

Towards Socialism

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FORWARD BLOC FOUNDATION DAY REVISITED

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22 June comes back every year and reminds us of a dream that still remains unfulfilled. Subhas Chandra dreamt of a free and happy Socialist India and called for an arduous two-phase struggle to achieve it. He resigned the Presidentship of Indian National Congress on 29 April 1939 and immediately after formed his own party Forward Bloc to launch an all-out uncompromising struggle against British imperialism to achieve India's freedom. But that was the first phase of his objective. He stretched his plan of struggle far ahead and simultaneously called for socialist reconstruction of the country to fulfill his dream of a free and happy Socialist India. Even after 63 years of our independence, we are still far away from this dream socialist state. Since an amendment of our Constitution, India is declared as a Socialist state, but even an iota of socialism is not traced in our country which is mostly full of inequalities in respect of food, education, health, housing and many other essential civic amenities. The society is sharply divided into two class ___ 'haves' and 'have-nots', and obviously, the number of 'have-nots' is in great majority in our society. Most regrettably, the socio-economic policies have been framed and consciously nourished in such a way that the 'rich' are becoming 'richer' and the 'poor' are becoming 'poorer'. The society is thus full of poverty and hunger, and on the other hand there is rampant corruption in every nook and corner of the administration and among the political leadership as well. Communalism and casteism are very often threatening the unity of the country. An all-out fight against this wretched socio-economic condition is urgently needed to achieve socialistic reconstruction of the country. The 22nd June ___ foundation day of All India Forward Bloc calls for this urgent task of the day.

Through his life-long struggle and ideological pursuits Netaji showed us this path for socialism. During the hectic days of his struggle for independence, within and outside India, Netaji taught his countrymen the essence of patriotism that could be the guiding force to build a new India. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose not only preached 'patriotism', but he, at the same time practiced 'patriotism' in his own life and work. He could thus set an example to his followers how to fight for a Socialist India. It is only he who could justifiably ask the people to follow the motto ___ 'Unity, Faith and Sacrifice'. The whole of the brave nationalist soldiers of 'Indian National Army' led by Netaji followed the motto by every letter and spirit. They were all united ___ irrespective of caste and religion ___ to work and fight for the cause of the country. They had all unquestionable faith and belief in the ideology and programme set to them by their supreme leader and Commander-in-Chief Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. With this faith and ideology in their hearts, many of them sacrificed their lives during their march to Delhi fighting against the Anglo-US imperialist forces. This same motto must also be followed today by every Indian citizen for successful implementation of Netaji's programme of socialistic reconstruction of the country.

It was as early as 1931 when Subhas Chandra Bose in his Presidential address at the Calcutta session of All India Trade Union Congress said ___ 'I have no doubt in my own mind that the salvation of India, as of the world, depends on Socialism'. The 22nd June, Foundation Day of All India Forward Bloc, calls for establishment of Netaji's India _ a Socialist India.

BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY CONTROVERSY RESURFACED AFTER 26 YEARS.

In a winter night of 1984 Bhopal witnessed the world's biggest poisonous gas leakage in the chemical factory of Union Carbide, causing instant death of about 10,000 people within a couple of hours. The casualty figure rose as high as 20000 within the next few months, crippling even the thousands of next generation children. But the callous attitude of the then state and union government, run by the Congress party, damaged the compensation and rehabilitation process still now haunting thousands of poor wretched victims. Of late, the district judicial verdict pronounced after long 26 years has added fuel to the agony of the suffering people and has raised questions about the nature of justice done in the unprecedented gas tragedy case.

According to the district court verdict recently delivered, the eight persons of the local Union Carbide management have been convicted to only two years imprisonment, and the convicts getting bail, too, within two hours of the verdict. The chief of the Union Carbide Co. Warren Anderson, presently safety sheltered at the U.S., has also been completely excluded from the purview of the verdict. One such judicial verdict has once more resurfaced many controversies associated with 26 years old gas tragedy.

