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RED SALUTE COMRADE SUKOMAL DASGUPTA



Homage of the Central Committee to departed Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, former member of the Central Committee of the SUCI (C), a lifelong revolutionary, breathed his last on 10 October last at 6 am at Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital after prolonged illness. He was 82. Immediately after his demise, the Central Committee decided that the Red Flag would be kept at half-mast at all Party offices round the country and all Party leaders and workers would wear black badges for three days.

When Comrade Shibdas Ghosh along with seven of his revolutionary compatriots initiated an arduous struggle in the mid 1940's to build SUCI(C) as the genuine communist party on the soil, a handful of idealist meritorious students were deeply attracted by that unparalleled struggle and ideology of Comrade Ghosh and closely associated themselves with that process. Among those few was Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta. It was through the Culture Club of South Calcutta that he came in contact with the Party in that early stage of Party formation. He earned the prestige of being an elected delegate to the founding convention of the Party in Joynagar, West Bengal, on 24 April, 1948.

The Central Committee recalls with respect that Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta was appointed in-charge of the SUCI Students' Bureau, the first organization formed at the initial phase of the Party to work among the students. Later, as per decision of the Party, All India DSO was formed in 1954. In 1945, when the Chinese revolution was on the victory path and the struggle for emancipation was in full swing in Vietnam, a convention of the students of the South-East Asian countries was held in Calcutta. Under the leadership of Comrade Prithish Chanda, departed member of the First Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta played an important role in organizing that convention. As a student of chemistry, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta passed intermediate examination from Ashutosh College, B.Sc examination from Presidency College and finally M.Sc from the University College of Science, Calcutta. He initiated his life

struggle with the motto, "Revolution is life, Party is life." So, he had no intention of earning by securing a job. But in those hard days of the Party marked by acute financial constraint, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, under the instructions and out of the necessity of the Party, took up the job of teaching and joined first Arambagh College and then Sreerampur College as teacher of chemistry. Again, when the Party wanted him to quit the job and shoulder the responsibility of the West Bengal State Secretary in 1976, he without any hesitation obeyed that.

Many of his students and fellow professors remember with profound respect his modest revolutionary mode of life, the kindness and warmth of his character, his devotion towards teaching as an ideal teacher and above all, his unceasing endeavour to develop his students morally and ethically by the magical touch of revolutionary ideology and fatherly affection. Coming in contact with a truly ideal and caring teacher like him, many of his students associated themselves with the Party. Quite a number of them, in course of discharging revolutionary responsibilities are now occupying important positions in the Party. Realizing the important role then played by Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta in developing AIDSO in Sreerampur College, a local Congress leader who was a teacher of the same college, even organized a brutal attack on him by the anti-social elements. The professors and employees of the college as well as local residents raised their voice against this most reprehensible act and burst in protest against such a cowardly attack through rallies and strikes. Comrade Dasgupta used to feel restive at any problem arising in the field of education, at any attack on education by the government and jumped into organizing protest and resistance movements against the same. He was a front-ranking leader of the movements in demand of true secular scientific democratic education as well as of the legitimate democratic struggles of the teachers. For that reason, he was elected twice to the Senate of Calcutta University and so long as he served as a professor, he was elected by the college teachers to the



Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) offering red salute to Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

executive committee of the West Bengal College and University Teachers' Association as an ardent exponent of democratization of education. For a long time, he was President of the Bengal Primary Teachers' Association. He also played a significant role in building up movements and organizations of secondary teachers and employees and against all attacks on secondary education. Because of this fighting role of his in upholding the cause of education and the teachers, even today many primary, secondary and college-university teachers remember him with immense respect. The Central Committee recalls with reverence that in all democratic movements that surged forth during Congress rule after the Party foundation, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta played a prominent and active role and was imprisoned several times.

After the demise of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat and Founder General Secretary of the Party, in 1976, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, till then West Bengal State Secretary, took over as the General Secretary. It was Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta who then became the State Secretary. Prior to that, he, as a member of the West Bengal State Secretariat, shouldered the responsibility of building and overseeing Party organization in various districts. For a long time, he was editor of Proletarian Era, the central English organ and editor-in-chief of Ganadabi, the central Bengali organ of the Party.

Everyone knows that a historic sustained language-education movement grew against the

disastrous language-education policy of the CPI(M) government in West Bengal under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the then beloved General Secretary of the Party, and became victorious. As West Bengal State Secretary of the Party from 1976 to 1987, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta played a very important role in that movement. It was under the leadership of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta that the blood-soaked movement against unjust hike in transport fare was organized in 1983. He also played a leading and significant role in the All India Save Education movement that developed involving renowned educationists, jurists and persons of eminence against the attack on education by the central and state governments.

