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Gruesome murder of 18-year old in Singur tempers people's movement

Bewildered CPI(M) resorts to escalated repression, shameless falsehood and vulgarization of Marxism

Bruised and battered, the brave peasants of Singur in West Bengal are continuing their uphill battle against uncouth predatory on their life and livelihood by the CPI(M)-led government set to settle score for the rumpus they created over its dream project of grabbing multi-crop fertile land for doling out to the monopolists albeit under the smokescreen of sham industrialization. After the feral ferocity of 2nd December and the widespread furore over it details of which have been covered in our previous issue of *Proletarian Era* (dated 15-12-2006), the CPI(M) leaders visibly yanked and unnerved at odds so heavily stacked against them are now plumbing depths of bestiality to enfeeble the resistance movement. The horrid killing of Tapasi Malik, an 18-year old girl hailing from a poor peasant family of Singur and a powerful activist of the movement, bears an eloquent testimony to that.

Gruesome murder of a movement activist

On the early morning of 18th December, Tapasi like any other day went out for performing morning duties but never returned. Her charred body could be located by the villagers inside the land fenced by the government for handing over to the Tatas. It was apparent that she was mass-raped, tortured and then burnt alive. There was clotted blood round the body; the tongue was out. Bunches of torn hair were scattered all over. Since this ghastly murder took place inside the fenced land under strict round-the-clock guard by the government-appointed security personnel

overseen by the police and entry of any outsider banned through imposition of prohibitory sec.144 coupled with police cordon all around, there has virtually been an undeclared curfew in the area. Obviously, the pointer of suspicion has been towards the security guards posted there who, as is known to all, are notorious goons nurtured under the tutelage of the CPI(M). The villagers allege that Tapasi had been their soft target and in connivance with the police, they seized a suitable opportunity to kill her after raping so as to take vengeance and terrorize the villagers. They even named the probable culprits. Rightly they have pointed out that if the night guards were innocent, why should they flee after the incident and why did police not question them? Why has the nearby police camp been dismantled? Apprehending that the government-sponsored CID or CBI investigation would not reveal the truth but end in producing doctored reports to hush up the issue, the villagers demanded immediate arrest of the suspects and prosecute them. Comrade Provas Ghosh, West Bengal State Secretary, SUCI, in his press conference on the day of the incident also raised this demand and gave call for a 24-hour statewide general strike in protest of the gruesome murder of a soldier of the movement. He emphasized on prolonging and further intensifying the movement by developing and strengthening the grass-root people's committees as instruments of struggle, cement the unity of the people, make

Contd. on page 2



Charred body of Tapasi Malik

Central Committee vehemently condemns US sponsored heinous execution of President Saddam Hussein

Strongly condemning the execution of Saddam Hussein, the President of independent sovereign Iraq by the US imperialists and their henchmen, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on December 30, 2006, expressed solidarity with the grief stricken freedom-fighting people of Iraq and hoped that this brutal judicial assassination of their beloved President would surely make their freedom movement more powerful and irresistible. He also called upon the freedom-loving people of the whole world to turn their grief and indignation against this heinous crime into a powerful anti-US imperialist movement throughout the world to bring to an end the hegemonism, overlordism and all aggressive activities of the imperialist kingpin.

While calling upon the people of the whole country to observe 'Condemnation Day' on the same date, Comrade Mukherjee also demanded of the Government of India to abrogate at once all military and nuclear agreements and understanding with the warmonger US imperialist government.

SUCI deplored the pre-planned death sentence

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on December 28, 2006, said that as apprehended, the Appeal Court of the puppet Iraqi regime has upheld the death sentence served on Saddam Hussein, the President of sovereign Iraq, following a farcical trial masterminded by the occupying US imperialists and their accomplices. While condemning the judicial assassination of Saddam and demanding immediate annulment of the fascistic verdict in our statement dated 6th November, 2006, SUCI had, reminded Comrade Mukherjee, called upon all freedom-loving people of the world to come forward and stall this diabolic murder criminally planned with a clear intention to suppress the irresistible resistance movement of the brave Iraqi people.

Contd. on page 2

Singur**Government's savagery stirs the state***Contd. from page 1*

them imbibe the true spirit of well-knit protracted fearless struggle against all sinister machinations of the power that be and release a tide of conducive movements throughout the country. While cautioning against the disastrous consequence of any deviation from this course or dilution of the demand to strike an unjust compromise with the government which is set to acquire thousands and thousands of such cultivable land in the state in the like manner, he stressed upon the importance of establishment of correct leadership over the movement to take it to its logical culmination.

The strike of 5th December called at our sole initiative and that too within a notice of just one day was a complete success proving how the savagery of the incident had stirred the people of the state. Following the successful strike, our party alongwith the common people organized in phases, gherao of the offices of the district magistrates and police superes, road blockades and such other protest demonstrations in every district. Throughout the state, a massive signature campaign is in progress. The overwhelming response to all these programmes as well as the three general strikes called within a span of just three weeks to protest against the forcible acquisition of land and police atrocity including the diabolic murder of Tapasi indicated how the people have taken umbrage at the government over the matter and have been bracing up for the movement. A good number of intelligentsia and eminent persons have been extremely vocal against the government's brutalities and wrongdoings. Even cracks have appeared within the ruling front. Leaders of the CPI, RSP and Forward Bloc, facing severe criticism from both public and their ranks, are found to be resenting the government's policy of forcible acquisition of fertile land and servitude of the big monopolists.

Government is ruthlessly oppressive

But to throttle the voice of protest and crush the surging movements, the CPI(M) leaders intoxicated with the backing of the chambers of commerce, domestic business tycoons, foreign monopoly capital and their pliant media, are

like despots of all ages, taking recourse to worst repressive measures. The police and ruling party stormtroopers are running amuck on the agitators at every place.

Already, hundreds of our party workers have sustained grievous injuries. Some of them are battling for life in the hospitals. In Balurghat, our lady comrades were mercilessly beaten, dragged along by their hair and rendered senseless before being taken to custody. Their modesty was outraged in full public glare. So cruel and depraving had been the incident that even members of CPI(M)-controlled state government employees' Co-ordination Committee could not but burst in protest and came out for rescue. In Bankura, not only were our comrades severely assaulted, wounded and arrested, but even our party office was raided and ransacked and the district secretary taken to custody. Women-children-elders have also not been spared. Those arrested have been implicated in 'attempt to murder' case. In Raigunj of West Dinajpur district, two of our comrades have been falsely implicated in murder charges. In Singur, the CPI(M) hoodlums have been warning the villagers that if the movement is not withdrawn, there will be more incidents of ghastly killings. In the midst of all this, Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamul Congress supremo, went on a hunger strike for 25 days on her demands over the Singur issue. Despite her falling health and express concern of many over the same, the government, arrogant and adamant as it is, showed no real concern or took no effective step to end the impasse. On the contrary, the CPI(M) chief minister in demonstration of obstinacy and obsequiousness typical of an autocrat is howling that he would not bulge an inch from allotting the multi-crop fertile tracts of Singur to the Tatas nor would he allow anyone to touch even a hair of theirs. The government has stopped irrigation water, allowing the rich harvest of rice and vegetables rot in front of poor tillers to reaffirm its allegiance to the interest of the monopoly house. But much to the discomfiture of the CPI(M) leaders and their government, more ruthless they are in suppressing the movement more is people's support swelling towards it. More

determined are the brave peasants of Singur to carry out the struggle, fearlessly and unflinchingly.

