

# Proletarian Era

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28 Nov. 1820 -5 Aug. 1895

## Long live great Engels

"The working-man knows too well, as learned from too oft-repeated experience, that the law is a rod which the bourgeois has prepared for him; ... Since, however, the bourgeoisie cannot dispense with government, but must have it to hold the equally indispensable proletariat in check, it turns the power of government against the proletariat and keeps out of its way as far as possible...."

(Condition of the Working Class in England)

## SUCI(C) demands immediate repeal of three Black Criminal Laws

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 01-07-24:-

"Defying public opinion and voice of the jurists as well as other eminent personalities, the BJP government has implemented the three Black Criminal Laws today. The Laws though claimed to be in replacement of the earlier ones legislated during colonial regime are in fact more draconian and stringent and slated to turn the country into a Police Raj. It is clear that the BJP government is determined to carry forward the undeclared emergency and fascist autocratic rule it has been continuing for last ten years to make life further disastrous for the toiling masses.

We demand immediate repeal of the Laws and call upon all democratic-minded people, jurists and intelligentsia to raise united voice in support of this demand."

Observe the 48th Death Anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in a befitting manner



Mass Rally in Kolkata

on 5th August 2024

at 2 pm

:: Main Speaker ::

**Comrade Provash Ghosh**

General Secretary

:: President ::

**Comrade Chiraranjan Chakraborty**  
Member, Central Committee

**SUCI(C)**

## Surge of a powerful mass movement in leftist direction could inflict crushing defeat to BJP

Comrade Provash Ghosh

[This is the speech delivered online by Comrade Provash Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, on 17 June 2024. Comrade Provash Ghosh has edited the speech before publication.]

Comrades,

You all deserve my heartiest congratulation and red salute as you have wholeheartedly responded to the call of the Party and braving unbearable heatwave as well as all other odds and difficulties have rendered untiring service with full sincerity and dedication holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought and implementing Party's revolutionary line with firm determination, perseverance and patience. What was our object with which we participated in the election? Let me quote our great teacher and leader, outstanding Marxist thinker Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. "When the Party of the proletariat participates in the election with the object of the revolutionary purposiveness being compelled with the necessity to remain with the people,"—note this line "being compelled by the necessity to remain with people"—"it does so on the basis of mass revolutionary political line. It also tries utmost to win seats. But the essence of its objective is never to anyhow grab maximum seats. The revolutionary party's focal point is to educate the people as to how to fight the election on the basis of a mass revolutionary line and in doing so, if we can win maximum seats; all the better If we cannot, not even a single seat,



so be it. If we can retain ten seats, then be it so. But the central, the focal point can never be to anyhow grab some seats."<sup>1</sup> This is the guideline before us.

### Polarization before election

In this election, there were two bourgeois combinations—the NDA led by the BJP, the ruling party, and the INDIA combination led by the

Congress. And both were at loggerheads with each other to grab political power and both were backed by this or that group of monopoly houses. It is known to us. And it was also a fact that abandoning leftism and united left struggle, the CPI (M), CPI and CPI (ML) Liberation joined the bandwagon of INDIA combination, led by the Congress, a bourgeois party, only to reap benefits in the hustings. It has been a worst opportunism on their part at the critical hour of our country. This has also disgraced them further. Historically, as a Marxist party guided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, we have been raising the banner of Marxism-Leninism and revolutionary interest of the proletariat and its revolutionary line.

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## AIDSO leaders arrested from a protest march in Kerala



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Comrade Provash Ghosh

## Abandoning united left struggle, CPI (M), CPI and CPI (ML) Liberation have joined the bandwagon of Congress-led INDIA combination

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We fought in 151 seats throughout the country with the objective that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us i.e. to propagate proletarian revolutionary line during the election battle. And our endeavour was to contact as many people as possible and carry to them our revolutionary line and approach. It is clear to us since long that much glorified parliamentary democracy is reduced, as pointed out in our statement, to a mummified skeleton. The entire election was conducted and outcome decided by the bourgeoisie with its money power, administrative power and media power. It cunningly engineered a polarization where one was persuaded to choose between this bourgeois party or that bourgeois combination. There was no consideration for a third option. In that way, the mindset of the entire people was prepared. Under these circumstances, it was hardly possible, if not totally impossible, for the proletarian revolutionary party to win seats. In this situation, a proletarian revolutionary party might win seats if it could develop strong mass bases on the basis of intensive class struggle so that people of those organized mass belts accept revolutionary line, firmly stand by that line and cannot be carried away by the bourgeois media propaganda or lured by bourgeois money power. Only then it may be possible for a proletarian revolutionary party to win seats. It should be clear to our comrades. The strength of a revolutionary party is not determined by how many seats it can win. Even in 1917, before November revolution, in the Duma, the Russian parliament, representation of the Bolshevik party was insignificant. Moreover, in the soviets also, in the initial stage, Bolsheviks were in absolute minority. But, being guided by great Lenin, Bolsheviks conducted intensive ideological struggle within the soviets and then won majority. With how many MPs or MLAs did great Mao Zedong make revolution successful in China or Comrade Ho Chi Minh make revolution successful in Vietnam? So for a revolutionary party it does not matter how many seats it has won or whether it has failed to secure any. We did never claim that we would gain this or that seat. But our objective was totally fulfilled. First of all, we have been able to propagate our political line among the masses in the constituencies where we contested. And people were very much impressed by our political views. It is worth noting. Secondly, we got a few

thousand contacts throughout the country—left minded people, followers of the CPI(M), CPI, a good number of non-left minded democrats, large number of workers, peasants, middle class people and even some activists of the CPI(M), CPI have joined our Party. These are our achievements. Moreover, our achievements have been in other areas as well. Many of our comrades have learnt the art of public speaking. They have proved to be good speakers in this election battle. Many comrades have learnt to explore new areas, to contact new people, to know how to convince the people. In this way, the Party has been strengthened. These comrades are prepared to shoulder higher responsibilities. My red salute to Madhya Pradesh state comrades, particularly Comrade Ajit Panwar, for the fearless and heroic stand during election in the Indore constituency. Comrade Ajit has brightened the image of the Party throughout the country by not bending before the threats of the BJP. Another feature we noted is that wherever our poll prospects were better, we did not get expected number of votes. But in many constituencies where our organization is not that strong or weak, our polled votes have been much more than what we had expected. Why so? My understanding is that in the constituencies where we would have fared, the opposing forces had concentrated their attention, worked their election machinery in full swing and ensured that we did not get expected number of votes. But in the seats where we were not viewed to be in contest, were not given that attention by them and hence our votes have been much more than expected.

