

S U C Statement on Mid-term Polls

(By a Staff Reporter)

Calcutta, 27th. Dec.—Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of SUCI stated that the Congress (R), being a minority Government at the Centre, out of fear and feeling of insecurity, has dissolved the Lok Sabha and announced a mid-term poll for the Lok Sabha. But he felt concerned about the dubious game the Congress (R) Government is playing in regard to the elections to the West Bengal State Legislative Assembly, which is long overdue and which, under the situation obtaining at present in the State, should be held simultaneously with the elections to the Lok Sabha.

During President's Rule in West Bengal, which is nothing but the rule of Congress (R), the administration, and particularly the Police had established a fascist rule in direct collusion with the employers and the jotedars. The earlier this Police Raj was ended through the establishment of a popular Government which was conducive to the aspirations of the toiling people and helpful to the legitimate democratic movements, the better it would be for all sections of the people.

He further stated that it was firmly believed that in this State, people would defeat on the one hand the Congress (R) which represents the aggregate interest of the monopoly capitalism and the Congress (O) which represents the individual interest of the vested interest and monopoly capitalism and would on the other hand defeat the left opportunist and disruptive politics of CPI (M), and a new chapter would be added in the history of the left democratic movement in West Bengal.

Jute Workers fight against fleecing Jute Barons

More than two lakhs of Jute Workers of the State went on strike from 7th December 1970 to achieve their various demands. The call for strike was given by Jute Workers' Unions affiliated to six central trade unions including U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani). The demands of the Jute Workers were just and they had been pressing for acceptance of these demands for a long period; but the consistent obduracy of the Jute barons stood in the way of any settlement. This attitude forced the workers to launch strike and ultimately an agreement was concluded on 24th December 1970 between the representatives of the different Trade Unions of Jute Workers, the management and the Government and the Jute strike was withdrawn.

In the said agreement it has been settled that minimum bonus will be paid at 6%, 6½% and 7% respectively of the wages, in accordance with the provisions of

Fatick Ghosh
the payment of Bonus Act, 1965, for the current year (accounting year beginning
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MODERATES SWEEP IN PAKISTAN POLLS

In the recent election for the formation of National Assembly in Pakistan, Mujibur Rahman and his Party, the Awami League, have secured a sweeping victory gaining an absolute majority in the Assembly constituted for the purpose of framing up the new constitution. There is no doubt that the surging national aspiration of the people of East Pakistan which was manifest in many previous movements against Ayub's rule had been the bedrock on which Mujibur, who we think, represents the liberal section of the bourgeoisie, could accomplish such remarkable victory.

Obviously the left democratic and progressive section of the people expects a critical appraisal of the situation for realising whether the present course of events can actually fulfil the genuine aspirations of the people of Pakistan and especially those of East Pakistan who for a long time past are fighting for regional autonomy, (a section of the left democratic force led by Maulana Bhasani is demanding independence of both the wings with a loose federation at the top) economic prosperity and freedom from the domination of monopolists and landlords of the western part of the country. A critical review of the situation is also of utmost importance for the fact that in East Pakistan the forces led by Bhasani, posed as left, and his National Awami party did not participate in the election.

Now, before going into the detailed analysis of the present-day position in Pakistan, we would like to remind our readers that in assessing the existing situation there, we have had to solely rely on the news and facts published by the bourgeois Press in our country. We are fully aware of the fact

Subir Basu Roy

that these news might neither be fully correct nor authentic as bourgeois Press in any country is habituated to concoct stories and supply distorted news. But since there is no other alternative source of getting authentic materials at our disposal, we cannot but rely on the materials of the bourgeois Press.

For a long time past after the emergence of the country as an independent State the people

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SOARING PRICES

Almost all sections of the people are very much hard hit by the exorbitant rise in prices of all the essential commodities. If viewed in the context of recent lay off, lockout and closures of hundreds of industrial establishments due to recession, it can be easily imagined what a havoc the spurt in prices is causing to the vast multitude of the people. As per the official figure the prices have reached a new peak and Mr. Chavan, the Union Finance Minister had to concede it on the floor of the Parliament though he did not give a correct picture. Every time the government is confronted with the question of price issue, a categorical assurance is given that the government is vigilant and all possible remedial measures are adopted to hold the price line. But the net result is that prices go up and up unabated.

The official whole sale price index (with the year ended March 1962—100) during the week ended November 21 last is 181. As per the available official assessment made for the month of October 1970, the general whole sale price index was higher by as much as 8.2% as compared with October 1969. But it is to be remembered that this is the time of the year when prices show a fall particularly those of food and other consumer articles. But in October 1970, the fall in general price level has, in sharp contrast, been only 0.3%. The prices at this time of year are beyond the reach of common people. Food prices were 8.8% higher than that at the same time last year. Milk and milk products were higher by 16.3%, fish, eggs and meat by 11.7%. Prices of tea, coffee and salt were higher by 15%, 43.6% and 27% respectively. Above figures only reveal the extent of price rise of all the essential commodities. But to a common man figures are not necessary as he feels the pinches of the spurt in prices in his day to day life.

