

1/10/E24

BY-ELECTION RESULTS ANALYSED

WHICH WAY ARE INDIAN MASSES MOVING ?

The results of most of the present series of by-elections to the Parliament and the State Assemblies are out and they raise the question—**which way are the masses moving?**

The defeat of the Congress in the two Parliament seats in U.P. in which Acharya Kripalani and Dr. Lohia have won against the Congress have drawn particular attention. Both Kripalani and Lohia were backed by the reactionary forces of the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra Parties.

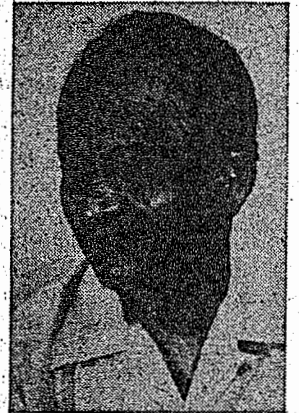
third constituency, the Jan Sangh was routed and the Congress candidate was victorious.

While it would be wrong to conclude that the defeat of the Congress at the hands of

the masses stand behind the Congress and endorse its policies, which are leading to high prices, heavy taxes and enrichment of the exploiting classes.

The victory of the Communist candidate in the capital of Kerala against the vicious anti-Communism of the Congress and PSP leadership there, is a pointer to the fact that the masses are also re-thinking and realigning vis-a-vis the reactionary policies of the Congress Rightwing.

It would appear that in the Amroha election, both the Congress and the Jan Sangh allied with Kripalani played on casteism and commun-



by
S.A. DANGE

DO these two successes mean that the people there have rejected the policies of non-alignment and have voted for joining the Anglo-American bloc, for a war against China, for a rejection of the principle of planning in development, and for all that Kripalani and his supporters have been preaching?

Is it that those policies which were rejected by the North Bombay people when they voted for Krishna Menon and rejected Kripalani one year back, have now been accepted by the people of U.P.?

Those who would draw such sweeping conclusions would have to remember that in the very neighbourhood, in the

Kripalani means the defeat of the policy of peace and non-alignment, it would be equally wrong to conclude that the majority of the successes of the Congress in the State Assemblies and in the Jaunpur Parliamentary seat

ism, and political policies were pushed to the background. When communism became the rallying argument, the defeat of Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim, the Congress candidate and Con-

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AFRICAN UNITY ZINDABAD

In Addis Ababa in Ethiopia an event of the utmost importance for the future of the world is taking place this week. The Conference of heads of African States marks a new landmark of decisive significance not only in the history of that resurgent continent, but in the entire history of mankind.

ADDIS ABABA will give the final Quit Africa call to imperialism and colonialism, in all their shapes and forms.

The heads of the African States meet in the context of struggle. Whether they belong to the more strongly anti-imperialist Casablanca group or to the Monrovia group, which may have amongst its members, some who are sought to be used for

neo-colonialist purposes—the men who have gathered together in Addis Ababa will have to speak with one voice on the crucial questions of African liberation and African unity.

At the top of the agenda will come the resolutions for assistance to the African peoples, still in colonial or racialist bondage.

The Angolan fighters for freedom demand, and will

receive, the fullest assistance in their armed struggle for independence from Portuguese fascism.

● The mighty movement for South African freedom, led by the African National Congress, will demand, and will receive, all-out support in its battle against the inhumanities of apartheid.

● The brave patriots of Southern Rhodesia will know in Addis Ababa that the entire African continent stands solid with them in their resistance to the imposition of White racialist domination, in the name of "independence".

From every one of the



FORCED LABOUR IN ANGOLA: THIS SLAVERY MUST END.

twenty and more African lands, which are still under direct colonial or racialist domination, delegates will be present at Addis Ababa, to create together with the representatives of the independent States the image of that united Africa for which the greatest of African patriots have always struggled.

At Addis Ababa will be remembered with pride and anguish the immortal Patrice Lumumba, who gave his life for African freedom. And with him will be recalled also the sacrifice of the tens of thousands of Africans, who have been killed by imperialism for the crime of demanding to be free.

The victims of the genocide of Salazar in Angola will point their accusing fingers at the enemies of African freedom and demand that they be avenged. The martyrs of Sharpeville will be present in the hearts of the patriots at Addis Ababa, crying aloud for punishment for their murderers.

The imperialists hope, as always, to weaken the force of African unity, exploiting every little difference between one country and another, making use of such of the weaker elements as are ready to act as stepping stones for neo-colonialism.

The spirit of African unity has, in a way, been high-

ways struggled. * ON PAGE 13



SOUTH AFRICA BATTLES AGAINST RACIALISM: MASS PROTEST RALLY NEAR KAPSTADT.



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MAY 27 : NATIONALISATION DAY



—Photo Virendra Kumar

Goldsmiths' Demonstration

P.M. Asked To Redress Their Grievances

NEW DELHI: If a number of suicides, hunger-strikes, meetings and demonstrations were indices of discontent of goldsmiths in the country, the all-India Day observed in Delhi on May 21 at the call of Akhil Bharatiya Swarnakar Sangh was the unmistakable expression of the firm determination of goldsmiths for securing their demands from the unwilling hands of Finance Minister Mororji Desai.

REPRESENTATIVES of the goldsmiths, who came to Delhi from all parts of the country, observed the Day near the Red Fort and then went in the Body—more than three thousand strong—to the residence of Prime Minister Nehru urging him to intervene and rescind the gold control order which is responsible for their miseries.

Prime Minister Nehru came out of his residence and addressed the gathering. He informed them that he would ask the Finance Minister to consider the demands raised in their memorandum. The goldsmiths however decided to continue to wait near his residence till the time their demands are met.