After he was relieved of his responsibility as the Secretary of the state in the first West Bengal State Conference held in 1987 as a part of the First Party Congress, he played a major role in the commission set up by the Central Committee for editing and publishing the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. As a sequel to that, publication of the Selected Works of the great leader started. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta was elected to the Central Committee in the First Party Congress.

After dismantling of socialism in the Soviet Union and the socialist camp in 1991, the Party under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee took initiative in developing a powerful anti-imperialist movement round the globe by intensifying the anti-imperialist struggles in the various

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Last Journey

The Red Flag was flying at half mast atop the headquarters of the SUCI (Communist) and down on the pavement in front of the party office were comrades and people streaming in wearing black badges. The gathering grew and grew till ultimately it spilled on the street. Everybody wanted to have a last glimpse of the leader, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, lying in state in the hall up on the first floor, bedecked with white flowers, in wreaths and garlands, and a Red Flag draping him, on which remained vibrant the symbol of revolution – hammer, sickle and star. He who carried the flag of revolution through trial and tribulation, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, former member of the Central Committee of our party, passed away the day before, on 10 October, 2010, at 6 early in the morning at the Calcutta Heart Clinic

and Hospital.

Comrade Dasgupta was fighting a difficult battle for quite a few years, his organs failing recurrently. His visits to the hospital became more and more frequent and finally the battle could not be continued. All efforts of the doctors and sisters at last turned futile, Comrade Dasgupta succumbed to multi-organ failure drowning innumerable comrades in deep sorrow.

As the sad news spread, comrades rushed to the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital at Salt Lake City. There Comrade Dasgupta was brought out of the Intensive Treatment Unit and was laid down on a platform set up on the green precincts of the hospital. In total silence could only be heard the somber slogan paying deepest respect – the Red Salute – to Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, and to the great leader of the proletariat

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh whose illumining thoughts have been preparing the grounds for the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in the Indian soil.

Among the comrades who reached the hospital in the morning were Comrades Anil Sen, veteran central leader and former Central Committee member, Provas Ghosh, General Secretary of the Party, Manik Mukherjee, Polit Bureau member, Debaprasad Sarkar and Gopal Kundu, both Central Committee members. Among the West Bengal State Secretariat members present were Comrades Tapan Roychowdhury and Swapan Ghosh. The available members of the State Committee, other leaders and many comrades including doctor and sister comrades, and also comrades on behalf of our central party organs, Proletarian Era (English) and Ganadabi (Bengali)

which comrade Sukomal Dasgupta was intimately connected with as editor for a long time, placed flowers around his body.

In the days of arduous struggle of party formation Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta came in contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and thus began his exemplary revolutionary struggle. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta belonged to the second batch of the leaders who together with other comrades waged the collective struggle of attaining higher communist character following the thoughts and guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta always had a happy ambiance, attracting comrades with his wit and humour that stemmed from the profundity of his revolutionary wisdom. Comrades who had come in close contact with him knew his love, his tenderness and caring attitude as well as his heightened theoretical understanding. Till he was afflicted by multiple serious diseases almost immobilizing him, he shouldered every responsibility the party had assigned him.

To pay their last respects to this revolutionary of a very high standard, leaders and comrades and people of different walks of life poured in the Party office at 48, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta, on 11 October. At his bier at the Party office wreaths were placed by Comrade Anil Sen, veteran central leader and former Central Committee member of the Party, Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, Comrades Manik Mukherjee, Ranjit Dhar and Asit Bhattacharya, all Polit Bureau



Polit Bureau and Central Committee members bidding adieu to Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta at the crematorium

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Last Journey

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members, Comrades Debaprasad Sarkar, Gopal Kundu and Sankar Saha, all Central Committee members. Comrade Soumen Bose, Central Committee member and WB State secretary, members of the State Secretariat and State Committee also placed floral wreaths on the body of Comrade Dasgupta as a mark of respect. On behalf of the Jharkhand State Organizing Committee of our Party, Comrade Sumit Roy paid respects with flowers. Floral tributes were paid by the leaders of AIDS, AIMSS, AIUTUC, AIKKMS, Komsomol, BPTA, STEA, ABUTA, Medical Service Centre, as well as on behalf of the district committees of state Party and other party units and fronts, Proletarian Era, Ganadabi, All India anti-Imperialist Forum, Pathikrit, various mass organizations, mass forums and cultural organizations. Leaders of other parties who paid floral tribute to Comrade Dasgupta were Comrades Biman Basu, Polit Bureau member and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, CPI(M), Kshiti Goswami and Manoj Bhattacharyya, Central

Committee members of the RSP, Manju Kumar Mazumdar, Secretary, West Bengal State Council, CPI, Kartik Pal, Central Committee member, CPI(ML)-Liberation, Chitta Nath and Kalipada Ghosh of Bolshevik Party and Shri Partha Chatterjee, leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, on behalf of Shrimati Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool Congress Chief and Union Railway Minister and also on his own behalf. Floral Tribute was paid on behalf of Comrade Sudarshan Roy Chowdhury, Higher Education Minister, West Bengal. Quite a number of colleagues of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta of Sreerampur College as well as the present principal of the college also paid respect to the departed leader with flowers. Prior to being brought to the Party office, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta's body was taken to the office of the West Bengal College and University Teachers' Association (WBCUTA) where the WBCUTA members paid last respect to him with floral bouquets.

