

Trounce the Congress (R) at the Polls

Several States of the Indian Union are going to the polls this month. The people of these states must avail themselves of this opportunity to bury the Congress (R), the bastion of Indian reaction.

After independence the Congress had been in the saddle both in the Centre as well as in the States and this pattern was not disturbed till 1967.

Through the bitter experience of prolonged Congress misrule, this realisation dawned upon the Indian people that the Congress is the main enemy of the Indian people and the protector of the interests of the monopoly capitalists in our country. In spite of all tall promises of establishment of an egalitarian society through democratic socialism, the real character of Congress was unmasked when through execution of successive five year plans, the capitalist economy was consolidated and vast multitude of Indian people was subjected to dire poverty, privation, starvation and death. In order to protect the interest of the capitalist class, the Congress Government curtailed even the limited democratic rights of the people

R. K. B.

and enacted numerous black Acts to crush the democratic movement of the people. Indian people tasted the Congress brand of socialism through bitter experience of life and discarded the Congress in most of the states in 1967 general elections. Being fully aware that the Congress can not generate any confidence in the Indian people, Sm. Indira Gandhi is claiming that the Congress (R) is different from the old Congress and to prove her bonafide such gimmicks like nationalisation of 14 Indian banks and insurances and abolition of privy purses were resorted to. The same old slogan of democratic socialism is again heard and in the last Parliamentary election Sm. Gandhi promised to end poverty. Congress (R)

is trying to create confusion among the people by such dubious means.

Every student of history and social science knows that nationalisation does not by itself mean socialisation. Nationalisation in a capitalist state, with capitalist relations of production remaining in tact, does not bring about socialism; it, on the contrary paves the way for fascism in economic field through the fusion of monopoly capital and the state capital and in the formation of state monopoly capital. Hitler of Germany and Mussolini of Italy nationalised many key industries and by that they brought about fascism in their countries. Pandit Nehru also nationalised the Imperial Bank and life insurance companies but Indian people know it perfectly well that by doing so, Pandit Nehru strengthened the monopoly capitalism in our country much to the detriment of the interest of the Indian people. Similarly, nationalisation of banks has been done by the Congress (R) to serve the aggregate interest of the monopoly capitalism in our country. As a matter of fact the ideals and modus operandi of the old Congress and Congress (R) are the same. Congress (R) is also taxing the common people, instead of unearthing the black money and taxing the big business. Congress (R), in spite of all tall talks of democracy and socialism has enacted several black acts for detaining people without trial. In West Bengal under President's Rule which is the rule of the Central Congress (R) Government, the Police has been given free hand to crush the democratic opposition. The police is beating people to death after arrest and is resorting to firing on

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Proletarian Era

ORGAN OF SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA

(Fortnightly)

Editor-in-Chief—Shibdas Ghosh

VOL. 5
No. 13

1 MARCH, '72
WEDNESDAY

PRICE 10 P.
Air Surcharge 4 P

Peasant worker beaten to death in Suri

Laxman Bayen, a peasant employed by Ananda Mondal of Dhaita in Koma Anchal of Suri was beaten to death by jotedars on Feb. 4, 1972. For the last four months his employer had been refusing to pay his due amount of paddy and he had been starving with his family.

On Feb. 23 he went to the employer and asked for his permission to take some waste paddy (palidhan) for his starving family members. Accusing him of stealing paddy Ananda Mondal started beating him. Bimal Mondal joined him and beat him with sticks severely. Bhairab Mondal, Dhananjay Mondal, Sanjoy Mondal, Dilip Mondal, Shanti Mondal, Rakshakar Mondal, Sasthi Mondal, Haricharan Mondal, Bharat Garai and Narayan Garai joined

Ananda and Bimal to beat Laxman inhumanly. Laxman started bleeding profusely and fell unconscious. He was left in Dharamtala of Dhaita in that condition. All through the wintry night he was left in that place under the guard of the village choukidar. None of his relatives or other poor peasants of the village was allowed to go near him.

On the following morning, when Laxman was still lying unconscious, Ananda and Bimal Mondal went there, got Laxman's thumb impression on a piece of paper and then carried him to his (Laxman's) house and left him there still in unconscious condition. There are many eye-witnesses of this incident.