CPI(M) is concealing truth, distorting facts

In face of all round condemnation, surge of protest movements and resistance struggle and firmed up people's opinion against their brazen anti-people stand and activities, the CPI(M) leaders aided by the bourgeois media have now unleashed a torrent of palpable falsehood that would make Goebbels envious. While no one has opposed setting up of factories on fallow or non-agricultural land and the protest is against forcible acquisition of fertile agricultural land raising bogey of so-called industrialization, the CPI(M) leaders are twisting the issue by saying that the opponents are anti-development and hostile to industrial growth. In our earlier issues of Proletarian Era, we have shown how deceptive is their claim of industrialization at private initiative in this era of crisis-ridden moribund decadent capitalism. We also added that creating an aura of industrialization, the real intention is to go for lucrative real estate business. Tatas have also eyed on such a huge stretch of fertile land in Singur also for that purpose besides setting up of a sophisticated motor factory. Next is the government's assertion of being in possession of the requisitioned land surrendered by the peasants out of volition. If the government was in so comfortable a position, why did it need to clamp Sec. 144 to

excommunicate Singur from the external world, encircle the area with 20,000 odd armed police and RAF and then unleashed a 2 day long savage attack on the unarmed villagers to grab the land? People's Democracy, the central organ of the CPI(M), writes in the editorial of its issue dated 10-12-06 : "The total land acquired is 997.11 acres. Of this, over 950 acres has the voluntary consent of the owners who have already collected their compensation. ... Of the remaining land, such consent in many cases was not available as the land owners do not, normally, reside in that area..... The number of recorded sharecroppers in this area is 237. According to the local informal reports, the number of unrecorded sharecroppers is around 170. A total of around 12,000 land owners and sharecroppers are entitled to receive compensation. Of these, 9,020 have collected their compensation till December 4, 2006." While the claim is that over 95% of the earmarked land has been acquired, the government could not till date produce any evidence in support of that nor could it explain why the quantum of compensation paid so far is shown to be only Rs. 81 crores as against estimated disbursement of Rs. 140 crores. Moreover, if People's Democracy has to be believed, nearly 3,000 land-owners and sharecroppers (number of sharecroppers is shown as just 407) are yet to be covered under 'voluntary land acquisition and compensation' process. Is exclusion of 3,000 out of 12,000 peasants tantamount to "almost all" having been covered?

On the contrary, owners of around 450 acres of land have filed

*Contd. on page 4***Execution of President Saddam Hussein***Contd. from page 1*

Unfortunately, in absence of the desired surge of worldwide people's resistance movement, regretted Comrade Mukherjee, the US imperialist brigands and their pliant regime of Iraq could dare to commit such a heinous crime spurning all democratic norms and international laws. Confidently asserting that this vile move of the US imperialists and their henchmen would further steel the anti-US patriotic zeal of the Iraqi freedom fighters and thereby make the freedom really irrepressible, Comrade Mukherjee once again exhorted upon each and every democratic minded well-meaning person round the globe not

to allow the US imperialists and their associates get away with such a felonious act and release a massive united movement to compel the Pentagon rulers and their cohorts desist from killing Saddam. In this connection, Comrade Mukherjee strongly condemned the UPA government's plea for commuting the death sentence and instead opting for life imprisonment and mentioned that it clearly shows to what extent the ruling capitalist class and its appendage government has thrown to the wings the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the people of India and developed an evil nexus with US imperialism.

Dangerous portent of US-connived arms build up of Germany and Japan

[Continued from

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Flagrantly violating agreed decisions of Potsdam Conference, imperialists revived German and Japanese militarism

In the Potsdam Conference, there was unanimous agreement on uprooting of 'German militarism and nazism' with 'other measures necessary to assure that Germany will never again threaten her neighbours or world peace'; complete disarmament and dissolution of the Wehrmacht or war machinery; ban on production of any kind of lethal weapons by Germany; liquidation of the Nazi party and all its branches; arrest and trial of the major war criminals by the International Military tribunal and the strict punishment of all war criminals, and so on. But in no time, the 'cardinal decisions unanimously adopted by the Great Powers at Potsdam were soon discarded by the US and the British leaders. As a result militarism revived in Germany.' The 'Potsdam decisions ..included a provision on setting up central administrative departments in Germany.' It was never implemented 'because of the opposition' by the western authorities. In result, 'peaceful, democratic unification of Germany, envisaged at Potsdam, was never attained. Though US and UK agreed with USSR on dismantling of military industrial enterprises in the western part of Germany, in reality it was never implemented. By November 1945 itself, it was clear from the words of Montgomery in the meeting of Control Council, that the decision of uprooting German militarism and Wehrmacht, was being violated secretly by US and UK' in their respective zones, in perfect knowledge of each other. In the name of containing communism of the east, that is in USSR and East Germany, the US and the British imperialists set up one military organization after another like the NATO etc., in which they dragged countries like Germany and others to join hands with them.

Thus eventually, since the end of the second world war, Germany has turned out to be, by far the leading country where the bulk of the US Army's overseas forces are

stationed, with personnel either on a permanent or a temporary basis. A significant portion of the US Army's combat power is stationed in Europe, primarily in Germany. The United States has about 100,000 military personnel in Europe. The bulk of them, about 56000 Army (more than 90% of what is there in Europe; about 60% of that over the world) and 15000 Air Force personnel are stationed in Germany, since the end of war, originally as an occupation force and later as part of the NATO.

It may be mentioned here that the Warsaw Pact alliance of the Soviet Union, and the East European socialist states (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Hungary, Poland, and Romania), signed in Warsaw, Poland on May 14, 1955, was a "counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the European continent", "a direct response to the inclusion of the "re-militarized" Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in NATO" in the same year. At the same time, as it has been admitted by even the American rulers, the Soviet Union used the Warsaw Pact to develop East European socialist countries independently into stable, powerful forces against the NATO threat. [Excerpts from Czechoslovakia : A Country Study, Glenn E. Curtis, ed.; Washington, D. C.: Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, 1992] . It thus contrasts with the NATO provisions by which a large contingent of the US forces remain stationed on the soils of West Germany. Although the Warsaw alliance has terminated since the beginning of the nineties of the last century and the size of U.S. forces in Europe declined considerably after the debacle of the Socialist Camp, the US Army continues to base at least 2 brigades of 1st Armoured Division (at Wiesbaden, Friedberg, Baumholder); at least 3 brigades of 1st Infantry Division (at Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Vilseck); 7th army Reserve Command (at Schetzingen), 2 air bases of 52nd Fighter Wing and 86th Airlift Wing (at Spangdahlen and Ramstein respectively); a port (at Bremenhaven) and 2 training

centers. near eastern border. In Germany, there are also 255 installations (army bases; more than 80% of European and 65% of the total overseas installations; including the most expensive Army bases in Europe at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels), as also barracks, airfields, military hospitals etc.. The largest contingent (15,000 active-duty personnel) of the US Air Force, the greatest number of Air Force installations and a large number of service's major combat units are also based in Germany. The base at Ramstein, Germany, is the main air hub for U.S. forces from all services flying to or from other parts of the world, including the United States and the Middle East. (Source US Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report 2004; www.cbo.gov)

In Japan, in addition to stationing about 40,000 personnel of the different US forces, Army, Air and Navy etc. (Source *ibid.*), the US has set up naval air bases, more than its such bases in any European country (including its biggest marine base abroad) and a port for the US 7th Fleet. In addition, with liberal aids and arm trades, and various military pacts and arrangements they equipped the German and Japan armies for modern warfare.

The scenario is then that of flagrant violation of the decisions of the Potsdam Conference, formulated and agreed upon by the same forces, namely the US imperialists and other imperialist powers, that have continually maintained a whole hearted sponsorship, encouragement and ambience to whip up militarism in countries like Germany and Japan.

Real face of German and Japanese arms build up and militarization

Now, before going into any further analysis, let us have a glance at what exactly the nature of this militarism is? What precisely have Germany and Japan been doing in this respect? It does not mean just a step-up of military budget for self-defence and security. Like any other capitalist-imperialist country of the world, Germany and Japan, too, have continuously increased their military budget. A country of about 80.27 million people, Germany has already 285,000 soldiers and an

annual budget of over 24 billion Euro or \$30 billion. In the recent years the German government has increased the share of military budget from 25% to 30%. Further, an amount of additional 36 billion Euro has been allotted over 15 years to procure weaponry in the name of defending its territory. Japan government, on its part, has allocated \$50 billion for military budget, one of the largest in the world.

