

ALL-INDIA STRIKE: WHEN?

THAT THE MASS OF PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY DISCONTENTED WITH THE HIGH PRICES AND TAXES AND GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CORRECT THE SITUATION IS ACCEPTED BY ALL. EVEN THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP ADMITS THAT IT HAS FAILED TO HOLD THE PRICE LINE, THAT THE COST OF LIVING HAS ROCKETTED SKY-HIGH AND THAT THE MONOPOLISTS ARE MINTING MILLIONS OUT OF MASS MISERY. WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

THE working class movement led by the Communist Party and the trade unions of the AITUC gave a clear answer. The vast mass of the workers, peasants and toiling middle class must go into action on the question of wages, dearness allowance, bonus, fair prices for the peasant and for bank nationalisation. The Great March to Delhi on September 13, 1963 showed the people's response.

The next step was to launch action on the question of wages and the fraudulent cost of living index to which the DA in largescale organised industries is tied. The movement against the index fraud gathered tremendous

force, particularly in Bombay and Ahmedabad, two of the biggest centres of monopoly capital in India. Bombay city had a one day general strike on August 20, 1963.

The AITUC initiated an all-India conference of trade unions which adopted in December 13, a National Campaign Programme for reduction of high prices and taxes, for increase in wages and DA and for nationalisation. A National Campaign Committee was established to work out the programme. The conference warned the monopolists and the government that if they failed to take measures to meet the demands, a general strike on an all-India level—a national strike and hartal would be inevitable.

The campaign won successes in Bombay and Ahmedabad. The index fraud was proved before the Experts Committees and both the governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat, seeing the temper of the success, the vast demonstrations and rallies, directed the employers to pay increased dearness allowance. The workers of Bombay and Ahmedabad were paid the increases on February pay day.

The movement has been gathering momentum. As soon as the Bombay and Ahmedabad indices were proved wrong, it had the unavoidable implication that the all-India index was also wrong, even though the other cities had yet to be verified. The result was that



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the government employees also began to demonstrate.

The Government of India, in order to forestall a bigger movement and a larger claim, took the step of announcing an increase of Rs. 2 in the DA of government employees drawing up to Rs. 110 per month and Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 for other categories, thus indirectly admitting the existence of the index fraud at their end also.

The increase of Rs. 2 is rightly taken as a mockery by the majority of the employees and they are sure to protest further.

But the movement has not yet gathered a roaring all-India tempo. The other big centres of industry have not yet gone into action. The workers getting fixed DA are not getting any gains by the unearthing of the index fraud. The small-scale or unorganised industries have to find their own way to wage increases.

The vast public sector industries, the big iron and steel plants, the coal mining belts and the plantations are still to move into action. The fixed

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SECURITY COUNCIL KASHMIR DEBATE RIPS MASK OFF IMPERIALIST-PAK PLOT

WHERE TODAY ARE THE GANGSTER CHIEFTAINS OF RIGHT REACTION, WHO HAVE NOT CEASED TO PREACH THEIR ARRANT NONSENSE ABOUT THE "FRIENDSHIP" OF THE WESTERN POWERS FOR INDIA? WHERE ARE THEY TODAY, AS THE REPORTS POUR IN OF THE DIABOLICAL ANTI-INDIAN STAND OF THE IMPERIALIST POWERS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON PAKISTAN'S "COMPLAINT" ON KASHMIR?

ing news item, which is a further pointer towards the US stand in the present debate:

"Immediately after the Security Council formally adjourned on the Kashmir issue today, the US dele-

nonalignment and for the virtual surrender of the Valley of Kashmir."

Our Republic Day editorial said:

"The conspiracy whose ramifications lead through the recent events in Kashmir, Kuluva and Calcutta, has now been climaxed by Pakistan's appeal to the Security Council the blackmail against India by the imperialist patrons of the Ayub Government is clear enough."

The following week, we again said: "The imperialist powers will undoubtedly seek to fish in the troubled waters and use the Pakistani complaint to pressurise India."

Last week, our editorial on BHUTTO's opening speech, warned:

"Bhutto counts on the support of the US and British Governments and their allies in the Security Council. It is at their behest that the 'complaint' has been filed... There can be no doubt that the Security Council debate will be used to blackmail and pressurise India to conform more closely to the policies which the imperialists would like our country to pursue..."

"The raising of the Kashmir issue once again in the Security Council is part of the imperialist game to turn Indian policies to the Right, away from nonalignment."

No, NEW AGE is not surprised or shocked at the imperialist stand in the Security

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PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST T. T. K.

NEW DELHI: Communist members walked out from the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday in protest against the Chair's refusal to allow a privilege motion given notice of by M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR against Finance Minister T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI.

THE privilege motion related to the constitution of the Company Law Board. Krishnamachari had stated in the Rajya Sabha on December 19, 1963 that the board will have three or four members; it "will be a well-knit, strong, efficient administrative unit" with judicial representation also. Functions like controlling stock exchanges would also be given to the board, he had said.

However, when the Company Law Board was constituted on February 1, it was found to have only two members, namely R. C. DUTT (chairman) and B. C. MANCHANDA. Only those powers enjoyed by the erstwhile Company Law Administration were conferred on the Board. It did not have "three or four members"; there was

no "judicial representation"; no additional powers like control of stock exchanges were given to it; instead of being stronger the new set-up is weaker because the secretary in charge of the Company Law Administration has been replaced by an additional secretary as the chairman of the board.

M. N. Govindan Nair alleged that this constituted a breach of privilege of the house by the Finance Minister who was either willfully misleading the house in his December 19 speech or deliberately disregarding his assurances.

Nair sought to raise the matter on the floor of the house, but he was not allowed to do so by the Deputy chairman. Thereafter all the Communist members walked out.

PTI reports from the United Nations that "the Indian delegation sources said they were 'shocked' by the speech of the British delegate, SIR PATRICK DEAN" and what is more significant:

"They (the Indian delegation) described the speech as completely pro-Pakistan and contrary to what the British government had made India understand about the Pakistani move for a Security Council debate." (TIMES OF INDIA, February 12)

Even though the Security Council debate has been postponed by another day and we shall not have further reports till after this issue of NEW AGE is in print, there is no doubt whatsoever that the US attitude will be as violently anti-Indian as the British.

The Express News Service Washington correspondent in his cable from the United Nations says:

"Lobby sources indicate that India should assume the worst, namely that the United States performance will be as bad as that of Britain." (INDIAN EXPRESS, February 12)

PTI's correspondent has sent the following interest-

Editorial Article

gate, Mr. PLIMPTON, who is deputy to Mr. ADLAI STEVENSON, chief US representative, went up to Mr. SIDI DADA of Morocco and Mr. ARSENE USHER of Ivory Coast to congratulate them after their pro-Pakistani speeches...