### All ploys and gimmicks of BJP proved futile

In this election, it seemed to us, that there was a current against the BJP, although it was not so much powerful. Whatever ploy the BJP had adopted to mislead the people like highlighting installation of Ram Mandir, fanning up anti-Muslim hatred and spreading utter falsehoods, have mostly failed. Even their installed Lord Ram betrayed them abjectly when the BJP lost the Ayodhya (Faizabad) seat. PM Modi, claimed himself as descendant of god. His "child of god" image instead of increasing, has substantially reduced his vote margin. Then he, in flagrant violation of electoral code which prohibits campaigning 36 hours before polling, went to Kanyakumari

to meditate in camera glare which was widely telecast. It was a deceit to mislead the people. All these were done with the nominated Election Commission as a silent onlooker. This proved how 'free and fair' had been the election! Yet the BJP failed to secure absolute majority and PM Modi's margin of victory came down from 5 lakh to 1.5 lakh. So there was an undercurrent against the BJP all over the country which could not be taken advantage of by the Congress-led combination. But in some states, state factor also worked in determining poll results. In Andhra Pradesh, there was too much discontent against the misrule of incumbent YSRCP government of Jaganmohan Reddy. Capitalizing on that, Chandrababu Naidu in alliance with the BJP won the election. Similarly the BJP gained in Odisha exploiting mounting grievances against Naveen Patnaik-led state BJD government. The BJP registered better result in Bihar by uniting with Nitish Kumar. In MP, the BJP scored major gain as the Congress there was very weak. In Delhi also, opposition was very weak. But in UP, the BJP was virtually routed which vindicated immense anti-BJP feeling among the masses there despite gimmick of Ram Mandir and incessant fomenting of Hindutva.

In this connection, I would like to mention that after the results were out, suddenly Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS chief, said that a true sevak (one who serves the people) does not have "ahankar" (arrogance) and works without causing any hurt to others. Referring to the bitter poll campaign, he said "decorum was not maintained". It is clear that his target was PM Modi in particular. Why did he not say so earlier when PM Modi was using foul languages against the

opposition, telling lies after lies, arrogating to himself a larger-than-life image? Was Mr Bhagwat sleeping then? Fact is he is saying all these now in order to ensure that the RSS is not blamed for the BJP's poor result and PM Modi's behaviour. Also, PM Modi's sickening self-eulogy, one-man show, placing himself above all and the BJP President's undermining of the role of the RSS, were not liked by the RSS leadership. But that does not mean that the RSS has moved away from the BJP or vice versa.

### Marxists must be with people's movements

Our understanding is that, had this election been preceded by a countrywide powerful mass movement against the BJP led central government, just like what happened in 1977 election against Indira Gandhi government preceded by a powerful mass movement and clamping emergency to suppress it, results could be much worse for the BJP. The present generation is not acquainted with the perspective of 1977 election. So let me inform them in brief. In 1973-74, a very powerful mass movement involving in particular students and youths and embracing the entire Hindi-speaking belt swept the country. It started from Gujarat, and then spread to one after another northern states like undivided UP and Bihar. The movement was organized by the students and youths against corruption, price rise and in demand for employment. Students of Bihar had boycotted schools and colleges for two years. All the demands of the movement were legitimate and democratic. Later on, well known freedom fighter Jayaprakash Narayan joined this movement. So it was called JP movement. At that

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### AIDSO leaders arrested from a protest march to the inaugural venue of the four-year degree course in Kerala

All India Democratic Students' Organization Kerala State Committee took out a protest march to Women's College, the venue for the state-level inauguration of the four-year degree course, a part of the prescripts of disastrous National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-20), which was attended by the Chief Minister and the Higher Education Minister. The march was interrupted by the police at the college gate.

While AIDSO State Secretary R. Aparna and others were conducting a protest meeting in front of the college gate, the police of the CPI (M)-led LDF government pounced upon them, arrested and forcibly removed them from the venue. AIDSO strongly condemned this police action to suppress a legitimate students' movement. It warrants mentioning that Kerala is the first state to implement the NEP-20 introduced by the BJP-led central government though the ruling CPI (M) and its allies pretend to be against NEP-20.

## Israeli citizens call their PM 'crime minister', come out in the streets demanding stoppage of genocide in Gaza

Tens of thousands of Israelis have protested in Tel Aviv, the Israeli capital, on 27-28 June demanding a Gaza ceasefire deal, immediate elections and the return of hostages held by Hamas. It is estimated that about 150,000 people attended the

have called for the operation to be halted. Around 2,00,000 people reportedly have been killed during Israel's offensive in Gaza since then, the Hamas-run health ministry says— many of them women and children. More than 10,000 children



Tel Aviv 29 June 2024

rally in one of the biggest demonstrations since Israel's war on Gaza began. Video shows scuffles and people being arrested as police — some on horseback—tried to move protesters off the city's main highway. Anti-government protest organizations blocked a major highway in central Israel including the prime minister's residences in Jerusalem and Caesarea demanding resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration. In Tel Aviv demonstrators placed a metal cage on the main road and set it on fire causing traffic jams. Protestors accused PM Netanyahu's government of leading Israel into an endless war.

Many protesters held signs reading "Crime Minister" and "Stop the War" as people poured into the biggest Israeli city's main thoroughfare. "I am here because I am afraid of the future of my grandchild. There will be no future for them if we don't go out and get rid of the horrible government," said one of the participants. "I really hope the government collapses," said another. Some demonstrators lay on the ground covered in red paint in the city's Democracy Square to protest what they say is the death of the country's democracy under Netanyahu. It is said there is an "unprecedented" crackdown on free speech in Israel. Police are tracking and arresting activists not only at protests, but also on their way to protests. Open letters signed by hostage families, parents of reservists and soldiers on active duty

have been killed in Gaza since the war began, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. And thousands of kids have been orphaned and lost limbs from Israeli airstrikes, according to aid groups.