But over and above these huge 'normal' expenses on military, both the countries are busy overhauling their machineries and power of not only defending their respective country, but attacking others. Doing away with the commitment to so-called pacifism, Germany started its full-swing and all-out militarization and arms build up at a remarkably rapid speed since 1990s. It has already announced a reform of the Bundeswehr (German's military organization) that should make it easier to send troops to far-flung places. It is on the strength of this reform, that the German imperialist rulers are now active partners of the NATO forces in Afghanistan, with 7000 German soldiers engaged in killing the Afghans at the behest of the war-monger US imperialists in the name of establishing democracy there. Similarly, there were several other thousands of German soldiers sent to Congo, Kosovo, Uzbekistan, Bosnia etc., all under the cover of NATO, EU, or UN to maintain so-called peace and democracy. For the purpose, Germany has raised a 35,000-strong "intervention force" for attack and a 7000-strong "stabilization force" for "peacekeeping" with "support forces" of 137,500. In addition to the routine course of procuring or manufacturing huge weapons for its military, Germany has also made big structural changes in its defence system. Thus it coalesced the army, air force and navy into a single force with a view to gearing up rapid long range deployment. And to cover up this huge funding, expenditure, exercises and overhauling in the military, the German rulers try to make the world believe that they spend only 1.5% of GDP in military budget! At the same time, they keep on whipping up a national jingoism with such

Contd. on page 5

Singur**Surfeit of counterfeit statistics***Contd. from page 2*

affidavits in the court either denying handing over of their holdings till date or alleging forcible acquisition by the government. Inconvenienced at that, the CPI(M) industries minister, second in command to the industrialist-friendly chief minister is now saying that the government is no longer attaching any significance to the consent of the farmers. In our previous articles, we had also shown how the most fertile well-irrigated multi-crop Singur land is being branded as fallow and monocrop by the CPI(M) top brass to. But according to People's Democracy, "Of this land that has been acquired, over 90 per cent is mono crop land. Less than 10 per cent of this land belongs to the more than one crop category." (Ibid) It is now revealed that the CPI(M) high-ups have been referring to the land records of 1894 (i.e. 112 year old) in support of their claim.

So low have they stooped in suppression of truth that they in the aftermath of the ghastly murder of Tapasi Malik spread canards against her including character assassination. One person, later identified as one of the CPI(M) activists close to a front-ranking district level leader, was impersonated as Tapasi's grandfather to air a story of self-immolation in frustration. But when they found no taker of this cooked up story, they planted the second story of 'outsider involvement'. Earlier, one would recall, the CPI(M) leaders claimed that Singur struggle was spearheaded by 'outsiders' belonging to SUCI and other extremist forces. Rebuffed, it was forced to downplay this concocted version. Again it raked up the same construction by saying that outsiders killed Tapasi and threw her body inside the fenced land. If it were so, why did the security guards on duty allow the 'outsiders'? Even the CPI(M) high-ups did not hesitate to insinuate at us for having planned the murder to discredit the government.

CPI(M) maligns Marxism to buttress its agenda

It is also observed that the impact of Singur movement and the growing popular opinion against the way the government is forcibly snatching rich arable land under the smokescreen of sham industrialization is creating ripples

among the honest rank of the CPI(M). So the CPI(M) top brass, of late, is making a frantic bid to give a 'Marxist' cloak to the wobbly foundation of their so-called theory of industrialization.

Hence, it has become essential that there should be an appropriate rebuttal to this vile attempt to distort and malign the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism to buttress a pernicious motive. It is from that necessity that we thought it essential to show how Benoy Konar one of the front-ranking state leaders of the CPI(M), with an intellectual camouflage and pompous mien has endeavoured to throw dust in the eyes of the people as well as his party rank centering on the cardinal issues of the Singur movement by writing two articles in series in the People's Democracy (Vol.30; Nos.41 and 43).

Essential points raised in People's Democracy

From the tone and manner of argument, it is evident that these articles have been produced under compulsion to defend the CPI(M)'s party line which is being questioned by the rank and file inside the party as well as the progressive-minded people outside.

For quite sometime, the CPI(M) leaders have been open advocating of capitalism. They have been saying that when socialism is far-off, they should instead of sitting idle, should try to develop capitalism as a tactics. There is, according to them, no other option. They claim that they have learnt a lot from the fall of Soviet Union. In their opinion, the old form of conducting of revolutionary struggle has become obsolete. Socialism has to be a "democratic" one and that they consider the prescriptions of Deng Xiao-Ping (the Chinese Khrushchov!) to be worth following and so forth. All such propositions and arguments examined on the anvil of Marxism-Leninism lead to the sole conclusion— renunciation of the course of revolutionary struggle and embrace of worst type of revisionism. The two articles of "People's Democracy" on land acquisition-vis-a-vis industrialization have followed from that hated revisionist line and have indeed been a caricature of Marxism. Of many a 'pearls' of "pedantry" that are contained in those articles, we

shall pick up the essential ones to show how the CPI(M) leaders masquerading as Marxists are distorting the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism and shamelessly subserving the bourgeois class interest, both overtly and covertly. At the outset, we mention them in sequence and shall then proceed to take up one by one for discussion.

1. Mr. Benoy Konar begins his articles with a reference to "Industrial Revolution". He writes: "The industrial revolution in advanced capitalist countries had taken place on the basis of plunder of colonies and control over the market mechanism. We in our country had no such industrial revolution now."

2. Mr. Konar then discovers that, "we in our country had no such industrial revolution because this was not possible without mobilizing large masses into a struggle against imperialism, feudalism and monopoly capital"

3. Next, Mr. Konar presents a very rosy picture of rural West Bengal and holds that the state is extremely 'fertile' for capitalist "industrial revolution" in this era of moribund decadent gasping capitalism. In his words, "Here, by way of peasant's uprising, land reforms have been achieved ... West Bengal is in the forefront so far as the rate of increase in agricultural production is concerned. Purchasing power in the rural areas has increased."

4. To substantiate his claim, Mr. Konar composes another finding: "The children of the agricultural labourers, who have acquired some degree of education, now do not want to go through the often inhuman toil and hardship of an agricultural labour."

5. Finally, he prefers to demonstrate his pedagogic skills by saying that, "Anyone knowing elementary economic would also agree that technological advances would slowly and gradually reduce the employment in agriculture and that the advance of any society depends upon the growth of its industries. Even the growth of agriculture depends upon the growth of modern industries."

Myth of Industrialization

We also begin with the first point. Mr Konar submits that his party is now on a mission to fulfil in

the state of West Bengal the unaccomplished task of "Industrial Revolution" of India since it is ripe in possibility now. And by that, his party is going to usher in a spate of development both in industry as well as agriculture of the state. Hence, according to him, the current agenda of "operation Singur" and many such operations to follow is a step in the right direction. Hence, offering red carpet to Tatas, Salims, Ambanis, Jindals and the ilk is totally justified as is justified forcible acquisition of fertile arable land for facilitating the "industrialization" under their benevolent gesture of sizeable investment as well as giving them plethora of concessions and subventions from the public exchequer. Only those who lack the "elementary knowledge of economics" as authored by them can only sense foul in it.

But we are sorry we could not corroborate his 'elementary' with the 'elementary' enshrined in the treasure house of Marxism-Leninism. We like to remind him that the "industrial revolution" proper was the phenomenon of 18th century. When the feudal mode of production became an impediment before the social urge for growth of production, the rising capitalism with the help of machine industry revolutionized by the iconoclastic scientific discoveries; overthrew the obsolete feudal production system and replaced it by prosperous, progressive capitalist mode of production. That period of rising capitalism was an epoch of free competition; the epoch of unhindered growth of industries generating huge employment to the people. But gone is that epoch of early capitalism. Capitalism has now grown old, given birth to monopoly capitalism, which in turn gave birth to finance capital, financial oligarchy and in the process reached the stage of imperialism. It has now completely lost its earlier progressive role and posing obstacle before desired spurt in production and social progress. It is in the grip of a severe market crisis. Even the periodic crises of boom-and-doom (recession) has been replaced by ever-present general crisis, day in day out. It is impossible for this moribund capitalism to undertake today uninterrupted industrialization with huge gainful employment opportunities. This is the epoch of decaying capitalism.