The "innocents" in the Ministry of External Affairs, may be "shocked" at the imperialists' attitude. As far as the NEW AGE is concerned, let it be said quite straight: We are not shocked, because we never had the slightest illusions about the attitude of the imperialist powers. For the last three weeks, we have repeatedly warned of the imperialist-Pak conspiracy which lies behind the Pakistani "complaint" to the Security Council.

In our issue of January 26, we said:

"There is no doubt that behind the Pakistan Government stand, as always, the imperialist powers. It is with their encouragement and blessings that the 'complaint' has been filed before the Security Council.

"The object is simple: to pressurise India to yield to imperialist demands for a weakening of our policy of

FORWARD TO COMMUNISM

Editorial YET ANOTHER MAJOR step forward along the road to Communism will be taken by the people of the Soviet Union, following the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU now taking place in Moscow.

The meeting is devoted to the question of intensifying agricultural production, and a vast panorama of work has been sketched in the opening report delivered by the USSR Minister of Agriculture and the co-reports by other experts.

Through the wealth of statistics can be seen clearly the results which are aimed at: the still further increase in the living standards of the Soviet people, the advance towards the cherished goal of Communism.

The Programme of the CPSU, the programme for the building of Communist society lays down that "along with a powerful industry, a flourishing, versatile and highly productive agriculture is an imperative condition for the building of Communism". The Central Committee's plenary meeting in Moscow is devoted precisely to that "great development of productive forces in agriculture" which the Programme says, "will make it possible to accomplish two basic, closely related tasks:

(a) to build up an abundance of high-quality food products for the population and of raw materials for industry, and

(b) to effect the gradual transition of social relations in the Soviet countryside to Communist relations and eliminate, in the main, the distinctions between town and country."

Working people in all lands are watching with joy and happiness the steps the great land of socialism and its party of builders of Communism are taking to implement the historic Programme.

The toilers of the developing countries, particularly will be thrilled at the discussions now proceeding in the CPSU Central Committee.

One of the co-reports says that "mechanisation of all the processes of production in several major branches of agriculture is not some distant goal, but the task of the day." And further it confidently declares that "the task can already be set today to carry out in the main the complex mechanisation of cultivating and harvesting maize, sugar-beet, peas and beans in 1966-67, and grain crops, cotton, potatoes and other crops in 1968."

Over two million tractors and large quantities of other machinery are to be supplied to collective farms between 1966 and 1970.

New irrigation construction, says another co-report, will make for the use in the coming years of 2.8 million additional hectares.

The main report said that up to 10 million tons of fertilisers would be used in the USSR on land under grain before the end of this year, and that this figure would be 30 to 35 million tons in 1970.

These are just glimpses of the new world which is being built in the Soviet Union.

For the Indian people, the bulk of whom live in the villages still in the backwardness imposed by years of imperialist slavery, the proceedings of the CPSU Central Committee plenum will read at times like a fairy tale, so stupendous and glorious are the vistas which open up before us.

But the builders of Communism are not the creators of fairy tales: they are the vanguards who hew out the pathway for the working people of all lands to follow.

We rejoice in the onward march to Communism of the Soviet people. We rejoice in their triumphs. For every victory they score, every new milestone they cross is a rallying call to all mankind, an example to be emulated.

This is the road to happiness and prosperity, the road of Marxism-Leninism.

(February 11)

SEVENTH FLEET & INDIA'S SILENCE

notes OF THE Week

By ROMESH CHANDRA

Once again, as Parliament opened, the US Seventh Fleet leapt into the headlines. In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Lakshmi Menon said that there had been no development in regard to the proposed visit of the US Seventh Fleet to the Indian Ocean area.

WE have not corresponded with the US government and the US government has not approached us either, she said, according to PTI.

What the Indian people want to know is why we have not 'corresponded' with the US government and told them that they should keep the Seventh Fleet out of the Indian Ocean.

The Prime Minister, in his statement in Parliament on December 21, 1963, had categorically declared that "if more information becomes available, we shall certainly consider the matter further in the light of such information".

The least that the Indian people expected was that the Government of India would seek 'more information', especially in view of the widespread feelings in the country on the subject. But Minister Lakshmi Menon calmly says there are 'no developments, and no 'correspondence'!

Does the Minister not know that the US authorities have announced that the Fleet will enter the Indian Ocean area in March? Is that or is that not a new 'development'?

What is even more irritating is the report that the Minister brusquely denied that other governments had expressed their opposition to the US Fleet's entry into the Indian Ocean.

Here again it is a strange sort of ignorance. The protests of the Indonesian government appeared in the Indian press long ago. The latest news is from Ceylon.

During the Foreign Affairs Debate in the Senate, Prime Minister Srimavo Bandaranaike said that as early as December 17, 1963, her government had expressed its 'concern' and 'dismay' to the US government over the Seventh Fleet decision and followed this up by deciding to refuse facilities in Ceylon's airfields or ports to any plane or vessel carrying or equipped to carry nuclear weapons. The Prime Minister also made an open appeal to the US government 'not to send vessels with nuclear capacity to the Indian Ocean'.

But Lakshmi Menon knows nothing of all this. She is presumably also unaware that the entire Afro-Asian People's Solidarity movement observed a week of protest last month against the entry of the Seventh Fleet into the Indian Ocean.

This session of Parliament must see the maximum protest lodged on this vital issue. Why can the Government of India not do at least what Ceylon has done?

This silent acquiescence on the imperialist cold war manoeuvre blackens India's image abroad.

There were circles close to government which argued that we should keep silent on the Seventh Fleet, as otherwise the imperialist powers would attack us on the Kashmir issue on the Security Council.

The reality is exactly the opposite: the weak-kneed policy of virtual acceptance of the

The Rightwing toy soldiers appear to be spoiling all the time for a military solution of the India-China dispute. The moment it begins to appear that the pressure of world public opinion is beginning to have some results in compelling the Chinese leadership to accept the Colombo proposals—out come the toy generals of the Right, brandishing their cardboard swords.

The Rightwing parties are not concerned with India's best interests; they seek only to make political capital for themselves. The people must remain on guard against their vicious and dangerous conspiracies.

"Voice Of America"

THE AIR-VOA deal is off. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting has announced that "the chapter is almost closed."

The voice of the people has prevailed. The Government of India, said the Minister, has told the USA that the only basis on which India could go ahead with the agreement "is that there should be no broadcast from this transmitter by Voice of America."

Result: "no further development."

But there was no answer to the demands made in Parliament that the officers and others responsible for the shameful deal be punished.

The defence of the policy of non-alignment has become the duty and responsibility of the Indian people. They have succeeded in scotching the VOA deal. But now a new and bigger danger to the non-alignment policy has appeared in the form of the US decision to send its Seventh Fleet into the Indian Ocean.

The victory over the VOA deal should inspire a renewed spurt of popular action against the Seventh Fleet.