It appears strange that political controversies were comparatively less in 1984 when the worst world industrial disaster actually happened than the new areas of controversies that are now being unearthed after the judicial verdict of nominal punishment is exploded. Questions are now being raised about the role of the then Madhya Pradesh Congress Chief Minister Arjun Singh who had actively facilitated Anderson to leave the country. It is further argued at the same time that this escape could not be possible without the knowledge of the then Congress Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. When thousands of Indian gas tragedy victims were miserably suffering, the then Congress leaders were more anxious for the safety of the American Chief of the culprit industry house. Further accusing fingers are pointed towards the former Congress Prime Minister Narsima Rao government, whose Foreign Affairs department objected to CBI's proposal to bring in Anderson to India during 1994-95 for the benefit of proper enquiry. For the sake of justice, we now demand that the government of India should immediately negotiate with the United States government for extradition of Anderson to India and start fresh CBI enquiry over the whole gas tragedy. The US company Dow Chemical who took over the Union Carbide should also be made responsible to pay further compensation as may be decided through the CBI enquiry. The compensation amount of \$470 million as was approved by the Supreme Court has also been proved to be inadequate and, hence, this aspect should also be relooked.

In fact, in view of various facts and clues now being unearthed, it is now evident that there were a lot of intentional lapses in respect of enquiry, judicial process and punishment and compensation awarded. And the worst sufferers were the thousands of poor victims of Bhopal. We must see that, although belated, justice be done to them. The recently proposed 'Civil liability nuclear damage bill 2010' has added fuel to the ongoing controversy on Bhopal gas tragedy. The growing nexus between the ruling party and the local and foreign corporate houses is very often exposed. The people must be made fully conscious about it and the left parties owe a responsibility in the matter. So we demand a renewed CBI enquiry into the Bhopal gas tragedy in order to ensure that the guilty persons are punished and adequate compensation and justice be done to the poor victims.

Forward Bloc Deputy Chairman

Prof. (Dr.) Amar Singh Kushwaha passed away

Prof. (Dr.) Amar Singh Kushwaha, Deputy Chairman of All India Forward Bloc Central Committee, died today morning at Kanpur. He was 65.

Prof. Kushwaha was admitted in a private hospital last month due to brain haemorrhage.

He was a true follower of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and actively participated in all the Left - democratic - secular movement in Uttar Pradesh. He made remarkable contributions for organising the college and university teachers all over India. He was elected several time as the President of Kanpur University Teacher's Association (KUTA) and was a leading activists of AIFCUTA.

He joined All India Forward Bloc as a youth leader in 1978 and became Chairman and General Secretary of All India Youth League (AIYL). He worked as the state General Secretary of All India Forward Bloc, Uttar Pradesh state committee for a long period. He visited several countries as a representative of AIFB.

He was a good orator and a member of Party's Hindi organ 'Jangarjan'.

The Central Committee expresses its deepest condolence on the sad and sudden demise of Prof. Amar Singh Kushwaha. The All India Forward Bloc has lost one of its stalwart leaders among the Central Leadership. His passing away is not only a loss to the AIFB but also a great loss to Left movement of the Country.

The Party observes one week mourning.

The UP State Committee of the party is organising a mass condolence meeting on 27th June 2010 at Saryu Narayan Bal Vidya, Kanpur, in which leaders of various political parties, representative of academic community will attend.

PROGRAMME OF FORWARD BLOC

[Excerpts from remarks at a public meeting in Howrah on 8th May 1939, and a gathering of Journalists in Kanpur on 18 May 1939]

There is two-fold distinction. Firstly, the Forward Bloc desires to work the existing programme of the Congress, not with a reformist or moderate mentality, but with a revolutionary mentality. Secondly, it has an advanced programme of its own, which it will try and persuade the Congress to accept. This advanced programme will have as its objective the early attainment of India's independence.

The Forward Bloc, being a platform for all anti imperialist, radical and progressive groups, including the Socialist Party, will naturally have a friendly attitude towards the existing Leftist parties or groups in the Congress. It will not do anything consciously to weaken or undermine them. The Forward Bloc expects to have members from these parties or groups.

There is no doubt that for some time past we have been drifting towards constitutionalism. This tendency has been considerably accentuated since Congressmen took ministerial office in several provinces. The truly Gandhian spirit of non-violent non-co-operation is being smothered by the newly developed parliamentary constitutionalist mentality, which is none other than a moderate mentality.

The two-fold task of the Forward Bloc will consequently be: firstly, to instill life and revolutionary impulse into the existing programme of the Congress, and, secondly, to prepare the country for the coming struggle through contrywide agitation and through an advanced radical programme. This advanced programme the Congress will be persuaded to accept in December, if only we do the necessary propaganda and agitation from now.

