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PARLIAMENT MARCH BY DPF AGAINST PRICE-RISE AND SCAMS, 28 FEB.

DECLARATION OF ICOR

ACTIVE RESISTANCE AGAINST IMPERIALIST NUCLEAR POLICY!

ON 11th March 2011, an earthquake of an unprecedented level of 9.0 on the Richter scale hit Japan which triggered a disastrous tsunami. Elementary disruptions in Japan's nuclear power stations were set off. The people of Japan have been hit by this to the utmost. Our sympathies and unrestricted solidarity are with the working class and the people in Japan.

In Fukushima the greatest catastrophe in the history of humankind is threatening. Millions of people will be exposed to radiation, the number of deaths, cancer victims, deformed persons and genetic damages of future generations is not foreseeable. All of humanity is affected by this directly or indirectly.

The conduct of the Kan administration and the companies running the nuclear power stations is a crime against humanity for which they have to be called to account. Even till today, people in the entire world are being kept uninformed and are deliberately being deceived. But while Chernobyl is still being justified as having been an outdated type of reactor, the worst-case scenario in Japan is taking place in one of the most modern and supposedly absolutely safest nuclear power plants of the world. Despite the unbelievable risks, the nuclear power corporations in Japan, Russia, France and Germany have plans to gain a leading position on the world market, where about 400 new nuclear power plants are to be built by 2030. Nothing proves more clearly that the international monopolies are knowingly prepared to go over dead bodies for the sake of their profits and take the permanent destruction of entire regions of the earth into account.

These policies can only be brought to fall through **worldwide coordinated resistance**. The question must be raised with all determination – either imperialism destroys the existential foundations of humanity through a worldwide environmental catastrophe or capitalism will be defeated and the unity of man and nature will be restored with a new upswing in the struggle for socialism.

Let us take the initiative for broad unities of action with a clear anti-imperialist direction against the criminal policy of the nuclear corporations. Let us combine this with a criticism of the capitalist system which always produces new economic, political and ecological crises. Let us organize demonstrations, rallies or events everywhere as part of the construction of a worldwide front of resistance for the preservation of the foundations of life of humanity. The 26th April, the 25th anniversary of the nuclear catastrophe of Chernobyl, is suited for organizing a worldwide joint day of action.

The situation demands immediate common action:

- **For an international front of active resistance for**

the shutdown of all nuclear power stations – worldwide and immediately!

- **Save the environment from the greed for profit of the monopolies!**
- **Immediate shutdown of all nuclear facilities at the expense of those who run them – worldwide!**
- **Immediate promotion of environmentally benign energies!**
- **For an international front of active resistance for the protection of the natural environment!**
- **Struggle for a socialist society where the unity of man and nature can be restored! ●**

FIGHT NATO WAR AGAINST LIBYA!

FROM 18 to 19 March 2011, the UN Security Council gave the legitimization for the war against Libya at the instigation of the US and NATO imperialists. While the imperialists, especially those of the USA and EU, did not undertake anything against the reactionary potentates in the Arabic countries (neither against the Gaddafi regime till now) and have actively participated in the extreme exploitation and oppression of the working class and the broad masses, the so-called “protection” of the rebelling masses is now being taken as pretext to place Libya under the immediate control of the NATO.

The first air raids by French, British and US fighters have already taken place and ‘Tomahawk’ cruise missiles have been fired on the part of the USA and Great Britain. The deployment of ground forces is being directly prepared.

All this demands the protests of the international working class and the world's population. We mainly stress that the struggle against the reactionary potentates has to be developed into an anti-imperialist struggle against those persons behind them in the imperialist centers. Liberation from exploitation and oppression under the shield of the imperialists is not possible. The imperialist aggressors have no business being in Libya.

Our solidarity is with the just rebellion of the masses! We support the road of the democratic revolution on the way to socialism as the way out of starvation, misery, war, exploitation and imperialist division and vileness.

- **Immediately stop NATO aggression against Libya!**
- **Solidarity with the democratic uprisings in North Africa and other Arabic and African countries!**
- **Long live the anti-imperialist struggle of the working class and the peoples!**
- **Workers of all countries, unite!**
- **Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite! ●**

*International Coordination of Revolutionary
Parties and Organizations (ICOR)
International Coordinating Committee (ICC)
20 March, 2011*

LESSONS OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR CRISIS

THE earthquake and the tsunami that caused massive destruction in Japan were unprecedentedly powerful. The damages they caused in the mostly urbanized region with a large number of industrial and commercial centres and infrastructural development was gigantic. An extensively 'developed' country like Japan, even without much help from others would have overcome the consequences of this natural calamity. But it did not end just as a natural calamity. This country which faced the gruesome consequences of the nuking of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945 by the US imperialists, is now confronting a nuclear power nightmare.

The Japanese prime minister is repeatedly assuring the people that the reactors at Fukushima plant were constructed taking in to account the fact that they would be operating in a seismically dangerous environment. According to him even the buildings and the infrastructure were constructed providing enough factor of safety. If the worst ever recorded earthquake in the country and the huge tsunami it unleashed destroyed the buildings and infrastructure and caused the death of tens of thousands, it can be consoled as something which the human beings cannot prevent. But what about the fall out of the nuclear crisis the country is facing? The prime minister of this country is now telling the people that in spite of maximum efforts the danger of nuclear radiation is escalating and the people should be ready to bear with it.

The whole world has come to know and the Japanese people had experienced that nuclear bombs are not similar to other bombs, however powerful they may be. After the immediate consequences of the powerful blast, for years people will be suffering from the consequences of the nuclear radiation. Millions continued to suffer even decades after the nuking. Some areas are still not fit for inhabitation. But still led by the imperialist powers especially the US, the membership in the 'nuclear bomb club' is increasing, escalating the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. Similarly, compared to all other sources of energy, the problem of the nuclear power plants are almost the same. That is why it is said that even if all the precautions about which the prime ministers of Japan or India or any other country are talking about are taken, at the present level of development of nuclear technology the nuclear power plants are like 'silent nuclear time bombs'. It was proved in Three Mile Island of US in 1979. Again it was proved at Chernobyl of former Soviet Union in 1986. Now it is being proved again in Japan at Fukushima plant that however much precautions are taken it is almost impossible for preventing the meltdown and spreading of radiation at dangerous levels once the 'silent bomb' is activated by accidents or other reasons. It is not like a thermal or gas plant or a hydel project facing an accident. In all such accidents, however severe they may be, there will be no aftershocks as in a nuclear plant.

Leaving aside major mishaps like Chernobyl, it can be seen from available data that hundreds of smaller and dozens of medium level mishaps have happened in the nuclear plants across the world. In Japan itself in 2007 an earthquake in north-western region caused a fire and minor radiation leaks at the world's largest nuclear plant in Kashiwazaki city. In all these cases under pressure from the international nuclear establishment controlled by the imperialist powers including Japan all reports are kept secret and the plants are restarted after some repairs. The problems of radiation leaks, danger of meltdown even without earthquake

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like calamities as in Chernobyl and the still unresolved waste disposal hurdle make the nuclear energy not only most expensive but also catastrophic as it is happening at Fukushima. The nuclear crisis in Japan is going to create serious problems for neighbouring countries, Russia, Korea and China, and its consequences will affect even other countries. The scientists admit that even the shutting down of a nuclear plant, even in normal conditions, is not simple. Stopping the chain reaction that keeps the fission going on which produces vast amount of energy is the first step. But as the report of functioning of the plants show that even after it is achieved the core of nuclear reactor will remain very hot. In addition radio processes continue in the nuclear fuel producing heat. At Fukushima plant the cooling system stopped functioning as the mechanism was damaged. It has already kicked off a meltdown and all the reactors are now seriously

damaged. In spite of best effort by teams of workers, as the latest reports show, even in Tokyo nuclear radiation is felt and as a result evacuation has started.

Still the prime minister and the nuclear establishment are repeating that everything is safe and secure in India, our designs are different etc. The UPA government which had even bribed parliament members to get the Indo-US Nuclear Deal passed in 2008, as the WikiLeaks has exposed. It got the Nuclear Liability Bill passed post-haste to please the visiting US president. Now it is going to satisfy the international nuclear establishment by trying to start the Jaitapur mega nuclear plant at any cost, utilizing the outdated French technology and plants. Like the US administration and international agencies like IAEA, it is also concealing the seriousness of the nuclear crisis in Japan. It is a government of treason prepared to sacrifice the interests of the people to please the imperialists and their various agencies.

So it is the immediate responsibility of all progressive forces concerned with the welfare and safety of the people to oppose the construction of any more nuclear plants. The agitation to cancel the Jaitapur project in Maharashtra and other proposed projects in different states should be intensified. Along with this the demand to declare moratorium on the functioning of existing plants and their shutting down should be raised. Why should India go for such a super expensive energy source when it is proved extremely dangerous, till the development of nuclear technology to resolve the problems which were and are faced in the meltdown cases so far, the radiation hazards and the waste disposal problems. A government which is ready to go to any extent to bow down to the imperialist masters and MNCs so long as it gets its commission should not be allowed to play with life of the people and the destiny of the country. ●

WIKILEAKS AND INDIAN RULING SYSTEM

THE details of how US Administration enforces checks and controls even minute details of how India is run coming out through the India Cables of WikiLeaks are once again creating a fierce scenes in the parliament. All the opposition parties have come out in one voice demanding the resignation of the prime minister for the *cash for votes case* which had rocked the parliament in July 2008 trust vote on Indo-US Nuclear Deal. WikiLeaks has brought out details of the cash transaction taken place to purchase the MPs as told to US officials by Congress leaders and middlemen. Besides many details of how the US embassy and officials are collecting information on all details of Indian administration, how they are commenting on them and how they are interfering in day to day administration have come out. The US preferences towards the political

leaders and how ministers are removed and US nominees appointed are also revealed in these cables. The best proof for the authenticity of these leaked cables is that so far the US administration has not challenged them.

But the facts remain that all these and more were coming out in the open when such things were happening, especially after the influence of Soviet Union in the Congress leadership started disappearing and US became the hegemonic power among the leaderships of the ruling class parties from early 1980s. If the leaks from WikiLeaks are limited to the cables sent by US officials during last five years, what happened in 1990 when Manmohan Singh was sent by IMF under instructions from Washington to become the finance minister of the whichever government comes to power after the 1991 elections was openly reported in the US weeklies, Times and Newsweek, and was talked about in India widely. He introduced the imperialist globalization policies in 1991 as finance minister of Narasimha Rao government, throwing out the hitherto so called 'Nehruvian economic policies', under instructions from Washington. Thereafter not only in determining the basic policies of consecutive governments, but also in deciding the top ministers and bureaucrats also the US agencies had interfered. So there is nothing surprising in the revelations that have come out in the present cables. A close study of the 'cables' reveal that the money transactions and conspiratorial moves to get the nuclear deal through were also carried out with the knowledge of the US officials.

As a shameless lackey of Washington it is quite natural that Manmohan rejects the facts that have come out now as 'materials which cannot be proved

in a court'. He can boldly say so as the judiciary in a neo colony like India is also turned in to a part of the neo liberal system, and as nobody will dare to tell the truth as the whole ruling system is serving the US imperialists and their lackeys. As the cables which are published on 18th March by *The Hindu* reveal the BJP leaders have taken anticipatory bail from the US masters so that they can resort to rhetoric so long as they are in opposition. As we have already stated the whole *Republic is stinking*. The whole ruling system is exposed as a comprador one and India is in the grip of the pernicious and sinister neo colonial system. All the deals and agreements signed by the consecutive governments under the sign board of 'strategic relationship' with the US have turned India in to a junior partner of the imperialist system. It is not 'US interference' as the opposition and the media repeat, but US subservience.

It is not a matter that can be settled by the exposure of this government alone as the opposition and the corporate media is contented with. So long as

the shouting and counter shouting in the parliament and in the media is limited to the attack on the prime minister and the UPA government alone and not directed against the basic neo-liberal policies, which the government and the opposition share, such rhetoric in the parliament and outside is not going to save the people and the country from the grip of these anti-people and anti-national forces. It is the task of the revolutionary left and democratic forces to take this struggle forward to attack and overthrow the ruling system itself. ●

EXPOSE AND OPPOSE US-LED IMPERIALIST INTERFERENCES IN MAGHREB-WEST ASIA

IMPERIALISM means plunder and wars for plunder. Whenever it or its lackeys are challenged in any form it will react barbarously in order to prolong and strengthen its hegemony in all fields. History has proved it repeatedly. What is now happening in Maghreb and West Asian countries is not different. If in Tunisia and then in Egypt it was surprised with the swiftness of the developments in which its trusted lackeys had to go out, very soon the imperialists, especially US imperialists prepared themselves to reduce the damage in these two countries and to see that the uprisings do not become successful in other countries, even when Obama in the footsteps of his predecessor Bush was fooling the world public opinion by talking about democracy and Abraham Lincon. For this purpose as usual the cover of UN is utilized and in the name of establishing a 'no-fly zone', Libya is pounded with rockets and bombs. What it dared not to do in Latin America in the last decade is brutally executed along with its allies now because of its confidence that its lackeys in the region like the Saudi king and other feudal monarchs and dictators will continue to stand by its side against the people of this region.

As in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US and its allies dare to commit such atrocities and launch such brutal aggressions in the name of opposing the Gadaffi regime because they know that in spite of the inter imperialist contradictions in the form of trade wars, plunder of natural resources etc, neither Russia nor China nor any other imperialist power is going to oppose even in the Security Council their savage aggressive policies. In spite of their intensifying contention for markets and natural resources, all of them are colluding against the world people to impose neo colonial domination through the control of capital, markets and technology. So even in the Security Council these countries only abstained from voting, they did not oppose or veto the US led proposals. In Russia when Putin talked tough against the US led bombing, Medvedev immediately refuted it as impermissible. Though Chinese naval ships were in Libyan ports as the bombing of Libyan areas started they left in a hurry. So utilizing the advantages of the neo colonial phase and the weakening of the socialist forces, the US and its allies with the silent approval of other imperialist countries and junior partners like India are trying to suffocate, suppress and destroy the people's uprisings in this region. In order to protect their petroleum

interests in the region and save Zionist Israel it is necessary for the US led forces to suppress the uprisings at any cost. As a result, in coming days the intervention in all possible ways by them is only going to intensify. As it was repeatedly emphasized during the 'Great Debate' against the Krushchovite revisionists, the imperialists are not Budhas and they are not going to stop their aggressive policies till their dooms day.

But in spite of these imperialist interferences and aggressions, it is not going to be easy for them to stop the mounting struggles of the people of the region. According to various reports the conspiratorial policies of US and its allies along with their lackeys to nullify the gains of the people's uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt are not succeeding. The progressive forces are trying to mobilize for democracy and welfare policies. In Libya though the US and its allies through the bloody aggression are punishing the people and to hijack the people's movement, still there are possibilities of the forces against the imperialist interference. In Yemen the uprising is gaining strength according to latest reports which may lead to the ouster of Ali Salah. In

Bahrain the democratic movement is advancing in spite of brutal suppression. In Syria also the masses have started revolting against the dictatorship. Even in Saudi Arabia, people have started coming out in the streets against the reactionary and oppressive rule of the US lackeys. All these developments show that the wind of change has started blowing powerfully across the length and breadth of this region. All the countries in the region are influenced by it.

The formation of ICOR initiating the efforts to bring together the revolutionary forces at international level has taken place at a very opportune time. In order to carry forward the present mass uprisings to make radical social changes the strengthening of the revolutionary parties in all the countries and along with that their unity at international level are essential factors. The task of the revolutionary forces is to work tirelessly for intensifying the ongoing mass upsurges relentlessly and at the same time to strengthen the revolutionary vanguards both nationally and internationally. Let the revolutionary forces dare to take up these tasks with full vigour and enthusiasm so that imperialism and its lackeys can be thrown out once forever. ●

DPF CONVENTION AND PARLIAMENT MARCH AGAINST PRICE RISE AND SCAMS

THE All India Convention and Parliament March called by the Democratic People's Front against sky rocketing prices of essential commodities, intensifying scams and rule of scamsters, unemployment and under employment and state terror was successfully held on 27 and 28 February with the participation of comrades from 16 states including from Kerala to Punjab and Maharashtra and Gujarat to W. Bengal. The programme was preceded by a month long campaign in the states focusing on the issues highlighted in the ten point charter of the DPF. The DPF Charter has exposed how the UPA government has speeded up the implementation of the neo liberal policies, taking the pauperization of the masses and devastation of the country to unprecedented levels. The Congress led UPA government at the centre has created a new record in surrendering the country to imperialist, especially US imperialist, dictates making the Republic stinking more than ever as exposed by the DPF campaign on 26th January. Along with Congress led UPA at centre, the state governments led by various parties ranging from Congress and BJP to regional or pseudo left parties, alone or as united fronts, are competing with each other, to implement the neo liberal policies, irrespective of the claims all of them are making. It is in this context the DPF was launched as a revolutionary alternative to fight for democracy and socialist goals.