R. K. B.

Monopoly circle attributes the wage increase as the reason for the increase in prices and consequently they try to explain it away by fallacious logic of wage price spiral. Government which is the spokesman of this monopoly capitalism in India, has naturally put forward the same logic and sometimes even defended the price rise by

saying that it is an inevitable feature of a developing economy. But this is not at all true. It is because of the rise in prices that the workers demand higher wages and the increase in wages they acquired through struggle only marginally offset the price rise in essential commodities. Moreover in the preamble of the five year plans it is stated that prices may go up by one or two percent a year and as such abnormal increase in prices can not be explained on the plea of developing economy.

As a matter of fact inflation is an inevitable feature of capitalist economy. In contrast, the currency circulation contracts and it is progressively replaced by commodity circulation in socialist economy. But in a capitalist economy the reverse is the case. In capitalist economy the 'motive force of production is maximum profit and due to this urge for maximum profit in capitalist economy, the common man is subjected to maximum exploitation. Common men's woe due to increase in prices is solely for satisfying this urge to earn maximum profit. Here due to the superprofit of the exploiting capitalist class, the prices of all the commodities shoot up abnormally and this high price and the super profits take away all the purchasing power of the people and this sets in recessionary pressure in capitalist economy. In India, after the attainment of

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By The Way

In a well-known weekly Mr. Promode Dasgupta, the C. P. M. leader has been reported to have said that the "Naxalites are CIA agents, anti-social riffraffs who get lousy drunk and attack the police and established institutions just for the sake of getting killed, wounded, arrested and tortured in a state of drunkenness". Mr. Promode Babu might enjoy the spectacle of Naxalites and other innocent people being ruthlessly killed by the police in a 'state of intoxication'. Leaving aside the question of Naxalites, no sane man can ignore the trail of horrors committed by the police force on the common people. But for the policemen in the State whom the C. P. M. leaders during the last U. F. regime, perseveringly tried to paint as "people's police," nearly 11 crores of rupees has been spent during the last few months for purchasing firearms, giving training and providing facilities like safer houses, vans etc. Even this did not suffice to 'discipline' the people and crush the popular democratic mass movements against the vested interest, the police administration of the State have been further empowered through recent enactments of 'Prevention of Violent Activities Act' and 'Maintenance of Public Order Act'. But incidentally it may be mentioned that it was Mr. Promode Babu and his party leaders who almost became 'drunk' due to their puffed up position both in the Assembly and in the Ministry during the last U. F. rule and increased the might of the police force through enhanced police budget which obviously now has boomeranged against the interest of the people and their legitimate movements.

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The U. S. pirates have renewed barbarous attacks and heavily bombarded the cities of Hai Phong, Quang Ming, Hoa Binh, and the surroundings of Hanoi on 21st and 22nd November last. The American Defence Secretary Mr. Laird, most arrogantly and shamelessly justified this action on the ground that "it was a protective reaction attack, a reprisal against the shooting at unarmed American reconnaissance planes" which made deep inroads in DRV airspace. The peace loving people throughout the world are raising a powerful voice of protest against this dastardly attack of American gangsters. Even the American people and Ex-Servicemen are now charging the U.S. Administration as the real culprit behind Vietnam atrocities. To carry out the programme of 'dehumanisation' in Vietnam this gangster Administration of U.S.A. rewards those persons who can effectively experiment on mass massacre and various kinds of brutalities. "Generals, colonels, even captains are promoted on the basis of the body counts" of the victims of U. S. aggression—comments an Ex-Service American captain.

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According to a Government official report the total land vested in the State of West Bengal upto September 1970, is 8, 65, 583 acres, of which only 3, 47, 055 acres have been distributed so far. About 15000 civil rules of injunction relating to land reform questions covering nearly 1, 72,000 acres of agricultural land are still pending for settlement. Those who still harbour an illusion of recovering the surplus benam land through legal processes alone, averting the necessity of building up organised movement of poor peasantry should take note of it.

CALL OF E. P. C.

Fight both wings of Congress as the main enemy and the left opportunist politics of C.P.I.(M) as the main danger

The people of West Bengal are now passing through a grim phase of unforeseen brutalities of the present police administration which have surpassed in dimension all previous records. The President's rule in this State which is nothing but an indirect rule of the Congress (R) Government at the centre has brought in its wake a trail of horrors to the common people and is suppressing the legitimate democratic mass movements with all its might. After the dissolution of the last U. F. Government in the State, which acted as an instrument of intensifying all legitimate struggles of the democratic sections of the people, a reign of terror has set in with police administration assuming more and more brutal powers for suppressing the struggling masses and mounting offensives are being launched by the monopolists, the jotedars and the other vested interests, aided and abetted in their nefarious designs by the present administration to snatch away from the people the gains already achieved by them during the last U. F. regime.

The left-opportunistic and disruptive politics of the CPI (M) which during the last U.F. rule had shattered the unity of the Front itself and disrupted the Front Government, is mainly responsible for the promulgation of President's rule in the State. The current spate of brutalities of the present Administration is nothing but the concomitant evil of the President's rule, and long ago visualising this danger we warned the people about it unless the CPI (M) changed its narrow disruptive attitude and mended its way causing great harm to the U.F. and the cause of left progressive mass movement. The present situation bears full testimony to the correctness of our reading.