Non-Aligned Conference

It has now been officially announced that the conference of nonaligned countries will be held this year in about September. The preparatory work begins right away. This is a welcome development, particularly vital for India and the strengthening of our own policy of non-alignment.

The Government of India has thrown its full weight behind the Conference. The visit of Deputy Minister Dinesh Singh to the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia has helped to ensure broad agreement on the participation and scope of the Conference.

Welcome also is the latest categorical declaration that India is NOT opposed to a Second Bandung, and that the nonaligned conference should not be counterposed to the Second Bandung. This is precisely the stand taken by NEW AGE, and it will help clear India's position further in Afro-Asia.

(February 12)

THREE-FOLD STRUGGLE OF INDIAN TOILERS

With the decision of the National Campaign Committee to launch a mass countrywide hunger-strike and satyagraha in front of the Lok Sabha, the National Campaign of the Toilers of India enters the stage of active struggle.

THE AITUC was the first mass organisation to launch a national campaign against rising prices. In its 11 point Charter of Demands, adopted by the All-India T.U. Convention at Bombay in December, it put forward the demand that prices must be brought down by 25 per cent, and advanced the slogan of an immediate increase in wages, linking of D.A. with the consumer price indices, calculated correctly, with cent per cent neutralisation.

The conference also demanded immediate submission of the Bonus Commission Report, nationalisation of banks, oil and export-import trade and the ending of unjust taxes. On the basis of these demands, the conference gave a call for a national day of protest on January 12-13 and suggested that state-wide conventions be held in all states.

The response to this call was magnificent. Almost at all TU centres, mass demonstrations were held. The demands were explained and popularised. State conventions have been held in Bihar and Punjab and regional conventions were held at Chhatisgarh (M.P.) and in U.P. The Mahagujarat Trade Union Conference held at Ahmedabad supported the demands made by the Bombay Conference. In other states, conventions are being held later this month.

The demands put forward by the AITUC are not sectional, pertaining only to the working class. They are national in character, and reflect the interests of all sections of our people, except a handful of monopolists, big businessmen, hoarders and top bureaucrats. Hence they have become the focal points for wide mobilisation.

Wider Sections Of People

Thus, already the campaign is well beyond the AITUC base and is embracing many more sections of the working people. As it progresses, it is bound to become wider, though it may not have organisational unity.

At the same time, some positive results are already there. The Bonus Commission Report has been finalised and is being considered by the government.

INTUC Citadel Shaken

In Ahmedabad, the traditional base of the INTUC and the stronghold of Major Mahajan, the most ardent advocates of class-collaboration, the workers have moved in the campaign most militantly and the INTUC organisation has been shaken to its foundations. The working class of Ahmedabad has formed its militant trade union organisation and is marching ahead. A very wide-based Sangharsha Committee has been formed for planned united action.

The Index fraud has been exposed in Bombay and Ahmedabad and the Expert Committee reports have had to accept the faults in the index, at least partially. Even on this partial correction, a measure of relief to the workers (Rs. 9.50 per month in Bombay and Rs. 7.50 per month in Ahmedabad) has been won.

The holy posture of the government has been completely exposed and the Expert Committee reports reveal, as was contended by the workers, that the price in-

dice are manipulated. In Punjab, the minimum wage of textile workers has been raised from Rs. 60 to Rs. 72 and the entire wage linked to the consumer price index at 50 NP per point per month. It is for the first time that the principle of linking wages to the index has been accepted in Punjab.

The Central Government has been forced to concede that full neutralisation on the rise in the index should be provided to the employees and some increase—though paltry—has been announced.

The National Campaign of the Toilers has thus already made progress both in the fact that it has drawn more and more sections of workers into action in one form or another and also in that it has already achieved some gains.

The task now is to broaden it still further and to forge links with all those sections who are moving ahead and on the basis of this, press forward with our demands.

Budgets Coming

The central and state budgets are now to be presented. Possibly there will be further taxation and that too, of an anti-people nature. Prices are still rising and wages are lagging sadly behind. The relief won is only for some sections and there too, it is wholly inadequate.

It is in this background that the National Campaign Committee met at Hyderabad. It took stock of the situation and has outlined a programme of immediate action. This programme gives a three-fold pattern of struggle.

The first phase starts on February 20. On that date, batches of trade union members will go on three-day hunger-strike in front of the gates of all factories or establishments or at some other suitable public place.

It may be argued that this is not a very militant form of struggle. It may be further argued that since the hunger-strike is only for three days, it is not likely to generate sufficient pressure to secure any demand.

To understand this action in this way would be to miss the very essence of the first phase. A hunger-strike in one factory to press for fulfilment of local demands is one thing. The proposed country-wide hunger-strike from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Bombay to Calcutta, by about 50,000 workers on the same days and for the same national demands is qualitatively a different proposition.

Such a united national action brings out class solidarity, moves the whole class—from the most advanced sections to the backward—and

helps to focus attention of all people on the demands.

In the present state of our trade union organisation and the extreme unevenness in the working class movement in various centres, in both consciousness and organisation, even an elementary form of struggle on a national plane has its impact, in preparing the workers towards united action of a more direct nature.

Further, it helps to forge links inside the class between the organised and the unorganised, between those who follow the Red Flag and those who do not, and also between the class and the people. In that lies its significance and hence it must not be confused in nature and importance with the hunger-strike action on local demands in one or two mills.

Phased Struggle

These demonstrations will help to carry the message of satyagraha in Delhi to all parts of India and will bring into simultaneous action thousands upon thousands of workers. They will forge further links between the workers and the common people, and assert by action how the working class is taking up and fighting for national demands.

The three-fold struggle is thus a carefully chalked out programme of phased struggle, with each form conforming to a particular stage.

It should be looked upon and understood as an all-national action, the first steps towards the struggle to forge greater unity of action, to bring into the fold of struggle and unity all genuine forces of the working class movement. And it is essential for its full unfolding that the time between one phase and another be used to prepare for the next stage.

The working class is on the march for the fulfilment of its class demands which are also national demands. Let us all prepare to contribute our mite in this great struggle.



Satish Loomba

Today, they cannot come out with such apologies. The INTUC worker is on the move and the leadership has to take cognizance of it, if they are to somehow hold together their organisation.

The unions and federations of government employees, both central and state, are also on the move. The Confederation of Central Government Employees, the P&T Federation, the AIRF, the All-India Defence Employees Federation and organisations of working journalists, teachers and others are pressing for the settlement of their immediate demands and are campaigning on them.



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SITUATION STILL EXPLOSIVE

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA, February 8: Even before the deep wounds left by the serious communal disturbances in Calcutta and other parts of West Bengal have healed, tension has again begun to develop.

THE immediate cause is the call for the observance of "East Pakistan Day" by the Jan Sangh on February 9, and the forthcoming celebration of Id, one of the most important Muslim religious festivals, on February 15. In the wake of the riots, confidence among the minorities about their own security was completely shattered, and it is no exaggeration to say that it will take some time and a good deal of hard and effective work to restore it.