Laxman succumbed to death on Feb. 24 in the evening.

SUC worker murdered by Congressmen in Kultali

Sri Sudhir Mondal, an SUC worker of Kishorimohanpur village in Maipith-Baikunthapur Anchal in Kultali (South 24 Parganas) was murdered by local Congress workers on February 24, 1972.

On the day, following the instruction of local Congress leaders Ajit Roy Chowdhury and Ganesh Ghosh, some 8 to 10 Congressite goondas entered Sri Sudhir Mondal's house and forcibly dragged him to the local Congress Office. There he was threatened with dire consequences if he worked for the SUC candidate Sri Probodh Purkait. He was asked to work for the

Congress. When Sri Mondal refused to yield to pressure, the Congress goondas beat him up severely and forcibly took away his bullock and Rs. 100 in cash and also forced him to surrender, in written, his land holdings.

But in spite of all these, Sri Sudhir Mondal refused to work for the Congress candidate. The Congress goondas then dragged him to his house while beating him all through. Sri Mondal became unconscious. The goondas then poured Folidol into his mouth. He died that night and the Congress goondas carried away and burnt the dead body.

West Bengal Left Front's Policy Statement Exposes Congress Trickery

(By a Staff Reporter)

Never before in the history of West Bengal all the Left forces in the State—and the Left forces only—formed such a consolidation to fight unitedly against the common enemy of the people, the Congress, in the elections and the prospect of forming a Left Front Government in West Bengal emerged so bright.

Never before had the Left parties pledged to united on the basis of an agreed Common Code of Conduct, as they have this time, to maintain unity and proper fraternal relations between the constituents of the LEFT FRONT. The Left Front, in its fight against the main enemy of the people, the Congress, has accepted a policy statement and programme based on the partially accomplished 32-point programme of the last United Front.

Analysing the political and economic situation in the State, the Left Front thoroughly exposed the Congress trickery with the electorate.

In its policy statement the Left Front said :

The ruling Congress Party has already issued its election manifesto with the ensuing elections in several States in view. As publicised, the Congress (R) line lays great emphasis on two slogans—(a) 'stable Government,' and (b) 'strong Centre'; it also seeks to make petty political profit out of the liberation of Bangla Desh, besides making the usual false promises.

'Stable Government'— The Real View of the Congress (R)

The Congress (R) suggests that a stable Government in the States is a great need in the present situation, and the Congress (R) alone can provide a stable Government in West Bengal. It is obvious that the Congress (R) does not itself believe in the overriding necessity of a stable

government. Had it really believed in this, they would not have used heinous methods to topple non-Congress Governments everywhere. The undivided Congress, of which Smt. Indira Gandhi was then the President, broke the first Communist Party Government in Kerala in 1959. The undivided Congress used bribery to encourage defection in order to topple the U.F. Government in West Bengal in 1967; at the same time, employed communal conspiracies and rewarded treachery at that time. The Congress (R) played the same role and encouraged treachery again to break the U.F. Government in West Bengal in 1969-70. When in 1971, the Congress (R) formed the Democratic Coalition Government in West Bengal stable Government was not its objective; its eyes were on whatever loaves and fishes could be obtained through these three months of office, and it did not hesitate to lead a shameless opportunist alliance of reactionaries and communalists for such gains. Even now, in-fighting within the Congress (R) is changing Chief-Ministers and Ministers and governments almost everywhere.

Stability of government is a virtue in the eyes of the Congress (R) only when the government is a Congress (R) Govt., and that too of particular factions inside the Congress (R). It is not stable government that the Congress (R) want. They merely seek the perpetuation of their own party-rule everywhere

in the name of 'stable government.'

The people however want a good government to be stable; they do not want stability of a bad government. The people wanted the U.F. Government to be stable; that is why they returned the U.F. to office with a huge majority, and deeply deplored its break down. They have learned bitter lessons from the 25-year long stability of Congress Party rule at the Centre and from the 22-year long stability of the same party's government in West Bengal.