To fulfil the democratic aspirations of the people and to put an end to the present misrule of the Congress (R) Government at the centre which is fleecing the common men with growing intensity an immediate mid-term poll should be held in the State, to institute a popular Government. The EPC in its broad outline of policy has stated that to contain the present unbearable situation confronting the people of West Bengal and to advance the cause of the toiling masses and their various

legitimate democratic struggles it is necessary to fight the main enemy represented by both wings of the Congress, namely the Congress (R) and the Congress (O) and the other reactionary and communal parties as well and also to defeat the left-sectarian and opportunistic politics of CPI (M) which has appeared as the main danger disrupting the unity of the left democratic movement. To fulfil this twin objective of launching united, mighty struggle of all the left and democratic forces combined under EPC against the main class enemy and their various political parties and freeing these democratic mass movements from the left-opportunist and sectarian influences of the CPI (M) politics a broad policy statement of the EPC is given below.

POLICY STATEMENT OF THE E. P. C.

1. The EPC recalls that in West Bengal the UF emerged as a powerful instrument for developing democratic mass movements against the capitalists, jotedars, communalists and other reactionaries in the State.

2. The EPC further recalls that the people of West Bengal, true to their left and democratic tradition, routed

the Congress and other reactionary parties in the UF and returned it to Governmental power by overwhelming majority.

3. The EPC reiterates its considered opinion that due mainly to the unprincipled use by the CPI (M) of its position in the UF Government in general, particularly the use by it of the Home Ministry and police, for sectarian party interest and repeated violations by it of the declared policies and agreed decisions of the UF, the objective of the UF to unitedly defend the people against the capitalists, jotedars, communalists and other reactionary and anti-social forces began to be weakened from the very start. The unity of the UF further disrupted when the CPI (M), despite its pledges and promises, launched physical murderous attacks with active help of a section of bureaucracy and police on the workers and supporters of other constituent parties of the Front and the people in pursuance of its left opportunistic politics inimical to the united democratic struggle, democracy and the interests of the people. As a result, ultimately the UF disrupted and the UF Government fell leading to the imposition of the President's Rule in the State.

4. The EPC notes with concern that despite the fighting spirit of the masses and their heroic struggles, the capitalists, jotedars and other reactionary forces are now trying to recover their lost positions with the help of the President's Rule, which is an administration by the Centre, for the anti-people measures and misdeeds of which the Central Government and the Congress (R) are fully responsible.

5. The EPC notes further that the working class, the peasantry and the toiling people of every strata in the State who had rightly expected to advance during the last UF regime their just and legitimate democratic movements against vested interests and reaction are now faced with naked police raj wedded to the task of defending vested interests, mounting attacks on the gains won by the people under the last UF regime and forcibly suppressing all democratic mass movements.

6. The EPC cannot but take note of the fact that the Congress (R) and the Congress (O) and other reactionary and communal parties and forces are now trying to take advantage of the disunity among the left and democratic parties and forces.

7. The EPC reiterates its basic policy and determination to develop democratic mass movements against vested interests and reaction and left opportunist and disruptive politics.

8. The EPC is convinced that the urgent task in West Bengal is to end the President's Rule and install a stable and progressive Government. For this the EPC will seek a fresh mandate from the people. The battle ahead is going to be a severe one. The split in the Congress has not brought about any significant change in the Congress (R). Despite its radical declarations, the Congress (R) continues to serve the vested interests. The Congress (R) rule curtails the fundamental democratic rights of the people and brutally suppresses mass movements. The Congress (O), on the other hand, is trying for a rightist take over. The CPI(M) continues to be the greatest

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HOLD HIGH THE BANNER OF STRUGGLE

against nationality oppression till to its final victory

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of Pakistan in general, and those of East Pakistan in particular, have been fighting against the exploitation and oppression they have to suffer in the hands of the military rulers, monopolists and landlords of the country. The condition of the people in East Pakistan is far more wretched and distressed than that of people in any other part of the country. In fact, in case of East Pakistan the exploitation and oppression the people have suffered in the hands of the ruling clique of the West in all spheres of life, like economic, cultural and political, took the form of national oppression.

Since the emergence of Pakistan, the autocratic rulers of the country have been pursuing an undemocratic and unfair fiscal policy with a view to serve their vested interest. Though the major portion of the total revenue of the country is collected from the people of East Pakistan, only a meagre fraction of it is allotted to meet the expenses of East Pakistan. In the cultural sphere also the attempt to forcibly impose Urdu as the sole State language by suppressing the languages of the other section of the people, which has been frustrated by a heroic battle of the people of East Pakistan against the ruling clique, is no doubt an alarming example of cultural subjugation of the oppressed nationality by a dominant one. Marked indiscriminations have been observed by the ruling clique against the people of East Pakistan even in other spheres like employment in Government service, State help etc. etc.