In this context, when the situation is still far from being normal, wild rumours and all sorts of cock-and-bull stories put out by interested people and the publication of reports of a provocative nature in a section of the local press have given rise to a feeling of apprehension among people belonging to the minority community. They fear that there may be fresh disturbances following the so-called "East Pakistan Day" and the Id.

It is, of course, true that the reactionary forces which had organised the riots are not sitting idle. The police, however, appear to be more vigilant this time. Last month, they had allowed the situation to deteriorate to a stage when the military had to be called out to suppress the disturbances.

But, it is quite obvious that the police alone cannot control a riot situation, much less restore confidence among the riot-affected people. One of the tragic lessons of the recent trouble is that it could happen, because the organised democratic forces in Calcutta and elsewhere had failed to intervene in as decisive a manner as during similar explosive situations in the past.

These democratic forces, however, are now coming to the fore. The West Bengal State Council of the Communist Party devoted the major part of its five-hour session last week to a threadbare discussion of all aspects of the situation arising out of last month's disturbances.

The resolution (see full text on page 7) adopted by the state council urgently calls upon all Party mem-

bers and workers of democratic organisations and all sections of the people to throw their full weight into the battle to defeat the forces of communalism and for building up a broad-based unity of the people. Following the directive of the state council, the state secretariat of the Party is taking necessary steps to mobilise the entire strength and resources of the Party to isolate and muzzle the forces of communalism, to restore confidence among the minori-

ties and to ensure the speedy relief and rehabilitation of the riot-affected people. For this purpose a general body meeting of Party members of Calcutta, and the districts of 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly was held yesterday. Another such meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

The Party is also trying, in cooperation with other left parties, to organize a central mass rally in Calcutta, as early as possible. Meanwhile, many members and sympathisers of the Party are working actively in different parts of the city to maintain communal harmony and to arrange for the relief and rehabilitation of the distressed people. Top leaders of the Party are also visiting the riot-affected areas, especially the mohallas, bustees and villages inhabited by members of the minority community.

A convention of student leaders from different parts of West Bengal was held in Calcutta on February 7 under the auspices of the United Students' Peace Committee. The well-known scientist Dr. R. D. Nagchowdhury presided.

The convention decided to carry on an active campaign against communalism by organising peace squads, holding meetings in different colleges etc. It also took the decision to send an open letter, greeting those students in East Pakistan who had tried their utmost to prevent the riots there. The Convention further proposed an exchange of democratic-minded student delegations between West Bengal and East Pakistan.

The forces of communalism and disruption would no doubt want, if given a free hand, to provoke another round of riots. But the democratic forces have already begun to act, and would very much like to see the ensuing Id celebrated as a great fraternal reunion of the majority and the minority communities.

Kerala Mass Movements Gather Momentum

From S. SHARMA

TRIVANDRUM: The last fortnight witnessed in Kerala not only a political crisis but also growing unrest among wider and newer sections of the working class and their preparations for struggle to ensure increase in wages and dearness allowances and control of price rise.

THE unions affiliated to the AITUC are in the forefront in this campaign. In three districts, trade union conventions with widest representations from all affiliated trade unions have already been held where the resolutions of the Bombay convention have been discussed and plan formulated to implement them.

As many as 105 delegates representing 35 trade unions in Alleppy district participated in the deliberation. 226 delegates from all the unions in Kottayam district participated in the discussion and convention which culminated in a militant demonstration and rally in the evening of February 2. In Ernakulam district over 200 delegates participated in the deliberations.

Conventions in other districts of Kerala are being held and the state trade union convention which is to give final shape to the detailed preparation is expected to be held on February 21 and 22 at Alwaye.

KSTUC Meeting

Meanwhile a meeting of the working committee of the KSTUC has been held to discuss and implement the decisions of the National Campaign Committee. A spokesman of the AITUC told NEW AGE that the response to the call of the National Campaign Committee from all sections of workers in various industries has been overwhelming as is evidenced by the wide representation in the district conventions by rank and file worker delegates and their keen and

active participation in the deliberations.

As these preparations are proceeding, struggles of workers are also breaking out and gathering support. The satyagraha of State Transport workers before the Secretariat gates in the capital has completed a fortnight and the State Transport Employees Union has decided to intensify and extend the satyagraha to other district centres also.

The hurry and haste with which the Transport and Labour Minister has called the leaders of the INTUC union in the department and conceded some of their demands indicate his anxiety, apart from the fact, that his action is highly discriminatory.

Significant Gains

Significant gains were achieved by the powerful campaign and strike notice organised by the All-Kerala Toddy Tappers Federation on February 5 when in a high level conference, five of the twelve immediate demands of the tappers were conceded and the remaining issues referred for the consideration of an urgent meeting of the Industrial Relations Committee.

Among the demands which over a lakh and half workers have won, are an increased rate of bonus of 25 per cent over previous year and dearness allowance related to the cost of living index. This is the first time that workers employed in the toddy tapping industry secured dearness allowance related to cost of living index. Increased wage rate, leave with wages and

security in service have also been guaranteed.

It is not only the working class that is astir but also the middle class employees throughout the state. On February 2, a convention of Central government employees meeting in Cochin reiterated their demands including upgrading of Cochin into an A class city.

On February 8 and 9 a special convention of representatives of all the non-gazetted service personnel in the state government demanded the constitution of a pay commission to revise their pay scales on the basis of cost of living index.

In a resolution adopted at the convention, it was pointed out that for the past seven years, the government had not done any thing to improve the lot of the NGO personnel, though the cost of living during the same period had gone up considerably even according to faulty computation.

The difference in salary between the highest paid and the lowest paid in government service in the state was Rs. 2720. Out of over one and a half lakh NGOs in the state nearly two thirds were getting only below Rs. 100 as basic salary. The convention demanded that such disparity between one category and other and between the central and state government service should be ended.

The convention culminated in an impressive demonstration and a meeting addressed by leaders of all political parties.

The all-India bank employees are now in session in Trivandrum. They are discussing not only the demands of the employees such as wage increase, increased dearness allowance, revision of the faulty cost of living index, adhoc increase to compensate abnormal rise in prices but also pressing for the nationalisation of banks.

Demonstration And Meeting

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The PEKING DAILY of February 3, 1964 carries an article titled "A Blow at Lyndon Johnson Stings PRAVDA". This article, which pretends to be a reply to the PRAVDA's comment "Why Mislead" (see last week NEW AGE), starts with the following paragraph:

"ONCE upon a time, there was a story of the Siamese Twins. It was said that when one of the pair was hit, the other felt the pain. What puzzles one now is that this curious kinship should appear between the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the President of the United States."

