing below a special feature circulated by the India Press Agency a few days ago which surveys the industrial relations during the emergency.

THE organised Labour is at present engaged in a serious reappraisal of the performance of the Industrial Truce Resolution unanimously adopted on November 3 in the context of emergency, by the employers, workers and the Government.

The truce evoked spontaneous enthusiasm for more production in the industrial sector coupled with mass contributions to the National Defence Fund by the workers. This enthusiasm was visibly felt and appreciated by the country and the President himself in his inaugural address to both Houses of Parliament made a special note of workers' contribution to national defence. But the "textile crisis" in December end was extremely disturbing and created a stir in the workers facing unemployment at a time when they were expected to do their utmost for increasing production.

Trade union circles were quick to point to the capitalist profit motive behind the crisis. They denounced the "unilateral" and "sceptic" attitude of the employers even towards workers' contributions to the National Defence Fund and demanded that the employers should contribute at least equal amount from their net profits as was done by the workers by putting in extra labour, if not more.

This demand was so powerful that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce had to issue a statement contradicting the impression about their contributions. Commenting on the statement an INTUC leader said a "guilty conscience" was trying to alley growing concern among the public over performance of the capitalists and rich generally.

From the controversy on contribution to NDF, the issue soon shifted to the role of the employers in implementing the production part of the truce resolution. A veritable rumbling is now heard in trade union circles over the alleged "misuse" of the emergency and the truce by the private employers and the "bureaucracy" in the public sector. It is understood that all the four central trade union organisations — INTUC, AITUC, HMS and UTUC — have reached common, though parallel, conclusions about the performance of the truce in this respect.

Bid to Boycott AITUC

It might do well, at this stage, to recall that the INTUC and HMS, besides the employers, overtly resided to sit jointly with the AITUC, country's second biggest trade union organisation, on the ground that in the wake of the Chinese aggression the

truce was being misused by the employers.

The West Bengal INTUC President recently addressed a letter to the State Labour Minister saying "the workers, it seems, are in a boxing ring with hands tied behind their back due to truce resolution while the other side, the employers, are with their fists open and protected by the resolution." National enthusiasm permeating the working population "is conspicuously absent in the rich and the capitalist class in the country". Further he says: "the industrialists have been motivated by profiteering and are seizing all opportunities provided by national emergency and industrial truce resolution."

The result was that the Union Labour Minister, Gulzari Lal Nanda, had to hold separate sessions on November 8 itself to get concurrence of the concerned bodies for draft truce resolution which was then formally adopted in a "joint session" of the duration of only a few minutes. The same led to changes in the first draft and absence later of any tripartite machinery to implement the resolution.

The original draft had to be redrafted by the Government, it is not without significance, omitting references to the formation of joint production committees with the participation of both labour and management, because the employers disagreed with it. Certain amendments intended to bind the employers to certain concrete steps in the interest of production and to provide some safeguards for the workers against "greedy employers", had also to be brushed aside.

The Labour Ministry took the stand that anything controversial was excluded from the resolution in order to help forge a really united will and a common front in the industrial sector. To that extent the initial purpose was served.

Since then more than three months have passed. Last month Gulzari Lal Nanda in his "Report to the Nation" broadcast from AIR made glowing references to the truce as a "momentous decision" and expressed the view that its performance had "matched" it.

The employers side also appears to be satisfied with the working of the truce. According to a spokesman of the FICCI, the workers and their organisations had maintained "laudable restraint" during this period and the employers "by and large" did all that they could, the supplies of raw materials and of power permitting, to increase production by working overtime.

Employers' Approach

One of the reasons among others for not availing of all the offers for working overtime, that may have been made, could be the assessments of the management concerned as to the number of workers that were likely to turn up for work. The spokesmen rejected the allegation of misuse of the truce by the employers as "baseless" and nothing but a "political propaganda" and a "biased approach".

As against the assessments of the Government and the management side, the workers hold a different view of the working of the Truce. Bombay and the West Bengal units of the INTUC came out with the charge that the

mines, are required to work overtime to meet the emergency.

The Hind Mazdoor Sabha, in a review of the truce by its working committee meeting held early last month, has also taken a similar stand. The Sabha has stated that it "is deeply disappointed over the signal failure on the part of a large number of employers to live upto the commitments undertaken by them under the industrial truce resolution." The HMS further says "the excuse of the emergency is trotted out for obstinate refusal to resolve legitimate grievances." Some employers both in public and private sectors have "cynically exploited" the emergency "to retrench and discharge men" in order to keep up their profits.

Besides the three central trade union organisations there is another section of the labour force in the country—the most numerous section under a single employer, the Central Government—whose role during the emergency and their present position cannot be ignored.

Government Employees

A Central rally organised by them in Delhi on November 9, participated by thousands of employees was addressed by the Prime Minister himself. The rally "gave the real impetus" to holding a conference of the representatives of all the Central employees' unions numbering over 150 convened by the Home Ministry on December 9.

The Conference was a "unique" one. The gathered representatives belonging to all shades of political opinions pledged to underplay their mutual differences in their respective fields of work and stand solidly behind the Government's efforts to meet with the critical situation. They also decided that all employees would contribute about one per cent of their monthly wages to the NDF till the emergency lasts. According to sober estimates, the contribution would amount to over rupees fifty lakhs every month.

That the defence establishments have worked round the clock with workers displaying exemplary discipline and enthusiasm is admitted by the Government. The Railway Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh's claim during the current session of the Lok Sabha that railways fulfilled their duties enjoined upon them by the emergency smoothly and creditably, is also to be attributed to a large extent to the employees having discharged their responsibilities conscientiously.

The Central Government employees, however, have recently grown apprehensive of Government's intentions seeking to amend Article 311 of the Constitution thus depriving them of certain safeguards against wrongful termination of services. All Central employees' unions have unanimously opposed the measure and jointly put forth their point of view in this connection before the Select Committee of the Lok Sabha. There is bound to be a heated discussion on this subject in the Lok Sabha. The proposed Amendment, according to employees' leaders is the most unrewarding and unkindest cut at the employees by the Government itself.

All this is not to say that the workers side does not appreciate positive and better attitude on the

part of the employers in certain sectors. The agreements between the workmen and the managements of the ESSO and the LIC, the Coal and the Steel Wage Board interim awards, and a settlement, relating to rationalisation between the managements and workmen of 84 mills in Coimbatore district and its neighbourhood are cited for what the industrial relations in emergency should be.

The trade union leaders also make some distinction between the State Labour Departments and the Central one. The former is considered "guilty" of having been a party to the violation of the truce by the employers in a number of States—employees' emblems of the State Labour Departments. The Central conciliation machinery, on the other hand, they say, did pick up a little in solving problems related directly to its own sphere though it was reduced to a mere "post-box" in so far as complaints from the States were concerned.

AITUC Demand for A Review

In the circumstances and the feelings in workers ranks which have grown so much in the short period of three months since the passing of the truce resolution, it would appear, the present working of the truce and the state of industrial relations will have to be subjected to a serious review jointly by the parties to the truce. The HMS working committee expressing concern over the fast waning away of the "momentum" gained initially has formally demanded such a review.

AITUC had, at the time of the truce itself, proposed a review after two months' trial. INTUC too will no longer be entirely against such a review after its trenchant criticism of the working of the truce. Such a review would appear to be necessary, though the Government at the moment is feeling shy of it, since shutting eyes to the accumulating strong current of discontent can create a difficult situation unless measures are taken to arrest deterioration in the industrial relations in these times.

Such a review and corresponding measures to ease the tension in industrial relations have become all the more necessary after the heavy taxation in the next year's Budget proposed by the Finance Minister. The likely rise in cost of living and the compulsory savings scheme would put big burdens on the working people. The winning of the confidence and active co-operation of the workers and their organisations would be imperative in such a situation.

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The problem of exports and the necessity to raise them rapidly is an integral part of the size and fulfilment of the Third Plan.

AFTER giving credit for the expected foreign assistance of Rs. 2,600 crores, the Plan demands an export effort of Rs. 3,700 crores in five years. This is the absolute minimum if we are not to get bogged-down in insuperable adverse trade balances and foreign exchange difficulties, which in turn may have an adverse effect on our imports—essential for building the much needed heavy industry and machine industry in the country. The question of our export trade therefore has to be viewed in the background of this urgency.

Our export performance for the first two years of the Third Five Year Plan is rather disappointing. It shows that our export trade is more or less stagnating. In the first year of the Third Five Year Plan our export earnings increased to Rs. 662 crores but fell short of the target by Rs. 20 crores.

Export Yet Short Of Target

During 1962-63, also though the exports are expected to be slightly higher than last year's they still will fall short of the target by about Rs. 40 crores. This will mean that despite heavy cuts in imports we shall still be faced with a rising adverse balance of trade. The development therefore is not very encouraging and requires a serious study. If we examine the returns upto January 1963

i.e., for the 10 months of 62-63, we find that our exports stood at Rs. 572.5 crores as against Rs. 565.2 crores for the corresponding last year.

This discloses a small increase which is mostly accounted for by jute manufactures (Rs. 16 crores), oil cakes (Rs. 11 crores), tobacco (Rs. 5 crores), tea (Rs. 4 crores), vegetable oils (Rs. 4 crores), iron ores (Rs. 3 crores). However, in the same period exports in such important and traditional items as leather, cotton textiles, manganese ores, raw cotton, ferrous manganese and scrap metal were much lower than last year, thus offsetting the advantage of increased exports in other items.

Alarming Phenomenon

Another important alarming phenomenon was that in many items though we expected a larger quantity than last year, in money value the earnings were lower because of falling prices. This is mainly due to the fact that our exports trade is largely tied with the capitalist world market and therefore necessarily a prey to its price fluctuations.

A rough calculation of our loss this year in export earnings because of unfair price fluctuations in only a few commodities like tea, tobacco etc., comes to nearly Rs. 10 crores. This underlines the necessity of freeing our export trade from the near monopoly enjoyed by

STAGNATION OF EXPORTS—Dangerous For Development

By HOMI DAJI M.P.

the capitalist countries in regard to it.

The fall in our exports of scrap metals, manganese ore and mica etc., is also accounted for by the fact that we have been almost entirely dependent upon the capitalist countries and a sudden recession of demand in those countries, takes its heavy toll on our exports. For example our exports of manganese ore fell sharply to 5,40,000 metric tons from 7,25,000 during the corresponding year last year.

Exports of ferrous manganese suffered a severe set-back from over 59,000 tons to 9,000 tons. Our main export of this item is to the USA and since USA was not in the market in the year 1962 we suffered this severe set-back.

Another shrinking of our export trade is with the EEC. At the same time our imports from this group of countries continues as before and our adverse trade balance grows heavily. This is because of the restrictive policies pursued by the EEC. As repeatedly pointed out, such closed market groupings adversely affect the trade of underdeveloped and developing countries.

Similarly our exports to some of the Asian countries also have been falling considerably. This is a matter of real concern and with proper care can certainly be made up.

Problem Of Exports

The problem of exports reveal two interesting phenomena. Firstly, the United Kingdom no longer enjoys near monopoly position as it used to. The USA is today the major trading partner with India. Secondly, and this is of very decisive importance, our trade with East European countries has increased considerably.

While our exports to the Eastern European countries in 1955-58 accounted merely for 0.85% of our total exports, they now account for nearly 9% of the total exports.

This increased trade with the Eastern European countries has not only helped us considerably to stabilise our exports but has also helped to stabilise falling prices of our important export items. Our trade with Eastern European countries further guarantees us a continuously expanding market and freedom from the dependence of the capitalist markets with its vagaries of price fluctuations.

The export trends noted above clearly show that all efforts necessary for export promotions have not yet been undertaken. Though the Government has set up a Board of Trade and Export Insurance Scheme and also credit facilities, yet it cannot be said that all that is required has been done. Export promotion requires a more persistent and consistent effort.