If it be found ultimately that our parliamentary machinery is incapable of any further advance or any forward move in the battle of freedom, we may have to discard it and fall back exclusively on a mass movement leading on to a mass satyagraha.

I shall mention a few items of the programme. It will be necessary to raise and equip a Congress Volunteer Corps on an all India basis and develop closer and intimate contacts with other anti-imperialist organizations such as the Kisan Sabha, Trade Union Congress, youth league and student movements, if we want to mobilize all the available revolutionary energy of the nation. In organizing the Forward Bloc we intend taking practical steps towards establishment of contact between the Congress and other anti-imperialist organizations.

A further item will be the establishment of closer relationship between the Congress and State peoples' movements. We are of definite opinion that a sub-committee of the Congress should formulate a comprehensive programme for helping and guiding the people's movement in the six hundred odd States.

This plan should be given effect to simultaneously all over the country.

Apart from this we would devote our attention to the minority problem, particularly the Hindu-Muslim question. In spite of assurances given to minorities and Muslims in particular, through several successive resolutions of the Congress, the fact remains that we have not succeeded in rallying them to a common platform. The announcement of the formation of the Forward Bloc has evoked such favourable reactions from minority communities that we are led to hope that, through the instrumentality of the Forward Bloc and its radical programme, we may be able to establish real unity.

THE ROLE OF FORWARD BLOC

[Signed article in Forward Bloc, 12 August 1939]

After a number preliminary skirmishes, the Left Wing under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi succeeded in capturing the Indian National Congress in 1920. That was the signal for several of the erstwhile leaders like messrs. Jinnah, B.C. Pal and B. Chakravarti to walk out of the Congress. The Left wing became the dominant party in the Congress. The Left Wing became the dominant party in the Congress and for a time commanded party in the Congress and for a time commanded an overwhelming majority. With the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1922, a rift occurred within the majority party and, over the issue of carrying the fight into the Legislature, it split into two groups -- the Swarajists and the No-changers. After a time the differences were made up through the Congress accepting the Swarajist plan of extending the fighting front to the Legislatures.

With the publication of the Nehru Committee's Report in 1928, in which the majority of the members advocated a Constitution for India based on Dominion Status, a Left Wing emerged in the form of the Independence league. At the annual session of the Congress held in Calcutta in December 1928, the members of the League endeavored but failed to induce the Congress to alter its creed so that Independence would be declared in unmistakable language to be the goal of the Congress. The opposition to this move came from the main body in the Congress led by Mahatma Gandhi. The conflict with the Independence League went on for a year, till at the Lahore session of the Congress held in December 1929, the Congress at the instance of Mahatmaji, adopted Independence as its goal.

This compromise enabled all sections in the Congress to join hands and march shoulder to shoulder in the Civil Disobedience Campaign which was launched in 1930.

The suspension of struggle in 1933 and the adoption of a parliamentary programme by the All-India Congress Committee in 1934 provoked a revolt from the Left. The Congress Socialist Party then came into existence and, thanks to its timely appearance and its dynamic activity, the drift towards Constitutionalism was checked to a large extent. The Congress Socialist Party soon became the rallying-centre for the Leftist elements in the Congress.

From 1934 to 1937, the Congress Socialist Party made considerable headway both in numbers and influence. But in 1938, at the Haripura Session of the Congress held in February, it was found that the C.S.P. was no longer

forging ahead. In my Presidential Address at the Haripura Congress, I observed that the role of the C.S.P. within the Congress should be an anti-imperialist Left Wing role and not a Socialist role and only by playing the former role, would it continue to make headway.

Socialist and Communist friends with whom this matter was discussed after the Haripura Congress agreed with this view. It was generally felt that all progressive, radical and anti-imperialist elements in the Congress, who might not be ready to join the Socialist or Communist Party, should be organised on the basis of a common minimum programme. I felt, further, that only by that means could the onslaught of the Right be resisted and the soil prepared for the growth of a Marxist Party.

The Gandhi Seva Sangh, which may be regarded as the 'steel frame' of the present majority party (or Gandhi Party) in the Congress, held an important Conference at Delang, in Orissa, in March 1938. At this Conference the Gandhi Seva Sangh decided to launch an offensive against the Left. The Sangh decided, among other things, to send its agents into the labour field with a view to ousting those trade-unionists who stood for a class-conscious trade-union movement in this country. It decided also to depute its prominent members to capture provincial and other Congress organization in the country.