In fact, immediately after the war started a hostage-solidarity rally was held in Tel Aviv on 14 October criticizing the government's handling of the war and calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign. The next day, communications minister Shlomo Karhi proposed emergency regulations allowing for the arrest of people who hurt "national morale", despite such threats to the people of Israel, the anti-government protests have been growing for months together and the protests have increasingly become ceasefire protests, demanding that the government concludes a deal to return the hostages alive as well as an end to the occupation and a long-term settlement guaranteeing equal rights for both peoples. In all the anti-war protests, the Israeli people of all ages have participated and called for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. In June last week, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, said that "Hamas is an idea". Those who think it can be made to disappear are "misleading the public", he said which means that Israel cannot win this war. It is heartening to note that in solidarity with the global anti-war anti-Israel protests and demand for immediate stoppage of genocide in Gaza, West Bank and allied areas, the common Israeli citizens have also upped their ante against the blood-thirsty Zionist regime.

## Significant Victory of Students' Movement Organized by AIDSO in Barak Valley, Assam

Making CUET(Common University Entrance Test) mandatory for getting admission into both undergraduate and postgraduate classes under different universities in the country is yet another exclusionary provision of NEP 2020 which AIDSO has been opposing since beginning. That CUET is not only absolutely unwarranted but also would bring in its wake undue harassment to and financial burden on the students. Opposition to and resentment against CUET has been expressed all over the country through various protest programmes. But true to their character, neither the BJP-led central government nor the National Testing Agency (NTA) has ever paid any heed to this just and legitimate demand.

Recently, Assam University, a central university in the Barak,

issued notice that admission to undergraduate courses in different colleges would be through CUET at centres located in Cachar District alone which meant the candidates of the

other two districts would have to go out of their districts for appearing in the CUET. This issue was immediately taken up by AIDSO and letters were written to both the Vice Chancellor of Assam University and the Chairman of NTA to withdraw the decision. But the authorities concerned stuck to their decision and went ahead with conducting CUET.

Suddenly, another development took place. The CUET centres for the aspiring students of Barak Valley which were located only in the district of Cachar were

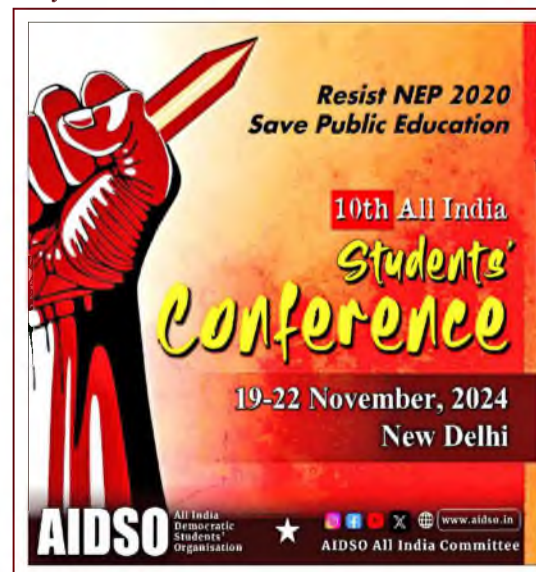
closed down before commencement of the examinations for two subjects namely, Bengali and Environmental Science. And the candidates were told that for appearing in CUET, they would have to go to far off places like Agartala, Aizawl, Jorhat or Guwahati where CUET centres had been located. AIDSO units of the Valley took the issue to the public. Memorandums were submitted to the Education Minister and the Chief Minister of Assam and protests were also lodged with that NTA as it was a ploy to exclude as many students as possible from the arena of higher education. In a Press Meet at Silchar on the 20 May last, the AIDSO leaders thoroughly exposed the sinister design. All sections of people in Barak Valley, including students, guardians and teachers of schools and colleges lent full support to this education



movement organized by the AIDSO under the pressure of which the state government of Assam had to ultimately write to the NTA for taking remedial action. Following that on 29 May last, the NTA wrote both to the Ministry of Higher Education, government of Assam and the Assam University authorities to allow admission of "Non—CUET" candidates in 80% of the undergraduate seats keeping only 20% of the seats for CUET passed students.

This marked a resounding victory of the AIDSO-organized movement which once again proved that in the prevailing circumstances the only way to compel the government to fulfil the just and legitimate demands of the people is through building up and intensifying people's democratic movements under correct leadership.

AIDSO appealed to all democratic-minded right-thinking people to extend full support in the anti-NEP 20 movements in future.



Comrade Provash Ghosh

## Strength of a revolutionary party is not determined by how many seats it can win

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time, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was alive. He called upon all the left parties to join this movement so that it could be channelized along leftist line. But the CPI was then openly supporting Indira Gandhi while the CPI (M) had a tacit understanding with her. The CPI (M) gave a plea that the rightist forces like the RSS-Jana Sangh were in that movement, they were unable to join it. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that it was a democratic movement in which common masses were participating and the rightists were gaining ground because the leftists were not there. If all the leftists had joined the movement, we could have exposed and isolated the rightist leaderships. It bears recall that in 1905, there was a massive workers' demonstration in Russia led by one priest Gapon, an agent of the Czar. That priest was misleading the workers and trying to convince them that Czar was a kind-hearted man. If the workers go and petition before him, he would fulfil their demands. So, he organized a rally of the workers. At that point of time, great Lenin advised the Bolsheviks to join that demonstration and expose that agent priest. Fact is that when the misled workers went to Czar in a procession, they were greeted by barrage of bullets. Many workers fell to the bullet. Some Bolsheviks were also killed. But Gapon was thoroughly exposed. Likewise, Lenin united with the Mensheviks and Socialist revolutionaries to expose and isolate them from the masses by conducting intense ideological struggle. That was the correct line of a Marxist—to be with the masses and free them from the influence of the reactionaries. But the CPI(M) refused to join the JP movement on a flimsy pretext. But we with our limited strength had joined the movement. By not joining the movement, the CPI(M) allowed the RSS and Jana Sangh to capitalize on it and gain strength and thereby objectively helped growth of the present BJP. It is also to be noted that when, after withdrawal of emergency, election was announced, the Jana Sangh, RSS, Swatantra Party, Morarji Desai-led organizational Congress, all combined together to form the Janata Party. And the CPI(M) could sense that the Janata Party was slated to win the election. So they did not wait for a single moment and extended full support to the Janata Party knowing full well that RSS-Jana Sangh was there. The Janata Party did win the election defeating Indira congress and with their support, the CPI(M)

had won assembly election in West Bengal in 1977. Such opportunist was their line.