At half past three the last journey started from the central

Party office. At the forefront moving was one comrade holding at a slanting the Red Flag dipped in half mast. A long banner written on it in bold — RED SALUTE COMRADE SUKOMAL DASGUPTA, followed. Then 82 Komsomol comrades marched with 82 red flags signifying the age of the departed leader. Then marched the West Bengal State Committee members. Following was the bier carrying Comrade Dasgupta accompanied by the Central Committee members. Then a long disciplined and silent procession proceeded. Only refrain of the *Internationale* and the song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could be heard. The long procession traversed through Lenin Sarani, then with a right turn it entered the S.N. Banerjee Road through which it reached the expanse of the Esplanade. People flanking were watching the graceful procession in silence, respectful to the leader of the Party which is consistently waging mass and class struggles on burning problems in the face of barbaric police atrocities, even firing. From central Party office to the Keoratala Cremation

Ground it was a long journey. The procession crossed the Park Street, went past Rabindra Sadan, passed through Bhowanipur, reached Hazra crossing, went towards Rashbehari crossing and turning right after some time it came to a halt at the Keoratala Crematorium. Already dark had descended and street lights were on.

The comrades gave their last glance on the beloved leader. Comrade Provas Ghosh and other Polit Bureau and Central Committee members bade adieu to the lifelong revolutionary leader with red salute. Comrades raised their last slogans, gave their red salute to Comrade Dasgupta with fists clamped in resolve. For him Comrades raised their voice in chorus to sing the *Internationale*.

Komsomol comrades then paid him guard of honour. And for the last time to the honour of Comrade Sukomolda, comrades sang the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat.

And then the mortal remains of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta were consigned to flames to our tears, to our pledge to carry on the task of revolution till the last.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2010

Sordid state of bourgeois politics revealed once again

Between 21 October and 20 November, elections to the Bihar State Assembly will be held, in which the people of Bihar will have to be involved once again. For a long time, the Lalu-Rabri-led RJD government was installed in power, having capitalized the widespread discontent of the so-called backward and scheduled section of people under Congress misrule and the oppression of the so-called upper social castes. People were suffering because of rampant corruption, bribe-taking, caste hatred, malpractice and irregularities in projects related to education, health and other services, under the 15-year-long regime of the RJD government that ruled on with support from the CPI and the CPI(M). Discontent and thoughts of change generated unrest among the people. In the last election to the Bihar assembly, the coalition of Nitish Kumar-led out and out communal BJP and the JDU based on the so-called upper caste versus

very backward caste politics – cashed in on the extensive mass unrest as well as absence of a mighty pro-people movement of the left, to come to power having hoodwinked the people with false promises of 'good administration' and 'development'. A hope was born in the minds of the distressed and helpless people suffering from poverty, hunger and unemployment – there would be a betterment of administration, their misery and sufferings would end and life would be happier. But they learnt from their experiences that basically no change has been effected, neither were their troubles and woes ended under this regime. In reality no improvement resulted in the life of the people, despite the winds of 'good administration' and 'development' blown on and rosy pictures of villages drawn in the files. Admittedly, only one job is being done by all parties, that is to distribute the lollipop of reservation sometimes to the backward, at other

times to the very backward masses, to the Muslims or at times to the women and that too instead of opening up job opportunity. The fact remains though that under the prevalent decadent capitalist system there is no possibility of creating job opportunities. They are thus cheating the simple, poor, suffering and unconscious marginal people.

