

# Make SUCI Candidates Victorious—An Appeal

The mid-term Lok Sabha election assumes the significance of a political challenge to the Indian people. The task of the hour is to realize the implications of the political background against which the election is being held and act decisively in a way which will advance the people's genuine interest against the interest of the ruling capitalist class and its defender bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties.

Why is it a challenge? Because, the election has been imposed on the people by the bourgeoisie in a manoeuvre to shift the entire burden of crisis of capitalism on to them and divert their attention from this all-pervasive, ever-deepening crisis. The crisis is convulsing the entire capitalist system and the bourgeois parties are in complete disarray. The bourgeoisie is posing the mid-term poll as the people's way out of the crisis in pursuance to its design of arresting the people in the illusion of parliamentary politics. Not only the known bourgeois parties, but parties like the CPI(M), CPI too are associates in this bourgeois design. They have plunged into the election fray in three principal combinations—the Congress (I) and its allies, the Janata and its allies and the Lok-Dal-Congress (U) combine and their allies the CPI(M), CPI, etc. These parties are vying with each other to cajole the people holding out tall election promises of alleviating their miseries. But behind the clamours what they try carefully to conceal is the very fact that the moribund, crisis-ridden, reactionary capitalism is at the root of all problems today, and so long capitalism exists mere change of government through elections will not and cannot, free people from the grip of the basic problems in life. They are trying to deceive the people in this way, mislead them along the path of parliamentary politics and fulfil their petty parliamentary ambitions. Will the people allow them-

selves to be used as pawns in this parliamentary game? Will they again set foot into the bourgeois trap? Will not they exert themselves to defeat the bourgeois design and find their own way out? This is the challenge held out by the mid-term election.

Faced with this election battle, the people must, therefore, think out carefully their approach to this political event which takes place against a background making a turning point in the Indian politics. The most important point they should realize, should constantly bear in mind is that there is no alternative to mass struggle for their emancipation. Be it for winning their day to day economic and political demands, be it for freeing themselves from the basic problems in life, the line of mass struggle is the only course open to them. The mass and class struggles, when developed on the correct base political line, will ultimately lead to the logical culmination of the anti-capitalist socialist revolution to pave the way for people's emancipation from all sorts of exploitation and oppression. The election should be faced as an issue incidental to the course of this struggle. In deciding on their task about this election, the people will have to ascertain which party or parties are organising and developing mass struggles—the legitimate democratic movements of the people. Which party or parties are trying to build a genuine left and democratic front as an instrument of mass struggle distinctly different from opportunist electoral alliances forged to reap harvest in the election battle, which party or parties, when not only in the opposition but also in the government, encourage and arrest in growth and development of legitimate democratic mass movements. Which party or parties are consistently exposing the anti-people designs of the bourgeoisie, anti-people policies of any ruling party, and are throwing people's voice in the

parliament and coordinating struggle inside the parliament with extra-parliamentary movement. This should be the people's approach, their own angularity of facing the election as against the bourgeois angularity of selecting one among the bourgeois parties or combines to safeguard the bourgeois class interest. What was the attitude of Indira Gandhi to mass movements when she was in power? Did not she maim the movements employing all her repressive weapons?

Among her victims was the railway strike of 1974. Her crown was the Emergency rule of 19 months. The Congress (I) is an arm of the bourgeoisie to hoodwink the people and brutally suppress their struggle against capitalism. A stable government of Congress (I), if it comes, will be a lever to stabilise capitalist exploitation and oppression.

Does the Janata stand for democracy and democratic mass movements which this party claims so vociferously? The mass killings of Kanpur, Bailadila, Bokaro and of so many other places point to the answer. The claim of communal riots and Harijan murders points to the answer. With, all its fanfare against authoritarianism, it coolly retained the provision for preventive detention in the constitution and applied mini-MISA and other anti-democratic weapons against the people. About the Lok-Dal-Congress (U) combine the less said the better.

Their government is the one born in the filthy politics of defection. It did not take them more than a couple of months to bring the PD Act back to suppress the people's movements.

In the name of fighting authoritarianism and communalism, the CPI(M), CPI, etc. have joined hands with this combine and are urging the people to support this combine. That is to say, they are projecting a particular combine of the filthy bourgeois power politics as

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### Stalin Centenary Observed in a Befitting Manner

As part of the programme laid down by the Central Committee of our party for observing the centenary of Comrade Stalin, a meeting was held at Mahajati Sadan in Calcutta on December 3, under the auspices of the West Bengal State Committee of our party, to recall with full respect and honour the great contributions of Comrade Stalin and to pay revolutionary homage to his memory. Fund

collection and the wearing of Comrade Stalin badge were included in the programme preceding this meeting. The party has called upon the people to observe the 21st December, Stalin's birthday, in a befitting manner.