### A powerful mass movement before election could cause defeat of BJP

So my point is that had there been a powerful movement throughout the country before this election, the BJP would have faced a crushing defeat. The Congress was weak. INDIA combination was also weak and not so organized. Also they as bourgeois parties are not expected to organize movement. So, if there was a united powerful left movement round the country, situation would have been different. But the CPI(M), CPI had no mind to organize such movement. Even they did not play proper role in guiding, consolidating and expanding historic peasant movement.

My next point is that you have noted a good section of the people did not vote in this election out of dejection. Not that they were free from parliamentary illusion. But they found no interest in casting vote. This is a notable sign. Another point is that both the bourgeois combinations, whether at national level or in regional levels, peddled this or that sectarian policies, even communalism. The BJP openly propagated Hindu communalism, fuelled anti-Muslim hatred and thus sought to create a Hindu vote bank to win election. On the other hand, INDIA combination besides propagating soft-Hindutva, widely practised casteist politics. They demanded caste census to incite caste sentiment. All such things dominated in the election campaigns and created division among the people. But in spite of that, in the minds of the people, main issues were harrowing price rise, mounting unemployment and other burning problems of life. It is also worth nothing. Fomenting anti-Muslim sentiment, Hindu fanaticism, caste and sub-caste divisions would only hinder development of working class unity, unity of the oppressed people. And that is a serious problem before building up democratic movement in our country. Another notable feature, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out long back that the ruling Indian bourgeoisie was also establishing fascism but the way fascism grew in Germany or Italy is not possible in India due to existence of a good number of small production and regional capital alongside large production. Regional capital is a powerful force in our country and it has contradiction with the big monopolists. It obstructs all out unity

of capitalism. Regional parties which are backed by regional capitals have been playing a very important role in preventing all-out fascism. In this election also, regional parties played a significant role. In the extended CC meeting of 2014, I placed another point also. In India, a large number of democratic-minded intelligentsia is opposed to fascism and autocracy. They are also a powerful force to be reckoned with. All these aspects are to be taken into account. So my point is that based on the burning problems of life, movements will burst forth here and there, today or tomorrow. Discontents are mounting. And those discontents are just like sparks which at any point, at any moment can start a big conflagration that might not be foreseen in advance. But we must be prepared. Preparedness is a must for a revolutionary party. Any moment, anywhere, a movement can surge forth. Such spontaneous outbursts will take place like the historic year-long peasants' movement. We must be prepared to join such movements and lead the struggles along right track.

At the same time, we will have to organize local, state and national level democratic mass movements on the burning problems of life. If the other left parties or their followers join those movements, we will welcome them. If they seriously organize any mass movement, we will join even if we are not invited.

### Link with local people

My next point is that our comrades have learnt from this election campaign the pressing need is to establish organic link with the masses. This is a crying need of the hour. Comrades must mix with the people. Each and every comrade must mix with the people of his or her own locality.

If there is a Party centre where many comrades live together, they should distribute among themselves different localities and accordingly mix with the local people, irrespective of their political colour. Our comrades should win the heart of the people with their behaviour and emotional approach. They should be like members of those families and thus emerge as true locality persons. Comrades should also mix with the so-called spoiled boys who loiter in the streets. By emotion they should win them so that at least those boys could not be utilized by any forces against us. That is to be guaranteed. Comrades should engage themselves in public talks in public places in a mass language to provide proper direction and influence them politically.

### Comrades must develop reading habit

Second point, I again reiterate, that comrades must develop the habit of reading. I know reading habit is very much lacking now a days. In our earlier days, we had that practice. That should be revived. Every comrade, to start with, should at least read for fifteen minutes to half an hour everyday to develop reading habit. You read books containing valuable speeches of our great teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as well as other Party literatures to acquire and enhance your political standard. You should also study literature of Saratchandra, Premchand and other renaissance personalities. You must know that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in his early life learnt many things from the literature of Saratchandra. He acknowledged the language in which the philosophers and the political leaders speak might not be understandable to the common people, particularly those lacking intellect. But litterateurs can reach to the heart of the people through their creations and thereby convey to them intricate theories or life concepts through aesthetic vehicle. From that point of view, we are indebted to the litterateurs. Moreover, literature helps in developing emotional feelings, ethical mind and moral values. So comrades must imbibe this truth and should read particularly literature of the renaissance period and most particularly of Saratchandra. This is a must.

### Save the children

Next point, comrades, is that as I have been saying for all, children are being spoiled by this rotten society. Even students, both boys and girls, of class IV, V or VI boys, discuss on sex, even get involved in sex. What a pathetic condition! We are Marxists. We are revolutionaries. It is our historic responsibility to save the children. I repeatedly request the comrades to do that. Each comrade should select an area, where twenty, thirty, fifty boys and girls of tender age could be mobilized on a particular time and day and be involved in sports, drama, music, discussions on the life and struggle of the martyrs, renaissance personalities and revolutionaries of the earlier period. Inspire them, educate them, save them. Some of them may join our Party later. Some may not join. But they will learn something positive about morality. So this task is also to be shouldered in right earnest.

### Local parties must develop frontal organizations

Another point is that every local committee, in each locality, should undertake the responsibility of developing AIDS, AIDYO, AIMSS

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## Paddy farmers' movement in Kerala

Rice is the staple food of Kerala. Paddy is cultivated in 13 out of 14 districts. However the area under paddy cultivation is diminishing year after year due to various reasons. Compared to that of the year 1975-76, the decrease is drastic. The total area under Paddy cultivation at present is only 1,95,734.15 hectares. Due to topographical conditions, dry land and wetland farming is prevalent in Kerala. Palakkad district and Kuttanad region of Alleppey districts were once known as granary of Kerala. Even now these two are the leading districts in paddy cultivation. As elsewhere in India, dry land farming is practised in Palakkad and other high land districts. Whereas in Kuttanad and other adjacent regions, wetland farming is the practice. So in addition to rain water, requirement of irrigated water is a must for success of paddy farming in Palakkad and other highland districts. In the high land districts especially in Palakkad, the farmers have to struggle additionally for getting sufficient and timely irrigated water to save the crop in Rabi season. In the case of low lying lands especially in the Kuttanad region, which is lying below the sea level intertwined with saline backwaters, draining out water from the fields is a prerequisite for successful paddy cultivation. Every year, only after receding of monsoon floods, the peasants are able to start the farming activities in the kharif season. The peculiarity of draining water by pumping as mentioned above and the increased labour as well as other input costs of production, expenses for paddy farming are very much higher than the all India average. Under these circumstances, it is obvious that the farmers in Kerala requires MSP higher than the national average and increased interventions of the state and central governments for making paddy cultivation remunerative. Since Kerala is a deficient state in food production, intervention of the state government is of paramount importance.