The parliamentary programme adopted by the All India Congress Committee in 1934 found its culmination in the acceptance of ministerial office in the provinces in 1937. This enabled the Right Wing to so consolidate its position and strengthen its influence and prestige as to launch an offensive against the Left in 1938. Against this determined attack, the Left could hope to preserve its existence, only if it were consciously organised and disciplined.

If all the progressive, radical and anti-imperialist elements in the Congress had rallied together on the platform of the Congress Socialist Party, then matters would have been greatly simplified. But this did not happen. Because of this, the idea of a Left Bloc for organizing all the Left elements on the basis of a common minimum programme was mooted after the Haripura Congress. If the existence Leftist Parties had undertaken the responsibility of developing the Left Bloc (now renamed as the Forward Bloc) -- then the task of Left-consolidation would by now have proceeded apace.

But though individuals or groups may fail us, the cause cannot be allowed to suffer to be neglected. Hence the Forward Bloc has been formed with such Left elements as are now available. There is no doubt that the Bloc will grow and expand with unprecedented rapidity, despite the many obstacles that beset its path. And the time will soon come when even those who are hesitating to join today, will shake off their vacillation and take the plunge Left-consolidation, winning over the majority in the Congress, and resumption of the national struggle -- these represent the three-fold task before the Forward Bloc and before the Left in the Congress. Let those who criticize us or pick holes produce a better alternative. We shall not hesitate to accept it. We are afraid, however, that no other alternative is possible.

The Congress has to be saved from the clutches of the Right which has given up the idea of a struggle and is now thinking in terms of Constitutionalism and Reformism. Only the Left can preserve the revolutionary character of the Congress and bring about an early resumption of the fight for national freedom.

Today, in certain quarters, the word 'Socialism' has become cheap. One can even find Socialists in some provinces who are the henchmen of the Ministers. Let us therefore beware of Rightists who masquerade in the cloak of Socialism. What is wanted is deeds, not words, Genuine Socialist must play an anti-imperialist Left Wing role in their day to day activity. Uttering Leftist slogans and making spicy speeches will not suffice by themselves.

Forward Bloc will rally all progressive, radical and anti-imperialist elements in the Congress, whether they be Socialist or not. Though this consolidation, the people will equip themselves for the anti-imperialist struggle that will bring India her birthright of liberty. But the attainment of political Independence will not mean the dissolution of Bloc. It will only mean a new phase in its life and activity. And that phase will undoubtedly be a Socialist one.

Shining India or Starving India?

• Dr. Vandana Shiva •

India became independent soon after the Great Bengal Famine which took two million lives. And an independent and free India reclaimed her food sovereignty, and food security.

The Harijan, a newspaper published by Mahatma Gandhi, which had been banned from 1942 to 1946, was full of articles written by Gandhi during 1946-1947 on how to deal with food scarcity politically, and by Mira Behn, Kumarappa and Pyarelal on how to grow more food using internal resources. On 10 June 1947, referring to the food problem at a prayer meeting Gandhi said:

'The first lesson we must learn is of self-help and self-reliance. If we assimilate this lesson, we shall at once free ourselves from disastrous dependence upon foreign countries and ultimate bankruptcy. This is not said in arrogance but as a matter of fact. We are not a small place, dependent for this food supply upon outside help. We are a sub-continent, a nation of nearly 400 millions. We are a country of mighty rivers and a rich variety of agricultural land, with inexhaustible cattle-wealth. That our cattle give much less milk than we need is entirely our own fault. Our cattle-wealth is any day capable of giving us all the milk we need. Our country, if it had not been neglected during the past few centuries, should not today only be providing herself with sufficient food, but also be playing a useful role in supplying the outside world with much-needed foodstuffs of which the late war has unfortunately left practically the whole world in want. This does not exclude India.'

Recognising that the crisis in agriculture was related to a breakdown of nature's processes, India's first agriculture minister, K M Munshi, had worked out a detailed strategy on rebuilding and regenerating the ecological base of productivity in agriculture based on a bottom-up decentralized and participatory methodology.