This may sound very funny to the gentlemen who write this gibberish. But in the nostrils of any honest Communist anywhere in the world this type of slander stinks to the high heavens.

To suggest that the leadership of the vanguard party of the international Communist movement is a "Siamese twin" to the U. S. imperialists

PEOPLE'S DAILY and RED FLAG had already made this "judgment". Here are just two sentences from this lying and slanderous "judgment".

★ "On the pretext of peaceful coexistence, the leaders of the CPSU do their best to curry favour with US imperialism and serve its fraudulent peace policy..."

★ "On the pretext of peaceful coexistence, the leaders of the CPSU apply the policy of peaceful coexistence to the relations between oppressed and oppressor classes, and between oppressor nations, and they oppose revolution and try to liquidate it..."

★ "On the pretext of peaceful coexistence, the leaders of the CPSU try to substitute international class collaboration for international class struggle and advocate 'all-round co-operation' between socialism

which PRAVDA commented, made no "direct reference" at all on Khrushchev's message to heads of governments, that it was concerned only with President Johnson's reply to the message, and it attacked only the US President.

Sheer Hypocrisy

All this is sheer hypocrisy. Even in the reply itself, the same assertions of Soviet complicity with imperialism are repeated and the "Siamese Twins" slander caps it all. The PEKING DAILY talks of the Soviet leadership having a "conditioned reflex"—when-

THE "SIAMESE TWINS" SLANDER

is impermissible and revolting madness. And yet this is the depth to which the Chinese leadership has sunk.

Why Such Antagonism?

What is it all about? PRAVDA (January-30) had published a comment on the attitude taken by the PEKING DAILY to the Soviet Union's call for an international agreement renouncing the use of force in settling territorial issues and frontier questions. This comment titled "Why Mislead?" had pointed out that the PEKING DAILY had tried to suggest that the Soviet Union, in order to "prevent anti-imperialist struggle", in order to "prevent revolution" is allegedly "linking arms with the West."

"Of course, we have our own judgment as to whether or not the Soviet leaders want to 'prevent anti-imperialist struggle'... 'prevent revolution' and are 'linking arms with the West.'"

"It can only be regretted that the PEKING DAILY and certain other Chinese newspapers have taken the road of distorting the essence of the Soviet peace move, and confusing a clear issue, thus endeavouring to hamper the efforts of the Soviet Union and other states, which are displaying real concern over the destinies of the world and for further relaxation of international tension."

The PEKING DAILY (February 3) in its reply to the PRAVDA comment, is evidently not content with reiterating the anti-Soviet slanders of old, but adds for spice the "Siamese Twins" story.

The reply pretends that the original PEKING DAILY article of February 24 on

ever the US imperialists are attacked, the Soviet leaders "feel the pain".

At the same time, the PEKING DAILY does not, for a moment, refute the anti-Soviet slanders, which the PRAVDA has quoted. On the contrary, it confirms and repeats them.

"We know well the "judgment" of the Chinese leadership. In their sixth "Comment on the Open Letter of the Central Committee of the CPSU" (December 2, 1963), the editorial departments of

Chinese Judgment

We know well the "judgment" of the Chinese leadership. In their sixth "Comment on the Open Letter of the Central Committee of the CPSU" (December 2, 1963), the editorial departments of

and imperialism, thus opening the door to imperialist penetration of the socialist countries..."

Here is the "judgment" on which the "Siamese Twins" dirt is based.

Trying To Hide Truth

PRAVDA has rightly pointed out that the Chinese leadership has refused thus far to make known to the Chinese people the texts of Khrushchev's message and the replies to it. The Chinese press totally distorts the meaning of the Soviet Union's policy of peace and prevents the Chinese people from knowing the truth by reading Soviet documents themselves.

Take, for example, Khrushchev's message itself. It makes the most categorical declarations in regard to the necessity to support the libe-

freedom and independence by peaceful means. But it is not always that these means prove adequate, because those who are interested in preserving and perpetuating the remnants of the colonial system not infrequently reply by force of arms to the legitimate demands of these peoples for the abolition of colonial regimes.

"In this event, the oppressed peoples have no other choice but to take up arms themselves. And this is their sacred right."

Deceiving People

But the Chinese leadership would still seek to deceive the Chinese people and the people of the world by suggesting that the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union wish to "prevent anti-imperialist struggle" and

ration struggle and the sacred right of the oppressed peoples to take up arms:

Support To Liberation Movement

"I should like to say that the role of all those who are sincerely interested in the earliest completion of the liquidation of the disgraceful colonial system, the remnants of which still poison the atmosphere of our planet, is to help these peoples to shake off colonial oppression most quickly.

"The peoples still under colonial domination are striving to achieve their

"prevention revolution"! This deception is sought to be carried out by the suppression of the truth, by preventing the publication of the actual policy statement of the Soviet leaders, which are sought to be criticised.

Now that the Communist Parties of the rest of the world are attacking the Chinese leadership for its splitting activities and its refusal to publish the documents of other Communist Parties, while continuing to slander and attack them—the PEOPLE'S DAILY (February 3) has come out with an ingenious "explanation" (or is it a threat?):

Chinese Argument

"As for the reprimand in PRAVDA to the effect that the Chinese press has not published Khrushchev's letter of December 31 to the heads of governments, we can candidly say to the leadership of the CPSU—What is your hurry? We will deal with it, and will comment on it, too... A road must be travelled step by step, and a bill of accounts must be settled item by item. We still have not finished answering the Open Letter you published last July 14. What makes you so impatient?"

In other words, the Chinese leadership promises the Soviet leaders (and the entire international Communist movement) more polemics, more lies and abuses, more disruption.

Who gains from all this? Only the imperialists and the enemies of the international Communist movement.

The PEOPLE'S DAILY (February 3) says:

"Marxism-Leninism is science, and science does not fear debate. Anything that fears debate is not science."

Calling the Soviet leadership and the US imperialists "Siamese Twins" is neither science nor debate. It is dangerous nonsense; it is conceited and arrogant chauvinism gone lunatic.

The international Communist movement must act untidely to put a halt to it, without further delay.

(February 10)

Chinese Leadership's Anti-Soviet Lies Reach New Heights

METAL & ENG. CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON BONUS

are allowed deduction of all depreciation, taxes and return of 7 per cent on paid-up capital (including bonus shares) and 4 per cent on all resources employed as working capital and that only 80 per cent of the available surplus is given as bonus, leads us to conclude that the workers in large-scale profitable industries may not improve their position much or at all. In some cases, in fact if employers try to repudiate existing agreements, the situation may even deteriorate.