That the importance of launching such an all India front is being recognized by a growing number of the forces struggling against the anti people policies of the central and state governments was reflected in their participation in the Convention and Parliament March. The DPF volunteers made good poster campaign and thousands of handbills were distributed propagating the programme. On 27th All India Convention held at Ambedkar Bhavan delegates from 16 states representing CPI (ML), New Socialist Movement (Gujarat), Marxist Leninist Committee (AP) and Bahujan Vam Manch actively participated. Com. Umakant, CEC member of CPI (ML) welcomed the leaders and delegates of the



different organizations participating in the Convention and conducted the meeting while com. Venketeswar Rao, secretary, MLC, presided.

Presenting the Charter of the DPF in the Convention for its approval, general secretary of CPI (ML) and convener of DPF, com. K.N. Ramachandran explained the critical situation in the country when the formation of such a front has become an immediate necessity to unite all forces who are struggling against the neo liberal policies at all India level . He pointed out the relevance of the ten point charter of the DPF and called on the delegates to express their views on it. The mass uprisings in the North African and West Asian countries point out that once the people are mobilized and they dare to challenge the ruling system no force on this earth can defeat them. So fighting against right opportunist and anarchist tendencies broadest possible united front should be built up to defeat the reactionary ruling system. Com. Mukul Sinha, president, NSM, pointed out how the state is becoming more and more fascistic in suppressing all the movements of the people whether it is against displacement, SEZs or any other neo liberal projects which are devastating the life of the masses. In this both Congress led UPA as well as the BJP and its NDA are two sides of the same coin. So we have to strengthen the DPF to build a genuine people's alternative.

Com. Hari Rao of the MLC explained how the people's movements are suppressed in AP like in other states and called for strengthening the DPF by taking up continuous programmes at state and all India level. Com. Thomas Mathew of BVM explained how the neo liberal policies are devastating the life of all oppressed sections especially the dalits and the adivasis. Even whatever rights won through numerous struggles are snatched away. The judiciary, like other arms of the state, is also serving the neo liberal policies. What is required is a powerful mass movement to beat back the anti people measures of the ruling system. Com. Amaresh Patil of NSM and CPI (ML) leaders, comrades Provint (Kerala), Manasayya (CEC member), Arun Valaskar (Maharashtra), Sivaram (Orissa), Sankar Das (Bengal), Soura Yadav (Chathisgarh), Monasur (UP) and Urmila (MP) addressed the Convention calling on all comrades to work hard to strengthen the DPF. Delegates unanimously adopted the formation of DPF and its Charter amidst militant slogans. The president concluded the meeting after which the comrades from different states raised militant slogans declaring their resolve to intensify the struggles against neo liberal policies with the objective of creating a new society.

PARLIAMENT MARCH

On 28th morning comrades from 16 states including the delegates who had participated in the Convention started the parliament march from Ambedkar Bhavan and New Delhi railway station through the streets of the capital raising militant slogans against the reactionary neo liberal policies and calling on the people to join the mass movements to challenge the ruling system. The cultural troupe of Chathisgarh adivasi comrades and of Karnataka comrades with their revolutionary songs and the hundreds of comrades from different states shouting revolutionary slogans reached the parliament street by 12 noon where the march, when stopped by the police force, converted in to a mass meeting.

Addressing the March com. Ramachandran explained how the parliament which is more than ever exposed as a pig den serving the imperialists and their lackeys, is witnessing the presentation of another reactionary budget to speed up the neo liberal policies when the representatives of people from 16 states are assembled in front of it , to condemn the budget and to pledge to intensify the struggles against them. He cited the millions who assembled at Tahrir Square in Cairo, unseating the 30 years long fascist regime of Mubarak in Egypt. What is

required in India is a hundred times more powerful mass upsurge with clear political determination to throw out the system and usher in a new dawn of people's rule. He called on all the progressive democratic forces to join hands to intensify the struggle in the coming days. Addressing the March com. Mukul Sinha explained that when there are different ruling class fronts to serve the neo liberal dictates of the imperialists this is a front to throw out the imperialists and their lackeys once forever. Let us intensify the struggles to fulfill the revolutionary task of creating a new society. Com. Venketeswar Rao of MLC and com. Thomas Mathew of BVM called on the people to join hands and get prepared to throw out the reactionaries presenting another neo liberal budget to plunder and oppress them. Central leaders including com. Sanjay Singhvi and leaders from different states also addressed the meeting which continued till 4 pm interspersed with revolutionary slogans and cultural programmes. A delegation of comrades Amaresh Patil and Sabi Joseph presented a memorandum to president, prime minister and Lok Sabha speaker demanding the reversal of the anti people neo liberal policies including displacement, SEZs, corporatization of agriculture, advance trading which legalise hoarding and black marketing leading to sky high prices, arrest of all scamsters and confiscation of all sums stashed away in the foreign banks by them. The parliament march concluded with the resolve to spread the message of the DPF at all India level and to intensify the struggles against the neo-liberal policies. ●

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NUCLEAR CRISIS IN JAPAN TURNING INTO CATASTROPHE

FIVE DAYS after the 8.9 magnitude earthquake and the ferocious tsunami caused by it creating heavy loss of life and devastation, the crisis caused by the danger of a partial or complete meltdown of three reactors of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear plant is turning in to a catastrophe as the latest report indicate. It is officially announced that two reactors of this damaged nuclear plant should be suffering meltdown. 'The three explosions that shook the plant indicated that the disaster is becoming more terrific than expected. While desperate efforts are taking place at this plant to continue the cooling system using sea water, at a nearby nuclear plant, Daini, three more reactors are reported to have lost their cooling systems intensifying the magnitude of the crisis.

Japan is now in a state of panic as the present radiation level at Fukushima has become as high as 400 mSv while the generally accepted natural radiation level for people is about 2 mSv. After Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986 the criteria for evacuating people from the vicinity was fixed as 350 mSv. After the explosion at nuclear reactor number four at Fukushima plant the radiation levels increased four fold. Fire at the fourth reactor has released large amount of radioactive materials. People around 20 kms of the plant are being evacuated with the nuclear threat spreading across the country. In Tokyo its 1.25 crore population is facing the danger of radiation and even before evacuation orders many have started leaving the city. The government is engaged in working out Emergency Response Strategy, according to reports.

The earthquake that caused extensive damage and the tsunami of very high magnitude that followed as a result, were natural calamities which have created devastation in a vast area. One can argue that the seismically sensitive character of Japan and natural geological factors

caused this unprecedentedly severe 8.9 magnitude earthquake. The very high level of the urbanisation linked with the industrial and infrastructural development in the country have contributed to the devastation becoming so serious. But in spite of the massive character of these calamities Japan could have overcome these severe calamities in a comparatively brief period compared to other less developed countries.

But the nuclear crisis caused by the damage suffered by the nuclear reactors has changed the entire character of this horrific disaster. That Japan which suffered the unimaginable consequences of the nuking of Nagasaki and Hiroshima by the US imperialists in 1945 is once again confronting another nuclear catastrophe which may become more severe than what was caused by the nuclear bombs calls for a serious examination of the nuclear energy policy pursued by the Japanese government. After the nuclear radiation havoc suffered by millions of people in this country, how could it go for the so called peaceful utilization of nuclear energy inaugurated by the US president Eisenhower in 1953 on such a vast scale, even after the sufferings following the nuclear bombing and even when it was repeatedly proved that nuclear power plants can turn in to 'nuclear time bombs'?

It is repeatedly proved that nuclear power generation is inevitably fraught with the danger of radiation which is unsafe in all doses, however small it may be. Not only those occupied in this sector, but the general public in ever larger numbers are facing radioactive hazards in numerous ways, as explained vividly by the concerned scientists and social activists in large number of publications. Radioactive wastes of different intensity are produced in all stages of nuclear fuel cycle. Wastes are produced in the nuclear reactors core also. They are created in uranium mining, refining and enrichment, and in fuel fabrication. An average reactor generates 20 to 30 tonnes of high level nuclear waste every year. But whatever may be the claims of the nuclear establishment, humankind has not found any safe methods of storing or disposing of the nuclear waste so far. While half life of plutonium-239 is 24,000 years, of uranium-235 is 710 million years and of other wastes like uranium-234, plutonium-238 etc are also not less.

Another grave danger is that the nuclear power generation is the only form of energy production which can produce catastrophic accidents like Three Mile Island in US or Chernobyl in former Soviet Union of 1980s. Hundreds of thousands people died, tens of millions affected badly, everything living in the vicinity were destroyed and the area around the place are still waste lands. The total estimated damage is running into trillions of dollar. Thousands of minor and at least 22 major accidents have happened before and after these. In 2007 an earthquake in north western Japan caused fire and radiation leaks at the world's largest nuclear plant in Kashiwazaki city. Though there was public outcry for shutting down this plant with the backing of the nuclear establishment Tokyo Electric reopened it in 2009 claiming that necessary preventive mechanisms are incorporated.

Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and now Fukushima are proving that the nuclear power plants are 'nuclear time bombs' which can explode and cause incalculable damage and even otherwise its radiation, waste disposal problems and cost factors make them the least feasible and most dangerous source of

energy. At a time when the Japanese people are confronting the nuclear catastrophe once again imposed on them by the imperialist system, it should open the eyes of the people all over the world towards this grave danger created by the so-called development policy dictated by the ruling system.

The situation is not under control in Fukushima or even in nearby Daini nuclear plants where the reactors have exploded, structures are damaged and radiation is spreading to even as distant as 100 kms away places. There are fears that spent fuel rods stored in reactor buildings which have come under tsunami waters, are causing high level radiation around. Technologically developed Japan has always claimed that its reactors are designed to withstand any level of earthquakes and tsunamis. But the unfolding catastrophe in Fukushima and in general in Japan show that despite the best precautions all nuclear reactors are vulnerable to risks and once it happens the catastrophe of unprecedented proportions are bound to follow.

It is in the light of it the statement of the prime minister in the parliament that India nuclear reactors are all safe should be approached. As the some of the senior nuclear scientists themselves have accused the central governments from the beginning have kept all reports presented to the governments by various commissions after Chernobyl and after mishaps were reported from the Indian plants. The whole nuclear projects in this country are kept highly secret and least transparent. The Japanese catastrophe is witnessed by the people when in spite of the people's staunch resistance the government is using fascist methods to implement its mega nuclear plant programme at Jaitapur in Maharashtra and to launch a number of 'nuclear power parks' in many states. Like in implementing the neo liberal policies, in pursuing the nuclear power projects also all the political parties in power or sharing power at centre or in the states have joined hands. To speed up the Jaitapur project even the readymade Environment Assessment Report was presented and outdated French reactors are going to be imported at Rs 200,000 crores, a bigger scam than the 2G-Spectrum case. But this scam will lead to catastrophes as we are witnessing through live TV pictures about Japan.

It is a time when we should extend wholehearted support to the people of

Japan who are suffering immensely from the unprecedented natural calamities, the severe earthquake and the tsunami, and the much more severe and devastating consequences of the nuclear catastrophe caused by the inhuman greed and lust of a ruling system, which refuses to learn from the Nagasaki and Hiroshima experience. On this occasion it is the responsibility of the progressive, pro-people, pro-nature people all over the world to initiate the struggle for a new perspective towards development.

Within the country it is the responsibility of all progressive forces to oppose the whole gamut of the anti people, neo liberal development perspective including the imposing of the monstrous 'nuclear parks policy'. It is the opportune time to intensify the struggle to prevent Three Mile Islands, Chernobyls, Fukushimas happening in Jaitapur or elsewhere. Save the humankind from the catastrophe of nuclear devastation by intensifying the struggle for not only a world without the nuclear arms, but also the nuclear energy is not used till scientific knowledge and technology has developed in such a way that it can be used safely. ●

PEOPLE'S UPRISING CONTINUES IN BAHRAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES

DESPITE ban on protests the civil disobedience movement in Bahrain continued to flare up on 16th March when police broke up demonstrations in different localities. The same day evening people of Al Musala also came under attack. The entry of Saudi Arabian troops in to Bahrain has generated internal dissent against the rulers among the masses and opposition in the Shia strongholds. This had led to anti government demonstrations in number of localities on 15th. The authorities have intensified the crackdown on the pro-democracy uprising by arresting top opposition leaders on 16th. Police especially targeted the leaders of the Huq movement. During the last five years the Huq Party was leading agitations, challenging the monarchy. Its leaders have demanded that the Bahraini security forces should stop killing people.

The other organization which is targeted for attacks by the security forces is the secular, democratic and left organization, Waad or Democratic National Movement, which is the continuation of the National Liberation Front of Bahrain, brutally suppressed during the 1970s. While the government and the media are depicting the ongoing people's upsurge as one of the majority Shias, in order to divide the people communally and to suppress the movement, the secretary of Waad, Ibrahim Sharif and many of its leaders are themselves Sunnis by birth.

After occupying the government run Salmaniya hospital which was a strong hold of the fighting forces the authorities have militarized it. Appointing a military head for it. Despite the entry of forces from Saudi Arabia and other neighbouring countries to suppress the movement, and despite ban on assembly of people and on any forms of protests, the civil disobedience movement is gaining strength. Already a number of people in the small country, a peninsula linked with Saudi by a causeway, are killed and many more are injured. As US imperialism which is having its biggest naval base of the gulf region here is interested to broker a peace agreement to end the struggle as in Libya in order to crush the movement and bring under more fierce imperialist control, the popular forces are not prepared to go for a compromise. ●

FUKUSHIMA LESSONS FOR PAKISTAN

AH Nayyer

KARACHI Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) is now forty years old. It is rated among the worst functioning reactors of the world. Situated on the Arabian Sea, it was originally far away from populated areas of Karachi, but now many residential schemes have moved close to it. The reactors at Chashma are relatively new. The site is on the bank of River Indus, situated between Indus and Chashma-Jehlum Link Canal. The reactor site is known to be on top of a series of tectonic plates

Exclusive insideThe horrendous destruction caused by the earthquake and the tsunami in Japan is unparalleled with any other in the living memory. All the recent incidents of natural disasters – flash floods in Pakistan, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Australia, hurricanes in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, earthquakes in Pakistan and New Zealand, the tsunamis in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, etc – pale before the ferocity of the Japanese earthquake and the resultant tsunami. We sympathise with the people of Japan and hope and pray that they face the calamity with strength.

What has turned the destruction of earthquake and tsunami into catastrophe was their effect on the nuclear reactors situated on the eastern coast. The reactor systems went out of control, explosions occurred, fires broke out, smoke was emitted from them and radioactivity has been leaking out of them. The situation continued to be critical by the Wednesday afternoon and was still worsening. It seems that saving them is a losing battle, and of foremost concern is the need to save the population and environment from the hazards of leaking radioactivity.

Daiichi site, called Fukushima-1, contains 6 reactors with two more under construction. They are all boiling water reactors, meaning that unlike the Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs) which are kept under high pressures to keep water in the liquid

state even at very high temperatures, these reactors work at lower temperatures and pressures to allow steam formation in the reactor vessels for turning electricity turbines. As a result, the reactor vessels are not made to resist very high temperatures and pressures.

When the earthquake struck, the reactor followed the script and the control rods automatically slammed into the fuel in the reactor core, stopping the chain fission reaction. But even when fission reaction stops, the core remains very hot and continues to generate heat. It needs to be continuously cooled down by circulating coolant, in this case water, through it for nearly ever. Reactors always have such cooling systems built into the reactor. And if such a system fails for any reason, there is an Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) consisting of water tanks and pumps running on an external electricity source. That fateful day, earthquake destroyed the normal cooling system and tsunami destroyed the ECCS. The ECCS control was situated in a basement structure for the sake of securing it from environmental elements. Tsunami filled the basement, making ECCS unusable.

The loss of water caused the fuel rods to break open and melt and produce hydrogen from water. Steam formation and hydrogen formation are the two most dangerous developments in a reactor as they can cause explosions. Two reactor buildings in Daiichi have lost roof tops from such explosions.

As of 7 pm Japan time on March 17, units 1, 2 and 3 were in a most dangerous state. Their cores have all melted, but were confined to reactor vessels. Sea water is being pumped in continuously to keep their temperature down. Unit number 4 was not even working at the time of earthquake and tsunami, yet fire has broken out in it too. Each unit had a spent fuel pond at an elevated position inside the outer containment structure. The breached containment structures have therefore exposed the spent fuel ponds to atmosphere. Spent fuel contains the most highly radioactive substances, and if they leak out they can pose severe danger to environment and living organisms.

All of this has happened in Japan, a country that is technologically very advanced and a manufacturer of nuclear reactors that it supplies to other countries. Japanese expertise in

Slouching towards Fukushima



nuclear technology is second to none. A loss of control over the destroyed nuclear reactor is not because of any technological weakness. It is in spite of sound technical expertise. It is in the nature of nuclear technology. Severe reactor accidents have happened before too. And each time for a different reason. Note that since the Three Mile Island reactor accident in 1973, no new reactor orders have been placed in USA, although USA has the largest number of nuclear power reactors, and depends heavily on them. But the 1973 accident was serious enough to stop it in its stride. The Chernobyl accident in Ukraine happened nearly 25 years ago. And now this. When the Soviet nuclear scientists visited Three Mile Island, they said "Oh, but our reactors are free of this fault, so they may not face an accident." But then Chernobyl happened. Others said it was the absence of containment structure that caused the damage. With containment structures, nuclear power would be safe. In fact, the nuclear power industry had recently gone on a publicity offensive claiming that the technology had come so far, becoming so safe, that there was no need to fear it any more. On top of it, the industry claims that it mitigates climate change.