From 2022 onwards the CPI (M)-led LDF government in Kerala inordinately delayed to evolve the procurement policies. Even after completion of the seasonal harvests the government was lackadaisical in appointing the nodal agency for procurement and also for finding the financial agency who would disburse payments. Due to this, the peasants' wrath and resentment have risen high against the government.

Sensing the mood of the Paddy farmers, the AIKKMS State Committee organized a Protest Dharna in front of the Kuttanad Taluk

Office of Alappuzha District. It was inaugurated by Comrade N.Vinodkumar, State AIKKMS Secretary. Some leaders of other farmers' organizations also participated in it. This Dharna programme created much enthusiasm among the peasants of Kuttanad and paved the way for building a registered paddy farmers' organization namely 'Nel Karshaka Samrakshana Samithi' (NKSS).

Within a span of one year and a half years NKSS could organize many local units and have spread over many areas of Kuttanad region of Alappuzha district, Changanassery region of Kottayam and upper Kuttanad region of Pathanamthitta district. Simultaneously NKSS organized many movements centring round delayed payment and other demands of the paddy growers during the last one year and a half. Since its inception it could involve peasants irrespective of any political affiliation. A march to the State Secretariat was also organized on demand for prompt payment of procured paddy. It also participated in movements in Palakkad district organized by some non-political peasant organizations. Due to the impact of the movements, it is now playing a pivotal role in organizing the peasants for struggle.

The state government has done nothing to find a permanent solution to the problems faced by the paddy farmers. For the procurement of paddy and for the prompt payment, appropriate budgetary provisions and setting up a permanent mechanism are imperative.

In last two years, the Kerala government entrusted the job of procurement to Supplyco as the nodal agency. The First step is Online Registration of the farmers willing to give their produce to the department of agriculture before the beginning of harvest season.

Thereafter, the government negotiates with the mill owners for fixation of the ratio of paddy input and rice output for the purpose of determining how much rice is to be handed over for Public Distribution System or ration. After this process the government decides the nodal agency for procurement. Then the agricultural department starts procurement and issue Paddy Receipts (PRS) to the farmers. After completing this process, the farmers are required to submit the PRS to the SupplyCo for processing. In turn the SupplyCo issues payment advice to the respective banks preferred by the farmers. The banks then credit the amount to the farmers account's as

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## Save Education Committee writes to all opposition MPs to press for withdrawal of NEP 20 and demand stringent action against CSIR-NET, NEET-PG Scamsters

The Hon'ble Members of Parliament, New Delhi.

Dear Friends,

All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) has been protesting against the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 since the very day of its introduction on 29 July 2020 by the then BJP led central government. You are surely aware of the fact that the NEP 2020 was not even placed in parliament for a meaningful debate and discussion but implemented by force merely with the approval of the cabinet. The draft NEP was not modified taking into consideration the suggestions and feedback given by various stakeholders. We have been protesting against the NEP 2020, because:

1. The NEP 2020 violates the basic principles of the Indian Constitution so far as its secular and democratic fabric is concerned. 2. The NEP 2020 is a conspiratorial blueprint for Privatization, Corporatization, Digitization, Centralization and Saffronisation of education. 3. The NEP 2020 denies the state governments their rights to have their own say on education, which is a subject on the concurrent list of the constitution. At the same time, it strips the educational institutions and teachers off their autonomy. 4. This education policy authorizes the central government to completely shirk off its responsibility in funding education for creating the necessary infrastructure, the obvious fall out of which is gradual and sharp budget cuts. 5. The Policy is anti-poor and therefore is not inclusive. 6. The NEP 2020 is against the principles of secular, democratic and scientific education.

Friends, before the last general election of 2024, we urged upon all political parties, of course except the BJP and its allies, to support our demands and to incorporate them in their election manifesto. We requested your party also "to take all necessary steps to resist this anti people education policy and include it in your election manifesto with the announcement that your party will play an effective role in revocation of

NEP 2020 if elected to power." Now the BJP led coalition has assumed power at the Centre though with a truncated strength. We are hopeful that the opposition parties would utilize this opportunity to raise their voices in both Houses of parliament and mount pressure upon the government to withdraw NEP 2020. They may also submit a fresh proposal in parliament. The recent incidents of gross irregularities and corruption in the conduction of NEET, UGC-NET, etc. by the National Testing Agency (NTA) which was formed to suit the agenda of centralization of NEP 2020 and the subsequent postponement of CSIR-NET, NEET-PG vindicate our strong opposition to 'centralization of education and educational administration'. We are of the considered opinion that if the NEP 2020 is implemented fully the education system of the country would completely be at jeopardy.

NEP 2020 if elected to power."

Therefore, we urge upon you to take up the issue in parliament and do all that is possible on your part to mount pressure on the government so that they are forced to scrap NEP 2020 lock, stock and barrel.

Date: 27-06-24

### Protest against irregularities



Protesters stage a demonstration in New Delhi against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG



Protest in Agartala, Tripura, on 3 July 2024 against NEET, NET scam

Comrade Provash Ghosh

## If one is to develop as a proletarian revolutionary, one must come out of petty-bourgeois mindset

*Contd. from page 4*

and Komsomol with the help of the respective front leaderships. If there is factory, initiative needs to be taken for building up an organization there, at least in the form of an unit while joining the existing union. If possible form a union there with the help and cooperation of AIUTUC leadership. I call upon these mass organization leaders also to develop local organizations, local units, as well as the institutional units. In the industrial belts, where many industries are huddled together, those should be developed as separate industrial districts guided by the state Party. And all these fronts should be developed with the objective to strengthen revolutionary movement, to strengthen the revolutionary Party. Each front will help other fronts. There must not be any sectarian attitude among the frontal leaders and workers. DSO, DYO members have parents, mothers, brothers and sisters. Efforts should be made to associate them with appropriate fronts. Activists of peasants' organizations, trade union organizations, are having children who can be involved in DSO, DYO or Komsomol. This type of cooperation must be there.