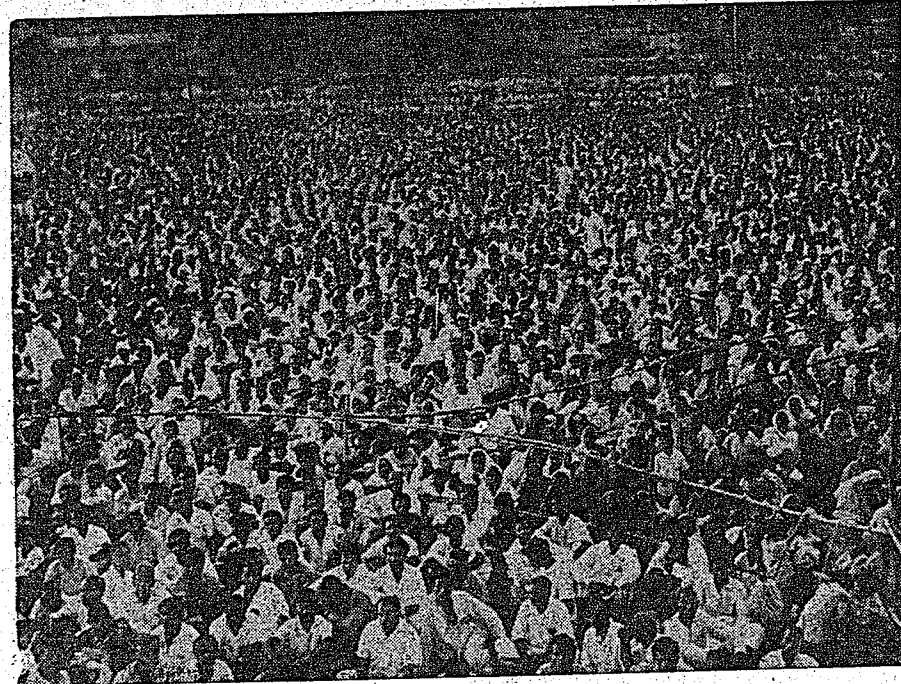
Hence, while awaiting for the government's decision and the concrete results of the working out of the recommendations in each industry and trade and in each unit, the conference can only say that while accepting beneficial improvements applicable to all industries, the workers have to continue to struggle to increase their gains and do away with the disadvantageous features of the Commission's recommendations.

The conference feels that while the trade unions' representatives did their best to fight for the workers' case and succeeded in making some significant gains, the employers' interests who were a majority in the Commission proved stronger against the workers' interests in the final outcome. The conference records its appreciation of the work done by the trade union representatives on the Bonus Commission.

which was allowed as a prior charge is also taken away.

Those are some of the good features of the recommendations.

But the fact that there is a limitation of 20 per cent on the maximum (though this maximum is on basic plus D.A.), that the employers



This conference of the National Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers of India having taken note of the conclusion of the work of the Bonus Commission over a long period of two years, and of the press reports that have appeared regarding its recommendations represents to the Government of India to immediately publish the report and government's decisions thereon.

JUDGING from the press reports, which have been fairly detailed, the conference feels that the recommendations do not meet the demands of the workers in a full measure or to any great extent, though significant advance on the previous unsatisfactory, unjustified position is indicated.

Bonus has been admitted for all industries and trades as a principle. A minimum bonus of about 14 days wages irrespective of losses has been recommended for all. Bonus is to be paid not on basic wages only but on basic plus dearness allowance. All bonus settlements must take place within eight months of the closing of the accounting year.

In the matter of deductions from gross profits which were permitted to the employers, the item of notional rehabilitation which was the source of perpetual disputes, and which used to wipe out most of the available surplus leaving little bonus to workers even in concerns making sound profits, has been taken away.

In industries, where agreements exist for better terms of bonus, those agreements would continue. The super-profit tax

NANDINI MINES

Five Lives Lost Due Management's Fault

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

Five lives ended and six more hovered between life and death for several days when a cyclonic wind on January 31 caused a brick wall to collapse at Nandini mines Labour Colony of the Bhilai Steel Project.

THE deceased were Anath Mukherjee, his wife and two children, and a young child of Nandi. Nandi himself, his wife and another child and two children are lying in seriously injured condition in Bhilai hospital. Minor injuries were sustained by a number of others.

Apparently it looked like a natural calamity and the workers could possibly blame their luck and kept quiet had not there been an appalling story of negligence and deliberate skip-over of safety measures involved in it.

This was not the first time that such an accident had taken place in this mine. In the monsoon of 1962, the same colony was ravaged by storm though there were no casualties. The Samyukta Khandan Mazdoor Sangh represented to the management to be build stable

houses. But the management gave work orders to the contractors to build cheap houses consisting of single brick wall with mud-mortar and C.I. sheet roof to house 340 workmen and their families.

Despite the loss of five lives, the management of the mines does not even now show any inclination to build new and stable houses. It has ordered repair of the damaged houses with props and walling with mud-mortars.

The workers have protested against such gross disregard for human lives by the authorities. In a letter to Union Minister for Steel, Heavy Engineering and Mines, the union has made it clear that the workers would not reside in such ramshackle quarters. If forced, they would resort to actions which might disturb industrial peace for which the management should alone be held responsible.

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 48



Adhyaksha Dr. Jagan Chandra Ghose, M.A. Ayurved-Sastra, 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.S.B.S. (Cal.) Ayurvedacharya.

AFRO-ASIAN WORKERS CONFERENCE

AUCCTU STATEMENT ON INDONESIA MOVE

We believe that the Afro-Asian Workers' Conference will be able to fulfil its tasks provided all workers' organisations concerned participate in preparatory work in order to avoid unilateral approach thus guaranteeing its broad and representative character.

NO UNILATERAL APPROACH

The Joint Secretariat of the Indonesian trade unions is reported to have decided to convene the Afro-Asian Workers' Conference in Jakarta in April this year.

IT may be recalled that in October last year, the joint secretariat held a preparatory meeting in Jakarta. The All-India Trade Union Congress did not attend this meeting. No other central trade union organisation from India also accepted the invitation of the Indonesian trade unions to attend the preparatory conference.

A trade union delegation from the Soviet Union attended the preparatory meeting and a few days back the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR issued a statement in connection with the proposed conference.

Following is the text of the AUCCTU statement:

THE Soviet trade unions, all working people of our country, actively support all peoples fighting for their national independence and its consolidation. The aspirations of peoples, who have entered the path of independent development and of those still struggling for their liberation from the colonial yoke, are dear and close to the hearts of the USSR workers. The Soviet Union gives real help to these peoples in the struggle for political and economic independence of their countries.

With the backing of the peoples of socialist countries, of the international working class, of the progressive forces in the international trade union movement and in close unity with the democratic forces in their own countries the work-

ing people and trade unions of Asian and African countries are making a great contribution to the national liberation movement of peoples and constitute an important part of the common anti-imperialist front.

The idea of convening the Afro-Asian Workers' Conference which would be a representative forum of workers and trade unions of these continents, has always been welcomed by the international progressive trade-union movement, by the World Federation of Trade Unions, by the Organisation for Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity.

