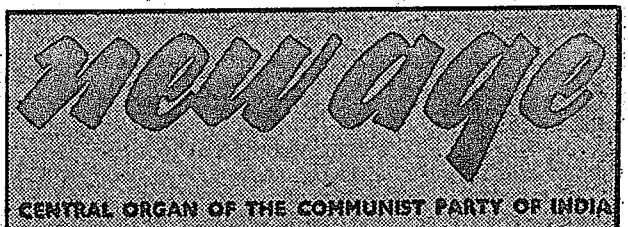


# THE AFRO-ASIAN & SOCIALIST WORLD WAS THERE TO BACK PRESIDENT NASSER

7 - MAR 24  
Copy 1965



Vol. XII No. 10 NEW DELHI MARCH 7, 1965 25 Paise

# WHERE WAS INDIA?



**CALCUTTA TEACHERS CEASE WORK**  
(Report and More Pictures on Centre Pages)

## From KUNHANANDAN NAIR

**B**ERLIN: Why was the Indian Ambassador in Cairo or any of his representatives not seen at the state reception accorded to the GDR Head of State Walter Ulbricht?

This question is being posed from various quarters.

At the Cairo railway station to receive Ulbricht, besides President Nasser and the top representatives of the UAR government, were present the ambassadors of Algeria, Burma, Ceylon, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Cambodia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Mali as also those of the socialist states.

India was conspicuous by its absence and naturally this has been noted by all concerned.

It has been interpreted that while Nasser has the full backing of all socialist countries, Arab governments and the majority of Afro-Asian states in his bold stand against imperialist threats, India is afraid to come out openly in support of this stand lest

the West Germans be offended.

Many consider such attitude on the part of India, as virtually a diplomatic blunder.

India recognises the existence of the two German states, as was declared by the late Prime Minister Nehru at the Belgrade conference.

Why then should India shun a reception being given to Ulbricht by UAR which also has no formal diplomatic relations with the GDR?

It is well known also that most of the Afro-Asian countries have no diplomatic ties with the GDR and yet their ambassadors were present at the reception to back Nasser in his struggle against the West German intimidation and bold recognition of the reality of life in Germany.

Is it not a matter of bad diplomacy that India is not even prepared to go as far as Burma, Indonesia, Ceylon or Cambodia does?

India's non-cooperation with Nasser in this case has only helped her further isolation from the Afro-Asian states.

# SECRET DEAL WITH FOREIGN CAPITAL

**T**HE mask is off. For all their protestations that the old policies continue, the government leaders have from their own mouths admitted that concessions of the most vital nature are to be given to the big business sharks from the imperialist countries.

The Prime Minister has topped the bitter concoction stewed by the Finance Minister and others who make economic policies today, by his admission in the Lok Sabha that the long-established understanding that foreign capital will always be in a minority in joint enterprises has been given up.

This latest announcement is part of a secret deal which the Government of India has made with foreign capital. The gangs of western businessmen did not come so often to India in the last few months to see the Taj Mahal: they came to hunt big game, and they have shot the beast they were seeking.

The meeting of the International Chambers of Commerce in February in New Delhi was the occasion for open demands for "concessions" to "encourage" foreign capital; among the most brazen of these demands was for a majority share in joint enterprises. The demands have been met.

On the eve of the budget, another high-powered U.S. delegation arrived to discuss "terms". The final touches of the deal were given in consultation with this delegation.

It is a lie to suggest that the policy now

being pursued is the same as that enunciated earlier. The Prime Minister has quoted in the Lok Sabha a statement made by Pandit Nehru early in 1949, shortly after independence, in which he is alleged to have envisaged the possibility of "foreign capital having control of a concern for a limited period" in certain cases.

This is a totally inadmissible use of Panditji's words. It is a statement made as long ago as 1949. The Prime Minister's research assistant could obviously not find a single statement by Pandit Nehru after this date. If the quotation-mongers were honest, they would have also quoted the innumerable declarations made by Pandit Nehru which insist on an Indian majority in all concerns.

The flood gates are now open. The Prime Minister has said that we may allow capital "because either technical know-how is not available or sometimes it will not be possible to find the necessary foreign exchange". Foreign exchange difficulties can be pleaded at any time. So also the argument of lack of technical know-how.

The deal made by the Government of India with foreign capital, despite the Prime Minister's hot denials, DOES represent a shift to the Right in this vital sector of economic policy. It must be fought by the democratic movement, fought and foiled.

(March 2) ROMESH CHANDRA

## TOWARDS UNITY OF COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

By THE EDITOR

**T**HE consultative meeting of the representatives of a large number of Communist and Workers' Parties, which began in Moscow on March 1, is an important step towards strengthening the unity of the international Communist movement.

The deliberations are therefore being watched with profound interest and sympathy by millions in all parts of the world, by all who sincerely desire peace, the liquidation of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and the progress and prosperity of the peoples.

With every day that passes, the urgency grows for making ever more resolute efforts to heal the breach in the international Communist movement.

The US aggression in Vietnam underlines the fact that the imperialists grow more bestial as the day of their final doom comes nearer.

The most dangerous and bellicose provocations, aimed at carrying mankind again and again to the brink of a world

war, are being carried out by US imperialism.

An effective answer to these actions of the imperialists cannot be given by a divided socialist world, a split Communist family.

All Communists, who sincerely desire to combat and defeat the new imperialist threats to peace and to the national independence of peoples, understand fully the vital necessity to redouble their efforts to bridge the differences in the international Communist movement.

There is only one way to arrive at a common understanding and a common approach. This is the same way, which has been used ever since the international Communist movement came of age.

That way is the way of mutual discussions and consultations. Given the will for unity, for arriving at agreements, participants in such discussions and consultations can thrash out a commonly agreed approach and line.

The international meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties in 1957 and 1960 were

★ON BACK PAGE

TTK BUDGETS FOR BIG BUSINESS

AN ANALYSIS BY BHUPESH GUPTA ON PAGE 3







# Madhya Pradesh Budget

## HOSPITAL BEDS ALSO TAKEN OUT OF POOR MAN'S REACH

BHOPAL: The Madhya Pradesh budget for 1965-66 reflects the "half-penny profit approach" of the state government for raising additional revenue to meet its Plan commitments and to partly cover the deficit.

THE government has not tapped the non-tax sources like the forests and state trading nor touched the bulging pockets of big agriculturists, big urban property-owners and business magnates who have really reaped the profits of the development plans.

It chose to tax the common people while claiming that "the items for raising resources have been carefully thought out so that the bare necessities of life were not affected nor the common man unnecessarily hit."

The proposal to convert 50 per cent of the beds in general wards attached to district hospitals and medical colleges into paying beds and the levy of a charge of rupees two per bed per day even on persons whose monthly income exceeds Rs. 500, is being widely criticised as being against the concept of a welfare state.