All these things have combined together to rouse the people of East Pakistan aga-

inst the nationality oppression they have suffered in the hands of the ruling clique of the West with their legitimate demand of regional autonomy and only a few months ago, the people launched a vigorous movement against the military rulers and the vested interest which forced Ayub to go down from power. During this period our party led by our leader Com. Shibdas Ghosh opined that the task of the left forces would be to organise a democratic front, consisting of all democratic forces which would be anti-imperialist, pro-socialist and supporter of progressive movement in different countries in the international sphere and anti-feudal, anti-monopoly in the national sphere and would accelerate the course of rapid all out development—political, economic, cultural and social—of the country.

If such a front could have been materialised, then backed by the militant organisations of workers, peasants, students and other patriotic sections of the people fighting against nationality oppression, the history of events in Pakistan could have taken a different course. The people could then be freed from the influence of right reformist swing of Parliamentarianism and bourgeois constitutionalism (the possible danger of which no doubt exists at present) and if conditions favoured, the struggle could have ultimately been pushed to a higher level for following a non-capitalist path of development.

But so far we know such a front was never organised, and taking into full cognizance the militant and the fighting character of the people of Pakistan we have had to admit that in reality the struggle of the people mainly remained

restricted within the mass agitational forms—of course no doubt with the occasional vigorous outbursts against the vested interests and the ruling clique.

The situation as obtaining now in Pakistan, indicates that the present phase of democratic movement against nationality oppression and autocratic military rule will, in its process of development, culminate into a revolutionary struggle for seizure of power by overthrowing the bourgeois State to achieve the real freedom of the people from the clutches of monopolists and landlords. Moreover, our party, under the correct Marxist-Leninist guidance of our leader Com. Shibdas Ghosh wants to remind the left democratic section and the people of Pakistan of Com. Ghosh's teachings that, at present in every country, passing through the democratic phase, two trends are observed. The moderate or liberal section of the bourgeoisie, often wearing a radical cloak, verbally preaches democracy, but in reality, when the question of safeguarding vested class interest arises, nakedly curbs even the minimum democratic rights of the people and adopt various coercive measures to suppress the popular democratic movements. On the other hand the revolutionary Left considers the tasks of the democratic phase as part and parcel of the ultimate revolutionary struggle to overthrow the existing exploitative system and hence, aspires to push the democratic struggles to a higher level. They organise all the anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly forces under their leadership and, upholding the democratic rights, lead the people into the course of their legi-

itimate democratic movements to achieve the final objective.

In view of this fact, we think that it would have been wise for Maulana Bhasani and his National Awami Party, posed as Lefts, to participate in the elections by forming a united front with the liberal section of the bourgeoisie and after securing the victory, to put up effective pressure on the latter in the framing up of the constitution, embodying full-fledged autonomous right consistent with the principle of the right of nations to self-determination, followed by the formation of a democratic Government based on adult franchise. The role of the Left democratic force within the Government would be to carry democratic struggles in such a manner that, even when participating in the parliamentary form of Government it, on the one hand, would expose the myth of parliamentary democracy, by frustrating the attempts of the liberal bourgeoisie to hold sway over the people through parliamentary reformism, contain the liberal bourgeoisie, isolate them from the masses and in this way, gradually pass over the democratic phase through the process of organising the people for the revolutionary struggle.

As the main question in every revolution is the question of seizure of the State power, so the main task of the revolutionary forces in Pakistan will be to overthrow the bourgeoisie from political power; and the sooner the tasks of the democratic phase would be completed, the quicker would be the process of isolating the liberal bourgeoisie from the masses of the people and organising the masses under revolutionary

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Falsehood of C P I (M) Knows no bound

Much fanfare and drum-beating has been made by the CPI (M) over the recent victory of the C P I (M)-led Sector Committee in the election of Durgapur Employees Consumers Co-operative Society.

A host of untruths and distortion of facts is being presented to the public by CPI (M) propagandists as well as its official organ—the daily Ganashakti.

One can easily understand the CPI (M)'s attempt to boost up the fast deteriorating morale of their ranks through wild and false propaganda but when their falsehood knows no bound, it becomes incumbent on our part to bring out the facts to light.

Firstly, the actual number of voters of Durgapur Consumers' Co-operative Society is a little more than 8,000 and not 23,000 as is being propagated. And for every 100 voters one delegate is being elected which makes the number of delegates as 80. It is to be remembered that out of the total number of 26,000 employees of the D.S.P. only 8000 are members of the Co-

operative who are eligible for voting. Secondly, nearly 50 percent of the 8000 members who are eligible voters have cast their votes in the said election.

Democratic Peoples Front, the Sector Committee and the Congress (R) were the three parties which contested the election. Eighty representatives of the Sector Committee secured approximately 2200 votes while the DPF secured nearly 1300 and the Congress (R) 500 respectively. The falsehood of the CPI (M)'s propaganda that against them the D.P.F. has combined with Congress (R) and other forces are evident from this three separate panels. For, the last few years the CPI (M) has been running the administration of Co-operative Society in collaboration with the Management and practically went unopposed. This is for the first time that an united front of the People's

Committees, the Democratic Front and other progressive elements was formed under the banner of the DPF to fight against the vested interests of the left opportunists. And in spite of all sorts of intimidations, threats, coercions by the CPI (M) against the supporters of DPF to restrain them in exercising their franchise as well as the manipulation in the voting process adopted by the CPI (M), the large number of votes secured by the DPF bears ample proof of their fast isolation from the general workers and employees at Durgapur.