Under Nitish Kumar-led government problems are only intensified

On the one hand, Nitish Kumar went on beating the drums of good administration and development for another five years, on the other hand, even during harvest the farmers had to purchase manure (DAP urea) at about double price in black-market. Neither has Nitish Kumar-led government done anything to control floods or work out a permanent solution for drought. 60% of the tubewells are just left to rot. In the absence of proper provision of storage by the

government, potato and onion producing farmers have been compelled to undergo distress sale. News of suicide of these farmers burdened with loans has come out in the dailies. During drought, there were government declarations of subsidy for diesel, but most of the farmers could not avail of that facility. In government offices, corruption has increased and so has bureaucracy – a fact which even their own members admit. The graphs of malpractice and looting in such welfare projects as the Indira Abas Yojana, public distribution system, MONREGA etc, have gone up. The migration of rural workers and poor peasants to other states in search of jobs owing to acute unemployment and mounting poverty is still continuing. There was much drum beating about reopening of closed down mills and factories and coming up of newer industries. A global meet of national and foreign capitalists was held at

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People gasping under miserable economic plight

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Patna with much fanfare draining away millions of people money. Yet not even a single factory has started in the city. Neither have the closed down sugar mills been opened up. The manure factory at Barauni, the Rohtas projects, the factories at Marowra are still closed. Darkness prevails over the industrial areas of Muzaffarpur, Fatuha, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, etc. Salaries of and employees orkers in the education, transport and some other government departments are kept due for about one and a half years to two years – driving these people on to starvation. Teachers and non-teaching staff are being employed on contract violating their service conditions, acquired through long struggle. Even employment of doctors, nurses and technicians is taking place on contract basis. The government is acquiring land and handing them over to capitalist at a low cost – for them to open institutions like medical college, engineering college and IIT. It is going beyond the reach of poor and lower-middle class families to afford the fees of such institutions. As it stands, who alone other than children from affluent families can afford to study there? Government officials, leaders and executives of the ruling parties and the well-off stand to gain. Due to the PPP policy privatization is rampant in education, transport and other services. Any amount of fees are being charged in schools, colleges and universities. Students are deterred from engaging in political activities.

Unrestrained encroachment on the autonomy of the universities is taking place. In keeping with the central government's policy, inimical to the interest of education, it is being turned into a sellable commodity in the name of self-financing.

The government is claiming to have constructed highways, flyovers, even four-lane highways and elegant parks. Certainly some of these things have come up. But the government has made no provision for farmers who have lost their lands, or for those whose homes were demolished in the process. No arrangements were made to rehabilitate the homeless – they died on streets. Not only this, drug addiction and drinking habits

were encouraged – by indiscriminately issuing license to open liquor shops in villages. Even women have been given license to sell liquor – something unprecedented in the history of the state.

In fact people have nothing to rejoice about under this regime. Changes have come only in case of the bureaucracy, industrialists, black-marketers and the leaders of the ruling parties. The Nitish Kumar-led government beating drums of good administration has followed the footsteps of the Congress and Lalu-Rabri governments to brutally suppress all movements against its anti-people policies – be those movements by ASHAs, by teachers or by students. Even women demonstrators were beaten up with lathis by male police. It is our experience that the present government with its high flown slogans of good administration and development is as much pro-capitalist and anti-people as the previous Congress and RJD governments. Citing such anti-people character of JDU-BJP government, Congress the most trusted party of the capitalist class and utterly anti-people, is attempting to find its place back in Bihar. The very same Congress that had been ruling in Bihar for a long time since independence and had broken the backbone of the people are now trying to befool the people. It is indeed ridiculous for the Congress prince Rahul Gandhi to talk of a change of rule in Bihar while Congress goes on implementing one after another anti-

people policies at the Centre, dealing fatal blows of price hike on the people. Again Lalu Prasad Yadav having shattered the life of people for 15 years together, is once more attempting to ride the saddle of power in collusion with Ram Vilas Paswan – the self-proclaimed messiah of the helpless, poor and backward people.

Unbearable economic plight

At the time of independence, the state of Bihar consisted of present-day Bihar and Jharkhand. Whatever little attempts were made to build up industries took place mostly in the Jharkhand part, with only one or two in the present-day Bihar. Within a few years the process was slowed under the impact of market crisis. Just as in other parts of the country, as an inevitable outcome of market crisis not only was the building up of new mills and factories stalled, but older ones either downed their shutter or else started resorting to large scale retrenchment of workers. Soon capital-intensive industries started replacing labour-intensive ones. In Bihar too, sugar mills one by one, the projects at Dalmianagar, different factories at Marowra, the established medicine factory at Muzaffarpur IDPL, highly developed tanneries at Muzaffarpur, Barauni and Betia were closed down. Deprived of government aid ten thousand small industries in different districts ceased to work. As an inevitable outcome, retrenchment of workers and labourers assumed a menacing proportion. With no new factories

coming up job opportunities were squeezed and survival became more difficult. People totally dependent upon agriculture having no other option to earn throughout the year gradually turned into landless peasants. In villages, sharecroppers grew in number and earning was more difficult for them. Soaring price hike drove them on to greater distress; greater number of landless peasants and sharecroppers turned rural labourers. To somehow subsist they are now daily moving on to cities with a hope to secure jobs. In their own state there is a dearth of mills and factories so they are compelled to proceed to other states. But there too unable to secure jobs they pull rickshaws and carts etc. Majority failing in their efforts, suffer and die like cats and dogs, sans any treatment. Sometimes they are made to face and suffer humiliation by workers of the state concerned, out of fear of loss of job.