Recently trade unions in a number of Afro-Asian countries as well as the Movement for Solidarity of Peoples of these continents have put forward some concrete proposals concerning the convocation of such a conference. One of them originated from the Joint Secretariat of the Indonesian trade unions and a preparatory meeting of some countries of Asia and Africa was held in Indonesia in October 1963 with Soviet trade union representatives participating.

GUS HALL CONDEMNS CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE

GUS HALL, general secretary of the Communist Party of USA, roundly condemned the leadership of the Communist Party of China for their latest statement which appeared as an editorial in HONGQI. In a statement on February 7, Gas Hall points out:

THE latest statement of the Communist Party of China, appearing as an editorial in its theoretical publication HONGQI is one which demands detailed study and reply. It contains one point, however, which requires immediate reaction.

The statement presents a political and philosophical thesis seeking to justify the splitting of the working class and its organisations as a necessary and even a desirable thing. It is a thesis that glorifies irresponsible, disruptive factional activities aimed at splitting Communist parties—that sets disunity as a goal for which to strive.

There is no other way in which one can interpret such statements as these: "First it (the history of the International Communist movement) demonstrates that like everything else, the international working-class movement tends to divide itself in two. The class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is inevitably reflected in the Communist ranks."

Or: "Unity, struggle, or even splits, and a new unity on a new basis—such is the dialectics of the development of the international working-class movement."

A thesis which justifies splitting its ranks can at

no time be in the interests of the working class. It is a disservice to the struggle for world peace, harmful to the struggle against imperialism and for colonial liberation, and detrimental to the struggle for democracy and for socialism.

To appeal to processes of growth through division in nature as an argument for splitting the working-class movement is a mechanistic, even fatalistic, approach which falls to take into account what is most important: the conscious human element and its influence in social development.

There is indeed a struggle within the ranks of the working class. It is a struggle against capitalist ideology whose purpose is to divide the workers and set them against one another. The method of fighting against this influence is, to fight for unity of the working class, for a common struggle against a common enemy.

It cannot be fought by striving deliberately to split the working class. Such a thesis of disunity and splitting is neither new nor original. It has been the stock in trade of diverse anti-Communist splinter groups for generations, serving always as a cloak for disruptive activities.

and improvement of workers' living conditions.

The Soviet trade unions stand for equitable participation in the conference and its preparations of all trade unions of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity and the World Federation of Trade Unions, which have made generally recognised contributions towards the cause of struggle against colonialism. The AUCCTU will continue co-operating with all trade unions of Afro-Asian countries, including the Indonesian trade unions, in arranging the conference, and hopes that trade union representatives of all continents showing their genuine concern in the consolidation of the unity of Afro-Asian workers, and of the entire world labour movement will be invited to take part in the conference.

The Soviet trade unions will further help in every possible way to bring together different proposals and points of view for the sake of unity of trade unions in Asia and Africa and their close cooperation with the international labour and trade union movement.

It is important to note that the promotion of disunity is defended as a necessary means of struggle against "a line which consists of 'peaceful coexistence,' 'peaceful competition,' 'peaceful transition,' 'a state of the whole people' and 'a party of the whole people.'" That is, it is directed, among other things, against those who seek the establishment of the broadest possible unity in the struggle for world peace.

The thesis of the Chinese party editorial is a counsel of defeatism—of lack of confidence in the working class, in socialism, in Marxism-Leninism. There can be no other meaning of their statement concerning the CPSU, "They have thus made a mess of the splendid socialist camp". For the truth is the very opposite.

The outstanding feature of today's world is not the existence of such a "mess" but rather the growing power of the socialist sector, the liberated and colonial peoples and the working class in the capitalist countries, who now exert the dominant influence in world relations.

It is the recognition of this cardinal fact that gives the world Communist movement its confident outlook for victory over imperialism and capitalism. The "mess" is in the camp of imperialism, which would be the only real beneficiary of any policy of splitting the world working class.

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

FOREIGN MONOPOLY CAPITAL IN INDIAN ECONOMY

by **SOFIA MELMAN**
Price Rs. 15

INDIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM VERSUS IMPERIALISM

by **V. I. PAVLOV**
Price Rs. 15

People's Publishing House
New Delhi

INDIA'S SECULARISM REASSERTED PAK COMMUNALISM CONDEMNED

By K. U. WARIER

Members belonging to all parties joined hands in pleading with the Government of India to liberalise conditions for migration of refugees from East Pakistan, when the Lok Sabha discussed on Wednesday a motion moved by the Home Minister to consider "the situation arising out of the communal disturbances in East Pakistan resulting in heavy loss of life and property of the members of minority community and their influx to India and consequential disturbances in West Bengal".

IN fact, the plea was for allowing free facilities for migration and there was general dissatisfaction with the hesitant steps taken by the government to "ease" the conditions for grant of Migration Certificates.

There was strong condemnation of the atrocities perpetrated on the minority community in East Pakistan and many references to the deliberate disregard by Pakistan authorities to the provisions of the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact.

Even on an emotional subject like this, it was however clear that the House could take a sober view of the dark events which formed the background to the discussion.

It was heartening to hear the voice of secularism and sound national traditions reasserting and proclaiming the brotherhood of all religions and communities in this country. The rights and guarantees accruing to the minorities in this country were reemphasised and Hiren Mukherjee particularly, from the Communist benches, congratulated the Central government for its firm action to put down the communal disturbances which took place in West Bengal.

But he criticised the failure of the West Bengal government to take adequate measures from the start to prevent the outbreak of the riots in Calcutta and elsewhere, when the attack on the Hindu minority in Khulna in East Pakistan had taken place and Pakistan was mounting its provocation. This criticism of the West Bengal government seemed to rattle many Congress members including the West Bengal Congress chief Atulya Ghosh who tried to interrupt Hiren Mukherjee a number of times.

Discordant Note

Also there was the discordant note in the speeches of some Congress members regarding the Centre's intervention in West Bengal. Thus A. C. Guha criticised the Central intervention as a "nasty action" and maintained that the riot situation in Calcutta was already "easing out" when the Centre intervened.

Whereas Hiren Mukherjee's criticism was that the state government had failed to act in the initial stages of the riots, A. C. Guha's contention was that it is not possible for any government to control the situation at the initial stage.

Hiren Mukherjee paid handsome tributes to Union Home Minister Nanda and said that he had acted with real courage and determination at a time of crisis. But he recalled that even newspapers published by high-ups in the Congress party had

attacked Nanda for what he was trying to do.

Hiren Mukherjee sharply attacked the "international patrons" of Pakistan, the USA and Britain for their behaviour in the matter of these communal disturbances in East Pakistan and West Bengal. He said that the news of riots was presented in British and American papers in such a way as to tarnish the image of India.