And then Fukushima happened, exposing the fragility of the arguments in favour of nuclear power.

Pakistan has three nuclear power reactors, and three plutonium production reactors. The latter are meant to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. One power reactor is situated at the Karachi coast, and two newer ones are situated on the bank of River Indus at Chashma. All three power reactors have been bought from other countries – the Karachi one from Canada and the Chashma ones from China. Pakistan continues to need assistance of their manufacturers to resolve problems arising in them from time to time.

Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) is now forty years old. Like many others in the world, its life was extended for another ten years after 30 years of service, and works at nearly 50% of its original design capacity. It is rated among the worst functioning reactors of the world. The lifetime capacity factor has been less than 28%. Situated on the Arabian Sea, it was originally far away from populated areas of Karachi, but now many residential schemes have moved close to it. A Northward sea breeze goes past the plant to northern parts of Karachi. A tsunami hitting the plant and affecting it the way the Japanese reactors were affected, would expose dense population centres of Karachi to radioactivity. Orangi, Baldia and SITE are all within a radius of 20 km from the reactor. Depending on how serious the accident is, radiation levels could in principle touch as high a level as from the Chernobyl accident of 1986. People, especially children could get exposed to radioactive iodine and caesium. Iodine has affinity for thyroid glands where its radioactive isotopes can cause thyroid cancer, especially in children. Caesium can affect bones and bone marrow.

In the post-tsunami Japan, the population within 20 km of the reactors has been evacuated and that up to 30 km has been told to remain confined to their homes to avoid being contaminated by radioactivity. It is unthinkable that such an arrangement would be possible in Pakistan.

The reactors at Chashma are relatively new. Chashma-1 came into operation in the year 2000, and Chashma-2 has just made a few test runs. It is yet to go commercial. The reactor site is on the bank of River Indus, situated between Indus and Chashma-Jehlum Link Canal. They take cooling water from CJL Canal and throw it in the Indus.

The reactor site is known to be on top of a series of tectonic plates. The soil is known to undergo liquefaction under earthquake, and the recorded ground acceleration by earthquakes has been large, meaning that when earthquakes struck it in the past, the ground moved by several meters and very fast, precisely

the conditions that would make the site unsuitable for a nuclear reactor.

These and other objections were raised against the reactor site in a report published by a couple of concerned Pakistani scientists, but these were brushed aside. The study had raised alarm about the consequences of the different parts of the reactor system getting disconnected as a result of a severe earthquake. It had also estimated the damage that could result from a loss of coolant and core meltdown accident and the consequent spread of radioactivity in the environment. It would do the nuclear establishment good to revisit the study to at least plan for an unforeseen emergency.

In case Pakistan succeeds in getting Chashma-3 and -4 also, the magnitude of disaster estimated in the study would become four-fold.

Then there are the plutonium production reactors in Khushab, the first of which was built in 1998, a second has already come on line, and a third is near completion, and the ground breaking of a fourth one has been very recently discovered by satellite imagery. These are small reactors, nearly 20 times smaller than the Chashma reactors. Their fuel load is also correspondingly smaller. But they are all indigenously built, and all use fission reaction. The cores of all of them contain highly radioactive substances which are transported to long distances for reprocessing to extract bomb grade plutonium from them. The Khushab site is at the other end of the Chashma-Jehlum Link Canal where it meets the Jehlum river. Any accident at this site can in principle contaminate the water of river Jehlum.

In summary then, nuclear power is inherently unsafe and perilous. The mantra of solving our energy needs through nuclear power is not acceptable any more after the Fukushima event. It is in our interest to stop the strong nuclear lobby from imposing itself upon our safety and security. ●

CHERNOBYL: HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED AND HOW MANY ARE LIKELY TO DIE IN FUTURE?

THE total number of deaths already attributable to Chernobyl or expected in the future over the lifetime of emergency workers and local residents in the most contaminated areas is estimated to be about 4000. This includes some 50 emergency workers who died of acute radiation syndrome and nine children who died of thyroid cancer, and an estimated total of 3940 deaths from radiation-induced cancer and leukemia among the 200 000 emergency workers from 1986-1987, 116 000 evacuees and 270000 residents of the most contaminated areas (total about 600000). These three major cohorts were subjected to higher doses of radiation amongst all the people exposed to Chernobyl radiation.

The estimated 4000 casualties may occur during the lifetime of about 600000 people under consideration. As about quarter of them will eventually die from spontaneous cancer not caused by Chernobyl radiation, the radiation-induced increase of about 3% will be difficult to observe. However, in the most highly exposed cohorts of emergency and recovery operation workers, some increase in particular cancers (e.g., leukemia) has already been observed.

Confusion about the impact has arisen owing to the fact that thousands of people in the affected areas have died of natural causes. Also, widespread expectations of ill health and a tendency to attribute all health problems to radiation exposure have led local residents to assume that Chernobyl related fatalities were much higher than they actually were. [This is official version. Source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news>]

Nearly one million people around the world died from exposure to radiation released by the 1986 nuclear

disaster at the Chernobyl reactor, finds a new book from the New York Academy of Sciences published today on the 24th anniversary of the meltdown at the Soviet facility. The book, "Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment," was compiled by authors Alexey Yablokov of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy in Moscow, and Vassily Nesterenko and Alexey Nesterenko of the Institute of Radiation Safety, in Minsk, Belarus.

The authors examined more than 5,000 published articles and studies, most written in Slavic languages and never before available in English. The authors said, "For the past 23 years, it has been clear that there is a danger greater than nuclear weapons concealed within nuclear power. Emissions from this one reactor exceeded a hundred-fold the radioactive contamination of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki." "No citizen of any country can be assured that he or she can be protected from radioactive contamination. One nuclear reactor can pollute half the globe," they said. "Chernobyl fallout covers the entire Northern Hemisphere."

Their findings are in contrast to estimates by the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency that initially said only 31 people had died among the "liquidators," those approximately 830,000 people who were in charge of extinguishing the fire at the Chernobyl reactor and deactivation and cleanup of the site.

The book finds that by 2005, between 112,000 and 125,000 liquidators had died. "On this 24th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, we now realize that the consequences were far worse than many researchers had believed," says Janette Sherman, MD, the physician and toxicologist who edited the book. Drawing upon extensive data, the authors estimate the number of deaths worldwide due to Chernobyl fallout from 1986 through 2004 was 985,000, a number that has since increased. [This is by independent researchers: <http://www.commondreams.org>]

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED?

The entire town of Pripjat (population 49,360), which lay only three kilometres from the plant was completely evacuated 36 hours after the accident. During the subsequent weeks and months an additional 67,000 people were evacuated from their homes in contaminated areas and relocated on government order. In total some 200,0000 people are believed to have been relocated as a result of the accident. [Official version: <http://www.iaea.org>]

WHAT ARE MAJOR HEALTH EFFECTS FOR EXPOSED POPULATIONS?

There have been at least 1800 documented cases of thyroid cancer children who were between 0 and 14 years of age when the accident occurred., which is far higher than normal. The thyroid gland of young children is particularly susceptible to the uptake of radioactive iodine, which can trigger cancers, treatable both by surgery and medication. Health studies of the registered cleanup workers called in (so-called "liquidators") have failed to show any direct correlation between their radiation exposure and an increase in other forms of cancer or disease. The psychological affects of Chernobyl were and remain widespread and profound, and have resulted for instance in suicides, drinking problems and apathy. [Official version: <http://www.iaea.org>]

Yablokov and his co-authors find that radioactive emissions from the stricken reactor, once believed to be 50 million curies, may have been as great as 10 billion curies, or 200 times greater than the initial estimate, and hundreds of times larger than the fallout from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nations outside the former Soviet Union received high doses of radioactive fallout, most notably Norway, Sweden, Finland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Greece, and parts of the United Kingdom and Germany. About 550 million Europeans, and 150 to 230 million others in the Northern Hemisphere received notable contamination. Fallout reached the United States and Canada nine days after the disaster.

The proportion of children considered healthy born to irradiated parents in Belarus, the Ukraine, and European Russia considered healthy fell from about 80 percent to less than 20 percent since 1986. Numerous reports reviewed for this book document elevated disease rates in the Chernobyl area. These include increased fetal and infant deaths, birth defects, and diseases of the respiratory, digestive, musculoskeletal, nervous, endocrine, reproductive, hematological, urological, cardiovascular, genetic, immune, and other systems, as well as cancers and non-cancerous tumors.

In addition to adverse effects in humans, numerous other species have

been contaminated, based upon studies of livestock, voles, birds, fish, plants, trees, bacteria, viruses, and other species. Foods produced in highly contaminated areas in the former Soviet Union were shipped, and consumed worldwide, affecting persons in many other nations. Some, but not all, contamination was detected and contaminated foods not shipped.

The authors warn that the soil, foliage, and water in highly contaminated areas still contain substantial levels of radioactive chemicals, and will continue to harm humans for decades to come. [This is by independent researchers: <http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/04/26>]

STOP JAITAPUR AND ALL PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, DECLARE MORATORIUM ON CONTINUING WITH EXISTING PLANTS

JAPAN is in nuclear emergency. The Fukushima plant is almost abandoned as the radioactive materials are thrown out following the new explosions and fires. Panic is spreading among a people who had once suffered from the Nagasaki and Hiroshima nuking and their fall outs..It is not the earthquake and the tsunami which are threatening the people but the fall out of the nuclear crisis which is turning into a catastrophe. At this critical moment let us all extend our solidarity to the suffering people of Japan.

At this grave moment the statement made by the prime minister Manmohan Singh that all our nuclear plants are safe, all precautions are taken and that his government will go ahead with the nuclear programs are expressions of total arrogance and a pack of lies. More solemn statements than these were issued by the prime ministers of Japan when concerned people had raised doubts about the viability of going ahead with the nuclear plants after Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and major mishaps in Japan itself. But all these statements issued under pressure from the nuclear establishment are proved hollow. Now the people are issued warnings similar to those issued in 1945.

Should we believe a prime minister and his government which has turned the stinking ruling system worse? It has proved it cannot control even the mega scams like the 2G-Spectrum or organise a Commonwealth Games without scams or select a CVC like officer according to laws due to

error of judgement. How can it assure the people that everything is going to be ok with the nuclear plants?

When he says such lies he is concealing the fact that unlike a disaster in a coal/gas plant or a hydel project, the nuclear plants are not technologically safe due to not yet resolved radiation and waste disposal problems even if the enormous cost factor is forgotten. Formerly even without a natural calamity plants in US and Soviet Union faced meltdown. Now after an earthquake and tsunami the Japanese plant is creating a catastrophe. Does the prime minister want to say that the nuclear establishment in India is safer than those in such highly technologically advanced countries? He is fooling the people and betraying the country to satisfy the nuclear establishment and his imperialist mentors. We should not believe him or his government.

When the horror faced by the Japanese people is before our eyes and when people are fleeing to escape from this horror, we should not delay in demanding a moratorium on all projects which are running as well as on all proposed projects including the Jaitapur project. Let us unite in raising this demand and launching all forms of protests to compel the government to accede to this people's demand. This is the utmost responsibility of all concerned people at this crucial moment. ●

CPI(ML), 16 March 2011

**From Anil Sadgopal
to Subhashini Ali**

I have just now read the report of the 2-member CPI(M) team's visit to Jaitapur to study the response of the local population to the government's decision to **impose** a 10,000 MW nuclear power plant in the area – an area known to be in the earthquake zone.

Excellent down-to-earth eye witness account by Com. Khagen Das M.P. and yourself. Please accept my grateful thanks for doing this service to the cause of the brave people of Jaitapur and for building a safer India.

I congratulate your team to have formulated the three unambiguous demands at the end as follows:

“1) Cancel the Jaitapur Nuclear Project;

2) Return the lands which have been forcibly acquired; and

3) Withdraw all police cases filed against the movement activists and also the ban orders and create a suitable environment for dialogue.”

Now would you please allow me to raise three honest questions? These are:

1. Would CPI(M) now endorse your demands and take the Jaitapur people's battle unflinchingly into the Parliament, insisting on **cancellation** of the Jaitapur nuclear power plant project irrespective of the Government's claims of the so-called 'safety reviews' and 'increased' safety measures?

2. Have the CPI(M)-led governments in West Bengal and Kerala closed the doors of their respective states to moves by the centre to establish nuclear power plants therein? If the answer is in the affirmative, would your party declare this as its continuing stand in the party manifestos in the forthcoming assembly election?

DEBATE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN INDIA

3. Would your party now declare its unambiguous commitment to a national policy of promoting renewable and sustainable energy resources (solar, wind, bio-mass and others) for power production in place of the proposed nuclear power all over the country and raise people's political consciousness in support of this rational stand?

I have taken the liberty of placing these questions before you since I know of your sincere approach to politics and commitment to wage internal struggle within the party in pursuit of such a pro-people and anti-corporate capital development model. ●

From Arun Shrivastava to Anil Sadgopal

Adding to your key questions on CPI(M) report on the proposed Jaitapur Nuclear power project. There are essentially seven science and technology based reasons why the nuclear option must be summarily rejected.

1. The risks arising from severe accidents on the scale of the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Though the probabilities of an accident vary from one reactor to the next and are likely much lower in the United States than in the former Soviet Union (given historical data), accidents on the scale of Chernobyl could occur in all commercial reactor designs; The Japanese events are further proof how unsafe is this technology, how lax are the regulators, and how vulnerable are these ticking bombs to major forcing.

2. The excessive demand for water for use as coolant. It is for this reason that many reactors are located in coastal areas or close to natural water bodies. However, since discharge into open system is a common practice, it has caused contamination.

3. The nuclear waste problem, which has not been solved so far in any country;

4. The significant long-term health, environmental, and safety problems associated with spent fuel or high level waste disposal continue to bedevil nuclear power and make its future uncertain. It should be noted in this context that official assessments of the risk of harm from exposure to radiation continue to increase. Around every nuclear reactor in the US, there are cancer hot spots. [If Governments in India have not carried out similar studies, it is entirely the failure of our health departments as much as that of MoHFW;

5. The high financial risks of nuclear power, and this is a primary reason why private sector has consistently refused to invest in nuclear technology. It is precisely for this reason that all Governments have had to provide huge subsidies as tax-payers' cost without corresponding benefit. Obama has sought over 50 billion dollars budgetary support for reviving nuclear power industry in the US...SO MUCH FOR FREE MARKET ECONOMY.

6. Long long-lead times [frequently 10-12 years] and uncertainties relating to high level nuclear waste disposal, including the costs of repositories [where is the land to store the huge waste? Everything that comes out of a nuclear facility, including shoes gloves, protective clothing, needs to be safely disposed off];

7. Because of all this the insurance problem. **The damage from severe accidents has always been officially assessed as so severe that the nuclear industry continues to rely essentially completely on government-provided insurance.....**It is strange that the industry is still turning to the government for bailing out the industry for each of the six factors mentioned above. Every Government should read CRAC-2 report of 1982, prepared at the behest of the US Government to assess losses to lives, property and the environment.

There are two further problems:

8. The problem of land acquisition by forcibly evicting people, and

9. Weapons proliferation: there is a nexus between nuclear power industry and weapons industry and infrastructure

The Left parties have used only the political arguments to oppose nuclear power industry AND not one political party has used science and technology based arguments to prevent India opting for nuclear power. ●

From Subhashini, to Anil Sadgopal

Thanks for your mail. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau has already endorsed our report and findings and has issued a statement which you must have read. A memorandum will be submitted to the Prime Minister and environment minister at the opportune moment - right now, other important issues have come to the fore. Also, interestingly, connected with the nuclear deal but other aspects!

About opposing nuclear power per se - I cannot really say which way that debate will go. As you know the US and French reactors are untested; the US ones are very old. Therefore, many nuclear experts are also very apprehensive about them, including Shri Gopalakrishnan former Chairman of the AERB. At the moment with the crucial assembly elections, we are all in campaign mode but definitely this is an issue that will be thrashed out.

The one thing I can say with some certainty is that where we are in govt and where we are not - no project opposed by a sizeable section of potentially affected/displaced persons will be supported by us. Also there must be much more demand for passage of the amended land acquisition act. This is being held up only by the TMC and that is terrible. It is surprising that there is not more opposition to this kind of blackmail from various quarters. I am quite used to being accused of hypocrisy and worse from these same quarters, but is this not the worst form of hypocrisy? ●

From KN Ramachandran to Subhashini Ali

I am not surprised in the way you have bypassed the central question. At least after Fukushima will your party (CPI-M) take a stand that no more nuclear power plants should be built including the Jaitapur one and the one proposed in Haripur in Bengal, and a moratorium should be declared about the functioning of the present plants till the technological development has taken place to overcome problems which confronted Three Mile Island plant in 1979, Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima in 2011 and till radiation and waste disposal problems are satisfactorily resolved?