Can the Congress (R) provide a stable government in West Bengal? Even this claim is hollow. Everyone knows that even in the unlikely event of the Congress (R) obtaining a majority in the ensuing elections, the Congress (R) will break into pieces. Already, the quarrels within the Congress (R) and the scramble for loot have assumed deadly proportions. A ministry formed by this party will have as dismal a prospect as the three-month Democratic Coalition Government led by the Congress (R) in 1971, with far more disastrous consequences.

Only the left forces, who have taken proper lessons from the past, can provide a stable government, which will meet the requirements of the people in West Bengal.

'Strong Centre'— Congress Autocracy

The Congress (R) has also raised the slogan of "strong government at the Centre". They suggest that only a Congress (R) party government in the State of West Bengal can ensure this strong government at the Centre. They obviously mean that the Government of West Bengal should be a mere agency of the Central Government, and should not ask for justice to be done to the legitimate claims of the people of West Bengal; in

their view a State Government fighting for the interests of its own people will be injurious to this strong Centre of the Congress (R) scheme of things. Evidently they want to continue deprivation of the States and the unfair treatment of West Bengal and they also want to silence the voices of protest. Beside the experiences of the long years of Congress rule both at the Centre and in the State the, recent experience under President's Rule has amply shown that this kind of rule by the Congress (R) makes no improvement of conditions in West Bengal.

The Congress party has completely failed to recognise the problem of Centre-State relations in India. A truly strong government at the Centre in India can only be based on the strength of the component units, and not by concentration of all strength at the top. Any attempt to erect a strong centre at the cost of the component States is bound to have disastrous national consequences. Only a true federal republic which does justice to the States can be strong in India.

The Congress (R) is hostile to the just and legitimate demands for more resources and powers for the States for purposes of their fair development. The policies of the ruling Congress party over the years have not helped the unity and integrity of India; on the contrary, these policies have developed tensions between the States, and between the States on the one hand and the Centre on the other.

The experience of the people in West Bengal is even more bitter. Without the least consideration for democratic popular feelings, the Congress (R) government have filled up West Bengal with CRP battalions from other States, and have used these battalions for the most brutal acts of repression and terroristic attacks against the people.

The Congress (R) line of 'strong Centre'-promises no

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Congress Trying to Usurp Credit of Bangladesh Liberation

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redress at all for the mounting grievances of West Bengal. The exploitation of West Bengal will continue unless a strong popular Government in West Bengal stands up to reverse the trend, and fight for the just rights of this State as a constituent unit of the Indian Union.

'Bangladesh'—Partisan Claims of the Congress

The Congress (R) also makes big noise about the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's promises in respect of Bangla Desh. It is a petty attempt to make political capital out of a great event in which millions of people of Bangla Desh fought heroically and all people of India stood solidly by their side. The fact remains that the Government of India was full of doubts and vacillations for a long time in this matter. The leftist forces in West Bengal in particular, and the people all over India in general, demanded immediate recognition of Bangladesh and all assistance including arms to the freedom-fighters there. We are glad that ultimately the Government of India overcame its hesitation and actively helped Bangla Desh. Various factors including the pressure of the people helped to bring about this change. Great sacrifices were made by the freedom fighters in Bangla Desh; millions of people in Bangla Desh suffered terrible losses; Indian soldiers gave their lives; the people in West Bengal and in India as a whole bore ungrudgingly the heavy tax burdens and increased prices that were imposed on them in the name of meeting huge costs of relief and assistance. The brunt of the burden was imposed inequitably on the common people while the profiteers and capitalists were allowed to escape with

small scratches. In addition, millions of rupees were paid by the people as straight donations. It is not known that the Congress (R) as a party made any special sacrifice or bore any special burden. They rather show an indecent haste in petty political profiteering out of this great event. It is also known that some of their supporters actually made fortunes out of the sufferings of the people in this struggle for liberation of Bangla Desh.

What About Garibi Hatao?

But the Congress (R) manifesto says nothing of another big promise that the Prime Minister had made in 1971—the famous slogan of 'Garibi Hatao', which has now become crumbling dust. The promise was to liquidate poverty. Many poor people have been liquidated during this one year no doubt, through semi-starvation, unemployment and direct killings; but poverty has increased. Even the tax burden has increased more on the poorer people, in comparison to the richer sections. More taxes are coming. Grinding, demoralising, devastating poverty thrives in the land,—for that is the condition of the Congress rule.

