

# GLORY TO

**H**ISTORY was made on September 13 by the two lakhs, who marched through Delhi to Parliament of the Republic. In the years to come, the marchers will tell their grand-children of that day of days in the nation's capital. Nothing can make the glory of those hours fade. Nothing can erase from the memory of the Indian people—and indeed, of the people of the whole world—the triumph of September 13. The telegrams and the letters pour into the Central Office of the Communist Party: **CONGRATULATIONS** from every part of this country, from every country to the vanguard of Indian democracy, which made history with its marching feet.

A month before the great day, **NEW AGE** (August 18) declared that it would be the "mightiest march" ever: it could "dwarf all the other demonstrations which have taken place before Parliament till now." The sceptics scoffed. The cynics smiled. Our enemies called us liars. Our friends asked anxiously, is it really possible?

Two days before September 13, as we went to press last week, **NEW AGE** again said: "No March like this has ever taken place in post-independence India", "there has been no March as great as this"...

What gave us the confidence to say this? Communist Party Chairman **S. A. DANGE**, as he addressed the gigantic rally after the March, spoke of the victory of Marxism-Leninism. It was the Red Flag, the Communist Party, its links with the working masses, the sound of their marching feet... which made us sure that September 13

would be a day to commemorate always in the history of the Indian masses...

We knew that our policies were right, that our people would endorse these policies by responding to our call.

The monopoly press faked stories of statements by "organisations" (some totally non-existent!) calling on "the people" to boycott the "Red March". Goondas were

# RED FLAG

hired to throw stones. Rumours of "clashes" were deliberately spread. And dollars were distributed frantically as never before, to pay for provocateurs, for anti-Communist posters, for lies in the monopoly press, for anything which could hold up the tide...

The little men of reaction tried in vain to hold the giant back. Nothing could stop him. The Indian working man was up on his feet, awake and on the move: no halt till the goal is reached.

Even we, who were confident of the people's response, underestimated its extent: double the number we expected even in the last days, came on September 13.

It was the victory of the Communist Party. It was the success of the Red Flag.

It was the glorious triumph of the millions of workers, peasants and middle-class men and women, who rallied behind our petition.

Each marcher went back a new man, filled with the inspiration which the unity of masses alone can give. As this new inspiration is poured back into the towns and villages whence they came, millions more will stand up and prepare to march and do battle in the coming weeks...

The days that come are days of fresh victories for the Red Flag.

The days that come will be days when through the doors of the Communist Party of India will pour fresh thousands of sons and daughters of the working people... new members of the Party that fights in the best interests of this land of ours... The Great March will be followed by the mass

recruitment into the Party of the thousands who marched and who toiled to make the March a March without parallel.

Glory to the Red Flag! Glory to the Communist Party of India! Glory to the Indian people!

**NEW AGE**  
COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY



# NATIONAL PRESS ON GREAT MARCH

However grudgingly it might have been, the press could not but give recognition to the unprecedentedly mighty and representative character of the Great March on Parliament.

**T**IMES of India's news report described it as "the loudest reverberation of the common man's resentment against the tax-burden... a 3 1/2 mile long procession organised by the Communist Party of India.

"Drawn from all parts of the country... they walked through the heart of the metropolis carrying innumerable red flags and banners... It was one continuous stream of men, and women and children who marched for more than two hours in a well-organised manner..."

"The Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, came out to the balcony of Parliament to see the vast expanse of humanity filling Parliament Street..."

As part of sidelights the paper's staff reporter mentioned: "About 80 per cent of the processionists came from outside Delhi and mostly from rural areas... Slogans were shouted in as many dialects as there are states in the Indian Union."

Patriot which gave the most extensive coverage to the Great March reported that "the capital on Friday thrilled to the sound of marching feet..."

"It was a historic march, of two lakhs of people from all parts of the country..."

"The vast (Ramlika) grounds were packed and overflowing; it was a seething mass of humanity, the like of which Delhi had not seen in years..."

"The most striking aspect of the Great March was the discipline of the participants. There was not a single untoward incident during the entire three-mile march, despite stray, cheap attempts to provoke the processionists."

"The entire three mile route was lined with rows upon rows of citizens who cheered the processionists as they marched on... The people of Delhi identified themselves completely with the marchers."

"Watching the procession, one saw the whole diversity of India marching in step..."

The Indian Express report described the demonstration as the "biggest ever outside Parliament House."

"Nearly a lakh of people jam-packed the roundabout in front of the northern gate of Parliament House and also a considerable portion of Parliament Street..."

"An idea of the magnitude of the demonstration can be had from the fact that (from the dais built in the roundabout at the northern gate of Parliament House, from where Chairman S. A. Dange addressed the demonstrators) one could see a sea of heads for nearly half-a-mile."

The Statesman, in cautious understatement headlined its report: "Over 75,000 Join the Great March" and recognised the high sense of discipline displayed by the marchers.

The Birla-owned Hindustan Times left no stone unturned to misrepresent and throw

in prices of all essential commodities of daily consumption has found eloquent expression in the massive 'People's Petition to Parliament', submitted by the Communist Party to the Lok Sabha... the government can ill afford to persist in its apathetic attitude... Their ostrich-like approach to the price problem will plunge the country into economic catastrophe if it is not re-orientated forthwith. The government has been warned."

Patriot of September 15, said in course of an editorial: "As a demonstration of disciplined democratic action the 'march' to Parliament House to present what has been called by the Communist Party 'the Great Petition' was indeed impressive."

"The demands made in it concern issues that are agitating not merely the Communist Party but many others, among whom the most vocal in recent times has been the Congress itself. Everyone agrees that unless drastic measures are taken to arrest the spiral, our economy will be damaged beyond repair and all our efforts at planning and all our efforts at reduction of taxes, cancellation of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme, nationalization of banking, the oil industry and foreign trade" and, cleansing the

administration of corruption are demands that have been made by every democratic party in the country with varying emphasis. In fact a Congress member's resolution for the nationalization of banking recently brought the issue before Parliament squarely as a reform urgently needed."

"The demands made by the Communist Party in their petition very largely reflect democratic public opinion in the country and they will

openly be opposed only by a small group of men who though they may have influence on certain sections of the Congress are realizing that public opinion will not permit any Government hereafter to put the clock back in this country."

"... Unlike political parties who have their roots in a dead past, the Communist Party of India is realistically responding to the challenge of the times."

While accusing the CPI of blowing hot and cold in the same breath it is the Indian Express itself which is guilty of this sin. For, while the editorial assumes a welcome democratic stand in one place ("Nobody should grudge it—CPI—its success, for such peaceful petitions, processions and demonstrations are an accepted democratic process") the prospects of the people continuing to peacefully struggle for the demands of the petition—even to the extent of going on a general strike—this prospect completely upsets the "democratic" balance of Seth Goenka's Express, and it reverts to familiar name-calling, "wolves" and what not.

Utterly Desperate Similarly, while conceding that it was "the biggest ever demonstration", the editorial nonchalantly declares that "it is not at all difficult to collect a crowd or stage a procession for any colourable cause." Sethji and his scribes appear so utterly desperate that they don't mind if they make themselves look stupid and ridiculous.

The Free Press Journal of Bombay in its editorial on September 16 titled "Fair Warning" said: "Popular discontent over post-Budget rise

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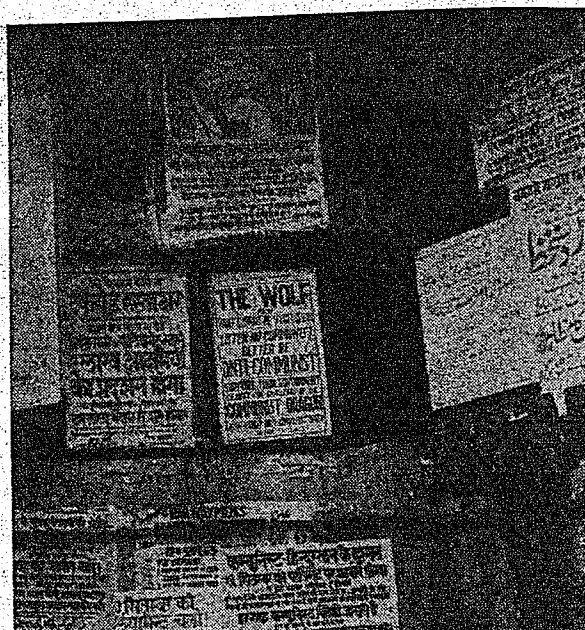
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Scurrilous posters brought out by professional anti-Communists disfigured Delhi walls. Here one in English ("The Wolf") and several in Hindi and Urdu have been put up next to posters calling on people to join in the Great March. —Photo: R. Parasher.

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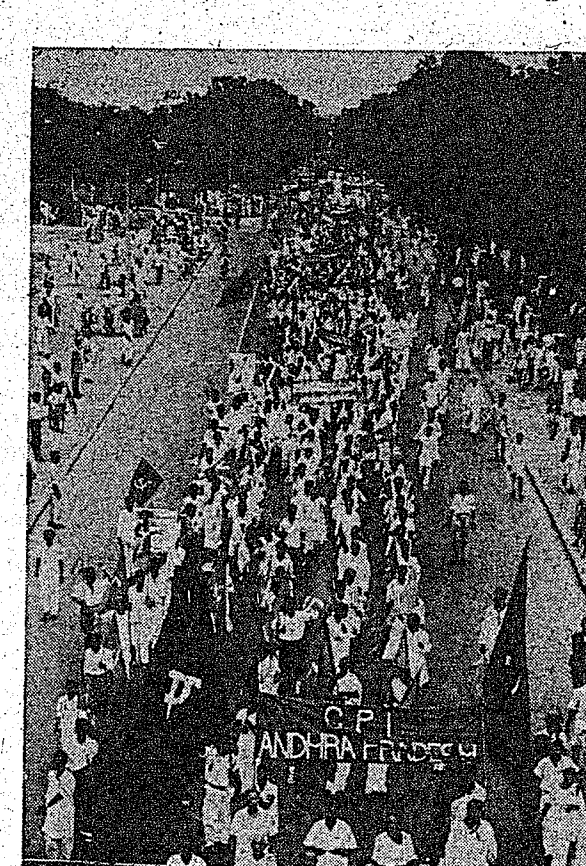
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PEOPLES PETITION TO PARLIAMENT

The Central Executive Committee of the National Council of the Communist Party of India meeting in New Delhi adopted the following resolution on September 17 on the Great Petition Campaign.

★ It lies in the fact that it was composed of workers, peasants and the middle class intelligentsia, who constitute the bedrock of Indian democracy, national independence and socialism.

★ It lies in the fact that it embraced people speaking every language in India, people of every caste, creed and religion, hailing from the remotest parts of the country such as Assam, Kashmir and Kerala. It had a very large contingent of women, and that, too, from all states.

★ It lies in the fact that it symbolised the unity of the progressive and healthy forces of our country, the forces of genuine unity and national integration.

★ It lies in the fact that it indicated the path of combining mass actions with Parliamentary methods for securing national advance and welfare of the people.

★ It lies in the fact that it demonstrated the vitality of the Communist Party and the love and respect of the people for it, despite the efforts of reaction to malign and cripple it in the wake of the Chinese attack.

★ It lies in the fact that the Communist Party of India has proved by its deeds during the days of the national crisis that the ideology of Marxism-Leninism represents the highest form of patriotism, and has enabled it, while standing for national defence, to demarcate its policies sharply from jingoism, communalism and slavish reliance on imperialist aid.

Speaking concretely, the slogans and policies enunciated in the Great Petition, which were a continuation of the policy adopted by the Party since the Emergency created by the Chinese attack, constitute the correct path for a successful execution of the triple urgent tasks of national defence, strengthening the economy of the country and improving the living standard of the people.

The reaction of the press, staggered by the size of the procession and rally of September 13, is trying to minimise the numbers that participated in the demonstration. Not a single observer, however, with all his hostility to the Communist Party has failed to admit that the demonstration was the biggest ever witnessed in New Delhi since the attainment of national independence. Never has India seen such a Petition or such a March.

Apart from numbers, an equally important feature of

## CPI CENTRAL EXECUTIVE CALLS FOR

# Carrying Forward Success Of Great Petition

the demonstration commented upon by all observers without exception was its discipline, peacefulness, militancy and purposefulness.

The historic success of the Great March, however, does not lie merely in these features.

★ It lies in the fact that it was composed of workers, peasants and the middle class intelligentsia, who constitute the bedrock of Indian democracy, national independence and socialism.

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nationalisation of banks, the oil industry and foreign trade. Only such a course can curb and weaken the hold of foreign and Indian monopoly capital, give relief to the people and strengthen independence, democracy and freedom.

The Communist Party of India does not claim that it is the only force in the country working for these objectives and in this direction. In fact, our Party strained every nerve to secure the co-operation and support of all progressive parties and elements in the country in the organisation of the Petition and the Great March. These efforts did secure a noteworthy response. It is clear as daylight that only the united efforts of all progressives, democrats and freedom-loving elements in the country can lead to the desired end. The Communist Party of India is pledged to continue its efforts in this direction.

Therefore, it is necessary to launch in the near future a mighty action of the working class and salaried employees to secure Dearness Allowance linked to the cost of living index, a rise in the existing DA scales, and securing stable bonus from the employers in order to overcome the fall in the real wages and standards of living of the working people. Trade unions of all shades of opinion in the country should be brought on a common platform of action to achieve this.

In the rural areas, the peasant is fleeced by the capitalists through the high prices of manufactured goods. He is deprived of the true gains of his labour by the wholesalers, moneylenders and bankers. On top of this, new land revenue surcharges have been imposed on him, causing acute hardship and widespread discontent.

### CPI Welcomes Progressive Moves

The Communist Party of India greets and welcomes the progressive forces within the Congress and other parties that have raised their voice against the CDS, the Gold Control Order, heavy taxes on the common people, rising prices and for the nationalisation of banks. It welcomes the removal of certain reactionary Cabinet ministers. It calls for reorganisation of the Cabinet in a progressive direction. If cannot be denied that the campaign for the Great Petition has been a contributory factor in bringing about a reconsideration of the new imposts on the people by the government.

### Urgent Tasks

The Party and the mass organisations have to focus on these questions in the immediate future, and work out proper forms of mass action on the basis of worker-peasant unity.

a All the state councils of the Party should immediately report to the Party ranks and sympathisers in the districts on the significance and achievements of the Great Petition and the March.

b The campaign for the Great Petition has thrown up a very large number of new militants who have to be immediately absorbed and consolidated within the Party. Hence mass enrolment of new Party members and their education has become an urgent task. The achievements of the Great March must be consolidated and made permanent.

The slogan of Bombay Bandh was first put forward by the Communist Party in Bombay. The Party greets the trade unions and other forces that made the slogan a success on August 20. The united peaceful protest strike of the industrial workers and middle class employees of Bombay on August 20, as also the Great March are harbingers of other peaceful mass actions to follow.

This means that the Party cannot rest on its oars. Mass movements have to be developed in the states so that the CDS and the Gold Control Order are scrapped and the taxes on the poorer sections of the people drastically reduced, and the nationalisation of banks, oil industry and foreign trade is realised.

The continuous steep rise in prices, the failure to link

The Central Executive Committee offers its greetings and reports its appreciation of the immense toil and efforts of all Party members and sympathisers who worked for the success of the Great Petition and the March. The Committee also greets warmly all those who participated in the Great Petition and the March. Let us move forward with confidence and faith. Let success inspire us to greater toil and endeavour, to greater unity and discipline.

The continuous steep rise in prices, the failure to link



# STORY OF A BAD COOK

I have a sneaking admiration for Editor MUL-GAOKAR: How he can doll up Birlaji's HINDUSTAN TIMES with juicy bits about the Left. He is a fervent campaigner, a crusader without the cross.

BUT he has been away to West Germany—sight-seeing or educational trip? Or, is it for brain-washing (pardon me, perhaps I should say, brain-de-washing, should I not?) So when the Communist Great March was to come, others at the Hindustan Times had a brain wave (that is, whatever of it was left behind).

There is Mr. Ram Singh, whose appointment in Hindustan Times, I hear, was the result of very high-level advice. You must know Mr. Ram Singh: he is the editor of Thought—very thoughtful of Washington. And as a sideline, he is also the "Diplomatic Correspondent" of Hindustan Times. The type of diplomats he meets you and I can easily guess. And perhaps because he is a Diplomatic Correspondent, he drinks his coffee at the Embassy Restaurant (for an occasional change from the American Embassy?)

Now, the Reds posed a headache for Mr. Ram Singh and his cohorts. How to do the Commies in the eye? Must bring out something that could link them up with the Chinese! Dange is getting too much publicity and it is so difficult to

pin him down as a Chinese agent. Must do something to smear him as being in league with the Chinese.

So the evening before the Great March, the Evening News (a Hindustan Times byproduct) came out with the sensational news that as the Communists were putting up Red Flags on lamp posts near Willington Hospital, a Chinese Embassy car suddenly appeared, quickly took photos of the Red Flags and sped away as soon as people turned towards them. One of the spectators, the Hindustan Times reported, even took the matter up with an Additional District Magistrate!

So, the Commies were cornered: red hot "proof" has been manufactured of Chinese "conspiracy" with the Reds' Great March.

Next morning, Hindustan Times repeated the story on its front page. I scanned the other papers—not a line of such a hitting story anywhere. Rather strange that the newsmen of the other papers did not follow it up, despite the fact that the Evening News had broken it fourteen hours before. But, then other newspapers lack the enterprise

and the ethics of the Hindustan Times.

Next morning Hem Barua dutifully took up the cudgels in the Lok Sabha, thundered about the shocking entente between the Chinese Embassy and the local traitors. Poor Prime Minister could only mumble that he would enquire into the matter, and added sarcastically that he was not intelligent enough to always understand the member's questions beginning with A, B, C, and ending up with X, Y, Z.