### Practical Difficulties

Besides creating further difficulties for the people who are already facing shortage of beds in hospitals, this proposal would cause administrative difficulties in collecting this paltry fees. It would be difficult in practice for the poor to escape this burden, particularly in emergency cases.

The move to levy these charges along with operation fee has evoked strong resentment from all quarters. Several MLAs consider it poor recompense for the difficulties that would be caused to the people who have a right to expect free medical treatment. Many of the MLAs described this proposal as "inhuman" and it is contraposed to the facilities of free medical treatment allowed to ministers.

### Feelings Roused

The sentiments of the people in general and MLAs in particular are so worked up on these levies that the state government may reconsider the proposals and even drop them in course of debate on the budget.

Other controversial proposals envisaged in the budget are for the enhancement of sales tax on diesel oil from five to seven paise per litre and electricity duty on power used for industrial purposes from 80 paise to one rupee per unit.

The rise in sales tax on diesel oil would make transport and irrigation costlier, particularly in view of increased customs duty announced by the central government.

The increase in electricity duty

at a time when the government is granting additional facilities to entrepreneurs, would definitely hit rapid industrialisation of the state and hamper industrial production.

The rise of entertainment duty to 40 per cent has been resented by people. The present top slab of 33.3 per cent is perhaps highest in the country and there is apprehension that such rise would affect revenue and cause a diminishing return.

The only new tax which has

some support is the tax on advertisements shown in cinema halls. But it is hardly expected to yield a revenue of Rs. four lakhs. The proposed increases in registration fees and export duty on poppy husk would fetch a revenue of another Rs. four lakhs.

Among the three-tier proposals envisaged in the budget for raising additional resources, one is the toll tax on bridges built at a cost of Rs. five lakhs or more per bridge. Excepting few culverts, there would be few bridges in the state con-

structed at a cost less than Rs. five lakhs. The toll, therefore, would be leviable practically on every bridge in the state.

The Finance Minister, S. N. Shukla has also proposed two measures for the preventing of leakage of revenues by amending Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts and providing for the compounding of the tax on passenger fares and tightening the existing provisions regarding the rebate in tax for periods for which vehicles are not in use.

All these measures are expected to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 1.74 crores which is not sufficient even to meet the demand of five-rupee rise in the dearness allowance to low-paid employees and pensioners.

It is interesting to note in this context that the state government has been able to hardly raise Rs. 30.12 crores by way of additional taxation till now although it had agreed to raise Rs. 48 crores at the time of the finalisation of the Rs. 300 crores Third Plan for the state. (IPA)

# GIVE URDU ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE

## Memorandum To Prime Minister

By OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A deputation headed by Jamnadas Akhtar met Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on February 23 on behalf of the all-party Secondary Language Committee for Delhi seeking recognition for Urdu as the secondary language for Delhi.

THE deputation presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister which says that Delhi for hundreds of years has been one of the cradles of the Urdu Language. It has been recognised so by the Government of India in the statement on Urdu language dated January 14, 1958.

That statement had reiterated that Urdu was officially and constitutionally recognised as one of our fourteen national languages and that the various provisions that apply to these languages also apply to Urdu.

The memorandum recalls the fact that in 1958 the advisory committee of the Delhi Administration had recognised the position of Urdu as a regional language of Delhi as has been done by the Regional Language Committee of the erstwhile Legislative Assembly of the Delhi state.

### Nehru's Assurance

When the recommendations of the committee were referred to the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in one of the letters forwarded to him by Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu, Delhi, he had categorically assured, in his reply dated October 17, 1959 that Urdu would be given its rightful place.

The memorandum also draws attention to the fact

only, the memorandum declares that Delhi's claims for Urdu getting such a status is overwhelming.

The all-party Urdu Regional and Secondary Language Committee, while accepting Hindi as a national and official language, strongly demands for Urdu's regional rights in Delhi.

Delhi should be declared a bilingual state so that Urdu may enjoy its due status with other languages in accordance with the statement issued by the Government of India on January 14, 1958, says the memorandum.

Drawing attention to the fact that in Andhra Urdu has been granted its regional status on a margin of 7.7 per cent of the population

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## Left Parties Unite to Fight Calcutta Corpn. Elections

From AJAY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA: Seven progressive political parties — Communist Party of India, rival Communist Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Revolutionary Communist Party, Marxist Forward Bloc, Workers Party and Bolshevik Party, have come together and formed a United Citizens' Committee to contest the coming elections to the Calcutta Corporation.

The UCC has already selected candidates for 75 out of 100 wards and published the first list.

Run by the Congress Party for most of the years since 1923, when elective element was first introduced in the Calcutta Corporation, and uninterrupted since independence, the Corporation has become over the years a symbol of corruption and inefficiency.

A glaring instance of this could be seen a few days ago which put the citizens to great hardship.

On February 7 there was a total collapse of the Calcutta Corporation's potable water supply system and taps in the city suddenly went dry after 4-30 p.m. The volume of supply that had been progressively deteriorating entirely stopped as the water level at Paltta settling tank went down below the danger level by eight inches. The crisis was further deepened by the low water level in the Hoogly River

totally disrupting the operation of suction pipes at noon.

The breakdown was no accident. For years the Hoogly water level goes down below the normal level and the question of extending the suction pipes far into the river was before the Corporation.

But nothing has been done.

The boilers of the Paltta pumping station are nearly hundred years old and only fit to be kept in a museum. Yet the Corporation authorities are carrying on with them.

Even electricity is not in use for this essential work. The settling tanks are full of silt. A scheme to desilt it and to build bricks out of that was formulated some time ago. But that too is not in operation.

After years of construction and delays the 72-inch pipeline to carry water from Paltta filtering station to Tallah overhead tank was opened with fanfare, with Congress Boss Atulya Ghosh performing the opening ceremony.

But the irony is that there is not sufficient water supply for this big diameter pipe. And even the Corporation authorities cannot say when they will be able to filter sufficient water to send it under sufficient pressure through the 72-inch pipe.

Though supply has been resumed, the quantity is even less than usual, and as yet the Corporation is unable to say when it would be in a position to ensure normal supply.

## Bihar NGO Struggle Enters New Stage

From K. GOPALAN

PATNA: The struggle of the non-gazetted employees of the Bihar government entered a new phase with the wives and dependents of the employees entering the field.

OVER one thousand women and children of the NGOs observed a two-day satyagraha before the state legislature on February 16 and 17 to press the demands of the employees for immediate implementation of the recommendations of the pay revision committee.

The satyagraha was the first of its kind in that a large number of women belonging to middle class families turned up to take up the cause of their husbands.

Women satyagrahis squatted before the Assembly gate for two days and raised slogans in support of the demands.

Legislators belonging to all opposition parties hailed the

satyagrahis and extended their support.

Sunil Mukherjee, leader of the CPI group in the Assembly, Surajnarayan Singh MLA (PSP) and Ramanand Tiwari MLA (SSP) addressed the satyagrahis.

A delegation consisting of five women led by Kausalya Prasad met Chief Minister Sahay and submitted a memorandum.