And precisely in order to hoodwink their own workers and the public from this fact of their being gradually isolated, the CPI (M) has resorted to such false propaganda.

Lastly, we call upon all the democratic minded citizens of Durgapur to cast off their fear and panic and unitedly come forward to defeat this left opportunist trend within the rank of democratic movement and carry on their struggle against vested interest and reactionary class represented by both wings of the Congress to give them the final death blow.

Jute Strike

(Continued from page 1)

in 1969) and the next two succeeding years, and pending finalisation of gratuity scheme which will be referred to wage committee, it will be paid on an ad hoc basis. As regards the *badli* workers, it has been agreed that the wage committee will be requested to take up this issue as the first item for consideration of what relief the *badli* workers will be entitled to in case of unemployment and to give its findings on this within six weeks. In case there is no agreement in the committee, the committee will send its report forthwith to the Central Government which will give its decision on this at its earliest. The decision will be given effect to from 1.12.70. The demands relating to house allowance and increase of leave and holidays will also be referred to the wage committee. The signatories to the agreement on behalf of different trade unions were Indrajit Gupta (A. I. T. U. C.), Fatik Ghosh (U. T. U. C-Lenin Sarani), Jatin Chakraborty (U. T. U. C-Bowbazar), Kali Mukherji (I. N. T. U. C), Niren Ghosh (C. I. T. U.) and Phani Ghose (H.M.S.). Besides the leaders of the six central trade Unions, Com. Sanat Dutta of Bengal Jute Mills Workers Union affiliated to U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani) was also present at the tripartite meeting held at New Delhi. Among others present were, Sri Bhowari

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misrule and the corrupt administration which is conniving with the dishonest and criminal traders in their mission of plundering people and plunging them in untold miseries. Surprisingly it is found that the other left parties, even including the C.P.I and C. P. I (M), in spite of repeated requests of the SUCI are not responding to this call and taking any initiative to resist this mounting offensive of the vested clique.

SUC calls for struggle against soaring price

Public meeting held at Lachitnagar

(By a Staff Reporter)

On 28th November last under the auspices of Ulubari-Lachitnagar local committee under the Gauhati District Committee of S. U. C. I., a big meeting was held at Lachitnagar in preparation for a mighty movement against soaring prices of essential commodities.

The meeting was presided over by notable lawyer Mr. Ramesh Kalita. Com. Pravat Khatunia, the main speaker along with the other speakers in the meeting severely condemned the food policy of the Assam State Government. Com. Khatunia in his main speech analysed the causes underlying the artificial crisis in foodgrains and ever spiralling prices of essential commodities and squarely blamed the present capitalist system as responsible for this hardship of the people. He also called upon the people to come forward and organise mighty struggle against this food crisis and the rising trend in the prices of essential articles. The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution which condemned the contradictory statements of the Union Fin-

ance Minister and the Food Minister of the Assam Government regarding this ever increasing price trend and unequivocally held the ruling Congress Government of the State which serves the monopolists, the hoarders and the black marketeers as being responsible for this severe malady. Other resolutions on dehoarding of foodgrains, introduction of complete state trading, including both wholesale and retail trade in essential commodities, and the urgent need of mighty united left movement on this issue were also adopted in the meeting.

Besides this, the Gauhati District Committee of S.U.C.I. organised similar meetings, demonstrations, poster campaigns etc. throughout Gauhati on an extensive scale for mobilising public opinion and organising the people against the Congress

THE C. P. I(M) WAY !

In *Statesman* dated 25th November 1970, a special correspondent has reported that some purges are going on in Kerala unit of the CPI (M) just after their debacle in the recent mid-term election held in the State. One district committee and one taluq committee have been dissolved and some important party and trade union leaders and kisan organisers including Mr. K. R. Gangadharan, General Secretary of the powerful Toddy Tappers Union have been expelled. "In Alleppey the taluq committee was asked by the State committee to 'retire' the party candidate and divert the party votes to the Congress (O) candidate there, so as to defeat the C. P. I. leader Mr. T. V. Thomas. Local Marxists disagreed and apparently revolted. The C. P. I. candidate won. The Secretary of Alleppey taluq C. P. I. (M) committee has now been suspended". A 'Marxist' penalty indeed for going against the grand alliance of C. P. I. (M), Congress (O) and other arch reactionary parties in the country !