Meanwhile something else was happening in Hindustan Times office. Deputy Commissioner Bose-Mullick of Delhi Administration rang up enquiring about the source of the Hindustan Times story. For, Bose-Mullick had checked up with all the ADMs and not one knew anything about the fake spectator, who was supposed to have contacted an ADM.

Bose-Mullick, I hear, tried it several times. But how could he find "the reporters?" He had gone on leave! And besides, even if he had traced him with his big police force, how could the poor reporter help him, since there was no A.D.M. at all—unless one of Mr. Ram Singh's friends volunteered to pose as an A.D.M.?

So, two days later, the Prime Minister told the Lok Sabha that he could get no confirmation of the story. But it was not lost Labour for Hindustan Times. After all, the story was meant for masters who mattered. Those who pay the piper, don't they call the tune?

BUT I shall tell you of the mental turmoil in the Hindustan Times office the afternoon the Great March reached Parliament House. What figure to put as the strength of the procession? Play it down—make it ten thousand, said one of the seasoned Ram Singhites. Mr. Ram Singh himself was a bit more kind-hearted to the Commies: he allowed it to go up to eighteen thousand. But PTI soon gave it as fifty thousand and the UNI, beyond a lakh. Across the road, the Statesman put it at over 70 thousand. So, the wise man at the desk avoided mentioning any figure.

In between a rather comic skit took place. The Indian underling of an American correspondent frantically rang up: Piteously he implored that the Hindustan Times must not put it at more than thirty thousand. How could he otherwise explain the fading away of the Reds in the last one year?

I felt pity—real compassion—for the shell-shocked chap, trying to pass off as a journalist.

## TAILPIECE

The Hindustan Times story mentioned earlier about photographing of the Red Flags is quite "interesting." Look at the way it was described under the sub-head: SEVERAL PROTESTS.

"One of the persons who was stated to have seen the Chinese officials taking photographs, contacted an Additional District Magistrate soon after the incident.

"Several protests that the Communists were putting up flags on government property also poured in to the office of the New Delhi Municipal Committee."

And this is what the Prime Minister stated in the Lok Sabha on September 16:

"No reports of the complaints were made by any person about the flying of these Communist flags either to the police, or to any magistrate or to the New Delhi Municipal Committee."

Is any comment necessary?

—DIARIST



# "This is a Warning"

## Dange Declares at the Great March Rally

ers. They constitute a total and perfect picture of the blending of nationalism and internationalism. We work for the defence and development of the country and at the same time follow the policy of international friendship.

Dange said: "Some people accuse us that we are friends of the Soviet Union. Yes, we make no secrets about it. We are in friendship with the Soviet Union because the Soviet Union and other socialist countries helped us during the freedom struggle and after independence. The Soviet Union has given us Bhilai; Rumania has given us the oil plant; and so on. The imperialist countries did not come forward to help in India's industrialisation. All they wanted was India as their market. It is because of this friendship that the Soviet Union has come forward to provide defence aid to India and this help proves that they do not consider the Chinese action to be a socialist action.

"This demonstration shows the unity of people beyond the boundaries of religion and regional feelings. It is this unity of the people that will defend the country and resist any attack either from Pakistan or China, either on the pretext of so-called Chinese socialism or Pakistan's religion. We shall throw in all our might to defend our country, but we do not want anybody else to come from outside to defend us."

"Today we have come here to demand a change in the government's policies. We will have this change brought about but we do not want it to come through the use of force. We want this Parliament which represents the people of the country to take note of this massive protest and alleviate the hardship of the people. If government does not change its policies, then the government will be changed."

Dange said the number of demonstrators exceeded the expectations of even the most optimistic organisers. He asked the Hindustan Times correspondent who estimated it at 20 thousand to learn his counting and adding afresh, the same went for his employer also.

He said that even partial arrangements could not be made for extending comforts to the marchers, but they have taken all the difficulties in their stride. Dange thanked the Delhi Administration, the municipal committees and all friends who cooperated with the Party to help bring about this gigantic demonstration.

The CPI Chairman referred to PSP member Hem Barua's call attention motion in the Lok Sabha about some Chinese Embassy people taking photographs of red flags. He asked what was wrong with anybody taking photographs of red flags. "If the Chinese try to make capital out of it or show it as proof of a revolt of the Indian people against the Nehru Government, we shall give them a proper reply," he said.

## 1-25 Crore Signatures

Dange informed the crowd that one crore two lakhs fifty thousand signatures have already been presented to Parliament. More signatures were coming in and these would be submitted to Parliament in another lot.

Referring to international situation, Dange specifically stressed the needs and reasons which guided world powers to sign the test ban treaty. It was a step forward to ensure peace. He mentioned the tension that grew in the Caribbean during the Cuban blockade and emphasised that it was because of

the "correct Soviet step" that tension was eased.

He expressed sorrow and anxiety that China did not accept the test ban treaty. "They say it is fraud. What does it amount to? Does it not mean that unless China perfected their own atom bomb, they would oppose any measure to stop the tests of nuclear weapons that pollute the world?"

## Vote of Assent

The entire audience raised hands to assent when Dange asked "Is it not our responsibility to make the Chinese see reason?" Dange said "we call upon China to immediately accept the test ban treaty, the Colombo proposals, enter into an agreement with India over the border and take steps which will ensure peace in the world."

Dange then reverted to the national situation and described the movement of the people before independence and after independence. He narrated the concessions and rights which the workers and people have secured from the capitalists and the government. He said "these concessions were not obtained through anybody's mercy. They were fought for and achieved."

"Socialism has come as a goal of progress and the Congress has promised socialism for the country and that is why we demand that this promise be implemented in practice. Now, when we talk about it, they trot out the plea of Chinese aggression. We say, we shall defend the country and uphold nonalignment, but do not try to depress our living and working conditions. Otherwise we would fight back.

"We can under no circumstances allow foreign troops in Indian territory. We agree that we must take help, that did not mean that through subterfuge, foreign forces should entrench here, say, through the air exercise agreement and the Voice of America deal. It is good that these schemes have been spiked, but they indicate how the infiltration of reactionary forces occur."

Dange said "we support Nehru because we consider his nonalignment and planned development policies are correct. But if Nehru stands against the people or takes anti-people measures, we shall oppose him also."

He described in detail the contribution made by workers, peasants and the common people towards the defence effort. "They met every demand made on them during the Chinese aggression. But following the ceasefire, the situation changed and the

capitalists took every advantage of the fluid condition in the country. Our living and working conditions were not safeguarded, exploitation increased. Then came the budget which constitutes the biggest mistake of the Congress party and Prime Minister Nehru is also partially responsible for it.

"To remedy it and repeal the anti-people measures, we had to act. Initially, some wise men scoffed at us, but then its effect started to be felt. Then came the Kamaraj Plan; ministers after ministers toppled. We say good work done, but that is not enough. More is necessary. Hence we call upon all the ministers and capitalist agents to wake up and see what is brewing, to take note of it and amend their steps."

"We call upon TTK, the new Finance Minister to throw away the gold control order and the compulsory deposit scheme. We demand control prices and simultaneously we indicate alternate resources necessary for the country's defence and development."

## Petition Demands

Dange explained in detail the demands of the Great Petition and remarked that the measures suggested in it were the only correct economic measures and stems from the fact that socialist economy was far better and more generating than capitalist economy. He ridiculed the American summer suit, over Bokaro and said, "friends of America in our country can hardly raise their heads in shame".

Dange explained why the question of release of political prisoners was not taken up in the Great Petition. He said all signatories to the petition were not Communists. They have accepted the leadership of the Communist Party in opposing the tax burden, but that did not mean that they would also come forward to demand the release of Communist prisoners. "This would have restricted the scope of the petition and reduced the number of signatures. Dange demanded that all the political detenus must immediately be released.

Talking about the resources for the country, Dange said he would suggest that the wealth of the relatives of ministers who have earned it during the tenure of the ministers should be taken over towards the country's development projects.

"This should be done because this money has been made through ministerial influence and therefore the relatives could easily go back to the position where

\* On Page 16

PAGE FIVE

# THE CHEEK OF A CHAMBER SECRETARY

Santosh Nath, secretary of the Punjab and Delhi Chamber of Commerce lost his head seeing the preparations for the Great March by the workers of Punjab and Delhi. He, therefore, issued a circular letter to all employers who are members of the Chamber to take action against the delinquent workers if they participated in the demonstration.

In his letter, he argued that the proposed demonstration was against the industrial truce resolution because it was a "protest against the fiscal measures adopted by the Government of India, for Compulsory Savings from incomes."

He told the members that the industrial truce resolution enjoined upon the workers organisations that they would support measures for the defence efforts in the country. "The proposed demonstration is, therefore, against the above agreement and anti-national."

This was exactly the argument put forward at the 21st session of the Indian Labour Conference and rejected. Santosh Nath only repeats it and on the basis of this profound argument advises the employers to take action against the workers and dares to call the Great March "anti-national."

Secretaries of Chambers of Commerce may not be known particularly for their intelligence but at least they are expected to know the ILC decisions. It is for the trade unions to point out a right job for Santosh Nath but we may suggest that instead of "advising" the employers, he better be "advised" about employers' rights and privileges and employers' obligations. And, we have also to tell him that since the employers have not stood by the industrial truce resolution, the workers are also equally free to forget all about it.

Lastly, one can point out that by trying to term this democratic protest of hundreds of thousands as "anti-national", Santosh Nath does not himself become a patriot either. His Federation is panicky, and no amount of bravado can hide it. Any way, he may try his best to convince the employers of the need to take action against the workers and then reap the harvest of his folly.

Here is the full text of the Circular letter:

## PUNJAB AND DELHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Phelps Building,  
9-A, Connaught Place,  
NEW DELHI.

Ref: 265/X-(b)

September 10, 1963.

## PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION/PROTEST MARCH BY INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIVES ON THE 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1963.

Dear Sir,

You may have seen from the Newspapers that certain Political leaders propose to take out a mass procession on the 13th of September, 1963, to protest against the fiscal measures adopted by the Government of India, for Compulsory Savings from Incomes.

It is likely that your employees would join such demonstrations at the instance of their unions.

It has been agreed by the Workers' Organisations at a tripartite level that they would support measures for mobilising resources for the defence efforts in the country. The proposed demonstration is, therefore, against the above agreement and anti-national.

It must also be borne in mind that when the operatives stay away from work, production and office work would suffer and this would be in contravention of the Industrial Truce Resolution.

Such concerted staying away from work constitutes a strike on the part of the employees and it is open to the employer to take action against them. This is by way of advice only and you are free to take whatever action you deem fit in the matter, as per details in the enclosure.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/  
(Santosh Nath)  
SECRETARY.

Enclosure: Para 2 (g) Section 9  
Payment of Wages Act  
Rule 71 of ID Act  
Clause II (III) Code of Discipline

# NEW AGE

## Our Next Special Number

The NEW AGE of October 13 will be the Tenth Anniversary Number, dedicated to Communist Press and its glorious history with special articles and messages.

Make Sure of Your Copy.



## This Issue:

The photographs published in this issue are by Virendra Kumar except those specifically acknowledged.



We regret that we could not publish in this issue reports about West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnad marchers, as these had not been received up to the time we go to press. Next week we hope to give you these reports.

—EDITOR

SEPTEMBER 22, 1963



# BIHAR CONTINGENT CARRIES WITH IT Unforgettable Memory Of Great March

★ By Our Correspondent

The Upper India Express was a sight to see. From the first bogey to the last, it was a sea of Red Flags and festoons. The whole platform on the Patna junction resounded with slogans of the "Great Petition".

HUNDREDS of Patna citizens had come to the station to see off the Bihar contingent enjoining the Upper India Express on September 11. The marchers had booked a special ninety-seater bogey, decorated with posters, festoons and flags, which was attached in the rear of the train.

But the marchers had overflowed the bogey and occupied other compartments, decorating them with flags and festoons. Contingents from Bhagalpur and Monghyr had occupied other compartments from before. Batches of workers had occupied three bogies down to the sleeper coach from Calcutta itself.

Thus, the Upper India Express that day, was transformed into a

after Bihar, the train evoked enthusiastic response at several stations in the Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds gathered to respond to the slogans of the marchers.

Even when the train was in great speed, villagers gathered to watch and cheer the gaily decorated train carrying the Great Petition and the marchers to Delhi. It was a national event, unprecedented in the long and chequered history of our great national movement.

Similar scenes were witnessed next day when the Howrah-Delhi Express was converted into another Petition special by the time it reached Moghal Sarai. A special

Maidan just in time to fall into the line.

During the Great March, at the head of the Bihar contingent stood the members of the state secretariat and the state executive committee—Karyanand Sharma and Kishori Prasanna Sinha, veterans of the national movement and the Kisan movement in Bihar; Chandrasekhar Sinha of Barauni, who has recently come out of jail; Bhogendra Jha, hero of several kisan battles and secretary of the State Kisan Sabha; Ramavtar Sharma, leader of anti-evilition struggles of Bhagalpur, Suraj Prasad, leader of the canal rates movement in Shahabad; Chaturanan Misra and Chinoo Mukherjee, leaders of the coalminers in Hazaribagh and Dhanbad, and Indradeep Sinha, secretary of the Bihar State Council of the CPI.

As one passed through the serried ranks of the Bihar contingent, one noticed several other remarkable facts: Eight out of the twelve Communist MLAs in Bihar were marching in the procession. They were Chandrasekhar Singh, Suraj Prasad, Sheobachan Singh, Rajkumar Purbey, Baidyamath Yadava, Dr. Bisheshwar Khan, Ramavtar Singh and Basta Sorin.

There were about thirty women, some with babes in arms, about half of whom were coalminers from Giridih and Bermo (Hazaribagh). In the Jamshepur batch was Brijbai, a worker heroine with a record of several glorious battles against the employers and the police. There were youth and students, workers, advocates, journalists, doctors, apart from trade union and kisan activists.

The working class had responded enthusiastically to the call of the Delhi March. There were 14 from Jamshepur (steel industry), 110 from Hazaribagh and 18 from Dhanbad (coalminers), 12 from Dalmianagar (cement), 10 from Barauni (oil), 5 from Monghyr (tobacco) and more than a dozen from the railways.

There were several more from the smaller industries like textiles, cycles, electricity, press, bidi, etc. The rest were from the vast rural

# MAHARASHTRA'S RECORD

★ By Our Correspondent

IT was a grand and inspiring sight... the 1700 marchers from every part of Maharashtra. And even more inspiring was the story of the manner in which mass collections had been made to bring this vast contingent to Delhi.

In Bombay City alone, SEVENTY THOUSAND RUPEES had been collected in door-to-door collections in the chawls, at mill gates, in rupee notes and small coins... to send the 600 odd delegates who represented Bombay's working-class. It would take a whole book to tell of the warmth and affection with which money was paid for the ambassadors to Delhi by thousands of men and women. By their contributions, they declared their support for the Great March.

No other March has been financed as was this, with the donations of lakhs of workers and peasants. Pride of place as always went to the immortal Gini Kamgar Union. Its representatives marched with their heads erect, fresh from the recent grand BOMBAY BANDH strike action, which created working-class history. With the textile workers were engineering workers, bidi workers, workers from every industry... Specially large were the contingents from the textile unions of Jalgaon, Dhulia and Solapur.

Three hundred strong was the contingent from Nagar district... peasants from every tehsil in the district. Poona was well represented. So was Marathwada, with strong groups from Nanded, Bidli, Osmanabad. There were 90 from Kolhapur alone.

Youth and student organisations, women's organisations were all strongly represented.

At the head of the procession marched the members of the State Secretariat of the Party: S. G. Sardesai, Dr. G. Adhikari, S. G. Patkar, P. B. Vaidya, Sudam Deshmukh, V. D. Deshpande, S. N. Bhalerao.

The presence at the head of the procession of the Satara hero Nana Patil was an inspiration to the marchers.

Again of special significance was the wholehearted participation of the Lal Nishan Group, led by Dutta Deshmukh and S. K. Limaye, MP.

The famous literateur and Editor of daily Maratha, P. K. Atre, had come to Delhi especially for the March, and inspiring reports of the March have been appearing in that paper.

areas of Bihar, the biggest batch of 105 coming from Darbhanga. The contingent carried a huge poster depicting the departure of Morarji and Patil from the Central government but the continuance of their policies, thus pointing to the need of concentrating fire on them. This poster attracted considerable attention, throughout the four-mile long route of the procession and attracted a large number of photographers.

The Bihar contingent was a small part of this huge demonstration in the Capital. The contingent has been very greatly impressed and deeply imbued with the majesty, discipline and indefatigable fighting spirit of the demonstration and it is sure to carry the message of March to the distant working class bustles and villages, spread over all the seventeen districts of Bihar.

# FROM THE GLORIOUS LAND OF KERALA ★ By Pavan

Kerala is more than 3,000 kilometres away from Delhi. Still the enthusiasm of the Kerala people to participate in the Great March and to endorse the Great Petition of the Communist Party was not dimmed.

It is a fact, that the call for signing the Great Petition and joining the March came when the Kerala Party and people were engaged in a big struggle against some of the policies of the state government.

One of this was the agitation against the increase of bus fare. Statewide token satyagraha against bus fare increase was conducted on June 24. Then from July 1 to August 10, satyagraha, demonstrations, meetings etc., were conducted against the bus fare increase.

The struggle was a success and it embraced all opposition parties and non-party men, and government was forced to come down and reduce the fare. Then another campaign against the attempt of the state government to scrap the Agrarian Relations Act of former Communist government had to be conducted and it is still on.

Work of the Party in connection with the Great March and the Great Petition to Parli-

ment has got to be viewed in this background. What the Party did was to conduct this work along with the other struggles. Nonetheless meetings, demonstrations, squad work and money collection for the Great Petition went on in rapid strides in all parts of the state.