The condition is equally miserable for those who are trying to survive in the village. It is better not to speak about the miserable condition of education, health, electricity, pure drinking water or of the village roads. Other than delivering speeches no government – whoever leads it is taking any effective step. Not to speak of providing middle and poor peasants with manure, seeds, electricity and water for irrigation, the cost of all this is going up. Moreover, peasants are not even getting the full amount of market price for their produce as they are compelled to depend on the

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Homage to departed Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

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countries. As an early step of this initiative, the first international conference was held in London in 1992. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta represented the Party in that conference. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta also represented the Party in the International Communist Seminar in Brussels. Afterwards, other leaders also played a role in developing international connections. In this process, at first All India anti-imperialist Forum and then International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee with

Ramsey Clark as President were formed.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta became gravely ill in 2003. His life was under threat. Tireless efforts of the doctors saved his life but he could not be back to normal life. In the last few years, he was afflicted by various diseases recurrently. A soon as he recuperated a bit, he discharged the responsibility of carrying out various writing assignments with full dedication. But in the last two years, there was marked deterioration in his condition for which he had to be hospitalized on and often in critical

condition. This time also, he was admitted in the hospital for treatment in an extremely critical condition. But frustrating all efforts of the doctors, he passed away on 10 October. In his death, the long eventful revolutionary life of a distinguished communist leader has come to an end. SUCI (C) and left-democratic movement have lost one of the front ranking leaders.

Red Salute lifelong revolutionary Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

Red Salute Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

Long Live SUCI (Communist)

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2010

Pseudo-Marxists desert left-democratic movement

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agents for selling out the same – the latter taking off the bulk profit and giving just a meager share to the real producer. Owing to black marketeering, hoarding and speculation with overt and covert indulgence from the government, price of every essential commodity has simply sky-rocketed. With this exorbitant price rise purchasing power of all sections of common people is being daily slashed, poverty goes on intensifying. With the price of essential commodities getting disproportionately higher than the price at which food crops are being purchased from the farmers, farmers are driven to seek loans at higher interests either from usurers or from banks and the burden of loans is increasing formidably. Most of the farmers are not able to meet up the loans since they cannot procure appropriate value for their produce. Hence just as in other states, here too farmers are committing suicide. The plight of farmers has reached a point, where many of them are considering it better not to till their lands. In cities the number of destitute migrants from the villages is going up. They are driven to a life on the city streets. Taking advantage of the ever-growing poverty corrupt businessmen and person with ill motives are getting a large number of misguided youth involved in theft, dacoity, snatching, wagon breaking and even more dangerous crimes and immoral activities.

After the tremendous and heroic resistance of the peasants of Nandigram and Singur of West Bengal against grabbing of their fertile farmland in the name of development, the Bihar government led by Nitish Kumar declared that there would not be any SEZ in Bihar. He also committed that there would be no project to develop on

cultivable land. But, during his reign alone in the Marwan area of Muzaffarpur district, industrialist Bal Mukund has purchased about 50 acres of fertile land and has started to erect an asbestos factory there. At first, the peasants did not understand what the results could be. Everybody knows that extremely fine asbestos dusts floating in air can get into the lungs and can cause cancer. Also, the factory has dug very deep tubewells for water. In full operation, they will dry up borings and wells of adjacent lands of peasants pushing them into great crisis. The question has thus come up : How could the Nitish Kumar government fully aware of all these consequences, grant permission for building up the factory on a fertile land vital for the peasants there? Workers and peasants of the area have raised protest against all these. The nexus of police-administration-factory owners, in turn, have come down aggressively upon the protesting people to crush their movement. What kind of sympathy for peasants does this event reflect, one can very well judge it. Also many peasants have lost all their land for the construction of four-lane or six-lane highways. They did not even receive adequate compensation. Besides, with the meagre amount of compensation they got, how long could they sustain and survive? Their land provides them means to somehow eke out a living. How would they manage it without that land? But there is not a shred of concern on the part of the government regarding the rehabilitation and livelihood of these hapless victims.

