



C-141, Sainik Nagar, New Delhi – 110059, Phone – (011) 25332343

Email: [info@cpiml.in](mailto:info@cpiml.in), [redstarenglish@yahoo.co.in](mailto:redstarenglish@yahoo.co.in) Website: [www.cpiml.in](http://www.cpiml.in)

Online Weekly

Volume – 1

Issue – 2

12 February 2011

### **Sub Seven Freeze**

Contrary to the incessant propaganda of the advocates of neo-liberal policies that under it the sluggish Indian economy leaped to 9+%, it is now reported that the GDP growth for 2011-12 is below 7%. Indications are that it is expected to go down further as the manufacturing, agriculture and infrastructure growth have decelerated. As the decades of 'crisis free capitalism' were over and stagflation intensified from 1970s, imperialists and their lackeys started propagating that privatization is the panacea for overcoming the crisis. Imperialist globalization-liberalization-privatization (GLP) and based on it the neo-liberal policies were advanced with too much fanfare.

After two decades of imperialist globalization and neo-liberal policies, when the international finance capital system is confronting unprecedented crisis, slowing down of the economy has emerged as an intensifying threat and the GDP growth is plummeting to ever slower condition, naturally a rethinking on these policies is required. On the contrary, the comprador political leaders and economic pundits are calling for further speeding up of the neo-liberal policies as a remedy. They are calling for more liberalization including 100% entry of FDI in banking, insurance, retail trade, and infrastructure including aviation. They also call for fast tracking privatization of remaining PSUs through disinvestment, liberalizing land acquisition rules, decontrolling diesel, kerosene etc also, and facilitating land acquisition so that the MNCs and corporate can monopolize them fast etc. In the next budget more such proposals can be naturally expected.

What is happening is the conscious minimization of the gravity of the crisis faced by the imperialist finance system. If the post-globalization boom was through outsourcing giving a spurt to IT sector and speculative finance operations, the fast reduction of outsourcing and crisis in the speculative spiral have caused the slow down and any more doze of neo-liberalization will only further intensify its consequences like price rise and unemployment-under employment. It is leading to further widening of the gap between the rich and the vast masses of poor as in line with imperialist efforts to transfer its burden to people of the neo-colonial countries, the compradors in power in these countries are intensifying the plunder of the masses. Sub-seven freezing in the growth of GDP demands the intensification of active resistance to the ruling system.

### **Observe 11<sup>th</sup> March, First Anniversary of Fukushima Meltdown, As Anti- Nuclear Power Day**

The Central Committee of CPI(ML) has called for observing 11<sup>th</sup> March, the first anniversary of the Fukushima meltdown as Anti- Nuclear Power Day with the slogans: No more new nuclear power plants, Shut down all existing nuclear power plants, and realize universal nuclear disarmament. What is happening to the efforts to control Fukushima meltdown efforts, radiation effects around existing plants, nuclear waste disposal problems and nuclear arms race calls for intensifying efforts to advance this struggle at the present level of development of research on nuclear technology. As popular struggles with these slogans are getting strengthened in the imperialist countries, they are forced to even shut down the plants and to export them to the neo-colonies. It is in this situation, in line with the call by the ICOR, CPI(ML) has called for a countrywide campaign and struggle wherever possible based on these slogans.

As part of this campaign the state committees, while joining hands with likeminded forces to intensify the resistance to commissioning of Koodankulam plant and against construction of Jaitapur plant, have started campaigns to organize movement against Kalpakkam plant in TN, Kaiga plant in Karnataka, Tarapore plant in Maharashtra etc. Intensify efforts to develop the anti-nuclear power movement.

## **Intellectual Property Rights Made a Cover to Prevent Production of Cheap Life Saving Medicines**

The 12<sup>th</sup> India-European Union Summit in New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> February was utilized by the EU to pressurize Indian government to surrender to the intellectual Property rights' conditions imposed by WTO and to threaten that the international drug firms will sue the government, drug manufacturers and distributors for infringing their IPRs. In this way India's right to produce and distribute life saving medicines at cheaper prices is blatantly obstructed. India produces cheap medicines for common diseases like malaria, asthma etc and they are a life line for poor patients in India and many other countries. For example, for HIV alone India produces 80% of the global production and since it is cheap is exported to many countries especially of Africa. If this production line is obstructed in the name of IPRs it is going to affect the poor patients of a large number of countries.