SOARING PRICES

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independence, the Indian bourgeoisie tried to strengthen and consolidate capitalism in our country through launching of five year plans. With a view to implementing these plans Government introduced stiff dose of taxation to mop up resources. At that time our party cautioned against the danger of this capitalist planning. But curiously the then C. P. I. (now fragmented into three parts) lent deaf ear to our caution and they over-Nehrue'd Nehru himself in supporting these plans and not a single voice of dissent could be heard. No fragments like C. P. I., C. P. I (M) and C. P. I (M-L) coming out from the undivided C. P. I. can be absolved of the responsibility of misleading the people about the character of these five year plans.

Thus the people of our country who are underfed, illclad and undernourished had to tighten their belt still further for the consolidation of Indian capitalism. Huge taxation, both direct and indirect is bleeding the Indian people white. These taxations are ultimately borne by the ordinary citizens though the ruling clique is trying to camouflage this naked truth through jugglery of words. Any common man who has slightest knowledge of economic laws knows how the indirect tax-

tion is passed on to the common men with added profits to the capitalist class. If the government taxation on any commodity is say ten per cent, the prices of that commodity is pushed up by 15 per cent or more. Thus it is evident that rise in prices is not at all connected with wage increase; rather it is the price rise which compels the workers to demand increased wages. But the capitalist class who is amassing superprofits due to increases in prices is not ready to part with any portion of their superprofits by paying increased wages to the workers. They are trying to rob the workers of all their legitimate claims. By raising the bogey of wage-price spiral, the capitalist class in our country is really after wage freeze of the working class. As such any attempt to freeze wages on the plea of stabilisation of prices must be frustrated. It must be clear to one and all that the exorbitant rise in prices is solely due to super profits of the capitalist class, huge deficit financing and exorbitant taxation—both direct and indirect. In this state of affair nothing tangible can be achieved if the government is not pressurised to adopt pro-people price policy through a mighty mass movement. As such people from all walks of life must come forward to build up a mighty movement to check the price spiral in all the essential commodities.

STUDENTS' NEWS

DSO Observes Bhagat Singh Jayanti in Orissa

(By a Staff Reporter)

All India Democratic Students' Organisation, Sundergarh District Committee, Orissa, celebrated "Shaheed Bhagat Singh Jayanti" On 21st November at community centre, Sector—7, Rourkella which was largely attended by students and members of the public.

Com. Bishnupada Das, convenor of Orissa State Organising Committee of All India D.S.O. was on the chair and Mr. Gopal Mishra member of the Central Committee and Bihar State Committee of All India D.S.O. was the main speaker.

Com Bina Pani Das, Secretary, Sundergarh District Committee of All India D.S.O. explained the significance of Bhagat Singh Jayanti.

Main speaker, Com. Gopal Mishra discussed the activities of Bhagat Singh in the freedom movement. In course of his speech he referred to the present degradation of cultural and ethical standard of the student community, which was not the case during the freedom movement. According to him at that period, a high ethical and cultural standard was prevalent among the students and this was possible due to the burning zeal amongst the people to come out of the imperialist bondage. He urged upon the students to be imbued by the character of Bhagat Singh and to build up a mighty student movement which was conducive to the growth of progressive movement in our country.

Mr. Bishnu Pada Das in his presidential speech elaborated why the leaders like Bhagat Singh are not yet honoured properly.

On this occasion, D.S.O. conducted a seminar in the morning. The topic was "The Present-day Ethical Crisis among the Students and its Way out". Students from different institutions participated in the discussion.

DSO Triumphs in College elections in West Bengal

Students' union elections in some of the colleges in West Bengal have been complete. In these elections, D. S. O. participated along with the other students' organisations. It was seen that students in general supported the D. S. O. candidates, wherever they contested. Election results of some of the colleges are given below :—

Muralidhar Girls' College (Calcutta)

In this College Union election, D. S. O. secured 55 out of 56 seats, defeating miserably S. F. (L), student wing of C P I(M), candidates. In a straight contest, Com. Suparna Mukherji and Com. Shila Borua, both D.S.O. candidates were elected General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary respectively. Incidentally it might be mentioned that D.S.O. has been controlling this Students' Union for the last six years.

Kidderpore College (Calcutta)

Students Union of Kidderpore College was previously in the hand of S. F. (Left). But this year D. S. O. candidates defeated them in 9 out of 18 seats and they secured the control of the Students' Union. S. F. secured 8 seats and one seat went to Chhatra Parishad.

New Alipore Collage (Calcutta)

In the student's body election held on 22nd and 23rd December, D. S. O. fought against S. F. (left) and Students

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E. P. C.*(Continued from page 3)*

disruptive force and its anti-people role in connivance with a section of bureaucracy and police as well as vested interests is harming the united mass movement and obstructing its growth.

In the prevailing conditions, the EPC pledges to the people of West Bengal that it will spare no effort to mobilise all popular forces in the coming elections to fight and defeat Congress (R) and the Congress (O) as well as the CPI (M) and other parties that stand against the united mass movement, the mass line of the UF and the common programme based on it so as to provide West Bengal a stable and progressive Government.

9. The EPC will make serious efforts to bring in the left and democratic parties in the combination that subscribes to this basic approach of the EPC.

10. The EPC also decides that no constituent party of the EPC shall make an alliance or understanding with any other party or combination of parties outside the EPC without unanimous agreement of the constituents on such alliance or understanding in the coming elections.