Without reckoning these two

Contd. on page 8

Military activism of Germany and Japan whipped up menacingly in last few years

Contd. from page 3

utterings as those made by the German Defence Minister Peter Struck, who boastfully claim that the 'German soldiers will one day, do real fighting'!

Likewise, Japan, another partner of the Nazi-Fascist Axis Powers is also returning to militarism in big strides. It is this Japan which, history will remember, before and during the Second World War (from 1930s to 1940) killed 20 million people in Asia. Besides, the Japanese fascists enslaved, tortured, raped or subjected many hundreds of thousands of people to demonic medical experiments including vivisection. About 40,000 of such Chinese still survive. In its present effort at militarization, it is resorting to massive bolstering in its weaponry capabilities. The country is conducting its military activism under the so-called Self-Defence Forces (SDF). Under the guise of security alliance with the US and at the cost of billions of dollars, Japanese imperialist rulers are upgrading the missile defence system, including Aegis radar system of the country or are procuring anti-ballistic missiles from the US imperialists, all with a view to intercepting inbound missiles. Japan has also procured a large number of fighter jets with aerial refuelling capabilities, a most sophisticated arrangement in the modern war. With these, Japan military has included in its arsenals such deadly weapons of mass destruction as SM-3 missile and Boeing 767 AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System). With the help of the US, it has built a heliport to operate both from land and sea and the Okinawa Air base defying people's opposition. With South Korea, it has forged military alliance on naval and air fronts, with a view to implementing a joint control and management. Like Germany, Japan too has welded the navy, army and air force into a single command for the first time since the Second World War. The object is the same as Germany conceived: to act in lightning speed to take part in any war effort, if it needs to. Thus we witnessed that Japan sent naval refuelling tankers to the Indian Ocean in 2001 to help the US and its NATO allies that destroyed Afghanistan; dispatched troops under guise of peacekeeping

force to Iraq even violating her Constitution. And since this military activism is forbidden by the Japanese Constitution by the Article 9 which contains a provision for imposing ban, the Japanese rulers are all set even for changing constitutional restriction on their militarism.

Thus, the trend is not merely that of spending more money on defence or of producing more arms. It involves a total change in approach, which entails gearing up for attack, whipping up of war-frenzy and zingoism in the country to match and sustain the militarist adventure of the rulers and even weeding out if it be necessary, any hindrance to the process, including constitutional. Naturally such developments raise questions: How could this happen even after the Potsdam Conference which concluded to put bridles to these two fascist powers? How could the two countries, Germany and Japan, raise their ugly head of militarism so menacingly from their existence as virtual protectorate of and under the very surveillance under the US imperialism by the turn of these few decades? How could the US imperialism allow Germany and Japan to reinforce their lethal strength and regain their deadly image?

Stalin's forewarning proved true in every word

To reach at the answers, we need a brief discourse on a few salient points. Albeit ominous without doubt, the trend is not really unforeseen, particularly if we recall the forewarning by Stalin, another giant Communist leader and the architect of victory of the humanity in the second world war. While defending Lenin's thesis on imperialism inevitably generating war, he submitted in his excellent precise analysis in *Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR* : "Some comrades hold that, owing to the development of new international conditions since the Second World War, wars between capitalist countries have ceased to be inevitable. They consider... that the U.S.A. has brought the other capitalist countries sufficiently under its sway to be able to prevent them going to war among themselves and weakening one another....These comrades are

mistaken. They see the outward phenomena that come and go on the surface, but they do not see those profound forces which, although they are so far operating imperceptibly, will nevertheless determine the course of developments. Outwardly, the USA has put Western Europe, Japan and other capitalist countries on rations; Germany (Western), Britain, France, Italy and Japan have fallen into the clutches of the USA and are meekly obeying its commands. But it would be mistaken to think that things can continue to "go well" for "all eternity," that these countries will tolerate the domination and oppression of the United States endlessly, that they will not endeavour to tear loose from American bondage and take the path of independent development....Let us pass to Germany (Western) and Japan. These countries are now languishing in misery under the jackboot of American imperialism. Their industry and agriculture, their trade, their foreign and home policies, and their whole life are fettered by the American occupation "regime." Yet only yesterday these countries were great imperialist powers and were shaking the foundations of the domination of Britain, the USA and France in Europe and Asia. To think that these countries will not try to get on their feet again, will not try to smash the US "regime," and force their way to independent development, is to believe in miracles.....After the First World War it was similarly believed that Germany had been definitely put out of action.. ... Germany rose to her feet again as a great power within the space of some fifteen or twenty years after her defeat, having broken out of bondage and taken the path of independent development. And it is significant that it was none other than Britain and the United States that helped Germany to recover economically and to enhance her economic war potential. .. with a view to setting a recovered Germany against the Soviet Union...."

We do not think, we need to spend many words to indicate how prophetic and deadly true, these words of Stalin, this in-depth appreciation and comprehension of Lenin's thesis, really have turned

out to be, vindicating the infallibility of Marxian scientific analysis! However, to get at the real implication of this whole issue, we require a few more points, to keep ourselves abreast with the ongoing processes and contradictions.

Imperialist war cannot be totally eliminated without abolishing imperialism itself

It was on the understanding based on Marxist science, that the USSR, under the leadership of Stalin, initiated and stepped up peace-movement after the second world war. Thus, Soviet Union believed, and acted accordingly, that the east European countries must be allowed to develop their socialism in their own way and must acquire their own strength to defend themselves, until and unless they were subverted by imperialist intrigues. Likewise, it also maintained that the toiling masses led by the respective working class of the innumerable colonies and semi-colonies that attained freedom after the second world war and chose to follow the capitalist path of development, should have the right and environment to develop their own course to revolution, without intervention from outside. At the same time, it knew, as Stalin added in his analysis referred above: "The object of the present-day peace movement is to rouse the masses of the people to fight for the preservation of peace and for the prevention of another world war.... But, ...it will not be enough to eliminate the inevitability of wars between capitalist countries generally. It will not be enough, because, for all the successes of the peace movement, imperialism will remain, continue in force — and, consequently, the inevitability of wars will also continue in force. To eliminate the inevitability of war, it is necessary to abolish imperialism." Stalin could reach this conclusion for he knew it from his correct understanding of Marxism- Leninism that the contradiction among the capitalist-imperialist countries on capturing and dominating over the market would remain in force unabated and uninterrupted, rather would grow more and more acute so long as capitalism existed and consolidated and thereby plunged deeper into

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Imperialists helped German- Japanese militarism revive to use them against socialism

Contd. from page 5

their moribund stage of imperialism. In course of this contradiction among the capitalist-imperialist countries, sometimes they would seek for solution in the war, local, regional or global; failing which, they would revert to peace to meet their end. However contrasted they may be between themselves and whatsoever may be the propaganda eulogizing the peace efforts of the imperialists, the war manoeuvre and peace manoeuvre remain two expressions of the same contradiction among the imperialists, manifesting in different ways under different circumstances.

In exact revelation of this Marxist-Leninist understanding, the capitalist-imperialists, with a view to earning some breathing time after the devastation of the war, posed as the vociferous champions of democracy and peace. In reality, however, they, particularly with the war-monger US imperialists in the lead, acted the other way round, only to lead to increasing militarism and tension, to forcibly interfering in liberation struggles of different countries, such as in Korea, Vietnam and elsewhere, engineering military coups and conspiracies to oust popular governments in many newly independent countries of Asia, Africa or Latin America, carrying out barbarous genocidal aggressions upon many of them. All this they did on the plea of containing and defeating communism and socialist states. But the real implication, however, lay elsewhere.