It is also being found that in the spate of globalization, monopolists and the MNCs taking advantage of the increasing poverty and illiteracy of the poor and marginally placed

peasants are making fast and successful moves to earn huge profits by investing their capital in the land of those peasants and founding agricultural farming on those plots. Even though mechanization of agriculture stood in the aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class, till now, they did not take to the road of that process. It was because they feared that mechanization would throw vast number of people out of their land and make them unemployed in the prevailing agro-economic system, while with already acute unemployment increasing constantly, it would not be possible to provide them employment in industries. This would further intensify social crisis, the ruling class apprehended, pushing the evicted peasants and agricultural labourers towards working class revolution. But in the situation attained with globalization, in face of newer contradictions, there is a change now coming in the attitude of the monopolists. This is reflected in politics, as we find that Nitish Kumar, the present chief minister of Bihar, himself gave effect to devaluing the Land Ceiling Act, when he was the Minister of agriculture in the BJP-led Union government under Atal Bihari Bajpai, thereby providing the monopolists with further advantage. In many states the Land Ceiling Act has already been made ineffective. The same thing is going to happen in Bihar too. This has boosted the monopolists to invest in agro-farming. Naturally that would only cause fearsome increase in the number of landless peasants. The minimum certainty that was there in their life, will be fast eroded as they will lose everything and will be forced to come down to streets. At the same time, it is found that taking advantage of absence of powerful

people's movement, the government is denying its responsibility towards fulfilling its commitments towards people of cities, towns, as well as villages, that it used to do earlier. This way, the devastating spate of globalization is shattering people's life.

Election this time, a height of unprincipled politics

It is being found that none of the major parties are caring for any principle in their campaign for the present election. Be it Congress or BJP, or for that matter RJD, JDU or LJP, all of them are trying to win the election battle playing upon racism, casteism and communalism. When one of these parties try to draw the Rajput strong-arms towards it, another would take the Bhumihar power in its company, while a third make attempts to rely on Muslim musclemen. In their bid to reap harvest for themselves and their own political career, they are setting up unprecedented instances of opportunism. With all calculations and considerations, if father joins RJD, the son takes shelter in BJP; if husband is trying his luck with this party, the wife chos to try another. If a party refuses to grant somebody a 'ticket', i.e., a candidature for the election, he or she simply walks out through the door and joins another party. If that party too does not meet the demand, the choice is left open to join any party whatsoever. For 'tickets' shameful acts like vandalizing of party offices, manhandling of leaders, are now being found to characterize all major parties.

People aspire for united movement of left and democratic forces

Be it on the issue of flood or drought or of price-rise, our party SUCI (C) has been continuously trying to develop united movement of left and democratic forces. But owing to the fact that CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML) Liberation are not sincere in developing these struggles, powerful left and democratic movement could not be developed in the state. But today mass movement is very important and it is the choice of the left and democratic forces as well as aspiration of the progressive minded people that the communists

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Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C), and President, AIUTUC, conducting UP state level School of Politics of AIUTUC at Lucknow which was held from 1 to 3 October, 2010

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and all other left and democratic forces be united in struggle on burning problems of people's life, fight the election on those issues and carry on the struggle afterwards to develop it into massive form. Otherwise, reactionary, racist and communalist forces are sure to gain strength. But instead of doing it, the CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML) Liberation first tried to make an understanding with the casteist parties like RJD of Laloo Prasad or LJP of Ramvilas Pashwan with a view to securing a few seats. When that did not materialize, they decided to field dummy candidates. Our Party, uniting with RSP, Forward Bloc, and MCPI(U) made repeated appeals to these three parties to forge a broad unity of left and democratic forces, but they never responded positively. In such a situation, our party has decided to fight this election on the issues of burning problems of people's life forging unity with RSP, Forward Bloc, CPI(ML) and MCPI(U) as also to continue the united movement on those issues after the election.

In this connection, we would like to point out that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Founder General Secretary of the Party provided us with invaluable teachings on how a revolutionary party in particular and people in general, should view parliamentary elections in a capitalist state. He showed that people of the country fought the freedom struggle not just for freedom from the British rule, but also for ending all sorts of exploitation. Repeatedly and emphatically, he pointed out that there is no other way to achieve that unfulfilled goal of the freedom movement of the country, i.e., emancipation of people from all sorts of exploitation without treading the path of mass and class struggles. That is why people must be freed from the illusions of elections, because election only helps in change of government, but does not change the state power. And without that change, capitalism persists as it is, its rule and exploitation continue unabated. While explaining the importance of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, he said that the movement of the working class for capturing state power will develop only through a prolonged preparation. This process will require development of peoples'