CPI(ML) severely condemns the decision of the UPA government to surrender before the EU and US abiding all restrictions imposed under the WTO provisions on IPRs. When the GATT agreement was signed by Narasimha Rao government and India was made a member of the WTO compromising the sovereignty of the country, mighty people's movements had taken place all over the country against it. The bandh and other struggles successfully organized by CPI(ML) and other anti-imperialist forces showed the extent of people's opposition to it. But the traitors who sold out the people's interests are intensifying subservience to neo-colonial slavery. In this situation, people have no other alternative but to resist and defeat this reactionary move by the UPA government. CPI(ML) calls on them to come out on the streets to defeat this act of treason.

## **Intensify Struggle to Repeal AFSPA**

The AFSPA is repeatedly proved as one of the foremost weapons to impose state terror. It is reported that in Jammu & Kashmir alone during the last five years the central home ministry has rejected at least 42 requests to sanction prosecution of military persons found guilty of murder, homicide, rape etc by the police. If a complete list of all areas where it is imposed along with deployment of the military it will be seen that there are hundreds of cases like this. The military, defense ministry and home ministry are protecting the culprits from the military under the banner of this draconian law. Already Supreme Court judges have commented that in cases of murder and rape, AFSPA should not be a cover to protect the culprits. Still the heinous game of protecting the culprits and treating the citizens of this country where military and its black law are imposed as aliens are continuing. From Sharmila's struggle to get it repealed has entered its 12<sup>th</sup> year. In this situation, intensifying the struggle to get the military withdrawn along with its draconian law is an urgent task of all progressive forces.

## **Students' Debt Reaches Astronomical Levels**

The students of California and other universities in US have launched a major countrywide struggle demanding writing off of the huge loans in their names. Through systematic propaganda the students going for higher education were encouraged to take loans from Banks and other financial institutions with the condition that it will be repaid after getting employment. While this loan of the students in US alone has reached the astronomical level of more than \$3 trillion, their employment possibilities have gone down and even if a job is obtained the pay packet is so low that repayment of loans is becoming impossible. They like any other sections become defaulters and are subjected to harassment and even imprisonment. In this situation, demanding that the state should take responsibility for education at all levels and get all loans of students written off the agitation is launched and it is fast spreading to all areas. In European countries also this agitation has started getting intensified. In Britain the agitation of students for cutting down tuition fees and for increasing education facilities the agitation has taken militant forms. Debt burden is becoming a major problem faced by students going for all types of higher education. The AIRSO has called for expanding the struggle against privatization and commercialization of education to writing off all debts incurred by the students for higher education.

## **Countrywide Struggle against Commercialization and Trade in Education**

As a part of the all India campaign called by the All India Forum for Right to Education (AIF-RTE), All India Revolutionary Students Organization (AIRSO) has launched campaign against commercialization of education from 1<sup>st</sup> February itself in the areas it is active. Postering and hand bill distribution is taken up in a big scale. Reports from Bhopal show that both AIRSO and RYFI have joined hands with other constituents of AIF-RTE in organizing various programs. They have called on all the student community to come out in strength along with the youth and teachers to fight the commercialization of education which is making higher education reserved for the elite sections while it is denied to the poorer sections. Education at all levels is denied to the socially and economically backward sections. Make 16<sup>th</sup> February a day of militant resistance against the government policies of wanton commercialization of education

## **Kerala: CPI (ML) Calls Hartal against Imposition of BOT and Toll Collection**

Led by the CPI (ML), a broad mass movement has evolved against the BOT scheme and toll collection imposed on the people by the Oommen Chandy government in connection with the construction of National Highway 47 in Kerala. For the last several months, Oommen Chandy's heinous moves to impose it are successfully resisted by the Party and the people. Led by him several rounds of talks were held to divide the fighting unity of the people. Since he has failed in his efforts to hoodwink the people, on February 9, with the backing of a huge police force the Chandy government has tried to forcibly collect the toll which was boldly resisted by CPI(ML) and People's Committee against BOT. In the police repression that followed several persons were seriously injured and many others including CPI(ML) Thrissur Committee leaders were arrested. Following this, the CPI(ML) has called for a 24-hour **high-way hartal** starting from the evening of February 9. A very tense situation is prevailing in the highway stretch where the toll plaza is situated.

The UDF government has deployed hundreds of policemen to facilitate the proposed toll collection for next 17.5 years. With the help of them the private company can loot the people as done by numerous other companies all over India. The resistance including the hartal call blocked the toll collection on 9<sup>TH</sup> February. Though more forces including some of the opposition parties joined the struggle and hartal call was given for 10<sup>th</sup> also, using lathi-charge, arrest and other suppressive policies, police helped toll collection. CPI(ML) has called for continuing the agitation mobilizing more forces. Meanwhile an anti-BOT Convention of all likeminded forces is convened on 26<sup>th</sup> February at Thrissur to strengthen the struggle.