Will your party include it in the election manifesto? Otherwise going to Jaitapur and issuing a statement about an ongoing powerful people's movement is meaningless. Even the Shiv Sena of Maharashtra is compelled to support the Jaitapur movement after seeing the way the people are resisting it. Is there any difference in the way you oppose and Shiv Sena oppose the Jaitapur project? ●

From Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity

One Standard Everywhere: CPI(M)'s "No" To Jaitapur Should Also Mean "No" To Haripur

Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity welcomes the CPI(M)'s unequivocal opposition to the proposed Jaitapur nuclear plant and asks for a similar stand on the plans for a nuclear park in Haripur. We demand from the CPI(M) a statement that says that they do not want to put lives of the people of South Bengal and the livelihoods of the people of Haripur at risk with a nuclear plant in a seaside area where the risk of a tsunami is there and which falls within Zone IV of seismic activity. (http://downtoearth.org.in/dte/userfiles/images/Earth_quake_map.jpg.) We demand that the rejection of the Haripur nuclear plant be made part of the Left Front manifesto.

On March 12th 2011, Suhashini Ali, ex-MP and renowned trade union leader from Uttar Pradesh and Khagen Das, MP from Tripura went as a members of a two member CPI(M) delegation to visit Jaitapur. A report of their visit has appeared in the People's Democracy dated March 20, 2011. Not surprisingly, their report echoes our experiences in Nandigram, Singur and Haripur. We quote below :

"People are not opposed to development. They said – there is not a single college or hospital in this area. We would contribute to the government building colleges, universities and hospitals but there is no talk of these things. They are opposed to a project that they know, despite all the lies and prevarications that the government is resorting to, will displace them and destroy their livelihoods."

"The 'affected' areas that we visited are extremely prosperous. The farmers and fisherfolk produce the best mangoes and also the best fish and sea food in the region. They are

responsible for exports running into crores every year. They employ more than 12,000 migrant workers all year round and their villages exude prosperity and hard work. The landscape around is lush and the waters sparkle. The attachment of the people to their land and to their professions is extremely strong and it is this that explains their determined resistance and willingness to sacrifice.

“Majid Gowalkar told us, “I employ 11 people. The government says that they will give us jobs after the project comes. But we are already giving more than 10,000 people from outside work at 250-300 rupees a day. And we are feeding our own families. So why should we accept ruination and then beg for jobs that we will never get.

“Only 112 persons (out of 2000) who owned only 2 per cent of the total land in Mithgavane have accepted compensation from the state government. None of them reside in the area. Even after minister Narayan Rane announced an enhanced compensation of 10 lakh rupees per acre, not a single person has come forward to accept it.”

“No gathering of more than five people was permitted in the affected area and that, not only would two policemen accompany us throughout our visit but police and administrative officers would be keeping a close watch on our movements to ensure that the prohibitory orders were complied with!” ● ?

**From Niranjanaradhya.V.P,
Fellow, Centre for Child and
the Law, to Anil Sadgopal**

I endorse your views on this issue. It is the time for our political bosses to introspect on this issue and to demonstrate our political will to take a non-negotiable stand for renewable energy in the country. Do our comrades in the left wing will take initiative to build an organized struggle on this issue both inside and outside the parliament? ●

BUDGET 2011-12 : AN EXERCISE IN DECEPTION

PJ James

IT WAS with the emergence of Keynesianism combining in itself both ‘welfare capitalism’ and ‘state programming of the economy’ as imperialism’s ideological and practical weapon against socialism and national liberation movements that gave the bourgeois budgets a prominence in economic policy making in the post war period. Under the so called laissez-faire capitalism that lingered on until the Great Depression of the thirties, budget had been primarily an ‘annual financial statement’ by the bourgeois state. But with the collapse of welfare Keynesianism as the dominant ideology and practice of imperialism in the seventies followed by the advent of neo-liberalism and the consequent roll back and downsizing of the state and its eventual transformation from an ‘initiator’ of economic activities into a ‘facilitator’ for corporate accumulation, this policy shift is more manifested in budget-making itself. For, in the ongoing intensified struggle between corporate capital on the one hand, and working class and oppressed masses on the other, the neoliberal state, both in imperialist and in neo-colonial countries, is placed in overt and covert connivance with the former.

The Indian budget for 2011-12 presented to parliament by finance minister Mukherjee on February 28, 2011 is an illustration of this neoliberal assault on the people. It is a budget that hoodwinks the broad masses of people, pampers the middle class and colludes with the corporates to plunder the country’s wealth and resources. Crucial issues such as price rise and inflation, unemployment, pauperization of the peasantry, corruption, ecological degradation, displacement of the oppressed from their habitat in the name of development, etc., which are devastating the country are not the concerns of neoliberal policy makers whose motto is to maintain the ‘high growth rate’ that concentrates the country’s wealth in the hands of a few corporate speculators and billionaires and driving majority of the toiling people below the official poverty line. While the essence of this growth is a ballooning of the money-spinning speculative sectors, common people are experiencing an unprecedented deindustrialization, decline in per capita availability of food and joblessness. The budget is silent on all these issues.

As against, the estimated 19 percent rise in 2010-11 budget over the previous budget, the total budget expenditure of Rs.12.60 crore for 2011-12 is just a 3 percent nominal rise. In view of the double-digit inflation prevailing in the country, this means an absolute reduction in budget expenditure and a neoliberal downsizing of the governmental sector further. Consequently, at a time when food prices are galloping at 13 percent, relative to the current year, food subsidy for 2011-12 has gone down even in absolute terms. Altogether, essential subsidies in respect of food, fertilizer and fuel have gone down by almost Rs. 20000 crores in the 2011-12 budget. The total subsidy on food in 2011-12 that is budgeted to remain at the previous year’s level of around Rs.60,500 means an absolute reduction in real terms due to the prevailing double digit food inflation. Direct cash transfer of subsidies to the people through food coupons, etc. announced in the budget is a smokescreen to camouflage the cut in subsidy on the one hand, and to demolish the public distribution system prevailing in some parts of the country.

In a country where 420 million people go to sleep on an empty stomach and where more than 50 percent of the children is under-nourished, there is nothing in the budget to contain speculation in food grains, which is the cause of the double-digit rise in food prices for the last 76 weeks. As is evident from the pre-budget Economic Survey, agriculture in which almost 60 percent of the Indian people depend occupies only 14.6 percent of the GDP. And a major chunk of this is definitely appropriated by the big land lord classes and corporate land mafia under whom land and assets in the agrarian sector are increasingly concentrated as a result of commercialization and corporatisation of agriculture. Vast majority of the 83 crore people whom Arjun Sengupta Committee of the Planning Commission identified as having less than Rs.20 a day belongs to the landless poor peasants and agricultural workers in the countryside, who after forcibly displaced from their rural habitat by corporate mafia through neo-colonial-neoliberal projects are now migrating to urban centres on a large scale. Independent estimates have revealed that the amount of Rs.176000 crore plundered by corporate mafia and political-bureaucratic nexus through the 2 G scam would have been more than sufficient for free distribution of 35 kg of rice/wheat per month to the aforesaid 83 crore people in the country. Under the UPA regime, on account of the declining purchasing power of the people, the per capita daily intake of food grains is lower than what it was half a century ago. The ruling compradors are least concerned about the declining annual per capita food grain absorption, which should be the real growth index. Presently the rate of annual per capita food grain absorption is 156 kg in India, while during the colonial period, it was 186 kg and in imperialist countries like USA the figure is above 900 kg.

Manmohan government which boasts of a 9 per cent growth rate of the economy has put the country in a paradoxical situation of declining tax revenue through a regressive tax regime which implies an inverse relationship between tax rate and size of income. In Scandinavian countries, even now the tax-GDP ratio is hovering around 40 percent. According to the conventional norms of bourgeois economic theory, tax revenue ought to be directly proportional to the growth in inequality in the distribution of income and wealth and inversely proportional to the move towards equality. During the last two decades of neo-liberal policies, India has become one of the most unequal countries of the world and the number of billionaires is continuously increasing and since wealth and income are concentrated in the hands of a few, from the perspective of a bourgeois state's resource mobilization, this would have resulted in a rise in tax revenue. But, what happens is on the contrary. Today the tax-GDP ratio of India is less than 10 percent. According to the Document, *Successive Union Budgets: Statement of Revenue Foregone* appended to the Budget, corporate taxes foregone by the Manmohan government rose from 50 percent of the tax collected in 2005-06 to 72 percent of tax collected in 2010-11.

An examination of the said Document yields a detailed picture. In six years from 2005-06 the government wrote off corporate income tax worth Rs. 374937 crore in successive union budgets. Corporate income tax written off in 2005-06 was Rs.34618 crore. In the current budget, it is Rs. 88263 crore—an increase of 155 per cent. If we add the total revenue foregone under corporate income tax, excise duty and customs revenue together, then in 2005-06 it was Rs. 229108 crore; in 2006-07 Rs. 273447 crore; in 2007-08 Rs. 303260 crore; in 2008-09 Rs. 420946 crore; in 2009-10 Rs.437290 crore; and in 2010-11 Rs.460972 crore. Thus in the six period alone the total tax foregone is Rs.2125023 crore. According to independent estimates, the nation presently writes off over Rs.240 crore a day on an average in corporate income tax alone, while the government is curtailing food subsidy in the name of lack of money for PDS. That is, the successive

budgets of UPA are a testimony to the comprador Manmohan government's withdrawal from vital sectors through a deliberate abdication from the essential resource mobilization itself.

On the other hand, according to the document, *Successive Union Budgets: Statement of Revenue Foregone*, the profits of corporates are alarmingly going up. The companies surveyed in the Statement posted a profit before tax of Rs. 4.08 lakh crore in 2005-06, Rs. 7.11 lakh crore in 2007-08, Rs.6.68 lakh crore in 2008-09 which of course was the global meltdown year, and Rs.8.24 lakh crore in 2009-10, representing a rise of more than 23.35cent in one year. It is clear that the additional tax exemptions given in the 2008-09 budget raised corporate super- profits further. In spite of the huge leakage of governmental revenue, Mukherjee has still succeeded in maintaining the fiscal deficit within the limits prescribed by the FRBM act constituted at the behest of IMF. This is obviously due to the additional Rs.72,000 crore in non-tax revenues that he obtained this year from the sale of 3G and wireless broadband spectrum and Rs. 40000 crore mobilised through disinvestment of profit making PSUs.

Coupled with these windfalls, the reduction in plan expenditures as a ratio of GDP, from 5 per cent in 2010-11 to 4.9 per cent of GDP in 2011-12 and non-plan expenditures from 10.4 per cent of GDP in 2010-11 to 9.1 per cent of GDP in 2011-12 is the secret behind the containment of fiscal deficit. The implication of this is a stagnation in real economy. The claimed 9 percent growth rate is the outcome of speculation-induced inflation leading to unprecedented concentration of wealth in few billionaires. Out of the total 27 crore families in India, the top 100 corporate families control 25 percent of the country's GDP. On the other hand, the economic contraction through which the country is passing can easily be readable from the pre-budget

Economic Survey which points to an unabated trend of increasing joblessness throughout the neoliberal period. Thus employment growth rate, which was 1.2 percent during 1983-94 has declined to 0.5 percent during 1994-2008 and during the same period, employment growth in public sector which provides more than 90 percent of organized sector employment in the country fell from 1.53 percent to minus 0.5 percent. The downsizing of the public sector is not compensated by the flourishing private sector as most of the new investments are of a speculative nature.

Therefore, deindustrialization and joblessness have become inherent features of the economy under neoliberalism. And whatever employment is generated is absolutely in the unorganized sector. About 90 million working population in India today belongs to the 'hire and fire', 'casual', contract and temporary category—the direct outcome of two decades of Manmohanomics. The flourishing service sector or the tertiary sector composed of all the money spinning speculative activities which accounts for almost 60 percent of the GDP contributes only 8.4 percent to employment and only 6 percent to total tax collection. In every respect, the country is going through a stagflation such that the gap between the real and nominal or inflated GDP is as high as 38 percent, which amounts to around Rs.30 lakh crore. All the comprador economists are working overtime to cover up this naked reality.

Meanwhile, that is, after pursuing a neoconservative, regressive tax policy of exemptions to corporate capital worth hundreds of billions of rupees, in the name of governments' resource deficit, and for attracting foreign capital to fill the gap (Of course, true to his comprador class character, Mukherjee was silent on the Rs.140 lakh crore Swiss bank deposits illegally siphoned out of the country by comprador and corporate sections with the connivance of the Manmohan

government. The 'five-point strategy' for dealing with black money announced in the budget is nothing more than a sweeping statement, especially in the context of the government's own recent statement that any step in this direction would be a disincentive to the corporate sector), the budget has taken away even the namesake restrictions on FDI in all sectors including banking, insurance and finance. Necessary amendments in the Banking Regulation Act will be brought to open the banking sector to private corporate monopolies thereby reversing the process of nationalization started in 1969 as part of Nehruvian 'state led development'. The need for introducing a new Insurance Bill for attracting global speculative capital is also in the offing.

In retail trade, in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections, though the budget has refrained from making any new announcements, the declaration that all sectors of the economy will be thrown open to FDI is applicable here too. For, immediately after Obama's Indian visit in November, 2010, the Commerce Ministry in consultation with US administration had prepared a Guideline to open up the fast growing retail trade here for multi-brand products of global retail giants like Walmart. It is apprehended that the required policy announcement in this area will as an extra-budgetary measure after the election in May. In India, retail trade is the largest provider of employment after agriculture and 95 percent of the working people here belongs to the unorganized sector. The total turnover in this sector rose from Rs. 320000 in 2006 to Rs. 1065000 in 2010 and the imperialist capital is eagerly looking towards for prying open this sector. Further, at the behest of US imperialism and IMF-WB-WTO trio who are in search of speculative avenues of crisis-ridden finance capital, FIIs or foreign financial speculators are allowed to enter mutual funds and even in pension funds on a large scale.

In the same vein, in continuation of the steps for corporatisation of agriculture taken in the last budget, agribusiness MNCs with their monopoly over GM crops are being permitted to carry out what is called the 'second Green Revolution' in agriculture leading to further concentration of land with the corporate land mafia, large-scale displacement of the actual 'tillers of the soil' from agricultural land and unprecedented food and ecological crisis. In his post-budget interaction with corporate media, Mukherjee summed up the liberalization of FDI policy as a catalyst for the infrastructure investment in the next five years expected at \$1trillion. The enthusiasm that this had triggered among the crony, comprador sections was manifested in the zooming of Sensex in the post-budget rally by 623.10 points, the biggest single-day jump since May 2009.

In the name of resource constraints, while governmental allocation for economic and social overheads and social services are drastically cut, very revealingly, allocation for defence has gone up by 12 percent envisaging an outlay of Rs. 164415 crore in 2011-12. It accounts for 13.7 percent of total government expenditure. Lion's share of this will go to American arms manufacturers and dealers in arms. India under Manmohan Singh has become world's largest arms importer from US. In the name modernization of armed force alone every year the government of India is spending Rs. 50000 on an average and this huge money goes directly into the coffers of American military industrial complex. The budget is thus a neo-colonial tool for plundering the Indian people and transferring wealth to American military MNCs and global arms dealers and speculators, and thus for alleviating the crisis confronting imperialism.

The neo-liberal undertones of the budget are evident in other respects too. Take for instance, Mukherjee's sermon on microfinance. He has set apart Rs. 600 crore for microfinance and self help groups. But what are the facts? According to available data, the total bank deposit in the country is estimated at Rs. 50 lakh crore. During the last two decades, Manmohanomics has allowed corporate

speculators to have a free grab of this money for channelling them to stock and money markets, real estates, commodity speculation and other money spinning businesses. While the country is passing through an unprecedented deindustrialization, agricultural stagnation and joblessness, this huge money is used for ballooning the economy and wealth concentration in the hands of a few speculators. Vast amounts of bank money categorized for 'priority sector lending' in agriculture and allied sectors are diverted to speculators with the connivance of bureaucratic leadership of the banks. For instance, the budget envisages an agricultural loan package worth Rs. 4.75 lakh crore during 2011-12, and the major part of it will be diverted to agribusiness and commercial purposes. In brief, while the bubble economy is flush with funds, landless poor peasants, agricultural workers, artisans, self-employed people and other marginalized sections, on account of their enforced inaccessibility to banks, are compelled to depend on informal usurious financial sources. It was in this context that utilizing the micro-credit techniques perfected by NGO experts like Yunus of Bangladesh Grameen Bank, the World Bank has come forward popularizing microfinance for the poor as an alternative to mainstream banking which is increasingly monopolized by corporate capital. And today, as is evident from the micro-credit scandals from Andhra Pradesh, micro-finance has become another means of fleecing the marginalized by usurious interests. Anyway, through the budget, Mukherjee is releasing the message that the official credit system is no longer available for the poor.