Cannanore District took the lead as usual and most effective squad work was carried on there. They collected the maximum number of signatures in Kerala, i.e., 1,70,339. In Calicut the Communist Mayor of the Corporation Manjunath Rai was the first man to sign the Petition. Many meetings and rallies were also held in the district. They had the credit of sending the largest number of marchers, from Kerala i.e., 21.

Here is the districtwise break up of the figures of the number of people who signed the petition: Trivandrum 60,200; Quilon 88,823; Alleppy 100,390; Kottayam 65,758; Ernakulam 82,582; Trichur 95,947;

Palghat 65,580; and Kozhikode 1,70,339.

Many more lakhs of people would have signed the petition and many more would have participated in the demonstration if the Party could attend to this campaign alone.

Still one has to admire the enthusiasm shown by Kerala people for the Great Petition. People from all walks of life have signed it. The demands raised in it have become popular slogans throughout Kerala.

Though PSP and other parties had formally dissociated from it, their followers signed in large numbers. There was no active opposition to it, from any quarters though some of the so-called "leading national dailies" made fun of it.

Every Keralite who participated in the March had to spend Rs. 250 on an average and the experiences of most of them showed that few had refused to contribute when approached for funds. It was Onam bonus time and many workers' unions sent their own contributions

Punjab, UP and Delhi provided the largest contingents to the Great March. By consensus of opinion, Punjab's was one of the most impressive, disciplined and organised of all. Much labour, planning at all levels and sacrifices by thousands of working people, including the marchers, had contributed to the result.

THE six weeks preceding the March saw seething mass activity in the Punjab—mass meetings and rallies, street corner meetings, mohalla meetings and village meetings; collection of signatures and raising of funds in factories, mohallas and villages to meet the expenses of those who could not afford to meet the entire expenses themselves.

Another significant feature was the emergence of star-collectors from amongst the ranks of workers—hostery and textile workers, rickshaw-pullers—who after a hard day's labour devoted their spare time to this work and came to the forefront.

Cash was collected in various ways. Appeals were made in public meetings and thous-



Women marchers from Punjab.

In this mass campaign over one and a half million people were covered, the total of signatures surpassed eleven lakhs and scores of star collectors emerged each with over two-thousand signatures to his credit.

A significant feature was the work of women squads in Amritsar, Jullundur, Nakodar, Phagwara, Ludhiana, Khanna, Karnal, Panipat, Bhiwani, Bhatthal etc. Their collection alone would be over fifty thousand.

The second was the state-level jatha led by CFI State secretary Avtar Singh Malhotra and composed of comrades from different districts. This jatha left Chandigarh on the morning of September 8, was taken round in processions through over twenty villages and towns on the way, where receptions were organised and mass meetings and rallies were held and in all it travelled two hundred miles before reaching its destination.

In Delhi itself it was given rousing receptions by mill-workers, first near Ajodhya Mill, then Birla Cloth Mill, then Delhi Cloth Mill and finally in Karampura (Swatantra Bharat Mill area).

# MARCHERS FROM KERALA

★ FROM FACING PAGE

from the much-needed amount of bonus money. The marchers were drawn from all walks of life, but mainly from workers and peasants.

Umni Raja, member of the National Council of the CPI and member of the state council secretariat led the marchers. There was kisan leaders like Kanthilote Kunhambu and V. V. Kunhambu among the marchers. There were old time Congress workers like Quilandy Chandukutty Nair and K. R. Raghavan Pillai. Old Communists like Korappettan and young Communists like Stanley were also there.

The Anthikkatt Chethu Thozhilali Union (Toddy Tappers' Union) had sent one of its most distinguished representatives, N. S. Sreedharan. Among those who came from Kottayam was one of the most beloved Party leaders K. T. Jacob. Alleppy working class sent people like Peter and S. Damodaran.

The working class of Calicut was represented by E. C. Bharathan, Ayyappan, Ramunni and a host of others. From Trivandrum came comparatively younger set of comrades who have the credit of electing a Party candidate to the Legislative Assembly in the face of a vicious anti-Communist campaign only recently.

They were all disciplined and proud to march in the streets of Delhi representing a state which has the distinction of electing first ever Communist government in India.

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# TRIUMPHANT MARCH OF PUNJAB PEOPLE Biggest Women Contingent

★ by OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Punjab contingent was led by the state secretary Avtar Singh Malhotra and other members of the state secretariat, Teja Singh Swatantra, Satyapal Dang, Satish Loomba, Jagjit Singh Anand and Darshan Singh Canadian. In front, were two huge red flags and a big banner with the words "Punjab State Council of CPI" in Punjabi, Hindi and English.

The bulk of the Punjab contingent came by train and bus. Fleets of buses came from Bhatinda, Hoshiarpur, Patiala and other places. Many more came by train.

## 3,000 By Cycles

Over three thousand came by cycles. Of these by far the biggest jatha came from Faridabad—it consisted of Bata shoe workers, textile and engineering, electric and tyre factory workers. From Bhiwani textile workers, from Sonepat cycle factory workers too were there.

Two notable cycle squads deserve special mention. One was a cycle jatha of nine peasants from Jalalabad (in Ferozepur district, near the Pak border) led by Satnam Singh. This thana committee collected thirty thousand signatures—overfulfilling its original quota by nearly three hundred per cent. Some of the star collectors were in the jatha, and the distance all of them covered in three days, was over 250 miles.

The second was the state-level jatha led by CFI State secretary Avtar Singh Malhotra and composed of comrades from different districts. This jatha left Chandigarh on the morning of September 8, was taken round in processions through over twenty villages and towns on the way, where receptions were organised and mass meetings and rallies were held and in all it travelled two hundred miles before reaching its destination.

In Delhi itself it was given rousing receptions by mill-workers, first near Ajodhya Mill, then Birla Cloth Mill, then Delhi Cloth Mill and finally in Karampura (Swatantra Bharat Mill area).

Special efforts had been made by leading women comrades such as Vimla Dang, Sheela Didi, Veeran, Shakuntala Sukhan, Jagir Kaur and others, to mobilise women for the march. And their efforts bore fruit in that the Punjab women's contingent was the biggest in the entire demonstration.

There were Hariana women in their traditional ghaghas and Punjabi women in the salvars and kamls, and some in saris. Many carried their babies and marched the entire distance shouting slogans heartily along with their other sisters. Most of them held flags, placards with the main slogans in their hands and gave grace and colour to the otherwise very militant contingent.

NEW AGE

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Placards Display Marchers' Demands

"Petition special" with flags, festoons, posters and bundles of nearly five lakh signatures collected in Bihar.

The Petition special was given similar send-offs at the stations like Phulwari Sharif, Danapore, Arrah, Buxar, etc., indeed up to the very borders of Bihar. Even

bogey booked by a contingent of coal miners from Hazaribagh was attached to the train.

There were other contingents from Calcutta, Patna, Buxar etc. A third big contingent had travelled by the North Eastern Railway to Lucknow and then to Delhi. Some came straight to the Ramlika

# E.M.S. Not In Peking Canard Refuted

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement to the press on September 17 concerning the alleged visit of E. M. S. Namboodiripad to Peking.

A news item has appeared in certain newspapers that Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad has surreptitiously gone to Peking from Moscow. This is an absolutely wrong report.

Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad is at present in the Soviet Union along with his wife and he has no plans whatsoever of visiting China.



Kisans from Rohtak District.



# GREAT MARCH INSPIRED U. P.

★ By Ramesh Sinha

Suddenly on September 10, a hush descended over the vast State of Uttar Pradesh which only till late last night had been seething with hectic life. Thousands of men and women in all the fifty-four districts who had strained might and main for nearly twelve weeks to carry out their assignment of collecting a million signatures on the Great Petition were, for a while, seized with a feeling of fatigue, and relaxed.

THEY had fulfilled their quota. Only fulfilled? No, they had fulfilled it three times over. The National Council of the Communist Party had fixed a quota of three lakh signatures and five thousand marchers. The State Secretariat had trebled the targets. The State Council had endorsed the decision of the Secretariat. Since then it was to be a million signatures and fifteen thousand marchers.

And now, they had fulfilled their quota. The whole State had been churned, someone inclined poetically had said, it had been churned just as the gods had churned the sea to get at the jug of divine nectar... These signatures too, with all the promise of a better future, were nectar to the famished and fighting people of Uttar Pradesh.

## GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

Theirs had not been a mean achievement. Never before in the history of the Party, not even during the last three general elections, had so many men and women, party and non-party, participated in a campaign run by the Party: never before had so many people been approached personally and individually. The great campaign had infused a new life—in



Kisans from Gazipur

the Party, in the mass organisations, and in the PEOPLE, COMMON PEOPLE, everywhere. It had already passed into legend, it had inspired poets and writers to write about it. As a poet put it, "From the mouths of the peasants and the workers we have heard the story: Today the people of the country have awakened, a new youthfulness has dawned, and a new wakefulness."

The tired hush, however, was temporary and the relaxation was the lull before the storm. Even before twenty-four hours had passed, life burst into activity, into an enormous sweeping movement towards Delhi.

The lull had been utilised for quiet last minute collections, for the realisation of promises for donations that had been made by thousands of people to help send the Marchers to Delhi. From naye paise to ten-rupee notes and the blue notes of hundred rupees—everything was gratefully accepted. Once again a record was broken—this time of mass collections. People should have seen from where the funds of the Communist Party come and how each paisa is soaked with the affection and confidence of those who are the hope of our future and the bedrock of our present.

The lull had also been utilised for giving final touches to the pungent placards and the colourful countless banners and bands that had been prepared for the journey to Delhi.

The villages once again sprung to life. Factories and chawls once again began to hum with activity. Two hundred and fifty buses were on the roads. Hundreds of cycles. Thousands rode on the trains. And still more thousands, from the neighbouring areas, marched on their feet. All to Delhi. All for the Great March. It was a festival—hadn't Marx once said that great movements of the people become their festivals?—It was a caravan

One does not know what happened suddenly, who in Lucknow, found time from the wretched wranglings that are going on there to impose a new ruler on the State, to put the screw on the police of the western districts. Muzaffarnagar and Meerut districts, from where nearly eighty buses were to come for the March, were refused bus permits on the afternoon of September 12. Just a few hours before they were scheduled to take off. They were told by the local authority that they could, if they wished, travel by government road-way buses. The government buses could not even if they were to be used despite the heavy expenses they would have cost, have brought even one-hundredth of the Marchers from there.

## FRESH ARRANGEMENTS

Fresh arrangements were then made and people despatched to Delhi by any and every conveyance that could be got—by train, buses, carts, cycles and thousands marched several miles on foot to reach Delhi in time. The invincible flow of people could not be stopped.

In Ghaziabad, border town of U.P., through which most of the buses to Delhi were to pass, the State office had been moved a week earlier to supervise the arrangements. Kali Shankar Shukla, Secretary of the State Council, was there to help and guide the work.

With the help of Jagat Prakash, beloved leader of the engineering, jute, and bank workers of Ghaziabad, a big reception committee had been organised in the town to feed and look after all those who passed through Ghaziabad on way to Delhi. The scale of the work done can be judged from the fact that only on the night of September 12, forty maunds of Puris were served to the people going to Delhi.

But the police and local authorities left no stone unturned to harass and create difficulties in the path of the Marchers. The police applied pressure on the landlord to get the State office vacated. Arrangements to receive telephonic messages from all over the State and Delhi were made at three places, one after another, and to all these places the police and the SDO went and upset



Marchers from Allahabad

# WHO WERE THESE MARCHERS?

AMONG the Marchers were old people, veterans of the national movements from 1920-21 onwards, like Munshi Gajadhar Singh and Poet Khem Singh Nagar of Aligarh. Among them were revolutionaries, comrades-in-arms of the great Bhagat Singh, like Dr. Gaya Prasad (Kanpur) and Jaidev Kapoor (Hardoi).

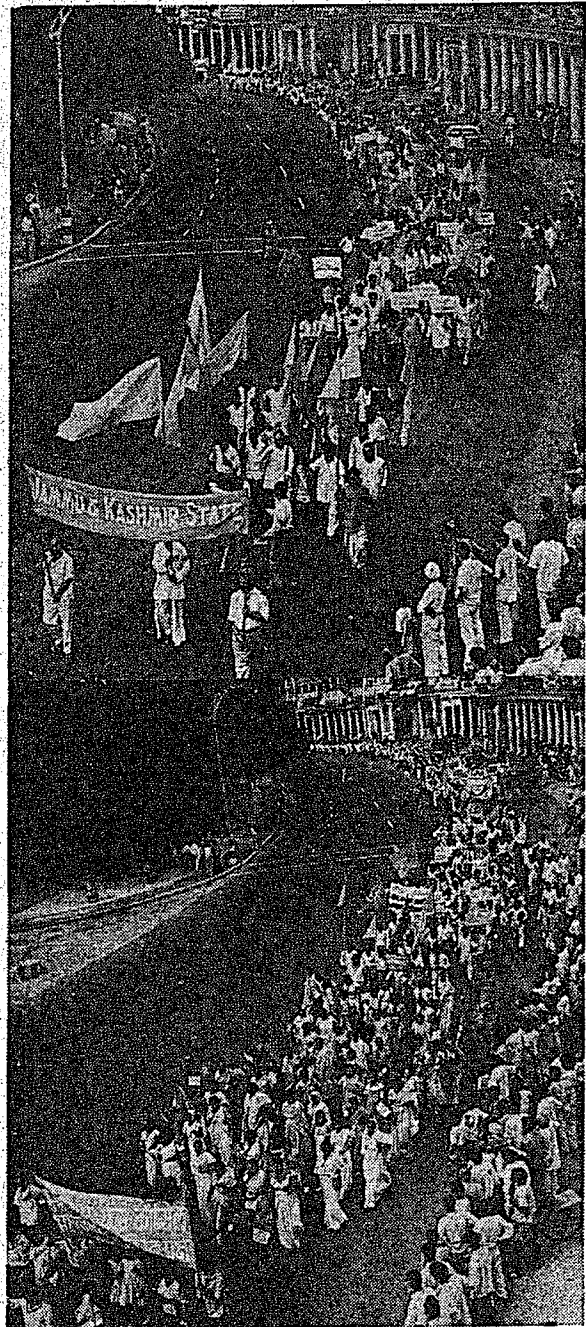
Meerut and several eastern districts.

Among them were veteran Communist leaders like Rustom Satin and Sri Narayan Tewari. Among them was Vijay Pal Singh, the young Communist MLA from Muzaffarnagar, who had won his seat in the last general election with the biggest majority in the country, a majority of over 27,000 votes and who had, during this campaign, thrown a challenge to all the districts in the country to compete with his district in sending the largest number of Marchers to Delhi. He had lived up to his challenge, as was now obvious, by leading the biggest delegation from Uttar Pradesh from his district.

Among them was also the slightly built, ever smiling Shyam Narain Shastri of Basti who had set up an individual record by collecting 13,000 signatures all by himself. And, among them was the young veteran leader of Ballia Communists, Baijnath Singh Sharma who is blind from childhood. A poet, an orator, he has spent many years working underground, despite his handi-

\*ON CENTRE PAGES

# THE GREAT MARCH



Top: Marchers from Jammu & Kashmir. Below: Marchers from Maharashtra.

Stupendous, staggering, prodigious, astounding, amazing, inspiring—these are some of the terms used by observers to describe the Great March to Parliament, which turned out to be an unending, seething mass of humanity. Even when the head of the procession reached Parliament House, its end had not left the Ramlila Grounds which is four miles away.

THE march to Parliament under the leadership of the Communist Party was the biggest demonstration the Indian capital has ever seen, and surpassed the hopes of even the most optimistic organisers. The march took three hours to reach its destination. To cross a particular point, the five deep procession took more than two hours. Delhi had gone literally red. All roads were leading to Delhi in the morning and in Delhi all the roads were leading to the Ramlila Grounds. Small jathas, big jathas and bigger jathas flowed into the maidan from all directions to make up the endless stream that gushed in the afternoon to the Parliament House. Though the procession was scheduled to start at 1 p.m. at 7 in the morning there

were thousands of marchers in the Ramlila Maidan who had come from the nearby States. Right upto noon marchers continued to pour in from all sides. At ten in the morning started the flow of the marchers from the Tal-kotora Gardens camp to the Maidan.

By about twelve noon, the historic Ramlila Maidan had turned into a red sea, the colour being provided by the numerous flags and banners which the marchers had brought with them. The maidan was already filled up and yet the Delhi workers had only started arriving in procession from their workspots, from the living areas and straight from the offices as far as office employees were concerned.

by  
**Our Staff Correspondent**

The procession started at 1.30 p.m. from the maidan. In front of all were eight flag bearers, who carried huge Party flags suspended from long poles. Behind them was drawn a cart on which was mounted a huge hoarding with the caption: "People's Petition To Parliament". Behind the hoarding came the members of the central executive committee of the CPI, who formed the vanguard of the marchers.

The procession was arranged thereafter statewide in alphabetical order. (Details of various state processions are given on other pages).

Last came the hosts, Delhi. The Delhi workers were sought to be dissuaded from participating in the march by their employers. The Chamber of Commerce and the Employers Association had issued circular to their units not to give leave to the workers and if they abstained from work on the march day to treat it as strike without notice and impose penalties extending to the loss of pay for eight days. But the working people of Delhi ignored this threat and joined the march in their thousands. Among them the most conspicuous group was that of the bank employees. Women were also plenty in Delhi contingent.