Need For Reorientation

What is more, it requires a reorientation of the entire export policy. We must face the fact that our conventional items of exports and our traditional markets are being affected by various factors, like competition, prices, and also the fact of the growth of internal production in these countries. Therefore, diversification of exports is a prime necessity today.

Even at present we are able to increase our exports in such items as machine tools, machinery etc. Positive steps for developing this side of the export trade has not been fully studied. Secondly, a bolder approach to the problem of export promotions can make much headway in the newly liberated countries of Asia and Africa to our national advantage and benefit if we approach the problem not merely from the commercial point of view but from the larger perspective of mutual help.

Thirdly, we must, both for increase of exports and stabilising prices step up our trade with the

socialist markets. It must be remembered that the socialist countries offer an ever increasing market at favourable prices. Though the trade with these countries have been increasing, it has still immense scope to develop much faster than hitherto. In fact with growing restrictions in the EEC countries, growing competition from Japan, restrictions on import by USA of cotton textiles, the only sure way of increasing our export trade and bridging our adverse trade balance lies in a bold policy of increasing our export trade with the socialist and other Afro-Asian countries.

A Case for State Trading

No doubt that the Government has taken certain steps in the direction of export promotions by way of quality control, credit facilities etc. But most of it is largely by way of helping big export Houses. The markets of the newly independent Asian-African countries require a bold policy of credit and technological help.

This means that we have to look to the question of exports not from a purely narrow commercial point of view but from a broad national point of view. This can hardly be expected to be undertaken by private business. Therefore, State Trading in foreign trade has become extremely necessary.

We must make up in time for overall reorientation of our export policy if we are to keep in hand our growing adverse trade balances. As it is, our foreign reserves are dangerously low at Rs. 105 crores. As our export earnings have an important bearing on the overall fulfilment of the plan and our industrial development, we cannot allow our exports to limp forward and be subject to the vagaries of capitalist market and capitalist practices. We must evolve a real national policy for national ends.



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PETROLEUM WORKERS' AGREEMENT WITH ESSO EASTERN INC.

Agreements relating to demands of petroleum workers in Eastern Region, under the ESSO Standard Eastern, Inc., were signed, on February 27, between the management of the oil company and the Petroleum Workers' Union, Calcutta.

THIS was the first time that the company entered into agreements with the Petroleum Workers' Union on Labour, Service and Security Staff of Calcutta Industrial Area as well as all the Clerical, Labour, Service and Security Staff of up-country depots and offices in five States of W. Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and M.P.

Earlier, the company entered into agreements with the union on matters concerning clerical employees of Calcutta Industrial Area and service staff of the company's head office only.

Last year's agreement with the Petroleum Workers' Union was limited to the settlement of the bonus dispute. An agreement was also reached with the INTUC union on the same day and on same

The agreement provides for readjustments of scales and grades to the advantage of all workers.

With regard to bonus, it has been stipulated that permanent clerical staff would be paid bonus for the years 1962 and 1963 equivalent to seven-twentyfourth of the basic salary earned during the year. All permanent Labour, Service, Security, Motor Equipment and Floating Equipment staff would be paid bonus equivalent to nine-twenty-fourth of the basic salary.

The agreement will remain in force till 1965.

The petroleum workers in Calcutta Region have welcomed the agreement as an improvement on the old agreement with ESSO. The Petroleum Workers' Union is negotiating on the workers' demands with the Burmah-Shell oil company. The Calcutta and BP managements in Calcutta region have not yet started negotiations, it is reported.

On the 45th Anniversary of Seventh Congress of the CPSU

HISTORIC VICTORY OF LENINIST TACTICS OVER DOGMATISM

★ By V. Zaitsev

Forty-five years have passed since the Seventh Special Party Congress took place. It was the first Congress after the victory of the October Revolution by the Communist Party, now the ruling party of the world's first socialist state. It was held in Petrograd on March 6-8, 1918 with Lenin in the chair.

It was held at a time when the international and domestic situation was most complicated and when the Soviet Republic was passing through a crucial period. It was only a few days before the Congress opened, namely on March 3, 1918, that, upon Lenin's insistence, the shackling Brest-Litovsk peace treaty was signed with Germany. In the country itself chaos was rife as a result of three years of imperialist war. The young Soviet Republic did not yet have armed forces of its own that could protect it from imperialist aggressors. The old, war-weary army was being demobilized and the Red Army was just being formed.

The central issue at the Congress was that of war and peace. Repelling the frenzied efforts of the "Left Communists", and of Trotsky, who opposed the conclusion of peace, the Congress overwhelmingly supported Lenin's correct tactics on the issue of war and peace and endorsed the Brest treaty.

The decisions of the Congress to rename the Party and modify its programme were of great importance.

The Seventh Party Congress and its decisions were of epoch-making significance. Russia had just broken out of the clutches of the World War. The Bolshevik Party had kept its promise to the working people of the country, the promise of giving them peace.

Inside the Party the main stumbling block in the way to the conclusion of a peace treaty was the activity of the splittier "left-communist" faction and Trotsky. In the very first months after the October Revolution, Soviet power succeeded in overcoming with relative ease the resistance of domestic counter-revolution, and in spreading triumphantly throughout the length and breadth of the vast country. Shortly after, however, the young Soviet Republic was confronted with German imperialism armed to the teeth.

The peace talks with Germany revealed the aggressive designs of the German imperialists, their desire to thrust a humiliating peace on the Soviet Republic and slice away from Russia the German-occupied territories of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. Germany's terms of peace, which amounted in fact to pillage and robbery, aroused disgust and indignation among a large group of Party people. Several Party functionaries called for the rupture of peace negotiations with Germany and

who are guilty of it before the great Russian Soviet Republic." (Coll. Works, Vol. 27, P. 60).

SPLITTING TACTICS

After the conclusion of peace the factionalist group of "left communists", taking recourse to splitting and disruptive tactics, launched a campaign to frustrate the peace of Brest-Litovsk. It was only due to Lenin's brilliant foresight, his staunch will and persistence and unshakable belief in the masses that it became possible in the most trying circumstances to work out the only correct tactics, save the gains of the October Revolution, repel the fierce attacks of the "Left Communists", and rally the Party.

In his reports and speeches at the 7th Party Congress and in his numerous articles in the press, Lenin substantiated the principles of the foreign policy of the Soviet state and exposed the bankruptcy of the theoretical and political platform of the "Left Communists" and Trotsky and the provocative and adventurist character of their tactics.

He showed that the "Left Communists" adhered to dogmatism and took recourse to revolutionary phrasemongering without being able to apply Marxism creatively, taking into account the objective conditions calling for a rapid and radical change of tactics. "Revolutionary phrasemongering," Lenin emphasized, "is a repetition of revolutionary slogans without taking into account the objective circumstances obtaining during a given change of events and during a given state of affairs" (Coll. Works, Vol. 27, P. 1).

The dogmatism of the "Left Communists" was manifest first of all, in the stand taken by them in their empty and unrestrained love of phrasemongering about the so-called revolutionary war. In the concrete conditions of February 1918, when the Soviet Republic had no army and was incapable of repelling the onslaught of German imperialism, the call for a revolutionary war was extremely harmful to the cause of the revolution and was just an empty phrase. But the "leftists" stubbornly refused to see how the conditions had changed, what the objective situation was.

"SUPERMEN INTELLECTUALS"

Carried away by the successes of the struggle against the counter-revolutionaries inside the country, these "supermen intellectuals" as Lenin dubbed them, maintained that it was also easy to cope with international imperialism. It is actually this attitude of theirs that was

reflected in Trotsky's adventurist formula that "we want neither war nor peace", as well as in the categorical statement of the "Left Communists" that "the Germans will not be able to launch an offensive".

This was a senseless underestimation of the imperialist forces. Their calculations were based on the assumption that, should the German imperialism start an offensive against the Soviet Republic, it will be faced by a revolution of the German proletariat. This, however, did not happen. German imperialists actually did start an offensive. And with their adventurist tactics, Trotsky and the "Left Communists" actually helped the German imperialists.

V. I. Lenin flatly denied the allegations of the "Left Communists" that by concluding a forced peace with Germany, the Party would give up the principles of proletarian internationalism. Here too the "Left Communists" did not want to take into account the new stage in history that had opened up. The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which ushered in a new era in the history of mankind, the era of transition from capitalism to socialism, was a tremendous achievement of the international proletariat which had a decisive influence on the world revolutionary process.

"The radical change," Lenin emphasized, "is that the Republic of the Soviets has been set up now and that the most important thing from our point of view and from the point of view of international socialism is the preservation of this Republic, which has already started a socialist revolution." (Coll. Works, Vol. 28, pp. 409-410).

The leaders of "Left Communism" considered, in the same way as Trotsky, that the victory of socialism in one country was impossible and that the dictatorship of the proletariat in Soviet Russia could be preserved only in conditions of a victorious socialist revolution, which could be triggered off by a revolutionary war of the first proletarian state in history against world imperialism.

Only a European revolution can save us completely, asserted Trotsky. The latter developed his views into the fallacious scheme of world revolution based on an underestimation of the internal revolutionary forces of every country and the need for the proletariat which has won power to jog revolution in other countries.

UN SOUND THEORY

V. I. Lenin exposed this dogmatic principle and showed the totally unsound character of the "theory of jogging"

world revolution by means of a war against imperialism. The advocates of the revolutionary war assume, Lenin wrote, that "the interests of the world revolution require that it should be jogged, and that it can be jogged only by war, and in no case by peace, which might give the masses an impression that imperialism was being 'legalised'. Such a 'theory' would be completely at variance with Marxism, which has always been opposed to 'jogging' revolutions, which develop as the acuteness of the class antagonisms that engender revolutions ripens.

"Such a theory would be tantamount to the view that armed uprising is a form of struggle which is obligatory always and under all circumstances. Actually, however, the international revolution demands that the Soviet power, having overthrown the bourgeoisie in our country, should help that revolution, but that it should choose a form of help which is commensurate with its own strength.

The "Left Communists" went to the extent of making flagrantly absurd statements to the effect that it would be expedient in the interests of international revolution to agree to the loss of the Soviet power. This was a cry of despair, an attitude of capitulation.

Lenin sharply criticised this absurd statement and showed that the defeat of the first proletarian state by the imperialists would cause tremendous harm to the international revolutionary working class movement, push it far back and lead to the loss by the world proletariat of its greatest gain, the Russian Soviet Republic.

Lenin attached primary importance to the preservation of Soviet power, consolidation of the results of the first victorious socialist revolution in history and further successful development of the land of the Soviets, which had become a powerful bulwark of the liberation movement.

"The example of the Socialist Soviet Republic in Russia," Lenin wrote, "will be a vivid model for the peoples of all countries and the propaganda, revolutionising impact of this model will be colossal." (Coll. Works, Russ. Ed. Vol. 26, P. 407). A respite after the war, Lenin said, will make it possible to reorganize the country on the basis of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This reorganization, he pointed out, "will make socialism invincible both in Russia and all over the world..." (Coll. Works, Russ. ed., Vol. 26, P. 407).

INTERNATIONAL DUTY

The Brest treaty was dictated by the interests not only of the Soviet Republic. It accorded also with the interests of the international proletariat. By signing this humiliat-

ing but necessary peace treaty with Germany, the Party led by Lenin did its international duty to the world proletariat, saved the young Soviet Republic and turned it into a mighty, impregnable socialist power, into a bulwark of peace, freedom and independence throughout the world.

"The Brest peace treaty was of course a temporary concession to German militarism," N. S. Khrushchov said. "But what was the outcome of all this? Who yielded to whom? Today the banner of Marxism-Leninism is flying not only above the entire territory of the Soviet Union. It has gone beyond the USSR, and has established itself in other states, including the German Democratic Republic. Meanwhile, the German militarists who invaded our country are lying in the graves. Now, judge for yourself, who was right. Lenin's approach to the solution of such complex issues succeeded."