We have already indicated how Lenin propounded his thesis on imperialism. In course of developing it, he had shown that in the era of imperialism, the world revolved round a few major contradictions. It is true that the contradiction between the labour and capital stood as one of the principal contradictions in one and all capitalist countries. Also, after the emergence of the socialist camp, the contradiction between the socialism and capitalism-imperialism assumed a major role of another principal contradiction. However, no less important for the imperialists and for the world, was the contradiction centring round the question of the imperialists' dominating over the global market in face of the acute and

insurmountable economic crisis and recession, they had bogged into. There were the contradictions among the major capitalist-imperialist countries, which lead to the two world wars and without any indication of dying out, was further aggravated in the post-world war situation. The second world war was followed by not only the prestigious consolidation of USSR; it was accompanied by the emergence of the socialist camp covering about a third of the world, meaning a miserable slicing out of the global capitalist-imperialist market. The depleted market only accentuated the contradiction between the imperialist powers themselves. At the same time there were the contradictions between the imperialist countries and the developing capitalist countries, which had been the former colonies and semi-colonies attaining independence after the second world war and thence striving to develop and consolidate their own capitalist economy. In course of this process they came in contradiction with the major capitalist-imperialist powers with a view to protecting their own internal market from imperialist domination. But as a part and parcel of the world capitalist-imperialist system they were also at one with the major imperialist powers on questions preserving capitalism and thwarting revolution and socialism. Presence of a mighty socialist camp, provided an added opportunity to these developing countries, a chance to bargain with the imperialist powers and win concessions thereof. To this effect, the NAM developed as a movement initiated by these countries to build up a platform of their own adding to their bargaining strength to play upon their contradiction with the major imperialist powers. Debacle of the socialist camp and counterrevolution in the erstwhile socialist countries triggered by the imperialist conspiracy on ground softened by the heinous efforts of modern revisionism, put the developing countries largely at the mercy of the latter. It might have appeared as silver-line to the imperialists for a chance to overcome the crisis of world capitalist-imperialist system with the entire global market again made available to it. But the hope soon proved to be a short-lived mirage.

With a view to exploiting the global market without the socialist camp, the capitalist-imperialist countries contrived measures like free-trade zones, economic combinations, or globalization-liberalization including revival of the GATT – WTO. But the decadence and recession of the system had gone down to such abysmal depth, that no tricks or trials could hold ground. Intense crisis and recession gave rise to equally intense competition.

Contradictions between imperialists keep the world on tenterhook of war

In every nook and corner of the capitalist-imperialist world there were the manifestations of this crisis and contradiction. There were contradictions, as well as contradictions within contradictions. The US imperialism forged the NATO combination of the European countries under their domination, to use them against the socialist Soviet Union and continue it till to date, even though Russia was no longer a socialist country; similarly it posed Japan against the socialist China and now use it and South Korea against the North Korea. The liberal military and financial aids and assistances, Germany received from the US and UK imperialists, in particular, have provided it with the immediate means of subsistence. The benevolent donors and well wishers, of course, had their own motive; they wanted to keep German militarism alive against the socialist powers in Europe. So, fully aware of its sting and power, the US imperialists armed it with all teeth and claws and tried to keep it in favour, lending concessions with a view to using it in its drive to exploit the market of Europe and the world, as also in case of necessity, as it came out on different occasions, the latest during the Iraq aggression of the US- UK combine forces. The once dominated countries, in their turn, wanted to use this situation and the support to regain and enhance their lost glory. Thus the European imperialists themselves, particularly spearheaded by the rejuvenated Germany along with France strengthened European Union; they were initially sceptic of the UK, a rabid US ally, but later incorporated

it to earn more acceptability to the other European countries and the world. It was a bid of the European powers to come out of the US domination. They vied, and vie, with the US-UK combine to gain foothold in the global market, more so in Europe. But they equally try to keep the militarily still superior US imperialism in good humour, so long as they may require to. At the same time, when German imperialism mustered strength and started to show it off, in combination with France and other capitalist-imperialist powers of Europe, the US imperialism shoved the British imperialism, its closest boot-licker in the continent, into the EU, only to put a brake to the rising German power. Who will gain the upper hand in this contradiction, in this hustle and tussle, is yet to be seen; the world may only hope that it does not prove another devastation for humanity.

In the east, Japanese imperialism, till now virtually under the boot of US imperialism, is now popping up. However, it does not desert its benefactor; rather it uses it to its favour, as far as possible. The US imperialism, in its turn, uses Japan in its bid against socialism in general, and against North Korea, one of the last vestiges of socialist states, in particular, as also against China, a former socialist country now turned capitalist and a major contender for the market of Asia. In this tirade against socialism, Japanese imperialism finds a match in South Korea, the Asian bootlicker of the US imperialism in this part of the globe. At the same time, the rejuvenated Japanese imperialism finds a tough competition and increasing contradiction with China, a capitalist state that is frantically trying to use the strong and potential infrastructure built during the socialist regime under the able leadership of Mao Zedong, to the end of achieving a competitive position in the capitalist world. Thus Japan tries combinations with Asian capitalist countries as against the upcoming China as also the USA, for the sole end of winning over market.

All this points to the inalienable vicious cycle, the capitalist-imperialist system is moving round: crisis of market generates and

Contd. on page 7

Militant anti-imperialist movement, the only check for imperialist militarism, inalienable from crisis-ridden capitalism

Contd. from page 6

controls their contradiction and drives them to forge various combinations and take various measures only to intensify and deepen their contradictions and crisis. They point to how penetrative the Marxist analysis of Lenin was; how correct Stalin was in his identifying the course the capitalist countries, even the vanquished ones were going to take. Those forces that were once at the brink of virtual annihilation, have again amassed strength, playing upon the inherent contradictions of the capitalist world. For long sixty years of the post-war period, they have thrived virtually feeding upon US aids and trades. We have already mentioned the huge military presence and support the US extended to Germany and Japan. But now they are showing their fangs; they are fomenting their dormant national jingoism. Nazism and racial fanaticism are raising their ugly heads once again in Germany, with or without overt and covert support from the rulers. Japan eulogizes its war-heroes, the branded fascist killers; removes the constitutional hindrance to their militarism. And above all, they arm themselves full with all measures and materials at hand.

Intense crisis-ridden capitalism survives on military-industry complex

Here we must bring in another significant Marxist-Leninist understanding of the contradictions within the capitalist-imperialist world, developed particularly in the post-war period. After the second world war, with the respective internal markets of capitalist-imperialist countries largely dried up and the squeezed global market characterized by sharp competition and conflict, as mentioned above, the capitalist world was robbed totally of any stability of market and economy. This third phase of intense and insurmountable market crisis and recession, was far more devastating than any other, hitherto affecting the capitalist world. Noting this characteristic of the crisis of capitalism, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our party, SUCI and one of the outstanding Marxist thinkers of the post-Lenin days, added that the capitalist-imperialist

countries of the post-war period without exception tried "...to offset the difficulties taking recourse to frantic rearmament and militarization of industry and through more and more capitalist concentration". On one hand, they are increasing and consolidating the strength of their capital through merger of industrial and banking capital of the monopolies with the state capital and thus giving rise to state-monopoly capital, the rock-bottom foundation of fascism. On the other hand, with the concentration and consolidation of capital increased manifold and the market depleted and squeezed equally, they are attempting "to stave off the crisis and maintain the boom of the capitalist market, at least temporarily, by artificial stimulation" of increased military production and consumption. "But far from easing the situation, militarism is aggravating the capitalist contradictions and crisis further still" creating conditions of tension and attrition, including local and regional wars, threatening world as a whole. "There is thus a vicious cycle going on, leading to an unbridled arms race." (Quotations and paraphrasing from : *Call of the Hour; Selected Works*, vol.II, p.46, 1992). This is evident with the case of Germany and Japan, too.