## **A Trade War for the Brand name of Christ**

In connection with the Kerala state conference of the CPI(M) as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> Congress, Kerala has witnessed an unusual trade war between catholic clergy and the CPI(M) state leadership. The war is in relation to the use of Jesus' picture along with other political leaders including Saddam Hussein in the exhibition at the venue of the conference. While CPI(M) argues that Jesus is the greatest campaigner in history for the liberation of the oppressed and exploited, the Catholic leadership has accused CPI(M) of self-deception in comparing communist leaders with Jesus and posing him as a revolutionary. Though heated debates have taken place in the media on this, both the parties are camouflaging their true motives.

Obviously, Christ is a brand name the patent of which is monopolized by the Catholic Church as a corporate institution rather than a religion. Rather than a question of 'sentiments' or 'belief' it is the material interest of Church that has come to the fore. It is very apprehensive of anybody using this brand name lest it may make deep cuts into the political and corporate interests currently entertained by the Church. That is why it is vehemently opposing the display of Jesus's picture by CPI (M). On the other hand, the display of Jesus' picture at party forums by CPI (M) points towards its ideological bankruptcy on the one hand, and the dirty game of vote bank politics pursued by it on the other. It is the latter aspect that worries the Church and Congress leaders and that is why both are opposing it and coming to the streets crying foul play.

## **West Bengal: Loomtex Worker's Struggle Continuing**

The workers of Loomtex Jute Mill continue to remain undaunted in the face of threats and attempted suppression by the management and the lackey-unions. The cease-work continues determinedly, with thousands of workers refusing to resume duty unless their demand of reinstating 2 of their suspended colleagues is immediately met. The Labour Minister has been compelled to call a tripartite meeting at his office on 9.2.12 in an attempt to resolve the issue. Thus the mill authorities, faithfully aided by all ruling class parties and their unions, are leaving no stone unturned to smash the struggle and get the workers to resume work before the 9th, so that the tripartite meeting takes place under conditions favourable to them. However, the workers are in no ambiguity about the management's intention and are hence all the more firm in their resolve to continue the cease-work till the 9th.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February, West Bengal labour minister, Purnendu Basu, shed the last fig leaf of integrity as he openly sided with Loomtex owner Govind Sarda of the 'kits scam' notoriety and declared at the tripartite meeting at his office that he would heed the workers' demand of payment of PF and gratuity dues only if workers increased production! The tripartite meeting was an exhibition of government-mill owner unity as the labour minister threatened the Sangrami Mazdoor Union with dire consequences if it dared to launch agitations against the mill authorities! Sample this: A managerial staff whined: Sir, they are always gheraoing us. Purnendu Basu replied: If they gherao you or create obstructions, you should also use force -- I'll talk to the District Magistrate and ask him to help you. The minister refused outright the workers' demand of reinstatement of 2 of their suspended colleagues as he said about the General

Secretary of the Sangrami Mazdoor Union, "O ki cheez amar jana achhe." ("I know what kind of an element he is.")

### **Tamilnadu: Plantation Workers Join TUCI**

In Valparai plantation area in Coimbatore district of TN 400 members from INTUC Tea Estate Workers Union came out, formed an independent union and have decided to merge in the Annamalai Plantation Workers Union affiliated to TUCI in a merger Conference to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

After the opening of a wild life sanctuary near the plantation area, rejecting the protest of the workers, many incidents of attack by wild animals on workers going in the early morning to tea-plantations are reported. Demanding the closing down of the Wild Life Sanctuary, protection to workers' families and proper housing, more than 500 workers held protest meeting and declared that if the managements fail to give protection the workers will make their own plans for the safety of themselves and their families.

### **Tamilnadu: Anti-Koodankulam Movement Gains Strength**

The Koodankulam Anti Nuclear Plant Peoples Struggle Committee under the leadership of Suba Udaykumar was invited to attend a discussion with central Government officers and atomic scientists at Tirunneveli in the district collector's office on 31<sup>st</sup> January. But while discussions were going on, Hindu Munnani, a front organization of RSS, and Congress party rowdies were allowed to enter the collector's office and attack Udaykumar and the struggle committee members threatening to kill them if the anti-Koodankulam agitation is not withdrawn. It was clear that as the representatives of central government and the technocrats were failing to convince the people to stop the agitation, these rowdy elements were given permission to enter the office and attack the activists. They were given permission to demand that the Koodankulam plant should be commissioned on the same day at the same time. Besides, the government has come out with statements that NGOs and Christian organizations getting foreign funds are running the agitation. It is surprising that the government which is promoting the NGOs and Christian church in everything is annoyed only when they support the anti-nuclear power plant agitation! It is a conspiracy to divide the people of the area and create communal clash among them so as to weaken the movement.