## Most Popular Slogan

The most popular slogan of the marchers was "Desh ki raksha hum karenge, hum karenge" (we will defend the country, we will). There were slogans demanding nationalisation of banks and oil companies, control on prices and check on profits, besides the one demanding abolition of compulsory deposits, gold control order and high taxes. There was one slogan, very popular with all groups of the marchers, saying that Tatas and Birlas were reaping profits at the expense of the poor people. Another slogan, put to song and most enthusiastically sung in chorus by the Punjab marchers said "we are all together, we are all fighting for our bright future".

The entire route of the procession was lined by people to watch what some discussed as the "Red invasion of Delhi". Among the onlookers were many foreigners, some of whom had movie cameras and were taking permanent record of the people's march. At one spot were seen three foreign Buddhist monks watching the unending procession with considerable interest. Many of the foreigners who were made to believe by the monopoly jute press that the Communist Party had been finished off in India were seen animatedly discussing the strength, discipline and order shown by this stream of people, drawn from all corners

of the country and representing all strata of the society except the rich, the idle landlords and the exploiting capitalists.

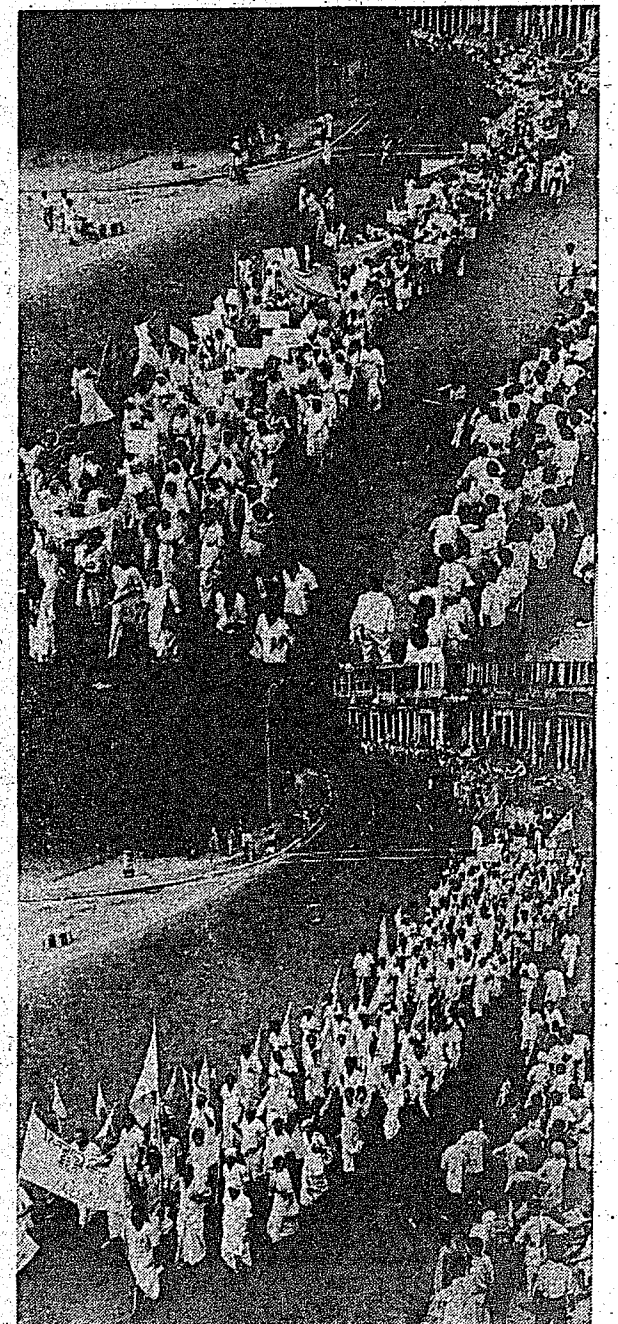
Going via Minto Road, Connaught Circus and Connaught Place (the last two are parallel circular roads housing the fashionable shopping centre of Delhi), the procession entered the final lap on Parliament Street. People stood crowding the pavement on the Parliament Street to watch the march. At the Bank Square, Delhi bank employees had raised huge banners welcoming the marchers and demanding nationalisation of banks.

After the Bank square, the half mile stretch of the

fifty yard wide Parliament Street, right from the statue of Sardar Patel to the statue of Lord Irwin in front of Parliament House, was turned into a meeting place. The marchers squatted on the road and those who were at the end of the procession had no space and spilled over into the side-streets.

When the procession reached the platform erected under the statue of Irwin, the Communist MFs were ready to receive them. Prime Minister Nehru was also seen looking down at the vast concourse of humanity stretching from the Parliament House to an unseeable end, from atop the Parliament House building.

Top: Marchers from Punjab. Below: Marchers from Kerala.



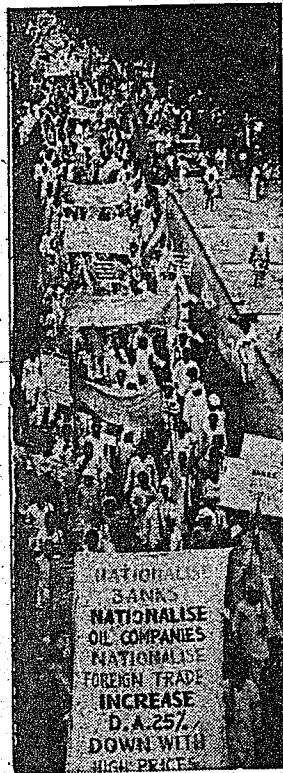


# MARCHERS FROM ORISSA

Report by  
**RAMKRUSHNA PATI**

The Great March for Orissa contingent really began from Talkatora Gardens—arranged with 5 in a row and with six group leaders, the march began with an expectancy marked in the face of all as to how big the March would really be.

At the head of the march was the contingent leader



Haribar Das with characteristic buoyancy and seriousness, punctillious about discipline leading the battalion of 115 with meticulous care. Five ladies, all with coloured sarees and badges on their arms, were at the head of the contingent. The Advaisi lady Sakuntala, wife of the valliant Advaisi leader Natabar Mullick held a huge Red Flag.

The group leaders Braja Patnaik, Natabar Banchot, Parsuram Panda, Jagnath Swami, Basudev Dora, and Deenabandhu Tarai, each with a huge flag, were at the head of each group. The huge red festoon on which was written the Orissa State in golden letters was held by Loknath Chowdhury, the secretary of Cuttack district and Sadananda Mohanty, the secretary of Ganjam district—the two valliant and respected leaders of their respective districts.

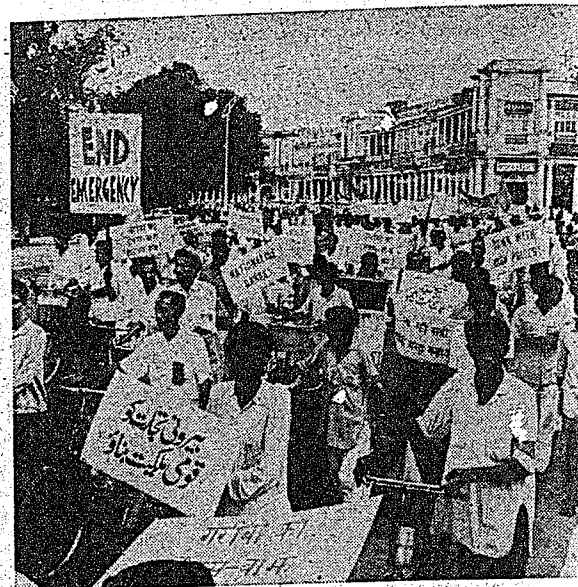
The scorching rays of the sun did not defer even a single lady comrade, what to speak of the male comrades. All of them shouted slogans. Even the lady comrade with a babe in her arms, wife of Sadananda Mohanty was at the top of her voice when the few miscreants were waving tiny black flags of paper at Connaught Place.

When the Orissa contingent reached Ramilla grounds it was nearly 10-30 a.m. The announcements, instructions made from the rostrum by Dr. Z. A. Ahmed were explained in Oriya to the marchers by Haribar Das. What a crowd, what a sea of red waves—this bewildered the Orissa marchers, as it was beyond their imagination that such a huge thing could be there.

The march began just at 1 P.M. The Orissa contingent was followed by Punjab and preceded by Maharashtra, two huge battallions with determined sober faces renting the air with slogans.

Braja Patnaik, the valliant leader of Athgarh peasants on whose body are yet the scars of oppression he faced yet who was the most feared man of the then Rajas, and the beloved leader of peasants, was in his form leading the marchers. His self-confidence and indomitable courage braving many battles, inspired confidence amongst the marchers. Nobody felt fired by seeing this valliant leader who told them that they were going to show to the representatives of the Indian people in Parliament, that their voice will win. He waved the placard in his hand and said that "we will force the Parliament to nationalise banks—we are the defenders of our independence."

When the Orissa contingent was passing through Cannau-



Dange, Orissa contingent walked back to Talkatora Garden with the same orderliness.

ght Place the baby of Sakuntala wanted to urinate. But the discipline of the march should not be broken—order must be maintained. So what did the group leader Jagnath Swamy do?

He took charge of the baby and the baby urinated in the handkerchief without disturbance, without any disorder in the line. Even the next in the Orissa contingent did not know about it.

Such was the sense of discipline of Jagnath Swamy who was originally a tailor and now a respected leader and Taluka secretary of the Aska Committee of the CPI.

When the Orissa contingent came near Parliament, not a sign of fatigue was seen even with the ladies. They were all jubilant. Words fail to express the sentiments of Orissa comrades when they saw in front of their eyes the sea of heads before them. After hearing the speech of chairman

## GREETINGS FROM INDIAN COMRADES IN MOSCOW

★ From Masood Ali Khan

MOSCOW, September 14: All Indian comrades here are thrilled at the news of the great success of the demonstration. Congratulations to Chairman Dange and all comrades for their wonderful work.

Indian comrades here in hospital send the following message:

"Heard highly inspiring news of mighty successful signature collection and demonstration. Congratulations to Party, trade unions and people. Consider it magnificent tribute to

# AND FROM KARNATAK

Report by  
**M. S. KRISHNAN**

The Karnatak contingent was drawn from 14 districts of Karnatak. Though the original quota was only 25, it was later changed to 50. Actually Karnatak over-fulfilled its quota by not only sending many more marchers than estimated, but also by collecting 2,34,818 signatures on the Petition.

Among the marchers were 20 workers, 22 peasants, 26 wholetime (Party, trade union and kisan) functionaries. There were also 6 muni-

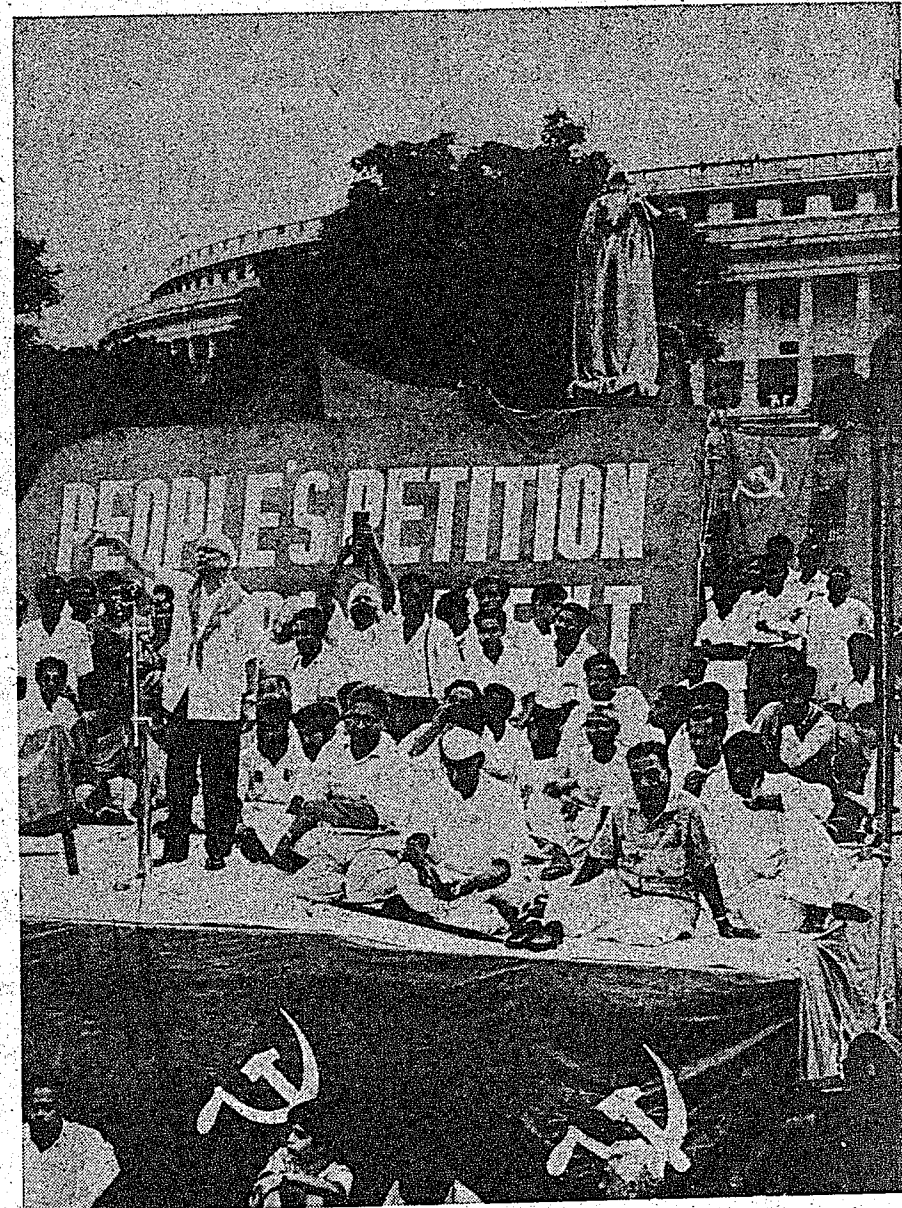
Soanes, secretary of the State Council of the Party.

This campaign has enthused all the activists of the Party and the mass organisations. It has also drawn newer and newer sections of the people. As far as the signature campaign is concerned, it was a very big success considering the strength of the Party.

The South Kanara District, where the Party has considerable influence, 83,893 signatures have been collected, while in Bangalore, which is a growing industrial town, 55,781 signatures have been collected.

One special feature of the signature campaign in Bangalore is that squads of workers went from house to house in the working class areas. In one area, the Swatantranagar Division of our 3,400 voters, the signatures of almost all of them barring only five or six have been obtained. The leaders of the two most effective groups, themselves textile workers, Ganesh and Kapinipathi were in the delegation. These two vied with each other and had collected 7,235 and 7,139 signatures respectively in their areas.

Another marcher P. S. Sriramulu, secretary of the Corporation Workers Union and a dismissed railway employee



Dange addressing the Rally.

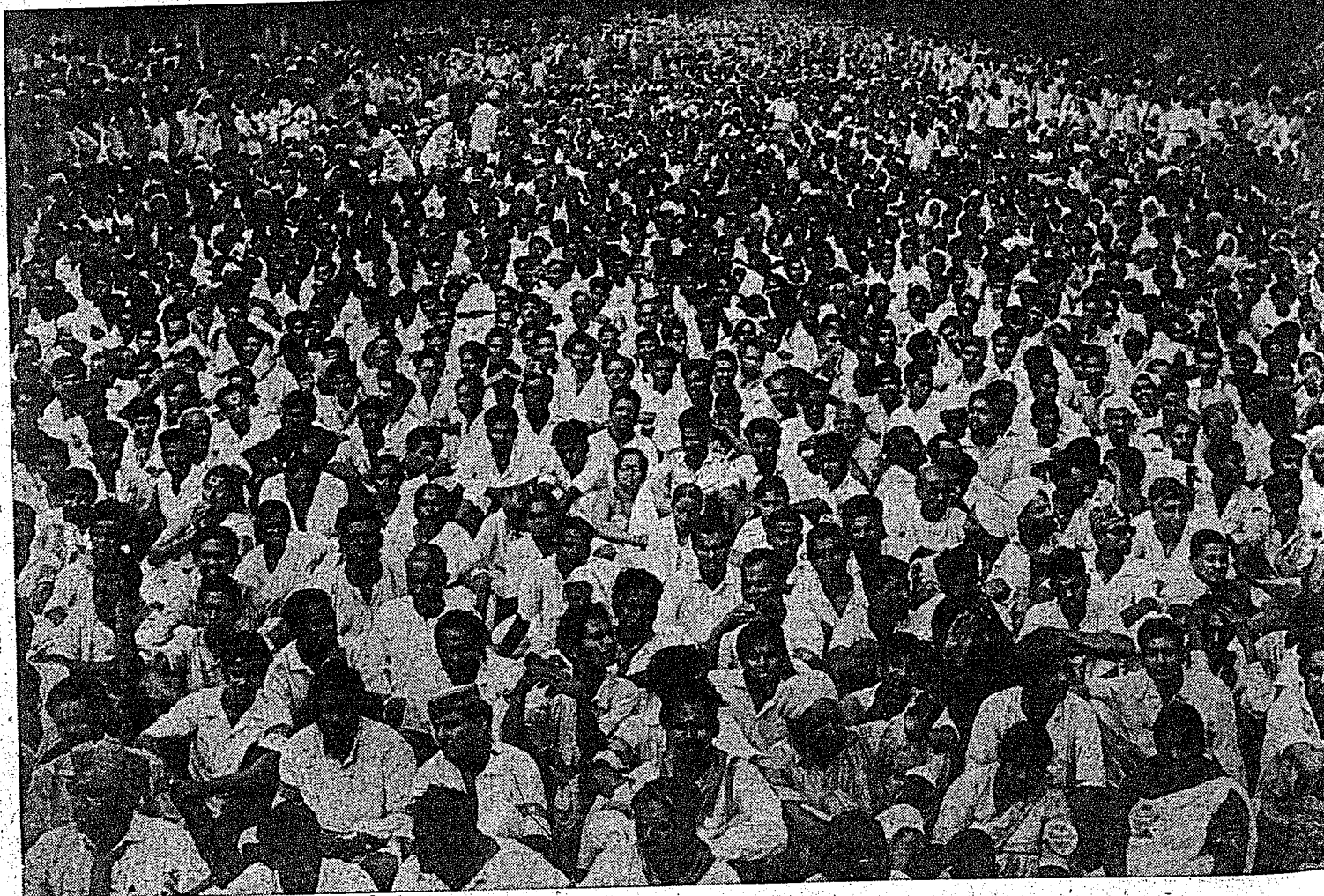
himself, went about with great zeal to collect signatures on the petition. Through his personal efforts he was able to collect 4,671 signatures.