In a seminar on 27 September 1951, organized by the Agriculture Ministry, a program of regeneration of Indian Agriculture was worked out, with the recognition that the diversity of India's soils, crops and climates, had to be taken into account. The need to plan from the bottom, to consider every individual village and sometimes every individual field was considered essential for the programme called 'land transformation'. At this seminar, K M Munshi told the State Directors of Agricultural extension:

'Study the Life's Cycle in the village under your charge in both its aspects - hydrological and nutritional. Find out where the cycle has been disturbed and estimate the steps necessary for restoring it. Work out the village in four of its aspects, (1) existing conditions, (2) steps necessary for completing the hydrological cycle, (3) steps necessary to complete the nutritional cycle, and a complete picture of the village when the cycle is restored, and (4) have faith in yourself and the programme. Nothing is too mean and nothing too difficult for the man who believes that the restoration of the life's cycle is not only essential for freedom and happiness of India but is essential for her very existence'.

Repairing nature's cycles and working in partnership with nature's processes was viewed as central to the indigenous agricultural policy.

Ecological repair of the water and nutrient cycle combined with land reform, investments in agriculture, fair prices for farmers and consumers through Universal Public Distribution System were holistic instruments for food security.

The food system is broken once again. Per Capita consumption has dropped from 177 cal/day/capita to 150 cal/day/capita. And it has been broken deliberately through the Structural Adjustment Policies of the World Bank, the trade liberalizations rules of the WTO. It is being continuously broken by the obsession of the Government to turn seed, food and land into marketable commodities so that corporate profits grow, even though farmers commit suicide and children starve. 200,000 farmers have committed suicide in India since 1997. Farmers suicides are triggered by debt, and the debt trap is created by a corporate driven agriculture which maximizes corporate profits by pushing non-renewable seeds and agri-chemicals on impoverished and innocent farmers.

Every fourth India is hungry today according to U.N. data. India has beaten Sub-Saharan Africa as the capital of hunger. One million children die every year as a result of under-nutrition and hunger. 61 million children are stunted, 25 million are wasted. 42% of the underweight children of the world are now in India. If a community is hungry, families are hungry, if a family is hungry, children are hungry.

If the entire food chain is broken, then the food chain must be fixed. Tinkling with fragments of the broken chain will not fix it. The food chain begins with the natural capital of soil, water and seed. The second link is the work of hardworking small, marginal farmers and landless peasants, most of whom are women. The final link is eating.

The first link has been broken by ecological degradation and corporate hijack of seed, land and water. Soil erosion, biodiversity erosion, water depletion, undernourished food production contribute to food insecurity. When peasants loose access to land, seed and water, they loose access to food. Increase in hunger is a direct consequence.

The second link that has been broken is the capacity of the farmer, the food producer to produce food. Rising costs of production and falling farm prices create debt and debt creates food insecurity. The deliberate destruction of food procurement by dismantling the PDS system, by using godowns to store liquor instead of food, by not guaranteeing a fair price to farmers are signals to the farmers of India that the Government wants a food system without small farmers. Since farmers are the back bone of India's food security and food sovereignty, breaking the farmers back is breaking the nations food security. There can be no food security in a deepening agrarian crisis.

The third link in the food chain is people's entitlement and right to food. The combination of rising food prices, decreasing production of pulses and nutritious millets has reduced the access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition. Hunger and malnutrition is the inevitable consequence.

And while millions of our fellow citizens starve, the Government fiddles with figures. Instead of addressing the food crisis, the Government is addressing a fragment of the consequences of the crisis. Poverty is a consequence, not a cause. Fiddling with poverty figures - 37 percent in the Tendulkar Committee Report, 50 percent in the Saxena Report, 77 percent in the Unorganised Sector Report is a deliberate attempt to avoid addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. In the context of the food and nutrition crisis, the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA) is a mere fig leaf. It is inadequate because it ignores the first two links in the food chain, and reduces the scope of existing schemes for the poor and vulnerable. For example the NFSA offers only 25 kgs of grain, instead of the 35 kgs per family per month fixed by the Supreme Court. The India Council of Medical Research fixes the caloric norms at 2400 Kcal in rural areas and 2100 Kcal in urban areas. The Tendulkar Committee which is now the Planning Commissions official basis fixes average calorie consumption at 1776 Kcal in urban areas and 1999 Kcal for rural areas. Through juggling figures the hungry become well fed, the poor become non-poor.