### Imperativeness of mixing with downtrodden masses

Most of our comrades have come from middle class families i.e. petty bourgeois families. Petty bourgeois belongs to the bourgeois camp but to a lesser degree. So we all are having the birth marks of bourgeois thoughts in our thinking, in our mode of life, in our dress, in our bed room, in our day to day activities, in our habits, in our selection of partners, in bringing up our children and so forth. Thus in every sphere of life, we are being guided by bourgeois outlook. If you are to develop as a proletarian revolutionary, you must come out of this petty-bourgeois mindset. Theoretically you must understand it first. Secondly, we must mix with the proletariats and semi-proletariats.

We must go to the workers' barracks, slum areas, where they live. We should live with them, stay with them with much emotion. I myself was helped by that. In 1962, while I was engrossed with students' movement in a college, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh told me to go to Birbhum district of West Bengal for election work. Because Comrade Haider who was deputed there was attacked by the opponents and driven out of that area. So, I was

sent there, I was hesitating because of the ongoing college movement. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh told me—*"you have knowledge of students' movement. Now, you must know the poor village people also. In future it will help you."* I now remember with much gratitude, how he had helped me. From 1962 to 1972 there were many elections. In all elections, I was there. Similarly Comrades Ranjit Dhar, Badshah Khan, Sitiesh Dasgupta, Sanat Dutta and some other comrades were also deputed there. I stayed for more than a year if the different periods of my stay among the poor are taken together. I lived amidst the most downtrodden tribal Santhal people. I lived with other sections of abjectly impoverished so called lower caste people. I closely observed their life, tried to establish emotional link with them and in the process I could win their heart. They also in turn won my heart. I still recollect those days with deep emotion. I learnt so much by intimately mixing with these poor people. So I ask all my comrades to go to the workers' barracks, to go to the slums and mix with the workers and slum-dwellers.

### Necessity of doing creative work

Now I will read out from the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on how comrades should develop ability to do creative work. Most of our comrades are not habituated in this. I don't blame them. Because from the leadership also, it was a failure on our part. But Comrade Shibdas Ghosh gave a warning, *"if a worker does not learn to create works"*, note it carefully, *"and lack creative faculty it will one day give birth to frustration and disappointment in his mind, because he is engaged only in routine works and not in creative works. He is not trying to conduct movements of the people, and has not yet emerged as a leader of the masses. He cannot create such a situation anywhere, that a group of youth or students or a group of slum dwellers, or mill workers, or rural peasants think him and accept him as their genuine leader, an emotional leader, not only that that people even rush to him whether he can go to them or not. So a feeling of despondency engulfs them."*

This is a warning for all of us. He said routine work is a necessary evil. It is necessary, because some routine works cannot be dispensed with. Why evil? Because, it often obstructs creative work. It obstructs

development of a creative mind. So I call upon all the leaders and organizers to help the junior comrades and engage themselves also in creative work. They must develop themselves in the course.

### India is crying for honest principled politics

Comrades, entire India is now a vacant field for exploration. Reformist left parties have abandoned left movement and are engrossed in election-oriented politics. The CPI has become a party of old men. The CPI (M) has won merely one seat on its strength while other three seats to them came because of the support of the Congress led-combination. The CPI (ML) Liberation also got two seats in Bihar with the help of this combination, and riding on casteist politics. Present generation does not know that in the first general election in 1952, united CPI became the largest opposition in parliament. What pathetic condition they are placed now as a parliamentary reformist party. They are suffering from complete ideological bankruptcy and working as a lackey of bourgeois combination.

Entire India is crying for a leadership. Our comrades could feel that during the campaign trail of the last parliament election. Whenever and wherever our comrades went to campaign, they were heartily received by the people. Where did we get money for the expenses of election? Our deposit money, our entire expenditure were from the generous contributions we got from the people. This has been a very redeeming feature. Our Party is on the threshold of expanding rapidly throughout the country. So comrades should come out of narrow confines of local activities, initiate struggle for all round development and explore new areas, venture in new localities.

I have already told you that present condition is very much favourable for expansion of our Party. There is a large number of honest left-minded people who are frustrated about the reformist left parties and they are getting attracted towards our revolutionary left line. There is another section who are non-left but desire that there should be honesty, dedication, principles and values in a party. They also appreciate our stand and politics. For the proletariat and semi-proletariat masses, there is no other party to politically organize them along right track, raise their voice of protest, spearhead their movements on pressing issues of life. So there is a total vacuum. People do not trust

the other existing parties. That is why, in this election battle, our comrades unexpectedly received tremendous moral and financial support.

### Fervent appeal of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to expand the Party

I will conclude with an appeal of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Before that, I want to say something. It was in 1974, when in South India our Party was working only in Kerala. In other states, we had no contact. In MP, Uttarakhand, in the Andamans, in Puducherry and other states, we had no organization. At that time, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had appealed: *"the coming days are very important to us. You are to build this party fast, within a very short period, with the political and organizational strength necessary to provide leadership to revolution. We could not have achieved this task earlier even if we had contemplated it. But now, with our present numerical strength, if all of us—each and every leader and cadre—strive to put it into reality, with adequate contemplation, we shall succeed to achieve it. To that end, every worker present here shall have to carry out his respective work without turning away from it, with individual initiative and intellect—no matter whether you can achieve it or not, you succeed or fail. Its method shall be that, on the one hand, you will be learning the party's politics, and, on the other, you will make every effort to organize people in any sphere on the basis of this politics."*

*With this objective—be it in a club, a peasant and agricultural workers' organization, a slum dwellers' welfare association, a literary forum, a poets' forum, a gymnasium, a trade union, or a workers' welfare association, or if you are conducting political classes with the workers—in whatsoever way, you are mixing with the people, trying to rally them around you and free and wean them from the wrong political line and draw them into the fold of the party's politics."*

*This is the task to be accomplished by you, in your respective sphere, each with full initiative and to the best of ability. While you are at this work, you are to mould your mental make-up and thinking, you are not to raise the question of whether you find you are doing it properly or not, and you are not to give up your work because you think you are not able to do it properly, and, when these questions come up, you call to mind the example of Subodhbabu and other leading revolutionaries."* Here I end. Comrades. Red salute to you all.