A browsing into the economic scenario of Germany and Japan would give an idea of the deep crisis, the two countries are bogged in as part of the world capitalist system. In Germany public debt hit 1.5 trillion Euro by the end of 2005 or 68% of the GDP; her GDP rose by a meager 1.4% annually over the last decade; her fiscal situation deteriorated so drastically that the federal coffers were short of \$22 billion and these deficits came on top of already planned shortfalls of 29 billion Euro in 2004 and 21 billion Euro in 2005; her unemployment rate is 10.4% (in its eastern part it is 20%). Since 1993 the annual growth in number of jobs has shrunk to 0.2%. Onerous taxation the highest in Europe is breaking the back of already burdened common people of Germany, while the big capitalists are enjoying a haven of tax relief. Germany's economic growth for 2004 has been cut from 2.25% to a meager 1.5%. Similarly, Japan's general government debt is

equivalent to 170% of GDP with public finances being the darkest cloud hanging over the economy. The Japan government pays for 45% of all new spending for the public with borrowed money. Its debt service consumes 22% of its annual budget. With a very small population Japan has the gruelling unemployment of 4.5%. Such is the vicious economic crisis that these capitalist-imperialist countries are groaning under. Amidst this, militarization is viewed as a panacea to stave it off. In reality, however, it only aggravates the crisis.

The recent step-up of militarization and arms build-up in Germany and Japan, must be viewed on this background. It reflects the inevitable, howsoever unwarranted it may be, outcome of inherent contradiction within the capitalist-imperialist system, a contradiction revolving round the intense economic recession and market crisis that compels the capitalist countries of today to combine with each other in groups with a view to protecting their own interests, only to involve themselves in cut-throat competition with other such combinations to gain upper hand and domination over market. At the same time, the same inherent crisis of market compels the capitalist countries to build up their military-industry complex where economy, built upon strongly concentrated and consolidated capital, survives on artificial stimulation through military production and consumption by the state itself. Obviously, the arms race is always accompanied by fomenting war-psychosis, aggravating tension and war cry, for it is only a war, or an ambience of warfare at least, that can consume the stockpiles of arms and ammunitions to give way to newer and further productions and thus keep economy moving out temporarily of crisis. Hence, even in the so-called unipolar world of the capitalists-imperialists without the socialist camp, peace remains a far cry; on the contrary, the war-monger imperialists headed by the belligerent US imperialists constantly find out some or other issues for local or regional war that bears every potentiality of leading into a devastating world war.

As Marxists-Leninists we can

conclude at this stage that so long as capitalism-imperialism prevails upon the world, its inherent contradiction and crisis arising thereupon, are never going to wane and die out. The crisis of market generates the desire and design for domination over others and the market. Domination, in its turn, demands power to prevail upon. Hence, the market crisis ends up in wars. Hence, the arms race and militarization, survival of capitalist-imperialist economy on artificial stimulation from the military-industry complex, and the hot-breath of tension and local or regional war with danger of world war looming menacingly before the world – none of these is going to stop. This not only poses threat to peace. As it becomes evident on different occasions, including the present tirade against North Korea, these are always going to be ultimately used against socialism. At the same time, the unbridled increase in the muscle power, imparts the rulers of each and every capitalist country with greater and greater power to bring down exploitation and oppression over the working class and the vast masses of the toiling people and brutally crush the revolutionary movements.

However, the imperialist wars are not fatalistically inevitable. Presence of the socialist camp once proved as a deterrent. Militant peace movement was on the rise after the second world war, however limited it might have become subsequently, because of the revisionist leadership of the Soviet Union in the post-Stalin period. The absence of the socialist camp has no doubt given a fillip to the imperialist brigandage. But the world is already witnessing a slow but steady rise of anti-imperialist fervour even in the soils of the major imperialist countries. Massive anti-war demonstrations, now and then, rock the American, British or other imperialist soils. It requires to develop this anti-imperialist movement to a genuinely militant peace movement all over the globe, not only to thwart the globalized exploitation of the capitalist-imperialists over the toiling billions. It also stand out as the only means to pave way for anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle in one country after another, for

Contd. on page 10

Singur

Flagrant distortion of Marxism

Contd. from page 4

distinct phases of capitalism, one cannot understand the issue of or ascertain the scope of "industrialisation" in any country today. Lenin had warned that "a clear distinction must be drawn between the two periods of capitalism, which differ radically from each other ... on the one hand, there is the period of collapse of feudalism and absolutism ... on the other hand there is ... a period that may be called the eve of capitalism's downfall ... There can be no question of Marxists of any country drawing up their national programme without taking into account all these general historical and concrete state conditions." (CW, Vol. 20, p 401)

Now Mr. Konar and his party intend to complete the unfinished task of "industrial revolution" in India in this decaying epoch of capitalism with the help of Tatas and Salims in a province within the state of India which they think is a "capitalist-landlord" state. This is absurdity par excellence! Vending such stupid dreams only befit those determined to vulgarize Marxism to please their capitalist masters. It is also equally deceptive to call establishment of one or two capital-intensive technology-driven highly sophisticated employment-stingy industries here and there as industrialization.

Those who are students of history are aware that Indian capitalism grew under the subjugation of British imperial rule and at a time when internationally capitalism had entered its moribund stage. When India won political freedom, capitalism as a world system had already become crisis-ridden and turned reactionary, decadent. It had no capacity to go for "industrialisation" in the truest sense of the term. This is why, industrial development in the post-independent period, whatever undertaken was like a nursing baby in the lap of the government who supplied free infrastructural facilities and was mainly done in the public sector. And with the pursuit of globalization, liberalization, privatization we see now a new type of so-called "industrialisation" in which whatever new venture comes up is labour-stingy, anti-labour, imbalanced in simultaneous growth of agricultural and industrial

economies, associated with a shadow of instability, day in day out crisis, and showered with a largesse from public exchequer in the form of subsidies and concessions, through the government. We are, however unable to comprehend how the industry question is related to "mass struggle" rather than economic necessity of the class in power as Mr. Konar has so remorsefully brought out. May be we are not that accustomed with twaddle or delirium!

Illusion and reality

We are also unable to reconcile the shining spectacle of rural West Bengal as presented by Mr Konar with the prevailing reality. If the villages of West Bengal are so teeming in prosperity, how come there is a mass exodus of rural poor to the cities and urban centers in search for a living? Is it that an "increased purchasing power" of the rural populace of West Bengal as is revealed in the 'elementary economics' Mr Konar and his party are so proficient in is spurring them to migrate to the towns and die like street dogs on the roadside? Perhaps Mr Konar and his party believe that spread of illusion and falsification they are adept in can cast so strong a spell on the people as to be beholders of an inverted reality.

And in conformity with that belief Mr Konar seeks to convince us that time has come for all to recognize that the educated wards of the families of agricultural labourers are loath to undertake the toil of tilling implying thereby that the project of "industrialization" he and his party have embarked upon need to be encouraged to provide that alternative employment to such aspirant children. We do not have even an iota of doubt that son of a jotedar or rich peasant does have a choice before him to spurn "inhuman toil" of tilling land and switch to other profession. But are the poor children of the small peasants, sharecroppers, and agricultural labourers so fortunate as to afford that 'luxury'? They are under compulsion to support their families through supplementary income earned even at a premature age either from selling labour in agriculture or as domestic hands or as waiters in roadside tea stalls and eateries. Where is the scope for all

these wretched sons and daughters to dream of "babudom"?