The main demands in the memorandum were:

★ Supply of essential commodities at subsidised rates to government employees.

★ Immediate implementation of the recommendations of the pay revision com-

mittee with retrospective effect from April 1, 1961.

★ Dearness allowance on par with the Central government rates.

★ Allotment of developed land and interest-free loan for construction of houses.

Instead of giving any assurance to the delegation, the Chief Minister asked the delegation to engage their children in some occupation in order to lessen the burden of the family!

### Resignation Threat

Now the NGOs are making preparations to intensify their struggle.

A spokesman of the Non-gazetted Employees' Federation told the NEW AGE that NGOs from all over the state would take mass casual leave on March 23, 1965 as a protest against the government's refusal to concede their demands.

If the government remained adamant even after this step, the NGOs would submit resignations en masse on April 20, the spokesman added.

## Australian Expert Says

# DON'T ALLOW PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

NEW DELHI: E. L. Wheelwright, a noted Australian economist, has strongly advised against direct foreign investment in the country's economy, reports IPA.

WHEELWRIGHT was invited by the Planning Commission to make a study of our planning and economic policies on the eve of formulating the Fourth Plan.

In a note to the Planning Commission, he has warned that the inflow of foreign investment in the form of securing of the equity will constitute "a drain on the foreign exchange" resources of India.

### American Demands

"Given the world conditions of general political instability, especially in Asia, the foreign investor will want to have his capital returned by way of profits within five years", says Wheelwright.

He thinks that Americans will not invest in foreign enterprises unless they can secure a distributed profit net of tax of about 20 per cent per annum.

He has recommended, on the other hand, that "serious attention should be paid to the question of nationalising those foreign investments which have a high rate of profit and do not contribute anything much in the way of new techniques, such as tea plantations".

The longer this is delayed, the greater will be the value of assets and compensation and the greater the revision of profits, according to him.

He has suggested that if for some reason outright nationalisation is not desired, "some method of freezing the foreign equity at its current level is essential".

Wheelwright has advised that "the best interests of India would be served by attempting to obtain industrial techniques, managerial competence, marketing techniques etc.

Without being involved "in the high costs and other disadvantages of direct foreign investment" India, he has pointed out, would have to find her own way of doing this.

He suggested that the Russian practice of aid would be the most suitable and also referred to the Chinese and the Japanese method of doing the job.

To meet the demands on foreign exchange, that the method suggested by him would involve, Wheelwright has advised that long term loans at a fixed rate of interest, guaranteed by the government to mature at not less than 10 years from the borrowing date, should be arranged.

These loans should not be tied in any way and pressure should be applied on western governments to secure them the alternative being greater reliance on socialist countries, he has said.

# THE BIG DRAIN

AUSTRALIAN economist E. L. Wheelwright has advised the Government of India against allowing any foreign private investments because they would be a big drain on the foreign exchange resources of the country.

How big is the drain as it is today? The Economic Survey presented to Parliament a few days ago by Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari gives a rough idea.

In 1958-59 payments for investments (dividends paid on foreign private investments) came to Rs. 36.2 crores. This rose to Rs. 47.3 crores in 1959-60.

Payments in 1960-61 rose to Rs. 61.9 crores; further to Rs. 80.4 crores in 1961-62 and still further to Rs. 94.1 crores in 1962-63.

Last year, that is in the financial year 1963-

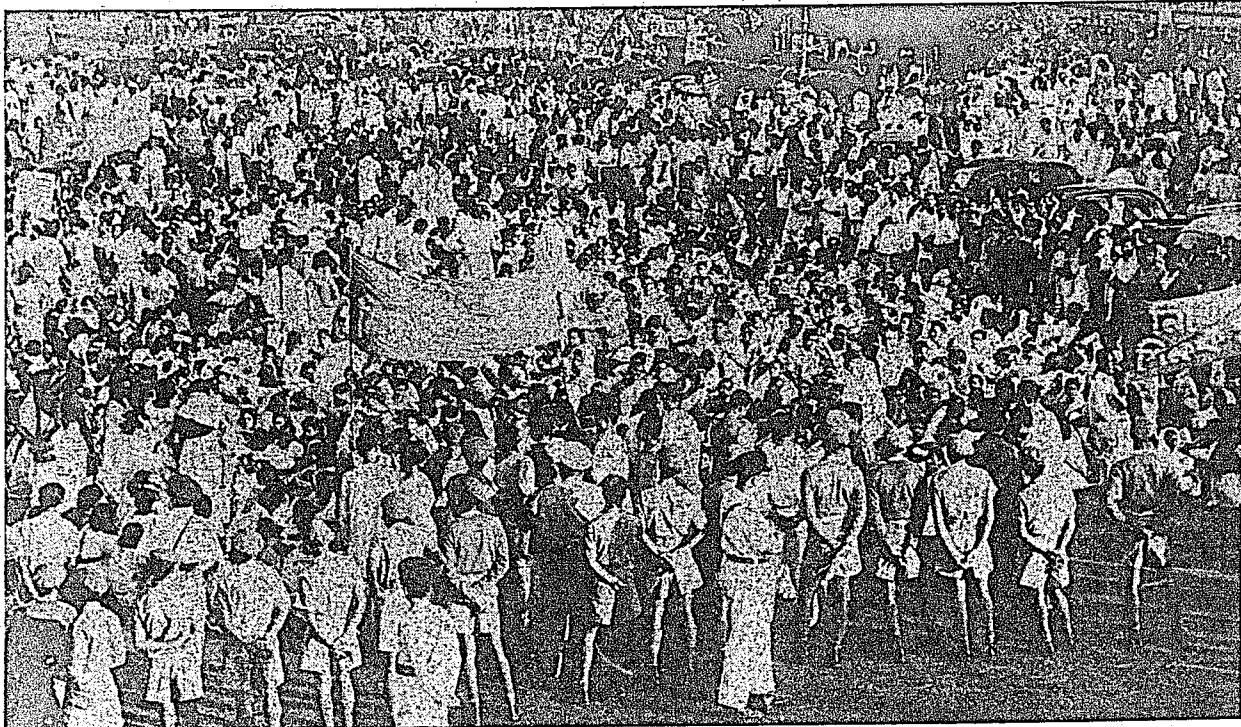
64 it was as much as Rs. 98 crores.

How much will it be this year? Already, in the first six months of the current financial year, that is April to September 1964, the payments stood at Rs. 54.3 crores.

The Finance Minister has not given his estimate for the whole of the current year. By present indications it can very well be around Rs. 120 crores.

The payments under royalty, technical knowhow etc. are besides these. These cannot be given separately because the statistics in the Economic Survey have lumped all together under the heading miscellaneous.

Despite this stupendous drain on the foreign exchange resources of the country, the Finance Minister is still bent upon throwing open the doors still wider to foreign private capital.