Comrade Pritish Chanda, member of the Central Committee of our party, was the main speaker and Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Secretary West Bengal State Committee, presided over the meeting.

progressive. But who among these parties has not revealed its authoritarian character once it came to governmental power? Is not the CPI(M) maiming democratic mass movements in the two states governed by its front, more particularly in West Bengal? What evidence do the killing of refugees at Marichjhanpi, suppression of power workers' movement at Santaldih, atrocity on the participants of mass violation of law on the 15th June in Calcutta, on the 31st August in the district and on the 29th October at the block level office? Who among these parties has its hands free from blood stains of communalism? Congress of Indira Gandhi, Janata, Lok Dal, Congress (U)—did not they all have a hand in the communal and caste riots of the past years? Can the CPI(M) claim to have its hands clean in the recent Nadia riot? Can the CPI(M) fight communalism when it

combines with parochial and communal parties like the AIADMK, Akalis and Muslim League? Can it fight authoritarianism when it forges alliance with parties revealing authoritarian character? Can it fight authoritarianism and communalism without fighting capitalism?

None of these parties is defending the people's interest. None of them encourages and assists in growth and development of legitimate democratic mass movements. They are all busy in filthy, unscrupulous and unprincipled power politics. Parties like the CPI(M), CPI have thrown away the banner of leftism. They are now all defending the interest of the bourgeoisie, are all trying to rescue the class in its grave crisis. If returned to power, they will do all to serve the master and suppress the people of course in a pseudo radical garb. They will bare their authoritarianism when it

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# They All Defend Democracy !

## Indira Regime—A Model of 'Police State'

The Amnesty International put the figure to 30,000 of persons detained owing to their involvement in trade union and mass struggles before the Emergency. Most of them were detained under extraordinary laws like P D Act or MISA.

During Indira's rule, besides the usual police force, para military forces like BSF, CRP, ISF, etc. were raised and their total figure rose to 7 lakhs. Besides the extra-ordinary laws like PVA, MISA, even DIR imposed during Indo-Pak war was not lifted till it was substituted by Emergency rule.

"Justifying the increase in expenditure for his Ministry from Rs. 3 to 4 crores in the past to Rs. 160 crores now, the Home Minister Brahmananda Reddy said that it was because of pushing in lot of money to the states to assist them to modernise the police force." —Times of India, April 3, 1976.

The country's Defence Expenditure rose from Rs. 8,850 crores (during Indo-Pak war) to Rs 25,440 crores in 1976-77. The figure excludes the expenditure on nuclear and para military spending.

## Spotlight On Her 'Achievements'

**Railway strike of 1974:** To crush the strike the Indira Government forced enchained drivers at gunpoints to drive the trains. Thousands were put behind the bars. Anti-socials and even prostitutes were let loose on railway colonies to molest women folks. After the strike, 30,000 permanent workers, 50,000 casual workers were dismissed from service and 1,100,000 workers were given break in services.

**CDS Ordinance:** On 6th July, 1974, close on the heel of the historic railway strike, this ordinance came to impound half of the increase in DA and emoluments, covering 18 million wage and salary earners.

**Emergency Rule:** On 26th June 1975 was clamped the Emergency rule

giving a burial to all democratic rights and liberties. The seven freedoms (Art 14) guaranteed in the constitution, right to life and personal liberty (Art 21) and protection against arbitrary arrest or detention were all gone. By a spate of amendments to the constitution even freedom and independence of the judiciary were taken away.

Bonus ordinance reducing the quantum to 4% and that too linked with so-called 'productivity' was imposed.

Sterilisation Squad. Muslim youths, unmarried, married men and women, even children were taken to 'mobile centre' for sterilisation—people revolted. BSF was called and women, milk-sucking children were thrown on the ground. After the bloody clash, 'heaps of bodies' were placed on trucks and whisked away to unknown destination.