The Soviet Republic's clash with German imperialism brought to the forefront the question whether co-existence between a socialist state and capitalist states was possible, whether agreements and compromises with the latter were possible.

The "Left Communists" considered the Brest treaty a compromise with imperialism, a compromise that was impermissible in principle for the Party of the revolutionary proletariat. Gukharin categorically said that the Soviet Republic could not live peacefully together with international capital and that agreements between the land of proletarian dictatorship and the capitalist states were impermissible.

Lenin however took a different view. Advocating the policy of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems, Lenin said: "A socialist republic among imperialist powers could not, according to these views, (the views of the 'Left Communists'—editor) conclude any economic treaties; it could not exist without flying to the Moon." (Coll. Works, Russ. Ed., Vol. 27, P. 49).

History has fully borne out the correctness of the Party's Leninist tactics during the Brest period. In its activity the Communist Party strictly adhered to Lenin's scientific principles of revolutionary tactics, principles of foreign policy, and requirements for a creative approach to the solution of domestic and international issues. Lenin often referred to the lessons and experience of Party activity during the Brest period.

Lenin likewise believed it very important for the international communist movement, for all Marxist parties to assimilate our Party's experience of the Brest period. In an analysis of the mistakes of the "Left Communists", Lenin warned Marxist parties against the disease of revolutionary phrasemongering and dogmatism, indicating the cases when the "left" disorder is most frequently manifested and what induces it.

"Revolutionary phrasemongering," Lenin wrote, "is mostly a disorder of revolutionary parties in cases when these parties directly or indirectly bring into contact, unite, and interweave proletarian and petty bourgeois elements and when

TASKS OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK

Khrushchov Outlines Role of Soviet Writers and Artists

MOSCOW, March 10:

Nikita Khrushchov has reaffirmed that the principal task in the ideological work of the Communist Party at present is "to educate all people in the spirit of communist ideals."

Speaking at the meeting of the leaders of the Party and the Government with men of letters and art in the Kremlin on March 8, he said that the CPSU, its Central Committee, "consider that Soviet literature and art are developing successfully and are, in the main, coping well with their tasks."

"The Communist Party salutes all the workers in literature and art, old and young, party and non-party, who stand firmly on the positions of communist ideology in questions of art," he said.

Khrushchov's speech was published in Pravda and other Moscow papers today.

ABSTRACTIONIST ARTISTS

Khrushchov said that the Communist Party openly, uncompromisingly denounces and will denounce the wares of abstractionist artists.

He stressed: "We stand on class positions in art and are emphatically against the peaceful co-existence of socialist and bourgeois ideologies."

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Art belongs to the sphere of ideology. And those who think that both socialist realism and formalistic, abstractionist trends can get along peacefully together in Soviet art inevitably backslide to alien positions of peaceful co-existence in ideology."

"Our policy in art, a policy of uncompromising rejection of abstractionism, formalism and all other bourgeois perversions, is a Leninist policy which we have followed, are following and will follow unswervingly."

"Any attacks by the enemies of socialism and communism against our Marxist-Leninist ideology will come to grief against the monolithic ideological and political unity of the working class, collective farm peasantry and the people's intelligentsia of our country," Khrushchov said.

There is no Jewish question in the Soviet Union, and those who invent it echo alien voices. "Since the day of the October Revolution in our country the Jews have had equal rights with all other peoples of the USSR."

The Communist Party "consistently pursues the policy of friendship among all peoples, educates the Soviet people in the spirit of internationalism, intolerance of all and any manifestations of racial discrimination and national strife. Our art asserts the lofty and noble ideals of internationalism, the brotherhood of nations."

Addressing men of letters and art, Khrushchov declared: "The Party, its Central Committee, consider that Soviet literature and art are developing successfully and are, in the main, coping well with their tasks."

At the same time he pointed out that there are serious shortcomings in the work of writers and artists. "While there haven't been any extraordinary ideological failures in artistic work, there have nevertheless been essential shortcomings, and in some cases mistakes, which cannot be put up with."

REVOLUTIONARY ART

"Our people need a militant revolutionary art," Khrushchov continued. "Soviet literature and art are called upon to reproduce in vivid artistic images the great and heroic time of the building of communism, to give a truthful picture of the assertion and victory of the new communist relations in our life."

Describing the works of the sculptor Nelvestny as nauseating concoctions, Khrush-

chov stressed: "It is good that we do not have many artists like him, but unfortunately he is not alone among art workers either."

Nikita Khrushchov then called attention to some mistaken motives and tendencies in the works of some authors about the period of the Stalin personality cult. "These wrong tendencies consist mainly in that all attention is concentrated one-sidedly on facts of lawlessness, arbitrariness, abuse of power."

There is no denying, the years of the Stalin personality cult produced dire consequences, Khrushchov said. "At the same time, it should be kept in mind and remembered that those years were not a period of stagnation in the development of Soviet society, as our ill-wishers see it. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, under the banner of the ideas and behests of the great Lenin, our people successfully worked on and built communism."

"We must rebuff those who like to put the label of 'vornishers' on the writers and art workers telling about the positive in our life," Khrushchov said.

He stressed that "the good in life should be worthily reflected in literature and art," that one should not indiscriminately run down all that was written in the period of the personality cult. This is not a departure from the 20th and the 22nd Congresses, he declared. This is assertion of the line of the 20th and the 22nd Congresses of the CPSU.

Khrushchov said that the Communist Party has always stood for the Party spirit in literature and art. "Properly speaking, there is no such thing as indifference to the Party spirit in society. And those who parade their indifference to the Party spirit do this to cover up their disagreement with the views and ideas of the Party, to recruit supporters."

INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE

Khrushchov recalled Lenin's words that literature and art should serve the interests of the workers and peasants, the interests of the people. Lenin described the so-called "left" art as "ridiculous clowning, unnatural and absurd." Khrushchov said it was Lenin who had put forward the principle of the ideological content and Party spirit in literature and art, rejecting any possibility of the co-existence of different ideological trends in Soviet art.

"Those who preach the idea of peaceful co-existence in ideology objectively backslide to positions of anti-Communism," Khrushchov stressed. He added that the Party would never permit anybody to blunt or cushion the impact of literature and art, which are a powerful ideological weapon of the Party. "All that impedes the interests of the people, the Party will remove from the way of communist construction," Khrushchov said.

Touching upon Ilya Ehrenburg's memoirs "People, Years, Life," Khrushchov called attention to the fact that the writer had presented everything in gloomy colours. Criticizing Ehrenburg's at-

tempts to defend the so-called "left" art, "apparently from our Marxist-Leninist criticism," Khrushchov said: "Ehrenburg is making a gross ideological mistake, and it is our duty to help him understand this."

Speaking of the various formalistic gimmicks in fine arts, Khrushchov said: "It is unthinkable that such art should ever win the recognition of normal people." He said further: "There is no doubt that the people will find the strength to rebuff such 'innovators.' And those of them who have not taken leave of their senses will think better of it and take the road of serving the people, create canvases which are full of joy and call upon the people to work." "We call for vivid art which would truthfully reflect the real world in all the variety of its colours."

Nikita Khrushchov then made some observations about the trends in music. "We do not want to be some sort of judges, or stand on the podium and conduct the composers," he observed. Khrushchov said that nobody was making any bans on any musical style or genre. "To put it briefly, we are for music which is melodious, pithy, which moves the people and evokes powerful feelings, and against all cacophony," he said.

Touching upon the slanderous campaign in the bourgeois press about the "infringement" of Jews in the USSR, Khrushchov said: "This is not true." He added that since 1917 the Jews in the USSR had had the same rights as all other peoples. There is no Jewish question in the Soviet Union. "The deeds of people are judged not from the national, but from the class standpoint," Khrushchov declared.

PATRIOTIC UNDERSTANDING

Khrushchov said that "a magnificent example of the patriotic understanding of the tasks of the artist" is offered by the work of Mikhail Sholokhov, whose books are infused with the spirit of the class struggle of workers and peasants for the victory of the revolution and socialism. All can see in the example of Sholokhov's work that "the Communist Party spirit of the writer, far from cramping his artistic individuality, actively promotes the flourishing of his talent."

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CALCUTTA, March 5:

The West Bengal State Organising Committee of the CPI in its meeting held on February 26-28, adopted resolutions on mass campaigns for popular issues. Following are the texts of the resolutions which pinpoint the decisions of the Party on general political issues as well as on West Bengal situation, in particular:

1 The West Bengal State Organising Committee of the Communist Party of India appeals to all patriots and all lovers of freedom and democracy in the State to rally together for a broad-based popular campaign on the following urgent and immediate issues of nation-wide significance.

Mobilisation of public opinion to impress upon all friendly countries the supreme importance of acceptance in toto by China of the Colombo Proposals so that appropriate conditions are created without further delay for settlement by negotiations of the border dispute between India and China.

All support to India's basic policies of firm adherence to non-alignment in foreign policy and of strengthening our national defences by rapidly increasing India's independent defence potential, relying mainly on our own resources.

Exposure and isolation of the Right reactionary forces which seek to reverse the above-mentioned basic national policies in favour of dragging India into the imperialist war bloc and undermining our national sovereignty, democratic progress and planned economic development.

2 The Communist Party notes with grave concern the growing influence of the Right reactionary forces in-

side the ruling party in West Bengal, which has persistently taken advantage of the situation created by the Chinese invasion of Indian territory in order to whip up anti-Communist hysteria, cripple the democratic forces and serve the interests of the parasitic classes.

It is common knowledge how the monopoly press in West Bengal has gone to the length of attacking the basic national policies advocated by the Prime Minister, and of inciting and abetting hooligan attacks and terror against Communists, trade union and kisan workers, students and democratic minded persons even in the field of education and culture.

The State Government, has more often than not yielded to the pressures and dictates of the monopoly press and its reactionary patrons and the vested interests, instead of using its emergency powers to strengthen the morale of the common people.

The Communist Party considers that the defeat of the anti-national designs of these Right reactionary forces and vested interests, whether inside or outside the ruling party, is the supreme political task today. This task must be shouldered by all citizens, irrespective of party, who stand for peace, territorial integrity of the country, and democracy. The State Organ-

MASS CAMPAIGNS FOR POPULAR ISSUES

★ From Ajay Das Gupta

ing Committee calls upon all members and well-wishers of the Party to mobilise the people to this end.

3 At a time when the working masses of our country have been responding nobly to the Prime Minister's call for higher production and voluntary contributions to the National Defence Fund, the State Government has pursued a policy which, according to the admission of the Chief Minister himself, has produced a critical situation on the food front.

P. C. Sen's statement on the floor of the State Assembly reveals that production of rice this year has declined by about 9 lakh tons compared with 1960-61 and by 4 lakh tons compared with 1961-62. In consequence, the price of rice has already risen in the interior villages, to Rs. 30 per md. and above although the crop has been harvested only recently. Prices in both towns and villages are 25% higher than in the corresponding season last year.

It is, therefore, evident that the rice market is firmly in the grip of anti-national profiteers, although there exists an emergency vesting enormous powers in the hands of the Government. This is causing extreme hardship not

only to the consumers in general, but also the primary peasant producers who have failed to get an economic price for their raw jute crop and who are compelled to pay much higher prices for essential commodities.

The condition of the unemployed, particularly the agricultural labourers, is extremely serious in this context. Their ranks are swollen by the small artisans like goldsmiths who have been hard hit by the Gold Control Order.