## Hail the struggle of brave Kenyan People

African country Kenya is in turmoil. Thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets from last week of June 2024 in coordinated marches across Kenya, including in capital Nairobi. The people have taken to the streets against the new Finance Bill 2024, which proposed a raft of new taxes arguing that this was essential to control Kenya's national debt—a huge sum of more than \$80bn (£63bn), which costs the country more than half of its annual tax revenues to service. The additional tax burden was estimated to be \$2.7bn. Already overburdened by the high cost of living, Kenyans have faced a torrent of tax hikes, including on salaries and fuel, since President William Ruto was elected in 2022. The Ruto government has also introduced a 1.5% housing levy on monthly income and a higher health insurance tax with the plea of garnering revenue to build affordable homes for the poor. But the common Kenyans blame the country's financial woes on corruption, with taxpayers wary of paying more amidst a lack of trust over the transparency of the state. Pertinent to recall that Ruto came to power in 2022 promising to champion the needs of impoverished Kenyans, but tax increases under his government have only made life tougher for those already struggling with high inflation. The mobilization of Kenyans from across ethnic lines around common economic demands marked a break with previous protest movements that have typically been organized by political figures with ethnic grievances often at the fore.

After a day of protest, turmoil and bloodshed, Kenyan President William Ruto addressed the nation with a message of sadness and strength. Saying "legitimate" protests against his policies had been "hijacked by a group of organized criminals," he warned his government would use all means at its disposal to prevent a repeat of the violence - "at whatever cost". The president's message was an attempt to seize back control after days of street protests which have grown in strength and number. He escalated his suppressive process with at least five people shot dead and hundreds injured. But the organizers of the movement say the violence was the work of "goons" hired by vested interest to either discredit legitimate demonstrators or advance their own agendas. "It seems the state has realized that the only way to counter this movement is by using goons to incite violence, break into people's property, loot, and tarnish our cause,"

Ojango Omondi, an activist in Nairobi, told Reuters. The initial protests last month against proposed tax hikes were overwhelmingly peaceful, although the police fired tear gas and water cannon at demonstrators. It is reported that the protests became violent as some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament and the police opened fire, killing dozens. But Human rights groups say at least 22 protesters were killed and scores more wounded on the streets of Kenya on 25-06-24. "You cannot kill all of us," activist Hanifa Adan said, but you will not be forgotten!" Another activist observed: "We don't need to negotiate anything. All we want is better living conditions. All we want is the leaders to stop using our resources ... to sponsor their lavish lifestyle.... But for now, the class and wealth disparity between politicians and ordinary people has been the focus." Amnesty International said the responsibility for the deaths "lies squarely with President Ruto, even though he was not present on the street. He cannot escape accountability."

Finally, bowing before people's raging protest, Ruto withdrew the bill on 26 June evening, a day after protesters stormed Parliament.

But his decision has not quelled the anger against his government. "The events of the past few days, especially the storming of Parliament and the subsequent withdrawal of the contentious bill by the president point to one thing—that the government faces serious legitimacy challenges," Manyora, a political analyst told Al Jazeera. "This level of resentment cannot just wither away," he added. Kenyan activists on 28 June last circulated calls for fresh protests, strikes and sit-ins demanding resignation of President Ruto.

Significantly, Ruto had rushed to US in May last. This was the first state visit to the United States (US) by an African leader in 16 years. Kenya has clearly emerged as America's leading strategic partner — if not in Africa as a whole, at least in sub-Saharan Africa. At a time when Africa and other parts of the world are polarizing between US imperialism and imperialist Russia and with Russia-leaning juntas evicting Western military from Sahel states and South Africa and others tilting towards Russia and China, bonhomie with Kenya is becoming increasingly significant for US. After Ruto's visit, US President Biden designated Kenya as a 'Major Non-NATO Ally' —the only one in sub-

### SUCI(C) expresses deep shock at the death of 130 people in Hathras Satsang stampede, hold organizers and administration responsible

*Comrade Vijay Pal Singh, Secretary, Western Uttar Pradesh State Organizational Committee, SUCI(C) issued the following statement on 02-07-24*

"130 people, mostly women and children, died in a stampede due to chaos and utter mismanagement of a religious function at Satsang in Hathras, UP.

Our Party expresses deep sorrow over this heart-rending incident and conveys heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families. This has happened because of gross negligence on the part of both the organizers and government administration. If proper arrangements would have been made on time, this tragedy

could have been prevented.

We demand of the Uttar Pradesh State Government that a compensation of at least Rs. 5 lakhs should be given immediately to the dependents of those who died in the accident. The injured should be given the best possible treatment free of cost as soon as possible. An impartial investigation into the case should be conducted and strict action should be taken against those responsible for loss of so many precious lives and inflicting grievous injuries to many more hundreds."

Saharan Africa. This status does not include the mutual defence obligations of NATO membership but provides countries with preferential access to US military training, surplus equipment, joint research, etc. The designation confirmed Kenya as one of the US' most important strategic military partners.

For Ruto, the US visit was also critical, because he desperately needs US help in reducing his country's debt burden. Ruto and Biden vowed to accelerate negotiations for their Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP) by the end of the year. The countries have been unable to conclude a free trade agreement, and this STIP—under negotiation since mid-2022—is the next best thing, providing a comprehensive trade and investment facilitation deal. Ruto's Washington excursion was not unanimously popular back home, perhaps not surprisingly, since he is a politically divisive figure in Kenya. In the two years since he was elected, Kenya's President William Ruto has wowed global climate activists under the Eiffel Tower, brushed shoulders with global tech titans in Silicon Valley and was toasted as a global peacekeeper at the White House.

As he notched up dozens of foreign trips, however, citizens back home endured gruelling economic hardship. So, though his supporters are delighted at the prestige his visit brought Kenya, and the promise of greater US investment and debt relief, his critics argue that he is over-promising again, and while preaching about austerity, he hired an expensive private jet from Dubai to take him to the US.