alternative political power through sustained mass and class struggles under the leadership of the revolutionary party of the working class and through making the exploited people politically conscious and organized on the strength of Marxism-Leninism and its higher culture. At the same time, he explained it categorically that so long as these goals are not attained, the ruling capitalist order will hold parliamentary elections with pomp and grandeur to distract people from thinking about revolution, and people in absence of their adequate political consciousness will be entangled in this process of parliamentary elections. In such a situation, following teachings of the great leader of the proletariat Lenin, a revolutionary party must take part in elections with a view to freeing people from the illusions of elections and if it can achieve a victory, it must strive to expose the real face of the bourgeois rule, bourgeois constitution and bourgeois republic by acting from within parliament or assembly, and thereby must free people from the illusion of these. Today it is clear as daylight that the road to emancipation of millions of exploited people lies in this penetrating analysis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In it there is the correct direction of fulfilling people's urge. 61 years have passed by since independence. There have been elections, one after another, to panchayats, assemblies and the parliament. MLAs and MPs have changed. So many times, the Union and the state governments have gone through changes. But, the grip of capitalist exploitation, instead of being loosened, has become tighter and tougher. It has made the country a hell, has bled its people white. This situation confirms the correctness of the guidelines and analyses of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. To step up the movement for freeing people from all sorts of exploitation, one and all sections of toiling people would have to step forward firmly along the road to socialist revolution as enumerated and directed by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

We appeal to all sections of people taking part in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly election to vote for SUCI (C), CPI(ML), RSP, Forward Bloc, MCPI(U) candidates wherever

Comrade Ranjit Modak passes away

Comrade Ranjit Modak, Member, SUCI(C) Jharkhand State Organizing Committee and State President of Jharkhand All India UTUC breathed his last on 22 September at the age of 75. He was under dialysis for quite a long time due to damaged kidneys and could not recover in spite of all medical efforts. At the news of his death leaders, cadres, supporters and sympathizers of the party, as also workers, intellectuals and



other sections of common people rushed to the hospital. The next day, the funeral procession with his mortal remains was brought out from the Jamshedpur party office to reach Maango cremation ground. There comrades, with tears, paid their last tribute with the slogan ' Long live Dear leader Ranjitda' .

Comrade Ranjit Modak hailed from Jamshedpur. In the fifties of the last century he went to Birbhum of West Bengal for studies. There he came in contact with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, and involved himself with the party. The party was at its very beginning stage, naturally passing through acute financial difficulties. Comrade Modak's parents used to send Rupees five hundred per month, from which amount, keeping a fraction for his studies, he submitted the rest to the party fund. At the same time he played a significant role in an election in Birbhum being held amidst much difficult conditions. Thereafter he went back to Jamshedpur for a service. There he came in touch with Comrade Hiren Sarkar, Central Committee member of the party and started his party work afresh. As the party expanded in Jamshedpur and adjacent regions, sudden demise of Comrade Hiren Sarkar came as a bolt and created a big void before the party. Comrade Modak was then working as an Engineer in TELCO. At the call of the Party he resigned and submitted all the money he got from his office to the party leadership. He started a new phase of arduous struggle to fill up the void the party faced. He left his home and started staying at the Party office. Soon he succeeded to boost up the party organization, while at the same time led a few successful workers' movements, as the President of a number of trade unions in the industrial belts of Adityapur, Dhalbhumgarh and Musabani. He even led a few militant peasants movement on several rural issues. Such sustained mass movements worked at the back of expansion of the organizations in the region. In course of this struggle, Comrade Ranjit Modak was elected member of the then undivided Bihar State Committee and Secretary Singbhum District Committee of the Party.

Later in the nineties, Comrade Modak led the movement in Potka region of Singbhum district for protection and conservation of forest resources from the greedy hands of miscreants and vested circles. The miscreants attempted on his life and he had to be admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. He not only had a score of fractures, the attack told severely on his general health too. He could never recover totally, lost his memories several times and had to be admitted to the hospital now and then. Even then his unbending mental strength pulled him through to resume party work as best as he could do. However, the attack finally took its toll at his death.

To Comrade Modak, party cadres were his nearest kins. Party and revolution were his life. He did have no personal life beyond that. Soft spoken, ever-smiling Comrade Modak was indomitably courageous. Even during his busiest moments of work, he took keen interest in studying party literature. The character and life struggle of Comrade Ranjit Modak will always inspire us, particularly in an ambience where crisis-ridden capitalism is bringing about cultural and moral degeneration in every sphere of life and society.

Red Salute Comrade Ranjit Modak !

applicable, to strengthen the united left and democratic movement and its unity in Bihar. We raise the following demands on the burning problems of life and pledge to carry

out massive and widespread struggle on these demands within the Assembly, if made victorious, as well as outside it.