In sum, the budget 2011-12 carries forward the neoliberal agenda within a populist mask. The doubling of the honorarium for Angnawadi 'teachers', some doles for minority and adivasi sections, etc. are intended for this. As a

policy statement, it is absolutely bankrupt, as it utterly fails to address inflation, unemployment and corruption which are the immediate issues before the country. Instead of doing this, under the guise of public-private-partnership (PPP) the entire tasks connected with infrastructure development are entrusted with corporate financiers and in this arrangement, almost 40 percent of the inflated cost of the project will be borne by the state in the form grant or subsidies to private players in addition to a host of tax exemptions to them. At the same time, in the name of revenue deficit subsidies and social expenditures are systematically cut. To confront people's simmering discontent against these policies, state terrorism is unleashed through the strengthening of military and police forces. It is the duty of all progressive and democratic forces to expose this anti-people content of the neoliberal budget of the UPA government. ●

SLUM DWELLERS CONFERENCE

BHUBANESWAR slum dwellers are in mass resistance struggle since last 9 years against their forcible eviction and demolition of their houses and for achieving their housing and livelihood rights under the banner of *Basti Surakshya Mancha (BSM)*. Previously at some places they were fighting against the authorities spontaneously, but in the absence of any organized struggles the authorities were able to suppress them. After the demolition of slums some ruling class leaders used to shed crocodile tears to use them as vote banks, and some NGO's were giving them some token relief.

Slums are products of the present capitalist ruling system, this exploitative system compelled lakhs of peoples to go to cities for their livelihood. There they are engaged in construction work, sanitation work, service sector, working as domestic workers, working in private companies etc. Because of very low wages they were unable to purchase own houses and to take rented houses, they were compelled to make huts in unused public lands. After neo liberal policies were implemented in India this situation aggravated more and more. When day by day the lands are becoming more valuable, it is snatched for corporate companies, real estate mafias and political leaders and bureaucrats. The govt is engaged in eviction drives in the name of development and beautification of the cities.

Basti Surakshya Mancha was formed in 2003 fighting against forcible slum eviction. It started mass resistance struggle to protect the life and livelihood of the people living in the slums. Because of the mass resistance led by BSM, during last 9 years the BMC-BDA-GA Departments had to go back without demolishing. Many militant struggles were led by it. Because of its uncompromising struggle and consistency in leading people's struggle, its popularity and support is growing day by day. Many people are joining regularly

in its struggle. To lead this movement forward to achieve the goal of the working class and the livelihood and housing right of the urban poor, BSM is organizing on April 23-24 its organizational conference and on 25th April at Bhubaneswar an all India activists meeting of slum dwellers and houseless people. To make this conference a success, propaganda campaign and organization of slum wise conferences and Zonal level conferences are started.

Also the regular struggles are continuing, against forcible demolition of Narayani Basti. BSM decided to Gherao all Police stations. On 7th February a massive rally started from Fire Station square and gherao of Khandagiri Police Station led by Khandagiri Area Committee, On 21st Feb Mancheswar P.S Gheraoed , on 15th Feb CS Pur police station gheraoed and on 13th March Nayapalli Police station gheraoed. BSM also moved High court against Narayani Basti forcible eviction, The Odisha High Court has given stay on 3 March. ●

CALL OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CPI(ML) : UTILISE ELECTIONS TO STATE ASSEMBLIES TO ADVANCE POLITICS OF REVOLUTIONARY ALTERNATIVE

THE elections to state assemblies of Assam, W. Bengal, Tamilnadu, Pondichery and Kerala are taking place at an important juncture when the neo liberal policies pursued by the central and state governments have further worsened the living conditions of the masses of people under sky high prices of all essential commodities, increasing unemployment, mega scams and withdrawal of the state from the field of all welfare policies. In pursuing these anti people policies there was no basic difference among the Congress government in Assam or the CPI (M) led governments in W. Bengal and Kerala or the DMK government in Tamilnadu. All these governments were obediently following the reactionary policies of the UPA government at centre. These elections are also taking place when the whole ruling system is becoming increasingly degenerated and exposed before the people due to intensifying corruption at all levels, due to the inter party contradictions for seats of power and due to the disappearance of even whatever democratic values were existing. As the living condition of the people in all these states have further worsened during this period, it has increased the people's opposition everywhere which may reflect in negative votes unseating the present ruling parties or alliances.

One of the important features of this election is going to be the fate of the two CPI (M) led governments, in Bengal and Kerala. This result is keenly watched by the ruling class parties as well as the revolutionary left. As far as Congress which is facing acute problems in running the UPA government is concerned, regaining power in Assam, helping the return of

the DMK government in Tamilnadu and winning in Bengal and Kerala are crucial factors to strengthen its position. Similarly for the DMK in Tamilnadu and Trinamul Congress in Bengal, winning elections in their respective states is a life and death problem. But the results of the elections in Bengal and Kerala are going to be more decisive for CPI (M) and its allies, more so in Bengal.

The Left Front led by CPI (M) is in power in Bengal for 34 years with comfortable majority. It is a fairly sufficient time for a party to prove the efficacy of its ideological political line in practice. If its argument is that it had to work within the limitations of the bourgeois parliamentary system which imposed many restrictions, it was a fairly long time to prove its intentions to go beyond this ruling system in practice. Even in the question of land reforms it never tried to go beyond the land reforms from above as advised by the imperialist agencies to pursue the neo colonial policies. It did not try to put forward an alternative industrial policy or a state led welfare policy to ensure food, clothing, shelter, universal education, healthcare and employment for all. Except some reformist measures because of which it could continue in power for such a long time continuously, it did not try to resolve the basic needs of the people or to utilize the parliamentary struggle for developing the prospects of revolution in the country in any manner, as a Communist Party should do. The line of demarcation between it and the state governments led by other parties went on becoming thinner and Singur and Nandigram proved that it is in no way different from them in pursuing the neo liberal policies. Compared to a number of other states even the minimum wages remain very low compelling increasing number of young people to flee from the state seeking jobs outside.

When TMC tried to utilize its weaknesses and the Maoists with their anarchist line surfaced in Lalgargh, instead of trying to resolve its weaknesses, it started crying 'wolf' and is engaged in presenting the TMC-Maoist alliance as the main danger in order to cover up the criticisms from the revolutionary left forces.. It had destroyed the expectations the people had from it long back. Still it was regaining power because the people had genuine fears about going back to the 'Sidhant Sankar Ray rule' days. But due to its corrupt and neo liberal rule it has created a situation in which coming back to power has become very difficult for it. Almost similar or worse is the situation in Kerala. The line of demarcation between it and the Congress led UDF had disappeared long back leading to a musical chair between the two in the state for a long time in the absence of any other alternative. So Congress is campaigning that the present term is for UDF. If CPI (M) fronts get defeated in both states its performance alone shall be responsible for it and not because the people want to bring the Congress and its allies back to power.

In this situation the revolutionary left forces have a big responsibility of putting forward a genuine revolutionary alternative before the people and mobilize support for it. But some among them who are still propagated as 'Naxalite leaders' by the media have degenerated so much that taking their criticism of CPI(M) to mechanical formulations like 'enemy's enemy is our friend', in the name of opposing it they have joined the band wagon of the TMC. The anarchist CPI (Maoist) also has taken this right opportunist position, as they have done on

numerous occasions in the past, even while repeating their regular boycott slogan. On the other hand, some of these degenerates from the communist revolutionary camp have taken the position of supporting the LF in the name of avoiding a return to Congress raj. In this way they are abandoning the path of Naxalbari uprising and the significance of the struggle waged against the right opportunist line of the CPI (M) so far. As far as the dissident groups who have come out of CPI (M) are concerned, as they have not basically rejected the ideological line of CPI (M), instead of joining with the communist revolutionary forces, by and large they join hands with the rightist election groupings.

It is in this context the CPI (ML) Central Committee has called on the state committees for fighting the elections in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Bengal where the Party is active, by uniting the revolutionary left and democratic forces according to concrete conditions in each state. In each state the Party committees have brought out election manifesto putting forward its basic approach to the elections. The state committees are trying to form united front or to arrive at understanding with other like-minded parties based on the ten point programme of the Democratic People's Front, developing it according to the concrete conditions in each state. As far as the approach of the Party towards utilizing the parliamentary forms of struggles is concerned, it is of the firm view that any basic changes in the society can be realized only by overthrowing the present comprador bourgeois-landlord ruling system serving the imperialist system. At the same time it shall utilize the bourgeois parliamentary system along with all other forms of struggle to mobilize and politicize the people to advance towards the capture of political power to usher in people's democracy and socialist transformation. The Party appeals to the working class, to the peasantry, to all oppressed classes and sections along with all progressive, democratic forces to support the candidates put forward by the Party and the revolutionary left and democratic forces allied with it, in order to build a revolutionary alternative against the ruling system. ●

TAMILNADU ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

Introduction

The election to Tamilnadu assembly is taking place at a critical time in the context of the worst ever crisis faced by the people as a result of the neo liberal policies pursued by the Congress led UPA rule in which DMK is also a partner, at centre and by the DMK government in the state. As a result of these policies the prices of all essential commodities have sky rocketed, unemployment has increased and mega scams are taking place in very larger numbers and scale, in which a DMK central minister is already in jail. The country is in the grip of unprecedented crisis.

In Tamilnadu under DMK rule, all neo liberal policies have been implemented in all fields as per the UPA declarations and also under direct agreements with the MNCs, that is SEZ, trade parks, corporatisation of agriculture, privatisation of primary, Secondary and degree education, privatisation of medical fields government etc. Corruption has become rampant in all fields. New Atomic Power Plant schemes are also adopted.

Political Situation

DMK and AIADMK are leading parties in Tamilnadu, while all other ruling class parties are very small. In elections small parties are dependent on these two parties. Congress having 4% voters and BJP only having 2.2% voters. From 1972 elections CPI and CPM are having alliance with DMK or AIADMK during elections. Because of the opportunist policies of CPI, CPM, people have lost

confidence in them. They have brought a bad image for the left movement as appendages of the Dravidian parties. In spite of splintering to miniscule groups, the CPI Maoist and other sectarian groups which are influenced by the Dravida kadhakam politics of national chauvinism are still continuing to boycott the election, contributing their own share in tarnishing the image of the left movement among the people.

In this situation, CPI(ML) is utilising the election for mobilisation of the masses and to develop the class struggles by exposing the new liberal policies of imperialist globalisation pursued by the Indian ruling classes based on its Election Manifesto. It has appealed to like-minded forces, revolutionary groups, patriotic democratic forces and masses of people to join hands for building people's alternative against the ruling class parties based on the following slogans :

Scrap Imperialist Globalisation-Liberalisation-Privatisation policies; Scrap SEZ, CMS!

Kick out IMF-World Bank-WTO and MNCs!

Throw out present Anti-People Development policies Serving Capital-Market System!

Struggle for people Oriented, National, Democratic, Self-reliant Development Policy!

Restore and Develop all welfare policies and democratic rights. Ensure food, housing, education, healthcare and employment for all!

Throw out MNCs and Corporate Forces from All Sectors!

Implement Land to the Tiller Slogan through Revolutionary Land Reforms; Distribute Landless Peasants and Agricultural workers including Dalits, Adivasis and all other oppressed section : Write off

Loans of Peasants holding up to 5 acres, Agricultural workers and all toiling classes!

Scrap for contract labour system and hire and fire; Ensure need based minimum wages, Social security and democratic right to working class!

Scrap all black acts, ensure civil rights for all!

Struggle for secularism, separate religion from politics: Fight communal fascism, State Terror and Terrorism Promoted by religious fundamentalism and caste based suppression!

Scrap indo-US nuclear act and all other unequal treaties with imperialist countries!

Unite to realise the dreams of freedom struggle: March forward along the path brightened by martyr comrades, for People's Democracy and socialism!

Party has fielded Comrade Paul Raj from Killiyur, Kanyakumari district and has started vigorous propaganda campaign. ●

PT Shanmugasundram

CPI (ML) TO CONTEST 14 SEATS IN KERALA

The CPI(ML) Kerala State Committee which met during the first week of March has resolved to field Party candidates in 14 Assembly Constituencies for the state election on April 13. These are, Irrikkur in Kannur district, Mananthavady and Kalpetta in Wayanad district, Perambra in Kozhikode district, Nattika, Kaipamangalam, Kodungalloor, Irinjalakuda and Puthukkad in Trissur district, Vypeen and Perumbavoor in Ernakulam district, Vaikom and Poonjar in Kottayam district, and Karunagappally in Kollam district, where the Party and its class and mass organizations are actively engaged in work.

ELECTION MANIFESTO RELEASED

Based on the CPI(ML) Central Committee document on 'Approach to Parliamentary struggle', the Party State Committee has prepared a *manifesto* highlighting the essential tasks to be fulfilled in the process of building up a revolutionary people's alternative to the neoliberal policies espoused by the ruling CPI(M) led LDF government and the so called opposition headed by the reactionary Congress led UDF and, of course, the communal BJP which not yet has opened its account in the Kerala Assembly. The manifesto among other things unravels how over the last four-and-a-half decades the state has been transformed into a 'show case' of neo-colonialism under the successive 'Left' and Right regimes respectively led by CPI(M) and Congress. Today all the negative trends visible at the all India level as a result of neo-colonisation are manifested in their acute forms in Kerala.

For instance, in spite of a much trumpeted land reform, among the Indian states, land concentration with the speculative corporate mafia is the greatest in Kerala which is also having the second highest rural inequality after Haryana. Kerala's chronic food crisis is notorious despite having the most ideal geographic and climatic conditions for rice production. On account of the neo-colonial agricultural policies pursued over the last several years, the State at present produces only 15 percent of its food requirements. With a population of 3 percent and land area of one percent, Kerala bears almost 10 percent of India's unemployment. Educated unemployment in Kerala is estimated at 44 lakhs in the live registers of Employment Exchanges. Productive and employment yielding sectors including agriculture and industry are in the doldrums while in accordance with the all India pattern, speculative and money-spinning service sector occupies almost 65 percent of State Domestic Product.

Land itself becoming the most lucrative speculative asset, land and real estate mafia are flourishing under the patronage from the ruling regime. Per capita public debt in Kerala is 60 per cent higher compared with other Indian states. In spite erstwhile social reform and renaissance movements and reformist land reforms, the marginalization of adivasis, dalits, and women is the greatest in Kerala. Recent trends also indicate a worsening of the relative social and economic status of these oppressed sections. And in spite of having the tradition of probably the most progressive social reform and left movements in the country, the political and cultural degeneration and decay of the state is quite unparalleled. All reactionary forces including caste and religion and their encroachment into public life are on the ascendance. Ecological and environmental crises have also reached hitherto unknown levels.

It is in this context that, as noted above, the State Committee, based on an objective evaluation of these issues has put forward a people's 'development and democratic agenda' through its *manifesto* before the people. On March 12, in a well-attended convention held at Trissur and presided over by Com K Sivaraman, Central Committee member, the *election manifesto* was released by Com PJ James, Central Committee Member by giving a copy to Vinod, a democrat and party sympathizer. Party state secretary Com. PN Provint and district secretary Rajesh Appatt spoke on the occasion. Release of the Manifesto was followed by Press Conference. The State Committee has decided to concentrate its forces in the contesting constituencies and carry out a political campaign exposing the ruling fronts floated by the reactionary Congress, pseudo-left CPI(M) and communal BJP, as an integral part of the relentless struggle against the neoliberal policies enforced by the comprador state. ●

PN Provint

ON THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

AS THE West Bengal Assembly elections draw near, it becomes more and more difficult to pick out the slightest strand of difference between the two principal contenders, the Trinamool-Congress alliance and the Left Front. Both have vowed to woo private investors and provide a climate for them to thrive. Both speak of diversification in the field of agriculture, intending to open up the agricultural industry to monopoly capital. Both promise jobs by the lakhs, with the blessings of the corporate sector. While the Left Front have already permitted big capital like Reliance to enter the field of retail trade, the Trinamool has promised Indian capitalists smooth entry into the \$ 450 billion retail market of the country.

Indeed, the just-released election manifesto of the Trinamool has the industry and the bourgeois media singing paeans to it. In this manifesto the Trinamool has promised the 'regeneration of a ruined Bengal'. The recent times have seen an entire tribe of intellectuals going over to the side of the Trinamool Congress. Fed up with the arrogance and blatantly anti-people policies of the ruling Left Front, fed up with the government's haughty and high-handed attempts to suppress all opposing voices, these intellectuals have slowly sworn allegiance to Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee, whom they ingenuously regard as the messiah of these blighted times. Admittedly, the intellectuals are not alone. A section of the revolutionary left, including the Maoists, has also made common cause with the Trinamool Congress. If former militant trade union leader Purnendu Basu has directly joined the Trinamool and now is the state president of its trade union wing, ex-Naxalite leader Pradip Banerjee regards Mamata as a leftist leader and one who will provide a democratic government to the state. Maoist leaders have often gone public with statements that they would like to see Mamata Banerjee as the next chief minister of Bengal. And in the coming elections Mamata has roped in a wide range of celebrities as candidates – from Tollywood star Debasri to anti-establishment playwright Bratya Basu, from industrialist Amit Mitra to former bureaucrat Manish Gupta and retired IPS officer Rachpal Singh. Apparently, they will all work together for the regeneration of the state.