Teachers are squatting on the road to Raj Bhavan after being stopped by the police

# WEST BENGAL SECONDARY TEACHERS CEASE WORK

From AJAY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA: Secondary teachers of West Bengal have ceased work from February 19 and about 500 of them including women are squatting on the road leading to the Raj Bhavan, braving sun and rain.

THE much awaited declaration of the government on the question of relief to teachers came on February 17 when the Finance Minister presented the state budget.

He proposed an additional five rupees as dearness allowance to the primary teachers to make a total of Rs. 10.

As far as the secondary teachers were concerned, his proposal was to make good what was short to give them a total of Rs. 10 as DA.

## Offer Unsatisfactory

This has not satisfied the secondary teachers in the least, for 70 per cent of them already get a DA of Rs. 10, being in the pay range of Rs. 160 to Rs. 300.

It is this disappointment which has led the secondary teachers to start squatting on the road. On March 19

a huge procession of secondary teachers was taken out to the Raj Bhavan.

Near the eastern gates of the Raj Bhavan, the demonstrators were stopped by the police and the marathon squatting began. The first batch of 500 squatters were relieved by a fresh batch on the evening of February 20.

Though it rained heavily on the night of February 20, the teachers were not dissuaded from their determination to sit through. A shamiana was put up, but that certainly did not give much protection to the squatters.

Earlier, the primary teachers had squatted on the same spot for 24 hours from February 17 evening.

Their demand was Rs. 100 salary and Rs. 30 DA in place of the present Rs. 70 salary and Rs. five DA.

The Finance Minister's announcement has not satisfied the primary teachers either

and they have warned the government that unless their demands are met by March 31 they would resume their agitation.

The issue of the teachers' demands and their squatting before the Raj Bhavan has been raised several times in the West Bengal Assembly and Council. Several times opposition parties have walked out in protest against the government's callous attitude.

## Students Support

On February 25 students of 30 colleges in and around the city started a 24-hour hungerstrike in support of the teachers' struggle. The lead in this matter was given by the Students Federation and the Democratic Students Organisation. India Press Agency adds:

Secondary teachers are determined to continue the struggle till their demands have been met.

The venue in Esplanade East in the heart of Calcutta where the teachers squatted day and night, in sun and rain, has become a pilgrimage

spot where people are congregating to offer support and express sympathy for their demands.

Secondary teachers have demanded a dearness allowance of Rs. 30 and an extra five rupees for every 10 point rise in the cost of living, revision of pay scales of teachers as well as non-teaching staff, appointment of a committee to go into the problem of improving the standard of education.

Secondary teachers have proposed that the outlay on education should amount to 10 per cent of the total Fourth Plan outlay of the Centre and 20 per cent of the outlay in the States.

A circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction to all school committees further incensed the teachers. It was an issue on which there were a number of angry exchanges between leaders of the opposition and the government in the Assembly.

The circular suggests that police help should be taken by the managing committees to keep the schools going despite the strike and threatens the committees that where cease work was allowed to

# TEACHERS ACT TO WIN BETTER PAY, CONDITIONS

bring about a real stoppage of teaching activity in the institution, government aid would be withdrawn.

Resentment has also been expressed by teachers and opposition leaders over the government's decision to keep schools and colleges closed till the end of the month.

The excuse put forward by the authorities, the tension caused by the anti-Hindi agitation, was, it was stated, completely untenable since the tension that had been caused by an incident on February 11 had subsided.

The government was, it was alleged, prolonging the closure of schools only to create an awkward situation for the teachers and to avoid facing the teachers' movement squarely.

Government spokesmen in the Assembly have repeatedly expressed sympathy for

the demands of the teachers but pleaded their inability to do anything in view of the financial difficulties facing them.

West Bengal had, it was stated, already spent over Rs. 51 crores against the Third Plan outlay of Rs. 36 crores on education.

## Fourth Plan Provision

It was further stated that in the Fourth Plan the government had provided Rs. 77 crores for education and teachers could expect to benefit from this.

The Chief Minister's announcement about the decision to appoint of commission of educationists consisting of members from both sides of the Legislature to go into the

question of improving the standard of education in the state as well as teachers' emoluments has generally been welcomed.

This is the third occasion when secondary teachers in the state have had to resort to cease work to press their demands.

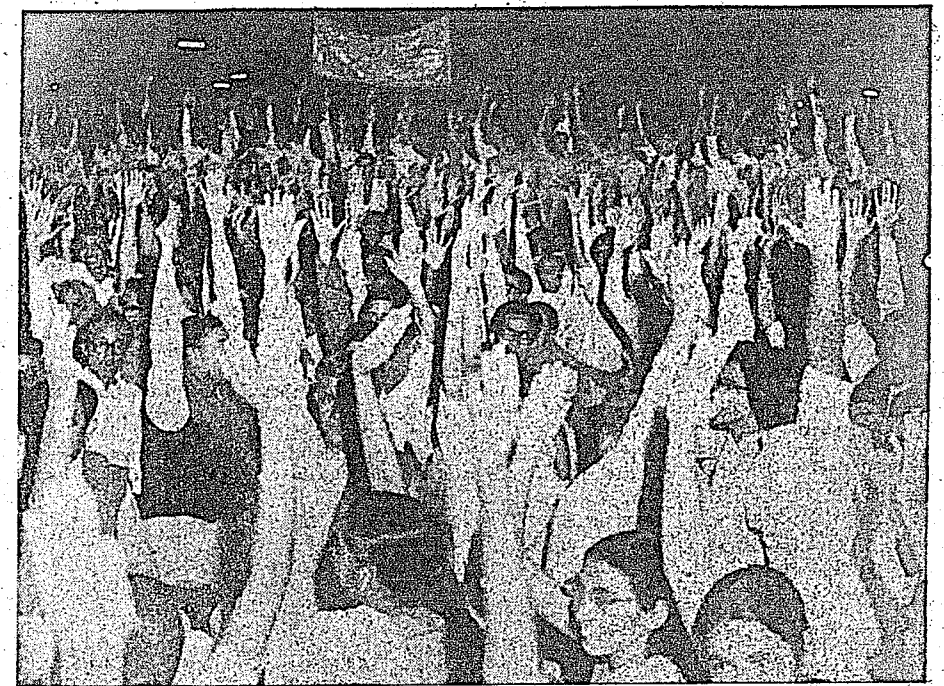
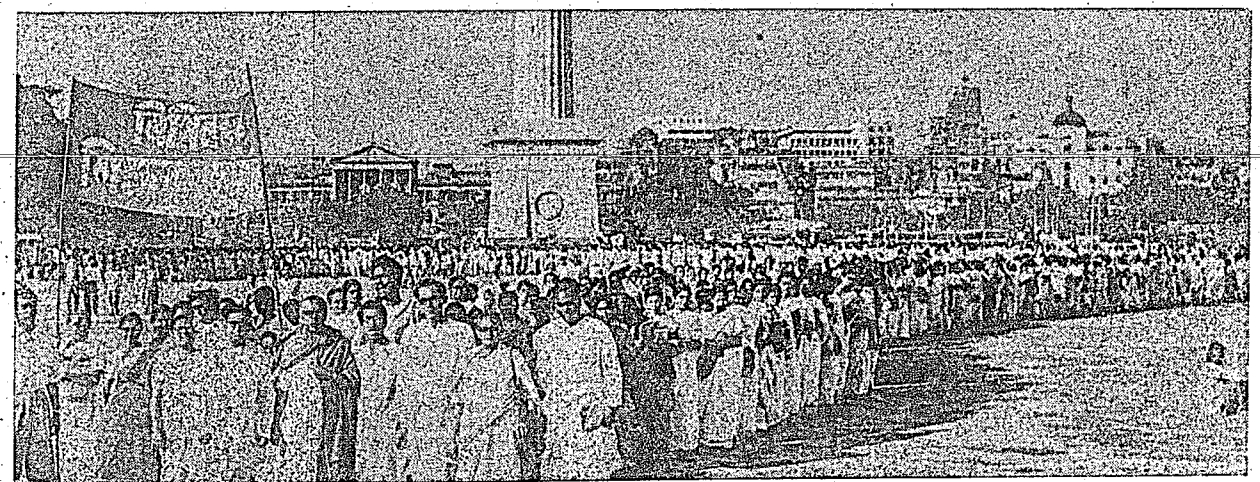
The first occasion was in February 1954 when they declared a cessation of work and started their marathon squat before the Raj Bhavan. The government on that occasion arrested the squatting teachers en masse in the middle of the night.