The Congress (R) manifesto, naturally, repeats some of the old shibboleths about economic independence, etc. The Congress (R) does not say a word about the foreign capitalist holdings in the country. It does not dare touch the U.S. holdings, even after the disclosure of U.S. involvement in the war-crimes of the Yahya regime in Bangla Desh, and the openly hostile U.S. attitude towards India.

The Congress (R) manifesto does not mention, because it cannot, the one truly new feature of its line which appears in practice in

West Bengal. This is the fascist trend in the Congress (R)—employment of murder and terror as political methods.

These constitute the main line of the Congress (R), the line of fraud, hypocrisy and terror—the line which they are seeking to pass off as a line of progress and socialism.

It is the line of destruction of democratic life, destruction of unity of India and destruction in particular of West Bengal—the advanced base of the toiling people's struggle for democracy, socialism and progress.

The line of the Left Front

The Left Front stands for a line opposed to the line of the Congress (R) and all other reactionary and communal forces. In this crucial period of history, the Front stands for defence of democracy against the mad onslaughts of the dark forces of reaction. It stands for the positive traditions of the United Front in West Bengal of 1967 and 1969-70, for the traditions of the long anti-Congress struggles, for the heritage of uncompromising mass struggles against oppression and exploitation. It is the voice of West Bengal for democracy and progress that the Left Front seeks to make heard—West Bengal that has suffered and sacrificed for the independence of the country, that has come through famines and floods, through ordeals of partition and communal carnage, through repression and exploitation. It stands for sacred memory of many martyrs of many years.

One of the major issues for the people in West Bengal today is the struggle for full democratic rights. Democratic rights of the people imply democratic conduct on the part of political parties and organisations. Terroristic methods,

political assassination, employment of anti-social criminal elements and rowdies for purposes of intimidation and attacks against political opponents are not only alien to democratic conduct, but they are also fraught with disastrous consequences. Such methods are methods of fascism, which we all recognise to be a deadly enemy of Socialism and of all interests of the toiling people.

The Front will run its government in the interests of the people. Misuse of power and the instruments of administration for narrow party interests, attempts to win support by distribution of favours, or by giving protection and shelter to wrong-doers and anti-social elements are vices which justly arouse anger and disgust and contempt of the people. The Front shall be ever vigilant against such vices.

The main line of the Left Front was indicated in the preamble and the 32 points of the Programme of the United Front of 1969-70. Some of those points were implemented in 1969-70, but much remains unaccomplished. Rectifying errors and guarding against treachery, more vigorous steps will have to be taken to implement the unfulfilled pledges of that programme.

Within the framework of that programme the following points have acquired great importance:—

(i) Free and proper development of the State must be ensured, and adequate powers and resources for the State must be obtained from the Centre for this. Besides powers and resources for the State Government, industry in West Bengal must get necessary raw materials, transport wagons, adequate orders, and credit and trading facilities.

(ii) Unemployment has become a terrible burden which must be eased. New avenues of employment must be opened. Incentive and encouragement must be found

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Ensure victory of Left and Democratic Forces

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prisoners in jail custody. The protector of law and order is allowed to break law of the land with impunity. Hundreds of cadre of democratic movement are arrested in collusion with the jotedars and the vested interest. Hoodlums and anti social elements are being organised into Youth Congress and these hoodlums are attacking on the legitimate democratic movement of the workers and peasants with the backing of the administration. In spite of all tall talks of secularism. Sri Sidhartha Sankar Ray, the Congress (R) leader, has issued indirect threat to the minority community to vote for the Congress (R).

Against this background of the state of affairs within country, the claim by Sm. Gandhi, as the protector of democracy is indeed, very funny. The Congress (R) is most shamelessly trying to usurp the military victory of Indian Armed forces in Bangladesh to the credit of the Congress (R). But the fact is that the entire Indian people and all the political parties supported the liberation struggle of the people of Bangladesh and urged upon the Government for the immediate recognition of the new Republic and also for all possible helps to the freedom fighters. But the Central Congress (R) Government vacillated and allowed genocide and refugee influx to continue for eight months and then acted after imposing heavy dose of taxes on the people without touching the big money-bags. The victory of the liberation struggle of Bangladesh is the victory of the people of Bangladesh as also of the freedom loving people of India. Congress (R) can not claim any credit; on the contrary the Central Congress (R) Government must be put to the dock for dilly dallying which resulted in refugee influx in India for

which Indian people have to pay heavily and the people of Bangladesh had to pass through a tremendous ordeal.