As the last 20 years of India's liberalized economy has proved, words like 'growth', 'development' and 'regeneration' are always suspect. When Pranab Mukherjee or Manmohan Singh talks of the stupendous economic growth that our country has experienced, one cannot help but think of the millions who were impoverished, evicted from home and land, or axed from jobs in the process. Mamata's manifesto speaks a similar language of growth and development. Quoting volumes of 'irrefutable statistics of decline and decay' in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, health and education, the manifesto chalks out a blueprint of development, the crux of the entire project being 'nurturing and attracting investment' and 'focus on Public Private Partnerships'. The manifesto also reveals plans of massive privatization in the health and education sectors – all in the name of improving quality and meeting needs, 'crop diversification' (which is another name for throwing open the agricultural sector to private players) in agriculture and development of agro-processing units (yet another veiled allusion to inviting monopoly capitalists to seize the reins), 'reorganizing and modernizing' the tea gardens in North Bengal and the jute mills in South Bengal and North Bengal.

To be succinct, it is a manifesto to delight and assure monopoly capitalists. All that the CPI(M) had promised them in recent years — and a lot more — will be delivered by the Trinamool Congress. Mamata talks of nurturing and attracting private investment — but isn't that exactly what the CPI(M) had tried to do when it unleashed state terror on the farmers of Singur and Nandigram and paved the way for its own downfall? Haven't democratic people all across the state been stridently protesting the Left Front government's attempts to privatize the health and education sector? Haven't farmers protested against the so-called crop diversification policies of the government right from the time of the Indigo rebellion to whenever they are urged or forced to switch to cash crops that are supposed to bring greater revenue? Isn't 'modernization' a dreaded word in the tea gardens and jute mills of Bengal as the workers know the term to be synonymous with massive retrenchment, increased workload, fewer rights and greater profits to the owner? And this is exactly what Mamata Banerjee — despite her *Ma-Mati-Manush* (mother-soil-people) rhetoric — has promised the masses.

There is not a word in the manifesto about securing and enhancing the rights of the working people, not a word about taking action against their exploiters. For instance, it is common knowledge that the foremost problem with the jute industry in Bengal is the limitless greed of the owners, which encourage them to employ workers at increasingly exploitative rates, rob them of their PF and gratuity dues and, always threatening to close down at the hint of the slightest workers' protests, amass enormous profits. The last few years have seen huge wage cuts and squeezing of benefits of workers in the jute sector. If the jute industry has to be really revamped then the first task of the government must be to throw all the crooked jute barons into prison,

take over the mills and reorganize them in such a way that the workers get the full benefit of the profits earned. The government must also see to it that labour laws are not violated with impunity. This is no revolutionary demand, yet it can be said with certainty that Mamata will do no such thing even if her party is voted to power, for the simple reason that the working people are not her concern, big capitalists are. Nowhere has her manifesto castigated the industry owners for flouting labour laws at will, nowhere has it declared that all modern industries to be set up in the state will have to strictly abide by the labour laws, nowhere has it assured workers and employees that their rights will be safeguarded.

Democratic rights and corporate-raj do not go hand in hand. If private investors are to be wooed to set up industries in the state, then the rights of the people must necessarily be curtailed. The present global economic crisis has shown that governments of many countries – from ‘advanced’ America to ‘backward’ India – have had to ruthlessly slaughter the rights of the working people, slash social benefits and public expenditure and risk mass mutiny in order to bail out the big capitalists from impending doom. Even as Obama pledges to send troops to Libya in order to ‘help’ the people there fighting for democracy, in his own country the state of Wisconsin has recently passed legislation that virtually demolishes trade unions in the public sector, and several other states are set to emulate the Wisconsin legislation. Since in the US over a third of the public sector employees are organized in trade unions, this new legislation is tantamount to the decimation of trade unions. The ultimate stronghold of corporate capitalism needs to annihilate democratic rights in order to prosper and thrive! How much more simpler for it to ride roughshod over the democratic aspirations of the people in an Indian state like West Bengal where present and future

governments are falling over themselves to open up lucrative sectors like engineering, steel, tea, jute, textiles and other areas of manufacturing, mining, power and food processing to private investors! One thing is certain – kowtowing to monopoly capital, as she gives every hint of doing in her election manifesto, will not enable Mamata to ensure democracy to the people of Bengal. It was the almost deferential subservience to the Tatas and the Salems that accounted in most part for the surging unpopularity of the CPI(M). Mamata’s present fan brigade – from Pradip Banerjee to Kishenji to leading lights of the cultural world – should do well to keep this in mind even as they put in all effort to bring her to power in the forthcoming assembly elections.

Tellingly, the Trinamool manifesto is silent on the question of the release of political prisoners, something on which Mamata Banerjee has been most vociferous in recent times. It has also nothing to say on the question of the withdrawal of joint forces from *Junglemahal*. Those who had expected Mamata to carry the lamp of democracy to the troubled hinterlands of *Junglemahal* may be unpleasantly surprised to note that her manifesto makes no mention of restoring to the tribal people of Lalgurh and other areas their rights over the forest land. Nor does it promise to put a stop to unceasing police and military atrocities on the inhabitants of *Junglemahal*. As for opening a dialogue with the Maoists, the manifesto does not breathe a word – just as it makes no promise to rein in the combing operations against the Maoists. And as far as the scourge of price rise is concerned, the manifesto’s silence only serves to underscore just how clueless the party is on tackling the issue.

Basically, the Trinamool promises to do better and faster precisely what the Left Front had tried to do – build up Brand Bengal as a destination for monopoly capitalists. The Left Front had tried to imperiously brush aside people’s protests and struggles for life and livelihood, caring first and foremost about the interests of the Tatas and Salems. It has met with the same fate as others before it, Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh to name but one. Mamata Banerjee wants to do a qualitatively better job of what the CPI(M) has been trying to do all these years and she has the added advantage of not being ‘handicapped’ by the red flag!

This is not to argue that the CPI(M) would be a better alternative to the Trinamool Congress. It has refused to learn any lesson from the events of the last few years. It has refused to understand that there can be no middle path between wooing big capital and improving the conditions of the masses. It has refused to learn that the only way of securing democracy of the people is by organizing them against the rule of big capital. It has ideologues to make all the necessary noises, but when it comes to practice, the party believes in the rule of big capital. CPI(M) ideologue Prabhat Patnaik recently wrote in *The Telegraph*, “The Mubaraks and the Ben Alis, strutting around displaying their power and wealth, are easy to identify as targets of the struggle for democracy. But there are less visible, but no less real and far more powerful, targets in this struggle. These consist of the corporate-financial elite in each country which in turn is integrated much more closely than before with similar elites elsewhere, including in the powerful capitalist countries. Overthrowing them is as essential for the struggle of democracy as it is difficult.” (Source: *The Telegraph*, Wednesday 23 March, ‘*The Struggle for Democracy*’) Needless to point out that in reality the party considers the Maoists and other struggling forces – and not the likes of the Tatas and the Ambanis – as the gravest threat to democracy.

The West Bengal Assembly elections this year are special because this is the first time in the 34 years of Left Front rule that the opposition – Trinamool and Congress alliance – looks set to steal the show. All over the state, common people – most lifelong supporters of the Left Front – have deserted the Left

Front, and especially the CPI(M), in droves, massively rejected the CPI(M) and voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Trinamool in each of the last three elections. Even as the chief minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya petulantly asserts that the Trinamool has no chance of winning this time round, the common man on the street is quite certain of the Front's defeat and is indeed looking forward to it.

The CPI(M) has betrayed the masses which had once dreamt of revolution and the seizure of state power by the working class. The Trinamool Congress, if voted to power, will betray all those who had guilelessly rooted for it in the belief that it was a champion of democracy. But 'the unkindest cut of all' has come neither from the CPI(M) nor the Trinamool. Being ruling class parties, little else is/was expected from them anyway. However, the conduct of the Revolutionary Left cannot be censured and condemned enough. With the people of the state being forced to choose between the CPI(M) and the Trinamool, between the devil and the deep sea, the Revolutionary Left has not yet deemed this as an opportune moment to place before the people a third alternative – a revolutionary alternative. Thanks to the line of peasant revolution devotedly pursued by most organizations of the Revolutionary Left, it has been quite unable to establish its relevance among the masses. Land reforms in Bengal, despite all their limitations and distortions, have robbed them of their agenda. Consequently, come election time and most parties and organizations of the Revolutionary Left, rather than launching an aggressive campaign against the system, rather than appealing to the masses to vote for them in order to consolidate the unity of the people against the ruling parties and the rule of capital, rather than uniting on a common platform and presenting a viable alternative to the people, treat the entire thing as a game already lost. (The Maoists are of course a class apart! They preach 'vote boycott' on paper and then invariably go on to support one ruling class party against the other!) The Revolutionary Left argue that the electoral battle is

the least important of all because very few people are going to vote for them anyway. They lament the fact that the ruling class parties have been so effectively able to polarize the masses that there is little space for the Revolutionary Left. They forget that the ruling parties will always try to do just that and it is up to the Revolutionary Left to break this polarization. As many as 10 or more different revolutionary parties and organizations fielding candidates across the state and yet steadfastly refusing to unite on a common electoral platform will certainly not help to break this polarization. If the Revolutionary Left really has to make revolution, then it must take the electoral battle seriously. Unfortunately, it does not look as if this time round the Revolutionary Left in Bengal can unitedly strike at the CPI(M)-Trinamool polarization and contribute to consolidating the unity of the struggling masses. ●

Sharmistha Choudhury

ORISSA REPORT: ANTI- POSCO MASS MEETING

ON 13th March an Anti-Posco mass meeting was organized at Balitoha of Jagatsinghpur Dist. It was organized in the context of the Central Environment Department giving conditional clearance to Posco Project. Taking this plea Odisha State Govt. is trying to give false report that there were no forest dwellers there etc. But since 1927 Bihar-Orissa govt settlements records these places were marked as beetle gardens and mangrove dense forests. In this context both central and state govts are trying to proceed with the Posco project using force. State Govt. is preparing ground to acquire land forcibly.

In this context the Posco Pratirodh Sangram Samiti has accelerated its movement with this mass mobilization. In support of this movement CPI(ML) state secretary Com. Sivaram participated and spoke in this public meeting presided by PPSS President Com. Abhaya Sahoo. CPI(ML) Odisha State Committee declared its full support to the struggling peoples and has given the call to take this movement at state and national level. In this meeting Rama Chandra Sahoo, Vice-president of Basti Surakshya Mancha of Bhubaneswar also spoke, giving support to the

movement. Many party cadres of CPI(ML) also participated. Odisha State Committee of CPI(ML) has decided to start statewide campaign against Posco project. ●

8TH MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OBSERVED

ON 8th March more than 200 women's rally led by All India Revolutionary Women's Organisation, Bhubaneswar City Committee, started from Rangani Sahi, Unit-8 and marched for four kms before it came back to the same place and turning into a big public meeting. The public meeting was presided by comrade Henarani Barik, Central Committee member of AIRWO, Com. Pramila, State president, AIRWO and other women leaders spoke about the relevance of international women's day and called to unite for women's liberation and against the present anti people, anti women ruling system. In this rally AIRWO, comrades from branch committees of Rangani Sahi, Bhaktamadhunagar-Talabania, Nayapalli Bhoi Sahi, Narayani Basti, Damana Tarinis participated with their own banners. Leaders of Branch committees also spoke. To a week long campaign was organised before programme. ●

[The author has given a sub-title to this article: *Need for a CBI Investigation*. We do not think even such an investigation is going to bring out the truth as the facts about numerous cases of CBI enquiries themselves reveal, since this agency itself is utilized as an instrument by the ruling system at the center. Still the details of Godhra brought out by the author are important and will help to strengthen the struggle against the communal fascist forces and the reactionary and divisive tendencies getting strengthened in the country. We publish this article with the hope that it will help the ongoing debate on this question in this country. Readers opinions are requested – *Red Star*]

ON 22nd February 2011, the session's court gave its verdict on Godhra train burning of Sabarmati Express. It accepted the Gujarat state's theory that the local Muslims had hatched a conspiracy to burn S-6 Coach of Sabaramati Express. At the same time of the 94 people being tried for this crime 63 were exonerated of the crime and 31 were held to be the guilty of planning to burn the Kar Sevaks. This conspiracy theory was initially put forward by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, who within half hour of the burning of the train came to this conclusion. He had gone on to say that the conspiracy has been hatched by international terrorism, in collusion with the local Muslims through Pakistan's ISI. At that time the Godhra collector Jayanti Ravi had ruled out the conspiracy theory.

In such ghastly Railway accidents it is mandatory to investigate them but the Railway Ministry sat quiet, as the then Railway Minister Niteesh Kumar was part of BJP led NDA Government. This conspiracy theory was given wide currency and was used as a sort of justification for the post Godhra anti Muslim pogrom. The NDA Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee went on to say, Gujarat happened because Godhra took place. UP Chief Minister

GODHRA VERDICT : WHITHER JUSTICE?

Ram Puniyani

Mayawati, who was then allying with BJP, campaigned for Modi and in response to the question about Gujarat carnage, said that there was Godhra also! Later with change of Government Lalu Prasad Yadav who became Railways minister in UPA Government, initiated the much delayed obligation to investigate every major railway accident, and instituted Bannerjee Commission. This Commission opined that there is no evidence of a conspiracy by local Muslims.

To prove that it was a conspiracy the Gujarat police investigated the case in a manner in which many witnesses were made to confess of selling 140 liters petrol, carrying the same, cutting open the vestibule between S6 and S7, pouring petrol in the S6 coach and then burning it by throwing the fire balls into the train. The present judgment accepts the conspiracy theory but finds no evidence at all against the culprit-in-Chief, the chief conspirator as per the Gujarat Government, Haji Umarji and also no evidence against other major accused! The whole judgment seems to fall flat on this ground.

The mainstay of conspiracy theory has been the selling of loose petrol, throwing burning fire balls into the train, for all this there is no eye witness, and even those who initially confessed to having sold petrol did not stand the scrutiny and one of them said that he was paid Rs 50000, like the other person who is saying that they sold loose petrol, by Noel Parmar the Chief investigating officer. As such there have been many loose ends in the conspiracy theory. The point that Muslims wanted to take revenge by burning Kar Sevaks does not stand the scrutiny of logic due to multiple reasons. To begin with the Muslims and also the state officials did not know that Sabarmati Express is carrying Kar Sevaks. The only people who knew that Kar Sevaks are travelling in the train were VHP people. Secondly; the train that day was late by close to five hours; normally it comes to Godhra in the midnight. In case of planned conspiracy from outside it is difficult to plan for such circumstances. Thirdly; as vestibule was being cut open, what was being done by the Railway protection force? Cutting-open the vestibule and entering from that is not an easy job. Fourthly, if windows and doors were closed how can burning fireballs enter the train? It was initially propagated that train was stopped by Muslims, but investigations show that the first stoppage of train was due to chain pulling by kar sevaks and the second due to technical failure. There is a general impression that train was locked from outside. The very simple fact that train coach cannot be locked from outside was forgotten while propagating this falsehood.

So as the matters stand there are enough grounds to doubt the theory that it was a conspiracy by Muslims. Another dimension to the whole incident has been added by the latest issue of Tehelka (March 5, 2011). Ashsih Khetan in this path breaking investigation (<http://www.tehelka.com>) shows that there is no substance at all in the theory that it was a conspiracy by Muslims. In a meticulously argued expose he shows that this whole theory is not only fallacious, it distracts attention from the truth of another conspiracy which was going on. As per him it was a conspiracy yes, but not by Muslims. He points out that:

* It's important to recall that, in its 2007 sting investigation (The Truth

about Gujarat 2002), TEHELKA had exposed that the nine BJP men who were cited as eyewitnesses were, in fact, not even present at the scene of crime. They had been asked to give false testimonies by the police to further the Modi government's communal and political agenda, and they had gone along to "serve the cause of Hindutva".

* Ajay Baria, a Hindu vendor, forced into the plot; saw it all, Judge Patel has relied hugely on Baria's account. But why would Muslim conspirators pick a Hindu man at the last minute to help load the petrol and burn the train? TEHELKA tried to track him but failed. His mother said he had been coerced into becoming a police witness and lived under constant police surveillance.