Food security demands a universal PDS system which serves both the poor farmers and the poor eaters by ensuring fair prices throughout the food chain. Instead the Government is committed to ever narrowing "targeting" because it is committed to handing over agriculture to global agribusiness, and handing over so called food security schemes to companies like Sodexo who will collect our tax money to distribute food coupons to the poor who will use the food coupons to increase the profits of Cargill, Unilever, Nestle.

The Governments prescriptions will further break the food chain, deepening food insecurity.

As small farmers are displaced by agribusinesses, the destruction of natural capital will increase further weakening the first link in the food chain. The agrarian crisis facing two thirds of rural India will deepen. And breaking the link between

farmers and eaters, between production and consumption through food stamps and food vouchers will completely break the food chain.

For a country as large, as poor, as hungry as India, food sovereignty and self reliance in food production is not a luxury, it is a food security imperative.

The proposed solution is in the name of reducing of food subsidy. When PDS was replaced by TPDS under World Bank pressure, this was the argument used. However, the food subsidy bill increased from Rs. 2500 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore to starve our people. The further narrowing of the "target" will further increase the food subsidy because it will lead to an increase in the gap between high cost production and the subsidized food as well as a growing gap between rising market prices for food and the subsidized food. And these increasing gaps will also lead to increased corruption. After Enron, after Goldman Sachs, after IPL we can no longer say the private sector will clean things up. We can no longer think that corruption is exclusive to Government and handing over the task of feeding the poor to greedy, profit oriented corrupt corporations will provide a miracle solution to hunger.

Because the National Food Security Act aims to turn into Law, the very policies which have created the hunger crisis, into Law, it is in fact a National Food Insecurity Act.

Foreign Universities coming here for profit **LIMITED EDUCATION**

The opening d operation of foreign universities in India is an important issue. There may be a heavy rush of students in these institutions as they will get the degree of a foreign university. At the end, it is not sure whether these students would find a lucrative job, if training given to these students is non-competitive.

On the contrary, foreign governments may not allow to open Indian universities on their land and even if it is so, there will not be students to take admission in these universities for obvious reasons and hence it will not be an economically viable proposal.

Therefore, the opening of foreign universities on Indian land will not be equal academic and economic footings. To avoid any kind of exploitation on either side, all the collaborative programmes of creative and dispersive higher education should be designed to the benefit of the Indian population which needs a definite development in the global and national context. The best way to achieve this is that foreign activities in higher education in India should be regularized through the Indian education system, either governed by the Government or semi-government organizations.

Higher education has two ingredients: (1) creation of knowledge through research in the basic principles to understand complexities of the phenomenon and to use this knowledge for the development of new technologies for the comprehensive growth of all living beings and (2) teaching of graduate and professional courses with information of the latest developments in the disciplines concerned.

However, it is further emphasized that the creation of new knowledge through research is very basic for the quality teaching of graduate and professional courses. A foreign institution of higher education without first rate research programmes can not justify the quality teaching to graduate and professional course students in India.

In the modern concept "knowledge is property". Every country protects its research knowledge to keep up the pride and priority. Paents are registered for economic gains in the process of global industrialization. Mostly, in the foreign collaborative research programmes, Indian researchers work in foreign laboratories. However, the outcome of this research programmes remains the property and patent of the host nation. Although Indian researchers do get experience to work back at home. The above academic and economic imbalance has to be addressed in collaborative higher education programmes.

There are very few occasions, mostly in arts and culture education where researchers from abroad work in India for a substantial time and research output are shared by both countries.

Foreign universities are keen on soft knowledge expansion i.e. teaching programmes for graduate and professional courses pertinent to the market forces. However, the following facts should also be kept in view.

The Indian young population is growing at a faster rate as compared to the developed countries. In the present situation, it is assumed that India does not have the desired infrastructure to provide the required education to the young students.

Due to economic progress of the country, the income of the middle class population has increased. Their family size is small and parents in a position to spend any amount of money for their child's education for a degree which helps in searching a financially lucrative job anywhere in the world.

Indian psychology still persists that a degree of any foreign university is superior to an equivalent degree of Indian universities, although it is not all true except a few leading universities in Europe and the US, specially in science subject.

In view of these fact developed countries are keen to collaborate in the knowledge dispersive (teaching of graduate and professional courses) part of higher education for well-defined economic gains.