4 The State Organising Committee urges upon the people to get together and demand of the Government: Opening of Fair Price shops on a large scale in all towns and villages for all essential commodities and particularly for rice; so that prices are brought down rapidly to a reasonable level;

Extensive state purchase of commercial crops so that economic prices are assured to the primary cultivators and a rational proportion is maintained between the prices of commercial crops and essential consumer goods;

Reorganisation of Co-operatives, and their extension to the rural areas in cooperation with all democratic parties and organisations;

Provision of dry doles and test relief for the impoverished and unemployed rural poor; All other urgent measures necessary to prevent acute food crisis from developing into a near-famine condition enveloping the whole state.

The Communist Party calls upon all its units to organise a mass campaign to unite all popular and democratic forces so that the Government is forced to take immediate and urgent steps before the food situation goes out of control.

5 The Working class must be mobilised unitedly against violations of the industrial truce by the employers, and for removing all obstacles to production created by raw material and power shortages and by the employers' anti-union activities and their offensive of dismissals, discharges and retrenchment and lay-off.

The peasantry must be mobilised for growing more food, for credit and irrigation facilities, for urgent measures of land reforms, and for fair prices for raw jute and other commercial crops.

All the people must be mobilised against high prices and unjust taxes, and for cheap food. This campaign should culminate in a State Convention for Agricultural Production and Agrarian Reform.

6 The State Government has failed to stimulate production by stimulating the enthusiasm and energies of the people. It has allowed employers to violate the provisions of the Industrial Truce with impunity. It has refrained from taking any step against the rich landowners who have evicted their sharecroppers and in many cases even seized the crop grown on land conferred on the sharecroppers by the Government

itself under the Land Reform Act.

On the other hand the Government has encouraged and assisted the vested interests by its wholesale arrests of trade unionists, kisan sabha workers and communists under the pretext of suppressing "anti-Indian" activities, although the arrested persons have done far more than the vested interests to rouse popular initiative for patriotic activities in the cause of national defence, including mass contributions to the National Defence Fund. The emergency powers have thus been used in a manner contrary to the professed purpose for which they were assumed.

In order to promote its narrow sectarian interests, the ruling party has now announced bye-elections while keeping over 600 political prisoners in jail and the Emergency intact. This is the most glaring instance of how democratic norms are being violated.

Immediate release of all political prisoners and withdrawal, or at least suspension of the emergency is therefore an urgent national demand and precondition prior to the holding of free and fair bye-election and the Committee appeals to all democratic forces to compel the Government to accept this demand.

7 The State Organising Committee calls upon all members and supporters of the Communist Party in West Bengal to take up in right earnest the three main campaigns:

—for peaceful negotiations between India and China on the basis of acceptance in toto of the Colombo proposals while continuing to strengthen national defence in a way consistent with national sovereignty;

—for realisation of the urgent demands of the people, to combat food crisis and price rise, and for an equitable tax-burden consistent with the paying capacity of different sections of the people; and

—for release of all political prisoners and withdrawal of the emergency as conditions precedent for holding of bye-elections.

These campaigns should be so conducted that democratically-minded Congressmen may unite with communists in defence of the country and the people's interests, the patriotic unity born out of Chinese aggression may be further strengthened in order to realise the goal of peace with honour.

All party units are directed to organise these campaigns for the next two months so that the patriotic and democratic traditions of our people are harnessed against the crisis that is looming large. While conducting the campaign, the supreme duty of every Communist is to implement the National Council's resolution for fulfilment of the nation's common aim of restoring India's territorial integrity and strengthening her national sovereignty and independence.

West Bengal

A Country in Bondage

The South Rhodesia Case

★ NDAKAVINGI SITHOLE

National Chairman, Zimbabwe African People's Union, in exile.

Southern Rhodesia is 150,333 square miles in area. According to the census of 1962, it has 3,610,000 Africans, 250,000 whites and 2,000 Asians and Europeans. This is to say that Southern Rhodesia is approximately 96% African and only 4% European.

It lies between the apartheid Republic of South Africa in the south and the black-government Northern Rhodesia in the north and the black-government Nyasaland in the north-east; it lies between fascist Portuguese Mozambique in the east and the British Bechuanaland Protectorate in the West.

The average annual temperature is about 75°F, and the average rainfall is about 30". Southern Rhodesia is rich in such mineral resources as coal, asbestos, gold, chrome, iron, mica, beryllium, emeralds and copper. Most of these have not been exploited. Southern Rhodesia is also good for cattle and poultry raising and for tobacco, maize, peanut, cotton and fruit growing.

In 1893 there was a war between the Africans and the white settlers. But the white settlers defeated the Africans. In 1896, the Africans again rose in a rebellion but were quelled down. In 1923 the then 13,000 white settlers held a referendum among themselves to terminate the administration of the colony by the South African Chartered Company and created a responsible government. No African participated in this referendum. In 1924 the white settlers chose their first Members of Parliament who were only responsible to the 13,000 white settlers who had the vote, but who were not responsible to the 2,000,000 Africans who had no vote.

General Set-Up

Southern Rhodesia is divided into European and African areas. The Europeans own more than half the land. An African business man may not trade in the centre of any of the Southern Rhodesian towns or cities. The bulk of the African population is squeezed into what is known as Native Reserves and therefore a surplus of African population is squeezed off to European farms where the European farmers need cheap labour, and on to the industries where European industrialists also need cheap labour in order to make for themselves super-profits.

In Southern Rhodesia salaries and wages are paid on the basis of the colour of one's skin. European high, and African low is the rule of the day. European children are provided with universal education, but African children are not. The white settler government spends only £8 per year on the African child, but £108 on the European child. The average annual income of a European worker is £1,145 whereas that of an African is £95. Job reservation on basis of colour is common.

The rule of apartheid is firm in Southern Rhodesia. There are separate European and African schools, churches, residential areas, hospitals, and the like. The nearly 4,000,000 Africans in Southern Rhodesia are treated as a means to an end, and not as people in their own right. Justice is administered according to the racially based laws, and most Africans, regard the courts, on that score, as rubber-stamps of injustice since the racially-based laws are inherent with gross injustice.

All party units are directed to organise these campaigns for the next two months so that the patriotic and democratic traditions of our people are harnessed against the crisis that is looming large. While conducting the campaign, the supreme duty of every Communist is to implement the National Council's resolution for fulfilment of the nation's common aim of restoring India's territorial integrity and strengthening her national sovereignty and independence.

On December 9, 1961, the white settler government banned the National Democratic Party in order to implement their constitution without African opposition.

In February, Joshua Nkomo, the undisputed leader of the African Nationalist cause of Southern Rhodesia took the Southern Rhodesian issue to the United Nations after Britain had disregarded the legitimate claims of the African people. The U. N. declared that Southern Rhodesia was not a self-governing colony and therefore the British Government should intervene and suspend the new constitution, but Britain refused to intervene.

On September 20, 1962, the white settlers, in order to hold their minority elections without African opposition, banned the Zimbabwe African People's Union, and on December 14, 1962, under a heavy protection of more than 30,000 security forces the white settlers went to the polls under the new constitution.

The United Federal Party which had been in power for 39 years and which had campaigned on the ticket of liberalism was ousted by the Rhodesian Front which had campaigned openly on the platform of white supremacy or apartheid.

Hence the country is now stuck with a constitution which is rejected by, by almost 4,000,000 Africans and accepted only by less than 250,000 whites.

Constitutional Position

The new constitution around which centres most of Southern Rhodesia's problems today has a franchise and representation which are heavily weighted against the nearly 4,000,000 Africans in favour of only 250,000 white settlers.

A House of 65 has only 15 Africans and 50 Europeans when Africans form 96 per cent of the population and the Europeans only 4 per cent. Voters are divided into A and B, the A voters being virtually white, and B African. The B voters are limited in numbers, and to voting for virtually only 15 Africans. Hence both the franchise and the representation leave the Africans at the mercy of the white settlers. The franchise has been framed to suit the least number against the greatest number of people. The final political control rests with the white settlers and not with the Africans.

Rule Banning Political Parties

Since African political parties became effective in their

organisation, the white settler government has resorted to the dangerous method of banning African political parties.

On February 26, 1959, they banned the Southern Rhodesian African National Congress and arrested over 1,000 national, provincial, district and branch leaders and subjected them to the usual police brutalities. The top leaders remained in detention without trial for almost 4 years.

On December 9, 1961, the white settler government banned the National Democratic Party which had been raised on the ashes of African National Congress. More than 5,000 of its national, provincial, district and branch lea-

ders were prohibited from entering Native reserves where about 2,500,000 Africans live and from addressing any public gathering for three months. All the office equipment and transport of the Party to the value of £30,000 was confiscated by the white settler government.

On September 20, 1962, the white settler government ban-

ZIMBABWE DAY

The Third Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference held at Moshi decided to observe March 17, 1963 as Zimbabwe Day, to focus attention on the Southern Rhodesian issue. On this day, cables will be sent from meetings and from organisations all over the world to the British Government, condemning the repressive activities in Southern Rhodesia and urging that a fresh Constitutional Conference be held to recognise the claims of the African majority.

New Age is happy to publish this article on the situation in Southern Rhodesia by one of its outstanding leaders, Reverend Sithole who led the delegation of his country to the Moshi Conference. The Indian delegation had the privilege of personal discussions with him and had assured him of our country's full sympathy and solidarity with the heroic people of Southern Rhodesia.

Time for only moral support and resolutions has gone. We need practical help in the way of immediate funds and other material help. The time factor is very important in the help that we need.

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ned the all-powerful Zimbabwe African People's Union, and seized all the property of the Party, restricted over 300 leaders and over 1000 supporters for 3 months, arrested over 2,000 ZAPU supporters and convicted about half the number. The African people in turn vowed that they were not going to accept the ban. They would resist it to the very end.

The white settler government has felt the pressure of the resistance and have gone out of their way to invite Mr. Nkomo to form another party, but Mr. Nkomo has said clearly, "No", and the millions he leads have chorused, "No", and it will be "No" until the ban on ZAPU is lifted.

Call For Material Help

The last elections of December 14, 1962, were held under a heavy guard of more than 30,000 security forces spread throughout the country. Less than 1000 civil servants participated. According to the figures the votes that swept the Rhodesian Front to power were 38,500. This worked out to be less than one per cent of the total population of Southern Rhodesia.

The danger facing us now is that a government which was elected by less than 1 per cent of the population is now seeking independence for Southern Rhodesia. To us independence for Southern Rhodesia under a white minority rule would be another South Africa where millions of Africans are without the vote.

If the constitutional means have failed, and as the same means are used to suppress the legitimate political aspirations of nearly 4,000,000 Africans, then we can see nothing ahead of us except a grim bloody struggle since the African people are determined to rule themselves in their own country.

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PRICES SHOOTING UP

Stockpiling On Budget-eve

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharya

SHILLONG, March 6:

Even before the Union Finance Minister announced his budget for 1963-64, Assam had a taste of things to come. Many commodities began to disappear from the market.

KEROSENE, particularly, disappeared from the market on the eve of the budget in various parts of Assam. Certain brands of cigarettes, tooth pastes of most varieties, printing paper and some other things also suddenly became scarce in the market.

Various "explanations" for the scarcity of kerosene oil have been offered by different sources. According to one account, Indian Oil Company's inability to keep normal supply was mainly responsible for this scarcity. The IOC distributes kerosene from its supplies from Noonmati refinery. According to one report, as a result of slow movement of products of the refinery by railway, the refinery's tanks were filled with low-speed diesel oil and furnace oil, leaving no room for storage of kerosene. The same report further states that the refinery's kerosene plant itself is now under repair.

Since this report has not been contradicted till the time of writing this, it is stated by observers here that there might be some truth in this report. But it is also noted that the IOC is not the only distri-

butor of kerosene; the other distributors are Caltex, BIC, and ESSO. In fact, except the markets in Kamrup-Goalpara zone, the other markets of the state are dependent on the supply of these other distributors. While BOC draws its stock from Digboi refinery, the other two distributors are said to derive their stock from Calcutta.