The second occasion was in 1961.

On both these occasions they succeeded in winning concessions from the government even though at the cost of tremendous sacrifices on their part.

Teachers start their procession to Raj Bhavan from the Ochterlony Monument on February 19. The mammoth procession marked the beginning of the direct action by West Bengal teachers

Teachers start their procession to Raj Bhavan from the Ochterlony Monument on February 19. The mammoth procession marked the beginning of the direct action by West Bengal teachers



Teachers support the decision to continue the struggle

# TEACHERS TO BOYCOTT EXAMS. IN UTTAR PRADESH

From RAMESH SINHA

LUCKNOW: Teachers of higher secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh have decided to boycott the examinations conducted by the Board of High School and Intermediate Examinations. These examinations are to begin from March 12.

THE unhappy decision has been forced on the teachers by the studied callousness of the government to their demands and grievances despite all non-agitational means of rousing them to

the attention of the government.

Sometime back the teachers organised a silent procession in the state capital.

On February 14 they again came to Lucknow; 30 thousand of them marched silently through the streets.

After much pleading, Education Minister Kailash Prakash agreed to meet the teachers and so they marched to his house in C. B. Gupta's Moti Mahal.

## Ministerial Sermon

But the Minister had nothing to offer them except gratuitous advice about their duty to the society and the young generation.

The decision to boycott the examinations came after this

cruel blow to the hopes of the teachers.

The government has threatened disciplinary action against teachers if they boycotted examinations. He has also sought help of retired teachers to conduct the examinations.

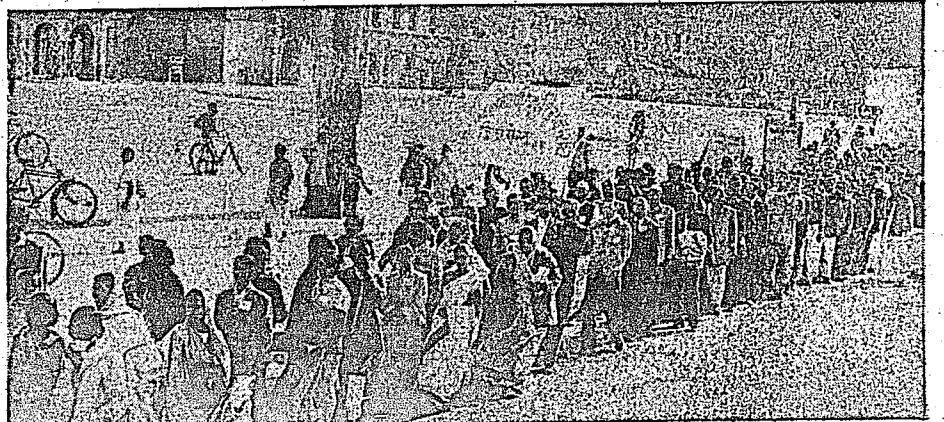
## Teachers' Demands

These irresponsible postures of the Education Minister have been criticised strongly in the state legislature. Opposition parties had walked out several times in protest against the government's attitude.

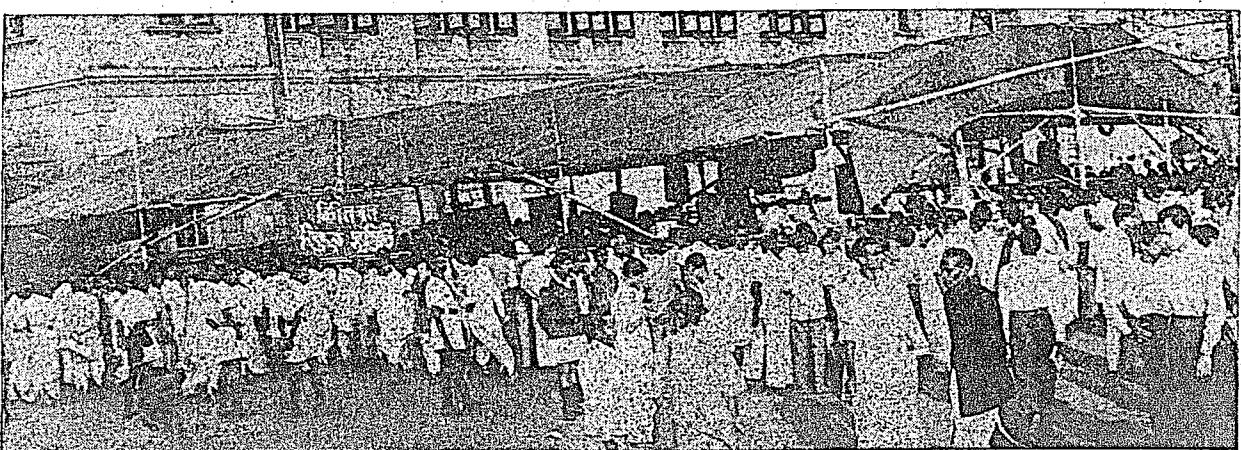
The demands of the teachers are: enhancement of dearness allowance, with a minimum of Rs. 50 as immediate relief, appointment of a pay commission to revise the pay scales of primary and secondary teachers.

If the boycott materialises, it is clear that the people would stand behind the teachers despite the fact, that the boycott would affect the educational career of their sons and daughters; because the demands of the suffering teachers are most meagre and just.

Silent demonstration of higher secondary teachers in Lucknow on February 14



The hastily constructed shamiana which teachers put up to protect them from rains



# ALL PARTIES' SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS IN MAHARASHTRA

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

BOMBAY: February 14 saw about twelve thousand secondary teachers all over Maharashtra observe a token mass fast in support of their demands.

IN Bombay, more than a thousand teachers participated in the mass fast at the Shivaji

Park Maidan.

A unique feature of the fast by teachers in Bombay was that leaders of all political parties came forward to express their support for the teachers' demands and express solidarity.

Among those who visited the satyagrahis and expressed solidarity were S. A. Dange, Communist Party chairman, Krishna-

rao Dhulap, opposition leader in the state legislature, Amul Desai of the Congress, Jan Sangh MLC Gawande, Tulsi Bora of the SSP and Kapila Khandwala, president of the National Federation of Indian Women.

Dange said that education has also become in the capitalist society education has also become a means to make profit and it was the teachers' task to make education the channel of knowledge and learning.

# IS SOCIAL WELFARE ONLY FOR THE PAMPERED RICH?

By HAJRAH BEGUM

Ever since the setting up of the Department of Social Security by the Government of India there has been considerable speculation about its work.

THE Department has been set up under the Ministry of Law and has two main aspects, one being the general one of co-ordinating the work of social welfare and the other that of supervision and implementation of social insurance, health, old age insurance and such laws as the Beggars Act, Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, Children's Act, etc., together with the entire problem of unemployment and training of workers.

It is with the first aspect, namely social welfare, that women's organisations are chiefly concerned.

The Central Social Welfare Board was set up in 1955 to survey the needs and requirements of social welfare organisations, evaluate their projects, coordinate assistance given to them, and promote their development by giving, wherever necessary, financial assistance.

## Grants Given

During the past ten years the central board has sanctioned grants amounting to a total of Rs. five and a half crores. The break-up of this total is, broadly, as follows:

Amount spent in rural areas on services and activities for projects including *Balwadis*, craft activities, maternity services, social education and general medical aid for women.

Four hundred such projects were organised till the end of the Second Five Year Plan and then handed over to voluntary bodies. Later, such projects were confined to, and worked in cooperation with, the Block Development Scheme under the name of Welfare Extension Projects. The total amount spent on this count was Rs. 164 lakhs.

Amount spent in urban areas on activities of community welfare centres, creches, antenatal and post-natal clinics, hobby clubs, recreational and vocational centres and institutes for the handicapped amounted to Rs. 34.47 lakhs.

Holiday camps for children between 12-16 years of age whose parents earn up to Rs. 200 per month benefited a total of 31,000 children. The amount spent was Rs. 20.36 lakhs.

Twenty-six night shelters built in different states at a cost of Rs. 5.26 lakhs.

Training-cum-production units in coir, silk spinning and handloom and other such industries were to be set up. So far out of 81 units sanctioned only 40 are functioning providing wages to 1,200 women and handicapped persons. The total amount spent is Rs. 33.19 lakhs.

Two-year condensed courses were established to enable women with some schooling to pass middle or matriculation examination. A total of seven hundred and twenty-two courses were sanctioned covering 16,500 women. The total amount spent was Rs. 205.15 lakhs.

Demonstration projects for integrated child welfare which were started under the Third Five Year Plan and 310 *Balwadis* started for children upto 16 years of age during this period, accounted for Rs. 10.27 lakhs.

purpose for which it was started, namely that of ameliorating the hardships of the common man and woman, so that the whole project had to be reviewed and the Department of Social Security set up.

What then were the main shortcomings of the scheme and what has the new Department to guard against?

First and foremost, the plan for social welfare was not drawn up in consultation with those for

whom it was meant, with the result that very often wrong, useless or impractical schemes were taken up and then dropped. One such instance was the waste on silk spinning and weaving centres set up in rural areas without provision of raw material and a market for the produce.

Second, there was no coordination between the various central ministries and practically none between the central and state ministries. As a result there was duplication, waste and often a complete standstill of the project as one ministry did not know what the other required of it.

## Amount Unspent

Another example is that of schemes for the backward classes where, as the Evaluation Scheme remarked, very often, projects were initiated which far from removing the barriers actually accentuated them between members for the backward classes and others.

The functionaries of the Social Welfare Board have a totally wrong attitude towards voluntary organisations which far from being looked upon as partners in the carrying out of the entire scheme, are treated as 'inferior' and the giving of grants and aid to whom becomes a 'favour'.

Not only that. The whole red-tape rigmarole of approaching the authorities, the machinery for sanctioning the conditions for obtaining the aid etc. are so cumbersome and complicated that it is indeed an arduous task for a small local organisation to get any benefit. Very often, by the time the whole process has been gone through and the grant obtained, the original initiative has petered out for want of timely aid.

This is one of the reasons that even the amounts allocated in the Five Year Plans for social

Welfare, (Rs. four crores in the First, 4.75 crores in the Second and Rs. 28 crores or so in the Third Five-Year Plan) could not be fully utilised.

An examination of the proportionate expenditure on various heads reveals other discrepancies. Not only the total amount given as grants—which comes to an approximate of Rs. 55 lakh a year is inadequate in itself, but of this amount the largest part—Rs. 205.15 lakhs—has been spent on running condensed courses for women—a relatively easy scheme to operate in the larger cities and towns.

The amount spent on such an essential project as training-cum-production centres, for which there is a crying need both in the rural and urban areas, received a grant of only Rs. 33.14 lakhs. With the use of this amount just over a thousand women could become wage-earners.

The organisers of the Central Social Welfare Board stress again and again that social welfare knows no restrictions of class and creed and that political considerations, should not weigh in the carrying out of the scheme. Yet a glance at the agencies receiving the bulk of the grants is sufficient to show to what an extent the principle is flouted. In the course of the last ten years the following organisation have received grants from the C.S.W.B.:

Bharat Sewak Samaj: Rs. 16 lakhs  
All-India Women's Conference: Rs. 15 lakhs  
Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund: Rs. 12 lakhs  
Indian Council for Child Welfare: Rs. 10 lakhs  
Grameen Mahila Sangh: Rs. 11 lakhs

Not a single trade union or peasant organisation (the Grameen Mahila Sangh is an organisation of rich farmers and former zamindars) has either been consulted about the plan itself or entrusted with the task of making good use of the funds.

If the new social security department has to make any progress in the field of social welfare it will not only have to have a correct policy and a useful scheme but it must broaden out and embrace newer strata of organisations and make use of the services of a different category of workers.



Social Welfare does not mean a creche for this working woman's child!

# NEEDED: Special Stress on Women's Education

By KAPILA KHANDWALA

The question of women's education is of vital significance in the development and progress of a nation. Today, in the days of science and highly developed technology in all fields of life, education has a direct bearing on the development and progress of national economy and life. Education, therefore, should be given its due importance and not be treated merely as a social accomplishment for women.

In a free India women have been given equal rights with men not only to a good, varied, comprehensive general education but also to a suitable professional and vocational education to enable them to contribute fully as home makers and full fledged citizens.

With the dawn of Independence and thereafter there has been considerable expansion in primary and secondary as well as higher and technical education, both for men and women. One of the directive principles of the Indian Constitution is to provide free and compulsory education for all children upto the age of 6-14 years.

Educational opportunities have been opened at all stages for girls and women, the status of women has been raised, and many more fields of activities have been opened out for them after Independence.

In spite of this bold declaration and the expansion so far made, the overall picture of the education of girls and women in our country is still very disappointing and far from satisfactory even 18 years after Independence.

We are far from attaining the objective of free and compulsory primary education for every child—much less for girls—even in the age group

of 6-11 years in 1965. The imbalance and gulf between the boys' and girls' education in the country is very distressing.

In 1946-47 there were 41,56,742 girls in educational institutions at all levels when there were 1,35,93,521 boys. For every 100 boys there were only 30 girls in schools.

## Slow Progress

And in 1960-61 when the female population of India had increased very greatly, the total number of girls in all educational institutions had risen to 1,42,59,047 and that of boys to 3,37,03,720, thus bringing the number of girls to 42 or 43 for every 100 boys.

The following figures of the percentage of population of boys and girls under instruction at various age levels in 1960-61 are very revealing as far as the gulf between boys and girls' education in the age

group of 6-17 years is concerned:

Age	Girls	Boys
6-11 years	40.4%	80.5%
11-14 "	10.8%	34.3%
14-17 "	4.2%	18.4%

Moreover, the progress in girls' education has been mostly confined to urban areas. Generally speaking, practically all rural areas and most states in the North have remained most backward.

In 1960-61 the total number of literates in India were 34.5% of the male population and only 13% of the women population of India.

In these areas the percentage of girls even at the primary levels is extremely low and the progress painfully slow. Besides, education has become prohibitive for most girls because of high fees especially in schools managed by private agencies.

However, some progress even in some backward states has been made such as in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, where free education is given

\* On Facing Page

# MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By VIMLA FAROOQI

March 8 today is celebrated as a day of women's rights in all the five continents.

BEGINNING from 1910 this day symbolises the day of struggle for women's rights, world peace, democracy and the welfare of children. Millions of women the world over pledge on this day to struggle unitedly against hunger, misery, illiteracy and social oppression.

The idea that in a given society women whether they are 'housewives' or working women have many common problems and they have to struggle unitedly to build happier and harmonious homes originated in 1908, when women employed in textile factories in New York went on strike demanding the reduction of their working hours from ten to eight. Many other sections of working women launched actions in their support.

This led to unity and consciousness among women to fight for their rights in all spheres of life. In 1909 women of several countries launched struggles for voting rights and the question of women's franchise became an important question in America and Europe.

A powerful movement of women grew up demanding franchise, and eventually the

battle was won in several countries. In the process of these struggles, unity was forged among the women of different countries and belonging to different sections of society, and the strength of their joint actions was realised by them.

In 1910 a congress of socialist women was convened at Copenhagen (Denmark) and it was decided there to celebrate March 8 as a day of women's rights throughout the world and to call it the International Women's Day.

How popular this day has become since then was witnessed in 1960 when the fiftieth anniversary of the Day was celebrated in the same city of Copenhagen. Women from ninetythree countries participated in that celebration.

It is in this background that we are celebrating March 8 in our country. This has become a day when women review the achievements they have made during the previous year and resolve to work harder for attaining greater improvements in their living conditions in the coming year.

The women of our country have also to take stock of

their successes and failures during the last year and make new resolves on this occasion. Today the problem of rising prices and the non-availability of the necessities of life is the most important problem before the women of the entire country. For the solution of which it is essential that Indian women and their organisations work unitedly.

The other important issue confronting us today is to help evolve a correct social outlook concerning women and girls working outside their homes. We have to strive for facilities being provided to working women so that they can conveniently combine their responsibilities as workers with those as wives and mothers. The biggest need of our women in this respect is creches and kindergartens where they can leave their children when they go out to work.

Another important requirement of women today is their education. Even to be a good housewife and a good mother, it is essential for a modern woman to have more knowledge than her mother and grandmother.

On this International Women's Day, the women of India will also take the oath



with the women of the entire world to work resolutely for world peace, and support the policy of our government in not using atomic energy for making bombs.

# WOMEN'S EDUCATION

\* From Facing Page

to girls in some classes of secondary schools. (175000 girls benefited in UP) and children of defence personnel and those killed or disabled have been also granted free-ship.

In our country some excellent technical education projects have been launch-

ed. But very few women have benefited by it.

One of the main reasons of this exasperatingly slow progress in education is, that it has not been given the importance it should be given by the authorities and the planners.

Unfortunately in the Plans no attention or endeavour has been seriously made to take

note of and remove the appalling backwardness in education in general and women's education in particular.

So widespread backwardness in education among the millions of India, especially among the women, is seriously coming in the way of our women's enlightened participation in the economic and cultural development of the country.

The parity of claims so far as allotment of funds in the Plans is concerned with other important sections of national life like industry, irrigation etc., has not at all been acknowledged in any of the three Plans and even in the Fourth Plan, it is feared, it will be overlooked.

There is an increase in the amount of expenditure for education in successive Plans but the actual percentage allocation in the total plan outlay in education has been most unfortunately less and less. It was 7 per cent in the First Plan, 6.4 per cent in the Second and is only 5 per cent in the Third.

On the contrary this percentage should have increased in order to cope up with the rise in population and the abnormally high proportion of school going children in India.

At least 10 per cent of the Plan outlay must be allotted and spent on education and a serious all-out effort to attain universal education for all children of 6-11 years of age within two years of the Plan should be made to fulfil the directive of the Constitu-

tion (i.e. education upto 14 years) by the end of the Fourth Plan.

This will bring all the girls between 6-14 to schools during the next five years.

It must also be made incumbent on all states to spend 20 per cent of their budgeted expenditure on education.

More schools must be opened especially where none exists and also open some special schools to be held at special timings to suit girls busy in the home and outside.

## Need More Facilities

Besides, secondary education should be made free for children of families of the income level upto Rs. 1200 per year, and in case of girls the income level of families may be raised to Rs. 3000 per year so as to create a natural incentive to parents to send their daughter also to schools for secondary education.

Concessions in fees, free-ships and scholarships on a more liberal basis should also be provided for girls. Giving of midday meals and provision of creches and nurseries will induce girls and women to attend the schools regularly.

There should also be schools with some sort of agricultural and industrial bias. Literacy classes for adult women are an absolute necessity.

Greater facilities for proper training of teachers and especially of women teachers must be provided with immediate effect, especially in rural and backward areas. Facilities for refresher courses

for teachers in service will also help to improve their qualifications and proficiency.

The government should also revise and improve the pay structure and service conditions including security of service for teachers' profession and follow a nationally uniform policy all over the country.

To ensure good education there must be good suitable buildings, furniture, teaching aids, appliances and suitable text books, reference books and children's literature. A national foundation may be set up at the centre with its units in every state for the purpose.