Contd. on page 8

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2010**SUCI(C) appeals to vote for five-party combination***Contd. from page 7*

We demand :

1. Permanent solution of the problem of flood and drought with the help of proper water policy,
 2. No setting up of industries on fertile cultivable lands, instead use fallow land for that purpose,
 3. Government loan without interest for the poor peasants and share croppers; along with it, we demand supply of fertilizer, seeds, pesticide, electricity, diesel at cheaper rates to the poor and middle peasants providing adequate subsidies for the purpose,
 4. Guarantee of round-the-year job and proper wage to the agricultural and other labours of villages,
 5. No change of earlier land holding Act, instead framing the act in totality for private property properly and its strict implementation, we demand as well framing of pro-people
6. Stop privatization and commercialization of education and health,
 7. Bringing down of price of all commodities dealing firmly with hoarding and black marketeering with an eye towards putting clamp upon price rise,
 8. Immediate confiscation of all black money accumulated in the country as well as deposited in foreign banks,
 9. Guarantee of jobs to all unemployed and till it is provided granting unemployment allowance to them,
 10. Opening of all closed down factories and industries,
 11. Provision for permanent job and stopping recruitment on contract in schools, colleges, hospitals, offices, factories and industries,
 12. Scrapping of all black acts like the POTA, AFSPA, etc., and

land reform act and implementing it firmly,

Make SUCI(C) candidates victorious

District	Constituency	Candidate
MUZAFFARPUR	1. KURHANI	Comrade Lalbabu Mahato
	2. PAROO	Comrade Yogendra Ram
	3. KANTI	Comrade Kashinath Sahani
	4. SAHEBGANJ	Comrade Yadavlal Patel
VAISHALI	1. MAHUA	Comrade Lalit Kumar Ghosh
	2. VAISHALI	Comrade Singeshwar Bhakt
MUNGER	1. JAMALPUR	Comrade Pramod Kumar
	2. TARAPUR	Comrade Narayan Yadav
BHAGALPUR	1. SULTANGANJ	Comrade Shiv Nandan Sharma
	PATNA	1. KUMHRAR

stopping of state sponsored terrorism,

13. Stop capitalist globalization, privatization and liberalization,
14. Stopping and prevention of all sorts of atrocities on women, dealing firmly with propaganda and spread of pornographic magazines, dramas, advertisement, or

films etc., stopping of use of all kinds of narcotic materials including liquors, drugs etc.;

15. Stopping of irregularities, corruption in respect of all government projects like MONREGA, BPL, Indira Abas Yojana, Public distribution system (rationing), etc.

Thousands march against racism and anti-Muslim bigotry in USA

In a direct challenge to the poisonous hate campaign by racist forces in the USA that made September 11 into a racist attack on Muslims, thousands of progressive and democratic-minded people of every nationality marched in New York against racism and anti-Muslim bigotry on the ninth anniversary of September 11. And this Unity and Solidarity Rally far outnumbered the reactionary, racist hate rallies.

"We had at least 10,000 people" said Sara Flounders, the Co-director of International Action Center and Secretariat member of Workers World Party, who was one

of the coordinators of the Unity and Solidarity Rally. The anti-racist Rally featured noted personalities such as anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, former Congressperson Cynthia McKinney, and Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General and Founder of International Action Center, and attracted over fifty speakers from the labor movement, immigrants' rights coalitions, and clergy from synagogues, churches and mosques — representing the dynamic diversity of almost every community in New York.

The message from the nearly 50 speakers on the stage of the

Emergency Mobilization action was a strong one of solidarity and unity — solidarity with the Muslim community in the United States and unity of all the forces who came that day in the struggle against all forms of racism and scapegoating, against U.S. wars abroad and for jobs, education and social benefits at home.

Larry Holmes of the Bail Out the People Movement explained the need to stand up to racism to build the unity needed in the fight for jobs and against war. Describing the mobilization, Holmes said, "We brought out the real New York City — a city of workers and peoples of color from all around the world... This mobilization ... will continue because we have to open up the struggle against war, against racism, and for jobs, education and health care. There is much more to fight for..."

"What makes the Tea Party

dangerous is that they are not in fact a grassroots organization," Sarah Flounders said. "They receive millions of dollars from oil billionaires like the Koch brothers and other allies of Wall Street."

"But knowing this makes it all the more impressive that a truly grassroots, people's mobilization like the Unity and Solidarity Rally — without the benefit of buses coming from all over the country and without the backing of media personalities — was able to outnumber the forces of bigotry on September 11."

"With the other unity rallies in Gainesville, Florida and Buffalo, New York, these displays of anti-racist solidarity represent the potential to turn the tide against anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant backlash and become a peoples' movement for jobs, housing and healthcare."

AIDYO conference in Mumbai

The first youth conference in Mumbai organized by All India Democratic Youth Organization (AIDYO) was held at LaxmibaiNanbhai Agaskar Hall on 10 October, 2010. Honorable guests were Justice Suresh Hegiste and noted Journalist Shri Jatin bhai Desai. The programme was held on 10th October AI DYU leaders Comrades B.R.Manjunath and Pratibha Naik addressed the gathering

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