In view of the fact that there was considerable enthusiasm in collecting signatures, it was not very difficult

to collect the necessary funds by way of small donations from those who gave him signatures also. Some Party (Bangalore) collected from the people funds enough to foot the bill for two marchers, Kapinipathi and Ganesh.

Similarly P. S. Sriramulu

was also able to collect enough funds by way of small donations from those who gave him signatures also. Some Congressmen and small traders etc. paid for his expenses to join the Great March. Many of the trade unions have sent official representatives by meeting all their expenses.



dipal councillors, 2 members of the taluk board, and 9 panchayat members. Uncollected forms are still coming to our office and the total number of signatures is likely to swell over to 2,40,000. The contingent was led by Simson

The Rally Before Parliament.

# Who Were These Marchers?

\*FROM PAGE EIGHT

cap. During the time of Chinese attack he had been attacked by the PSPers and Jan Sanghis in Ballia and they had broken his arm. Among them was Satya Narain Singh, district Party Secretary of Varanasi, whose district had collected the largest number of signatures in the state—over 1 lakh 12 thousand. There were also women, both young and old. Almost all the MLAs of the Party were there, as also its MP—Sarju Pandey, hero of the 1942 movement in UP. He had been condemned to 42 years' term of imprisonment by the imperialist rulers, because he had owned up responsibility for all that the roused people of Ballia had done during that movement, including the capture of the local police station.

There were, in it, also Dr. Z. A. Ahmad and Sajjad Zaheer. There were also many writers, poets, playwrights, singers and actors in the UP contingent. Thousands of them were non-Partymen.

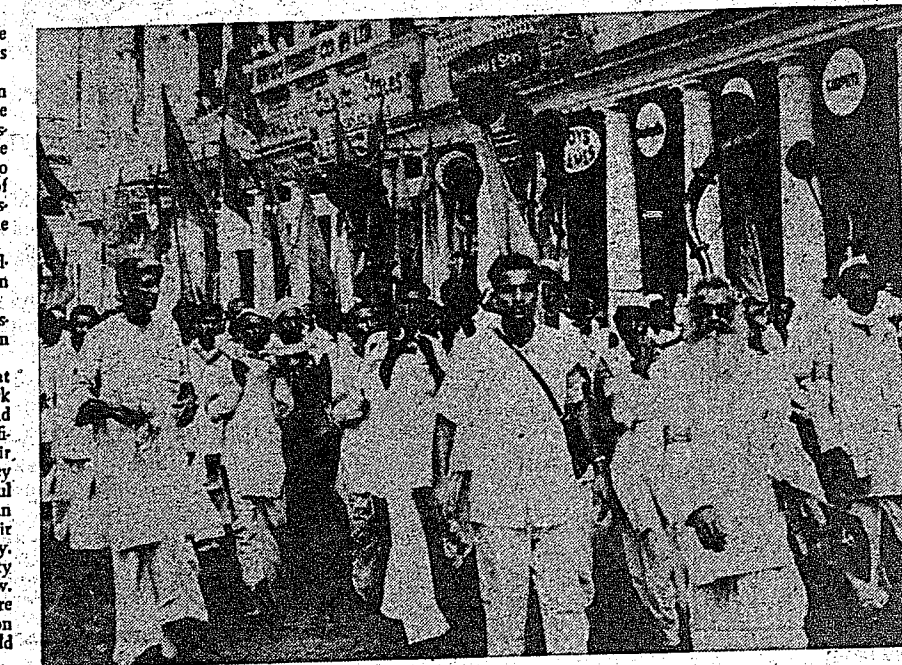
The UP's Marchers were led by the State Party Secretary, Kali

Shankar Shukla. The entire leadership of the State Party was present in the March.

Just as signatures had been received in the State Party office from several places, even districts like Uttarakhanda where there are no Party units, so also people came from all sorts of places, where there is no organised movement to participate in the March.

UP's quota was 15,000. Actually, 25,000 had turned up to join the Petition March. Forty-six of the fifty-four districts of UP, were represented in the March.

They had come with great hopes. In the course of the work of the last few weeks they had developed a new sense of confidence in themselves, in their cause, and in their Party. They have gone back more hopeful than ever, more confident than before, and transformed in their outlook towards their own Party. Neither they, nor their Party is going to be the same now. They know newer struggles are looming in the political horizon of the country: they would fight them with redoubled faith.





# FROM THE HILLS OF ASSAM THEY CAME

The marchers from Assam who came here on 12th morning consisted of village peasants, village and town youths and party and kisan workers. Among them were Dharma Deka, who was sentenced to death by the British rulers in 1942 Quit India movement, Sonaram Dutta, who bears the mark of bayonet charge on his back in the 1942 movement.

ALL the districts in the state where Party committees exist were represented and the biggest group among them was from Kamrup containing 17 members in the March. From North Lakhimpur, near Walong where the Chinese were resisted by the Indian forces in the last year's Chinese invasion, and from Cachar—the troubled border of Pakistan—marchers came.

## By PHANI BORA

When I asked a tribal marcher from Kamrup why and how he came to join the march he told me, "People of our village have sent me to place their petition to the Parliament. They are overburdened with taxes and high prices. They want relief. They signed the petition, gave money and sent me here."

Such is the typical answer which came from Dharma Deka who escaped death by chance under the rule of British: "I fought for freedom, freedom is won but now I have come to fight for food and clothings which is not possible to have under the heavy burden of taxes, high prices etc. This is not for

which we were prepared to even give our lives. This policy must change." But, don't you know that the country is faced with danger from China and Pakistan and to build defence money is required, a journalist asked. In a straightforward manner he said, "Well, Communist Party has given good suggestion for realising money and that is why even the Congress colleagues of mine have

tures of town and village poor. In hundreds of meetings, big and small, petition campaigns were explained and there was a great response.

The persons who came here—some of whom had to start on September 6 and 7 to reach Delhi—were the minimum. Only those

who could collect their expenses could come and not others. The huge expenses that were required could not be managed by more although there were hundreds who intended to come and join the march.

They were marching along with the tens of thousands. They were not sorry for being only few in this vast sea of humanity but were proud to be drops in the great red river that was flowing towards the Parliament Bhavan. The big banner on which was written Communist Party of India, Assam State Council, could be seen from a distance. They had bands in their left hand both in English and Assamese. They shouted slogans in Hindi and Assamese. In Assamese they shouted *Desh Rak-*

*chya Ami Karim* (We will defend the country), *Texar Hesa Uthai Lo* (withdraw the tax burden) etc. They were so much inspired, enthused that they even forgot their hunger and thirst for the whole day.

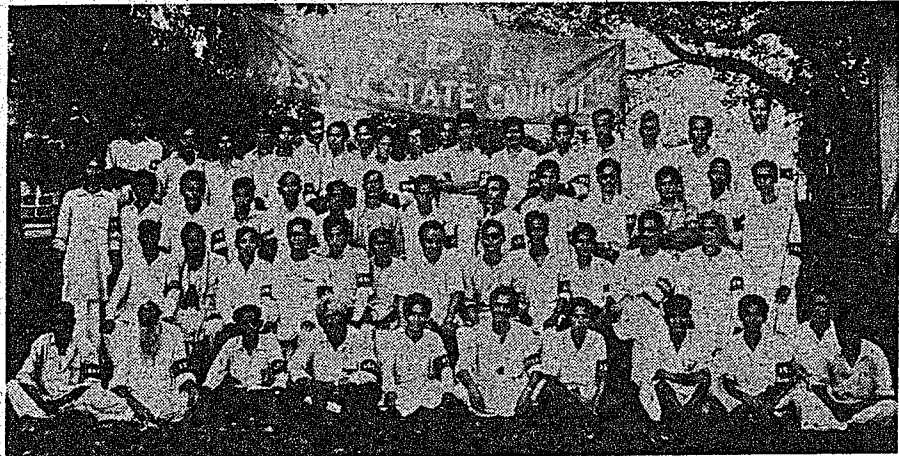
One of them remarked: "That I could be one in the army of the entire Indian people under the Red Flag—this I never imagined. Such a thing I have never seen and don't know whether I will have the fortune to see such a thing in my life."

Another marcher said, "Well, if Nehru has faith in democracy and he is true to his tradition of listening to the mass opinion then I expect he will concede the demands raised in the petition signed by one crore and two-and-a-half lakh of Indian people and if he fails to respond to the call of the people, they will lose faith in his talk of democracy."

Another comrade intervened and said: "Well, we are going to win our demands, nobody can prevent our victory." A village peasant from Assam asked me: "While marching we saw two or three white people with the few black flag demonstrators. Were they Americans? How were the British and American imperialists feeling after seeing the demonstration in Delhi?"

S. A. Dmug's call to the marchers to tell the people about this Great March when they return, is ringing in their ears. They are going back with the conviction that our Party is great, the people are behind us and we will win.

No power can prevent the march of this "Red River" from reaching its goal.



The Contingent of Marchers from Assam



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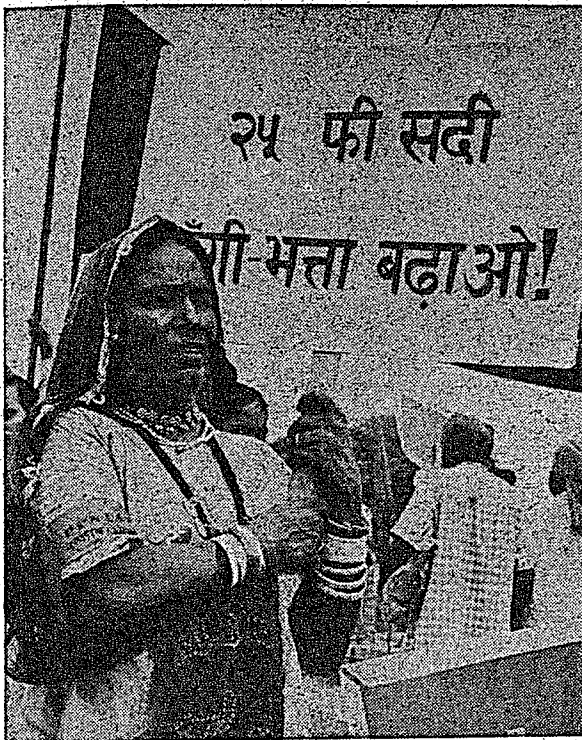
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The Determination Behind the Demand

The accounts of women demonstrators who participated in the Great March of September 13, are by themselves highly inspiring. After rounds in the Talkatora camp, I was able to get a glimpse of the marchers, their experiences and their struggle.

HERE are some of the facts:

### Madhya Pradesh

From Indore 55 women had come. These women belonged to various walks of life. Some were peasants and some were Bidi kamgars.

Among them was, Nani Bai—a 60-year-old woman who had come all the way from Indore to join the march to register her protest against government's policies, especially the soaring prices.

Lalita Bai is a Bidi mazdoor. She, along with her squad, collected the maximum number of signatures. While taking signatures she used to explain to the women how every day prices were going up. Things were becoming costly—firewood, oil, foodstuff etc.

She told me that even known Congress people of her Mohalla signed the 'Great Petition'. It was astonishing, she thought, as these Congress people are very much critical of the Communists. She experienced an unusual expression of people's reaction—wherever her squad went to collect signatures, old people blessed them for sending this Great Petition to Parliament. They all eagerly signed it.

All these people collected money to come to Delhi. On the pay day they went to the mill gate to collect money from the workers. It was only by collecting such funds that they could join the Great March.

All these women are confident that government would concede the demands of the petitioners. Lalita Bai says: "Gir gai, zob leka udenge."

From Bhopal five women came led by Mohini Sriwastava. She is a municipal commissioner. Among others was, Sayeeda Khatun: she is a muslim lady who went from house to house to collect 2,000 signatures mainly from Muslim areas. And then there was, Rukmani Dube—she went from village to village to collect signatures.

### West Bengal

It is a pity that in West Bengal leading women leaders are in jail. Even then, women of that state took initiative to collect signatures. "The problem of the acute shortage of sugar, soaring prices of rice and other commodities have made

the people to sign the Great Petition," said Ila Mitra MLA.

She was extremely ill but even then she came to Delhi to participate in the Great March. Along with her came five women who had collected signatures from professors, middle class people.

### Uttar Pradesh

Ten women came from UP to take part in the Great March. They were housewives, who face the strain of rising prices every day. This was the reason that compelled them to come here with the Petition, they said.

Surama Sinha, Manorama Satin and others of Varanasi Mahila Samiti collected 1,000 signatures in their mohalla of the City of Temples, Varanasi. They collected donations from people to meet their expenses for the Great March.

### Punjab

More than 300 women came to participate in the Great March. They belonged to the land of Great Bhagat Singh. Signatures were collected by women in large numbers in Punjab.

Here are some of the outstanding figures: Amritsar—11,000; Ludhiana-Karnal—6,000; and Jullundur—5,000. These signatures were collected from towns as well as villages.

Among the star collectors, Krishna, an eleven year girl was also present in Talkatora camp. She collected 3,000 signatures alone in Amritsar City. Mohinder Kaur of Ludhiana collected 4,000 signatures. Karam Kaur Seni and Tejwanti Dhir collected over 3,500 and 3,300 signatures respectively. Peasant woman Jangir Kaur of Sangrur collected 1,000 signatures.

It was quite evident that women of Punjab felt the intensity and pinch of the rising prices. In villages, normally women resent to give thumb impressions without the consent of their husbands but this time they came forward in large numbers to give their signatures or thumb impressions.

Some of them even wanted to give two signatures as the Petition was against the taxes. Scores of women accompanied the collection squads and urged the people to

# the women who came to march

by BULU ROY CHOWDHURY

sign. Akali-minded people, Congress-minded people, all signed the Petition. In the Company Gardens of Amritsar and in the streets of Ludhiana, the mixed squad collected three to four thousand signatures, within a couple of hours. People used to get overwhelmed when they found women asking for signatures. Older men blessed them profusely.

The women who came to present the Great Petition to Parliament were quite hard up and had to collect funds to come to Delhi. They even collected Alta or Thali as donations to meet the expenses. Menfolk, especially the workers, encouraged these women by collecting donations from the mill gates themselves. This is how they reached Delhi to be in the demonstration.

### Tamilnad

From Madras state, five women came to the Talkatora Garden camp. Among them were, Rukmani: she collected 1,561 signatures; she also met her expenses only by collecting funds from people. Shakuntala: she belongs to the Democratic Women's Organisation. She collected 1,700 signatures. Ochamal—she is working in a rice mill where she collected signatures and money to come to Delhi.

### Andhra Pradesh

From Andhra, sixteen women came to Delhi. They were housewives, workers and Panchayat Samiti members and MLAs etc. A. Kamala Devi, deputy leader of opposition in Andhra Assembly, led the women contingent. MUNNAMMA, Chairman of Medhok Municipal Committee was another prominent participant.

They and other members of the Women contingent were fully feeling the burden of soaring prices every day. They came to Delhi to voice their protest against government's policies. These marchers, who looked calm initially, became furious when they began to talk about tax burden.

Among the Andhra contingent was, Sechamma. She came all the way from Guntur to Delhi. She is working in a tobacco company for the last 25 years. She has got four

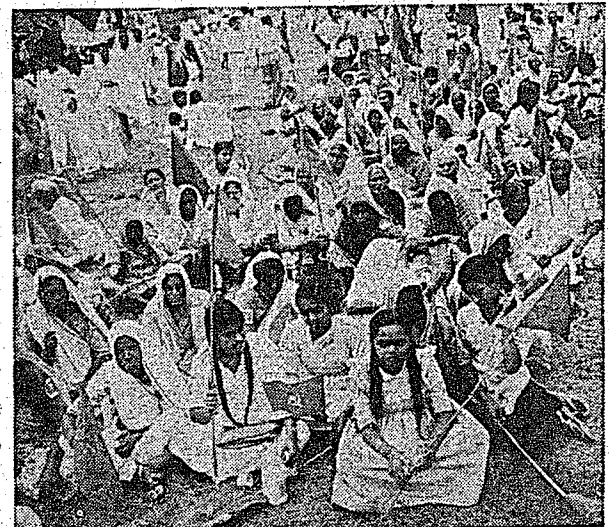
children. She has collected 1,000 signatures.

She narrated her experience to me. She said that when she went to her fellow workers for signatures, they told her how bitter and hard up they were by the government's tax policies. She was encouraged by people's reaction to go forward with the Petition.

She said, she came to Delhi to participate in the demonstration and raise her voice of protest against rising prices of food stuffs,

Peidi Pitchamma and Adapala Lakshamma were two other outstanding figures. Both of them are supervisors of female workers. There are 1,500 women in the Tobacco Company—Nava Bharat Enterprises Private Ltd., in Guntur town. These two women are the representatives of these workers who collected Rs. 200 for them to attend the Great March in Delhi.

Both of them together collected 1,300 signatures. They emphatically told me that when prices were



A section of women Marchers at Ramlika Maidan

against rising prices and against gold control. She said she was "thoroughly disgusted" with all these things. She earns a daily wage of Rs. 1.75 nP and that too is seasonal. How could she manage her household, she queried.