* Two petrol pump attendants who claim they sold 140 liters of fuel to some Muslims on 26 Feb, Ranjitsinh and Pratapsinh Patel had first told the police that they had not sold any loose petrol that crucial night. In a shocking turnaround, six months later, they changed their version. However, TEHELKA caught Ranjitsinh admitting on camera that he and Pratap had been bribed Rs. 50,000 by police officer Noel Parmar to do that. He also tutored them to identify particular Muslims in court as being the buyers

* Jabir Bahera, a petty criminal, first named Maulvi Umarji as a mastermind. Bahera claimed it was Umarji who picked coach S-6 as the target, but also said Umarji was not present at any conspiracy meetings. He later retracted everything

* Sikandar Siddique, another petty criminal, had said Maulvi Punjabi had incited the mob. But Punjabi was not even in the country that day

Khetan's path-breaking investigation makes it clear that the real conspiracy is not from the side of Muslims. Truth is many a times stranger than fiction. We have been made to believe from last many years that it is Muslims who are responsible for Malegaon, Samjhauta, Ajmer and many such blasts. Those writers and social activists who doubted this police-Hindutva version of the cause of terror were totally ignored by the investigating authorities and by the big media. Their investigations did show the involvement of Hindutva elements. These writers and social activists were criticized and intimidated for being anti Hindu and anti nationals. Now as the matters stand today, thanks to Hemant Karkare's investigations and later Swami Aseemanand's confessions, truth is that in all these cases of acts of terror, Hindutva groups were involved. Now by piecing together the observations from the one of Godhra Collector Jayanti Ravi to the Sting operations by Tehelka Khetan points out "That there was a conspiracy afoot in Gujarat those years is beyond doubt. But as this story shows, it was a conspiracy of a different kind. It was a conspiracy designed to rent the fabric of this country: a conspiracy by State machinery to blacken one community's name. And declare them the enemy."

In this case the nature of shoddy, biased investigation done by police is very obvious. We do need an impartial investigation; a CBI inquiry into the whole thing is called for. We are living in strange times. The sectarianism, the politics of religious identity has overtaken the better of us. What is aggressively propagated is far from truth, and the truth remains submerged in the din of hysteria created by politics in the name of religion. Be it terrorism, be it communal violence, we need to invoke our humane, rational faculties, honesty and professionalism, overcome our biases, investigate the acts of crime properly and punish the guilty, irrespective of their religion. So many innocents have lost their lives, 59 Kar Sevaks, over 2000 innocent Muslims! We do need to reject the politics of communalism and try to follow the path of justice, the path of peace and communal amity as shown by the greatest Gujarati-Indian of all the times, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. ●

CONDEMN POLITICAL JUDGEMENT IN GODHRA CASE

THE verdict of the Special Fast Track Court on 1st March on the 2002 Godhra Case sentencing eleven accused to death and 20 others to life imprisonment is nothing but a political judgement stage managed by the Narendra Modi government of Gujarat state. Earlier after almost nine years of imprisonment as accused 63 were acquitted by this court which had started the trial on the case from 1st May 2009. By this judgement the Court has gone against the findings of Justice Banerjee Commission and against all evidences which clearly show that there was no conspiracy.

The Sangh Parivar had foisted the Godhra conspiracy case in order to justify its genocide against the Muslim minority in 2002 in which more than 2000 were massacred and tens of thousands were thrown out of their houses, looting and burning them. It was naked exhibition of communal fascism by the RSS led forces. The same condition of state terror against the minorities is still continued in the state. So it was necessary for the Modi government to get this court verdict in its favour to justify its genocide. So all sorts of manipulations were resorted to for this purpose. It shows how the state government, the judiciary, police and administration have joined hands in the state and the central government is helping them indirectly to carry forward the communal fascist agenda. In this way both hard and soft Hindutua forces are joining hands to terrorise the masses in numerous.

CPI(ML) appeals to all left and democratic forces to raise their voice against such reactionary political verdicts by the Kangaroo courts of the Modi government and to intensify the struggle to put an end to the jungle raj imposed over the people by the communal fascist forces. ●

2 March, 2011

CC, CPI(ML)

OBSERVE MAY DAY 2011 WITH REVOLUTIONARY ENTHUSIASM

MAY DAY, the international working class day, is going to be observed this year when important changes are taking place over the world. After decades of counter revolutionary advances made by the imperialists and their lackeys all over the world, the tide has started showing definite signs of change. In spite of many attempts during the last three years including the intensification of efforts to shift the burden of the crisis to the backs of the countries under neocolonisation, the economic crisis that swept across the imperialist countries starting from the US has not disappeared or weakened. On the contrary the fall in production of the agricultural products, unemployment and under employment and drastic reduction in the purchasing power of increasing number of the people along with the unprecedented control of the whole finance sector by speculative forces are going to cause new crises.

Along with these the consequences of the massive earth quake of 9 magnitude followed by the terrific tsunami and the threats of the meltdown in the nuclear power plants have exposed, along with the intensifying global warming have exposed the hollowness of the claims of the capitalist imperialist system that it is sustainable and that it can maintain the so called growth rate it is boasting about. The earth quake is a natural phenomenon. But even a preliminary analysis show that like the global warming ,the earth quake's after shocks in Japan are the consequences of the so called development policy of this barbarous system. Even after it is scientifically established and proved through numerous calamities that Japan is seismically unstable the way in which the high rise buildings were built up, the way the wanton growth of heavy industries, infrastructural developments and urbanisation was taking place, had made Japan increasingly vulnerable to natural calamities.

Besides it is proved that in spite of the terrific and tragic consequences of Nagasaki and Hiroshima the ruling class in Japan did not bother to learn any lessons. That the nuclear power plants are the most dangerous sources of energy is already proved through the massive catastrophe caused by the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl nuclear plant meltdowns, quarter of a century before. It is an established fact that in spite of the false claims of the nuclear establishments of the different countries, especially the MNCs dealing with the nuclear plants and the international agencies catering for their profits, no further development has taken place in eliminating the radiation dangers from these plants and in the field of disposal of the nuclear waste when these plants have to be close down after its 50 year life. Besides the established fact that Japan

is a highly fragile seismic region was also not given attention to by the ruling imperialist system. As a result, even the prime minister of Japan has admitted that his country is confronting the worst crisis after the Second World War. If the meltdown spreads to more units in the plants already affected or if it spreads to more plants it is going to be much more dangerous than what Japan faced as the aftermath of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Thus the global warming and now the consequences of the wanton urbanisation and threat of large scale meltdowns in the nuclear power plants causing catastrophic effects in Japan following the earth quake and the tsunami are proving that the capitalist development perspective anti people and anti nature. Thus it is proved categorically that capitalist imperialist system means wars and destruction. So this year the working class who have to become the harbingers of a new society are going to observe the May Day when the need for overthrowing this barbarous and pernicious system once for ever has become more urgent than ever.

Another significant aspect of this years May Day is that it is going to be observed by the toiling classes all over the world when the people are coming forward more than in the past decades after the international Communist movement started suffering severe setbacks from the time of the 20th Congress of the CPSU when the capitalist roaders in Soviet Union usurping power had come ou in the open against the revolutionary advances of the working class. With the beginning of the 21st century the counter revolutionary offensive of the imperialists and their lackeys has started facing challenges from the world people increasingly. During the last decade the oppressed people of the Latin American countries starting from Venezuela and Bolivia had challenged the centuries long domination of the US imperialists in the region. As a result in a number of these countries governments opposed to US hegemony have come to power. It is creating a favorable situation for the working class and the oppressed people in the region to wage revolutionary struggle to overthrow the exploitative system and to usher in people's democracy and socialism.

Following the imposition of the neo liberal policies in more and more countries plundered and oppressed under neo colonisation the working class and the oppressed people have started coming forward in larger numbers and more vigorously against the comprador regimes in these countries. After the imperialist finance meltdown started in 2008, against the policies of the imperialist governments to bail out the bastards responsible for the crisis, the working class in these countries are waging ever intensifying

struggles against the forces of capital. These struggles even reached such intense levels as in Greece and France where the working class paralysed the ruling system for days. Now the wind of change has started blowing powerfully across the Maghreb and West Asian countries with the people's upsurges in Tunisia AND Egypt throwing out the dictators there. This wind is blowing in other countries of this region also threatening the US imperialists, the Zionist rulers of Israel, other imperialist powers and their lackeys in the region.

These are very important developments. They prove that the 'history has not ended' or that 'socialism has become obsolete' as the imperialists and their lackeys had shouted not long ago. On the contrary it is being proved that the capitalist imperialist system as a whole and its so called development policies have become moribund and obsolete endangering the very existence of the humankind in the world. A situation is created when more and more people across the world are recognising that without overthrowing the existing ruling system a world without exploitation and oppression cannot be created. But the setback suffered by the international Communist movement and the revolutionary mobilisation of the working class as a result has weakened the subjective forces capable of leading these people's uprisings and upsurges forward. The right deviation which continues still as the main danger to the advance of the revolutionary movement and the pernicious influence of the 'left' sectarian and anarchist trends which weaken the revolutionary movement are continuing to weaken the reorganisation of the Marxist-Leninist forces nationally and internationally.

But the recent developments show that the revolutionary forces are on the path of developing their ideological political line according to the concrete conditions of the neo colonial phase of imperialism, taking lessons from the positive and negative experiences of the past. Struggling against both right opportunist and sectarian/ anarchist trend they are regrouping and are on the path of becoming forces capable of leading the class struggle in a growing number of countries. Along with these advances, struggling against the petty bourgeois tendencies who were creating obstacles to unite the revolutionary forces at international level, the 2010 witnessed a bold initiative from the part of the revolutionary forces, however weak it may be at present, to launch the International Coordination of the Revolutionary Forces and Organisations (ICOR) with the successful holding of its Founding Conference in October 2010. These are significant developments which shall provide inspiration to the people's upsurges taking place all over the world.

So it can be categorically stated that the international working class day is going to be observed in a comparatively much better situation than what it was last year or in the previous years. Conditions for working class unity and revolutionary advances are becoming more favourable at national level in a larger number of countries and also at international level. Reflecting these positive developments let the working class and all other revolutionary classes and sections and start their preparations to observe this years May Day in a much more united, inspiring and revolutionary manner. Onward to vigorously observe May Day 2011 in militant manner. ●

TUCI IN HATTI GOLD MINE WORKERS' UNION ELECTIONS

DURING the last decade the elections to the workers union of Hati Goldmines in Raichur district of Karnataka had become virtually a political fight with TUCI starting to put its panel in the background of the struggles it waged for the interests of the workers, against the compromises made by the elected panel of AITUC with the management in connivance with the other unions. During the last ten years all the main agreements arrived at by the elected panel of AITUC with the management went against the interest of the workers. As a result the TUCI's strength went on increasing in the public sector enterprise with about 5000 workers.

As the elections were declared to be completed by 13th March, this year also the management started its direct interference in the elections by supporting the AITUC panel and canvassed support of other unions for this panel to prevent the TUCI panel winning the election. Disgusted with this, under the leadership of com. AB Das, central committee member of CITU and state committee member of

CPI (M), major section of the CITU members resigned and joined TUCI. The left over CITU became so weak that it could not put a panel and with INTUC supported the AITUC panel. The management and all other unions virtually formed a united front against the TUCI panel with com. R Manasayya as president and com. AB Das as general secretary. As a result, the election campaign became virtually a political struggle in which the neo liberal policies imposed by the management with the help of the leadership of AITUC and other union leaderships were exposed.

In spite of all undemocratic methods including intimidation of the workers by the management and depicting of TUCI as 'Maoist', the TUCI panel succeeded to get the second position, increasing its votes considerably. What happened in this union election is going to influence the trade union field in the state in coming days as the workers are searching for an alternative against the compromising leaderships of the main trade union centres who are betraying their interests. ●

REPORT ON THE WORLD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, CARACAS, 2011

THE World Women's Conference of rank-and-file women was successfully hosted at the Bolivarian University in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, from 3rd to 8th March, 2011. 106 delegates and 7 guests participated from 39 countries across the continents of Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America. Beginning with a gorgeous inaugural session and culminating in a rally to celebrate March 8, the conference brought together militant women from across the world, all with their own different experiences of struggle and similar commitment to the cause of women's emancipation.

The initiative for the World Women's Conference was taken at the 7th Women's Political Counsel in Germany; then in February 2008, the first initiators' meeting took place in Venezuela with participants of the Militant Women's Council from Germany, from Ana Soto, Venezuela, Confemec from Ecuador and women from Argentina. There three basic documents for the preparation of the World Women's Conference were worked out and passed, which served as the basis for the conference. The passing of these three documents was preceded by an international discussion via the website, the mobilization of different contacts and acquaintances and the inclusion of their proposals.

The goal of the World Women's Conference was to give a great impulse to the international cooperation of the militant women's movement, its close coordination and cooperation, 100 years after the first International Women's Day in 1911, which was resolved at a women's conference in 1910. Therefore this World Women's Conference was defined as the World Women's Conference of the rank-and-file women. The UN World Women's Conferences were not the "models", as they are convened as conferences of the representatives of the ruling systems.

The basic construction of the World Women's Conference had two pillars. The first pillar was the general meeting, with delegates from the different countries. It discussed the core issues of the worldwide situation and struggles of women and summarized decisions/resolutions. The second pillar was based on the mass participation of women and women's organizations of the militant women's movement. The programme thus included a broad spectrum of events, workshops, culture, groups

to exchange experiences, information stands, food, craft work – everything for the needs and interests of the rank-and-file women for their well-being.

Experiences shared at the delegates' session brought to the fore the fact that women from the so-called developed countries were no less exploited and discriminated against than their sisters in the relatively backward countries. For instance, the Swiss delegate Barabara Rimml informed the audience that Swiss women had won the right to vote less than 40 years ago. And it was only in 2005, after years of protests and activism, that legislation for maternity leave was passed in Switzerland. There is still no legislation for minimum wage and a difference of 20 per cent in the wages of male and female workers doing the same kind of job. In Philippines, the women's movement adopts both legal and underground forms. There the Gabriela Women's Party even has two seats in Congress, reported their delegate Gertrude. The Democratic Women's Movement in Turkey, which is close to Maoist ideology, has to fight a tough battle against the time-honoured tradition of honour killing. Until two or three years ago, Turkish law did not even recognize the individual woman as an entity who is entitled to specific rights. The woman was seen only in the context of the family and was denied a separate identity. Now, however, Turkish law has changed to incorporate specific rights for women. The delegate from the Organisation des Femmes Egalite of France strongly denounced French imperialism and expressed solidarity with the struggles of the women of the world, in particular the women of Africa, because of the historical and current responsibility of French imperialism in the continent. The delegate reported that women in France were struggling against low wages of



working women, lack of woman's right to control her maternity, unemployment and a profit-oriented healthcare system. As women from Asian, African, American and European countries recounted experiences of their struggle and strove to identify the core of women's exploitation in their respective countries, it soon became apparent that global imperialism with its policies of liberalization and privatization lay at the root of oppression of women, and that the battle for women's emancipation was first a battle against imperialism.

The objective of the World Women's Conference was to strengthen the militant women's movement in the single countries and to link it to the international women's movement. Therefore it was imperative for the conference to discuss how this initiative could be advanced further. Thus it was resolved that a World Women's Conference would be held after every five years in the different continents and the next World Conference would be preceded by a series of conferences at the regional, national and continental levels. May 1 would be observed globally as the Day for Fighting for the Rights of Women Workers and November 25 as the Day of Struggle against Violence against Women. Thus this conference was not an isolated event but marked the beginning of a process to build up an international women's movement with a focus on socialism and directed against imperialism.

The last day of the Conference, March 8, was celebrated with a massive and magnificent rally, waving hundreds of red flags, as women from all the different countries sang and shouted slogans against patriarchy and imperialism.

Resolutions Proposed by Delegate from India

1. This World Women's Conference of rank-and-file women urgently needs to take a resolution against the growing menace of religious fundamentalism. As we know, no religion grants women equal status as men. All religions unequivocally endorse patriarchy. Religious fundamentalism mutilates and kills women, apart from causing profound harm to their dignity. Today we have America and the Vatican and their lackeys trying to impose Christianity on the world in the name of 'the war against terror'. On the other hand, there is Hindu fundamentalism in India which tries to subvert all women's as well as progressive and working class movements. And then there is Islamic fundamentalism with its idea of Pan-Islam that tries to take women back to the Middle Ages. Imperialism makes use of religion and religious fundamentalism to divide the working people, rank-and-file people, on the lines of caste, religion and gender, and thus thwart class struggle and the movement for the total emancipation of women. So this World Women's Conference should take a resolution against that insidious tool of imperialism – religious fundamentalism.

2. It is also proposed that this World Women's Conference create an international body along the lines of the Communist International, to guide, coordinate and lead the women's movements of all countries across the globe.

3. The World Women's Conference should also pass a resolution pledging to uphold and take forward the struggle for overthrowing world imperialism led by US imperialism and establishing world socialism, with the aim of building a communist society, as it is only such a future that can ensure the complete emancipation of women. ●

STOP PUNISHING PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF MAOIST ACTION

IT WAS an year ago the Maoists pursuing an anarchist line had derailed the Jnaneswari Express between Kharagpur in W.Bengal and Jamshedpur in Jharkhand. From that time onwards the railway department has stopped all the trains from running between these two stations (about 100 kms apart) between 10pm and 5am, This portion is part of the very busy line between Mumbai and Howrah. Large number of trains are affected as a result with tens of thousands of passengers facing serious difficulties.

In this stretch thousands of railway police men along with para military forces are deployed. If the central and state governments and the railways want they can deploy more forces in this small stretch to ensure safety. Instead in the name of the Maoist action the people are punished. This is a most heinous attack on people's right to travel and an illegal confinement for hours imposed on them. There are many organisations who claim to speak for people's rights. But nobody is taking up this question.