CPI (ML) has condemned this heinous attack through a poster campaign and appealed to all progressive democratic forces to defeat the conspiracy of the central and state governments and to strengthen the movement against the commissioning of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant.

### **Anti-Nuclear Conference**

In order to intensify the anti-Koodankulam movement the anti-nuclear plant peoples struggle committee has decided to convene Anti-Nuclear Conference, rally and public meeting at Chennai on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Many progressive democratic organizations along with CPI(ML) are participating in this Conference. For details visit *Website: [antinueconferencefeb26.blogspot.in](http://antinueconferencefeb26.blogspot.in), Email: [antikoodangulamfeb26@gmail.com](mailto:antikoodangulamfeb26@gmail.com).*

### **Anti-Nuclear Plant Struggle at Kaiga in Karnataka**

The Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant was commissioned a decade ago after suppressing the agitation against it. The nuclear establishment under the prime minister's office had assured that there will be no radiation effects in the surrounding area. But the housing quarters for the staff of the nuclear plant were constructed 20 kms away. During this period the radiation effects are so rampant that all the children born in the nearby villagers are having some deformities. Skin diseases and other radiation connected cancer like diseases are spreading fast. The Plant management is flouting the July, 1986 agreement assuring safety to people in the nearby areas.

In this situation, people of the nearby villages have started a spontaneous movement under the Struggle Committee of Villagers Within Five Kilometres of Kaiga Plant have started an agitation in front of the Deputy Commissioners Office in Karwar for the last two months. CPI(ML) state committee has declared support to this agitation and has decided to link it with the all India movement developing against the nuclear power plants.

### **Democratic People's Forum Calls for Campaign against Corruption, Communalization and AFSPA**

The meeting of the constituents of DPF held New Delhi, on 5<sup>th</sup> February noted the growing attacks on the working class and all sections of oppressed masses by the central and state governments under ever intensifying neo-liberal policies, and decided to carry forward joint campaigns and struggles based on following issues uniting all forces that can be united.

1. The meeting decided that the movement against corruption in all forms including the looting of national assets and people's money by the MNCs, Corporate houses and various international and national level money spindling agencies should be carried forward by intensifying the struggle for elimination of black money at all levels. As a part of it the struggle for scrapping of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) shall be intensified.

2. In the context of intensification of the communalization of all fields by the ruling system, especially by the Hindutva forces, the meeting decided to organize anti-communalization campaigns including state level conventions at all India level, especially in Gujarat and other BJP ruled states.

3. DPF calls for organizing campaigns for scrapping of AFSPA and withdrawal of military from Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting expressed solidarity with the indefinite fast of Irom Sharmila which has entered the 12<sup>th</sup> year on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2011.

4. As the Olympics Organizing Committee is refusing to remove Dow Chemicals, which has taken over the notorious Union Carbide company responsible for 1984 Bhopal Massacre and refusing to adequately compensate the victims, from the sponsors of London Olympics, the DPF calls for intensifying campaigns to compel the government and Indian Olympics Committee to boycott the London Olympics.

Meeting was attended by New Socialist Movement (NSM), Marxist-Leninist Committee, Bahujan Vam Manch, Nav Janavadi Lokmanch, New Democratic Party of India (NDPI), CPI(ML).

### **Crisis in Maldives**

The coup which ousted Mohamed Rashid from presidentship in this archipelago of 1200 small islands in Indian ocean, west of India, has brought those supporting the Islamic fundamentalists to power. As reports indicate the liberal democratic atmosphere prevailing here is in danger. And utilizing the turmoil created by the coup US, UK, India and European Union are trying to intensify their interference in this country destabilizing it in favor of their hegemony. The interference of the comprador government of India in the neighbouring countries so far, reveal that it has only worsened the condition there. The task of the revolutionary forces is to demand an end to India's and other hegemonic powers' interference in Maldives. The CPI(ML) extends full support to the people of Maldives at this critical juncture and hope that they will succeed in defeating US led imperialist, Indian and other interferences and in advancing towards the creation of a secular, democratic society.

### **USA: Racism and Fascism**

In the United States of Obama unlimited detention without trial for foreigners, has become federal law on 15 December, with the approval of the House and Senate of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This Act deals with safety issues, national budget, military powers of the army and police and in it are inserted standards that have already led to protests by Human rights organizations. With the United States being found to be in a true state of war as mentioned in Section 1021 of the legislative text, provision is made for the "claim of the authorities of the armed forces of the United States to arrest suspects and subject them to the use of military force." Racism and fascism, pure and simple.

(From "El Mundo del Trabajo" (The World of Work), Panama, Vol2 No.1 1 January 2012)