Industry and Agriculture

Finally we come to the prophetic remarks Mr Konar makes in regard to the mutual relationship of industry and agriculture without taking into account the space and time. Is it possible for ruling Indian capitalist class suffering from insoluble market crisis endemic of the system, to undertake mechanization of agriculture today? We recall the invaluable teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, to show the fallacy in the pedantic espousal of Mr Konar. In course of his penetrating analysis on the problems of Indian rural economy, Comrade Ghosh said "The urban areas are already teeming with the army of the unemployed and semi-employed, their numbers soaring up at increasing rates. Therefore, any attempts to mechanize agriculture in the present condition, that is, to modernize agriculture with tractor-machines will throw millions in the villages out of employment at a single stroke. The urban unemployed in hundreds of thousands added to the surplus millions in agriculture thus thrown unemployed will create a situation under whose weight this capitalist system will be on the verge of collapse. With the unemployment problem already acute and ever more aggravating, capitalism cannot undertake this task for the sake of its own survival.... fact is that, because of capitalist economy, all doors to industrial development have been closed in our country. Secondly, for increasing the productivity of land, for improving the livelihood of the rural population and for supplying raw materials to the industries, it is essential to modernize our agriculture. But here also it is capitalism, which stands as the stumbling block. Nobody can achieve this modernization of agriculture maintaining this capitalist system. Capitalist relation of production is acting today as a severe brake in the process. (SW, Vol. III, p.201-02, 328) Do Mr. Konar and his party wish to reverse the course and write a new chapter on the character of capitalism? Is it in pursuance of that agenda that

they are now hell-bent on brutally suppressing the agitation of the rural poor rendered "surplus" to resist forcible eviction from land for accommodating "industrialization" under the aegis of monopoly capitalists?

Mr. Konar contends that his party is fulfilling the progressive, unaccomplished task of 'industrial revolution' in West Bengal, with the help of the monopolists and its 'operation' at Singur has been a "bold" step in that direction. But what is laid bare is that it is indulging in sickening sycophancy and bootlicking of the exploiting oppressive capitalism bestriding the country like a dead weight. As part of the most obedient service he and his party stand committed in paying to "operation globalization", the latest ploy of crisis-stricken world imperialism-capitalism to plunder the toiling masses, he and his party have begun exuberant invocation to Tatas and Salims, the protagonists of capitalist globalization. This service they term as a "democratic" act! This is how as broker of moribund capitalism, his party is providing theoretical support to the sinister designs of the monopolist sharks.

Self contradiction galore

It is well-known a fact that whoever practices falsehood right and left leaves behind in its trail many a self-contradictory versions and generates confusion among the masses. Now, Mr. Konar delivers such an example. Visibly embarrassed and cornered at a volley of questions doubting the employment generation capacity of the proposed 'investment friendly' employment-stingy automobile factory of the Tatas at Singur, Mr Konar performs a somersault and says, "To imagine that West Bengal would bring about an industrial revolution, remove all unemployment and poverty in spite of being trapped in a capitalist-feudal state, which is surrendering to globalization, is nothing but mere utopia." (ibid) Thus, after raising so many hullabaloo about "industrialisation" posing it as unaccomplished task of "industrial revolution for which they appeared as mentors, the utopia of the CPI(M) leader evaporates before the demands of "employment generation". He thus tamely surrenders the question of performing unaccomplished task of "industrial revolution" which he so strongly advocated for.

Contd. on page 9

Singur

CPI(M)'s unblushing servitude of capitalism*Contd. from page 8***Reforms and Revolution**

But when this abject surrender was questioned by the right-thinking persons outside as well as its honest rank and file inside the party, Mr Konar to quell all these criticisms cunningly pointed at the “reform and revolution” theory of Lenin and submitted, “This is no revolutionary work, actually reformist. But where there is no revolutionary possibility, reformist works are indication of advancement.” (ibid) He admits, this is no revolutionary work, but reformist one. This is pedantry par excellence – perhaps unmatched in the annals of history. But what are reforms? Why the revolutionaries, sometimes, take to reforms and with what objective? Are the ‘reforms’ and “revolution” are two mutually exclusive acts to a Marxist Party?

It is sheer “reformism” – the capitalist deception!

Explaining the ‘reforms and revolution’ policy, Lenin unequivocally said, “Marxists recognize struggles for reforms i.e. for measures that improve the conditions of the working people without destroying the power of the ruling class. At the same time, however, the Marxists wage a most resolute struggle against the reformists... Reformism is a bourgeois deception of the workers.” (CW, Vol. 19, p-372) He further adds, “The reformists try to deceive the workers, to divert them from the class struggle ... when the ‘ultimate goal’ ... is pushed further and further away from the agitation that is reformism.” (CW, Vol.19, p-372) The class-struggle and the revolutionary goal is the first victim of “reformism” – the capitalist deception per excellence!! To a revolutionary party, ‘reformism’ and ‘revolution’ are not two mutually exclusive acts. As Lenin clarifies – “We also fight for reforms, but by no means ‘in every way’; we fight for reforms only ... in a revolutionary way.” (CW, Vol. 6, p-169). “All struggles for reform must be channelled and transformed into struggle for revolution.” (CW, Vol. 41, p-386) “We do not confine ourselves to the struggle for reforms, but subordinate to the struggle for revolution.” (CW, Vol. 23, p-224) But Mr. Konar says that as “there is no revolutionary possibility” so they take to reforms! For the sake of

‘reforms’ Mr Konar discards ‘revolutionary possibility’ and ‘class-struggle’ lock-stock-and-barrel! Like all the debased social-democrats in history severely denounced and despised by Lenin and Stalin, the CPI(M) by espousing ‘reforms’ forsaking revolutionary preparedness is treading the path of bourgeois deception of the working masses. In this connection, we once again quote from the teachings of Com. Ghosh. He said, “...it is self-deception as well as deceiving others to hold that this capitalist system and state structure would remain and we would try to reform it, would try to do planning within this set-up and try to bring about people’s well-being. Struggles for reform may be there and also struggles to secure relief in the interest of the people. But these must have a clear-cut objective—that the movement for these reform and relief programmes should pave the way for anti-capitalist socialist revolution of India and not prove to be hindrance to it, that this movement would not create any illusion about capitalist system and its Parliament, it would rather help to dispel the confusions and illusions of the people. Reforms which do not help to strengthen the revolutionary struggle constitute a self-deception, a bourgeois device to keep the people’s militancy subdued for some time with sugar-coated talks.” (SW, Vol. III, P 59)

Quoting Lenin out of context

Mr Konar’s hypocrisy does not end here. He quotes at random from the works of Lenin written in the years of 1921-1923 (all included in the 33rd volume of his Collected Works) when he after assuming the command of the nascent socialist state was dealing with the problems of socialist reconstruction. What relevance and similarity does it have to the problems of West Bengal as a province of capitalist India (sorry, Mr Konar and his party call it a “capitalist-landlord” power!). All these quotations from Volume-33 of Lenin’s works badly miss the issue under discussion. Of course by this, Mr Konar proves himself to be a perfect quotation-monger!

Equating Buddha’s ‘industrialization’ with Lenin’s NEP

Mr. Konar in his last ditch attempt to justify his party’s theory of ‘industrialization’ seeks to claim

that this is in conformity with propositions of the New Economic Policy (NEP) Lenin pursued for a brief period as a part of socialist economic programme immediately after establishment of socialist Soviet Union. Let us recall what NEP meant for the then Soviet Russia.

After First World War, the economic condition of Russia deteriorated sharply. There was acute scarcity of fuel. Hunger and unemployment were soaring. All this necessitated rejuvenation of industries. In this war-ravaged situation, the Tenth Congress of RCP (B) under Lenin’s leadership in post-revolution Russia adopted NEP in May, 1921. The salient feature of this policy was to allow private capital to grow under socialist state for a temporary period. Lenin explained, “...in our economic offensive we ran too-far ahead. We did not provide ourselves with an adequate base.” So, it was necessary to make a temporary retreat to a secure rear to move forward in future.