But what appeared mysterious is that all the distributors should simultaneously run short of stock. Enquiries with local retailers reveal that the plea of shortage of stock was indeed a "concoction." According to the retailers here, the stockists had their godowns full, but they would not sell to the retailers on the plea that they had no stock with them.

The fact that from the afternoon of March 1 when the enhanced rate of excise on kerosene in the new budget of the Union Government became known the "scarcity" of kerosene disappeared as mysteriously as it came lends support to the view of the retailers. It is now stated that the wholesal-

ers had somehow or other anticipated the rise in excise duty and held back the stock to earn an extra profit at the cost of consumers. And the profit is not negligible; about Rs. 240 per tin. It is estimated that three distributors at Shillong alone had with them about 10 thousand tins of kerosene which they released after the union budget was announced, at the new enhanced rate.

When the scarcity was first reported, district officials in some districts met the wholesale traders and sought their advice as to how to meet the situation. One can easily imagine what advice the traders offered. This experience, observers maintain, has once again shown how unsafe it is to rely on the honesty and sincerity of the trading community alone for holding the price line. It is felt that the government should devise some other machinery independent of the control of the traders if the price-line is to be really held.

Whatever may be the expectation of the Union Finance Minister, in Assam, market prices of almost every commodity have been shooting up. Rice prices had already been rising even before the Union budget was announced and the few fair price shops opened in different parts of the state which were expected to check this price increase

Assam

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BERLIN, March 13:

The 1968 Leipzig Spring Fair which closed on March 12, has put Indian Made machines for the first time on the world market. 127 Indian firms, the State Trading Corporation and the Atomic Energy Establishment of Trombay have taken part in this year's fair.

THE statement of GDR Foreign Minister Julius Bialo in the international press conference on the fifth Leipzig fair that GDR would purchase some of the Indian made machines for use in their workshop establishments has roused considerable interest and some fear in international business circles. Immediately after this statement several British and West German business agents approached the Indian businessmen—representatives of Kiroloskar and others asking what machines India could sell.

They were told that we can sell in the world market, vertical oil engines, marine engines, centrifugal pumps, electric motors, sluice valves, Hindustan Machine tools, generators, slotting machines, shaping machines, textile looms and several other machines. There is panic in the British and other capitalist circles who were monopolising the machine export to East Europe outside the Soviet Union.

In the international press conference, attended by eight-hundred

ISCUS National Conference At Madras (April 26-28)

The Sixth National Conference of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society will be held in Madras from April 26 to 28.

SPECIAL Commissions will discuss the following five subjects:

1. The role of the ISCUS in the development of Indo-Soviet relations;
2. Indo-Soviet trade and economic co-operation;
3. technical and scientific cooperation between India and the Soviet Union;
4. Indo-Soviet cultural exchanges, and
5. teaching of Russian language by the ISCUS.

Dr. A. V. Ballga, President of ISCUS, has in a letter to all branches called for the observance of a special ISCUS month from March 14. In the course of his letter, he says: "The National Council, the State branches and the primary branches of the ISCUS had to pass through a period of great stress following

the large scale invasion of our northern frontiers. The situation has eased a great deal and our foreign policy of non-alignment has been fully vindicated and the soundness of the policy of peaceful co-existence has been well emphasised.

"It is hoped that soon negotiations are started on fair and honourable terms leading to a peaceful settlement of the border problem. In this context Indo-Soviet friendship is of great importance as indicated by our Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and the Soviet Premier Khrushchev.

"It is the duty of us in the ISCUS to do everything to strengthen the friendly relations between the people of the Soviet Union and the people of our own country. In this every new member is an addition to our strength and every cultural exchange an important link in our relations."

World-Wide Action for Disarmament

WCP CALLS FOR SPRING CAMPAIGN

The Presidential Committee of the World Council of Peace, meeting at Malmo (Sweden) on March 2 and 3, has issued an urgent appeal to launch new actions this spring for disarmament. The full text of this appeal is given alongside.

THE Presidential Committee devoted special attention to the German question, and issued an appeal to the peoples of Europe, which calls for the greatest efforts to secure acceptance of the following demands by their Governments:

- The absolute denial of nuclear weapons in the armies of both German States;
- The establishment of an extensive zone without nuclear weapons and with limited armaments in the centre of Europe;
- The elimination of all foreign nuclear bases in the European area;
- The conclusion of an international treaty to settle all problems outstanding from the Second World War in Europe;
- The recognition by all countries of the existence of two German States and of their present frontiers;

PAGE TWELVE

LEIPZIG FAIR

Indian Machines Put On World Market

New Age Interviews G.D.R. Minister On India's Trade Relations

★ From P. Kunhanandan

red journalists from all corners of the world, the NEW AGE correspondent asked a number of questions relating to peaceful co-existence and India's trade relations with GDR. Most important of them and ministers' replies are given here.

NEW AGE: Herr Bialo, you have put a great deal of emphasis on peaceful co-existence in your speech here. During his last European visit, Prime Minister Nehru also had emphasised the need for the two German States negotiating their differences. What prospects exist now for peaceful co-existence between the two German States?

OTTO WINZNER, State Secretary and First Deputy Foreign Minister: To your question as to whether we think it possible to carry through the principles of peaceful co-existence between the two German States, we can answer with a clear "Yes". We know too that Prime Minister Nehru and some other authoritative leaders of the newly-developing countries have expressed themselves in favour of negotiations between the two German States, since this is the best and sure means for removing the most dangerous hot-bed of trouble. As the Chairman of our Council of Ministers pointed out in the 8th Party Congress, we are for the objective relations between the two German States.

Therefore, we proposed to be-

gin with a minimum of measures for a settlement—or better—normalisation of relations between the different social structures in the two German States jointly representing their international interests within this Confederation. Dear Indian friend, this is the only real way, today 18-years after the Hitler war, for solving the national problems of the German people peacefully.

We are of the opinion that this is the only peaceful way possible. But unfortunately in West Germany, there exist forces which do not agree with that, forces which want to annex GDR by means of armament, atomic arming, and thus the revenge seekers hope to realise their old plan step by step, the aggressive design of a greater German Reich.

But this plan failed in two world wars and will fail again in the third world war which they want to unleash, for today the socialist camp is very powerful. There would be only one result, as Prime Minister Khrushchev underlined: in such a war, West Germany would burn down like a candle, and that would happen in the first hours of the war. In the interests of our own people and in the interests of the West

German people and all peoples of the world, we consider that peaceful co-existence between the two German States and the two world systems is the only sound solution.

NEW AGE: I would like to know what progress has been registered in trade relations between India and GDR since the signing of the trade agreement in 1954. How do you compare your trade and West German trade with India? India is slowly growing from a raw-material producer to a machine-producing country, as you have seen in this year's fair. Could you purchase some of our machines?

MINISTER WINZNER: Regarding trade with India we can say at once that since the first trade agreement between GDR and India in 1954, the turnover has increased ten times and by the end of 1962, India was our largest overseas trade partner among the non-socialist countries.

We have included a number of new products in our export and import programme. I do not want to repeat here what Minister Bialo has already said about import of some machines from India. Imported machines and products of machine construction industry

* ON PAGE 15

WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

APPEAL

WE appeal to all peace-loving men and women, to all movements and organisations working for peace, to carry out simultaneously in all countries of the world during these coming months a vast campaign of action for peace.

This is necessary because, although the Disarmament Committee is still sitting in Geneva, and although lip-service is paid in many quarters to the need for peace settlements, war budgets are reaching record heights, active preparations for war are on the increase, negotiations are refused or delayed, dangers persist and increase. The decision to establish within NATO a multilateral nuclear force will result in the spread of Polaris missiles throughout the world, thus further aggravating the war danger. The Pentagon openly declares in favour of what they call "pre-emptive strategy", that is a policy of striking first.

The de Gaulle-Adenauer alliance, the Franco-Spanish military conversations, dangerously increase international tension. At the same time U. S. military intervention in South Vietnam, prolonging a cruel war, is being intensified. New threats are taking shape against the freedom of Cuba, attempts to repress national movements and to frustrate the just desires of the peoples for

national independence, are kindling new sparks of war. These developments are taking the world further along the path to destruction. They are against the will of the peoples. Mankind wants an end to the nuclear nightmare. It desires peaceful co-existence and an end to arms expenditure. Experience has shown that, given mutual goodwill, even the most difficult questions can be solved peacefully. But peace cannot be achieved by waiting; it demands action to assert the people's will; action by all. To ensure a decisive change from policies of war to those of peace, the voice of mankind must be heard.

There are many urgent steps toward peace which organisations and individuals throughout the world who favour peace support: —negotiated settlement of all outstanding international problems, in particular that of Germany and European security; —respect for the independence and sovereignty of all peoples; —conclusion of an agreement on the cessation of

all nuclear weapons tests; —the setting up of demilitarised and demilitarised zones; —the elimination of all foreign military bases; —ending of discriminatory trade measures and a conference on world trade; —abolition of nuclear weapons and an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

The representatives of 121 countries stated in the "Message to the Peoples of the World" adopted at last year's World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace: "If all should act, and if all who act should act together in friendship, we could clear the road to our common aim, enduring peace".

The World Council of Peace, and many other peace organisations have planned, in the months immediately ahead, for marches, meetings, demonstrations, petitions and other activities supporting varying demands and aspects of the fight for peace. We welcome all such activities, by whosoever organised, and urge everyone to support them so that they may become a mighty force and contribute to make Spring 1963 a historical turning-point in the struggle for peace.

NEW AGE

MARCH 17, 1963

Govt. Failed To Hold Price Line

★ FROM FRONT PAGE

assurance given by the government at the Tripartite Conference in November last—when an Industrial Truce was agreed to by labour, employers and the state—that prices will be held. He wanted to know how the government could unilaterally repudiate that agreement now and allow prices to rise.

Indrajit Gupta said that this budget will give birth to the most monstrous inflationary pressure. He sympathised with the Planning Minister who has been left to hold this monstrous baby. Countering the suggestion that the ordinary man was responsible for inflationary demands, Indrajit Gupta showed that the boot fitted better on the government's leg. He cited the case of Rs. 3 crores being spent annually on government stationary alone.

He criticised the pattern of taxation in the budget as "socially unjust and inequitable". He requested the Finance Minister to reconsider the duty on kerosene and called for a review of prohibition and also for the nationalisation of banks and foreign trade. He asked: why should not the government take over the Dalmia-Jain group? He defended the Super profits tax. In a brief reference to the public sector, he said that its contribution to the budget was miserable.

Indulal Yagnik, leader of the Mahagujarat Janata Parishad and a forceful speaker always, criticised the budget as "bureaucratic, dictatorial and autocratic". He demanded that effective steps be taken to collect arrears of income tax. On the compulsory Savings Scheme, he felt it was ultra vires of the Constitution. From the Congress benches, an important contribution to the debate came from former

Congress President U. N. Dhebar who while trying to lend able support to the Finance Minister made a strong case for the imposition of super-profits tax.

Dhebar frankly admitted that "we have not been able to maintain our commitment in regard to price line so far" and stressed the importance of holding prices. He also asked the Finance Minister to reconsider his additional duty on inferior kerosene. As for the compulsory savings scheme, Dhebar felt that the Finance Minister should study the effect of the scheme, in the light of price line, especially in relation to those people who earn less than Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 a month. He pointed out that they have already to pay provident fund and insurance.

STOP THE BIG BUSINESS LOOT

An unusually frank and critical speech from the Congress Benches was by Anshu Harvani, who while supporting the budget proposals wanted, however, to know whether there were no other avenues for raising resources.

He referred to the evasion of income taxes and was sharply critical of the activities of the private sector. They are "murdering the economy of this country", he said and demanded to know what was being done about the New Asiatic Insurance Company and about the "Thaksey empire". Harvani told the Treasury Benches:

"... This time that the Government of India should take over all the private concerns which are indulging in tax evasion, which are indulging in cheating the Company Law Administration, which are indulging in cheating their share-holders and cheating

the Indian people". He called for nationalisation of general insurance.

There were many others from the Congress side who voiced misgivings about a number of Morarji Desai's tax proposals and their inequitous character.

Ajit Prasad Jain urged the Finance Minister to exempt inferior variety of kerosene from additional excise and to reduce tax on superior variety. He was apprehensive of the effect of enhanced customs and excise duties on iron and steel, machinery and electrical goods, as they might affect development. On the question of alternate resources, he put his finger on the past experience of underestimating revenue receipts in the budget.

Benuka Ray said that in the super profits tax envisaged, there is discrimination in favour of companies with larger investment and larger capitals. A former Agriculture Minister Panjabrao Deshmukh complained about neglect of agriculture by government. He called the government the most wasteful government that exists and suggested a 10 to 20 per cent cut on all T. A. bills.

RIGHTISTS LOOK TO WEST

The champions of the private sector, the Swatantra also had their serious objections to Morarji Desai's budget. But their arguments tended to emphasise on imaginary hardships caused to the moneyed interests by the Finance Minister's move to tax them. They devoted considerable attention to the super-profits tax even while criticising other taxes also.

It was very plain that they had no serious alternative suggestions for raising resources. The natural

result of such an approach was to urge government to give up its policy of self-reliance in the matter of defence and go in for a complete alliance with the West. And that is what they did.

Maharaja of Kalandhandi, P. K. Deo, who said that the budget was a "vicious attack on the standard of living of the people" and "stark oppression", when he came to the question of privy purses of princes, felt scandalised by members' suggestion that these purses should be suspended.

It is part of the Constitution, he argued and said that the privy purses given to princes are nothing taking into consideration "the colossal sacrifices they have made". He advised the government that "only an alliance with the Western democracies is going to act as the true deterrent against any Chinese aggression in the future". The Maharaja voiced com-

plaints about super profits tax, surcharge on incomes and restriction on remuneration and perquisites imposed on companies. According to him, the super profits tax "will have far-reaching impact on the corporate sector. The Finance Minister proposes to penalise efficiency. It will stop capital formation and its future development".

In a rambling speech—described as frivolous by a Congress member—PSP spokesman H. V. Kamath criticised the lavish expenditure indulged in by ministers and said that a tax on ministers' speeches outside the legislature might be imposed.

He urged scrapping of prohibition and stopping subsidy to khadi and felt that increased Postal rates and taxes on kerosene, tea, coffee, etc., would hit the poor people hard. He also urged that the lower income group people should be spared from the compulsory savings scheme. He demanded an enquiry into the affairs of the Kalinga Tubes, which he alleged are equally scandalous as that of the Dalmia-Jain group.

"PROVE CHARGES AGAINST ME"

T. V. Thomas Challenges Kerala Govt.

Trivandrum:

Addressing a big rally at Alleppey after his release from prison, Communist leader and ex-Minister T. V. Thomas, who is Chairman of the Alleppey Municipality, challenged the Government to prove the so-called charges of "treason" under which he had been detained for so long.

DEMANDING the release of all those still detained, Thomas said the Kerala Government was misusing its emergency powers for party purposes. Pointing how the Communist Party was in the forefront of the battle to defend non-alignment and the basic policies of this country, Thomas said it was intolerable and disgraceful that members of the Party were detained at the orders of men who in many cases were totally opposed to these basic policies themselves.

that several Communist detenus were in bad health, and were not receiving adequate medical attention, with the result that their condition was deteriorating.

Thomas told New Age that there had been no justification whatever for arrests of Communists all of whom had been busy in the defence efforts right upto the moment of their arrests. They had collected defence funds even in jail.

(As New Age goes to press, news has been received of the release of six more Communist detenus in Kerala—K. Govil, P. K. Chathan, K. P. R. Gopalan, P. P. Krishnan, A. V. Kunhambu and Balan. Twenty-eight Communist leaders still remain in detention, and the campaign for their early release is being intensified.)

Immediately after his release, T. V. Thomas told New Age.

RAHULJI IS BACK

★ From Our Correspondent

Padma-Bhushan Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayana reached New Delhi on March 13 along with his wife Kamala Sankrityayana. He was received at the Palam Airport by Chandra Gupta Vidyalankar, Manmath Nath Gupta, M. Farooqi, Secretary, Delhi State Committee of the CPI and several other friends.

TALKING to journalists Kamala Sankrityayana said that Rahulji received the best attention and treatment in the Soviet Union. Top Soviet specialists examined him and did their best to improve his physical conditions.

Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayana and Kamalaji will soon proceed to Darjeeling to meet their two children.

the neurological specialist, Dr. Margarita Pavlovna had accompanied them upto Tashkent. Kamalaji further said, "We carry with us the warmest feelings for the Soviet doctors for their friendly, sympathetic and efficient attention to Rahulji".

As an instance of the care with which doctors were attending on Rahulji, Kamala Sankrityayana mentioned that

by the Communist Opposition. C. Achutha Menon emphatically pointed out that the Rs. 5-crore increased taxation proposals could not be justified and could not be borne by the people. He pointed out that the Kerala budget provided only a small sum of Rs. 55 lakhs for activities directly connected with the defence efforts—and that, therefore, the Government's plea that an extra five crores were required for defence could not be borne out by facts.

Of great interest were Achutha Menon's concrete alternative suggestions for raising resources: he advocated the lifting of prohibition, which had been a complete failure; he quoted several instances of wastage of funds, which could be prevented; he showed how Government was making no effort to reduce administrative expenditure.

Achutha Menon's indictment of the Ministry's lack of sincerity in its pronouncements about the emergency was accompanied by a demand for the immediate release of all Communist detenus. Popular pressure is expected to result in the withdrawal of at least some of the anti-people taxation proposals.

Constructive and positive criticisms were made most effectively

SCRAP PROHIBITION, STOP WASTE, CUT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Achutha Menon Attacks Anti-People Taxes

★ FROM CHAKRAPANY

TRIVANDRUM, March 11: C. Achutha Menon, Deputy Leader of the Communist Opposition in the Kerala State Legislative Assembly speaking on the State's budget for 1963-64, made a number of concrete proposals for alternative sources of revenue to replace the anti-people taxation measures, which are the main-features of the State Budget this year.

CHIEF Minister R. Shankar, who is also the State Finance Minister, has proved to be a true disciple of Morarji Desai, as far as imposition of taxes on the common people is concerned. He has proposed rupees five crores additional taxation; there are to be increases in electricity duty, entertainment tax, school and college fees, sales tax on selected commodities, motor vehicles and bus-fares. At each and every point, the poorer sections of the population as well as the middle-classes are hit by Sankar's budget.

An immediate consequence of the introduction of the Central and State budgets has been that the prices of commodities in the State have shot up by thirty to forty per cent. Prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities are ris-

ing beyond the reach of people of average means. Strong criticisms of the budget proposals have been made in the press and by the leaders of political parties. Most of the leading newspapers have demanded the repeal of some of the most obnoxious taxation measures. Even members of the Congress Party in the Assembly, and KPCC members have criticised the anti-people taxation proposals. It is reported that the KPCC has directed the Government not to proceed with its proposal to re-introduce tuition fees in standards VI, VII and VIII.

The PSP and the Muslim League have, of course, gone all out in their attack and have even described the budget as piracy and pick-pocketing.

Constructive and positive criticisms were made most effectively

MARCH 17, 1963

NEW AGE

PAGE THIRTEEN

Press Baron Out for Former Editor's Blood

★ From Ajoy Das Gupta

CALLUTTA: The report of the press commission had exposed the sinister character of the Indian press monopoly and the Emergency revealed their anti-national proclivities. The Prime Minister's recent speech focussed a beam of light into the dark recesses of the working of these powerful organs of the fourth estate. That is what has made the press barons wild.

IN West Bengal, Ananda Basar and Amrita Bazar are two groups of newspapers which have grown into big business. Ananda Bazar came to be known to a great extent for its anti-Nehru, anti-non-alignment, anti-democratic and pro-West role during the Emergency, while Amrita Bazar group's doings came under public gaze when Vivekananda Mukherjee, for 25 years editor of its Bengali daily, the Jugantar, was forced to quit it. New Age has already published that sordid story.

Several editorials had appeared in Amrita, a weekly edited by Tushar Kanti Ghosh, accusing the present leadership of the country as inefficient and advocating their removal. These editorials made Ghosh's position a bit embarrassing. These incidents and subsequent exposures as to how the owners of the big newspapers are reducing to a mockery the freedom of press, unnerved the proprietors to a great extent.

Vivekananda Mukherjee, by his courageous writings

and speeches even after his forced resignation from Jugantar has become a sort of a symbol of the traditions of honest and independent journalism. Hence it has become urgent for the presslords to "destroy" him as a journalist and they have started a systematic attack for his character assassination.

That was the reason why a full page statement by Tushar Kanti Ghosh was published on March 3 in Amritabazar and Jugantar and as an advertisement in Anandabazar Patrika. As is usual, in this statement the cry of "Communist" has been raised. Tushar Kanti says "I do not know if Sri Mukherjee was a member of the Communist Party of India, but there was no doubt that his views were very close to the Communist ideals".

Vivekananda was accused of being Chairman of the West Bengal Peace Council "a communist sponsored organisation and part of the international Communist Movement". Tushar Kanti reveals that he put

pressure on Vivekananda to resign from the Peace Council.

The main charge against Vivekananda is the publication in the Letter to the Editor column on May 16, 1962, a letter from one Arun Roy, entitled "Sino-Indian Border Question and Indian People". This letter was quoted in a Chinese publication and the state Chief Minister addressed on December 22, 1962 a letter to Tushar Kanti asking him to take strong measures against those responsible for publication of the letter. And Tushar Kanti jumped to the opportunity of punishing Vivekananda and on December 25, he had to submit his resignation.

Tushar Kanti has published the resignation letter and an agreement accepted by Vivekananda Mukherjee which stipulated his writing for Jugantar even after resignation. But naturally behind the scene intrigues, the pressure put on Vivekananda, the use of threat contained in Chief Minister's letter have not found any mention in the full page statement, which contained photostat reproduction of Chief Minister's letter.

Vivekananda's Reply

In reply to Tushar Kanti's full page statement, Vivekananda Mukherjee has issued

a short preliminary statement which reads as follows: "I have been very much pained to go through a long statement by Sri Tushar Kanti Ghosh, published on March 3, 1963 in Jugantar and Amrita Bazar Patrika and as advertisement in Anandabazar Patrika. In that statement attempts have been made to discover a so-called longstanding disease of mine on the basis of facts known only to Sri Tushar Kanti Ghosh for the last twenty-five years. The public will judge for themselves the merits of that statement. I shall issue a detailed statement on the charges levelled and insinuations hinted against me in that statement.

"At the present moment I have to say this much that I leave it to the public to judge whether it has been proper to bring the charge of being disloyal to the country against an honest editor, who for last twenty-five years has served that particular newspaper, and can justifiably claim much of the credit for the present position of the paper.

"Much is being attempted to be made of a letter dated April 20, 1962 and published in Jugantar on May 6, 1962 and I want to lay bare certain facts so that the public is not confused about it. Everybody knows that the editor is not responsible for the views expressed in Letters to the Editor column. For that reason no editor scrutinises those letters, and particularly a busy editor like me.

"The letter under reference was published without my knowledge or without taking my permission. The letter published on May 16, 1962 and other letters were sent for publication after scrutiny by Suresh Sarkar, who is in charge of the Letters to the Editor column. Suresh Sarkar scrutinised and passed for publication the letter dated May 16,

1962 and other letters related to the subject. His signature and the corrections made by him in red ink on those letters will prove this. As a proof, that Suresh Sarkar passed that letter for publication after correction, a photo copy containing correction in his own hand-writing and his signature is being published herewith.

"It is strange that Suresh Sarkar is still in his post and all the blame is sought to be heaped on my shoulders after nine months. It is significant that even Tushar Kanti Ghosh has not alleged in his statement that the letter had been published with my knowledge and consent.

"Even after publication of that letter Tushar Kanti Ghosh praised me profusely at the time of Silver Jubilee celebration of Jugantar. The function was presided over by the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He also praised me for my work as editor of Jugantar. The Broadcasting and Information Minister of Government of India was also present in that function."

Dainik Basumat, of which Vivekananda Mukherjee is now the chief editor, published the photostat copy mentioned in the statement above.

This has found its echo in the State Legislature and in reply to a calling attention motion by Anandagopal Mukherjee, a favourite of Atulya Ghosh, Chief Minister P. C. Sen told the West Bengal Assembly on March 5 that "no action was contemplated against the management" but the Government was yet considering what step should be taken against Mr. Vivekananda Mukherjee."

Progressive circles in Calcutta have taken a serious view of this development and more is expected to be heard in this matter in near future.

SPOTLIGHT

Lessons Of Lucknow

by GARUDA

Even the Thought has been constrained to call the Jan Saugh's Lucknow exhibition as one "in bad taste".

THE Organiser now remains the sole champion of the unseemly demonstration misnamed as "Call of the Mother". These two journals belong to the fraternity which has recently specialised in mutual patting for everything done. Evidently RSS-Jan Saugh unveiled too much of its ugly face this time. The result: slaps on the pate from every side.

But that is not of so much consequence. The mask anyway, is bound to be completely off one day. What is of consequence is the help that they have been receiving from certain quarters who should know better than to help them. These quarters now aver that they had fallen into a booby-trap, but their plea of innocence has failed to carry conviction.

Take, for instance, the exhibition's chief patron Sucheta Kripalani. She is certainly no amateur in politics. In her more than two-decade long life as a public figure she has hounded with more than one political party. If I may be permitted to use the homely Hindustani idiom, she has tasted "the water of several river banks. Could such a veteran in Indian politics, and a stalwart of the national movement ever be unaware of the perverted character of the RSS and Jan Saugh?

It will take more than a pinch of salt to believe that she did not really know the people with whom she was associating.

Was not the setting up of the "Call of the Mother"

pavilion by the Vidyarthi Parishad pre-planned? Certainly, the Parishad did not suddenly descend on the scene after the lady had inaugurated the exhibition. They must have been there already. Nor could the real character of the Vidyarthi Parishad as the students' front of RSS-Jan Saugh—a front which no non-Sanghite student will touch even with a pair of tongs—has been unknown. How then does the plea of unawareness hold water? Simply doesn't?

It is true that anti-Communism acts for some like the proverbial carrot to the donkey.

By dangling this they can be led (or misled) into any direction. They suffer from such a pathological fear of Communism and Communists that they would even jump into the fascist ditch to escape the bogey. The organisers of the pavilion had taken care to draw the red-herring on anti-Communism across the trail. It is sad to note that C. B. Gupta felt a victim to this.

His apology that the pavilion was not directed against national solidarity, the Prime Minister or the Congress, but only against the Communists was, to say the least, a tragic betrayal of purity. That Communists are the chief target of the fascist attacks is too well known. But the Communists are quite capable of taking care of themselves and routing the enemy in the bargain.

What is dangerous is the fascist definition of a "Communist". It is not confined only to card-holders and 'fellow travellers', but has a wide meaning, and a tendency to go on widening so far and so much as to include

every patriot and progressive.

Nehru is already a "Communist" in their list, and C. B. Gupta too will soon be included in it if he does not oblige them by turning into a downright fascist stooge.

The Organiser has already several times used the description of "Crypto-Communist" and "Communist camp-follower" for Nehru. In one of its latest issues, it has again disclosed: what the Comrades say today, Mr. Nehru says tomorrow" (Editorial, March 4, 1963).

Let not, therefore, the issue be fuddled. Let not dust be thrown in the eyes of the public.

★

Veterans of the political movement should be aware more than anyone else of the peculiar definition of "nationalism" that RSS-Jan Saugh propagates. Their peculiar credo on this point has never been a secret.

As is well known, India regained stashed after a long struggle against British imperialism which held sway for about two centuries. A new sense of nationalism was acquired by the Indian people which was anti-imperialist. RSS always opposed this new national consciousness, and propounded a theory of nationalism which is devoid of the anti-imperialist content.

An enunciation of this theory can be found in Balraj Madhok's book *Hindu Rashtra* which he published in 1955.

According to him: "Factors and forces that tend

to create national consciousness in a people had since the days of the Rig Veda. Then developed a common cultural heritage which formed the basis of this national consciousness.

But this process of development got switched off when the Muslims came to India. The above mentioned consciousness was co-terminus with 'Aryan race spirit' just as the 'Aryan race occupied the place of the mother race' in India. The Muslims, coming as aliens, remained aliens, and hence their advent arrested the process of development of the old heritage. There followed a national resistance against the Muslims.

"This continuous struggle which lasted for about nine centuries is a marvel of Indian history" says Madhok. "Prithviraj and Hameer, Krishnadevaraya and Durgavati, Pratap and Shivaji, Guru Govind Singh and many other known and unknown patriots became the symbols of this national resistance."

Madhok further writes: "Gandhi failed to the end of his life to understand the true basis of Indian nationalism. And so did the Congress which came under the influence of Gandhi".

That is the pith and substance of the Sanghite perversion which they like to describe as "genuine nationalism", but which in fact is nothing more than the most rabid brand of Hindu communalism.

It is clear that these neo-"nationalists" and trait patriots stand poles apart. The neo-nationalists know this. That is why they hat-

ed Gandhiji with every fibre of their being. Happily for them, Gandhiji was got rid of by the method of assassination. They have now turned their poisoned poses on Nehru.

The Vidyarthi Parishad pavilion was only a visual presentation of the above mentioned Sanghite thesis. To slander Nehru and denigrate Gandhi, as the pavilion did, was the most logical thing for them. The Chief Minister of U. P. however, added nothing to his reputation by saying that the pavilion was not against nationalism, the Congress or Nehru. And Sucheta, the chief patron of the Exhibition, brings no credit to herself by saying that she was not aware of all this. The lady cannot be such a novice.

She has roused suspicion in the public mind that she might be an accomplice in the reactionary game that her husband is playing these days. Acharya Kripalani, who has turned from the political force that he once was into a fossil, today does not walk but wobbles on the public stage on crutches provided by communalists of the Jan Saugh and laissez-fairists of the Swatantra Party. He has betrayed the nationalist heritage. Sucheta knows it better than anyone else. She is already in an opposite party camp. She will do well to dispel the public mind of suspicions that she has the same policies as her husband.

Meanwhile, the complaint among Congressmen, will do well to ponder over the lessons of Lucknow. These have a deep significance.

Assam

Goldsmiths Unemployed

*FROM PAGE 10

have not yielded the desired result. Moreover, complaints are also heard about a high percentage of stone and dust mixed with rice supplied by some of the fair price shops.

It is felt here that unless something is done to check this trend of the market, and ensure steady supply of various essential commodities free from adulteration, the impact of it on the common people will be very demoralising. The enthusiasm, the common people had shown in national defence efforts, it is feared, will be dampened by this trend of the market, coupled with the new tax burden, particularly if they find that one section can mint profits with impunity at the cost of the people.

The distressed gold artisans of Assam, hit by the gold control order, have been demonstrating their discontent in different forms. Of late, these demonstrations have been taking open forms of public agitation.

Earlier last month, several meetings were held in various parts of the State. Resolutions were passed in those meetings offering suggestions for rehabilitation of the affected artisans and demanding permission to make ornaments of 20

carat purity. The artisans of Karimganj in Cachar submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister praying for his intervention. Except promising to discuss their problems with the Union Government, the Chief Minister could do little to help them.

It is estimated that about 8 to 10 thousand artisans in this State have been thrown out of employment by the gold control order. Quite a substantial section of these artisans is composed of refugees from both East and West Pakistan who settled themselves here with this traditional trade. They are now faced with the problem of rehabilitation again.

Uptil now most of the jewellery shops are closed. The jewellers complain that they do not receive any order for ornaments of 14 carat purity.

The gold artisans of Gauhati numbering about 800 recently held a public meeting, preceded by a procession parading the streets of the city. The meeting was presided over by the State PSP chief Arabindo Ghose, a member of the State Council of CPI and others addressed the meeting.

The artisans and jewellers of Silchar observed hartal on February 26 last against what they called "coercive gold control order".

NEHRU GIVES THE LIE TO SUPER-JUTE PRESS

ON March 5 the *Times of India* came out with a front-page story headlined "Sino-Soviet Rift May Be Healed at India's Cost, Says Nehru". The well-known Mr. H. R. Vohra had sent back the report appearing in the previous day's *Washington Post* of the latter's correspondent's interview with Prime Minister Nehru.

Mr. Vohra for himself had approached the most sensational part of the interview rather timidly, putting it out more as a tentative feeler than as a definite conclusion, which may be, he would have liked to follow up. Some enthusiast at the desk, however, proved equal to the job. Taking the real "newsy" part of the interview, he headlined it as above.

The palm was nevertheless go where it really belongs, namely to the super-jute American press and its representative. Following the real Yankee ethos of journalism, he puts into Nehru's mouth what Nehru by no stretch of imagination ever said or even suggested. Says Mr. Vohra:

Mr. Nehru seemed to

fear, so it seemed to Mr. Roberts (the *Washington Post* man), that the Sino-Soviet rift might be healed at the cost of further Soviet aid to India.

When Mr. Roberts asked if the Soviets would give in to the Chinese insistence that there be no further aid to India, the Prime Minister replied: "I should think not." Asked whether he hoped not, Mr. Nehru smiled.

From this it would appear that Mr. Roberts is no ordinary reporter; he is more of an expert in thought-reading and very calculated drawing of red herrings.

The story does not end here. Mr. Vohra approached the most readily available Washington "experts" and they promptly briefed him. There was not much danger, they said, of the "Sino-Soviet rift" being healed at the expense of India". Equally tentative and equally keen to put out the feeler and follow it up!

The Prime Minister could not help taking prompt notice of the story and the ramification possibly lying hidden behind it. Next day we find, tucked in a corner and lost in a long report of

the meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party's Standing Committee in the same *Times* of India the denial of this story. The Prime Minister there is reported to have described the *Washington Post* story as "not only wrong but even mischievous".

It's no use wondering why the *Times* of India which had so prominently featured the "Sino-Soviet Rift May Be Healed at India's Cost, Says Nehru" story the previous day did not find it necessary to feature his denial and condemnation of it with equal prominence. Objective reporting of the jute press is the only possible explanation.

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to damn the scurrilous "reporting" of India by a British woman journalist, published recently as a book. One of its main purposes, he is reported to have said, was to poison India's relations with her real friends. This highly opinionated lady, incidentally, continues to write the same scurrilous stuff these days. In A. D. Gorbala's highly opinionated opinion.

—OBSERVER

LEIPZIG FAIR

*FROM PAGE 12

from your country is a possibility. Details have to be worked out through negotiations. GDR has also supplied India with a number of plants. That is to say we have helped Indian economy to speed up its own development by granting technical know-how.

We have been asked about differences between our trade with India and the West German trade with India. The gentlemen from West Germany will say that the first difference is that India's trade with West Germany is greater in volume. That is quite right. But a particularly important difference seems to me to exist in the fact that we give India guarantees for her exports, which means that they can export to us as much as they buy from us.

We accepted Indian currency as a basis for trading some years ago and this gave our Indian partners a simple guarantee that we would not be able to do anything else with the money, except to buy Indian goods. This has been the basis of our trade policy towards India and a number of other countries.

West German trade has approximately a six to one relationship, which means West Germany sells six-times as much to India as she buys from that country. This

causes a number of difficulties for the Indian economy which has not yet reached an adequate balance of payment position and lacks reserves of foreign currency.

NEW AGE: Do you think that the opening of an Indian trade mission in your country would further promote trade relations?

MINISTER WEISS: We have trade representations in India set up in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. These missions have been very effective in making trade enquiries and purchases.

From our point of view it would be helpful for Indian trade, if your country has its own agency here. We are prepared to help if the Government of India wants to set up its own trade mission in GDR.

Export promotion is as I understand the main lever of your trade. It would be very helpful if Indian officials are on the spot to look after their own needs. There are visa problems and other difficulties which could be simplified if there is a trade mission in Berlin. For example, now for a visa to India we have to apply to the Indian Embassy in Moscow. It takes a long time. Delay in trade is always bad. As far as we are concerned, we would welcome setting up an Indian Trade Representation here and we will help in every way.

A CORRESPONDENT OF JUGANTAR: Sir, we have foreign exchange difficulties, that is the main obstacle.

MINISTER WEISS: We don't spend any foreign exchange in India. We are dealing in rupee. The same facility can be given here. You don't have to spend dollars, pounds or West German marks for such a mission in our country.

NEW AGE: Another question, sir, is the participation in this year's Fair of European Common Market countries and their trade with GDR greater or less than last year?

MINISTER WEISS: You have asked a question about the Common Market countries. The exhibition space occupied by countries, which are members of the European Common Market has stayed about the same. West German exhibitors have taken rather more space than in 1962 and the number of exhibitors is about the same as in 1962, a year when the number of exhibitors was somewhat higher than in the previous year. This shows that these countries are attempting to use Leipzig to develop their trade. It is a matter of considerable satisfaction that exhibitors from a number of countries are exhibiting at this year's Leipzig Spring Fair for the first time. They are by no means unimportant firms. One example is Great Britain, and you can see this for yourself in the Fair grounds.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

★ From Our Correspondent

CALCUTTA, March 12:

The number of persons registered with employment exchanges in West Bengal during 1962 was 4,23,044 against 3,07,373 in 1961. The figure is almost double the number 2,1,2094 registered in 1958.

THE number of unemployment enrolled in the Live Register in 1962 was 1,39,245 against 3,28,291 and 2,14,916 in 1961 and 1958 respectively. 31,101 persons were placed in employment in 1962 against vacancies notified 73,519 while the figures in previous year were 23,070 and 59,594 respectively.

The overall employment position in the State, in terms of employment exchange statistics, maintained an upward trend in January this year. In the public Sector considerable contributions were made by Railways and Defence establishments. During the month 40,126 new entrants were registered with various exchan-

ges as against 50,674 in previous month showing a decrease of 10,548. The total number of placements during January was 3,350 as compared to 3,748 in December 1962. The decrease in both the cases is attributed to good number of holidays during the month. Out of the total number of placements during January, 31.7 per cent was in the Central Government, 4.4 per cent in State Government and Local bodies and the remaining 33.7 per cent was in the Private Sector as compared to 46.4 per cent, 7.6 per cent, 17.4 per cent and 27.6 per cent in the month of December, 1962.

SUSPICIOUS ROLE OF CONGRESS MINISTERS IN JAN SANGH EXHIBITION

Uttar Pradesh

Though the State Assembly has adjourned for the holidays, the storm unleashed by the RSS-Jan Sangh exhibition and its pavilion, MA KI PUKAR (Call of the Mother) shows no signs of abatement.

THE crisis it had caused in the state cabinet and the Congress Assembly Party is also far from over. The reason for this is that the exhibition, apart from indicating the motives of the RSS and Jan Sangh, has also bared the sickly sores of the Congress in the State.

As far as the exhibition itself is concerned, by now enough has come to be known. It will suffice it to say that after visiting it and its pavilion, Ma Ki Pukar, Finance Minister, Kamalapati Tripathi publicly declared: "I have reached the conclusion that it is a conspiracy organised to murder Pandit Nehru....."

Even the anti-Communist Information Minister of the State, Banarasi Das, who acted as the patron of the exhibition, has dissociated himself from it.

Mahavir Prasad Srivastava, Health Minister of the State, who was also a member of the Organising Committee of the exhibition, has regretted his decision to allow his name to be associated with it.

CHIEF MINISTER'S APOLOGIA

The much-harassed Chief Minister of the State in his long explanation given to the Assembly, dwelt on the tricky technique of the RSS-Jan Sangh men.

He declared that there was no doubt that the exhibition was anti-national and anti-Nehru. He denounced the attempt of the organisers of the exhibition to "paint the leader of the country as a weak man who was allowing the country to slip under the domination of the Chinese." He added, the exhibition had not helped to create a feeling of unity. "It had become a source

of disruption and had polluted the atmosphere..."

Gupta criticised the impropriety of holding "an exhibition which sought to run down a political party (the Communist Party-R.S.) and which caused pain to a number of people."

He was evidently hard put to explain how the stalls of the Industries and Information departments of the government were included in the exhibition, but he said that "this does not mean that the government sympathised with the purpose of the

From
RAMESH SINHA

organisers or any of my colleagues is associated with it..."

It must frankly be said that he has failed to show firmness in dealing with the anti-national activities of the gang-up which had made Lucknow into one of its main bases of operation against Delhi. He has also dismally failed to curb some of his "colleagues." The most glaring example of the latter fact is afforded by the behaviour of his Labour Minister, Sucheta Kripalani.

One has hesitated in writing about the activities of this lady for fear of being charged with lack of a feeling of chivalry. She seems to be neither ignorant nor really so innocent, as she was painted to be in the Assembly by the Chief Minister.

For instance, in connection with this exhibition, a secret meeting was held at the residence of Kishan Pal Singh, (Raja of Kurri-Sidhauli), the deputy leader

of the Jan Sangh Assembly Party. Apart from the host and Raja Yaduvendra Dutt Dube, leader of the Jan Sangh Assembly Party, Nana Deshmukh and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, hoeses of the Jan Sangh and RSS, were also present, it is reported, to discuss some unknown matters with Sucheta Kripalani.

However, it is reported that one of the subjects discussed during the secret parleys related to the forthcoming bye-election in Amroha. Sucheta Kripalani was assured that her husband would have the fullest support of the Jan Sangh in that election to fill the seat of late Maulana Hifzur Rehman, these reports say.

Sucheta Kripalani had rushed to inaugurate their anti-Nehru exhibition after this. If it is a coincidence, it is rather an odd one! Since then both the candidature of Acharya Kripalani and the All India Jan Sangh's support to him have been announced in the press.

INDEPENDENT WORK?

I shall quote just one more instance. It is fairly known that during the crisis, when efforts were being made to collect donations, etc. for the Chief Minister's Fund, Sucheta Kripalani had actually declined at some places to accept any money which was being given to her at the time of her visit. She had asked the collectors to buy certain things and give them to her so that she could utilise them in the separate, independent work she was doing with some others "for the Jawans."

Her argument was that if she accepted money she "would have to deposit it in the Chief Minister's Fund and nobody knew how that would be used..."

Was it not in line with the campaign her redoubtable hus-

band was running throughout the country?

The conclusion drawn is that Sucheta Kripalani is acting not only as J. B. Kripalani's agent inside the Congress (that would be an understandable weakness and perhaps, to an extent excusable), but as the agent of his anti-national policies to further which he has shown preparedness to ally with the very devil.

Jan Sangh is, ever since his Waterloo in Bombay, J. B. Kripalani's firmest ally and it has therefore been a great favourite of Sucheta also. Jan Sangh's local paper has been very kind to her, reporting her speeches as no other paper has done and, in her turn, she has been mouthing the very things which are most dear to the Jan Sangh ideology, against Menon, against Nehru, against the Nation's accepted policies.

Even the episode of her forced dissociation from the exhibition has not failed to uncover her politics. She was the first to announce her dissociation. But while doing so she said that her feelings had been hurt because, "the role of Mahatma Gandhi and his followers in the freedom struggle had been lowered..."

Sucheta has not seen or heard anything against the national policies, against the Prime Minister, against other leaders of the Congress such as Maulana Azad, or against the whole Muslim community which has been sought to be described as anti-national and treacherous in the exhibition. She sees no effort in it to run down our war effort or to malign our preparedness.

MINISTER A PATRON

It is welcome that Banarasi Das has also condemned the exhibition in unmistakable terms and disclaimed any association with it. But it is not true that he was not associated with it. Even letters written to him have been addressed on pads which carried his name on the top as the Chief Patron. Posters announcing the

same thing were displayed in the exhibition and elsewhere. Without his sanction the Information Department stall would not have been sent to the exhibition.

Banarasi Das, in the present set up, is a powerful man. He is described as the Chief Minister's right-hand man and he certainly carried himself about like that one. It is impossible that he could be deceived, though it is quite possible that he did not imagine or know the extent to which the RSS-Jan Sangh men would go so as to bring about this catastrophe on his head also.

It was his anti-Communism that took him there. He did not realise that anti-Communism was only a facade, in this instance, to mount a despicable and treasonable campaign against the national leadership and its policies.

NO BAN AS YET

And, it is because of these things that despite the storm in the legislature and outside in the State, the exhibition has not yet been banned, the filthy pavilion through which they are preaching Godseism, has not yet been confiscated or destroyed.

One or two posters, which the organisers had been forced to remove, or repaint a little, are being brazenly and defiantly published in the Jan Sangh's daily to tell the readers what they have been forced to remove from the exhibition!

The bureaucracy has shown remarkable apathy in dealing with this anti-national exhibition. The D.I.R. are rusting in their sheath. They seem to come out of their hiding only when Communists or trade union and Kisan Sabha workers have to be attacked.

The exhibition has now fallen into such low esteem of the common people that even the hardened Jan Sanghis are disclaiming any connection with it. They say it is the handiwork of the Vidyarthi Parishad.

It is however, the same Vidyarthi Parishad, the students' organisation of the Jan Sangh and RSS, which had started the riots in UP just on the eve of the elections, beginning from Aligarh. The Vidyarthi Parishad was used then as it is being used now.

TENSING ADDS

ANOTHER FEATHER TO HIS CAP

★ From Masood Ali Khan

MOSCOW, March 11:

Tensing Norkay, India's "Tiger of the Snows" has added another mountaineering triumph to his victorious record.

ALONG with another seven Soviet mountaineers, Tensing attempted to climb the "Roof of Europe", the mountain peak of Elbruz, 5,833 metres high. The expedition was led by champion of the USSR, mountaineer Joseph Kakhiani. Though Tensing was forced to give up the attempt on the summit because of very strong winds and frost, he reached the "Haven of the Eleven"—high up on the mountain.

Tensing declared that he was happy to have climbed the mountain together with Soviet mountaineers who were the bravest, the strongest and the most reliable comrades in the world.

Tensing also appreciated the fact that the Soviet climbers do not use "coolies" to do the donkey work of hauling the heavy equipment up the mountains. They carry everything

themselves and thus establish records relying on their own strength.

It was pointed out to me here that when last year a group of British mountaineers came to the Soviet Union to climb the Panirs along with Soviet friends, their biggest complaint here was that there were no Sherpas provided to carry the heavy burdens, and everyone was expected to do equal work.

Izvestia published a smiling photo of our Tensing climbing the Elbruz. He is wearing a Russian fur hat and holds his mountaineering hatchet high. As the climb was accomplished on the eve of the International Women's Day, Tensing dedicated it to this happy date and declared that he had kept the promise given to his younger daughter Nima.



Some of the anti-Nehru posters at the Jan Sangh exhibition.