The government should publish regularly year after year, statistics of girls and women under instruction in various educational institutions and of women working in various fields separately in their annual reports and reviews to keep the country correctly informed of the progress achieved from year to year.

It will be seen that the task of women's education is stupendous and the educational and financial requirements for the purpose, frightening. Rural and backward areas pose many problems and difficulties.

But with an intensified, serious, vigorous and planned effort and by treating education of girls and women as a major special problem on emergency footing till parity between boys' and girls' education is reached and by providing adequate and even special funds for the purpose, the task is not so difficult to achieve.









# What TTK's Budget Means For Women

By RENU CHAKRAVARTY

Flogged by the lash of incessantly rising prices, men and women await with fear and trembling the last day of February every year. For this is Budget Day, a day which has come to mean for the family man and specially the housewife, an added occasion when taxes are levied and passed on by the traders to the consumer, providing another excuse, among many others, to fleece the common man and enhance their profits.

**S**UCH taxes are called indirect taxes. There are other forms of direct taxes too, which the government directly levies, and that too adds other crushing burdens on the ordinary person's budget.

For example, the railway budget which preceded the general budget has decreed a rise in passenger fares.

Families living in the huge suburban areas of Calcutta and Bombay will be hit by the increase in the price of monthly season tickets. In one family where several children are going to schools and colleges and others for jobs, the increase will certainly mean added burdens to their already limited exchequer.

## Travel Costs More

Moreover, there has been an increase in passenger fares in general, so that even emergency travelling, not to say anything about travel of students coming home or going to their institutions for study, or the holidays which one occasionally plans for the family, are all hit.

It is hard to understand

why the fare rise could not be equitably spread. The second and third class passengers will have to pay 10 per cent more on fares for distances upto 800 kilometres while the increase for first and airconditioned class passengers is also 10 per cent for distances upto 1,000 kilometres. This naturally will weigh far more heavily on the poorer sections of our people than on the affluent.

The tax imposition of 10 per cent on imports which was declared by the Finance Minister a few days ago, will affect not only the import of machinery and industrial raw materials but will also hit many others.

For example the housewife in West Bengal whose daily requirement of fish is largely provided by imports from East Pakistan, is already facing shooting up of the prices of fish, and at the moment there is a veritable crisis in the markets of Calcutta.

The same will be the case for such things as fruits coming from West Pakistan, unless this import duty is waived.

The main aim as stated by Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari is to boost production and exports and to

hold the price line. No one would be happier than the common man and woman if these promises were to prove true.

How he can do this will be eagerly watched by all. His proposal to remove completely the excise duty on footwear, cycle-parts, cycle tyres and tubes will be welcomed. So too his proposal to reduce by 50 per cent duty on grey cloth as well as coarse and medium cloth. For housewives the 50 per cent reduction on vegetable products should mean lowering of the price of "vanaspati" and cooking oils.

For the children and student 30 per cent reduction on cheaper types of printing and writing paper should prove a boon in the shape of cheaper books and copy books.

## Sceptical By Experience

But alas! the ordinary men and women in our country have become sceptical, because they cannot believe that any benefits will be passed on to them and not grabbed for higher profits by the trade.

The fear is that the lowering of prices will prove in the long run an illusory hope, unless of course the Finance Minister is serious about the threat he has made that he would reimpose the duties if the benefits of reduction are not passed on to the consumers.

Nevertheless the reduction and abolishing of taxes on these essential items of daily use must be welcomed. In doing so we cannot help adding a word about the non-reduction of the tax on kerosene at least for domestic purposes.

This reduction is needed not only for reducing the



Renu Chakravarty

prices of an essential item of daily use but it has the great social benefit of reducing greatly the drudgery of the housewife's daily chores.

If for purposes of foreign exchange conservation its consumption is to be reduced, I would urge that kerosene be made available only for domestic purposes at a controlled rate and the duty for these purposes alone be abolished.

With regard to income tax there has been a relief to every category of people. The young working men and wo-

men who are as yet unmarried, they will get exemption upto Rs. 2,000 while formerly they used to get exemption of Rs. 1,000 only.

This will remove the hardship and discrimination against unmarried income tax payers although many of them had to maintain several dependents on their earnings.

However, the percentage of relief is highest for the richest category of people. Those who get more than Rs. 70,000 now need to pay only 60 per cent as taxes in place of 75 per cent before.

Reliefs are welcome. But the greatest relief needed by the people and women in particular is relief from high prices. After all only two million people in our country of 470 million are income-tax assesses.

The vast masses want to be saved from the scourge of the price spiral. For that a greater expanded public sector—state trading in food grains—and a curb on inflation—is needed. No such hope is aroused by the announcement of this budget.

The prices of a few commodities like vanaspati or footwear or cycle parts, may come down. But the housewives know that man lives not by these alone.

## Communist Unity

\*FROM FRONT PAGE

able to arrive at agreement, precisely because all present recognised the necessity for unity.

At the same time, all participants accepted the international discipline of the revolutionary proletariat, while simultaneously emphasising that each national Party has complete freedom and independence to work out its own policies in relation to its country's problems within the framework of the agreed international line.

The consultative meetings of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties, now being held in Moscow will, it is hoped, lead to valuable results.

It is to be regretted that some of the Parties invited to the meeting refused to attend despite efforts made by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to clear all possible genuine doubts which may have prevented any of the invited Parties from attending the meeting.

What is, however, most alarming is the new round of abusive polemics, launched by the leadership of the Communist Party of China against other fraternal Communist Parties, particularly the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This round of violent and venomous verbiage is obviously meant to coincide with the consultative meeting in Moscow.

The truth, however, is that this round of polemics coincides also with the US aggression in Vietnam, and, therefore, can only delight the hearts of the imperialists.

All Communists as well as all other anti-imperialists are shocked at the attitude taken

by the Chinese leadership, at this critical moment for peace in Asia and the world.

The Communist Parties of the world cannot, however, abandon their duties to the peoples and to the great cause to which they are dedicated, merely because of the unfortunate stand taken by the Chinese leadership. On the contrary, they must intensify their efforts for unity of the world Communist movement.

The representatives of the 19 Parties now meeting in Moscow are consulting among themselves, exchanging ideas and experience in the light of the many changes that have taken place in the world situation and in the international Communist movement since the 1960 conference of Communist and Workers' Parties.

They are exchanging ideas on the ways to overcome the differences in the international Communist movement. They are discussing the question of the proposed next world conference of Communist and Workers' Parties.

Of course, as the name implies, this is a purely consultative meeting: it will not adopt any finalised political decisions. But that in no way lessens its significance or importance.

The presence of the representatives of so many Parties, despite the opposition and disruption caused by dogmatists and sectarians, indicates that the vast majority of the Communist Parties of the world are determined to do all in their power for the unity of the world Communist movement.

The democratic movement in India wishes them full success in their noble efforts.

(March 2)

## MARCH 8 : INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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