Earlier, the goldsmiths paraded through the city displaying placards which read: "Repeal Gold Control Order or Give Us Alternate Employment."

Reaction's Attempt

The grievances of the goldsmiths were sought to be exploited by some leaders of the reactionary parties in Delhi in a bid to channel them into an anti-Nehru campaign. But their attempts, however, failed.

The memorandum presented by the goldsmiths gave an extensive picture of the harm the gold control order has done to them. It pointed out that a very large section of the twenty-lakh workers engaged in gold industry have been rendered unemployed and reduced to the verge of starvation being deprived of their only means of livelihood.

In spite of a plethora of ministerial promises and platitudes, no alternate employments have been provided for them or for adequate economic relief, the memorandum stated. The memorandum expressed doubts about the fulfilment of the objects for which the gold control order has been enforced and pointed out that while the objects remain as far as they were, the poor workers have become victims of its vagaries.

The memorandum emphasised that had the government been serious about the objectives, then countrywide hunt for hoarded gold and foreign exchange holdings could have been undertaken and foreign trading in gold taken over. In the absence of such a measure, the success in attaining the objectives could not be vouched.

It is clearly stated in the memorandum that the goldsmiths, though "they are being steadily driven to a point of dangerous disillusion and desperation where the only course left open seems to be some kind of a direct action to draw the attention of the government", they would not like to precipitate any action.

Demands Enumerated

The goldsmiths therefore have urged Prime Minister Nehru to consider their following demands:

1 Removal of restrictions on the manufacture of gold ornaments of more than 14 carats of purity. Right to manufacture gold ornaments upto 24 carats of purity.

2 Gold refineries should be permitted to operate.
3 The highest priority should be accorded to immediate provision of alternative employment to unemployed goldsmiths and artisans and they must be treated as highest skilled workers. This should be done in all states and semi-government establishments. Age restric-

tions and fitness-tests should be liberalised in their cases.

4 Gratuitous relief and maintenance allowance should be granted to the families or dependants of all persons who have met death as a result of the operation of Gold Control Rules.

5 Free education and stipends for all goldsmiths' children.

6 Licence fee for registration of goldsmith shops, if considered unavoidable should not exceed the range of Re. 1 to Rs. 5.

7 Every goldsmith should be permitted to keep 100 grammes of pure gold in his possession for the making of ornaments.

8 Financial assistance and monetary compensation should be given to those goldsmiths who have become un-

employed on account of the operation of the Gold Control Rules.

9 There should be a representation of goldsmiths, artisans and workers on the Gold Control Board and the rules should be suitably amended so as to free them from the restrictions of 116 U.

10 Government certified pure standard gold should be made available from government agencies.

11 In order to solve the problems of the goldsmiths, artisans, workers and businessmen, government must come forward with a thorough plan.

12 Uniform policy should be followed in all states with regard to economic rehabilitation of the goldsmiths.

ALARMING FOOD SHORTAGE IN ASSAM

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharya

SHILLONG: Occasional optimistic utterances from New Delhi and Shillong notwithstanding, the food situation in Assam is positively serious. One may not call it a famine in the technical sense of the term; yet the situation at any rate calls for serious attention of all concerned.

WHILE Cachar at the moment is worst hit, the situation in other districts also is disquieting. In Cachar, even Congress members of a subdivisional Price Vigilance Committee are reported to have informed the committee of three starvation deaths.

In another subdivisional Price Vigilance Committee, an opposition member of the Assembly asserted that in his constituency there occurred as many as 17 starvation deaths. The Deputy Commissioner who attended the committee meeting assured an enquiry and subsequently, as was only to be expected, the Additional District Magistrate issued a contradiction of the report. According to him, some people died by taking river water which caused some ailments and there was no starvation death. On May 15, the Gauhati correspondent of a Calcutta Daily quoting an Anchalik Panchayet President from Cachar reported: "But it amounts to that in the final analysis when the people, failing to get rice, eat jungle roots or fill their hungry bellies with water and die."

One may quibble with words, but the hard reality that is now

admitted even by official sources is that the food situation in Cachar is indeed very difficult.

It is now claimed by official sources that 2,500 tons of rice out of the total stock of five thousand tons released by the Central Government from their godowns for Assam have already been sent to Cachar and another 800 tons of rice is on transit for the same district.

Critical Situation

The measures claimed to have been taken by the government may have eased the situation to some extent for the present. But reports continue to pour in from that district that the food situation there remains acutely critical.

The government has been distributing their stock through fair price shops. But these shops supply only a part of the total requirement of the consumer and for the rest he has to depend on the open market. In the open market rice sells in Cachar at anything between Rs. 32 to Rs. 36 a maund.

The question that is being asked is how rice can be had at the

above quoted high price if there is really no rice stock in the district? The government has not cared to answer that question to this day. But certain telling facts are now available about largescale hoarding of rice by certain elements who have been merrily minting profits at the cost of the starving people.

Desperation Of People

It has been reported by a Cachar weekly that last month some people discovered a large stock of hoarded paddy with a person. As the report got about, people of the area collected there and requested the hoarder to sell paddy to them and even when the intended buyers offered as much as Rs. 18 per maund of paddy, the hoarder would not sell it. Then the desperate people took possession of the hoard and distributed it among the needy, leaving enough for the consumption of the hoarder's family. They also gave him receipt signed by them of the quantity of paddy taken by them.

This only shows the desperation of the people and that desperation could be only the result of starvation or semi-starvation. Meanwhile reports have been coming from Mizo district too of acute scarcity of rice. While the people of the plains districts

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