(David Selbournes account in his 'An Eye to India')

## Balance sheet of Emergency in the Economic Field

Common People

	1975 (1st half)	1970 (July)
1. Loss of employment due to lockout/closure	14%	96%
2. Registered unemployed	9.3 million	10.00 m.
3. Increase in prices of commodities (wholesale)	1967-77—89.5%	
4. Decrease in share of workers in the value of production	1960-61 17.8%	1973-74 15.5%
5. Rise in tax burden (indirect taxes)	1974-75 Rs 6,322 crores	1975-76 Rs 7,470 crores

## Capitalist Class

	1972-73	1975-76	(Rs. crores)
1. Assets of 20 top monopoly houses	1972-73	1975-76	3,516 4,966
2. Company Dividends up	1974 Rs. 70 crores	1975 Rs. 100 crores	
3. Rate of Profit after tax	1971 9.7%	1975 14.3%	
4. Ordinance on voluntary disclosure—October '75			provided nominal payment of arrear income taxes by the tax evaders.
5. Emergency budget, 1976			Provided tax concessions to the capitalists to the tune of Rs. 100 crores.

## Savageries unbound :

Upto December 12, '75, 34000 encroachments in the pavements, etc. and 50,000 in Delhi among thousands others in other places were bulldozed and cleared. Demolition operation near Turkman Gate, Delhi on 14th April '76, has a harrowing tale of its own. Demolition groups backed by CRP destroyed even two storied buildings and, despatched on trucks thousands of homeless to Trilokpuri, Nandnagar, Kichripur dumping grounds. Then came the

## Janata Model Democracy on Paper—Brutality Let Loose

Janata party removed some of the enactments passed during emergency including the 42nd Amendment, MISA and Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, but retained the provision of preventive detention and of internal emergency. It encouraged the state governments to pass extra-ordinary laws on the model of MISA. Accordingly, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and

Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar either revived or newly enacted extraordinary laws on the model of MISA.

Control over newspaper, Radio and Durdarshan was retained by different methods like inducing 'self-censorship and government Monopoly News Agency, or by the nominated councils through enactment of Prasarbharathi.

## Brutal Repressions On People's Movements

**Patna (Bihar):** On 31st March '78, peaceful processionists were brutally lathi-charged; more than 100 were severely injured.

**Bokaro (Bihar):** Steel workers were fired upon. Death and severe injuries to many.

**Hyderabad (AP):** Police fired on the agitated people who demanded enquiry and punishment for molestation of a woman and death of husband in a police station. Military was called in to silence the people.

**Panthnagar (UP):** 150 Panthnagar Seed Farm Workers were brutally killed by PAC to break their movement.

**Swadeshi Cotton Mill (Kanpur, UP):** Textile workers demanding back wages were pushed to a covered compound and fired upon. Many were killed and seriously injured.

**Bailadilla (MP):** 1600 iron ore mine workers were served with retrenchment notices. To stop their agitation, they were encircled and fired upon. 26, according to government's admission, died on the spot. 600 hutments were burnt by CRP, women folk molested, babies thrown to fire.

Besides these, savageries on medical students of Haryana, Orissa are to be mentioned among hundreds of similar other examples.

## Industrial Relations Bill and Boothalingam Committee Recommendations

The twin objects of freezing of wages and incomes of the low paid, fix-salaried workers and employees and blanket ban on their strikes and move-

ments were sought to be served by these two measures of Janata Government. Indira's emergency rule had exactly these objectives among other things.

## Ordinance on CDS and RBI Employees

Latest acts of the Janata Government were these two ordinances, one suspending refund of CDS dues and the other putting ban on the agitation of RBI employees for the settlement of their more than 5 year old charter.

## Fiscal Policies—Fleecing The Poor, Pampering The Capitalists

First budget gave the capitalists tax exemptions of Rs. 240 crores and imposed fresh taxes on the people, Rs. 142 crores. 12% rise in wholesale prices, according to government statistics, second budget enhanced the burden of taxes by Rs. 500 crores on the people, and provided for deficit financing of more than rupees one thousand crores. It gave concessions to the capitalists by various means to the tune of Rs. 1,500 crores.

The third budget imposed Rs. 178 crores on the people through the railway budget by increasing railway fares and freights. It further enhanced the tax burden on the people by Rs. 665 crores while giving concessions to the capitalists, about Rs. 1,340 crores, in a single year. As an immediate impact, wholesale price, according to government figures rose by 20%. Economists and government's planning commission predict now yearly increase in wholesale prices in the coming years by 25 to 30%.

## Lok Dal-Congress-AIADMK Combine Takes Care For Continuation

The caretaker government of Charan Singh takes care to maintain the continuity of the previous policies and was 'bold' enough to reintroduce the PD Act. Its bonus policy for railwaymen has earned applause of the bourgeoisie because it is India's emergency ordinance on bonus in a new

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# To Strengthen Mass Movements Strengthen SUCI MAKE SUCI CANDIDATES VICTORIOUS



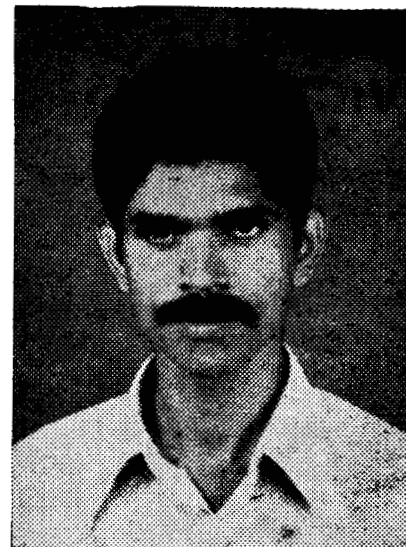
Comrade Pritish Chanda.  
Jamshedpur  
Bihar



Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee.  
Bankura, West Bengal



Comrade N. R. Singh  
Vaishali,  
Bihar



Comrade James Joseph.  
Quilon, Kerala



Comrade Subir Basu Roy.  
Calcutta South  
West Bengal



Comrade Shreepal Dubey.  
Machhlishahr, UP



Comrade Baisnab Jena.  
Jajpur (SC)  
Orissa



Comrade R. K. Oram.  
Sundargarh (ST)  
Orissa



Comrade B.A. Raja Rao Sindhe.  
Bangalore South  
Karnataka



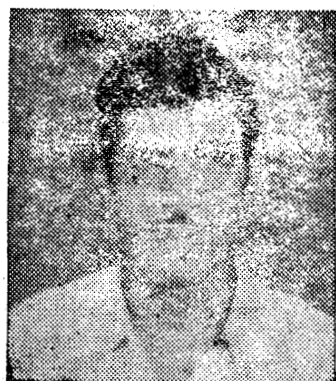
Comrade Renupada Halder.  
Mathurapur (SC), West Bengal



Comrade Rajaram Roy  
Mondal.  
Joynagar (SC)  
West Bengal



Comrade Baidyanath Mal.  
Birbhum (SC),  
West Bengal



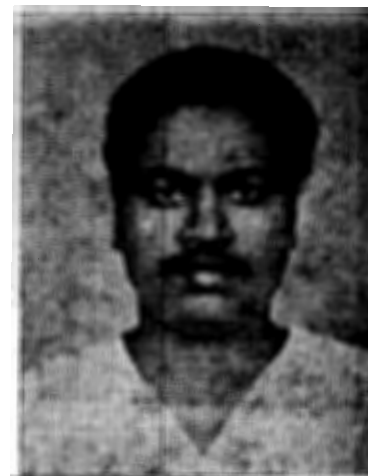
Comrade Satyawan.  
Mohendragarh, Haryana



Comrade Joydeb Mondal.  
Jalpaiguri, West Bengal



Comrade Bhusan Mondal,  
Midnapore, West Bengal



Comrade Ashutosh Samanta.  
Tamluk, West Bengal

## MAKE SUCI CANDIDATES VICTORIOUS



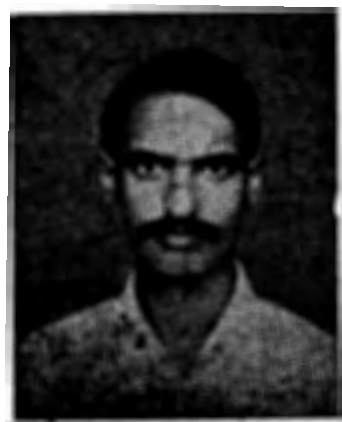
Comrade Laxmi Narayan Das.  
Jangipur, West Bengal



Comrade Abu Raihan Biswas  
Murshidabad, West Bengal



Comrade Azizul Haque.  
Krishnanagar, West Bengal



Com R. Suriyanarayanan  
Shivakasi  
Tamil Nadu



Com. P. R. Raju  
Bobbili  
Andhra Pradesh

## AN APPEAL

(Contd. from page 1)  
tarian character. They will foster communalism as they have been doing all along.

Other than the SUCI there is no party to organise develop and lead democratic mass movement in the country today. Guided by the thoughts and teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the outstanding Marxist thinkers of the era, only the SUCI is engaged in the task of organising a countrywide mass movement. Despite repeated calls none of the parties claiming themselves to be left has come forward to join forces with the SUCI to build a genuine left and democratic front to lead the mass struggle. Only the SUCI has called upon the people to elect those representatives to the parliament who will reflect the voice of mass movement in the parliament and help develop mighty extra-parliamentary movements by exposing the anti-people designs of the bourgeois and pseudo-left parties within the parliament and outside. Only the SUCI has called upon the people to build people's committees as instrument of struggles and advance broad-based united democratic mass movements stage by stage on the edifice of higher culture and ethics and put up candidates tested in mass movements. All others have gone over to the side directly opposed to mass movement; the SUCI holds aloft the banner of mass movement.

## They All Defend Democracy!

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bottle! Charan Singh can claim a fair share of the credit for the performance on Bailadila, Panthnagar, etc. as he was then the Home Minister as also for framing the third budget of the Janata government as Finance Minister.

### CPI(M) led 'Left Front'

**Highest dose of taxation:** Among the state governments, the 'Left Front' government led by CPI(M) in West Bengal sets a record by imposing more than Rs. 100 crores of new taxes on the people within so short a time. Profession tax on people earning Rs. 500 and more was introduced for the first time in the state by the CPI(M) led government.

**Tops the list in police budget:** In the budget for 1978-79 out of the total expenditure of Rs. 16 crores 98 lakhs on administration, 60% or Rs. 58 crores 54 lakhs had been earmarked for the police. Still then, in the budget estimate for 1979-80, the amount was increased to Rs. 63 crores, 87 lakhs. CPI(M) led government increased

Amidst corruption and opportunism swamping the country's politics, only the SUCI stands as the ray of hope. Only the SUCI's politics can stem the rot which makes the saner section of the people averse to left politics.

So, the task is to make the SUCI candidates victorious at the coming election. Every vote cast in favour of the SUCI candidates will be a vote in favour of mass struggle, a demonstration of people's resoluteness to defeat deception and trickery of the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties. Every victory of the SUCI candidates will be a victory of the people's own line against the design of the bourgeoisie and its defender parties. Face the challenge, rise to the occasion, be up to the task. This is the call of the hour.

Expenditure on police head within two and half years by Rs. 14 crores and 36 lakhs. It however reduced the expenditure on the medical head. 'Progressive' government, no doubt!

### Autonomy Trampled

Starting from the Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal, to all universities, hundreds of school and municipality elected bodies have been dissolved; in their place partymen of CPI(M) have been placed.

### Educational Policy

CPI(M) led government in West Bengal adopts a so-called new language and education policy which is bound to create two class of citizens. Learning of English will be stopped at primary and degree stages for students coming from common families but those coming from affluent families will have their training in English from English medium and missionary schools. So, the door of higher education and better service will remain open only to the sons and daughters of the affluent families, of MLAs and Ministers and party leaders but will be closed to those deprived of English education.

### 'Democracy'

CPI(M) is crying hoarse over 'democracy' where it has not yet come in government but what kind of 'democracy' it practises while in government will be obvious from just a few among hundreds of such instances given below.

- Sending of 2000 paramilitary force to suppress the legitimate movement of 1100 electricity workers in Santaldhi. It was a kind of military operation with state government's helicopter pressed in service. Jyoti Basu boasted after the Santaldhi operation 'Toughness pays'!

- Brutal lathi charge on medical students within the campus of Calcutta University.

- Promulgation of 144 cr.p.c and use of police to suppress the movements of coal washery workers at Bhajudih Purulia.

- Killing of Dandak refugees by police firing in Kasipur, Burdwan.

- Refugees' hutments in Marichjhanpi, Sundarban, were cordoned off from outside by government steamboats; then police and hooligans were let loose on the refugees to make a rampage that matched well with the savageries of a feudal ruler. This was the 'Operation Marichjhanpi' to eject forcibly the hapless Dandak refugees from the place on the model of Sanjay's Turkman gate operation.

**Two F. B. workers butchered in broad daylight:** Two F. B. workers in Arambagh, Hooghly, were chopped into pieces by CPI(M) workers and supporters and were displayed to strike terror to F. B. workers in the area. F. B. is a partner of the 'Left Front' in West Bengal.

**15th June '79, Savageries:** Savageries were committed on civil disobedience volunteers led by our Party in Calcutta to organise movement against unusual price-rise, a anti-people language policy of the state government and demanding solution to acute power crisis. Police vehicles ran through the procession in criminal vengeance. CPI(M)'s government has surely added a new kind of coercive tactics to suppress democratic movement!

**31st August '79;** Unprecedented brutalities on the peaceful marchers led by our party in Suri, Diamond harbour and other district towns.

**3rd September '79:** 47 rounds of bullets were fired on Calcutta Port workers, killing six and injuring many.

Will you choose any of these 'defending' of democracy?

Editor-in-Chief—NIHAR MUKHERJEE