He drew the attention of the government and the House to the stand of Britain in the Security Council on the Kashmir debate. We have a cast-iron case which was ably presented by our representative M. C. Chagla before the Security Council and yet the imperialist powers support Pakistan.

Hiren Mukherjee said that these colonial powers were the most dastardly and unscrupulous and recalled their activities in countries from Viet Nam to Africa. They make Pakistan do their dirty job and Pakistan is doing it, he said.

Propaganda Failure

In this connection Hiren Mukherjee deplored the failure of Government of India's propaganda machinery abroad to expose Pakistani tactics and present our case properly to the world. Internally the failure, according to him, was that nothing was done diplomatically or otherwise to meet the situation when attacks on minority community in East Pakistan had already started and as early as January 4 Ayub Khan himself had given definite indications by his statement about the provocation which Pakistan was preparing.

As for incidents in Calcutta, Hiren Mukherjee charged that the state government's administrative apparatus had failed in the first days to meet the situation adequately, and he demanded a judicial enquiry by the Centre to find how this had happened.

Hiren Mukherjee cited incidents to show that the majority community also suffered in these riots and he accused that "political goondas" who also flourish in certain environments" were responsible for the incidents in Calcutta. Bustee owners were also interested in the destruction of bustees.

He condemned the activities of communal reactionary forces in this country and said that we have to deal strongly against them. We have to be steadfast to the ideal of secularism. In this connection he referred to some utterances of RSS leader Gohwalkar at Nagpur and to the writings in a Marathi literature brought out by the RSS. Hiren Mukherjee strongly denounced these communal elements and said we

don't want their "tandav nritya" here.

He was sharply critical of the writings in three Bengali dailies, JUGANTAR, ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA and BASUMATI, all associated with important Congress leaders.

When Atulya Ghosh rose to interrupt him and asked him if these papers had behaved liked that why the Home Minister whom the member had "eulogised" did not take action against them, Communist members shouted back: "Ask him".

Regarding measures to be taken now, Hiren Mukherjee urged that migration facilities for refugees from East Pakistan should be expanded. No tinkering with the rules of migration will do, he said. He also asked government not to consider them as refugees.

If members of the minority community in East Pakistan cannot stay there because of the cruelties of the present rulers of Pakistan, they must know that they have a home

here across the border, he said. He also urged government to mend the bureaucratic ways of providing relief and rehabilitation.

Earlier on Tuesday the opposition excluding Swatantra and PSP walked out when permission was denied by the Speaker for an adjournment motion on the same subject.

Criticism of the West Bengal

LOK SABHA

government came from other Opposition speakers also. PSP leader S. N. Dwivedi said that there was a complete paralysis of the West Bengal government and he said that Chief Minister P. C. Sen was in Bhubaneswar when incidents were taking place in Calcutta. He also said that the police from West Bengal had been sent to Bhubaneswar to protect Congress leaders participating in the Congress session there.

Dwivedi charged that the Deputy High Commissioner

of Pakistan in Calcutta had instigated the riots and that he had earlier visited all the areas where the riots took place. He also referred to a Pakistani spy-ring functioning in the country and to collusion between China and Pakistan in fomenting troubles against India on our borders with East Pakistan. He suggested that in all these border areas it is necessary to have armed people's militia.

He said that time has come when we should see what other means are possible to assure security to the minority community in Pakistan. We should assure them that they will be properly rehabilitated and given property if they chose to come over here.

N. C. Chatterjee called for an end to what he called to "policy of appeasement" of Pakistan. Subhadra Joshi (Congress) congratulated both West Bengal and Central Governments on their role. She urged liberalisation of migration facilities

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Double Talk And Double Standards

WHISPERING Gallery

THERE were hushed whispers in the Central Hall of Parliament when the Rashtrapati Bhavan band struck up the National Anthem at a wrong time: in between the reading of the Hindi text and the English text of this year's Presidential address.

Everybody was intrigued but I felt cheered. The Jana-gana-mana was a welcome break to an otherwise pleasant rendering by Dr. Zakir Hussain of a cold, uninspiring and sterile statement of policy by the government which is supposed to set the tone for this year's budget session.

After hearing it I scanned through the text, read along the lines and also in between to find out if there was the least reflection in it of some of the authoritative pronouncements at Bhubaneswar. There was none. And there cannot be any because so far Bhubaneswar has not induced the slightest change in the economic policy for the better; in fact, it is for worse.

There is evidence of a conspiracy between TTK and the new Messiah in the Planning Commission to further whittle down the Industrial Policy Resolution.

Already TTK has handed over to the Americans an ore-mining project in Goa. The Yankees will have 40 per cent shares with C. C. DESAI, till recently the henchman of the Birias and a blue-blooded ICS chappie, as their partner. It will be conceded that this is a violation of the Industrial Policy Resolution.

The trend is clear: TTK because of his in-born sympathy for the freebooters and Sathi ASOKA believing as he does in the peculiar "compulsions of a backward economy" are determined to open the flood gate for foreign capital.

Last week, I hear, a new economic policy statement from the Finance Ministry came up for discussion before the economic sub-committee of the Cabinet. The discussion was reported to be inconclusive. But I learn it was not smooth sailing for TTK.

Indeed, TTK's double-talk has reached a point of exasperation. At a private cocktail party the other day, a director of the TISCO was confiding to his cronies that he had an assurance from the Finance Minister that he would not convert the government loan into equity shares.

It may be remembered that the government had given a loan of Rs. 10 crores to the Tatas and somewhat lesser amount to the IISCO for expanding their steel works. And during the last session of Parliament TTK, accompanied by a fanfare of publicity, assumed powers to convert the loans into share capital by amending the Companies Act.

Was it amended to pull wool over the eyes of the public and then shield the maneaters?

A PROPOS the strident talk about fighting corruption, INSIDER had stated on an earlier occasion that it was all for the good but the government should strive hard

to prove its earnestness before the doubting people.

In this connection it may legitimately be asked what the government has been thinking about the controversy raging in a section of the press over the alleged affluence of the Deputy Finance Minister, TARAKESWARI SINHA, and her dear ones.

The critics and admirers of the so-called glamour girl have joined issue. But curiously there is no dispute between them on one vital fact, namely, her mother and her husband have each bought a piece of real estate in a posh residential locality in Delhi.

The mother bought a bungalow for about Rs. one lakh and her husband a better one for Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

The point on which the slanging match is going on between the detractors and supporters of the lady is the financial capacity or otherwise of the mother and hubby to acquire such expensive properties.

Curiously again, there is agreement among them that Shri SINHA is a transport officer in the Indian Refineries at Rourkela on a salary of about Rs. 500 a month. Personally I am not envious of the lady's worldly goods. When I say the lady's, I mean that she is bound to inherit what her husband owns.

But what is intriguing is the strange silence of the Home Ministry over this matter. May be, its newly formed CBI is busy catching railway clerks and it has no time to spare!

—INSIDER