On the basis of the above policy, the EPC wants to mobilise and unite all the left and democratic forces under its fold and develop on a mighty scale the extra-parliamentary democratic mass activities against the vested circle for defending the legitimate democratic interests of the toiling sections of the people. In the event of an election in the State which is necessary to end the President's Rule and dispel the prevailing atmosphere of police atrocity and extreme hardship of the people, the EPC calls upon the broad section of the toiling masses to come forward and strengthen the EPC in the interest of further accelerating the united left democratic mass movements in the State.

MEGHALAYA STATE**Assam bifurcation against the interest of Assamese people**

The separate State of Meghalaya has come into being. We have made known before our stand regarding the formation of a separate State of Meghalaya. We have already expressed that the ruling capitalist class is always after bringing disunity in the anti-capitalist movement of the people. The greatest enemy of the hill people and plain people of Assam along with the people of the rest of India is the present Indian capitalism.

The steam roller of oppression of the Indian capitalist class is not differentiating between the people of hill or plain areas of Assam or the people of the other States of India. The people all over India are subjected to economic, political and cultural oppression of the capitalist class. Hence the object of the hill people and the plain people of Assam as well as the people of the rest of India is one and the same, viz., the overthrow of the Indian capitalist State and establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat for bringing true socialism in our country. Herein lies the necessity of forging a militant unity of the hill people and plain people of Assam with the people of the rest of India.

But the capitalist class is always afraid of this unity of the people and as such they are fanning up the feudal disunity of the Indian people on the question of race, religion, language, caste etc. The formation of Meghalaya State is yet another attempt of the Indian ruling class in sowing the seed of disintegration between the hill people and the plain people of Assam.

After the formation of Meghalaya State the question of shifting the Capital from Shillong has naturally arisen. The shifting of Capital from Shillong to an appropriate place in the plains has been a long standing demand of the Assamese people. But the ruling Congress Government did not pay heed to this just

demand of the people. But now this shifting of Capital has become indispensable. Now the selection of site is in the cross current of various regional and local claims. It will be a great folly if the selection of site for State Capital is made on the basis of any such short sighted claims. In selection of site for State Capital the economic, administrative and political questions should be taken into consideration. In recognising these factors, it is our viewpoint that Gauhati can best serve the purpose of the State Capital as it is the centre of economic activity and it is also the centre of democratic movements in the State of Assam as well. Com Asit Bhattacharyya, the Secretary, Assam State committee of the S. U. C. I. has also issued a statement to the Press to this effect.

DSO Wins*(Continued from page 6)*

Block (student wing of Forward Bloc) and secured 15 seats. S. F. (left) secured only 8 seats whereas the Students Block did not get any. In three other seats re-election is to be held. Com Shikha Saha and Com Saidul Islam (Raju) were elected General Secretary and Asstt. General Secretary respectively.

In this connection, it is to be pointed out that this Students Union was previously in the hand of S. F. (left) and Students Block jointly. Local leaders of C. P. M., C. I. T. U. and some anti-social elements tried their utmost to retain their hold this time but they utterly failed.

Raghunathpur College (Purulia)

This year also like the four previous years, D. S. O. defeated the S. F. (Left) and gained control of the Union. Out of 24 seats, D. S. O. captured 18 seats.

Besides the above Colleges, D. S. O. for the first time contested five seats in Dum Dum Motijheel College and six seats in Barrackpore Rishi Bankim College and secured 2 seats and 4 seats there respectively.

GALLOPING UNEMPLOYMENT

Some figures on the number of unemployed persons in our country have been published in an article in LINK, a weekly journal, in its issue dated 29th. November, 1970. Thanks to the 'progressive' measures of the Congress, and its effort to build up a 'socialist pattern of society' in India the figure of unemployment shot up to 5.3 millions at the completion of the 1st Five year plan from 3.3 millions at the beginning of it and further increased to 9 millions at the end of Second plan and 11.5 millions at the end of Third plan. Even according to a very conservative estimate, the figure of unemployment at present is 13 millions and underemployment, 100 millions. The figure would reach 20.8 millions at the end of Fourth plan. According to the figures recorded in the live register of employment exchanges the number of educated unemployed is 17,60,000 of which 10,00,000 are matriculates, 4,69,000 are undergraduates, and 2,68,000 graduates. In West Bengal alone, the total number of unemployed engineers both including degree-holders and the undergraduates is roughly about 30,000 according to an unofficial estimate. This shows the tremendous amount of 'progress' that our country has been able to achieve under a prolonged spell of Congress rule in the past and is still achieving now under the 'radical' policies of Indira Gandhi's Government!

UNFLAGGING VIGILANCE OF PAKISTANI PEOPLE NEEDED

(Continued from page 4)

leadership to achieve the main objective of revolution.