Reality is that most of the Kenyans are not enchanted by the

prospect of being America's main partner in sub-Saharan Africa. So, already hammered by a cost-of-living crisis and watching those in government enjoy the largesse derived from their positions, Kenyans orchestrated the upsurge to force Ruto to ditch plans to introduce eye-watering tax hikes after days of militant protest.

In a statement, Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of Kenya (CPK) has said: "We must not allow Ruto to escape accountability for the innocent blood he has shed in the streets. These demonstrations have clear and simple demands that we insist the President comply with. During the post-election protests, Ruto was responsible for the murder of many innocent souls. It is imperative that the police bosses, all of Ruto's henchmen, and Ruto himself be held legally accountable for these crimes. We also demand restorative justice for the survivors of the avoidable massacres orchestrated by the corrupt Ruto regime". They have demanded, among other things, a total cessation of taxation on basic commodities such as food, healthcare, and education, and the complete rejection of the Finance Bill 2024, not just window dressing paltry amendments and an immediate end to the interference with their national sovereignty by foreign institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, NATO, and their financiers.

We hail the brave movement of the Kenyan people, express solidarity with them and call upon them to steer the movement along right track under correct revolutionary leadership so as to be conducive to global anti-imperialist anti-capitalist movement.

## Tamil Nadu State SUCI(C) on Kallakurichi hooch tragedy

Comrade A Rengasamy, Tamil Nadu State Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 20-06-24:

In Kallakurichi district of Tamilnadu, on 20 June, 37 people including two women have died by consuming illicit liquor. Many more are struggling for life. We squarely hold the DMK-led state government responsible for this shocking incident.

Last year a similar incident took place near Marakkanam town in which 22 people had died. The state government promised at that time that they would take stern action, arrest the culprits under Goonda's act, a special police force would carry out surveillance and submit weekly report etc. It is clear now that all these are mere showoffs. We demand of the state government

to immediately arrest the responsible higher officials in police and administration, the politicians including the Prohibition Minister and give them exemplary punishment.

We have no words to console the aggrieved families of the dead. They should be given adequate monetary compensation and free medical treatment, needy family members should be provided with necessary education and government job for at least one person per family.

We call upon the people, especially youth and women to strengthen the movement against the spread of liquor and narcotics in the society.

## AIDYO writes to Telecom authorities to annul enhanced mobile phone tariff

To,  
The Secretary,  
TRAI

Sir,

We are shocked to note that the tariffs of the prepaid as well as postpaid mobile and data services have been steeply hiked recently by the private telecom companies. Today the mobile with data has become so essential that many of us are compelled to starve and save money to pay for mobile recharge. We are further shocked to note that TRAI which is supposed to provide a fair and transparent policy environment has remained a mute spectator and allowed the private players to hike, as per their wish, the tariffs of internet packs, recharge rates and data costs.

We urge upon you to exercise your authority, immediately intervene into the affairs and compel the private telecom players to completely withdraw the unreasonable hike in tariffs in the interest of the consumers.

We also urge upon you to request the central government to take immediate steps to rejuvenate BSNL and provide communication services at a fair and affordable price to the toiling people.



AIDYO's rally in Kolkata demanding withdrawal of increased mobile tariff



Mass E-mail programme by AIDYO against cell phone tariff hike in Hyderabad, Telangana

### Corrigendum

In P Era dated 1 July 2024, the front page photo of AIDSO demonstrating against NEET NET scam was of Karnataka and not Andhra Pradesh. Mistake sincerely regretted.

## Mass leader of Sri Lanka felicitated

Comrade Nuwan Bopage a renowned lawyer, mass leader and leader of the Frontline Socialist Party, Sri Lanka came to Kolkata very recently. He was an important organizer of the 'mass uprising' (Aragalaya) in May - July 2022 where lakhs of people captured the President's Palace in Colombo, Sri Lankan capital. This movement is popularly known as 'Galle Face Protest Movement'.



While in Kolkata, he expressed his eagerness to have a fraternal political discourse with the SUCI (Communist). Accordingly on 4 July, Comrade Nuwan was felicitated by Comrades Subhas Dasgupta and Debasish Roy, both members of the Central Committee, at the SUCI(C) Central office in Kolkata. Comrade Dasgupta presented him works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat and the Founder General Secretary, his successor and revolutionary compatriot Comrade Nihar Mukherjee and Comrade Provash

Ghosh, the present General Secretary.

The discussion with him was very cordial and fruitful. Comrade Nuwan acquainted us with the current deplorable condition of Sri Lanka as well as the problems and prospects of left and revolutionary movement there. He expressed his satisfaction about the discourse and wanted to keep regular contact with our Party through regular correspondence and periodic exchanges. He was felicitated also by AIDSO and AIDYO, the student and youth fronts of our Party, respectively.



AIKKMS demonstration at Moradabad, UP, on 24 June 2024 against forcible acquisition of arable land

## Paddy farmers' movement in Kerala

Contd. from page 5

bank loan. For this, the farmers need to comply with all the loan formalities of the banks. Failure of the loan repayment by the government is treated as a default on the part of the concerned farmer and the bank is authorized to initiate recovery procedure accordingly in future. Even now one third of the farmers who have given their paddy harvested last year during rabi crop season are awaiting payment. Such is the situation faced by the paddy farmers in the rule of the CPI (M)-led LDF government.

The irresponsibility or inability of the government to raise sufficient funds for procurement is the prime reason for the delay in disbursing the payment. Similarly the third party agencies like SupplyCo, banks, mill agents etc. involved in the procurement process are also not friendly with the farmers. All these

factors and the spirit generated by the historic peasant movement of Delhi have created a fighting zeal among the farmers.

Demands of NKSS are as follows:

1. Create revolving fund in the Budget for paddy procurement.
2. Procure paddy @Rs.3264/ quintal (MSP of centre+States' production incentive)
3. Increase paddy price based on cost of production .
4. Government should fully bear the handling charges.
5. Stop the system of manipulation while weighing the quantity during procurement of paddy.
6. Revise the pumping subsidy and clear the dues of production bonus.

An immediate end to the interference with our national sovereignty by foreign institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, NATO, and their financiers.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH