

# BATTLE FOR D. A., BONUS

NEWS is pouring in from all states. The working class is preparing for action, for the mightiest battles ever fought against the burdens heaped on them by the monopolists. The immediate key issue on which an all-India action is being prepared is the demand for dearness allowance linked to the rising cost of living and correction of the index which is false and does not correctly reflect the changes in prices.

The working class has been robbed of crores of rupees in wages as a result of this fraud in the calculation of the cost of living index.

The National Council of the Communist Party in its October meeting had called upon our trade union workers to explore the possibility, in united front with others, of bringing about an all-India one-day protest strike around this demand.

The Council had rightly said that "nothing short of an all-India united action" would be required to ensure that this demand for DA and that for an annual bonus on a minimum basis for all industries are met.

The All India Trade Union Congress has called a national conference next month to work out coordinated plans for such an all-India action.

The realisation of the demands of the working class will serve the national interests by curbing the power and the super-profits of the monopolists and by contributing to better production and to the gain of national economy as a whole following a rise in the entire wage structure of the country to a higher level.

(See pages 9, 10 & 11)



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# SADOBA'S "SOCIALISM"

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PATIL'S pained silence at Jaipur has given way to a vituperative offensive against those in the Congress who want a more concrete commitment to goals of radical democracy, which they understand as socialism. In speeches and interviews he has taken up the pose of the champion of "democratic socialism". He wants to warn his party that a conspiracy is afoot to foist "totalitarian Marxism" on the Congress, by infiltrated Communists.

It is good that he has spoken. There can now be no room for complacency, no wishful thinking that the passing of resolutions or the circulation of documents at Jaipur—considerable gains though these were—had meant the triumph of the Congress democrats.

Equally, the nature of his attacks reveals certain basic weaknesses in the stand and principles of the Nanda note accepted by the AICC. Patil attacks the Jaipur advance on the basis of its flaws.

In the Sunday Standard (Nov. 17) interview, he has ostensibly supported the concept of democratic socialism as advanced in the Nanda note. He has taken up the arguments advanced by PAN-DIT NEHRU against Marxism and the ideas of attaining socialism through class struggle.

## NAZI MODEL SOCIALISM

According to him democratic socialism means the increased production of wealth and the routine use of the ballot box! Naturally he has found the best example of this type of socialism in West Germany. And, of course, he has found it easy enough to demarcate this concept from the living socialism of the Soviet Union, with its "regimentation" and "doctrinaire" outlook.

Erhard will scarcely thank him for even suggesting that the land he rules has anything to do with socialism. But the Indian people, above all Congressmen, should realise what type of society Patil wants India to evolve towards.

W. Germany has been characterised by circles far removed from the Communists as the land par excellence of the undisguised rule of resurrected and revanchist monopoly capital. The giant industrial monopolies and the infamous Junker-Nazi general staff have come together to form so reactionary a force that even liberal thinkers and

politicians in the US and UK are appalled.

The excellent exposures emanating from the German Democratic Republic apart, journals like the New Statesman or trials like those of EICHMANN have revealed the

by  
**MOHIT SEN**

extent to which the Nazis are back at the top in Bonn.

This is the ideal which Patil places before the Indian people and the Congress as the goal of their endeavours. This is the ideal which he contrasts to the one advanced by the more radical Congressmen, on whom he tries the Macarthyste smear technique.

In trying to palm off Nazi socialism as the real Jaipur concept, Patil uses three tactics.

In the first place, he omits any mention of the relatively progressive features of the Nanda Note.

★ He brings in the stale invectives against Marxism, class war and socialisation of the means of production.

★ He omits to mention the formulation that the "Congress is working for an economic and social revolution."

★ He omits to mention the "considerable amount of controls" envisaged at various levels as essential for planned and rapid development.

★ He omits to mention that the Nanda note commits the Congress to ensure that the public sector plays a strategic and dominant role in industry as well as trade in essential commodities.

★ He omits to mention the rather more concrete goal advanced by Nanda of the "substantial realisation by the end of the Fifth Plan" of the goal of providing the basic needs of every individual.

Of course, he takes care not to openly repudiate these aims

and objectives. But the studied silence is eloquent and will scarcely stand the lightest of probes.

It is the first duty of the Congress High Command and of the Congress democrats in particular, to ask Patil whether his silence is not repudiation, whether his extolling of West Germany is not a negation of the most elementary and essential features of the Jaipur concept?

If these questions are not asked and his silence passed over for assent, Patil's tactic of subversion and diversion would have succeeded. No plea of avoiding conflict should come in the way of the search for clarity.

His second tactic is to use to the hilt the horrid vagueness and impossible caution of the Nanda note. He is wrong to confine criticism of this note as lacking in urgency. This is to confuse the means for the end.

Urgency for what? And urgency how? These are precisely the key questions that Nanda note and the Nehru outlook refuse to answer with anything like the necessary adequacy.

It is not enough to say that monopolies have grown, inequalities have grown and capitalism is being built under socialist slogans. Self-criticism is distinguished from self-pity or worse only if remedial action follows and mistakes are not repeated.

So long as acceptance of the growth of capitalist ulcers is not followed by a thorough and concrete set of remedies, Patil and his company will always find it easy to accept any amount of redefinition of goals and rephrasing of objectives.

If inequalities have widened and monopolies grown despite the professions of socialism, the remedy is not more polished professions but a definite and concrete programme of radical democratic measures.

If a programme is adopted of the nationalisation of foreign monopolies, of banks, of foreign trade and internal trade in essential commodities, of steep graded taxes, of genuine land reforms in the shape of ceilings, then no amount of prevarication will enable Patil to palm his honours to monopoly capitalism as Jaipur socialism.

The basic weakness of Jaipur is that while making a welcome reiteration of the socialist objective—which itself was under fire—and of moving a short distance in the direction of concreteness—which itself was sought to be sabotaged—it nowhere spells out a list of items of institutional reforms, of radical structural changes. And without this, the flank is opened for Patil's perverse interpretations.

Patil's third tactic is to harp on anti-communism and the outmodedness of Marxism. Unfortunately, here too he has been considerably aided by Nehru's speech at Jaipur, which reiterated the discarded portions of the Subramaniam Note. Marxists and Communists have long been familiar with this tactic—of raising bogeys to cover some nefarious game.

Certainly it is all to the good if dialogue and polemic developments between those in the Congress who believe in the originality of their socialist concept and the Marxists and

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# Jan Sangh Supports Sucheta

★ From Ramesh Sinha

LUCKNOW: As the difficulties of SUCHETA KRIPALANI grow in managing her party men and the state's bureaucratic apparatus, the Jan Sangh leaders are again rushing to her rescue.

THEY have issued instructions to their U.P. legislative group to support and stand by her when she is attacked either by the other opposition parties or by her own party men. In no case, must they join hands with the other opposition groups in assailing her failings, they have been asked. She must be given cooperation and treated as a "friend" of the Jan Sangh. The instructions have come from the central office of the Jan Sangh.

They have been welcomed by the bulk of Jan Sangh MLAs and the organisation's local workers. Cooperation has, as is known, already existed between them and her and a

powerful clique inside the GUPTA group led by BANARASI DAS from the time of the infamous MA KI PUKAR exhibition.

Sucheta Kripalani, with no base, following or standing of her own, has been by and large acting as a tool of Banarasi Das and his clique inside the Gupta group.

This clique is allied with the Jan Sangh. Banarasi Das has been using its alliance with the Jan Sangh not only against the other political parties, not only against the group of dissident Congressmen, but also against HARGOVIND SINGH and MUZAFFAR HASAN faction inside the Gupta group itself.

Banarasi Das has been using this unholy gang-up to run a campaign against Hargovind Singh to oust him from the Home Ministry. He covets the portfolio himself. His supporters have therefore played an active part in fanning the fires of the recent students' agitation also.

And now the Jan Sangh organs in the state have announced that "the Home portfolio is being taken away from Hargovind Singh. It will be handled either by the Chief Minister herself, or by some other senior member of the cabinet."

Hargovind Singh's police methods have already made him unpopular among all sections and therefore if he is sacked no one will be found to regret it, even though it may help in strengthening the Jan Sangh's influence in the police administration.



# 'SHIKSHA' & 'MIDLINK SIX' notes of the week

SHIKSHA is over and the US and British air force planes will be out of the country by this weekend. But the necessity remains for the greatest patriotic vigilance by all Indian democrats, against imperialist efforts to use our military needs to subvert our basic policies.

The official hand-outs indicate that the exercises were "encouraging." Defence Ministry spokesmen have emphasised that the main object of the operation was to accustom Indian personnel to the use of radar and interception control, and "in this we had a high level of success." "IAF crews had acquired a distinct confidence in handling of radar."

Every Indian patriot would welcome any step to strengthen our defence potential. And the acquisition of radar is such a step, and one of considerable importance.

The joint exercises, in their original form, were rightly subjected to sharp criticism by the progressive forces in the country, and specially by the Communist Party and democratic mass organisations.

The joint exercises, as they were first planned by the imperialist powers, were definitely part of the old, rejected "air umbrella" or the "air-slot" scheme. They would have meant a reversal of our policy of nonalignment, and a surrender of a part of our integrity and sovereignty to the imperialists.

The Shiksha exercises have been very different from those first proposed. The most striking and obvious difference can be seen in the comparatively small number of foreign military personnel involved and the short duration of their stay on our soil.

The original proposition involved several thousand US or British armed personnel, staying in India over a period of eighteen months or more. According to the information made available to the press, only 750 foreigners took part in Shiksha and the US or British air-force planes were here just for the short duration of the exercises, and the last of them are expected to be out of India by November 25.

Again it has been emphasised by the Defence Ministry repeatedly that the exercises are not joint defence exercises but only joint training exercises. And it has undoubtedly been the training aspect which has been uppermost as far as Indian participation is concerned.

These and other aspects of Shiksha—including the successful opposition which the Indian side has put up against the kind of publicity demanded by the US-British participants for the exercises—lead one to the emphatic conclusion that:

The SHIKSHA exercises are NOT the air umbrella or the air slot, and therefore do not mean a reversal of our policy of nonalignment.

Having come to this conclusion, it is at the same time necessary to underline the fact that the joint training exercises are sought to be used as the thin end of the wedge by the imperialists to impose the umbrella and the slot on us.

Let us make no mistake about it: the imperialist press has made out that the exercises are, in fact, the umbrella and amount to virtual alignment.

Listen to the US Time magazine (November 15) chortling with glee and sarcasm: "Endorsing 'nonalignment' party leaders (at Jaipur—B.C.) warned ritually against 'entanglements with military blocs'—even as US, British and Indian war planes flew over New Delhi in joint air exercises."

(November 20)

The imperialist-sponsored press in India is even more explicit. The notorious Thought (November 16) writes editorially on "The Meaning of Air Exercises", and comes to the conclusion that they mean that "in case of need, the might of the friendly West would be available to us."

Time laughs at our non-alignment, and pours scorn on it by pointing the joint exercises as alignment. Thought openly says that the exercises mean a military pact, ensuring the alliance with India of the "friendly West."

We do not need to take the imperialists' interpretation seriously always. But their interpretation does reveal their desires and wishes. And it is necessary to be doubly vigilant.

It is also necessary for us to note that the radar equipment, by itself, will not be useful without supersonic aircraft to intercept major aggressive bomber raids. This is what the exercises have decisively proved, if proof were really necessary.

The same imperialist powers, who boast of their willingness to help to defend India have persistently refused to give us supersonic planes. Without our own supersonic aircraft, the radar equipment can only mean the "slot system"—that is to say, we have only the ground equipment for imperialist aircraft to use over our soil. This is a totally untenable and unacceptable proposition.

The present radar equipment, unless accompanied by effective aircraft (and this means nothing less than supersonic planes), would necessitate the help of supersonic planes from the West, in case of an aggressive bomber attack.

The imperialists are determined not to give us such supersonic aircraft, precisely because they wish to keep India dependent for its defence on them.

The only way in which the nefarious designs of the imperialists can be foiled is by our building up our own defence—supersonic aircraft and all. And this we can and shall do, with the help of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

The MIG factories will soon be going up. And our self-reliant defence potential will grow fast.

But vigilance and a clear understanding of the issues involved are essential.

The grave danger to our security which can arise from over-close collaboration with the imperialists in regard to the defence of our borders, has been spotlighted by the fact that at this moment, just as Shiksha is taking place, what have been universally described as "the biggest exercises in CENTO's history"—named "Midlink Six"—have been held in Pakistan, 125 aircraft, 43 ships and 9000 men from the USA, Britain, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey took part in these exercises.

The CENTO is directly against the independence of all countries of this region. And the fact that these exercises took place this time just off Karachi brings into focus the menace to India.

The knowledge of our defence arrangements which might have been gained by

the US and British military and airforce personnel participating in Shiksha, will certainly be placed at the disposal of all CENTO powers including Pakistan. No serious Indian patriot can note this possible development without concern.

It has not added to our equanimity to see that just at this time when the US government is refusing to sell us supersonic aircraft, it has decided to give more supersonic fighters to Pakistan.

The Shiksha exercises must be seen as a whole and their real character understood. This alone will help us to frustrate the imperialists' scheme to use Shiksha as a stepping stone to the umbrella.

The imperialists seek to blunt the edge of our natural revulsion to the use of our soil by foreign military personnel or to the handing over of our defence to the gun-running American's easy escape from the clutches of law and vigilance under the very nose of Authority.

## DEATH-BLOW TO VOA

THE Prime Minister has made it clear in Parliament that the AIR-VOA deal is off. Government, it has been announced, has informed the US authorities that an agreement in regard to the setting up of a high power transmitter on our soil can only be on the basis that no VOA broadcasts are made from it.

This scrapping of the VOA deal is a victory of the united national democratic forces—which have seen to it that this shameful violation of our basic policies is not allowed to go through. The matter for public concern now is the refusal of the government of India to take any steps against the officers responsible for pushing this dirty deal through.

## BUILDING OUR OWN MACHINES

THE week has seen also the final rebuff to the US imperialists over Bokaro. It has been announced that we shall build the Bokaro plant ourselves.

That this is not mere bravado is proved by the fact of the formal inauguration of the four projects of the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi and Durgapur.

Tributes to the friendly economic collaboration with us of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, these projects can indeed be a vital contribution towards our economic independence.

Building our own machines will make us more and more self-reliant, less and less subject to the blackmail of the imperialists.

We have taken a decisive step towards our goal of economic independence. The Nation rejoices in these new and mighty symbols of our cooperation with the socialist world.

—Ramesh Chandra

NOVEMBER 24, 1963

# SHAMELESS DEFENCE OF INDEFENSIBLE UPROARIOUS DEBATE ON WALCOTT ESCAPE

IN PARLIAMENT

★ By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

The opening day of the sixth session of the Lok Sabha was notable for the singular event of leave being granted by the House to PSP member NATH PAI's adjournment motion on the escape of DANIEL WALCOTT, "a man wanted by the police in connection with the commission by him of several offences," in a plane from Safdarjung airport "thus bringing into ridicule the whole apparatus of security arrangements and giving cause and alarm in the public mind as to security as a whole." The Treasury Benches were caught napping when the Speaker announced that leave has been granted by the House as none came forward to object to the motion.

ATTEMPTS by TYAGI and others to reverse the Speaker's ruling, after a belated realisation of what had transpired, naturally did not succeed. If the incident was symptomatic of the inertia in government benches, the latter's performance the next day when the motion was discussed was even a worse example of dithering and desperate attempts to shake off responsibility for the gun-running American's easy escape from the clutches of law and vigilance under the very nose of Authority.

Not only was there any sign of remorse or shame in the words of the government spokesmen but they struck an attitude of righteousness and belligerence and thereby forfeited all claims to sympathy.

Nath Pai who spoke well initiating the discussion stressed on the security aspect of the case. "This government has not basically awakened to the problem of security, this is a security-blind regime", was his theme and he suggested that Parliament should look into the working of our intelligence machinery, for which he asked that a commission of MPs be appointed.

He recalled such incidents as the escape of LAIK ALI from Hyderabad, the shooting down of our Canberra by Pakistan, the crossing over by Nagas into Pakistan and also mentioned the poor state of our military intelligence.

INDRAJIT GUPTA who spoke supporting the motion even excelled Nath Pai by his well-argued and powerful indictment of the government's lapses as revealed in the Walcott incident. His points were concise and coordinated and his contribution the best in the debate. Indrajit cautioned the Home Minister that if Walcott took it into his head to write a book on his escape from India, it would be a sensational best-seller in Western countries and the Home Ministry may have a chapter in the book.

## An International Swindler

With telling effect Indrajit Gupta pointed out that when the government was flaunting every day before the ordinary citizen of this country its emergency powers, that an incident like this should take place in a strategic installation like the Safdarjung airport was no laughing matter. Indrajit said that Walcott, "an international swindler and crook" with a record in many countries, had been doing this gun-running for a long time.

It has been reported that the "noble royal house of Jaipur" was entertaining Walcott, that he was being used for smuggling cartridges and that he went on shooting trips with maharajas and maharanis.

Also it has been reported that he was introduced to the TATAS

was sent to the airport authorities at 7.45 p.m. on September 25. Walcott escaped from Safdarjung the next day at noon. Indrajit wanted to know what steps were taken during this time to prevent Walcott escaping with his plane.

Indrajit said that on the morning of September 26, when Walcott went to the airport and entered the hangar where his plane was kept, a class IV employee of the Civil Aviation had rushed to the control tower and informed the officer on duty there, one NORTON that Walcott was trying to escape with his plane. This employee had thrice warned Norton about what was happening when Walcott was refuelling and getting his plane ready to take off. But he was told that it was none of his business and that he need not do anything to prevent Walcott from taking off.

Indrajit wanted to know who was responsible for the time lag between Walcott's taking off from Safdarjung and the despatch of two IAF planes in pursuit of

him. Indrajit pointed out that it was not that there were no rules for the Civil Aviation authorities to prevent Walcott taking off in his plane. It was the total inability of the Civil Aviation and security authorities to enforce these rules, he said.

As for the government's request to the US government to send back Walcott and his plane, Indrajit Gupta said there was nothing wrong in it. But he wanted to know what has been the response from the US side. If they do not comply with our government's request, the people of this country will be free to draw their own conclusions, he said.

Both Home Minister NANDA and Transport Minister RAJ BAHADUR who answered for the government not only failed to satisfy the critics but angered them by reducing the whole case into one of legal niceties. Nanda said that there was no lapse of security because Walcott was not wanted by the police in any criminal case. His argument was that

Walcott had undergone his sentence for violation of Arms Act and that he was free to go anywhere.

"There was no question of the police, no question of any wanted man, no question of surveillance, no question of security", according to the Home Minister. As for the case brought against Walcott by the Tatas and the court order restraining Walcott from removing his plane, it was a civil matter!

This kind of reasoning was further developed by Raj Bahadur when he contended that the court order—which he read out and which had specifically asked Walcott not to remove his Piper plane from the Safdarjung airport—was only an interim order to the person concerned himself and neither the police nor the Civil Aviation authorities were enjoined to see that the order was enforced, despite the fact that a copy of the court order had been sent to the Airport Officer at Safdarjung.

Raj Bahadur went further and said that Walcott was free to

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# Heavy Machinery Plant and its Significance

Economic notes

DIWALI this year brought a new cheer to India, a cheer not merely of lights from myriad lamps—which continued to be dim because of the emergency and economic strains—but of furnaces and plants, heralding her entry into a new industrial era.

On that day, the Prime Minister inaugurated the country's first heavy machine building plant in the public sector at Ranchi—built with financial and technical assistance from the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister also unveiled a column commemorating the fraternal collaboration between the two countries and also between India and Czechoslovakia, which has set up the nearby forge foundry and heavy machine tools plants.

The act was symbolic of the present times in which a strong socialist world system acts as a formidable factor influencing the growth of the developing nations.

India takes legitimate pride in the huge Ranchi complex, because it is the fruit of her own technicians' skill and labour. She is at the same time conscious of her obligation to the USSR and Czechoslovakia for their unstinted cooperation in setting it up.

The occasion should also serve as a reminder of developments preceding the selection of the USSR as the collaborator for the Ranchi project, because they tell a tale of a struggle and a lesson derived from it.

The struggle as usual was between those who want the country to go forward to economic independence and socialism, and those to

whom such terms are mere clichés, and the lesson is naturally the need for vigilance lest seemingly innocuous, and even "plausible" suggestions, should divert the country's progress into wrong channels.

India's Second Plan had stressed the importance of basic industries to form the base for future growth, and for this it was necessary to start with heavy engineering items to enable the country to make its own machines. Two missions—one from the USSR and the other from Britain—were invited to submit recommendations for the purpose, but their reports, when received, revealed diametrically opposite views.

The British, knowing their India and cognizant of the possibilities which her backwardness in technology could mean for their own industry, suggested the setting up of a number of small units, specialising in different lines but in total keeping the country essentially dependent on others for basic heavy items.

The USSR with no such consideration to inhibit her recommendation, suggested the creation of maximum feasible capacity at the base before taking to specialisation.

The government, caught between these two recommendations, sought the advice of a special committee, headed by TISCO's then director-in-charge, Jehangir Ghandy. This gentleman and his committee unhesitatingly chose the British model, mindful of its inadequacy to help the country's development towards self-reliance in machine-making.

The maximum capacity which the committee considered feasible for India was 20,000 tons—one-fourth

of the tonnage which the Ranchi plant will now be turning out even in its first phase.

The Prime Minister, however, cried a halt to this drift by throwing his weight in favour of the Soviet recommendation. These, he said, answered to India's needs, because India, like the USSR after the Revolution, needs not a slow, gradual progress, envisaged in the British plan, but a speedy growth in basic lines to sustain and promote future progress.

With the way thus cleared, the credit arrangement with the Soviets followed, and, as at Bhilai, the Soviet skill, and the Indian technicians' readiness to learn from it, has resulted in the nation making a Diwali gift of the Ranchi plant to itself and its people.

## WISDOM AT LAST!

THE government of India has at last overcome its scepticism about the capacity of our own nationals to undertake the construction of major projects. It has entrusted Messrs DASTUR AND CO. with the engineering work of the Bokaro steel project.

Dastur & Co. represents a group of talented young engineers who, besides their professional skill, have a keen perception of the country's industrial requirements.

They are also imbued with a sense of purpose, which enabled them to see through the statistical mesh of the US steel experts, who had inflated the cost estimates of the project. Yet, their association

with Bokaro, was opposed by quite a few people in the bureaucracy, who wanted some American firm, or Indian firm willing to collaborate with an American firm to undertake the job.

The government's decision is a rebuff to these gentlemen, and a well-deserved recognition of the merits of the Indian engineers grouped in the firm.

## CRYING WOLF

AN important recent development, which has caused a stir in industrial circles, is the government's decision to make the Life Insurance Corporation enter the field of general insurance.

The private insurance circles consider this entry to be a prelude to total eclipse of private companies, while the government has presented it as a move to curb their malpractices.

The role, visualised for the LIC in the sphere of general insurance, corresponds to that of the State Bank in the sphere of banking, and just as the latter has not prevented the banking industry from its many vices, it is apparent that the LIC too will fail to bring any remarkable change in insurance.

It is thus a half-hearted measure, which cannot cut much ice with adept manipulators, like those brought to light in an earlier debate in Parliament.

Still, if the insurance circles are crying wolf, is it because the thieves are proverbially believed to have the feet of clay?

—ESSEN

November 19



# Under Fire from All Sides

## Kerala Land Bill

★ From S. Sharma

TRIVANDRUM, November 17:

The Kerala Land Reforms Bill, now popularly called "landlord protection bill" for its anti-tenant nature, is under fire from all sides, inside and outside the state legislature. While the satyagraha movement is continuing outside, inside the Assembly the Communist and PSP legislators are putting up a dogged fight.

LEADING personalities like legislators, municipal councillors and trade union leaders are participating in the protest satyagraha before the gates of the Assembly in Trivandrum and the district collectorates.

At Qullon, T. K. Diwakaran, the RSP chairman of the municipal council, and A. R. Koya, vice-chairman, participated in the satyagraha on November 8. In Alleppey leaders of all trade unions joined the satyagraha. At Trivandrum, 20 Communist legislators led a demonstration of over a thousand people to a public meeting to protest against the Bill.

Inside the legislature, Revenue Minister P. T. Chacko and the Congress Party is not having an easy time. The Minister's timetable has been upset by the resolute resistance of the Opposition. Though he had planned to get the Bill passed before November 15, it is now expected to get through only by November 21.

The opposition to the anti-tenant provisions in the Bill is led by C. Achutha Menon, K. R. Gouri, N. E. Balaram and E. P. Gopalan from the Communist benches, K. Chandrashekharan, P. R. Kurup and P. M. Kunhraman Nambiar from the PSP benches and V. R. Krishna Iyer, independent.

The rough weather which the Bill is facing in the Legislature has caused concern to the Planning Commission. It is reported that Shriman Narayan has again addressed a letter to the Kerala govern-

ment seeking clarification on some of the provisions of the Bill.

The Bill became a topic of discussion at the recent meeting of the National Development Council also. Orissa Chief Minister BIREN MITRA is reported to have criticised the Kerala government's move in bringing forward a new Bill to replace the Agrarian Relations Act of the Nambodiripad Ministry "which on all accounts, judged by all standards, was a model piece of progressive land legislation".

R. Shankar, Kerala Chief Minister was hard put to explain away the move, and took shelter behind the plea that the Bill retained all the basic provisions of the Act of 1961 and was being brought forward only to remove certain lacunae.

How out of tune with facts this plea is has been amply proved by the debate on the Bill so far in the Assembly.

One of the most objectionable provisions in the Bill was the one enabling the landlords to enhance rent, in certain cases up to 100 per cent. So sharp and universal was the criticism against this provision that the Revenue Minister was forced to announce during the first reading that he was prepared to concede the Opposition demand to scrap this provision.

However, this assurance was not kept. In the substitute clause, that the Minister introduced and got passed as amendment to the original

clause, the benefit of paying contract rent or rent calculated at the rates fixed under the provisions of the Bill whichever is less, will accrue only to tenants under landlords who are not smallholders.

As for tenants under smallholders, it is the latter who have the choice to demand rent calculated at the rates laid down under the Bill or to demand rent fixed under any enactment in force before January 21, 1961 or 75 per cent of the contract rent.

As more than 90 per cent of the landlords in the state are smallholders, this means that the large majority of tenants will not have the benefit of the "whichever-is-less" provision. In Malabar, the new provision will force the tenants of garden lands to pay ten to 25 times the rent they are paying now.

In fact, the clause substituted is worse than the original clause in one respect.

The original clause contained a restriction that in no case the rent fixed under the "whichever-is-less" provision be more than twice the contract rent. By the new clause even this restriction has been taken away as far as the tenants under smallholders are concerned.

Even in the case of tenants under landlords other than smallholders, the Bill does not give them all the benefits that had been given in the Agrarian Relations Act. The Act had provided that when calculating rent, in the case of double crop paddyland, the second crop was to be considered as equivalent to half the first crop to calculate the gross produce and that even if the land had benefited from irrigation works put up by the government or local authority, the gross produce was to be calculated as if there were

no such works existing. Both these provisions have been left out in the Bill.

The only concessions that have been wrested from the Revenue Minister so far, according to C. Achutha Menon, Communist deputy leader of the Opposition, are:

● The provision enabling landlords to evict tenants for non-payment of rent for two consecutive years has been dropped.

● The definition of the smallholder has been restricted so that the maximum extent of land that a smallholder can own is 24 ordinary acres or eight standard acres whichever is less, and the maximum he can possess is four standard acres or four ordinary acres whichever is greater.

The Bill had originally provided that the smallholder could own 30 ordinary acres and possess five standard acres.

## Fresh from Dollar Land

Jan Sangh General Secretary, DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA, who is due to return home on November 25, after a two-month sojourn abroad on an American invitation, will come back as a confirmed propagandist of dollarland. He is now going to sell America in India with even greater zeal.

THIS is clearly indicated in what he said in London on his way to West Germany. Meeting some correspondents there, he told them that it was bunkum to say that "America is pro-Pakistan and anti-Indian".

Having undertaken this salesmanship, Upadhyaya will, of course, be hard put to it explaining to his own followers certain cardinal aspects of the US stand vis-a-vis India.

★ How is he going to explain the fact, for instance, that America sought to declare India an aggressor when we cleaned up the Portuguese rat's nest in Goa and would indeed have succeeded in doing so if the Soviet veto had not come in the way?

★ What will he have to say about the grim reality of America letting India down over such a vital economic project as Bokaro?

★ Last but not the least, he will find it very hard to explain the American manoeuvrings in regard to Kashmir seeking nothing short of the valley's dismemberment from India.

In none of these episodes did the USA show itself as a true friend of India and yet its reactionary agents inside our country want to project an image of it as a true friend and genuine well-wisher. They propagandise the fact that America offers to help us in the fight against China. Upadhyaya said to his London listeners that the Americans had told him that "India will get all that she needs to defend herself against China."

Thus it is clear that he is going to show himself a very doughy champion. But even in regard to China, American "friendship" has been a deceptive commodity, having many selfish motives to hide. Firstly, she is happy to see India and China at war. The hotbed of tension created in the Himalayas by Chinese policy has come as a godsend to America, as to all imperialists and their Indian cronies.

Secondly, the help is not with-

out strings, and so far quite miserably too—because India has not stooped to the desired extent. For this, US stooges have been openly cursing our country. Jan Sangh propaganda has been quite blatant in this regard; and has also been exposed in these columns.

Yet, I must congratulate Upadhyaya on his renewed assignment. He has shown that he is a loyal ally of America, although singularly lacking in loyalty to his own land and people.

## SOMERSAULT ON KASHMIR?

FOR a long time hate-propaganda against Pakistan was the stock-in-trade of the RSS and Jan Sangh. That coincided with the period when the imperialists strove to promote their selfish interests by trying to keep the vivisectioned parts of the sub-continent at daggers drawn. The weakness of the two warring states was the advantage of the imperialist third party.

The trouble in Kashmir brought rich dividend in the form of American military control over Gilgit, a strategic area, in regard to which even the Jan Sangh leader BALRAJ MADHOK had to admit the following:

"Bombers flying from Gilgit can strafe the industrial areas of Urals where the armaments industries of USSR have been concentrated. This has made Gilgit a thing coveted by Anglo-Americans. Pakistan has been dangling it before their eyes, to secure their support against India."

With the start of the Sino-Indian conflict, the emphasis has shifted to this new front. As a corollary, one finds an amazing shift in RSS-Jan Sanghite approach to Pakistan. Many people may not believe their own eyes, but this is what their propaganda sheet has written in its latest issue:

"It will be futile to pretend



that Pakistan in 1947 did not have an arguable case in Kashmir... The very fact that the Nehru government agreed to a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir state was itself an admission that Pakistan was not without a locus standi in that affair." (ORGANISER, Nov. 18, p. 3)

The above remarks reveal the new state of mind. We had an inkling of it when the Sangh failed to register a protest against Swatantra leader RAJAJI's advocacy of independence for the Kashmir Valley.

This whole episode shows how the Swatantra Party and the Sangh dance to the tune of the foreign imperialists who have of late been feverishly engaged in trying to take Kashmir away from India in the name of Indo-Pak rapprochement, against China. It is astonishing how soon the patriotic postures of these stooges have been exposed.

★ WHEN the communalists shout about "Akhand Bharat" (India Indivisible), it is not the terrible integrity of the country that they really mean. They talk in grim tones against "dismembered limbs" of the Mother, but their digits of thought are purely that of communal aggrandisement. Here is a tell-tall piece from an ORGANISER editorial:

"Reality is that many men in India regard partition a jolly good riddance and like not to think of Pakistan at all. If tomorrow Pakistan offered to join India there would be many in India who would think thrice about the bloc of ten crore Muslims before saying 'yes'." (November 18, emphasis added)

That is the logic of communalism. Even if Pakistan offers to rejoin India, and undo partition, the Hindu communalists will "think thrice".

The "bloc of ten crore Muslims" might make them think whether at all to have Bharat Mata as one whole!

—GARUDA

# ROMESH CHANDRA REVIEWS INDIAN DIPLOMATS' CONFERENCE

## FOR FULL SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA

The five-day conference in Delhi last week of heads of our diplomatic missions in Africa and West Asia is reported to have resulted in ensuring that "India's policy towards and performance in Africa is likely to be more effective and purposeful than hitherto". (STATESMAN, November 15). A number of important and welcome decisions have been taken, all of which have been announced to the press with a sense of satisfaction by the External Affairs Ministry.

BUT whatever the positive and useful results of the diplomats' conclave, the fact must be faced that the government of India has totally failed to come to grips with the crux of the problem facing us in regard to our African policies.

The diplomats' conference has done well in deciding on setting up the requisite machinery to coordinate and facilitate the supply of African countries of technical personnel from India, on increasing the number of our diplomatic missions in Africa, on "streamlining" our publicity, on increasing the number of scholarships for African students and on expanding trade and economic collaboration by exchanging trade delegations and economic missions.

All these steps are important and will be supported by all those who stand for closer relations with the African peoples.

There were discussions during the conference with representatives of economic and cultural ministries and presumably, fairly detailed projects have been prepared for the expansion of economic and cultural contacts.

At present 11 heads of missions deal with more than 20 African countries. The conference has decided to increase the number of missions. It is to be hoped that this decision will be implemented without delay.

Similarly the decision to increase the number of technical personnel from India to Africa should be implemented without too much red-tape. There are about 300 of our technical men at present serving in Africa. The number can and should be doubled almost immediately. The provision for a short course in French for our technicians will enable us to be of use in the French-speaking countries also.

But did we require a conference to bring home the great need of the African countries for technical personnel or of a short course in French?

An increase in the number of scholarships to African students is also contemplated. Here, too, the decision had instantly been taken even before the diplomats' conference. It is claimed that the diplomats returned with a better sense of their responsibilities and duties. The Prime Minister spoke at the opening and closing of the conference and emphasised the key significance of Africa. He was reported to have said in his concluding remarks that the task of diplomats was "to project the image of India as a free country, which had no interest there apart from



My answer had been "NO", and I had shown, on the basis of my talks with African leaders at Moshi that there has been a gross neglect in recent years of our vital duties towards the new Africa."

The anti-Indian propaganda finds a fertile soil in the failures of the government policies in Africa. The diplomats' conference last week saw the failures only as "diplomatic" and proposed technical "diplomatic" improvements—more men, more trade, better publicity, more scholarship, more technical help, and so on.

All these improvements, as I have said, are positive. But that will not make a qualitative change unless they are linked to and made part of a real political reorientation of our policy in Africa.

To put it in a nutshell, I believe that our policy in Africa has lost that sharp edge of solidarity, which it always had. Wholehearted, unconditional support to the struggles of the African peoples against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism is required of us. And our entire attitude in Africa must be dictated by this policy of solidarity.

It is true that at the end of the diplomats' conference, it was stated, in response to a journalist's question, that "India would support whatever means the Organisation of African Unity took for the liquidation of Portuguese colonialism from the continent." (PATRIOT, November 14)

Over eight months ago, on my return from the Afro-Asian solidarity conference at Moshi, I wrote in NEW AGE (March 3) on our policies in Africa and called on the government to take certain specific steps to brush them up. I had then written of the hostile anti-Indian propaganda being conducted by interested quarters in Africa, and had posed the question: "Would all the anti-Indian propaganda in the world have cut any ice with the African fighters for freedom just a few years ago?"

organisations that the sums collected by them for the solidarity fund would be allowed to be sent to the African national movements. Foreign exchange difficulties are pleaded for even the smallest contribution.

Material aid should also be in the form of facilities for offices of the national movements to be opened in India. We had an Algerian office in Delhi during the days of the Algerian liberation struggle. Why is the government cold-shouldering the proposals for offices for the South African, Angolan and other national movements to be opened in the capital?

These are not new proposals. But they did not find place in the diplomats' discussions because the conference was not permitted to get to the root of the problem.

It is not enough to say we support everything that the Organisation of African Unity does to end colonialism. The Indian of only yesterday always took the lead in proposals for concerted action for any nation's freedom. India is tending to become just another "also ran"—giving its vote to Afro-Asian resolutions but not being marked out as the most firm opponent of colonialism, the first in the field in any action against the imperialists.

The image we want to re-create is the image of that militant, anti-imperialist India which has been tarnished not only by hostile propaganda but by government's own shilly-shallying on vital issues.

Misrepresentation of our policies needs to be effectively combated. An instance in point is the manner in which US and British news agencies, which still feed so many newspapers in Africa, have put out stories of the joint air exercises giving them the appearance of being virtually part of a military pact of some sort or another!

But continuing misrepresentation and slander can be met best if we stand firm on an unhesitant policy of solidarity.

Enough has been said in Parliament and in the press about the totally wrong attitude towards Africans of some of our diplomats (there are notable exceptions, who have won themselves and India an abiding place in African hearts). The present unfortunate attitude of a handful of civil servants of Indian origin in East Africa has also made the task difficult. These civil servants, who refuse to accept service conditions on a par with their African brothers, are only a small fraction of the Asian population, but their attitude is looked

The fact, however, is conveniently forgotten that a Solidarity Fund of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Movement works in close liaison with the African national movements, and is anxiously awaiting contributions from all anti-imperialist organisations. Let alone contribute to this fund itself, the government is still not prepared to assure Indian democratic

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## CALCUTTA SNIPPETS

### Jute Award and Kesoram Affairs

IMPLEMENTATION of the award of the Jute Wage Board has begun. But news from different areas clearly reveal a widespread attempt by the management to deprive as many workers as possible of the full benefits of the award. Particularly the piece-rated workers have been denied the prescribed minimum in many units.

At the time of paying bonus also the managements deprived monthly paid workers and employees of three days' pay, by paying 12 days' pay as half month's pay.

In protest against this fraudulent implementation in regard to piece-rated workers five workers of Victory Jute Mills at Garden Reach went on hunger strike from November 13 and on Saturday the Labour Directorate sent instructions to the mill management to pay the prescribed minimum. Thereafter the workers broke fast.

★ WHILE jute bosses are trying to deprive the workers of

their gains, Birlas are making strenuous efforts to break the AITUC union of the Kesoram Cotton Mills workers at Garden Reach — the Garden Reach Textile Workers' Union. There is a stooge INTUC union representing a small minority. Birlas are trying to foist that union on the workers as the representative and recognised union and through introduction of closed shop system, to oust the AITUC union, which has overwhelming support of the workers.

When various tricks by mill management have failed to yield desired results, the governmental machinery has been pressed into service by the Birlas. Order under Section 144 has been issued by the SDO, Alipore against the Garden Reach Textile Workers' Union prohibiting it from holding meeting in the available open grounds in Garden Reach.

The workers are prepared to resist all attempts to foist a stooge union on them and to destroy their own beloved organisation. If necessary they will go on strike.



# CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS DETENUS GOVT. MUST RELEASE THEM NOW

★ From MADHUSUDAN BHATTACHARYYA

SHILLONG: While press reports indicate that the Union Home Ministry has advised the state governments to review the cases of detenues "liberally", the Assam government appears to have ignored such advice, if it was given. No review has taken place during past some months and nobody has been released. Over 30 Communists from Assam are still in detention and some of them are lodged in Berhampur jail in Orissa.

IN the past several representations were made to the state government to release the detenues who were arrested and detained on mere suspicion. Sometimes assurances of consideration were given by the authorities. But for the last few months the state government seems to maintain a rigid attitude, that nothing more needs to be done in the matter.

As far as could be gathered from well-informed sources here, during the past some months not a single case has been referred to the reviewing committee constituted by the state government. Unless cases are referred to it, the committee can not initiate on its own any review.

Sometime back an indication was given by a highly

suffering from various ailments.

**BIRESH MISRA**, an old veteran Communist of this state, was lodged in Berhampur jail in Orissa. He was taken seriously ill which necessitated his transfer to Cuttack Medical College hospital. After a period of treatment there, he was taken to Cuttack central jail. Recently he was transferred to Alipur jail in Calcutta, presumably on medical ground, because the climatic condition of Orissa did not suit him. But inspite of repeated requests to transfer him to Assam, the government would not do so.

Another seven Assam detenues are still lodged in Berhampur Jail. If about 25 Communists detained in different Assam jails have not endangered the security of this state how the few detenues now lodged in Berhampur jail would be a danger, if they are transferred to Assam, is incomprehensible.

## WIFE ALSO AILING

While Biresh Misra has been ailing in Alipur jail his wife

Dr. **KALYANI MISRA** has been ailing in Presidency jail where she was taken from Berhampur jail. She became so seriously ill that sometime back she had to be transferred to S. S. K. Hospital in Calcutta where she was administered oxygen for a number of days, according to a report received here. She has since been taken to jail.

Dr. Kalyani Misra was engaged in establishing a maternity and child welfare centre in Silchar before her arrest. She was the life and soul of the institution which had even received grant from the government of India. In her absence the institution is reported to be facing serious difficulty and it is feared that unless she is released and back at her job soon, it might collapse. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that immediately after the arrest of the Misras, their house was set on fire by some miscreants and that fire also damaged a portion of the hospital that Dr. Kalyani Misra was establishing.

Most of the other detenues lodged in Berhampur jail have also been ailing; almost all of them have developed stomach troubles, it is learnt. Detenues lodged in Assam jails also do not fare better. A number of them are suffering from various ailments.

The families of these detenues have been facing serious difficulties, being deprived of the wherewithal to maintain themselves. Family allowance has been sanctioned to some of them. But the amount is inadequate to meet even their bare minimum needs. Besides, the payment of the sanctioned amount is also extremely irregular. After about three months, they get one instalment of the allowance.

The allowance has to be drawn from the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district. In

some cases there is none to go up to the office of the Deputy Commissioner to receive the payment and in most cases, it is alleged, those who go to receive the allowance have to overcome several hurdles before they can get it.

Reports indicate that while in the case of some detenues from other districts, the allowance sanctioned is Rs. 83 p.m., in the case of the detenues from Cachar the amount is only Rs. 50 p.m. Recently a letter was received here from the wife of **JAJNESWAR DAS**, a Communist leader of Karimganj, in Cachar district, that she could not manage to pay the examination fees of her two daughters who are to appear at the ensuing High School Leaving Certificate examination. Only Rs. 50 p.m. has been sanctioned for this family consisting of nine members, including the old mother of Jajneswar Das. Jajneswar Das is detained in Berhampur jail.

Wife of **ANIL ROY CHOUDHURY**, another detenu from Kamrup district, recently wrote a personal letter to the Chief Minister narrating the pitiable condition of her family consisting of six members, including her mother-in-law and young children since the arrest of Anil who was the only earning member of the family that lives in a rented house near Gauhati. She wrote this letter after several appeals from her to the government failed to bring her even a reply.

**SUREN HAZARIKA** of Jorhat was lodged in Jorhat jail. During his detention his eldest son, aged about seven years only, died in an accident by drowning. Hazarika was later on granted parole for only fifteen days. One can easily imagine the condition of this family now.

More or less the same heart-rending story is reported from almost all families of the detenues.

# INTUC SEEKS DISMISSAL OF AITUC MILITANTS IN BHILAI

★ From Our Correspondent

**BHILAI:** It is a time-honoured tradition for the INTUC to conspire against the AITUC and its activists in collusion with the employers. The managements of some of the public sector concerns are also not free from the habit of acquiescing in the pressure of the INTUC.

WHEN allegations about the managements' discrimination against the AITUC and its activists on the advice of, and in collaboration with the INTUC are made, bland details never fail to come forth. Here is documentary proof of an instance where an AITUC activist was sought to be removed from service. The letter in Hindi, a photostat of which appears below, is from INTUC representative at the project dairy of the Bhilai steel plant, to the

dairy officer demanding that **Ram Nitur**, an AITUC activist, be dismissed from service.

The letter in part says that **Ram Nitur** "is a Communist; his continuance in service is making INTUC work difficult; the outlook of an INTUC worker cannot tolerate the growth and influence of a Communist" and therefore he should not be retained in service when he comes back from leave!

The letter in English, a photostat of which also appears here, is from the dairy

officer to the general secretary of the INTUC union at Bhilai, seeking advice on the demand his underling has made. It is significant to note that the officer himself sees no reason why **Ram Nitur** should not be retained in service.

But what is surprising is that despite this feeling, the officer had taken the extraordinary step of consulting the INTUC chief on whether to retain a worker or not, instead of the normal course of consulting his own superior officers; in this

## Court Orders Reinstatement

Meanwhile, the industrial court at Indore has ordered the reinstatement in service of **M. N. K. PILLAI**, acting general secretary of the Bhilai Steel Mazdoor Sabha. This order was passed on a revision petition by Pillai against the judgement of the labour court at Raipur which had upheld the management's order removing him from service.

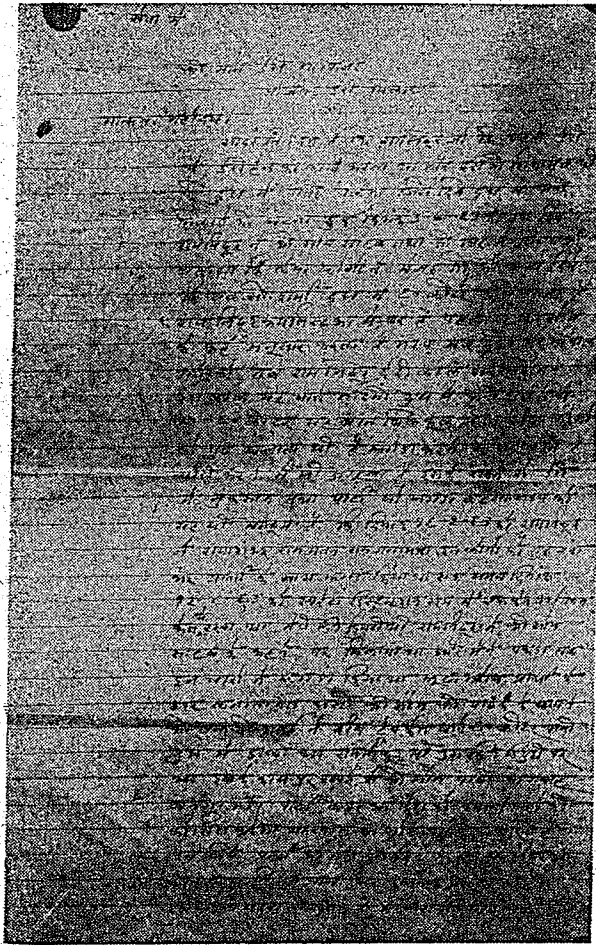
The industrial court awarded Pillai full backwages and Rs. 50 as costs and directed the management to reinstate him in his former post within 15 days of the receipt of the order. The order was passed on October 11 but the management has not yet complied with the order.

That the termination of services of Pillai was nothing but victimisation is clear from the observation of the industrial court that "we find that the petitioner was an efficient worker as he earned repeated promotions within a short period of service, that his record of service was clean throughout as he incurred no black mark at all, his character and antecedents were good, his juniors were retained in service but his services were terminated without any rhyme or reason."

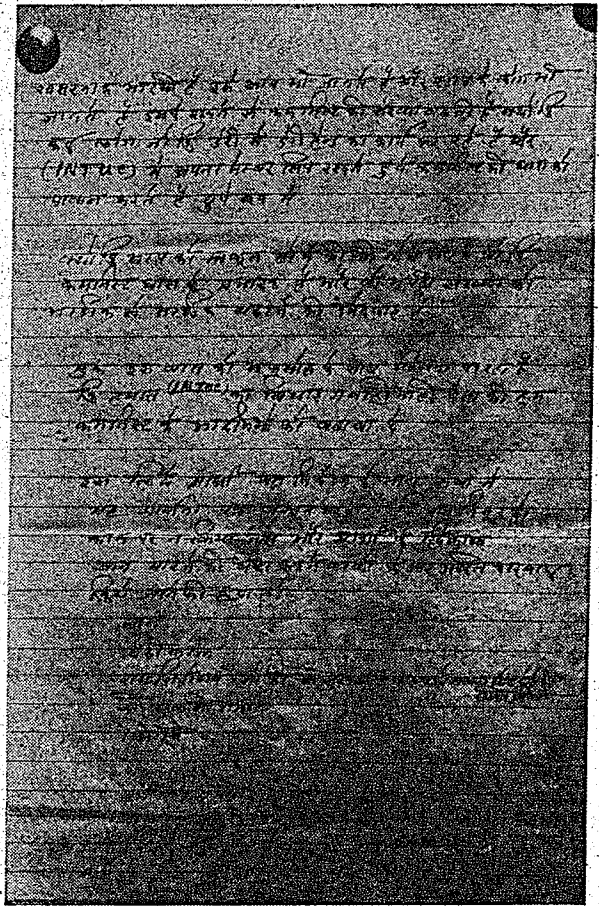
Pillai's services were terminated, it seems, on a report by the Kerala police that he was a "security risk" having been a Students Federation worker while in college. What is not comprehensible is how during all the four years of service in the Bhilai steel project, he was all right, but suddenly because a "risk" in March this year.

Another recent case of victimisation was that of **KRISHNAN**, an employee in the project canteen at Rajhara whose services were terminated on October 7.

On a call from the Rajhara branch of the Samyukta Khandan Mazdoor Sangh, the miners boycotted the canteen on November 13 in protest against the victimisation of Krishnan.



The INTUC representative's letter to the dairy officer, Bhilai Steel project, demanding dismissal of AITUC activist



The dairy officer's letter to INTUC chief at Bhilai, seeking advice on the demand

# SECTIONS OF BIDI WORKERS FACE SERIOUS SITUATION

★ From Our Correspondent

**AHMEDABAD:** The serious situation arising out of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court holding that certain sections of bidi workers were not workmen as defined by the Industrial Disputes Act but only contractors was the subject of discussion at a conference of bidi workers in Gujarat.

THE conference was held at Surat on October 27 under the presidency of **INDULAL YAGNIK**, MP. Bidi workers' representatives from all over Gujarat

attended the conference, inaugurated by **MANUBHAI PALKHIVALA**, M.L.A. **BHALCHANDRA TRIVEDI**, general secretary of the Gujarat State Trade Union Congress, also attended it.

The Supreme Court judgement had resulted in large-scale exploitation of the bidi workers by the employers. The workers were deprived of their rights and denied living wages, and they could not seek any protection under law.

The conference, after discussing the various aspects of the situation, passed a resolution asking the state and central governments to bring forward necessary legislation to protect the bidi workers' rights and safeguard their interests.

Resolutions demanding bonus and increase in dearness allowance,

check on prices and release of trade union activists detained under the DIR were also passed by the conference.

The conference recorded its protest against the construction of a new capital for Gujarat at the stupendous expenditure of Rs. 40 crores when people were being squeezed out of their last pennies through the high taxes.

Yagnik, addressing the workers at the end of the conference, called upon them to be prepared for struggles—meetings, demonstrations, hunger strike before the Assembly. The workers should be prepared to sacrifice for their cause, otherwise the demands raised cannot be secured, he said.

A largely attended public meeting was also held after the conference, addressed by the bidi workers' leaders.

# Nowgong Byelection Campaign Rising

**GAUHATI:** Byelection to the Assam Legislative Assembly from the Nowgong Sadar constituency, in the vacancy caused by the death of former Revenue and Finance Minister **MATIRAM BORA**, is fixed for December 15. The contest here between the Congress and CPI is keen and considered very important.

IN the last general elections, the ministerial group in the Assam Pradesh Congress had brought the late **Matiram Bora** to the Sadar constituency from Marigaon to contest against **PHANI BORA**, secretary of the Assam state council of the Communist Party.

Phani Bora had been elected in the previous byelection held in 1959 by an overwhelming majority against the present Education Minister **D. K. Barooah**. While Phani Bora was defeated by the late **Matiram Bora**, the latter's former constituency, Marigaon, was lost to the Congress and annexed by the PSP.

ed from the Congress for five years by the majority group and many here believe that at such an old age this suspension had brought distress and shock to this popular old man and hastened his death. Now in his place the Congress is putting up a candidate who is neither so well known to the public nor popular in the constituency. He was a press relations officer for the Chief Minister until recently, that is till October 31 last.

The Communist Party is putting up **Phani Bora** again to contest this seat in the coming byelection. He is a

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## Paramount necessity for the formation of health

You feel tired to work... do not get energy to work or suffer from colds... or perhaps you have not a desire for food or what you take does not digest even.

Then it would rapidly improve your health if you take two spoonful of **Mritasanjibani** mixed with four spoonful of **Mahadraksharista** (6 years old).

**SADHANA AUSADHALAYA—DACCA**  
36, Sadhana Ausadhalaya Road  
Sadhana Nagar, Calcutta 49

Adhyaksha Dr. Jagesh Chandra Ghose, M.A. Ayurved-Sastri, F.C.S. (London) M.C.S. (America) Formerly Professor of Chemistry, Bhagalpur College.



**MRTISANJIBANI**  
**MAHADRAKSHARISTA**  
(6 years old)

Calcutta Centre: Dr. Nares Chandra Ghose, M.B.B.S. (Cal.) Ayurvedacharya.



# TYPES

DIWALI this year brought a handsome, highly prized gift to the nation in the form of the four projects under the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi and Durgapur formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Symbols of Indo-Soviet and Indo-Czech friendship, the engineering complex consisting of the heavy machine building plant, the heavy machine tools plant and the foundry forge plant at Ranchi and the coal mining machinery plant at Durgapur represent a landmark in India's industrial development and have been hailed as the harbingers of a new era of growth and prosperity for the nation. The press comments on the inauguration of these projects exuded a sense of optimism and rejoicing.

'Birth of a giant' said FREE PRESS JOURNAL of November 18 describing the inauguration of these projects and said that when completed, these projects will help significantly in the expansion of our capital-goods industry, reduce appreciably the present drain on foreign exchange and quicken the pace of industrialisation, since many of the much-needed machines and tools can be produced indigenously. The newspapers have appreciated Minister Subramaniam's statement that the completion of the heavy machine building plant will help the manufacture of indigenous equipment for the proposed Bokaro steel plant. At the same time delay in the various stages of execution of these projects was also pointed out and the government urged to speed

up their completion. The FREE PRESS JOURNAL remarked: 'The heavy machine building project... began almost with the Second Plan and a contract for the preparation of the detailed project report was signed six years ago. Also, there has been a three years' delay in the Czech-assisted foundry forge plant. Again, the Czechoslovakian credit for the heavy machine tools plant had been made available nearly four years ago. Unlike some other projects, the excuse of any delay due to unavailability of foreign exchange is not valid in these cases. The report of the Third Plan, while recognising this point, admitted ruefully that all these projects should have been quite far advanced

in their construction, but were still in their initial stages. Fortunately, however, the prospect is now brightening. Yet the determination and the drive to hasten the completion of these projects should not flag or falter. There is much leeway to make up for India's initial delay.'

THE TIMES OF INDIA called the event 'the beginning of a new phase in the country's industrial development' and added: 'A basic 'mother industry', as Mr. Nehru described it, is being established and the completion of the complex of plants at present envisaged will represent an important technological advance.' After recalling the delay and indecision affecting these projects the paper hopefully said:

'None the less, a small beginning has been made. Training will go forward, some experience will be gained and the interim production will of course be useful. A 10-year production schedule is to be drawn up and a central products design institute is proposed to be established. These are sensible decisions and should be implemented with all speed so that the potential benefits from the vast investment being made in the project are realised as early as possible. Meanwhile 'inauguration' should not also lead to wishful double-counting of developing capacity.'

THE INDIAN EXPRESS said:

## EXCELLENT DIWALI GIFT

The country is on the threshold of a new era in which it need not continue to look to the more advanced countries for the flow of vital plants and equipment necessary to run the existing industries and to set up new ones. The achievements of the Third Plan may be disappointing, but at least for the fourth and the subsequent Plans there is better hope, if shortages in raw materials, fuel and transport do not prove inhibiting factors.'

'A New Age' was the headline of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES editorial. It said the inauguration of these important projects represent 'the beginning of the second wave of the industrial revolution in our country.' Again, 'despite the fumbling that preceded and the uncertainties ahead of the formal inauguration of these projects, it will be a poor Indian heart that does not thrill to the

thought that these are the beginnings of great things.'

THE STATESMAN which headlined the news of the inauguration of the projects by the Prime Minister as 'India enters heavy machine field' editorially commented on Saturday last: 'At Ranchi the heavy machine building plant is a symbol of the country's modern progress and of the international cooperation that has contributed to it; so too is the ceremony at Durgapur!'

The weekend's events have been preceded by the news of the Bokaro project and by the announcement that the engineering work will be done by Indian consultants. In heavy machine tools and other forms of production there is also heartening evidence of a growing self-sufficiency — a process wholly compatible with the continued use of technical assistance from friendly countries abroad.'

## MESS IN EDUCATION

NEWSPAPER comments on the recent conference of State Education Ministers and Vice-Chancellors were marked for what is almost a sense of relief at the failure of the conference to come to any definite conclusions and thereby not adding to the already prevailing confusion in the educational field.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES said that the conference was 'wise in rejecting a suggestion made by the All-India Council for Secondary Education, and supported at the conference by the Union Education Minister, that the total period at school should be spread over 12 years.'

It added: The 12-year course

has indeed been accepted as the goal but the views expressed by State Education Ministers left little doubt that it was likely to remain a very distant one for a long time.'

'Quixotry' cried THE TIMES OF INDIA: 'It is hard to see what purpose has been served by calling a conference of state education ministers to discuss a proposal which on the face of it is quixotic. Where is the point in asking the states to commit themselves to a twelve-year course when most of them have not even introduced an eleven-year course yet?'

THE INDIAN EXPRESS commented that the conference has failed in many respects, but perhaps in nothing more grievously than in not giving the quietus to the pre-university course.'

— SANJAYA

## NOWGONG

\*FROM PAGE SIX

popular and respected person in the constituency with a life-long record of sincere political and public work. Phani Bora is being supported by even many non-Communists, who otherwise do not subscribe to Party's policies, because they consider him a good candidate.

The Congress finding it very difficult to face Phani Bora in this byelection has started raising the issue of Chinese aggression to vilify the Communist Party, despite the fact that Phani Bora was the first to raise his voice against Chinese aggression and both he and the Communist Party had maintained a firm and clear stand on this question.

Also the Congress is trying to use the communal approach to canvass votes. The Congress candidate belongs to the Sut community and this community is being told now that it is upto them to see that the man from their community wins the election.

Counteracting this, the Communist Party has concentrated on explaining its political and economic programme to the electorate and criticism of Congress misdeeds and corruption and

failure in such vital sectors like development and defence, food and agriculture, land reform, industrialisation etc.

The PSP which is no force at all here is seeking to take advantage of the situation. Although they have not made up their minds as to whether they should contest the byelection and if so whom they should put up, they have been exploring the possibilities with a view to set up their candidate if any opportunity arose in the fight between the Congress and CPI. But such hopes are unlikely to bear fruit, because the electorate in the constituency is not a politically conscious one.

On the China issue, the PSP and the Congress strangely are working on the same lines, and with the same slogans.

As the election tempo is rising, the byelection in Nowgong Sadar constituency has acquired much importance and aroused widespread interest locally and in the state as a whole. It is generally held in informed circles that the issues to which the Nowgong electorate is likely to give more consideration in this election will be those of Congress promises and performance in the economic and political spheres.

## STATE TUCs PREPARE FOR BOMBAY CONFERENCE

### Joint Committees Formed with Kisan Sabhas

TRIVANDRUM: The executive committee of the Kerala State Trade Union Council has called upon all its affiliated unions to send delegates to the union delegates conference convened by the AITUC to plan the all-India agitation in defence of the interests of the working class.

THE executive held a meeting at Ernakulam on November 10 under the presidency of R. SUGATHAN and passed a resolution reviewing the situation obtaining in the state in the industrial relations field and setting out the tasks facing the trade union movement.

Pointing out the defects of the present system of consumer price index, the resolution said that "Bombay Bandh" was the first direct action of the working class to protest against the offensive on the actual wages of the workers mounted by the soaring prices and the obdurate policy of the managements and owners of industry.

The fact that following this, the government of Maharashtra had to set up an experts committee to go into the question of revising the cost of living index showed that this problem can no longer be ignored. It is significant that all the central trade union organisations have taken it up as an all-India slogan, the resolution said.

Pointing out that no employer had implemented the decision of the tripartite conference to set up fair price shops in industrial units employing more than 300 workers, the resolution said the Kerala government had no expeditious machinery to solve the technical and other difficulties raised by private employers. Nor are they ready to guarantee the regular supply of food articles to the fair price shops.

The annual bonus normally afforded a measure of relief to the workers faced with the inordinate rise in the cost of living. But the Bonus Commission is not expected to submit a unanimous report and the employers are refusing even the existing rates of bonus on the plea of loss. Direct action is being forced on the workers even to secure the present rates of bonus.

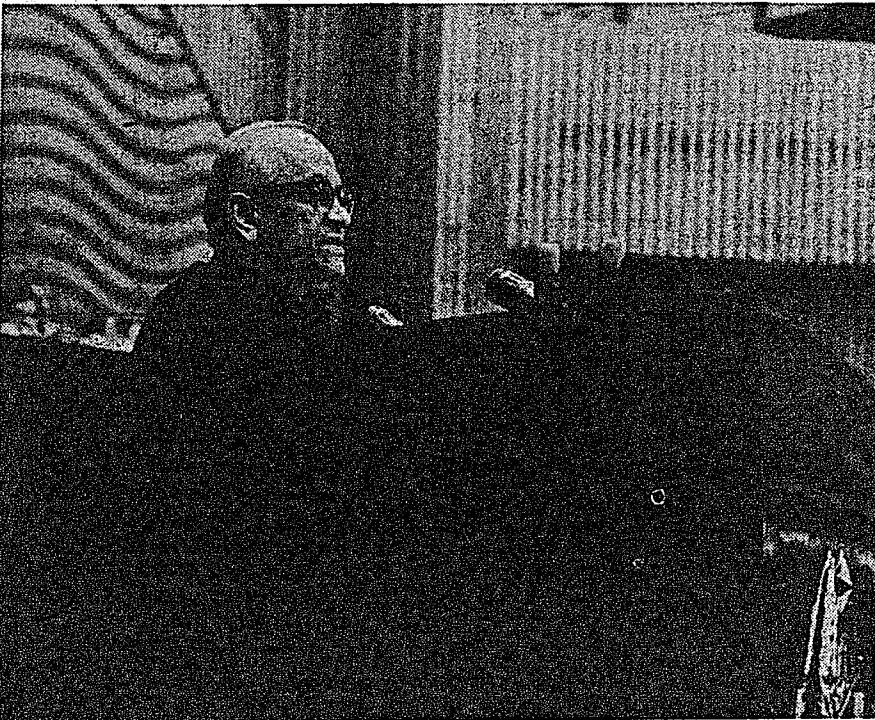
The resolution said that whether in the private sector or in the public sector the workers have to directly agitate and resort to direct action if necessary to secure a minimum guaranteed rate of bonus, irrespective of profits or loss to the company.

Referring to the rates of actual wages existing in the various industrial units in the state, the executive reiterated its view that they need revision. In such industries as the FACT, the Travancore Rayons and in the oil industry the workers are getting fair wages. The time has come to raise the demand for living wages in these units.

In the textile and similar other industries, the workers are getting only the national minimum or even lesser wages.

The demand for fair wages in these units is just and urgent. In all other industries, the demand for the national minimum has to be raised.

The rise in the cost of living that has set in after the declaration of emergency has also to be taken into account, the resolution said. Therefore, in some industries the slogan will be for wage increase, while in others increase in dearness allowance has become the rallying slogan.



Comrade S. A. Damge greeting the 13th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions (see last week's NEW AGE).

## Raise D.A., Link It With Basic Pay

★ From AJOY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA, November 16: Calcutta's 26,000 civic workers and employees, ranging from sweepers to teachers, water-works workers to office clerks, reiterated their resolve to go on strike from the midnight of November 26, as the Calcutta Corporation authorities did not even meet to consider the demands contained in the strike notice served on October 18.

THIS decision was taken at a big mass rally of the Corporation workers and employees held on November 13 at the Raja Subodh Mullik Square at the call of the Calcutta Corporation Workers' and Employees' Joint Committee.

It may be recalled that 370 Corporation employees including women, fasted for 39 hours on October 10 and 11 to draw attention of the authorities to their long standing grievances and demands. The Corporation always pleads inadequacy of funds to meet the demands of its employees. But there are many demands which cost nothing or very little, such as proper fixation of the staff of the former food supply department, restoration of normal working hours, absorption of temporary staff in the permanent cadre, etc.

One of the major demands is merger of D.A. with basic pay, which the Corporation has accepted in principle, but has not implemented. Current incidence

living index, guaranteed minimum bonus and fair price shops as the immediate task.

The federations, working groups and all unions have been directed to hold their meetings emergently, discuss these general directives and formulate their respective immediate demands and plan of agitation. District conventions with more representation from affiliated unions will be held soon to popularise the demands and mobilise public support.

JULLUNDUR: The Punjab Trade Union Congress and the state Kisan Sabha have decided to call a state convention sometime in December to plan the agitation against high prices and for increase in dearness allowance.

PRIOR to the conference a WEEK AGAINST RISING PRICES will be observed from November 26 to December 2. During the week public meetings will be held in all villages and towns in the state and on December 2 mass demonstrations

will be held at all important centres.

In a joint statement, KARTAR SINGH BABA, president of the Punjab Trade Union Congress, and TEJA SINGH SWATANTAR, president of the Punjab Kisan Sabha, have called upon workers and peasants to form joint committees at all levels to launch a powerful movement to bring down the prices.

The statement says that the PTUC and the state Kisan Sabha feel greatly concerned over the steep rise in the prices of all essential commodities such as wheat, sugar, gur, kerosene oil and rice.

There has been a thriving blackmarket in sugar for the last six months. Gur is selling at the unprecedented price of Rs. 60 per maund. Due to the manipulation of profiteers the price of wheat has shot up to Rs. 20 and more per maund. The prices of other foodgrains have also shot up.

## VILLAGE POOR HALL IT

This allround rise in prices has inflicted severe hardships on the workers, peasants, village poor, the salaried employees and the middle classes. The whole economy of the state has been put out of gear.

In this situation the state government is smugly complacent. It has given a free rein to the profiteers, black marketeers and speculators, and hence the situation has continued to worsen.

The PTUC and the state Kisan Sabha strongly denounce this policy of the government. We warn the government that unless immediate effective steps are taken to remedy the situation the people will be compelled to launch state-wide agitation to save their families from starvation and ruin, the statement said.

The demands put forward by the PTUC and the Kisan Sabha in the joint statement are:

- Peg the prices of all essential commodities at the level of November 1962;
- Assure ample supply of sugar and gur at controlled prices in both villages and towns;
- Link payment of dearness allowance to the workers with correctly assessed cost of living index;
- Use the Defence of India Act against the anti-social activities of the profiteers and black marketeers;
- Fair price shops be opened by the government in cities and rural areas to provide essential commodities to the people;
- Wholesale trade in grain and other essential commodities be taken over by the state; and
- To prevent blackmarket and speculation the banks be nationalised.

The statement called upon wage-earners, salaried employees, peasants and other village poor to immediately launch a powerful movement to bring down prices, and urged them to establish joint coordination committees at all levels and to observe November 26 to December 2 as a week against the rising prices.

(TURN OVERLEAF FOR MORE ITEMS ON BOMBAY CONFERENCE)

## SEMINAR ON WORLD ISSUES

A seminar on international relations and world peace will be inaugurated at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, by Prime Minister Nehru on the morning of December 6, 1963.

THE seminar, which will continue till December 8, will be attended by a number of members of Parliament and state legislatures, as well as representatives of many public organisations working for the promotion of peace.

At least 40 to 50 guests from abroad are also expected to take part in the seminar. Among those who have expressed their intention to participate are leading personalities representing peace

movements on all continents. The seminar has been sponsored by the Committee of Indian Parliamentarians for Peace. Together with other organisations, this Committee has now established a Preparatory Committee for the seminar.

Diwan Chaman Lall M.P., chairman of the Preparatory Committee told a press conference on November 16 that at the centre of the discussions in the seminar

would be questions relating to India's foreign policy.

The seminar would divide itself into five commissions or groups, each dealing with an important aspect of world affairs: there would be commissions on the policy of non-alignment; on problems relating to the security of India; on disarmament; on the problems of the struggle for national independence and against colonialism and racialism in all their forms; and on the economic aspects of disarmament and peace.

Papers on each subject will be prepared by qualified persons and these will form the basis for discussions in the commissions.

Dwian Chaman Lall said that the aim of the seminar is "to help in the creation of informed public opinion on the main issues of our foreign policy." Serious discussions in the commissions, he said, would help in the preparation of reports which would then be widely circulated.

The necessity for such a pooling together of information and arguments in support of our policy of peace has become all the more necessary, in view of the ill-conceived attacks on this policy both in our country and abroad.

Committees of support for the seminar are being set up in different states. Representatives of these committees will also take part in the seminar. It is also proposed that on the same lines as this national seminar, echo seminars may be organised in the coming months in different state capitals.

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# MIGHTY MOVEMENT RISING

## For Linking D.A. To Actual Cost Of Living

★ by OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mighty movement of the working class in India is today in its formative stages—the movement for linking dearness allowance to the consumer price index and to make the latter really reflective of the cost of living.

THE air is thick with workers' discontent over their falling standards of living. Reports are pouring in from all parts of the country about plans of struggle against the encroachment of rising prices of essential commodities on the people's living standards.

Workers in Calcutta have decided to go on a token strike in December. The Bombay workers have planned their course of action; so have the workers in Kerala and Andhra. In Rajasthan a united trade unions conference has served notice on the government about the forthcoming struggle. In Punjab the kisans also have joined the workers in the struggle against rising prices.

In Delhi too, the movement is gathering momentum. The workers of Delhi have added reason to be in the forefront of this movement. Besides the loss in their earnings due to faulty calculations of consumer price index, the amount of dearness allowance paid to workers in those industries where the DA is linked to the consumer price index has been artificially brought down by shifting the base year from 1944 to 1960.

Delhi is the first centre in the country where the shift in the base year has been effected. Trade unions fear that if the attempt of the government to impose this faulty index on the workers is not resisted here and now, ultimately, the all-India index of consumer prices might also be brought down artificially by extending the Delhi pattern to other centres in the country.

Though the index number is being computed for Delhi since 1944, it was based on the family budget studies during the war years when the consumption pattern was of an extremely low order due to war scarcity.

As a result of this the weightage given to various items in the studies was unreal and unscientific. For instance, the house rent constituted merely five per cent of the total family budget while actually an average worker spends at present 15 to 20 per cent of his income on housing.

Moreover, since early fifties the expenditure on housing and clothing has been plugged with the effect that the index failed to show the real rise in the price level. It is also intriguing to see that woollens and warm clothing are not taken into account while compiling the Delhi indices though it is a must for all in Delhi during winter.

The textile workers in Delhi have won a dearness allowance of eight annas per point rise in the index number. This neutralises only 70 to 80 per cent of the actual rise in the cost of living. As the index

base 1960 by 1.58 which is the average index for the calendar year 1960 on the base 1944, divided by 100.

Strangely enough, it is found that during 1961 the estimated index number on 1960 as the base is somewhat lower than the actual index number on base 1944.

The following table vividly explains the position:

Month	Index number base 1960	Estimated Index No. base 1944	Actual Index No. base 1944
1961			
January	101	159.58	161.13
February	101	159.58	162.92
March	102	161.16	163.52
April	103	162.74	165.34
May	102	161.16	163.52
June	104	164.32	167.19
July	103	162.74	171.16
August	103	162.74	171.18
September	103	162.74	169.24
October	104	164.32	168.06
November	105	165.90	169.34
December	108	167.48	171.25

The average index for the year 1961 shows a difference of four points, the actual index being 166.98 and the estimated 162.87. This means every textile worker lost two rupees per month simply due to the introduction of the new series of index numbers.

The total number of textile workers in Delhi Cloth Mills and Swatantra Bharat Mills is approximately 24 thousand, which means employers saved Rs. 50 thousand a month or nearly six lakhs rupees in a year due to the faulty index.

Apart from textiles, workers in some engineering concerns and commercial establishments where dearness allowance is linked with the numbers are similarly affected.

In industries where dearness allowance is given on an ad hoc basis, workers are agitating for linking their dearness allowance to the index numbers. They too ap-

The trade unions of Bombay and Ahmedabad have already expressed their unwillingness to accept the new series of index unless the earlier series is put on a proper plane, and the shifting is done properly. They have learned their lesson from the Delhi experience.

The explanation given by the government officials that the construction of the index numbers for industrial workers has been done in consultation with Technical Advisory Committee and the Labour Bureau is hardly satisfactory.

In a recent communication to the DCM Clerks Association, the Delhi committee of the All India Trade Union Congress has submitted a memorandum to the Union Labour Minister demanding a revision in the method of calculating the consumer price index to make it reflective of the actual cost of living.

The memorandum voiced opposition to the shift effected in Delhi in the base year for the index from 1939 and 1944 to 1960 because it had resulted in reducing the real earnings of the workers. It also demanded linking

of dearness allowance to consumer price index in those industries where it is not the practice today.

The memorandum said the purpose of compiling the consumer price index numbers is to protect the worker against further lowering of his already low standard of living.

This purpose is being defeated by fraudulent methods adopted while collecting the data relating to price of commodities entering into the budget of a working class family and unless steps are taken to rectify this state of affairs workers will lose faith in the index numbers compiled by the government.

Over 40,000 workers in textile, chemical, printing, food, rubber and other industries along with thousands of employees of commercial firms and establishments have been getting DA on the basis of consumer price index numbers with base 1939 and 1944 as 100.

The payment of DA for over 24,000 workers in the textile industry is governed by an award passed by Home Minister GULZARILAL NANDA as an arbitrator back in 1946. This award was subsequently affirmed by the Labour Appellate Tribunal of India.

In the month of December 1961, the Director of Economics and Statistics of the Delhi Administration, in view of the decision of the government discontinued the old series of index numbers for Delhi based on 1944=100 and substituted it by a new series based on 1960=100.

It was pointed out to the authorities that artificial linking of the existing (1944) series with the new series (1960=100) by working out a conversion factor would not do, as it was found from the figures of the new series for 1961 and 1962, as provided by the Bureau, that figures of 1944 index so arrived at were almost invariably much below the actual figures.

As the Delhi Bureau declined to accede to this indisputably reasonable demand of the unions, the matter was taken up with the Labour Bureau of the government of India and later on, with the Union Labour Ministry itself.

Ample facts and figures were provided to all these authorities in support of the fact that the workers stood to lose substantial amount of money in their DA, if compilation of 1944 consumer price index numbers were discontinued and calculation of DA was left to be made on the basis of the estimated figures of the said index obtained by arithmetical conversion of the new series (1960) into the old one.

All these representations have proved of no avail, with the result that an average textile worker is being made to suffer a cut ranging between Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per month in his DA in a situation where prices have been continuously rising and have admittedly risen by 15 to 40 per cent since last year.

To cite a concrete example, the textile and chemical workers got Rs. 76.05 as DA in September 1961 which remained unchanged in September 1962 despite universally admitted steep rise in prices. This has naturally given rise to intense unrest and discontent among the workers whose distrust of the officially pub-

lication Delhi, the Union Labour Minister said: "regarding the deviations between the estimated and actual figures of index numbers, it may be stated that these arise owing to structural difference, namely, difference in coverage of items, difference in pattern of consumption and expenditure etc."

This is nothing but an admission by the government that the pattern of consumption of various commodities has been changed to lower the index numbers.

The dates of the conference of union delegates convened by the All India Trade Union Congress at Bombay to discuss the issues of dearness allowance, rectification of the faulty price indices and guaranteed minimum bonus have been changed, according to an AITUC announcement. The conference of trade unions will now be held at Bombay on December 13 and 14. It is open to unions of all affiliations. Unions sending delegates have been asked to send information by December 6 to S. G. Patkar, secretary, Action Committee of Trade Unions, Dalvi Building, Parel, Bombay 12.

The net profits of the Imperial Tobacco went up from Rs. 139.91 lakhs to Rs. 177.45 lakhs in 1962-63.

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## Fraud in Calculating Price Index Exposed

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Workers Are Voting Everywhere for Action on the D.A. Issue.

lished consumer price index numbers now stands totally justified, the memorandum said.

The second irresistible conclusion to which the comparison of the two consumer price index series leads, according to the memorandum, is that the standard of living or consumption pattern of an average worker, taken as the basis for the construction of the new index, is lower than that of 1944—a conclusion which must be rejected outright as a ridiculous absurdity.

If the data relating to the real wages published by government which reveal that the real wages of Delhi workers are higher today than 1944 have any mean-

ing at all, the consumption pattern of a working class family should be of a higher order in 1960 as compared to 1944.

Obviously, the new series point to just the opposite conclusion. Naturally, therefore, the trade unions in Delhi refuse to accept the new series and the results of the 1960 survey of family budgets of Delhi workers on which the new series is based, as correct.

The memorandum strongly opposed the introduction of the 1960 series of index, until and unless all the data relating to the consumption pattern, as well as the prices, quality, grades, etc. of the various commodities of articles of consumption, included in the family

budget of a worker taken as basis for constructing the said series, are subjected to a thorough check-up by accredited representatives of labour.

It said further that in order to safeguard the interests of workers, it is absolutely necessary that the 1944 series of index should be similarly subjected to scrutiny and brought to a position more representative of the rise in prices and in the cost of living of workers.

That this position has already been accepted by the governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat, which have appointed expert committees to go into the question of consumer price index numbers was also pointed out.

## While People Groan Under Burden Of Soaring Prices MONOPOLIES FATTEN ON SUPER-PROFITS

WHILE the ever-rising cost of living is making big dents in the living standards of the common people, the capitalist sharks are reaping ever-bigger profits. A sample survey of recently issued balance sheets of companies shows that industrial profits are mounting, especially in the case of monopolies and big chains.

The Esso Standard Refining, for instance, showed in 1962-63 gross profits of Rs. 378.25 lakhs against Rs. 326.40 lakhs in the previous year. Despite higher provision for taxation, the company showed net profits of Rs. 193.93 lakhs which was Rs. 12 lakhs more than what it was in the previous year.

The Indian Iron claimed a slight decline in the gross profits but its net profits were Rs. 32 lakhs more than last year's. From Rs. 523 lakhs, the net profits went up to Rs. 555 lakhs in 1962-63.

The net profits of the Imperial Tobacco went up from Rs. 139.91 lakhs to Rs. 177.45 lakhs in 1962-63.

Though the Sen Raleigh Industries showed an increase of two lakh rupees in gross profits, no increase was shown in its net profits.

The net profits of Shree Gopal Paper Mills went up

from Rs. 36.33 lakhs in 1961-62 to Rs. 55.62 lakhs in one year despite the fact that their provision for taxation had gone up from Rs. 22.50 lakhs to Rs. 60.00 lakhs during the same period.

The Dunlop Rubber showed gross profits of Rs. 330.38 in 1962-63 against Rs. 306.12 in the previous year; Guest Keen & Williams Rs. 133.63 against Rs. 110.48; Jessop and Co. Rs. 125.67 against Rs. 116.62; Dyer Meakin Breweries Rs. 108.11 against Rs. 106.53; Metal Box Company of India Rs. 123.59 against Rs. 113.74 in the previous year (all figures in lakhs).

Birla's Hindustan Motors showed a jump in profits: from Rs. 313.19 lakhs to Rs. 350 lakhs in 1962-63. The BIRLA JUTE showed an increase in gross profits from Rs. 96.66 lakhs in 1961-62 to Rs. 139.86 lakhs next year, the figures for net profits being Rs. 54.66 lakhs and Rs. 79.89 lakhs respectively.

These figures of profits have to be considered in the background that all the companies have made higher provisions for taxes in 1962-63.

The pre-tax profits of Gwallor Rayon Silk Manufacturing Co., another Birla enterprise, were Rs. 304.90 lakhs in 1962-63. This was Rs. 70 lakhs less than in the previous year, but then, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has

upheld the company's claim for exemption from taxes.

The biggest profits in 1962-63 were reaped by the jute mills. The Kinnison Jute Mills turned Rs. 22.59 lakhs loss in the previous year to Rs. 34.01 lakhs profit; the Dalhousie from Rs. 0.61 lakhs loss to Rs. 22.77 lakhs profit; and Auekland from Rs. 5.54 lakhs loss to Rs. 39.08 lakhs profit.

The increase in profits of some other jute mills were: Alexandra from Rs. 2.57 lakhs to Rs. 22.41 lakhs; Anglo-India from Rs. 20.60 lakhs to Rs. 73.57 lakhs; Bally from Rs. 13.67 lakhs to Rs. 31.79 lakhs; Hukamchand from Rs. 25.63 lakhs to Rs. 84.82 lakhs; India Jute from Rs. 7.44 lakhs to Rs. 58.75 lakhs; Nalhathi from Rs. 1.92 lakhs to Rs. 19.08 lakhs; and Union Jute from Rs. 1.69 lakhs to Rs. 31.60 lakhs.

Indeed, the workers of the jute industry have won a glorious bonus struggle and received a portion of these profits, however insignificant it might be. Workers of some other companies like Guest Keen & Williams also secured increase in the quantum of bonus.

Workers in some other industrial units, like the Hindustan Motors of the Birlas, are engaged in struggles for their share in the larger profits of the companies, earned through their sweat and labour.



# SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE AND FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

The history of the struggle which was led in the West European countries after the victory of the great socialist revolution of October 1917 for the advance and triumph of the socialist cause in this part of the world, is difficult and troubled. It is a history which is dominated by the split in the political movement of the working class.

A part of this movement, the part led by the Social-Democratic parties, at the moment of the most serious crisis of the capitalistic society, abandons, as it had already done during the war, the field of revolutionary action to lead the working classes to power and adapts itself and reduces itself to a function of defence of the old capitalistic system from the attack of the avant-garde which struggles to abolish it.

In fact, in those experiences, there was a first attempt to face the problem of building a democratic regime of a new type, capable of opening the way to deep social reforms. The war—the second world war—interrupted that process.

The second post-war period started off with perspectives which were very different from those of the first period. During the common fight deep unitarian ties extending further than the working class and embracing the country and urban middle classes, had been created. The failure and treason of the old bourgeois leading classes acutely stressed the necessity for a new political leadership.

The halt to this was given by the beginning of the cold war, which, explicitly, had the task of preventing that advance towards socialism which appeared, after the disasters caused by the war, as an aim historically and politically justified and possible.

Since then some experiences have taken place which allow considerations and conclusions of great value. The advent and permanence in power, for some years, of the Labour Party, ended with some reforms of the old economic structure but was unable to consolidate in power a new leading class.

In France the performance in power of the socialists, as the leading party in government, lasts for whole periods, first from 1946 to 1948, then from 1954 to 1956, almost up to the advent of the Gaullist regime. Can we say that there has been during this period and under the impulse of the socialists, an advance towards socialism? Not only has there not been one, but the socialist leaders, they themselves, even declared that they were ad-

ministering on behalf of the old leading classes!

On behalf of these leading classes they attempted a colonial war against Egypt and, for years, led a barbarous war against the Algerian people. In the end, what came forward was an authoritarian regime, with a tendency to fascism.

In Western Germany, centre and engine of the cold war, social-democracy has never managed to attain a decisive part: it has dragged on at the tail of a Catholic conservative and reactionary party; there is no place, in the reign of cold war, even for the word socialism!

As to Italy, if we can state that socialism intended as a programmatic aim and as an organized mass movement, has strengthened its positions and its prestige, we must add that this has occurred not thanks to the government, collaboration of the social-democrats in the so-called centrist governments, but thanks to the struggle against them and to the downfall of the centrist formula.

What today, is the situation in the Western European countries? The signs that a



Pillars of Nato are regimes of repression as in Spain and Portugal where thousands are languishing in prisons

also certainly necessary that some conditions be realized.

The most important is that the straight-jacket of the Atlantic Pact be broken, in the search for a new form of organization of security and peace based

Party. A lot is being done for the reconstitution of the unity of the French democratic forces, to checkmate and demolish authoritarian power. The signs of crisis of the traditional Western-German policy founded on the permanence and intensification of the cold war are evident.

The mobilisation of the people's forces for the denunciation and the struggle against the remaining fascist regimes is becoming a permanent element of the workingclass and democratic movement of the West.

From the confluence of these new movements will a real deep political shift, or only new attempts no more fruitful than those of the past, emerge?

That the advance towards socialism and the construction of a new society are to be accomplished differently from what has occurred in the Oriental and the colonial world, is for us a foregone truth; but woe betide us, if this truth should be considered a simple thrust towards the repetition or the justification of the disastrous past Social-Democratic experiences!

Those who really want a turn and an advance towards socialism must move with courage to undo the work of the conservative forces, which today feel the danger and move cautiously and perfidiously to stave it off.

Both in the Social-Democratic and in the Catholic movement the areas of perplexity and of search for new trends are present and on the increase. A decisive programmatic position, and a firm search for new unitarian collaborations are necessary conditions to go on.

We Communists must play a great part in the whole West to carry on these tasks which are more than recriminations about the past and simple and not always fruitful hope for a different future.

It is through political action, through initiative, through the movement and the action of the working masses that the path for the advance of socialism will be opened.



French workers demonstrate against fascist attacks.

turn is coming to saturation are multiplying. The power of the leading conservative and reactionary groups has undergone an evident wear and tear, despite the fact that the strength and overbearingness of the big industrial monopolies has extended and consolidated itself. This indicates a contradictory process which has deep economic and political roots.

The general tendency aims at a greater pugnaciousness on the part of the working class which does not accept the freezing of its wages and austerity programmes.

This basic fact, accompanied, in some countries, the crisis of agricultural structures, the discontent and ferment of the peasant masses and an awakening of a democratic spirit which is a thrust to the fight against authoritarian regimes of open fascist reaction, which even now infest the West.

In this situation there are, most certainly some premises for a democratic advance towards socialism, but, for a movement in this direction to become explicit and real, it is

not on the existence of counterposed military blocs but on coexistence.

The Atlantic organization today rests on regimes of social conservatism and reaction, such as Spain (which is, through the alliance with the United States, one of the pillars of the Pact), Portugal, Greece, France, Federal Germany.

Democracy will be unable to progress and develop itself unless deep changes, capable of influencing all these countries, do not take place. The fight for democracy, therefore, joins the one in favour of the end of the cold war and in favour of peaceful coexistence. To advance towards socialism one must move in this direction.

And this leads inevitably to the other problem: the power of the big industrial and financial monopolies and of the measures capable of limiting and breaking it through indispensable reforms of the present economic structure.

A return to power is foreseen for the British Labour



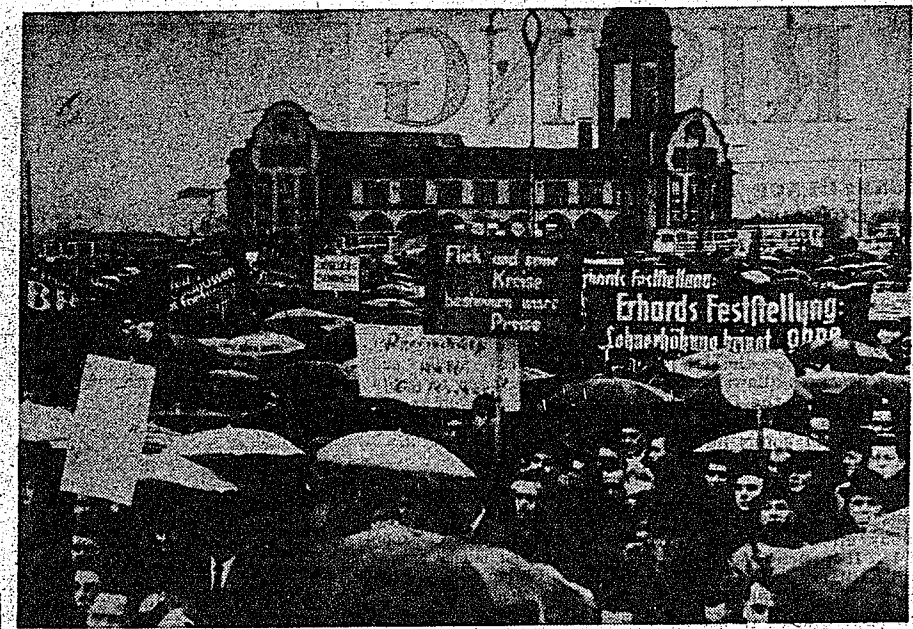
by Palmiro Togliatti

This starting point, which attained such a tragic relief during the German revolution, drowned in blood by Social-Democratic governments, in substance determines the whole of the following development, particularly in Germany where the working class movement, even if deeply and irreparably split, remains to the very last, that is till the eve of the advent of fascism, a decisive factor in the whole situation.

Both parts, that is the Communist one and the Social-Democratic one, managed to profit by the lesson of the events, so that, already a short time after Hitler's victory, a new period starts which culminates in the experiences of the united front and of the popular front. Some consider them experiences of a purely defensive character and therefore not repeatable on a different

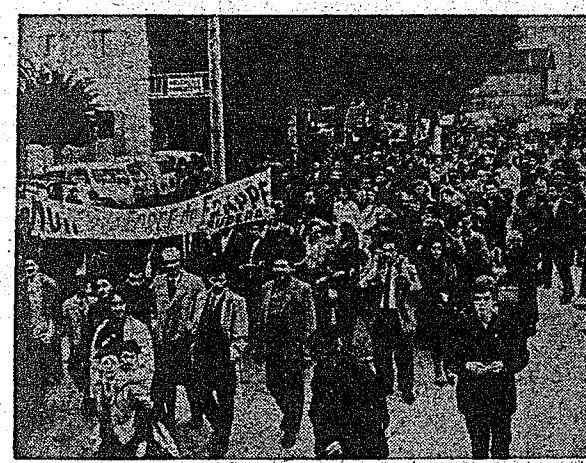


In the GDR where the Sixth Congress of Free German Trade Unions opened on November 19. President Herbert Warnke talking to miners



## WORKERS OF WESTERN EUROPE FOR PEACE, AGAINST MONOPOLIES

Pictured on this page are some recent and current struggles of the workers and students in France and West Germany. (See article on facing page)



Above: 8,000 workers demonstrate in Mitzan (France) against mounting expenditure on nuclear armament.

Right and Below: 10,000 Mannheim (West Germany) workers demonstrated on November 7 against curtailment of social rights, rising prices and Emergency Laws.



Above: Medical students of Paris University demonstrate against impossible conditions in the Faculty.

Right: 1) Paris Bank Clerks demand higher wages; 2) Sales Girls and men working in Paris Department Stores demonstrating for rise in wages.



Protest demonstration and meeting on November 8 in BROVES in HAUTE-PROVENCE of France against proposed establishment of rocket base there.



The achievements of the German Democratic Republic during the fourteen years of her existence in constructing a new, truly democratic state and erecting a socialist economic and social order have earned attention and recognition in all parts of the world.

THE growing international authority of the GDR is above all based on her great activity in the fight for the maintenance of peace, for the practical implementation of the principles of peaceful co-existence between states with different social systems, on her unmistakable and constructive policy for the peaceful solution of the German question.

This international prestige of the GDR is finally due to the economic successes of the

# Great Scope For Relations Between

GDR, the results of the labour of millions of working people in the GDR.

Today the German Democratic Republic is among the seven biggest industrial states of the world. Regarding her industrial strength and her foreign trade volume she ranks among the first five nations in Europe.

In 1949, when the GDR was founded, industrial production was only 87% of the 1936 pre-war level in the same territory. By 1950, the pre-war level had been achieved. By 1960 it had reached 324% and in 1962 almost came to more than 3½ times the pre-war level.

The enormously developed economic potential of the German Democratic Republic becomes evident also by the volume of foreign trade and the high quality of the exported products of the German Democratic Republic. Foreign trade turnover of the GDR has risen very rapidly and our foreign trade has rendered an outstanding contribution towards raising the international prestige of our Republic. From 1950 to 1962 our foreign trade turnover increased almost six-fold.

Particularly rapidly has risen in the last few years the foreign trade of the GDR with the young national states of Asia and Africa.

## Trade Is Advantageous

For the young national states foreign trade with German Democratic Republic and other socialist states is very advantageous. It constitutes a genuine help for building up their national economy because in exports we are guided by the requirements of our partners.

Thus our Republic supplies above all goods, which these countries are in urgent need of for their industrialisation and contribute towards freeing these countries from the enormous disadvantages of capitalist international labour division. Typical export goods of the GDR to these countries are, therefore, complete plants, machine tools, textile machines, transport machinery, machinery for the chemical and foodstuff industry as well as a number of other important goods.

As it is, of the greatest importance for the independence of the young national states is, last but not least, the principle of bilateral trade as well as balanced trade. The GDR buys the national products of these countries which she needs for supplying raw materials to our industry and for meeting the requirements of our population.

## Rapid Growth

Between India and the GDR too official trade relations were taken up only five years after the foundation of our Republic through the conclusion of the first trade agreement on October 16, 1954; these relations are based on

by  
**Kurt Boettger**  
Head of the  
Trade Representation of  
GDR in India



the principles of equality and mutual advantage. After concluding the agreement in October 1954, the exchange of goods has developed quite favourably.

The turnover of 220 lakhs in 1955 rose to 755 lakhs in 1957. This tendency has continued over the years so that the total turnover in 1962 amounted to 21.5 crores. As far as the total volume is concerned, it can already be considered that for 1963 also India will be the GDR's biggest overseas partner outside the socialist camp.

Not only has this trade developed quantitatively, it also rose in quality. In recognition of the acute shortage of foreign currency the GDR declared its readiness to supply her exports against payment in Indian rupees. The first long-term trade agreement between the two countries, concluded on October 8, 1956, envisaged all payments of both countries in Indian rupees. By a supplementary agreement in 1958 a bilateral exchange of goods on a clearing basis was established which fully meets India's economic interests.

Thus India no longer needed hard currency for the import of valuable machine building products and raw materials from the GDR. On the other hand, all receipts in rupees from GDR exports to India were used for the imports of Indian products.

With this new way of settling payments the GDR contributed to the support of Indian exports, which represents the only realistic way of an effective relief of the Indian balance of payments.

These requirements were also met by the long-term trade and payment agreement for the period 1960 to 1962, which has been extended up to the end of 1963.

Another important contribution to the good development of trade between the two countries was the establishing of the official Trade Representation of the GDR in New Delhi with branch offices at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. This proves again the great importance attached by the GDR to the development

of economic relations between the two countries by means of comprehensive direct contracts in the partner country.

It also shows that the GDR makes every effort to serve the development of the exchanges of goods between the GDR and India.

A considerable share in GDR's export into India is enjoyed by a wide range of engineering products, especially machine tools, textile machinery, electrical goods and equipments, printing and book-binding machinery, optical and scientific instruments, cinematographic and X-Ray films, cinema carbons, laboratory equipments, chemicals etc.

In addition to these, special steel and a good number of complete plants for different branches of industry are also delivered to India, e.g. steel rolling mills, wire drawing plants, flour mills, caustic soda plants, oxygen plants, oil extraction plants, plants for producing sanitary fittings, arc electrode plants, etc.

At the same time the important item which plays an unavoidable role in the exports of the GDR into India is fertilizers such as nitrogenous (ammonium sulphate) and potash fertilizers (sodium sulphate).

Parallel to the realization of the Indian plans for industrialization and the making accessible of new raw material sources, the variety of Indian export goods is constantly being supplemented by new and interesting items. This gives reason to assume that, by an intensive study of the economically important imports from the GDR by India and the maintaining of permanent contacts in the German Democratic Republic for the expansion of the assortment, there will be favourable possibilities for a further development of the exchange of goods between the two countries.

## Stable Market

The GDR has been a stable market for India for years, for such products of the country as tea, coffee, pepper, cardamom, cashew-nuts, vegetable albumen, animal hair, hides and skins etc. In 1962 larger quantities of tobacco as well as small amounts of coconuts, apricot kernels and peanuts were contracted in India for the first time.

Also, finished goods of the developing industry of India are included and steadily increasing in GDR's import programme. Among them are cotton fabrics for the manufacture of shirts and bed linen, coir manufactures and handicraft goods.

In addition to the packing tissue, assortment of synthetic fibres produced in the GDR, jute tissues were imported to a larger extent for the first time in 1959.

India's supplies of engineering goods of the GDR will also increase year by year. The regular and already

# Increasing Economic India And G. D. R.

traditional participation of the Indian Union at the Leipzig Fair in spring and autumn, plays an important role in the continual improvement of the friendly relations between the GDR and India.

Along with a number of individual exhibitions of various branches India also has a collective exhibit, which—during the Spring Fair—is usually under the direct sponsorship of the Indian Ministry of International Trade.

During the last few years India has always ranked in the first place among the exhibitors at the Leipzig Fair.

The importance of these participations can very well be judged from the success of the Indian exhibitors at the Leipzig Autumn Fair 1963 wherein contracts to the tune of about 42 million rupees for Indian exports into the GDR have been concluded. This is no doubt a remarkable achievement, the credit for which goes to such participations.

The GDR has also recognized the usefulness of participation in fairs and exhibitions in the partner country. The foreign trade establishments of the GDR exhibit their products before the Indian population by participating in the larger international exhibitions in India like the First International Industrial Fair in 1955, the World Agricultural Exhibition 1959-60, the Second International Industrial Fair 1961-62 in New Delhi as well as by organizing exhibitions, in individual branches, for example printing machines, electronic measuring implements, office machines and other products.

But it is not only the physical exchange of goods which promotes the development of the economic relations between the two countries. In the trade agreement which is valid at present the GDR has expressed its readiness to give technical aid to India in the projecting and

construction of industrial establishments. There are already a number of good results to be noted in the sphere of technical and scientific cooperation and granting production licences.

A remarkable contribution at the outset was that through a number of tests which were carried out in industrial plants and institutes of the GDR with lignite from Neyvelli and ore with low iron content from Salem, the GDR, within the framework of technical and scientific aid, could assist for continuation of a large project for the use of these materials in the low-shaft furnace process in South India.

## Further Contracts

On the other hand there are already ample opportunities for giving production licences to Indian firms. The manufacturers in the GDR have already entered into a good number of agreements with Indian parties e.g. for Lathes, Gear Hobbing Machines, Electrical Motors, Household Meters, Ball and Roller Bearings, Typewriters, High Tension Power Cables, Gas Purifying Machines, Heat Resisting Jena Glass and Thermometers etc.

Besides the above agree-

ments, further contracts signed with Indian parties are now presented to the government authorities for final sanction, covering:

Crushers, Ball and Hammer Mills, Ceramic Machines, Fine Measuring Instruments, Material Testing Equipments, Motors, Alternators, Hand Tools, Textile Machinery Accessories, Shears, Electrical Porcelain, Household Porcelain, Potentiometers, Capacitors, Printing Machines etc.

Closely connected with this is the obligation to train Indian experts and students in the GDR, as well as sending of GDR specialists to India to train Indian skilled workers and instruct them in putting the establishments delivered to India into operation.

According to her capacities the GDR is ready to make also in the future substantial contributions towards the further industrialization of India and has shown its readiness to assist the national economic development of India by means of economic cooperation.

There is no doubt that efforts will be made by both countries to utilize the existing good opportunities for further expansion of trade and strengthening the bond of close relationship between India and the German Democratic Republic.

## Background

### NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

By the time these lines appear in print a new trade agreement would have been signed between India and Hungary. Talks are at the moment being held in Delhi with a delegation led by the Hungarian trade minister, Mr. Incze.

The first Indo-Hungarian trade agreement was signed in 1949, and since then goods traffic has been regulated by repeatedly renewed agreements on the exchange of goods.

A SIGNIFICANT milestone of this development was the Trade and Financial Agreement signed in 1960, and running for three-and-a-half years; this led to a multiplying of the turnover which, at present, has reached the 90 million rupees mark per year.

Simultaneously with the rapid development of goods traffic, also the assortment is appearing on the list of goods and is enlarging continuously. On the part of the Hungarian foreign trade agencies also everything is being done to purchase more goods from India.

The great part of Hungarian export to India consists of various engineering and precision mechanical products including power plants, further complete factories and other big equipments like the construction of cable factory, glasswool plants, canning factories and metre (electric and water) factories as

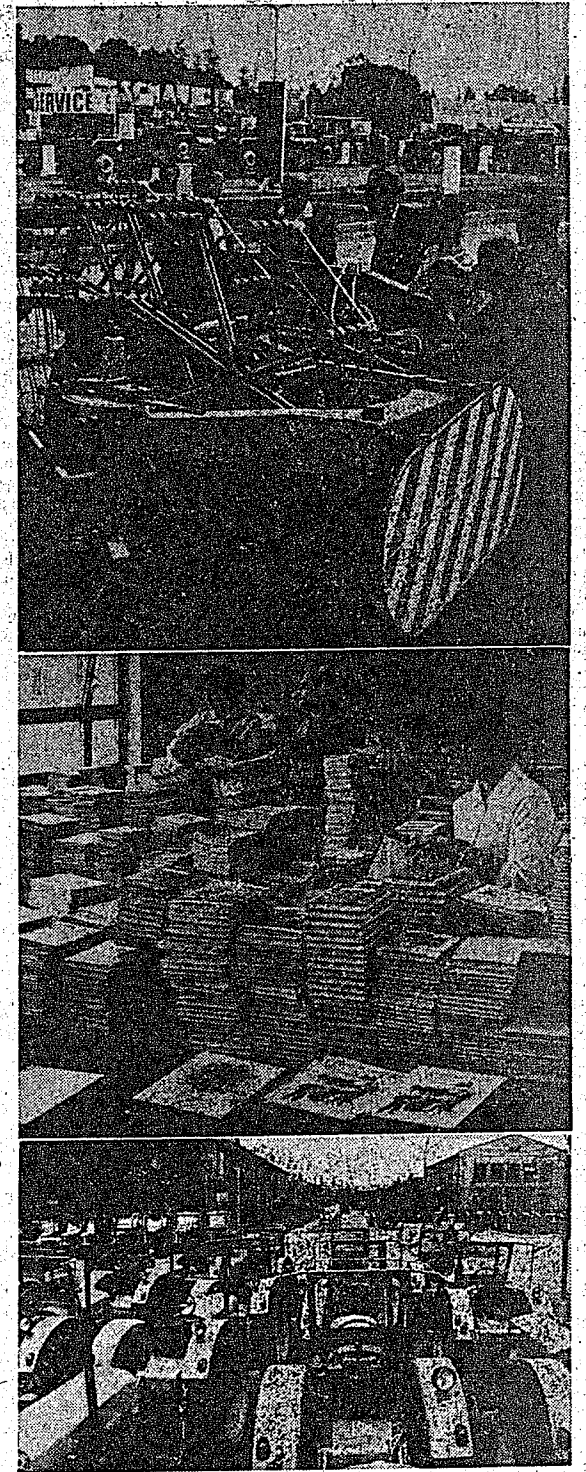
well as railroad and telecommunication equipments.

India also buys rolling stock for her railroads, high-capacity transformers, metres, cranes and derricks, dumpers, machine-tools, wire-drawing and enamelling machines, mining machines, diesel motors, industrial kilns and furnaces, generators, various instruments, precision tools, garage equipment, and cooling compressors.

A further large part of the Hungarian shipments consists of various industrial basic materials and semi-products, above-all fireclay-bricks, rolled sheet iron, pharmaceuticals, and basic material for the pharmaceutical industry.

Hungary buys from India mainly industrial (and to a smaller extent also agricultural) raw material, including, among others, ore for freshening-up purposes, mica, jute products, shellac, hides and skins, various chemicals and cotton-waste. From among agricultural products India supplies Hungary with large quantities of peanuts for fodder purposes, fur-tobacco, tea and coffee.

Besides India also exports various consumer goods, some products of the light industry like shoes and other leather goods, cotton, wool, silk wares, and various technical articles.



More GDR products on display

Promising initiatives were taken also in regard to economic cooperation apart from the exchange of goods. So agreements were signed on technical aid, the handing-over of technical know-how and documentation, the sending and receiving, respectively, of experts and trainees for advanced training.

Experience in the line of manufacturing cooperation shows likewise that this is mutually advantageous to both the countries, and that there are yet extensive possibilities for such cooperation.

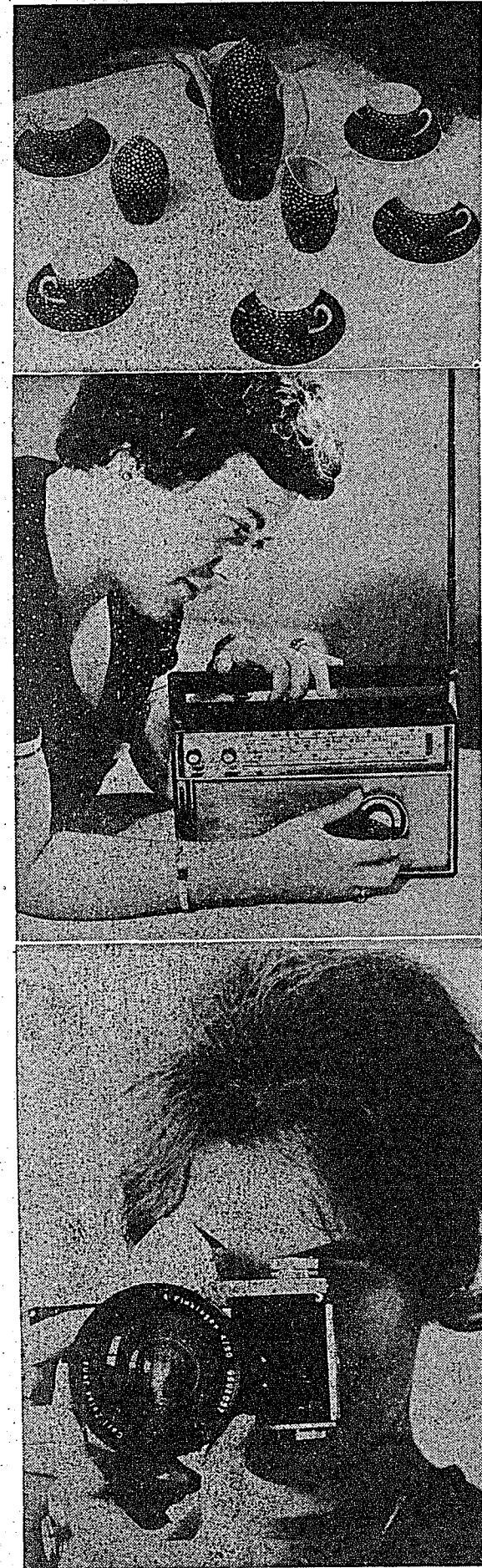
Rapid economic progress in both countries and the great goals envisaged in the economic plans point out to the fact that there are true possibilities for a yet greater furthering of economic cooperation. The visit in June 1963 of Manubhai Shah, Minister for International Trade, to Hungary has been a significant step forward towards the further strengthening of the Indo-Hungarian relations and the enriching of the forms of cooperation. On

that occasion, economic and trade relations between the two countries were studied, and a further extending of economic cooperation was decided upon.

### HUNDRED PERCENT INCREASE LIKELY

Both parties expressed their hope that after the expiry, by the end of this year, of the existing trade agreement, a new trade and financial agreement for a period of five years should be signed. This would result in a doubling of the present goods traffic; such a hope was expressed by both the Minister for International Trade and his counterpart, the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Incze, who is presently in India to conduct the talks leading to the signing of a new Trade Agreement on November 22, 1963.

It is agreed that there are further great possibilities for mutual broadening of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.



Products of the industry of GDR displayed at the last Leipzig Fair, September 1963

## FIRST ISSUE OF HAYAT

COMMUNIST PARTY'S URDU WEEKLY

out on November 15

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# NEW PARLIAMENT MEETS IN GDR

★ From P. K. Kunhanandan

BERLIN, November 15. Deputies of GDR Parliament newly elected in the general elections of October 20, solemnly constituted the Volkshammer (People's Chamber) on November 13, amidst touching scenes of revolutionary enthusiasm in the Parliament building in Berlin.

HUNDRED years ago in a small room in this building KARL MARX lived and worked on the basic principles of his celebrated thesis on proletarian dictatorship which in the twentieth century ushered in the greatest democracy of the masses humanity has seen so far.

The galleries of GDR Parliament were packed with diplomats, pressmen from over hundred countries and several Berliners who repeatedly cheered those who had been elected to govern the first German Peace State.

Soon after its solemn constitution the People's Chamber elected Prof. JOHANNES DIECKMANN, a founder member of Liberal Democratic Party of Germany, as the President (Speaker) of the supreme legislative body of Socialist Germany. Parliament then elected a twenty-four member Council of State of the Republic. It is the highest executive body in GDR.

WALTER ULBRICHT, First Secretary of Socialist Unity Party of Germany, was unanimously elected the Chairman of the State Council amidst thunderous cheers from all in the house and deputies giving him an ovation, all standing in support of his candidature. Walter Ulbricht was a poor carpenter from Leipzig, son of a tailor, a deserter from Kaiser's imperial army. Through trade union struggles he became a leading German Communist when the KPD (Communist Party of Germany) was founded at the end of 1918.

This seventy-year old revolutionary who fought against German fascism shoulder to shoulder with great leaders of the Communist International like GEORGI DIMITROV, THAELEMAN and WILHELM PIECK, has been leading the German Democratic Republic from its very foundation and he has led it from success to

success. Twenty years ago he was — with a rifle in hand — in Stalingrad trenches fighting against the Nazi Wehrmacht. He helped win over several thousands of German prisoners of war to the Liberation Army which joined in the Soviet Army's final assault against Hitler.

On the death of Wilhelm Pieck, the first President of GDR, in



Chairman of GDR State Council, WALTER ULBRICHT

September 1960, the office of President was abolished and replaced by the Council of State of which Walter Ulbricht has been the Chairman since then.

On his re-election Ulbricht took the oath and in a short speech vowed to the people's representatives that the State Council will do its utmost to strengthen the GDR further and to give the German people a life of peace and prosperity. He pledged friendly relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as

well as with the neutral states. To overcome the division of Germany he appealed for the support of workers and peasants of West Germany and all progressive forces in the Federal Republic for a policy of understanding with German Democratic Republic.

The State Council has six deputy chairmen. They are from different political parties and mass organisations which together constitute the National Front.

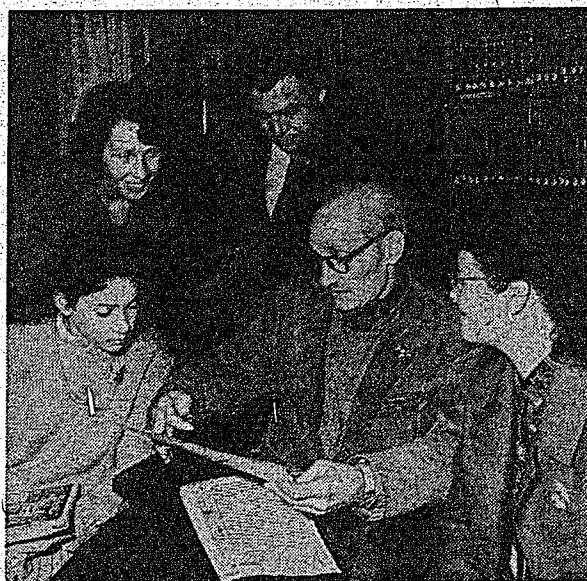
According to the new order of procedure decided upon by Parliament, the State Council will be the legislative and executive organ of the People's Chamber between its sessions and would fulfil its basic tasks and be accountable to Parliament. The State Council has powers to pass resolutions and endow them with validity, in turn requiring endorsement by the People's Chamber. The Council is a collective in which all political parties and mass organisations are represented and which has several functions and powers similar to those invested in the person of the President of India.

OTTO GROTEWOHL who comes from the Social Democratic Party is again the Prime Minister of GDR. He has formed a Council of Ministers consisting of 36 portfolio-holding ministers. WILLY STOPH is the acting Prime Minister, as Otto Grotewohl has informed the People's Chamber that since his state of health does not allow him as yet (he is a chronic heart patient) to work as Chairman of Council of Ministers, First Deputy Premier Willy Stoph will carry out the tasks of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

There are only three changes in the cabinet. Minister of Interior KARL MERON is replaced by FRIEDRICH DICKEL who will also be the head of the People's Police. Other two new ministers are for Education and Post & Telegraph. Three old ministers holding these portfolios have retired for health reasons.

There are three women in the State Council and three in the Cabinet.

The People's Chamber also appointed Walter Ulbricht as



Great-grandson of Karl Marx, Frederic Longuet (second from right), visited Berlin recently. Here he is seen examining Marx's handwritten manuscripts at the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party. Seated on his right is his daughter, his wife on his left.

Chairman of the National Defence Council.

At the concluding session of the first meeting of the new Parliament, the GDR's 1964 National Economic Plan was discussed and endorsed. The Plan had been finalised by the Planning Commission and approved by the State Council at its last meeting.

All these elections and voting in Parliament were a manifestation of the superiority of socialist democracy, the continuity of leadership in GDR (there was no leadership change in GDR ever since the Republic was founded in 1949) and firm fraternal unity between Socialist Unity Party,

Democratic Peasants' Party, National Democratic Party and mass organisations bound together in the National Front on the basis of a broad socialist programme for the German nation. The confidence of the German nation in the tried and tested leadership of Walter Ulbricht and his comrades-in-arms who have for many years fought heroically against fascism is also growing along with the economic and cultural prosperity of the people.

Ulbricht has received warm messages of congratulations from Soviet Premier Khrushchov, heads of states of several other states and from leaders of many Communist and Workers' Parties.

## ADOPTS POLICY STATEMENT

A Policy Declaration made to the People's Chamber by acting Premier Willy Stoph, on behalf of council of ministers said that the German Democratic Republic will continue in future also to pursue its foreign policy on the basis of principles of peaceful co-existence. Government asked all citizens of GDR to render net creative deeds in the all-round construction of socialism.

Continuation of policies seeking liquidation of remnants of the second world war, conclusion of a German peace treaty and securing peaceful settlement of the West Berlin question by transforming it into a neutral city with guaranteed access—all these were reiterated in the declaration as "tasks of first-ranking national and international importance."

The Declaration demanded a non-aggression pact between Nato and Warsaw Treaty countries and measures to prevent surprise attacks.

It pointed out that the international authority of the GDR had grown considerably. "The German Democratic Republic has for long been recognised as a sovereign state; at present she is maintaining diplomatic, consular and inter-state relations of other nature with 34 states which make up more than half of the world's population."

In a direct reference to attitude of several Afro-Asian countries the Declaration said

that restriction of diplomatic recognition to imperialist West Germany alone does not correspond, in the final analysis, with the policy of peace and neutrality of these countries. It reminded the non-aligned powers that it was high time to put into practice the declared policy of two German states adopted at the Belgrade conference.

The Declaration said time had come to accept GDR as an equal member of the United Nations and other international organisations.

The Declaration regretted that relations between People's Republic of China and GDR had also been affected by ideological dispute.

It wanted possession of nuclear weapons forbidden to the two German states. It condemned West German participation in a multilateral Nato force as an act hostile to peace and a breach of the Potsdam agreement.

Regarding free access to West Berlin, the Declaration pointed out that nearly seven thousand persons of Western countries had used the autobahn and the railroads of GDR for transit to and from West Berlin, while there existed a consistent Nato discrimination against GDR citizens travelling to Western countries.

The economic policy of the GDR according to the Declaration is to bring up its national economy to the highest level of science and technology and secure a firm place in the economic system of world socialism.



## Party Education Camp

THE West Bengal Provincial Organising Committee of the Communist Party organised an Education Camp for student party members and militants at Ashoknagar, Habra on November 9 and 10. Professor Kalyan Dutta and Biswanath Mukherjee, a member of the POC, took the classes.

About 150 students from Calcutta, Howrah, Hugli, 24 Parganas and Midnapore districts attended this camp. Kalyan Dutta spoke on 'Ideology and Programme of the International Communist Movement', Biswanath Mukherjee on 'International Situation and the Role of the Communist Party of India'. There were

lively discussions and question-answer sessions after both the lectures.

The students' boarding arrangement were looked after by the local people and on the two days they were there, they participated in the November Week programmes of the locality.

## UP Govt. Must Withdraw Externment Orders

★ From Ramesh Sinha

LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 19:

SOME time ago when the UP government had released RAM ASREY, a member of the State Council of the Communist Party and General Secretary of the UP Trade Union Congress, it had imposed a restriction on his going to Kanpur. He was not well at the time of his release and therefore nobody minded very much the ban on his return to Kanpur.

Later, when another worker comrade from Kanpur, MANNA SINGH was set at liberty, he too was debarred from returning to his work and family at Kanpur.

The Party was already discussing the question of the removal of these two bans with the government when they ordered that another comrade, HAR SAHAY CHOUDHARY of Bareilly, who had been released from detention by the Allahabad High Court, will also not be allowed to return to

his district.

And now the government has externed four comrades from Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh. These ordered out of the district include RAJ NATH SINGH, who was till lately Secretary of District Council of the Party, PABBAR RAM, ex-MLA and ex-Chairman of the Ghazipur Municipality, and SHIV MURTI SINGH, General Secretary of the District Kisan Sabha. The fourth friend banished from the district is JANNAT KHAN.

These comrades had been agitating against the district police which is notoriously corrupt and repressive. SARJU PANDEY, member of Lok Sabha from the district, had personally investigated some of the serious charges against the police and brought them to the notice of the state government in writing. He had also met the State Home Minister.

He had given in writing, and also mentioned in his personal interview concrete cases of corrup-

tion of police authorities and of their collusion with the bad characters of the district. He had offered to prove the charges.

Despite all this, the government did nothing either to bring to book the Nadirshahs of the police, or even to curb their nefarious activities against the people. And now, on the recommendation of the same police, they have, through the agency of the Governor, served orders on the known leaders of the district to leave the place and submit securities that they would not return to their home district.

The State Council of the Communist Party has naturally taken a very serious view of these tactics.

It authorised Dr. Z. A. AHMAD to meet the Chief Minister and to explain the full position to her and seek her intervention. It also asked him to inform her that, if the decision is not reconsidered, the Party will be forced to ask the concerned comrades to defy the unjust and unwarranted orders and to launch a satyagraha movement in Ghazipur against these police methods reminiscent of the British days.

Sarju Pandey, MP and KALI SHANKAR SHUKLA, Secretary of the State Party Council, have also met the Chief Minister and urged her not to precipitate an unnecessary crisis in the eastern districts. They have told her that if this sort of thing is allowed to pass unopposed, the working of the Party and its mass organisations will become impossible because the police and the administration will then have an easy method of getting rid of all those who oppose its misdeeds against the people.

The District Council of the Ghazipur Party has also met and decided to put up a determined fight against the said orders if they are not withdrawn forthwith. The Chief Minister is reported to be personally looking into the matter and her decision is awaited.

## WORKING WOMEN'S PETITION

BOMBAY: The campaign to collect signatures on the working women's petition to the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha is going on in full swing. The response from all sections of working women is encouraging.

THE campaign is particularly impressive among the textile women workers. Since November 5 twelve meetings were held in a week's time addressed by USHATAI DANGE and ROZA DESHPANDE, president and general secretary respectively of the Committee for Defence of Working Women's Rights, Bombay.

Almost all the women who attend the meetings sign the petition. Many of them not only sign the petition but take an active interest in collecting signatures.

The campaign is gaining momentum among the women in pharmaceutical concerns where discontent among the women workers is mounting high. Women teachers and clerks are also coming forward in big numbers to support the petition.

The organisers of the campaign are now meeting the officials of various unions belonging to factories employing women. Female members of the unions are asking their male comrades to tell their wives about the signature campaign. This approach is evoking good response.

The demands listed in the petition are:

- Reserve at least 20 per cent jobs for women workers in the textile industry

and provide women workers training facilities to handle new machinery.

- Declare illegal the marriage clause in the service contract of certain industries and such other measures of discrimination against women workers.

- Provide immediately family quarters for married nurses in hospitals.

- Nationalise the oil companies and gas company and provide cheap gas to every home.

- Start cheap and subsidised canteens attached to offices, schools etc.

- Establish creches in offices and factories where more than 50 women are employed, as also at important places like Churchgate, Dadar, Victoria Terminus etc.

- Provide employment for more women and start vocational training centres and technical education for girls in schools.

The petition will be presented to the Vidhan Sabha towards the end of December. It is expected that nearly a lakh of signatures will be collected on the petition by that time. The working women of Bombay will march in a procession to the Vidhan Sabha to present their petition.

## Reader's Letters

Institute Enquiries Against Ministers

HOME Minister GULZARILAL NANDA has stated he is determined to end corruption in the administration. For the purpose, both givers and takers of bribe would be drastically dealt with, as a matter of policy. But before turning his attention to the administration, what about ending the corruption in the ministerial echelons—his own fellow Congress ministers?

The whitewashing done in the case of the Punjab Chief Minister PRATAP SINGH KALRON and the Kerala Chief Minister R. SHANKAR by the Prime Minister certainly does not forebode that the Congress government "is serious about ending corruption. Only if the ministers are above suspicion, like Caesar's wife, can they command the respect of the officers under them. Only if they are incorrupt themselves can they fight against corruption in the administration.

So, the best thing would be to order judicial and public enquiries in cases of serious corruption charges against the ministers. In the case of Kalron an enquiry has been ordered though the Prime Minister has given him a good chit even while ordering the enquiry. What about a similar enquiry into the charges against Shankar, and his colleague, K. A. DAMODARA MENON? The charges against them are specific and serious and cannot be brushed aside by merely saying they have been raised by Communist

editors and are the result of political rivalry. Cochin

M. S. MENON

Reward for Raising Production?

THE Assam Railways and Trading Company, Margherita, has served on November 9 one month's notice under the Industrial Disputes Act on the miners of Ledo colliery for retrenching them from December 9 and closing down the colliery. The company contends that it is unable to sell all the coal that is produced due to the low allocation by the Coal Controller.

The workers had responded to the call to increase production and the industrial truce resolution of November 3, 1962 by increasing production by 50 thousand tons in one year. It seems they are facing unemployment because of this response to the nation's call. It is a paradox that when the country needs more and more coal for its industrial and domestic consumption, there is also over-production. And the workers are the unfortunate victims of all official bunglings!

While drawing attention of the public to this serious development in Assam which will throw hundreds of miners out of jobs, I appeal to the government to move immediately in the matter and save the miners from the prospect of starvation.

BIREN CHOWDHURY  
President, Assam Coal  
Ledo Mine Workers Union

PAGE SEVENTEEN



People's Representatives attentively following the proceedings.





GOA'S GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA—Eduardo Dias (Right) Editor of LUTA presents a consignment of medicines to Cuban Ambassador for relief of Hurricane Flora's victims.

## Government Formation By Demochristians Not So Easy

★ From Dino Pelliccia

ROME, Nov. 12: Signor ALDO MORO, Secretary of the Christian Democrats, who was charged by President SEGNI to form the new centre-left government with the participation of the Socialists, is a superstitious man. The negotiations between the four (Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Republicans) on the programme of the government will no more take place at the Christian Democrats' headquarters in the beautiful villa in the Cammilluccia street among the verdant hills of Monte-Mario but in the den of their parliamentary group.

THIS was for the sole reason that in July in the negotiations in Cammilluccia street, MORO, NENNI, SARAGAT and REALE had come to an accord on general lines which nevertheless was blown up after the central committee meeting of the Socialist Party with the votes of the left and of the group, who though generally a part of the majority current led by Nenni, on that occasion followed the ideas of RICARDO LOMBARDI.

Soon after he had been cleared by President Segni the Secretary of the Christian Democrats read out to journalists in the Quirinal lobby a long statement in which his main point was that he was going to constitute a government with the parliamentary sanction of the socialists.

But that was not enough for him. The Socialists according to his design were to enter the government where they will probably have five ministers and ten under-secretaries. As for programme Signor Moro was very clear. He declared that the foreign policy must be based on complete loyalty to the Atlantic alliance with all the obligations therein, meaning that the Christian Democrats were not disposed to accept the reservations of Ricardo Lombardi on the subject of the formation of the multilateral force of the NATO.

In internal politics he confirmed his anti-Communist position saying that "one need not have any misunderstanding as far as the Communist Party was concerned."

On economic matters he admitted that the conflicts today were sharper than a few months

ago, and that the new government will have to turn in a big way towards the solution of the present difficulties.

It is a matter now of seeing how these general principles will be translated into a concrete programme. No one can hide in Rome that there will be great difficulties of different sorts. The most evident fact is that Nenni did not receive in the recent Congress of the Socialist Party a clear mandate for his negotiations with Moro. But he has been tied down by some precise conditions which are very far from the "designs" of the Secretary of the Christian Democrats.

### STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES

OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IS ALSO THE WAVE WHICH HAS SPREAD ALL OVER ITALY—THE UNITED STRUGGLES FOR A REAL TURN IN POLITICS. AT THE TIME WHEN SIGNOR MORO BEGAN HIS TALKS ROME WAS PARALYSED BY A SERIOUS GENERAL STRIKE LED BY THE CGIL AGAINST THE CONTINUOUS RISE IN PRICES.

On Tuesday, November 12, the results of the administrative elections which took place on Sunday in some Italian provinces were also announced.

In cities with more than ten thousand inhabitants the Communist Party improved its position from 28.4 per cent at the previous administrative election to 30.2 per cent and has also increased its seats from 71 to 86. The Socialist Party has come down from 10.1 per cent to 8.8

# Tory Strategy of Big Lie

★ From Our London Correspondent

After two weeks of "government by television and press statements" Sir ALEC DOUGLASS-HOME made his first appearance in the reassembled Parliament; he had just succeeded in scraping-in with a heavily reduced majority from a traditionally safe Tory seat in a feudal constituency in Scotland.

THE voting in Kinross and West Perth showed that the Tory majority had dropped over 10 per cent compared with the Conservative vote at the general election and the Tory share of the poll had also dropped over 10 per cent.

This setback came on the heels of the tremendous defeat at Luton where Labour converted the previous Tory majority of over 5,000 in 1959 to a Labour majority of 3,749. Luton in fact is more typical of the parliamentary constituencies and shows the extent of the present anti-Tory tide.

If the present trend continues the swing for Labour in a general election now will produce a Labour majority of more than 200—much more than what they achieved in 1945.

HAROLD WILSON, the leader of the Labour Party, immediately commented that these results proved conclusively that in the national interest there should be a general election now, so that whatever government was in power could be seen to have the authority of the country behind it. He had no doubts as to which way the country would vote after the series of bye-elections held recently.

Although this was not a new Parliament Sir Alec had arranged for a Queen's speech on the occasion of the opening of the final annual session and more importantly in order to seize the opportunity of trying to project a new Tory image before the electorate. The speech consisted mostly of airy claims of wanting peace and Britain's modernisation. It opened with the now familiar Tory claim that the Moscow test ban treaty was all the work of the Tory government with a grudging admission that "successive administrations in the United States" had helped. There was no mention of the Soviet Union with which the treaty was negotiated!

The new Tory strategy is based on the theory of the big lie and a massive bribing of the electorate. This man, who has always been the most reactionary anti-Afro-Asian, anti-UN, cold war warrior and been opposed to all measures of public welfare, sought to make out that his government was the most devoted member of the United Nations and the Tories were the party that was going to bring about a welfare state in Britain. With appalling frankness he said that everything they did from now on must be done with the general election in mind.

Taking advantage of his own fresh and virtually unknown face the Tory publicity managers from the big advertising agencies are seeking to present Sir Alec in the role of the underdog aptly described by the NEW STATESMAN as the gallant amateur, heavily

handicapped by his titles and millions, fighting a remorselessly professional Mr. Wilson.

After he had announced, on his election from Kinross, that he would make regular visits to his constituency, he was asked if he would be buying a house there. "Oh no. I have too many houses to live in already," was his reply. This sums up in one sentence what is wrong with the government of which he is the Prime Minister.

In Sir Alec's Scotland, in Glasgow there are 90,000 people living three to a room. In the County of London there are over 4,000 homeless people—the highest ever and the number is growing. This may be an extreme example of Sir Alec's native and his inexperience in public relations but it shows the man.

Hiding behind meaningless catchwords like "growth without inflation" and "acceleration from positions previously prepared", his economic programme essentially is in his own words to "keep expansion ahead of consumption" which of course is his gimmicky way of saying that wage restraints will continue as before and of keeping public consumption down. The Tories have promised enormous public expenditure in all directions although it was only a few months ago they had insisted as if the country would go bankrupt if the national health service was not modified by charging the sick for prescriptions. They had bitterly opposed any increase in the pay of nurses, cut back the teachers pay rise, throw out the University Grants Committee estimates and now suddenly the thousands of millions are promised just because the elections are near. Mr Wilson demanded a white paper to say what the commitments would cost.

There has been much talk in Britain on the National Development Council's recommended four per cent necessary annual growth in productivity—a figure never yet attained in twelve years of Tory rule. What economic policy changes were Sir Alec's government going to make to maintain this four per cent? There was no word about this in the Queen's speech. But this cannot be achieved without quite fundamental reorganisation of the British economy.

## PROF. was A SPY

THAT the Soviet Union is doing everything possible for a relaxation of tension and an improvement of relations between the big powers was once again proved by the Barghoorn incident.

The Soviet announcement said that it had been confirmed that Frederick Barghoorn who came to USSR as a tourist was engaged in espionage and the Soviet organs had every right to put him on trial. "But in view of the concern of the United States high officials over Frederick Barghoorn's fate, the Soviet government decided only to expel him from the Soviet Union."

All actions of the Soviet government and the tone of the Soviet press during the last few weeks, since the signing of the test ban treaty, show beyond all doubt that everything is being done by this side to keep the "Moscow spirit" alive in spite of all the provocations coming from the West.

The thirtieth anniversary

—M. A. Khan

# U.S.-Instigated Terror in LATIN AMERICA

## Soviet People Take Serious View

★ From MASOOD ALI KHAN

MOSCOW, November 18: A big protest meeting was held in the Hall of Columns of the House of Trade Unions in Moscow to demand an end to the terror and repressions let loose in countries of Latin America by the local reactionaries at the instigation of the United States imperialists.

The big hall and its balconies were packed to capacity and many participants carried posters declaring "Stop this terror," "Shame on the executioners," "Long live Freedom," "Soviet people are with you, Fighters for Freedom", etc.

PROFESSOR Chikvadze, Vice-President of the Soviet Society for Friendship with Latin American countries, speaking at the meeting gave a detailed account of the arrests without trial, crimes and political murders, terror and repression in Latin America. He said all this was not a sign of strength but of weakness on the part of those who resorted to such measures.

Cuba had made a qualitative change to the situation in Latin America and in spite of the arrests of Communists and suppression of the progressive movements and resort to methods which reminded one of the Middle Ages and of the Inquisition the people's forces were gathering momentum and could not be defeated.

David Siqueiros, the famous painter of Mexico, Alvaro Monzon, Communist leader of Guatemala, Jesus Faria, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Venezuela, Pedro Saad, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ecuador, Mario Monge, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bolivia, Antonio Maidana, Communist leader of Paraguay and many other names were mentioned and the accounts of their heroic struggles were given and the audience shouted slogans of angry protest.

Machine building worker Viktorov declared, "let the people of Latin America who are fighting selflessly for their freedom, democracy, peace and happiness know that they are not alone in their difficult struggle. They have the full sympathy and support of the Soviet people on their side."

### U. S. & Portuguese CP Leaders Speak

Henry Winston, the Negro Communist leader of the United States, who spent many years in prison at home and who went blind there for lack of medical attention, made a fiery speech in which he said that those who are languishing in the prisons of Latin America are made out to be a threat to the USA by reactionaries. In fact the opposite is true. They are the hope of all America including the United States. He called the meeting a fine example of proletarian internationalism.

While in prison the support of the people had kept him

of Portugal Alvaro Cunhal who has spent 13 years in Portuguese prisons. The wave of terror and repressions showed the growing helplessness and imbecility of the American reactionaries, he said. The Portuguese Communists who had suffered under fascist terror for 37 years were with the heroic sons of Latin America with all their heart.

The ghost of national liberation was haunting today the continent of Latin America and nothing could prevent the victory of the people.

The meeting was also addressed by the Russian poet Surkov and representatives of Soviet and Latin American youth and students. A resolution was passed declaring heartfelt sympathy and fraternal solidarity with the fighting people of Latin America and expressing confidence that their just cause would triumph.

### Election Eye In Venezuela

Terror has been stepped up in Venezuela in view of the elections to be held on December 1. Communists and members of revolutionary left movement are being rounded up and clashes between government forces and democrats are reported. American marines are being assembled on the Colombian coast of the Caribbean for possible intervention to suppress the de-

pression also criticised this cynical attitude of the authorities. The new chief minister of our state could not find time to go to the airport to receive the cosmonauts, but the latter found time to visit him at his residence.

# AHMEDABAD OVERJOYED AT COSMONAUTS' VISIT

AHMEDABAD, November 17: A wave of joy had begun to spread among the people here on learning that VALENTINA TERESHKOVA and other Soviet cosmonauts were to visit Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat state on November 12.

They remembered the joy which they had experienced on learning, a few years back, that GAGARIN was to visit this place. At that time unfortunately, due to indisposition he could not come. The longing this time to receive the Soviet cosmonauts was therefore all the greater.

It was a working day. The airport was five miles away from the city. Press publicity had started only from November 10. The state government had the entire responsibility for all arrangements in connection with the visit, yet hardly a few lines had been released by them before November 10. The Soviet Vice-Consul had to come here and publicity started only after his press conference on November 9.

Yet, the turnout at the aerodrome surpassed all expectations of the authorities. One of the protocol officials said that the arrangements were far more perfect at Delhi but the popular turnout was far greater at Ahmedabad. A few thousand had been waiting, among them a large number of working class



The U.S. Octopus goes mad after being wounded by the Cuban Revolution

democratic movement in Venezuela. Military manoeuvres are being held in Colombia. The Soviet press expresses protest at these moves of American reaction. "It is a matter of honour for all honest people, for all those who treasure the ideals of freedom and democracy, to raise their voice in protest against the persecution of democrats in Latin America, to demand the immediate release of the leaders of progressive parties and public organizations and an end to arbitrariness," Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, K. Guseinov writes in the newspaper TRUD.

True to the principles of international proletarian solidarity, the article points out, the Soviet people cannot remain indifferent onlookers when the U.S. imperialists and the local reactionaries are making short work of patriots in Latin American countries, of the resolute fighters for the national liberation of their countries and for the interests of the working people, of Communists and trade union leaders.

"We raise our voice in support of the great cause of national liberation and are confident that no reprisals whatsoever are capable of breaking the will of the Latin American peoples for liberation from the imperialist yoke. The Soviet people tell them: We are with you, patriots of Latin America!", the author concludes.

Valentina and the other cosmonauts were submerged in hundreds of garlands by scores of public organisations. The Mayor and the Home Minister spoke a few words of welcome, particularly stressing the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the grand achievements of its scientists and cosmonauts. They also expressed the hope that India and the Soviet Union would come closer to each other.

Valentina's speech was heard with great emotion, the people frequently breaking out in rapturous applause. She expressed fervent hopes for lasting peace in the world and the wish and hope that some day Indian women would travel into space along with Soviet women. Ahmedabad, the city of textile mills, was happy to find a textile woman worker, returned from outer space, in its midst.

In Ahmedabad, this visit of Soviet cosmonauts has left deep, abiding and inspiring impression. The mass of people gave them a hearty welcome and in their turn the cosmonauts carried with them happy memories of this visit. They also carried with them the few delicate and artistic presents, including a wedding cake for Valentina.

In the evening at 5 p.m. the place of the public reception at the Lal Darwaza Maidan was packed to capacity. Over a hundred thousand had gathered. The authorities later felt that their choice of the grounds was not appropriate. On the way thousands had gathered near the office of the Communist Party and raised deafening cheers of Valentina Zindabad, Soviet Union Zindabad, Communist Party Zindabad. The roads and the Party office were gaily deco-



# FOOD MINISTER FACES ANGRY HOUSE

★ by Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Government's failure to check increase in price of rice in West Bengal was the subject of heated exchanges between Communist members and Deputy Food Minister (now elevated to Minister of State), A. M. THOMAS in the Lok Sabha this week.

Before the House decided to have a discussion on the rice situation in the country, consequent to a statement on the subject made by the Minister on Tuesday, members from both sides showed extreme annoyance with the rosy picture presented by Thomas. Communist members repeatedly sought the Speaker's permission to their adjournment motion which, they said, was intended to censure the government on its failure on the food front.

THEIR resentment boiled over when the Minister, in the course of his statement, told the House that fair price shops in Calcutta were selling rice at Rs. 16 to 18 per maund. The Minister's price figures were immediately challenged by Communist members from West Bengal and a Congress member A. C. GUHA also termed the Minister's statement as "grossly incorrect."

Earlier, on the opening day of the new session of Parliament, Communist members had given notice of an adjournment motion on the subject. It could not come up because the House had granted leave on that day to another adjournment motion on Walcott's escape. And therefore on the next day when Thomas made his statement, Communist members asked for a discussion on the basis of their adjournment motion.

## Optimism Unlimited

A. M. Thomas in his statement said that crop prospects were bright all over the country and that as a result of their impact rice prices had generally shown a declining trend in the last two or three weeks. According to him the crop situation was particularly encouraging in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Punjab and UP.

Going over the difficulties on the food front in 1963, Thomas said that the most difficult situation had developed in West Bengal. After a continuous decline of

prices upto March 1963, the prices in that state began to rise and situation was further accentuated by the stoppage of rice from Orissa.

But the Minister contended that it was brought under control by additional supplies from the Centre and export of rice from Andhra Pradesh and imports from Nepal. "In about six weeks of July and August, in fact, the prices showed an unusual quiet trend of steadiness mixed with decline."

"It was expected that the Aus crop would ease the situation, but according to reports received, it appears there was cornering by trade and withholding of stocks by larger producers." The Minister said that consequently prices had again risen and also pressure on fair price shops had increased. He admitted that the "situation began to assume very serious proportions."

He then recalled his visit to Calcutta and said that "as a result of arrangements made by the state government with trade, additional supplies made by the Centre and the increased coverage of fair price shops particularly in Calcutta, the situation was brought under control and prices declined to nearly Rs. 32 to Rs. 35 per maund." He claimed that this declining trend had been maintained ever since.

But what touched off the uproar was the statement by the Minister that "in Calcutta and its environs out of a total population of 58 lakh persons, previously about 27 lakh and latterly about 40 lakh persons have been drawing their rations from fair price shops at subsidised rates of Rs. 16 to 18 per

maund." There were interruptions.

RENU CHAKRAVARTY: Even in the fair price shops, rice is not available at that price. His statement is absolute rubbish.

INDRAJIT GUPTA: It may be in the other world perhaps.

S. M. BANERJEE: Let us have a Parliamentary delegation to visit Calcutta and let him also accompany them.

The Speaker intervened and the Minister was allowed to proceed with his statement in which he spelt out the government's "food policy" for the next year. "Our preliminary examination shows that the crop prospects would allow us to step up our procurement further."

"We have already had an encouraging response from the state government and it is likely that we shall be able to procure, unless something unforeseen happens, more than a million tonnes of foodgrains. Along with the imports of foodgrains, this quantity should be enough to allow for adequate distribution of rice through fair price shops in the next year and for building up our buffer stock in an effort to build it up to two million tonnes in the next two or three years."

A. M. Thomas also spoke about evolving "administrative and regulatory measures" which

## Concern Over Prices in West Bengal

would enable government to obtain "a much better control over the price situation, trade movement, trade stocks, charging of margins and reducing the disparities between post-harvest and year-end periods."

He said that government would be taking "further steps to procure paddy in areas where growers are unable to take advantage of prevailing prices and to provide for the exercise of greater vigilance by the states in regard to price movement from time to time."

## Demand for Discussion

As soon as the Minister had concluded, MAHAVIR TYAGI suggested a discussion on the subject. MOHAMAD ELIAS was on his feet, visibly agitated, and declaring that the Minister's statement was wrong and incorrect (he also used a stronger expression, which the Speaker made him withdraw as being unparliamentary) and that "such a Minister should be thrown out of the House."

Renu Chakravarty demanded that there should be a discussion on the adjournment motion tabled by the Communist Group. She was supported by A. K. GOPALAN, S. M. Banerjee and others.

Renu Chakravarty also stated that on October 2, the Chief Minister of West Bengal had made a statement in which he said that he was not able to control prices and that he cannot do anything and that he cannot supply because producers

were not disgorging. A. M. Thomas, however, maintained his stand. He said:

"It has been stated on a number of occasions on the floor of this House that the common variety of rice is supplied at the fair price shops at the rate of Rs. 15 a maund."

Renu Chakravarty: No, No.

Thomas: I have got better information than hon. members.

Renu Chakravarty: No.

S. M. Banerjee: It is not so.

Renu Chakravarty: 56 nP per kilo.

Speaker: Order, order. When the facts are disputed, there cannot be an adjournment motion.

S. M. Banerjee: Why?

Speaker: If the facts are disputed, they should be thrashed out by a discussion. Adjournment motions can be had only on admitted or established facts.

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spirit, we agree to it. But I want to request my friend Mr. Tyagi that next time, after some days, again we will have to bring in an adjournment motion and I hope at least then he will favour it.

Ultimately it was agreed that a discussion should take place and then there were suggestions from some Congress members that it should be for two days. However, the time for the discussion was not immediately fixed.

## IN RAJYA SABHA

IN the Rajya Sabha also, the question of food prices in West Bengal figured during interpellations on the very first day of the session.

Rising on a supplementary to a question on food prices, BHUPESH GUPTA wanted to know from Minister Thomas whether it was not a fact that in the inter-session period the prices of food grains in West Bengal had gone up very high.

Further, he asked what is the position of food in West Bengal and in what manner will the GOI help them to bring down the prices and make rice available to the people.

A. M. Thomas: It is true that in West Bengal especially at the end of September and the beginning of October the position became very serious. We

took adequate measures and now the position is absolutely under control.

P. K. KUMARAN: The hon. Minister has just now stated that the price situation with regard to foodgrains in West Bengal is under control. May I know what is the prevailing price of rice in West Bengal, and how it compares with the price situation in other parts of the country?

Thomas: In West Bengal from the latest figures, that is as on the 1st of November, the wholesale price comes to Rs. 30 per maund and the retail price Rs. 32.85. It varies from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 with regard to the coarse or common variety of rice.

## 'Went Up, Came Down'

Kumaran: But the papers report it is Rs. 42 per maund. Thomas: In fact the price went up to even Rs. 50 per maund. Then it came down subsequently.

In reply to a question from Bhupesh Gupta about the complaint of West Bengal Government that the Centre was not giving the state adequate supplies, the Minister said:

"The entire position was reviewed and adequate measures were taken to feed the fair price shops with rice. For example, in the industrial city of Calcutta the total population comes to about 58 lakhs. Now about 47 lakhs of people are covered by ration cards, and adequate supplies are made to meet the demands of all ration card-holders."

A. K. Gopalan: If that is the

## PATIL'S TACTICS

★ FROM FRONT PAGE

Communists, who hold otherwise.

Let these Congress socialists and democrats give us their considered criticism of and objections to Communism and Marxism as a philosophy, as a living reality and as a society to be reached. There can be no monopoly on criticism.

This however is to be sharply demarcated from the gutter-abuse of Patil. And all those Congressmen who are keen on Socialism and keen on insisting on its originality must be in the forefront of such demarcation.

They must take the initiative to make it absolutely

clear that they are prepared to work with anybody, who agreed with a programme of radical democracy. They must make it clear that they are prepared to unite with all those progressive forces against open opponents and saboteurs alike. They must refuse to be diverted and speak out plainly.

Patil has not hesitated to open the attack. He has fired the first shots in the battle for Bhubaneswar. Let this challenge stimulate democratic Congressmen to think more vigorously and with greater definiteness. Silence or passivity will mean connivance with Sadoha's sabotage.