Now if the autocratic rulers of the country did not have conceded to the rightful demand of full-fledged autonomy then the Left forces could have organised a vigorous mighty struggle against the ruling clique. Not only that, if the struggle would have been properly led, backed by organised militant mass movements and if the objective situation would have revealed that oppression and exploitation of people of one particular part of the country suffered in the hands of the exploiting class of another part could only be ended by forcing the authority to accept the right to secede on referendum, and if the demand for such right would have emerged and thereby received the sanction of the fighting masses out of that struggle, then even that demand would have been considered as rightful and legitimate by democratic freedom loving people all over the world.

Now an overall critical survey of the whole situation has compelled us to conclude that the forces represented by Bhasani posed as Left could not visualise the situation correctly and that its decision to stay away from the election would only help in its isolation from the fighting masses of the country. We however apprehend that the process of this isolation of the Bhasani group might have started before during the period when the people were fighting a great battle against Ayub's rule. During that period many of Maulana's activities tantamounted to adventurism. In this connection we would like to refer to *Proletarian Era*, dated May, 21st, 1969, where we stated that, "Instead of organising the struggle correctly and raising its tempo step by step adventurism had been encouraged. To illustrate,

Maulana openly declared at different times that the workers and peasants would burn the polling booths, if attempts were made to foil the movement by the forces believing in parliamentary reformism and would capture the factories and the organs of state power. And this was said without making any attempt whatsoever to develop people's own organs of struggle without which such utterances are nothing but empty verbosity and an act of adventurism."

Now, in the background of this perspective, the sweeping victory of Mujibur Rahman and his party in the elections is in fact quite understandable. Mujibur as the representative of the moderate and liberal section of the bourgeoisie of East Pakistan was trying to capture people's imagination. This section of the bourgeoisie in East Pakistan has been aspiring for the establishment of class hegemony and industrial growth in the country to meet its own class interest, and therefore for obvious reasons has become anti-autocratic rule and has supported the cause of regional autonomy. In such a background, the absence of a genuine revolutionary force in the field and the isolation of the force posed as Left which is represented by Bhasani for the unwise and faulty policy it has pursued, have acted as vital additional factors in favour of Mujibur's emergence as the unchallenged leader of East Pakistan. In fact he has succeeded to capture the national imagination which no doubt has been reflected in the sweeping victory he has achieved in the election.

The situation as it appears now following the recent comment made by Yahya Khan just after the election, the embodiment of the spirit of full-fledged autonomy in the constitution to be framed, might face with stiff opposition from the ruling

Jute Strike

(Continued from page 5)

Roy Choudhury, Sri Kamal Sarkar, and Sri Sisir Ganguly.

It is a fact that there is nothing to rejoice over the achievements in the said agreement as no substantial benefit was derived by the Jute Workers, and particularly *hadli* workers who constitute about 45% of the total Jute Workers, have not got any relief at all. But yet in the said agreement there is every scope to launch wider movements in the future. As such it is earnestly expected that different trade unions will shake off their sectarian attitude and come forward to

clique and a vigorous struggle might have to be launched to realise the demand. To give an all out country wide massive sustained shape to the struggle efforts should have to be made by the leadership to unite the fighting people of East Pakistan with the democratic forces in the West, represented by Wali Khan posed as pro-Left, and the resulting struggle should then be properly conducted to reach its necessary and logical culmination. History will no doubt prove whether Mujibur will be able to fulfil this task.

Now that the elections are over, the establishment of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan is only a matter of time. And with the current trends of different political forces, sooner or later parliamentary democracy—the political institution of the bourgeoisie, with the growth of bourgeois institutions and appendages, will be further consolidated. We hope that the fighting people of Pakistan will keep them vigilant and in no way allow the existing leadership to come to a compromise with the ruling clique with a view to realise only a constitutional, formal democracy with some minor rights of provincial autonomy and thereby arrest the struggle as half-finished in the middle way.

build up a bigger united movement for the cause of the Jute Workers.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that in the constitution of previous wage committee which was given shape after strike call was given by Jute Workers' Unions on 26th October 1970, the U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani) was not given representation to it due to manoeuvring of I. J. M. A., Government of India and by leaders of Trade Unions controlled by C. P. M., R. S. P. and Congress (R). In the tripartite meeting at New Delhi, Com Fatik Ghosh of U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani) pointed it out and demanded inclusion of U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani) in the said wage committee. At this Deputy Labour Minister and Foreign Trade Minister, Govt. of India proposed that U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani), one of the convenors of Jute strike be included in the wage committee of the Jute Workers as one of its members. This proposal was unanimously accepted and Government of West Bengal was ordered to include U. T. U. C. (Lenin Sarani) in the wage committee.

Mammoth meeting at Muzaffarpur

(By a Staff Reporter)

On the occasion of hundredth birth anniversary of Com. Lenin, the great leader of world communist movement, a big meeting was convened by the Muzaffarpur District Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India.

Comrade N.R. Singh, the well known trade union leader of Bihar, Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, Secretary, Calcutta District Committee, SUCI, Comrade Sankar Singh, Secretary of the Bihar State SUCI, Comrade Amar Kumar Pandey, a member of the Bihar State Committee of the party and a veteran trade union leader addressed the meeting.

A big procession of peasants, students, intellectuals and employees paraded the streets before the meeting.