She said that she finds it very difficult to meet her needs with Rs. 1.75 nP per day. Only two years ago she used to earn Rs. 1.50 nP, but at that time she could buy those articles which she cannot buy today.

Sechamma spent her own hard-earned money to come to Delhi. The dark, old lady gave me the impression that she sincerely believed that the Great March would have an effect on the government and force it to change its economic policies.

going up so much, workers must come forward to struggle to change the government's present policies. They all welcome this Petition of the CPI.

### Gujarat

From Gujarat only three women came; two of them were from working class family. They collected 1,000 signatures each from Ahmedabad city. For coming to Delhi they collected money too.

Nalini Mehta, who is a social worker, and who has contributed greatly in collecting signatures in Ahmedabad, was of the opinion

\*ON PAGE 16

The women Marchers from Andhra Pradesh





# From Rugged Land Of Rajasthan

★ BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Great March had begun. People from Andhra and Assam and other states had already started moving. Everybody in the Rajasthan batch was restive. The thousands of sturdy people—peasants and workers—who had come to Delhi by bus and train were all getting excited. Out turn is coming...

AND then the first batch moved forward. At the head were leaders of the State. There was Ramanand, leader of the Communist Assembly group in Rajasthan. In district Alwar, they had collected their quota of 20,000 signatures and had brought more than 2,000 people to Delhi, from that one district alone.

Beside him was Poonamiya, member of the CPI National Council. As they stepped out with the Rajasthan festoon, the Rajasthan group burst into loud slogan shouting.

There came the volunteers from Ganganagar. Sturdy turbaned peasants with the ace signature collectors shouting slogans too. Atma Singh, a lawyer from Triganganagar, Secretary of the Ganganagar city committee, held the banner aloft.

There was Hetram, Secretary of the Ganganagar District Council. He was shouting slogans exuberantly. There was ample reason

for his enthusiasm. The Ganganagar district had topped the signature collection in the state, having collected 40,000 signatures. Hundreds of people from Ganganagar and Hanumangarh with their festoons moved on.

Then came the Alwar batch and there was Haromal, secretary of the Alwar District Committee, this lean and thin man, with determination in his eyes. Along with him were Hariram MLA and Gopikishen Kathir, tall and sturdy.

They moved and behind them moved the people from Alwar. There were all types, turbaned peasants, young students jumping as they shouted, even old men with a smile and warmth in their eyes.

Each tehsil of Alwar had its festoon and for many minutes, the Alwar people occupied the centre of the scene in the march.

Just behind came the tall, sturdy leader Chaudhari Ghasiram.

He was limping, it seemed he had injured one leg. He carried a stick to support himself, but he was shouting slogans. This mass leader of the Shekhawati peasants, who had spent 25 years fighting the feudals in the State and is still fighting for the peasants, moved with a confident stride. He knew he was on the right path.

By his side was short energetic Trilok Singh, Secretary of the Sihar District Committee. Then followed batch after batch of white turbaned peasants, hundreds of them. These were the people from Shekhawati, the region which had fought bitter battles with Jagirdars as early as the thirties. They looked right, and left and some of them, the tall ones looked ahead and pointed out 'Oh! there it is still going'.

Then followed the textile and other workers from Beawar, Ajmer, Pali and Jodhpur. The short fat Sant Singh and Kalyan Singh led the marchers. Then came Medall of Udaipur and Ashraf from Jodhpur. They were carrying placards and shouting and moving. There were Rajasthan women also with babes in arms; they were all marching.

And it went on, it took quite some time to pass—as I watched—the many thousands strong batch from Rajasthan.



## How We Prepared

WHEN the Central Party Secretariat issued the call in June for the signature campaign to the Great Petition and organising the Great March to Delhi it looked like a difficult task. Particularly so looked the problem of organising and taking thousands of people to Delhi—5,000 was a big figure to achieve. That is what comrades

thought in the initial stages. But when the signature campaign began and people signed in thousands, enthusiasm started increasing and as the day of the march approached it became almost like a fever.

Most places in Rajasthan from where people could come are more than 200 miles away, except, of course, for Alwar. Some centres like Jodhpur, Pali and Beawar are as far as 400 miles away and Udaipur and Bhilwara even 500 miles. The problem therefore of collecting the money for the train fare started as a big problem.

Comrades in Alwar were enthusiastic and confident right from the beginning. There were reasons for it. The Party has a strong base in the peasantry. They had last year organised a demonstration in Jaipur for the demands of the refugees and they could mobilise about 1,500 people to go to Jaipur. They therefore divided their quota, tehsil-wise. They calculated the expenditure if the trip were to be organised by bus and started collecting the amount from people as the signature campaign proceeded.

The response showed the temper of the people. From mohallas they expected one man to come for the March, sometimes four to five volunteered. Collection of money too was an inspiring scene. Some few hundred people who would gather for the evening meetings just collected the money on the spot for sending these people to Delhi. From some villages where the comrades expected only two to three, a dozen would volunteer.

In this way by the end of August they could collect money for 1,000 people. And then the tempo rose. Everyday people came from villages with lists of names and with money collected. At the end, on the 12th it became impossible to get more buses and some thirty to forty people had to come by train.

In Ganganagar the experience was even more interesting. The storm centre of the signature campaign was Hanumangarh, the Tehsil that had returned a Communist to the Assembly. In one Tehsil alone they had collected 13,000 signatures. They booked four buses in the beginning. Villages collected their money and gave their quota for the marchers. Then on the 10th they called for a demonstration in Hanumangarh. Thousands of people came for it and then the tempo for march to Delhi rose. Hundreds of people came and gave their names for joining.

The District authorities would not grant any more permits. Only two more permits could be got at

people drawn from among workers, kisans, agricultural labour and intelligentsia.

The marchers were given a big send-off both in Vijayawada and Hyderabad stations on September 9 and 10.

At Hyderabad station the send-off was given by the City Unit of the Communist Party, Praga Tools Workers' Union, Hotel workers, and Road Transport workers and at Vijayawada by Bhajaranga Jute Mills (Guntur), Rickshaw Pullers' Union, Municipal Workers' Union, Vijayawada Town Communist Party, and Krishna District Communist Party.

Andhra Pradesh achieved the credit to top the list of signatures collected by different states. In all, it collected about 16 lakh signatures. This was three times bigger than the quota originally fixed by the Central Secretariat of the CPI and one-and-a-half times more than the quota taken by the Pradesh Council. This clearly shows the magnitude of response the Petition received from all sections of people including a large number of Congressmen.

Among the districts which collected large number of signatures is Krishna district 2,48,000; Nalgonda 1,85,000; followed by Guntur with 1,40,000. Among districts which crossed the mark of one lakh signatures were Warangal, Anantapur, West Godavari.

The Andhra Pradesh Council had appealed for one naya Paisa from every signatory to the Great Petition in order to meet the expenses. In places where the squads have implemented this decision, the results were very encouraging. To cite one such example, Anantapur district collected more than Rs. 800 from the people of the district.

Those who came from Andhra Pradesh to participate in the Great March are going back to their respective places with a great inspiration and determination to carry forward the message of S. A. Dange, Chairman of CPI. They shall not rest content until they achieve the demands.

★ by our staff correspondent

## a view of

I have seen many demonstrations organised by the trade unions and the Communist Party in Delhi—as well as demonstrations organised by other parties.

I saw the great demonstration of August 3, 1959 organised by the Delhi Committee of the Communist Party, to protest against the dismissal of the Communist-led Ministry of Kerala.

Every year the trade unions have been holding May Day demonstrations. Only last month the so-called non-Communist opposition parties organised a joint demonstration to demand dismissal of Prime Minister Nehru.

### FITTING ANSWER

But never before, in recent years, have so many people of Delhi—workers, middle class employees and other sections of the toiling people—come to join a demonstration as they did on September 13, when the Great March to Parliament took place.

By their mass participation, the common people of Delhi gave a fitting answer to the ravings of anti-Communists (the Jan Sangh, Swatantra, PSP, Vidyarthi Parishad and so on) and to the warnings of INTUC and certain phoney unions who had called for a

boycott of the Great March. They must be feeling very small now!

Workers, middle class employees, jhuggi dwellers came in their thousands from various parts of Delhi. Among them were a large number of women workers as well as middle class housewives.

It was a memorable sight on that historic day, September 13; working class areas were humming with activity—workers preparing to march to Ramilla Grounds to join the Great March. Many areas were decorated with red flags and bunting. They were

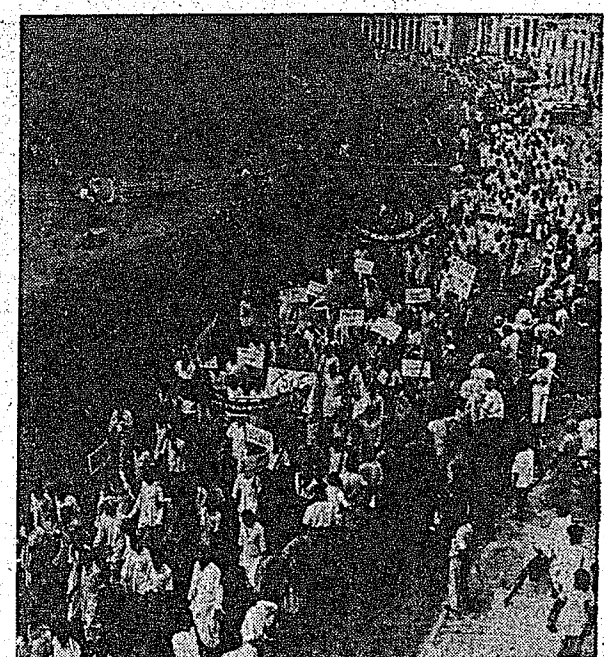
gan. By the time the Delhi contingents started reaching the maidan, it had already been filled with the marchers from outside Delhi.

It was decided that the Delhi procession should be formed at the other grounds adjacent to Ramilla Grounds—opposite the Central Party Office. Between 12 noon and 1 p.m., the Delhi marchers started filling the other grounds, presenting a colourful scene with red banners, festoons and flags.

### FACTORY WORKERS

Among the first to arrive were the workers from Shahdara Industrial Estate led by Natha Singh. The Shahdara contingent attracted attention because with them came a 'Bhangra' dance party.

Soon after came a large contingent from South Delhi—building and pottery workers, jhuggi dwellers and a large number of women. Upa-



Delhi workers in the March.

# delhi's contingent

shouting slogans against high prices, CDS and for nationalisation. In the commercial firms many were absent and others were preparing to leave their desks by lunch time. In some places small employers had agreed to give a holiday to the workers.

From 10 o'clock onward the trek to Ramilla Grounds be-

dhaya, Ram Nath Jha, Baldev Singh and Shakil were leading them.

They were followed by hotel workers led by Gope. As these contingents were filling up their respective places, came the bank and newspaper employees with many banners (of their respective unions) and led by H. L. Parwana,

And they kept on coming and joining the procession as it kept moving towards Parliament.

It was a job to put all these contingents, thousands upon thousands of people into one formation. B. D. Joshi took charge and with a megaphone slung on his shoulder moved about in a jeep giving instructions as to the order in which various contingents were to march and what slogans they were to shout.

### DIFFICULT TASK

Then Delhi's marchers stood in a line waiting for their turn to march—and they were to march last of all (being the hosts). And what a long wait it was! People standing on the sidelines were jokingly remarking: "Delhi workers will have to wait several hours for their turn to march!"

Delhi's procession was led by members of the Provincial executive committee, M. Farooqui, Y. D. Sharma, H. L. Parwana, Dev Dutt Atal, Ram Chandra Sharma, Janardan Sharma among them. In front of the Delhi procession were three standard-bearers, carrying big Red Flags with them.

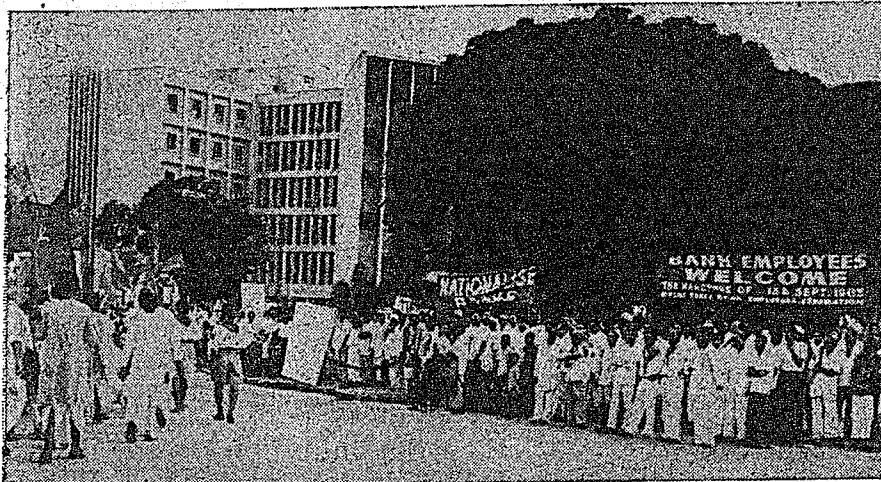
In the front row was a 12-year old working class child

from Subzi Mandi who had alone collected 1,200 signatures on the Great Petition. Behind the leaders marched thousands upon thousands of workers, middle class employees, jhuggi dwellers and other sections of the toiling people from the various districts and trade unions of Delhi—West Delhi, Subzi Mandi, Old City, South Delhi, Shahdara, in that order.

As the Delhi contingent marched out of Ramilla Grounds on to the route of the procession, the people of Delhi standing on both sides of the route could recognise many familiar faces in the procession. At many places they greeted the Marchers. They were proud that Delhi had not lagged behind.

### PARTY LEADERS

As the Delhi Marchers reached the Bank Square in Parliament Street about half a mile on the opposite side of the rostrum, they discovered that the place was already filled with the Marchers from outside Delhi. They must stand or squat away from the rostrum. But they could hear a familiar voice on the mike, giving instructions to the Marchers to squat in the places—it was the voice of Prem Sagar Gupta, who was in-charge of the arrangements on the stage.



Delhi Bank Employees welcome the Marchers.

Photo: R. Parasher.

### CEC Resolution Demands

## Release Muzaffar Ahmad

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India adopted the following resolution in its meeting on September 17, in New Delhi.

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India has learnt with grave concern about the serious illness of Comrade Muzaffar Ahmad in jail as a result of which he is reported to have been transferred to hospital.

Already in the seventy-fifth year of his life, the illness of Comrade Muza-

F. Syal and Santosh Kumar. Dwarkanath Baghi, Chander Bhan Sharma and Om Prakash Gupta came at the head of a procession of shop assistants; Dada Dev Vrat brought his engineering, and food and drinks workers from the factories of Najafgarh Road Industrial area.

In between came another batch of women from Paharganj led by Bachan Kaur and soon after the engineering and building workers of Paharganj led by Mohan Lal Sharma and Ball.

Subzi Mandi's textile and small industries workers and jhuggi dwellers marched in led by Guru Radhakrishna (corporator) and Banta Singh. With them also came many women. A little later came the main contingents of textile workers from Delhi Cloth Mills and Swatantra Bharat Mills led by Munshi Narayan Prasad, Asha Ram and Amrit Lal.

## They Collected Highest Number Of Signatures

★ BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Double the number of marchers originally fixed by Central Secretariat of the CPI, including 16 women from Andhra Pradesh participated in the Great March.

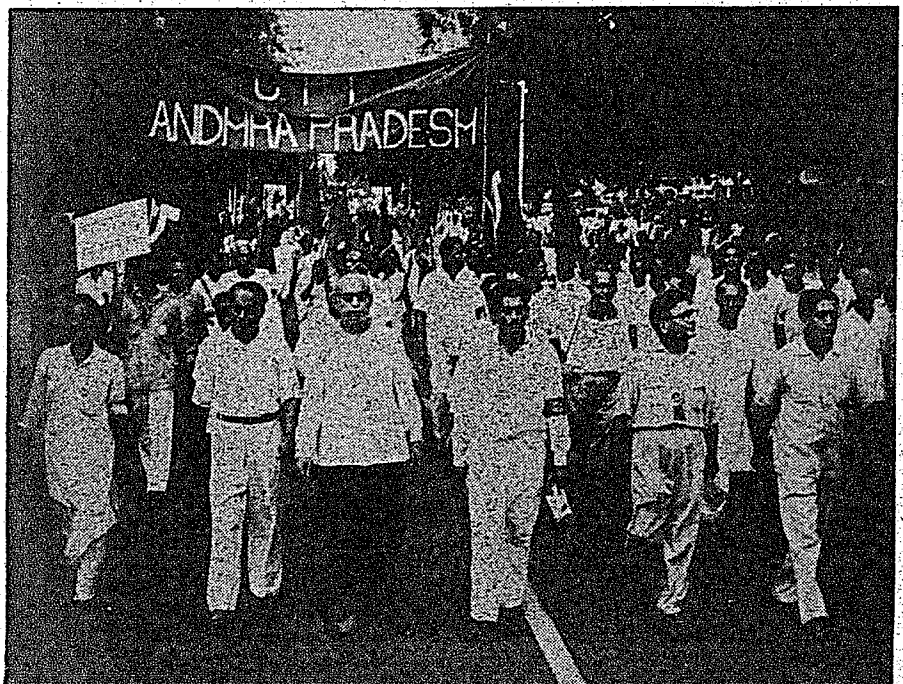
THE demonstrators were led by Y. V. Krishna Rao, secretariat member of the Andhra Pradesh Council and a prominent kisan leader, Makhdam Mohiuddin, leader of the opposition group in Legislative Council and a prominent trade union leader, S. Appu Rao, secretariat member of Andhra

Pradesh Council. The women's squad was led by A. Kamala Devi, deputy leader of the opposition in Andhra Pradesh Assembly. The marchers came from all the 20 districts. The biggest contingents of more than a hundred each, came from Nalgonda and Guntur districts. Eight members of

the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and two members of the Legislative Council also participated in the Great March.

The Andhra Pradesh Council had simultaneously given a call to hold demonstrations and meetings in all taluk and district centres on September 13—the day on which the Great Petition was to be submitted to Parliament.

Had it not been for this, the number of marchers from Andhra Pradesh would have been much more. Among demonstrators there were young as well as very old



Andhra Pradesh contingent preceded by C.E.C. Members —Photo: Satya Sen

# in the great march



# THE TOILERS FROM GUJARAT

★ BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Three months back, when the Great March was first announced, we had felt that from Gujarat, it would not be possible to send more than 40 persons to Delhi to join the March. Actually, on September 12 evening and September 13 morning, 147 marchers reached Delhi.

DURING the interval, big mass mobilisation had taken place in Gujarat in course of collection of signatures to the Petition and huge meetings, processions and hartals were organised to demonstrate the protest against CDS, heavy taxes, gold order, emergency, continued detention of Communists and in support of other demands of the Petition.

From the beginning of September, workers in a large number of textile mills in Ahmedabad began collecting funds and selecting their

representatives for going to Delhi. 55 workers joined the big contingent. For all these 55 workers, collections were made by mill workers to the extent of over 60 per cent of their travelling expenses and the rest of the expenses were borne by



S. A. Dange and Ushabai Dange at the Talkatora Camp.

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## Dange's Address

★ FROM PAGE 5

they were before the ministerial offices were annexed."

He again referred to the defence question and compared Soviet and American aid. Contrasting the two aids he said "America wanted controls whereas the Soviet Union gave us whole factories so that we could become self-supported. Now the MIG factory has come and the Congress fellows are quarrelling among themselves to get a share of this one factory in their respective states. This splitting up of the factory is ridiculous and affects our defence preparedness. It will only hamper our defence production."

Dange gave a stirring call to the party activists who had gathered to enrol more party members. He said that among the two lakh gathering every one was not a Communist, but he would think that at least ten per cent should be party members. "When the demonstrators returned to their respective places, they should spread the message of this great assembly and carry forward the image of the fighting traditions to the Indian working class", Dange added.

The CPI Chairman concluded that he would certainly expect that "by the time the next Congress of the Communist Party of India takes there will be two lakh more party members."

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of long standing in his mill and the Shahibaj ward, which is also the abode of the governor and ministers, the big mill owners and millionaires.

The three batches from Ahmedabad also included a merchant from Nadiad (Khada district) named Vinooobhai Gandhi marching along with old and experienced workers like Idubhai and Ahmea Chacha. Abdul Rehman, Abdul Wahid, M. Khalil, young enthusiastic workers like Ganpat, Pratap, Yusuf, Laxman, Malsingh, Chhotwama, Thakorebhai, Dalpathbhai, Nachalal, Namsami (a rickshaw puller), Ramjibhai, Bakrishna, Kuni tailor and Iswarlal.

There were seasoned trade union functionaries like Sakharan Rathod, the secretary of Mill Kamdar Union.

There was also the squad of people's singers led by Ramu who sang an appealing song before the vast mass near the Parliament.

## Contribution To Memorial Fund

The first thing that the marchers did on arrival in Delhi was to contribute Re. 1 each to the Ajoy Ghosh Memorial Fund.

September 13 opened with scenes of great enthusiasm and inspiration. The marchers were in great hurry to start from Talkatora gardens to reach the Kamilla maidan. Even there, when the marchers from Gujarat, reached

## Workers From Other States

There were in these batches workers from Kerala and Karnataka, Tamilnad and Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and Punjab along with workers, Gujarati by birth. They came from all castes and communities and represented over two lakh workers of Ahmedabad.

The batch from Broach district followed next, led by Mahiman Desai, the district committee secretary. During the last few days they had collected funds for the kisan marchers and also collected over 15,000 signatures. This batch comprised of a large number of

kisans, including Adivasis who went out of their district for the first time and that first time turned out to be the first Great March to the country's Capital.

These sturdy kisans participated in this Great March shouting slogans, and with determination to move forward towards a brighter future. There was a number of members of municipality and panchayats and sarpanches among them, such as Ratilal, Kikubhai, Ghulam Rasul Doctor, Jalbhai, and Adivasi leader Kalubhai.

Then followed the batch from Saurashtra, led by Pravin Shridharani, a member of the Party's state council. In this batch were workers, peasants, merchants, from Bhavnagar, Jamnagar and Rajkot districts.

They walked firm and fast making their contribution to the surging sea of red flags. Saurashtra collected over 25,000 signatures.

The batch from Baroda, led by the secretary of the Gujarat TUC, Bhalchandra Trivedi, was also composed of marchers from various classes and places, workers from Baroda city, along with peasants from the rural areas, and presidents of taluka Panchayats like Nagjibhai, Ashok Vaghola.

The seventh batch came from Surat, led by the kisan Bhikubhai Patel, a member of the district committee. For all these workers and peasants coming from remote places, this was their first visit to Delhi.

All these marchers, presented a picture of new life. Their faces reflected the determination to continue the Great March of the national democratic revolution, in which this was but a first bold step.

## Women Marchers

★ FROM PAGE 13

that the Great March of the Petitioners "will have a definite impact on government's present policies."

## Orissa

Five women came to Delhi from Orissa. Among them were Annapurna Mallik, who is a member of the Panchayat Samiti of the Bhaganpur village in Ganjam district. She collected 500 signatures and raised funds through donations to meet her expenses to come to Delhi.

She thought that this Petition "will help people." She wanted to struggle to change the policy of the government. She said, she would always come forward "to defend the independence of India."

## Maharashtra

From Maharashtra, more than 60 women came. Their composition ranged from textile workers to teachers, local body members, research workers and quite a good number of housewives. Two leaders of the textile mills also came, one from Rajus and the other from Supari Bag.

Among them was Jashabai Kadam. She is an executive member of the Bombay Textile Workers' Union. She collected a large number of signatures. Women workers especially collected funds to send her to Delhi.

The most striking thing about her was that she was confident that government will change its policies. The reason is that they are the same Bombay people who could make Parliament to change the Law in order to constitute a new Maharashtra state.

She was also confident that this March will also help to reduce the burden of taxes as well as change the economic policies of the government.

Incidentally, the whole Maharashtra camp was of the strong opinion that the government would withdraw CDS and change its policy. They have gained this confidence from their past experience.

Majority of them had participated in the previous Marches of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti. A big contingent of these demonstrators belonged to the Samyukta Mahila Seva Samiti. This Samiti collected 45,000 signatures.

Manabai Teli was another marcher. She is a veteran leader of Supari Bag textile mills. She collected signatures from Lal Bagh areas with other comrades. She was sent by the workers to participate in the Great March in Delhi at their expense.

Majority of the Maharashtra volunteers are housewives. They went from room to room in the chawls explaining the significance of the March and thus collected signatures as well as money to come to Delhi to present the Petition to Parliament.

In this demonstration veteran leaders of women's emancipation movement were also present. Ushabai Dange, Arundbai Jogekar, Annapurna Bhandarkar and others like, Roza Deshpande, Tara Reddy came. A municipal commissioner in Bombay, led the women contingent. Vithalbai Pawar, a member of the local Board of Limb District (Satara), had also come.

Some college girls came, too. Students' unions and youth associations collected money for them. All of them came from Bombay.

From other parts of Maharashtra, such as Poonja, Satara, Vidarbha, Nagar etc. representatives of women joined the march. Among them were mothers with children too.

This really indicated that these people were disgusted with the government's present tax policy and came to Delhi to voice their protest. They all welcomed that CPI had taken this Petition move.

The significant difference between the latest debate in the Lok Sabha on foreign affairs and any of the earlier debates lies in the fact that this latest one was preceded immediately by something like the one of which had never happened before in the history of our Parliament. Reference here is to the Great March and the massive rally at the gates of the Parliament House.

MOST representative as it was most numerous, this truly national assemblage, with huge contingents from every constituent state of our Union, had gathered here to petition our sovereign Parliament. And it was not merely

reactionaries. In fact what was needed was further strengthening and consistent implementation of this policy, they seemed to proclaim.

Chairman S. A. Dange's address to the rally and the wholehearted approval of it by the assembled lakhs was really a notice served on reaction that the Indian people had had enough of its attacks on the accepted national policies of non-alignment, independence and anti-imperialism in foreign affairs.

Once again in the debate on Monday and Tuesday it was the same alignment as had appeared on the occasion of Acharya Kripalani's no-confidence move last month—Acharya Ranga coming out in justification and defence of his leader C. Rajagopalachari's proposals to hand over Kashmir to Pakistan and the imperialists; Maharanai Gayatri Devi declaring that government's refusal to change national policies was inhibiting

# Support To Africa & Struggling Nations

## Keynote Of Debate On Foreign Affairs

★ By ZIA-UL HAQ

"our foreign friends" in giving us wholeheartedly the aid which they so much wanted to give; U. M. Trivedi of the Jan Sangh advocating an aggressive, war-mongering communal approach to Pakistan and harping again on the theme that "hero-worship" was standing in the way of an effective foreign policy; above all, the spokesman of the PSP, Hem Barua, demanding the launching of a super-McCarthyite witch-hunt which would not stop short of shooting all and sundry "traitors" who were coming in his way of taking the country into the imperialist camp. Such was the alignment and such the advocacy.

It was to them that the Prime Minister addressed a very mild admonition when

he pointed out that they remained irretrievably soaked in the cold war outlook; it was a "stupid" outlook which moreover had become completely out of date. The ultra-revolutionary and perfectionist Dr. Lohia declared that India had ceased to be independent in her foreign policy a few months after August 1947 and that the foreign policy formulated and pursued by the Prime Minister had been a "total failure" all these years.

In the midst of the sweet dreams he conjured of an Indo-Pakistan Confederation and the bucketfuls of tears for Sheikh Abdullah that Prof. Ranga shed before the House, the realities of the situation in regard to Pakistan and Kashmir were deliberately sought to be blurred and blot-

He drew attention to evidence which showed that the Western powers were giving moral and material support to China with a view to accentuate and prolong the Sino-India conflict.

Prof. Mukherji had expressed his sharp disagreement with the Government of India's hasty recognition of Malaysia when it was obvious that both Indonesia and the Philippines had serious reservations about it. It was the fallacious cold war argument justifying Malaysia as an instrument of containment of China which had been advanced by the Eighthist spokesmen in the debate to which government also seemed to succumb.

Attention on the plight of Buddhists and the people of South Vietnam was sharply focused by many participants in the debate, except for the right reactionaries for whom it seemed support to South Vietnam's people was conditional on Tibet's "liberation". These gentlemen kept on pleading Israel's cause as against the Arab countries in a calculated game of provocation.

Full-throated support for Africa and the struggling nations was voiced by the spokesman of the Communist Party as well as by many Congress speakers. The Prime Minister reiterated government's support for the African cause, pointing out as an instance to the fact that the demand raised at Addis Ababa of severing trade relations with S. Africa had been fulfilled by India many years ago.

Prof. Mukherji questioned the correctness of government's decision to include Asoka Mehta in the delegation to the United Nations, particularly when his disagreement with government policies on issues like that of the VOA transmitter, was well in its aggression against India.

## LOK SABHA

on questions of people's livelihood and living but also on basic questions affecting India's national destiny that this great assembly wanted to make its voice heard by those sitting inside.

In unmistakable terms the great assembly made it clear that the hundreds of millions whose voice it was supported and approved of the basic principles and broad outlines of Prime Minister Nehru's foreign policy. They declared that they were not prepared to countenance any reversal of it as demanded by the right

## Whispering Gallery

### MARCH ★ U. S. LOBBY ★ NOMINEES ★ FACTIONS

IT was a long, great and colourful march that bore the great People's Petition to Parliament. In the steadied shuffling of feet, under a blaze of Red Banners, the Manchester Guardian saw a military precision.

It was really rewarding to listen to the whispers of foreign correspondents. They were sceptic in the beginning, warmed up as the morning wore on, and finally shed all their inbred inhibitions and wrote home the most colourful despatches.

I saw the newly arrived, handsome AFP correspondent rushing to a veteran Indian correspondent asking for an assessment. And the Indian told him it was something like Resurrection.

Why resurrection? Why, all of us had thought in October-November that the CPI was buried under the Thagla ridge.

The Daily Mail, a Tory paper, after receiving a descriptive report from its New Delhi man, cabled for a radio photo. Why, even the Red-baiting Hinduistan Standard of Calcutta asked for a radio picture from its Delhi Bureau!

There was one other solid evidence that foreign pressmen, unlike the Birla scribes, did not go in for red herrings. If they had, they would have burst a thousand flash bulbs on that PL-80 beauty, who stood on the roadside at the entrance of Parliament Street and waved a black flag.

Talking about this Yankee Miss, I am wondering whether Hem Barua would not have hit the ceiling of Parliament House, if a Russian girl waved a black flag at a demonstration of Jansanghis or Paralysed Socialists!

reorganises the Central Cabinet. His nominees in the first place, were, of course, Mahatab and Tyagi, the two bundles of frustration. Among the others was the young and dashing K. C. Pant, son of the late Govind Ballabh Pant. At 30 Pant was so dashing that he held two jobs simultaneously. Salaries from both amounted to about Rs. 5,000.

C. D. Deshmukh got nowhere trying to expose the unparalleled affluence of this youngster.

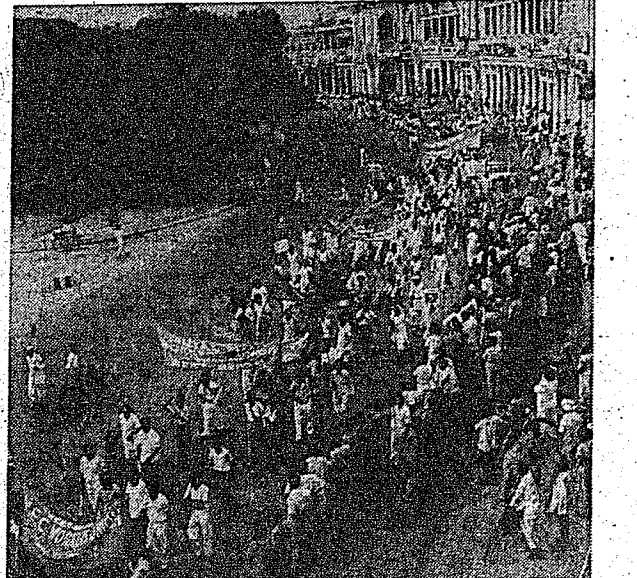
The story does not end here. The two other secretaries of the Parliamentary Executive got wind of this recommendation. And immediately they wrote a letter to the Prime Minister requesting him not to take any of the nominees recommended by their colleague.

Who says factionalism is disappearing under the Kamraj Plan?

★  
TALKING about Congress factionalism, I was amused to hear the proceedings of the anti-Corruption Committee which met last week in Delhi.

Its members are Kamraj, Morarji, and Jagjivan Ram. The question that faced the Committee was whether Biren Mitra of Orissa was an innocent baby or not. On Patnaik's own admission Biren had taken money from Serajuddin. And he is connected with the firm, Orissa Agents, at least through his other half. Or is she the better half being the managing director of a big firm? At any rate, when Patnaik pleaded for the Committee's clearance for Biren so that he could succeed him as Chief Minister, the anti-Corruption Committee was found divided. Morarjibhai for and Kamraj and Jagjivan against!

— Vijayan



A section of Marchers from West Bengal headed by factory workers





Punjab Marchers with a Poster.

## FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTS

★ From Page 2

CPI call and not incidentally on the same occasion once again demanded Nehru's resignation, has every reason to be disturbed now."

### British Press

British newspapers also gave wide coverage to the great demonstration in Delhi.

GUARDIAN on September 14 gave the news under the headline: "Communist Ultimatum to Nehru" and wrote, "It was said to be the biggest political demonstration here since independence sixteen years ago. It was organised with military precision and there was no disorder." The report said that the petition was signed by 10,000,000 Indians, was made up into 90 bundles and weighed about three tons.

DAILY TELEGRAPH gave the headline: "Three Ton Petition by Indian Communists." It wrote Dange was addressing hundred thousand Communist workers and sympathisers from all over India who had marched on to Parliament in support of Party's demand. "It was the biggest demonstration of its kind seen in the capital. The procession of demonstrators was three miles long and completely filled Parliament street."

British Communist Party's organ the Daily Worker in a front page news report said, the march was said to be the biggest political demonstration in the Indian

## HOW WE PREPARED

\*FROM PAGE 14

the last moment. Yet, when the buses started there were hundreds surrounding them waiting to come. Some 300 had thus to be left behind. Of course, if the train services were on, these people would have come by train. But floods had breached the railway line and they could not come by train. From Ganganagar city and Matelli everywhere it was the same story. Ganganagar thus sent 800 people for the march.

The most inspiring was the work of Textile workers of Pali and Beawar. For them for each man it cost Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 and naturally

capital since independence 16 years ago.

LONDON TIMES gave this headline: "Petition by Ten Million in India".

"The Great Petition, as Communists have called it, is a statement of popular grievances signed by ten million people... was presented by A. K. Gopalan, leader of Communist group in Parliament."

"The petition was brought to the edge of Parliament enclosure where a statue of Lord Irwin stands, by one of the greatest demonstrations seen in Delhi."

### France

French Communist Party daily L'HUMANITE wrote: "A great demonstration of Indians against Finance policies of government was staged by Communist Party in Delhi."

Almost all newspapers in all countries of Europe on September 14 morning carried reports of this demonstration.

### United States

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE wrote that Indian Communists submitted a petition to Parliament with 10,25 million signatures and thumb prints on it. "Red flags bearing hammer and sickle were permitted by police to be hung from lamp posts and trees along the quarter mile of 'Parliament Street', it complained.

no worker could afford to spend that amount. But after all people had to come for the Great March. So on the 9th and 10th, on my day they organised a mass collection one rupee each from workers for the march. And 100 workers did come from Pali and Beawar. From everywhere, from far off Bhillwara and Udaipur and Jodhpur it was the same story. One bus load came from all these places, they collected money, each of them partly paid his own expenses. They were determined to come and they came.

This is how the marchers from Rajasthan came to Delhi.

# THE CONTINGENT FROM PUNJAB

★ From Page 7

Jullundur, Karam Kaur Phagwara, Teiwali Dhir and so many others.

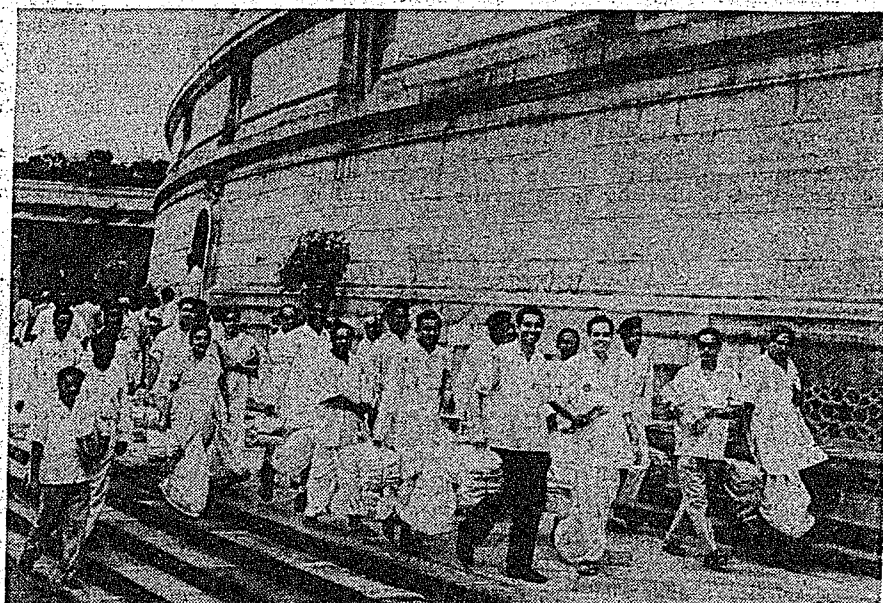
Along with the star collectors, march hundreds of squad leaders, and members and thousands of those who have also made their contribution to the signatures, the contribution, which has made it possible to overfulfill the central quota of three lakhs signatures by nearly four times.

The Punjab leadership had carefully planned the March—issued instructions for all

marchers in a Party letter, had red armbands prepared for all marchers, prepared placards (in Punjabi, Hindi and English) of the main slogans, giving the demands in the petition. The districts had brought many cloth placards of the main slogans. Even the sadhus were wearing red cloth—one had a steel hammer and sickle on top of the staff he was carrying, with a red flag attached to the staff. A sea of red fluttered over the heads of the marchers.

Here was Punjab—with its revolutionary tradition, with

its virile and tough peasants and workers, youth and women—all with an ocean of red flags and placards, representing millions of others who supported the demands in the petition, declaring in unmistakable terms, through the signatures, red banners and militant slogans, through their determination and firm resolve that they would get what they want, spare no sacrifices to realise the demands of the Petition, and be in the forefront of the forces of progress and democracy in the country.



Communist MPs entering the Lok Sabha with Petition Bundles.

## PRESENTATION OF GREAT PETITION

SUSPENSE and expectation in the press gallery of the Lok Sabha about the presentation of the Great Petition by A. K. Gopalan, leader of the Communist group, were something really remarkable. There were guesses, and lots of them. Some doubting Thomases jibed at the "weight" of the Petition, others didn't believe the number of signatures and still others speculated about the actual mode of presentation and whether there would be any "noisy scene" to provide them with news.

The presentation, unfortunately did not provide them with any spicy sidelight: it was a solemn and dignified affair and naturally reporters had to report only the fact. H. V. Kamath, well-known for "storymaking" was a flop when he rose to ask the Speaker whether one time revolutionaries had become petitioners. He was aptly silenced by the Speaker himself who wondered how the question could be asked of him.

The Communist members of Parliament, aware of the habits of the detractors, had already decided the manner in which the Great Petition would be presented. Long before the usual time for Parliament to begin its session, the

MPs carried the bundles of Petition-papers in a fleet of motor cars to the portico of Parliament. On arrival there, they stacked them in a pile near Notice Office and each one carried a bundle inside the Lok Sabha House.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha arrived and he said that he was receiving the Petition and requested the MPs to allow his staff to carry the bundles to his room.

After the question hour and Call Attention motions were over, A. K. Gopalan rose from his seat and drew the attention of the Speaker as well as the entire House saying that he was formally presenting a Great Petition on behalf of Hari Om and 1,02,50,000 others.

The Petition, Gopalan said, was "regarding the rise in prices, taxes and other matters. A few Petitions are here and the others are deposited outside."

The very number of signatures to the Petition added solemnity to the occasion and nobody among the doubting Thomases was in a position to make any further comment.

Later the Communist MPs and many other MPs came out to see the March.

For its colourfulness, variety, political fervour and self-discipline the gigantic procession of September 13 has no parallel in recent history. The soul of India, anguished and agonised as it is, registered its massive protest as millions of workers and peasants flooded the capital with Red Flags and marched upto the Parliament House to present the Great Petition.

HOW can one describe all these lakhs and lakhs of people—each one of whom had something to tell about the joys and sorrows of his life and urge for participating in the great demonstration.

Here is Hayat Singh Rawat, the very image of Indian youth. He is only 21 years old and studies in M.P. Inter College, Ramnagar. He hails from Almora.

His younger brother Gopal Singh, like many other young boys from Almora, is serving as a domestic servant in some Bara Saheb's Kothi in New Delhi. Hayat Singh's father, a 50-year-old man, still works on his tiny piece of land.

### Profound Conviction

Hayat Singh can hardly depend on his father for his studies. A member of the Ramnagar branch of the party, he declared:

"Red flag alone is the guarantee of a better future for me and all my brothers who are compelled to take up menial jobs in houses and hotels. Let them see

our demonstration and feel proud of the Red Flag! It is truly a great demonstration."

Here is Tulsiram Behraji, a peasant from Madhya Pradesh. He has come from a distant village called Joshiguradia of Mau Tehsil, Indore district. He has five children. He can't provide education to all of them because of the high cost of living. Added to this is the 40 per cent increase in land revenue. His children, therefore, are forced to work as cattle-herders.

"Yes, Jan Sangh organised a demonstration in Harsora village of my area," he told me. "They could not mobilise the people because they are the agents of big money lenders and blackmarketeers. Besides, they have earned a bad name by inciting communal hatred and communal riots. People know who they are, so they boycotted them."

He came all the way to join this Great March because, he said, the signature campaign had already yielded results.

"What results?" I asked in surprise.

"Well, we signed off Morarji and Patil," he quipped, "and even be-

fore we reach the Capital, they are gone."

He took me to the adivasis of Madhya Pradesh. They are the Bhils of Sendel Mendel village and Morod Machla village of Mau tehsil. These tribal people live in small thatched huts, called tapras, in forest area.

"The forest officers," the Bhils told me, "come down on us with a heavy hand. Give us kukri (hen) give us bottle (wine), and your tapras will be destroyed," they tell us.

We finally joined the Kisan Sabha."

Narbadai Bai, Kasturi Bai, Kesari Bai—all of them have come to Delhi to launch their protest against Bharsachar and Atyachar. "Bharsachar Band Karo! Atyachar Band Karo!" is precisely the slogan that correctly reflects our demands," they told me.

And then here is the veteran communist mother Musumma, the Chairman of Medak Municipal Committee from Andhra Pradesh. She is the brave mother of our beloved comrade Kewal, Kishan who died in 1961. Thanks to the encouragement of mother Musumamma, Kewal, Kishan's wife Anandai Bai, who had never stirred out of the house till late, is not

# WHAT MARCHERS TOLD ME

★ by Munshi

only a Party member now, but also an M.L.A.

"How do you like the procession?" I asked mother Musumamma.

"Oh! it is grand. So colourful. So disciplined. So nice. So many people. Here are Marathas, Gujaratis, Bengalis, Tamils, Oriyas, Punjabis, Biharis with all their different languages, different costumes, but all of them members of one family, one party. It is so nice to see it all. Poor Anandi could not come because of the ill-health of her child. How shall I find words to describe this grand pageant that I have seen here."

### Abiding Faith

Such are the people that participated in the Great March—people who have seen so much in their lives. They all came here with their fellow workers, with their kith, to march along with this great stream of humanity. Their unions, their panchayats, their kisan sabhas have contributed to send them here.

Long queues of union activists and ordinary workers waited outside our mill gate to contribute their mite for our travel." Mohammed Khalil of Rajnagar Ahmedabad Mill told me. "They gave me Rs. 56 and came to see me off at the station."

Along with him was Abbas of Lal Mill, Ahmedabad. "We have seen something unique," Abbas told me. "Let the enemies of the Red Flag beware—we have come all the way to ensure the protection of workers' rights and democracy. We shall smash all the conspiracies of our enemies."

"Our Party is a mass Party," the leader of Ahmedabad workers told me. "Our people are disciplined people. Strength lies in unity and discipline. We have both. Hence our Party is invincible."

Sixty-five year old Shivanand Chaudhari of Binababhangama, tharia Sopol, Sahara, Bihar, felt proud of his panchayat which had sent him to this Great March.

"The 8,000 people of our village are behind this petition. They want the land tax to come down. We have faced the ravages of river Kosi for a long time, but now we have built the Kosi Dam thirty miles north of our village. Why should we not build a dam against the ravages of heavy taxation on poor people?"

"Yes! Yes! why not?" fast came the reply from his cousin Tarankant. "What else are we doing? Our demand for nationalisation of Banks is the dam against these taxes. Didn't we have to struggle to get the Kosi Dam built? Now we are struggling to get this dam against taxes."

Shankar Baba of Hardoi, U.P., felt all aglow with joy. "I have no son, but I have two grand daughters who gave me Sattu and Chana for my journey. Now I am carrying many pleasant tales to tell them." He told me.

"Lakhs and lakhs of people are here. And not even a needle is lost here. The volunteers have done admirable work. We had a book-stall in our camp (Talkatora), a medical unit, barbers, washermen. Everything has been so grand and so nice. And then this Great March. I would have missed the biggest joy of my life if I had not come here."

And as I put questions to him, he unfolded his life—and what a life it has been. Shankar Baba had joined the Congress in 1921. He courted imprisonment in 1932 under Gandhiji's leadership. He remained an active Congress worker till 1947. In 1947 he left Congress and joined the Socialist Party. Then the Forward Bloc. Finally, he came to the Communist Party in 1950 and is working as a Party organiser since then.

"Why did you leave the Congress?" I asked him.

"Left because of their opportunism. Their factionalism. Sampurnanand versus Gupta and then Gupta versus Tripathi, then Tripathi versus... In every state it is the same story. They are not bothered about their old and veteran rank and file workers. All they are bothered about are their ministries."

"Why didn't you join Jan Sangh or Swatantra?"

"Don't be silly, comrade," he flared up, "who doesn't know these wretched toots of Maharajas and monopolists, the wretched pest!"

Such were the people who came in their thousands, may, in lakhs to join the Great March. And as I write this I feel that the epic of the Great March can never end. It shall be told and retold for days and months together in the most distant fields, factories, villages and towns of our vast country.

## STORY OF GREAT MARCH CAMP

★ by Our Staff Correspondent

Where did the lakhs stay in Delhi? If the March itself was a marvel of organisation and discipline... no less was the organisation of the camps. Those who saw Talkatora Gardens, where the main camp was set up, marvelled at the colossal task which had been undertaken.

ALL calculations were upset. Far more marchers came than had been anticipated. Take the Talkatora Gardens. Here we had expected mainly the marchers from more distant places, those who would stay over the night, not the Punjab and UPites, who were to be put up for the day at another camp. And so we had catered for

already over crowded, and the Shamianas were "bursting at their seams," so to say. More shamianas were rushed. But the stream of marchers never seemed to end.

It was wonderful and glorious, and who could have been happier than the organisers. The 15000 gate passers which had been printed to regulate the admission of marchers into the camp were exhausted, and still they came all evening, all night, right into the small hours of the morning.

The kitchen blocks, which served tea, snacks, meals, were quickly emptied; more supplies of food were rushed. But it was never enough.

Everything was there at Talkatora Gardens—a medical unit with a number of beds ready to treat the sick; an enquiry office; a reception office, where marchers registered; telephones; an internal loud speaker system to keep in touch with the entire camp.

### Hundred Volunteers

In over-all charge of this huge undertaking was Dr. Z. A. Ahmad, on behalf of the Central Secretariat of the Party. A hundred volunteers led by Delhi Party and trade union leader Manna, were on constant duty. Manna's close colleagues were Nandlal Gupta (responsible for the Reception Office); Wazir Chand (in charge of food arrangements); Anand Gupta (responsible for the housing of the ever-expanding flood of marchers); and Rudra Dev (in charge of transport).

### Wonderful People

Des Raj Goel was in overall charge of the transit camp, with a group of devoted volunteers. And here again the marchers were full of praise for the hard work put in by the volunteers in the most difficult conditions.

As for the volunteers... they themselves have a different tale to tell. They say the marchers just organised themselves, were always tolerant and forgiving of all the shortcomings of the arrangements, were just wonderful people to work with!

I don't know who did it... and I have a suspicion that it was something Communists call the collective work of all... But it was grand and wonderful, inspiring... this story of the Great March Camps...



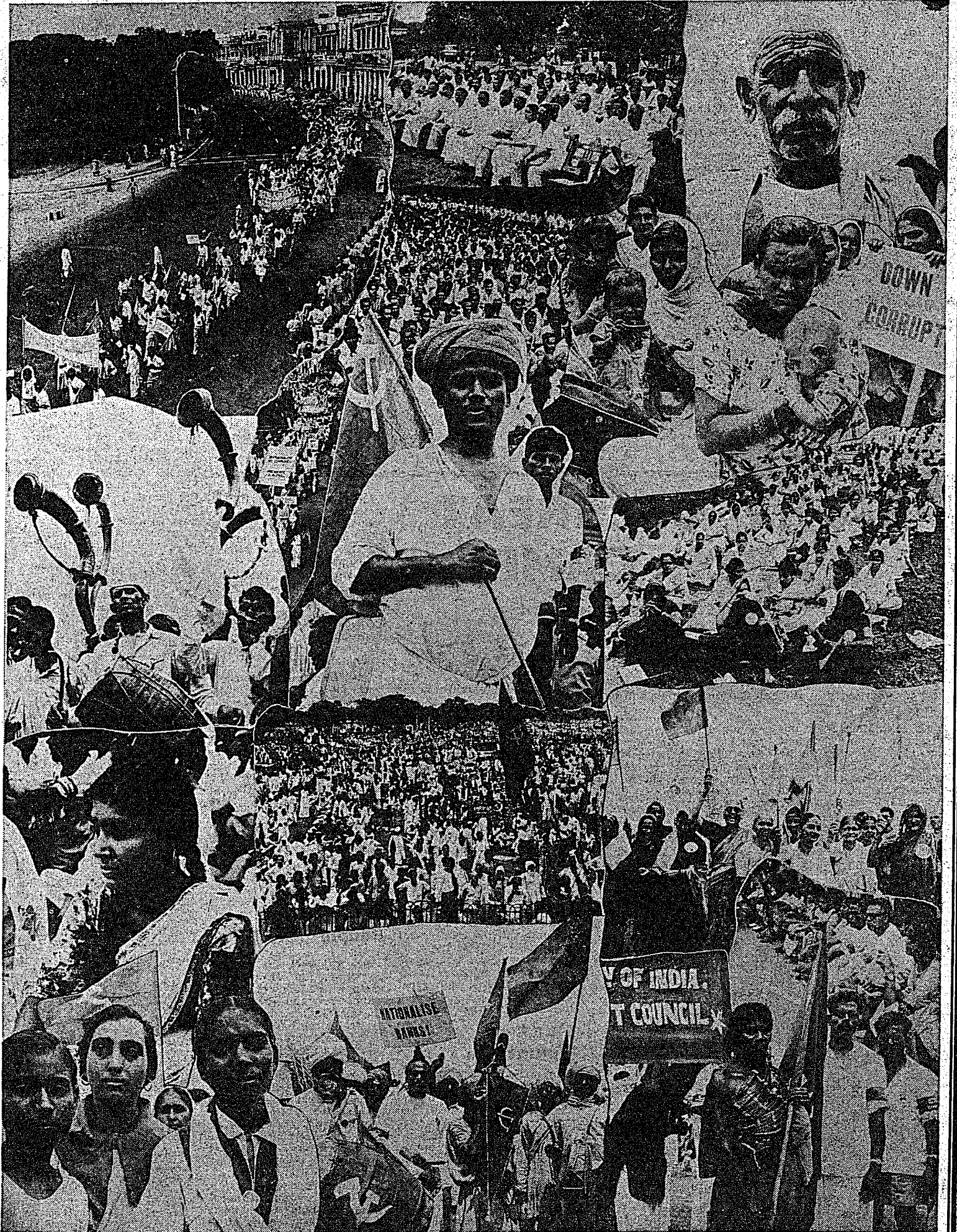
A group of volunteers with huge Red Flags.

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# FROM ALL CORNERS OF



# THE COUNTRY THEY CAME