The Congress (R) is apparently thinking of a walk-over victory by usurping the military victory in Bangladesh and this is why the Congress (R) Government found the present time as most opportune to hold elections as it may shield many past misdeeds in the whirlwind of military victory. But there is no doubt that the Indian people have by now, become mature enough to be hoodwinked by the Congress (R). This Congress (R) which is nothing but the old Congress with the same ideals of protecting and consolidating the monopoly capitalism in India must be defeated for saving the country against fascism. Left oriented anti-Congress Governments at different states can effectively counter the fascist measures of the Central Congress (R) Government and as such, for the sake of democracy, for effectively resisting fascism and also for the growth of legitimate democratic movement and restoration of administrative neutrality, this Congress (R), the bulwork of monopoly capitalism must be defeated and the leftist parties are to be made victorious.

Jharsuguda Civic Poll

SUCI candidate Com. Digambar Patnaik defeated his nearest candidate in Ward No 4 of Jharsuguda Municipal election held on 21.2.72. A victorious and hearty reception was given to Com. Patnaik by the villagers of Mangalbazar, Mungupada, Sarbhat, Sonarimunda and Jharsuguda town.

L.F.'s Policy Statement

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for many small and middle-sized enterprises. Retrenchment, unfair dismissal, lock-outs, closures, and lay-offs must be banned.

(iii) Radical land reforms aimed at elimination of concentration of land-holdings and providing security to tenants must be implemented with active co-operation of the organised peasant movement. Recovery and distribution of benami lands effected by peasants during the past will have to be regularised.

(iv) Irrigation and drainage must be ensured for all areas. Flood devastations must not be allowed to recur every other year.

(v) Continuous and inordinate rise in prices of essential articles of consumption as a result of the policies of Government of India and profiteering and black-marketing must be stopped.

(vi) Free primary education must be made available to all children; as a first step to free higher education, education upto class VII must be made free.

(vii) Democratic rights and civil liberties of the people must be fully restored, extended and protected. Anti-social elements and

Com Madhu Bose passes away

Com. Madhu (Sarit) Bose of Joynagar, an important organiser of SUC South 24-Parganas, passed away on 29. 2. 72. at the Medical Collage Hospital. He suffered from peptic perforation and had to undergo operation.

Com. Bose was actively associated with various trade unions and mass organisations.

The Red Flags in the Central Office and the South 24-Parganas Party Office were flown halfmast. Com. Shibdas Ghosh, Gen. Secy. of SUCI and Com. Sukomal Dasgupta on behalf of the W.B. State Committee placed wreaths, among others.

Thousands of people thronged to pay their homage to Com. Bose in mournful eyes when his body was brought to Joynagar.

gangsterism will have to be sternly dealt with. Stern measures must also be taken against corruption of various kinds. Administrative neutrality must be restored. Police must not be allowed to be used against the people.

(viii) The people's struggles for a better life must be united, organised and developed.

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper PROLETARIAN ERA to be published in the first issue after Last day of February.

Form IV (See Rule 8)

1. Place of Publication—48, Lenin Sarani, Cal-13.
2. Periodicity of its Publication—Fortnightly.
3. Printer's name— Sukomal Dasgupta.
Nationality— Indian.
Address— 48, Lenin Sarani, Cal-13.
4. Publisher's name— Sukomal Dasgupta.
Nationality— Indian.
Address— 48, Lenin Sarani, Cal-13.
5. Editor's name— Sukomal Dasgupta.
Nationality— Indian.
Address— 48, Lenin Sarani, Cal-13.
6. Names and Addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total capital,

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF SOCIALIST UNITY
CENTRE OF INDIA.

I, Sukomal Dasgupta, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- SUKOMAL DASGUPTA

Signature of Publisher.