Explaining the difference between growth of capitalist industry under capitalism and the same under socialism and answering the critics, Lenin said, “... state capitalism in a society where power belongs to capital and state capitalism in a proletarian state, is two different things. In a capitalist state, state capitalism means that it is recognized by the state and controlled by it for the benefit of the bourgeoisie, and to detriment of the proletariat. In the proletarian state, the same thing is done for the benefit of the working class, for the purpose of withstanding the as yet strong bourgeoisie and of fighting it.” (CW, Vol. 32, p-491). But Mr Konar deliberately omits any reference to the two distinctly different contexts and equates servitude to moribund capitalism in capitalist India with Lenin’s NEP in socialist Russia. At the same breadth, Mr Konar advises us that, “Marxism is not a dogma or mantra ... the essence of Marxism is to chalk out concrete decisions ... in a given situation.” Should we ask Mr Konar why is he chanting NEP mantra in Singur? This, Mr Konar, is not only sheer nonsense, palpable doublespeak but carefully woven chicanery. Let not Mr Konar take people for granted, not consider them as gullible as to view Singur

as a prototype of NEP. To such shrewd ‘copyists’ Marx once exclaimed, “I have sown a Dragon’s teeth, and harvested fleas”!

Mystery of “People’s Democratic Revolution”

But the buck does not stop here. Mr Konar elaborates further, “Let us recount the experience of November revolution about capitalist development ... in real sense it was a democratic revolution under the leadership of the working class ... In China, similar revolution was called new democratic revolution. We have called it the people’s democratic revolution in our programme.” We are indeed stunned! How all these significant historical parallels are relevant to raising some industries in West Bengal including the controversial Singur project?

Is Mr Konar aware of the historical teaching of Comrade Lenin that in the present era of “Imperialism and Proletarian Revolution”, “To deal with the question of completion of the bourgeois revolution in the old way is to sacrifice living Marxism to the dead letter.” (CW, Vol. 24, p-45 – April Thesis) Analyzing the stage of revolution, Lenin showed just two months after the February-revolution of Russia (1917) that it would be anti-capitalist socialist revolution and many unaccomplished tasks of Bourgeois Democratic Revolution (BDR) would be interwoven as ‘derivative’ in the task of bringing about socialist revolution under the leadership of the working class.

But alas! Mr Konar talks of completing BDR in India “in the old way” by the capitalists and by raising the deceptive slogan of “people’s democratic revolution in our programme” finds a convenient way to sacrifice working class interest before the ruling capitalist class.

“Prostrated” before the Centre

Lest anyone questions as to why the CPI(M) is not opting for some employment-generating industries under the public sector as was done immediately after independence under public pressure, Mr Konar reiterates the oft-pronounced excuse “... the financial condition of the state are far more fragile and gradually on the decline. ... Then,

Contd. on page 10

UTUC-LS participates in the ILO-sponsored National Workshop at Chandigarh

A two-day ILO-sponsored national workshop on the conditions and demands of the unorganized workers was held in Chandigarh on November 30 – December 1, 2006. Representatives from central trade unions viz., UTUC-LS, AITUC, CITU, BMS, INTUC, HMS, UTUC and SEWA took part in the workshop. UTUC-LS was represented by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, President, Karnataka State Committee and member, All India Council, UTUC-LS and Comrade Ramesh Sharma, Secretary, UTUC-LS, Delhi State Committee.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna squarely raised the question as to whether the trade unions should get arrested in the ploy of so-called unorganized/informal sector issue, being raised by ruling classes of all countries. UTUC-LS, he said, has repeatedly pointed out that in our country, there is no so-called two formal and informal economies but one single capitalist economy. So also there cannot be two categories of workers – organized and unorganized. It is true that wherever workers are organized, they are to some extent protected with regard to minimum wages and other statutory benefits, while the unorganized workers are deprived of these. Therefore, slogan of the trade unions should be 'protect the unprotected!'

But vested interests are artificially dividing the workers into two categories so that two different yardsticks could be applied in framing labour policies. This is what the ruling class wants since after introduction of the policies of globalization, the earlier trend of transformation of unorganized section into organized category has been reversed. There is a deep-rooted conspiracy to deprive the vast masses of unorganized working people of their legitimate rights and privileges, but keep them confined to certain so-called concessions so as to prevent their wrath and grievances crystallizing into a massive movement against capitalist onslaught. Rebutting the view of some Trade Unionists that in globalization, growing plight of the workers is a fate accompli, Comrade Radhakrishna sounding an optimistic note reminded that in the struggle between labour and capital, the former is destined to emerge victorious. History vouches for that. Comrade Ramesh Sharma taking part in the panel discussion held in the final session of the workshop, criticized infiltration of foreign funded NGOs in the labour movement and overemphasizing their role. He called upon all trade unions to cement unity and build up powerful united movement to reverse the policies of globalization-liberalization.



JPA All India President Comrade Achintya Sinha addressing impressive gathering at Health Convention in Delhi on November 15, attended by doctors, nurses and paramedics from 16 states; veteran leader Rambabu Pandey presided

News of observance of all-India protest day on 30th December, 2006 against execution of Saddam Hussein will be covered in the next issue

Gruesome murder of 18-year old in Singur

Contd. from page 9
how will the government build factories?"

We see Mr Konar is 'prostrated' before the question of funding to the public-sector industries. The 'fragile' West Bengal economy can bear the cost of huge subsidies to the industrialists, huge tax waiver to the business tycoons, administrative extravagance, and fruitless foreign tours of the ministers; but when the question of funding industries in the government sector comes, the CPI(M) government becomes "prostrated". Even it cannot think of securing aids or credits from the financing agencies for that purpose though for other superfluous activities, these sources are frequently tapped. Is the "prostration" real then? Or it is a superb artistic dramatization?

But the "prostration" of Mr Konar reaches the peak when the CPI(M) is asked to build up a mass-movement against the Centre on the demand for more central funding. Mr Konar instantly comes to the rescue of the Congress government at the Centre – "Why the central government opens its coffers for us" Whose voice is it? Who is holding the brief for the Congress here? The Congress as a trusted agent of the bourgeoisie is disinvesting public sector industries to the glee of the monopolists. Why is the CPI(M) submitting apologetics for the Congress? Why is not CITU, its trade union arm, building up countrywide movement against disinvestments policy of the Centre?

Is it that all this pretensions of protest mere eyewash?

Singur exposes CPI(M)'s pro-capitalist politics

It is thus clear from the above discussion that the CPI(M) leaders are desperately pursuing the economic policy of the monopoly capitalism which through implementation of globalization of the market economy is squeezing the last drop of blood out of the toiling masses and dooming them to destitution. The CPI(M) under Marxist verbiage is nakedly serving the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. The forcible acquisition of fertile agricultural land in Singur under the smokescreen of sham industrialization is a glaring example as to what extent the CPI(M) leadership go in ruthlessly crushing people's legitimate struggle to defend the right to live, parading in distortion and falsification to obfuscate truth and vulgarizing the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism to camouflage perpetration of such a fraud on the people in pursuance of its mission to subvert capitalist class interest. It is time for the well-meaning progressive people of India and the honest rank of the CPI(M) to deal a crushing blow to this hated social democratic policy. Otherwise, the ruling capitalist class and its trusted representatives would in the days to come wreak havoc in the life of the toiling people plunging them into an abyss of darkness. Singur ought to be an eye-opener.

Arms build up

Contd. from page 7

eliminating war and its inevitability, that depends only upon abolishing capitalism-imperialism. The working classes and the common people of Germany and Japan also must recognize and realize this truth, in the face of the menacing arms build up and militarization being carried out by their ruling classes.

NB. *Facts and figures on US military presence in Germany and Japan are drawn from Congressional Budget Office based on data from Department of*

Defense, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense Base Structure Report: Fiscal Year 2003 Baseline (June 2003), available at www.defenselink.mil/news/Jun2003/basestructure2003.pdf; Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate of Information Operations and Reports, Department of Defense Active-Duty Personnel Strengths by Regional Area and by Country (309A) (September 30, 2002); and other Defense Department data.

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