In this situation CPI(ML) has decided to take up this question and organise protest actions before the Howrah, Bhubaneswar and Jamshedpur railway stations and other concerned authorities from 15th March severely condemning the criminal attack on people's rights by the railways and concerned government authorities. When the railway minister claims that she is close to the Maoists and the latter is supporting her why the people should be punished in this way is a question which should be raised by all democratic forces. We appeals to all of them to raise their voice of protest against this sinister act of the railways and concerned govt authorities and to join in the protest actions at all centers. ●

5th March, 2011

CPI(ML)

INTENSIFY STRUGGLE AGAINST UPA GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR POLICY

THE horrifying escalation of the nuclear fallout from the meltdown of all reactors of Fukushima nuclear power plant threatening millions of people in Japan and in neighbouring countries has not led to any change in the approach of the UPA government and of the nuclear establishment in the country. They are minimizing the gravity of the meltdown of the Fukushima reactors and aftershocks consciously. The prime minister made the irresponsible statement in the parliament that Indian reactors are made based on different technology and they are safe from seismic problems. He also said that all precautions are taken so that what happened in Japan will not be repeated here. As Japan had once experienced the catastrophic consequences of the nuclear fallout following the dropping of nuclear bombs by the US imperialists on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and as Japan is having more than nuclear plants providing 30% of its energy needs, whenever people were coming out against the nuclear policy of the consecutive governments demanding its reversal and calling for developing alternate sources of energy, the prime ministers used to come out repeatedly stating that Japan's nuclear plants are safe and their technology fools proof. But what is happening in Fukushima has exposed all these claims.

Before this the US government in defence of its nuclear energy policy used to say that its nuclear plants perfectly safe till the Three Mile Island incident in 1979 exposed its claims and millions suffered as a result. Same was the case of Soviet Union. After US president Eisenhower's 'atom for peace' statement, Soviet leadership also had given lot of importance to developing nuclear plants. But the gruesome consequences of the Chernobyl fall out in 1986 affecting millions of people with hundreds of billion dollar losses in a number of countries had shattered the claims made there. During the last five decades after the nuclear plants came in to existence hundreds of small and dozens of medium accidents have taken place. All of them together have proved that nuclear plants are like a 'nuclear time bomb'. Because of a natural calamity or without that any time reactors can face an accident leading to meltdown of them and nuclear radiation affecting large number of people and creating extensive losses. The after effects of it shall continue for decades. Besides the nuclear technology has not developed till to provide safe methods of nuclear waste disposal as these wastes will continue to emit nuclear radiation for hundreds of thousands of years. Even after taking all these grave risks the cost of nuclear energy is the highest. All these facts are concealed by the prime minister and his government who were even prepared to bribe the

MPs and get the Indo- US Nuclear Deal passed by the parliament. After that the Nucle3ar Liability Bill also was passed hurriedly by fixing a paltry Rs. 2500 crores as the liability for the nuclear MNCs installing the plants as compensation for a Three Mile Island or a Chernobyl or a Fukushima like mishap. As the WikiLeaks has proved, if any further proof was required, the consecutive governments are nothing more than shameless lackeys who will sell the country lock stock and barrel for commission.

In pursuit of this subservient nuclear policy, the UPA government at the centre in collaboration with the state governments ruled by different parties have decided to go for a number of nuclear plants in the country. They include the 10,000 mw mega plant at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, Hari Pur in W. Bengal, Mithi Viridi in Gujarat, Pitti Sonapur in Orissa, Chutka in MP, Kovadi in AP and Fatehabad in Haryana. Besides the capacity of the Kalpakkam plant in TN will be augmented installing new reactors. This is a massive extension policy taken up in the nuclear field. Now the most important challenge before the people of this country is whether they should join hands with the people of these plant sites who are already waging a life and death struggle against the displacement from their agricultural land and habitats as well as against such plants with monstrous consequences.

The CPI(ML) has called for dropping all the proposed plants and extension programmes, as well as for shutting down all the nuclear plants till the development of the nuclear energy to the level of their safe functioning and waste disposal. This demand should be combined with a unilateral stopping of all nuclear weapon programmes and campaign for universal nuclear disarmament. Already the Party is actively involved in the *Konkan Bachao Samithi* struggling against the Jaitapur plant and against other plants wherever Party is active. As the central and state governments are obstinately defending their nuclear policy even after Fukushima, the Party has decided to join hands with all forces in order to build a very broad based struggling platform to mobilize the people against this disastrous policy and its implementation. Fukushima should open the eyes of all those are still not convinced about the catastrophic consequences of the nuclear plants at the present level of development of the nuclear technology.

The *Konkan Bachao Samithi* is meeting on 29th March to work out a plan to mobilize all those who are fighting against the construction of any more plants as well as for the shutting down of all existing nuclear plants. Similarly Delhi Platform and like-minded forces in a meeting on 22nd

March have decided to organize a parliament march on 25th March and to organize a march to Fatehabad (Haryana) where the peasants are agitating against the proposed plant. Similar such meetings are planned in different centers all over the country to coordinate the anti-nuclear movements.

But what happened at Bhopal on 18th March when the activists of RYFI, AIRSO, Education Rights Committee led by Prof. Anil Sadgopal and intellectuals and others got together and tried to organize a dharna and burning of an effigy of the nuclear policy shows how those in power, whether they belong to Congress, BJP or any other party, are frantic about implementing the disastrous nuclear policy at the dictates of the US imperialists. Though intimation about the programme was given in advance, on flimsy grounds the police interfered and broke it up. Some of the youth activists were arrested. It shows that even after Fukushima is revealing the horror created by the nuclear plants in front of their eyes the imperialist lackeys in power who are concerned only with the commission they get from the nuclear MNCs are ready not only to go ahead with this anti people policy, but also to suppress any agitation against it by the masses.

With the WikiLeaks exposures, whatever the revolutionary forces were explaining about the character of the ruling classes and the political parties and the bureaucracy here have come out more vividly in front of the masses through the media in a big way. Even while they are fighting for the seats of power, all of them are united in implementing the neo-liberal policies imposed by the imperialists. The present nuclear policy is a part of it. In spite of the global warming like consequences have exposed the imperialist perspective of development as a policy that devastate the nature and make the people poorer the ruling system is not ready to stop it, on the contrary they are only speeding up its implementation. Similarly, even after the nuclear policy they are pursuing is proved disastrous, and Fukushima is a living example before the eyes of all, from prime minister to local leaders of the ruling parties and the ruling system as a whole is engaged in going ahead with these policies. In this situation, it is the responsibility of all progressive forces who agree on an anti nuclear energy stand to join hands and wage an unrelenting struggle for abandoning all future projects and to shut down all existing plants.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

WE condemn in the strongest possible terms the recent murder of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) activist Niyamat Ansari in Kope gram panchayat, Jharkhand, and a similar attempt — on the same day, March 2 — on the life of his associate Bhukhan Singh.

The murder was the culmination of a series of acts of harassment, including at least one earlier attempt on their lives. Ansari and Singh fearlessly continued to fight for the rights of NREGA workers and stood up against the nexus of corruption and crime in the area. Ansari was killed just a few days after he and others exposed a flagrant NREGA scam in Rankikalan gram panchayat.

We are dismayed by the insidious allegations that have been made about Ansari in sections of the mainstream media, attempting to project him as a ‘criminal’ to divert attention from the real issues and culprits. These reports were factually incorrect and the concerned publication carried an apology the following day.

We are disturbed to learn from reliable sources that the murder was executed by a local Maoist squad. In fact, the South Latehar sub-zonal committee of the CPI(Maoist) itself claimed responsibility for it and attempted to justify the murder by making absurd allegations such as Ansari and Singh being police informers. Are we to understand from this incident that there is truth in the rumour of a

nexus between the local Maoist squad of that area and corrupt contractors involved in the loot of NREGA funds?

We demand the immediate arrest of the prime suspects (named in the FIR), compensation for Ansari’s family, protection for Singh, and a CBI inquiry into Ansari’s murder. We also demand an apology and explanation from the central committee of the CPI(Maoist) and a guarantee of safety for Bhukhan Singh who is still ‘wanted’ by the sub-zonal committee. No explanation, however, can justify the brutal murder of a defenceless person, let alone someone who was bravely fighting for people’s rights. This is a wholly reprehensible act and all those responsible for it must be punished. ●

Jean Drèze, Aruna Roy, Arundhati Roy and others
March 10, 2011

RESPONSE BY COM. KN RAMACHANDRAN, GENERAL SECRETARY CPI(ML)

I AM very happy that you have issued this statement. Ansari was an NGO activist. CPI(ML) has differences with the ideology of the NGOs. But in spite of the fact whether one is an activist of NGOs, if individuals like him are working for the people, however reformist it may be, we support it. So when he is killed in the interest of notorious contractors and government officials who loot even paltry NREGA fund from the people, it should be severely

condemned. The Jharkhand state committee of our Party has issued a statement in condemnation of it and exposing such anarchist activities of the CPI (Maoist) and the way they are allowing themselves to be utilised by the anti people forces and the state machinery itself.

As you may be knowing it is not the first act of this kind by the CPI (Maoist) in Jharkhand or in other parts of India. In this state itself it blasted the Jnaneswari Express a year before and killed a number of people. Even Ganpathi cannot argue that revolution came nearer because of it. But the state is so cruel and cunning that in the name of this Maoist 'action' all the trains in this very busy route are blocked between Tatanagar and Kharagpur stations from 10pm to 5 am every night. Cannot the government ensure safety along this 100 km route and run the trains? No, they will not do it and accuse the 'whole Naxalite movement' for it to tarnish it, repeating that because of them the people are suffering. CPI (Maoist) which is supporting the railway minister Mamta Banerji's Party in West Bengal has not issued even a statement against this war on people by the railway department. More serious is the support extended to Sibusoren's JMM during last two assembly elections. Now Gladson from Ranchi says that it also supported BJP in last elections and BJP-JMM alliance is ruling the state. So against whom they are fighting?

In the last election we had an adivasi comrade leading a trade union contesting election from Latehara. The Maoist squads came and threatened to kill him if he is not withdrawing for the JMM candidate. As we refused they did not allow our propaganda threatening people with arms and canvassed for JMM like mercenaries. In Chaibasa under the leadership of young com. John Miran Munda, general secretary of Krantikari Adivasi Mahasabha, a major struggle is going on against ACC Cements management and Tatas who are looting the mineral resources of the area. Instead of supporting it, the Maoist squads in the area take money and protect the mining mafias. I hope you will go through these criticisms and realise how anarchist and anti people are the actions of the Maoists.

Are they different in any way in their actions in other states? There was a time when the CPI(ML) Party Unity and CPI (ML) People's War existed. Though they were also under sectarian influence, they had mass base in the areas they were functioning and with them other Marxist-Leninist organisations had good relations on a number of platforms. But at that time also MCC was different. It was anarchist in all respects. After the expulsion or encounter killings of all leaders who upheld mass line when the above organisations merged with MCC and CPI(Maoist) was born, it became a continuation of the MCC, totally dogmatic and anarchist.

Even during the PWG time Kakathiya Express burning like actions had taken place. It was condemned by all democratic forces. After the birth of CPI(Maoist)

abandoning all activities to mobilise the masses 'armed struggle alone' line is pursued devoid of revolutionary politics. Unfortunately intellectuals like you do not take pains to understand why even after so-called Maoist dominance in Dantewade, people in that region is the poorest when after the Red Army's presence in Yunan for three years in China, as Edgar Snow had written, the Communist influenced area became the most advanced rural area in China as they were not blasting the existing schools and hospitals, but constructing more and more. Whether in Chhattisgarh or in Jharkhand the adivasis and other poor sections are not getting even the minimum wages and are more backward than many other rural areas because the Maoists take money from the contractors and allow them to plunder the people. Is it not the same policy followed by the ULFA in the plantations of Assam? So please understand that the killing of Ansari is not an isolated 'unfortunate thing', as you says.

The Maoists in India has nothing to do with the revolutionary ideas of Mao. Their anarchic actions are becoming a cover for the Indian state to become more fascist. My request to people like you is to study the questions I have raised and recognize that the killing of Ansari is not an isolated action. It is the line pursued by MCC from 1960s. It has nothing to do with people's democracy and socialism. It is a repetition of the activities of LTTE and ULFA and other terrorist outfits.

Let us condemn this line and join hands to mobilise the masses to create history by throwing out the neo liberal policies and the ruling system which perpetuate the barbarity of imperialist servitude. People are struggling at a number of places all over the country on this basis. The intellectuals, if they cannot join these struggles should atleast support them instead of becoming buglers for the anarchists. ●

KARNATAKA: CONDEMN LATHI CHARGE ON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ON 25th March evening Agricultural workers and landless peasants working under MNREGA were severely lathi-charged at Koppal Taluq Office, Karnataka. They were demanding payment of wages for the work they have done. Under the leadership of Karnataka Raitha Sangha (KRS) and TUCI they were sitting on dharna for last four day. In police lathi charge 22 comrades were injured, mainly women. 14 comrades got seriously injured. Several progressive organisation in state condemned the police atrocity and supported the call for state-wide protest and Rasta Roko on 26th March. (Detailed report in next issue). ●

ON THE OCCASION OF 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS COMMUNE

THE establishment of the Paris Commune in 1871, although short-lived, was a revolutionary step forward in the history of class struggle and alternative forms of political administration. The roots of the Commune lie in the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian war. The disastrous results of the ruling class's military campaign coupled with the growing sense of grievance on the part of workers, which could be seen as early as the 1830s with the revolts of silk workers in Lyon and Paris, were the tinder for the spark of revolution to set aflame.

At the time, large numbers of Parisians were members of the National Guard citizens' militia, and a Central Committee of the National Guard was formed by republicans and socialists to defend both the city if necessary and the republican government against the threat of a royalist restoration after the election of a pro-monarchist majority.

Fearing the rising power of the Central Committee, French Head of State Adolphe Thiers ordered troops to seize the cannons of the National Guard on 18 March 1871. General Claude Martin Lecomte ordered his troops to open fire on the National Guard and civilians alike. He was dragged from his horse and later executed, while regular army soldiers joined with the National Guard and the people of Paris.

The Central Committee issued a manifesto, which stated: "The proletarians of Paris, amidst the failures and treasons of the ruling classes, have understood that the hour has struck for them to save the situation by taking into their own hands the direction of public affairs...They have understood that it is their imperious duty, and their absolute right, to render themselves masters of their own destinies, by seizing upon the governmental power." The Central Committee of the National Guard arranged elections for 26 March, and the 92 delegates elected to the Communal Council, a mixture of reformist republicans and more radical socialists, proclaimed the Paris Commune on 28 March under the banner of a red flag.

During the two months of its existence, the Communal Council enacted such measures as the separation of church and state, making church property the property of the Commune, the right of employees to take over and run an enterprise if it were deserted by its owner, the secularization of education, and in general provided for the progressive and secular organization of the Commune. Further reforms to provide free further education and technical training were proposed but not enacted before the Commune's destruction.

Female Communards formed the Women's Union for the Defense of Paris and Care of the Injured, which advocated for gender equality in wages and the right of

divorce, and for secular and professional education for girls and women. Everywhere, the Commune opened new spaces for workers and other oppressed groups to put forward their own political demands. Sympathetic uprisings in Lyon, Grenoble, and other cities created other short-lived Communes, as the fire of revolution was contagious.

However, as Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin both remarked later, the Communards failed to capitalize on their success by immediately taking the fight to the national government and the ruling class. Precious time was lost, allowing the government to organize a military campaign to subdue the rebellious city of Paris.

Beginning in April, government forces rallied outside the city walls of Paris, and began to put pressure on the defenses of the National Guard. On 21 May, government forces finally entered the city and time ran out for the Communards. Street battles were waged for the next week, with some of the fiercest resistance found in working class districts, but by 28 May it was all over. The Paris Commune, what Marx described as workers "storming heaven," had been smashed and the forces of reaction began their reprisals. Tens of thousands of Communards and their supporters were executed, including women and children, while thousands were exiled. Paris remained under martial law for five years.

Despite the destruction of the Paris Commune, it represented the first embryonic form of the dictatorship of the proletariat. If it was never a purely socialist revolution and was always beset with the problems of a hastily created government under external threat, it was at least a new example of revolutionary organization, the democratic self-organization of the masses. This remains the enduring gift handed down by the Communards to the revolutionary workers of the future, a gift baptized in the blood of martyrs.

As long as the class struggle engendered by the class dictatorship of capitalism continues, then the Paris Commune will continue to shine a light on a path to a better world. In the words of Communist Edouard Vaillant, "If socialism wasn't born of the Commune, it is from the Commune that dates that portion of international revolution that no longer wants to give battle in a city in order to be surrounded and crushed, but which instead wants, at the head of the proletarians of each and every country, to attack national and international reaction and put an end to the capitalist regime."

Onward to victory, workers of the world ! ●

*(18 March 2011 Irish Republican Socialist
Committees of North America)*

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**8th March : Rally at Caracas, Venezuela Announcing Successful
Culmination of the World Women's Conference**