In my opinion, as we are aware of propblems of regional and national developments, India should strongly interact and adopt the experience of foreign universities, but keeping in view the geography, culture, historical background and other regional and national interests. It is very likely that due to geographical and cultural attitude differences foreign education may be of limited use to us and vice versa.

In conclusion, we should have all the collaborative programmes for national and regional developments through Indian educational institutions with all modifications and modulations in the context of Indian circumstances.

(The writer is a UGC Emeritus Fellow and Professor of Physics, Punjab University, Chandigarh)

--*Courtesy : Amity*

Some lessons from the Bhopal outcome

• V. R. Krishna Iyer •

The court verdict shows that India is still in a Victorian imperial-feudal era, distances away from the socialist dream.

The mass slaughter that occurred in Bhopal on December 2, 1984 was the consequence of an American multinational corporation dealing with Indian lives in a cavalier manner. Some 20,000 people were "gasassinated." Yet, after 26 years of trial, the culprits get two years of rigorous imprisonment as punishment. Such a thing can happen only in bedlam Bharat.

The President of the United States and the white world, and the Prime Minister of brown India, shout themselves hoarse against terrorism by the Taliban and the Maoist-naxalites. However, when it came to carnage caused by an American company in a backward region of India, it took all of 26 years to get a court judgment.

India is but a dollar colony, and so the "gasassination" has been treated as a minor crime. This is Macaulay's justice of Victorian vintage still ruling India. Our Parliament and the Executive are less concerned with the lives of 'We, the People of India'; their deprivation is of little consequence. The judiciary is another paradigm of insouciance and it is often indifferent to its fundamental duty of issuing a swift verdict. Parliament is too busy making noises to be able to make laws to defend citizens' lives. The investigative-judicial delay that has occurred is unpardonable for a crime of this kind.

Indian courts will do justice - if proper judges are appointed and fair procedures are made, if sensitive and sensible laws are enacted and the Executive has the needed independence, alacrity and integrity.

Trust violated

Meanwhile, this socialist democracy continues to be a cause for despair for the common people. This contradiction must end. We have enough human resources to redeem the pledge of the Father of the Nation whose ambition was to wipe every tear from every eye. This trust of Indian sovereignty was ludicrously violated in Bhopal.

Every poor man in hungry despair resisting the British Empire was once called a Congressman. When the Congressman came to power after freedom, every hungry militant was called a Communist. When the Communists came to power in some States and still kept many people starving, these poor men were called naxalites.

Does India have a future? Yes, provided the glorious Constitution and the marvellous cultural tradition, sharing the vision of both Karl Marx and Mahatma Gandhi, are realised. Have we such a sensitive perception? Have the instrumentalities under the Constitution a noble mission and a passion? Have the judges such an ambition? The Bhopal decision shows that India is still in a Victorian imperial-feudal era, distances away from the socialist dream.

One extraordinary feature of the outcome is that the highest officer who was involved in Union Carbide, Warren Anderson, is nowhere in the picture. This is but mockery of justice. If the chief criminal is beyond the party array, the millions who are the victims are being mocked by the trial of lesser offenders. In exempting the powerful from criminal jurisdiction, the law has become lame. Is an American criminal immune to investigation by an Indian court order? Such discrimination makes justice risible.

Over the 26 years it took, what was the Supreme Court, with so many judges who have original jurisdiction to try cases when fundamental rights are violated, doing? The Government of India did not move the court for an early trial? Now the Law Minister says he is not happy with this two years' rigorous imprisonment that has been granted. During these 26 years, no amendment to Sections 300 to 304 of the Indian Penal Code was moved or enacted, or severe punishment written into the Penal Code. This by itself constitutes dereliction of duty on the part of Parliament and the Executive. The political parties that were in power during these years are also guilty of culpable neglect: they slept over the noxious infliction on Indian humanity.

Fair compensation has not been paid to the victims. A huge hospital financed by Union Carbide was built in Bhopal. But it is not for the poor but the rich. It is over the bodies of the poor that the hospital building was built, and still the have-nots have no access to it. The Supreme Court, seemingly lost in issues relating to its own allowances and perks, did not call up the case from the trial court and decide it at once.

Warren Anderson is a closed chapter for the U.S. The most powerful nuclear nation has its bizarre sense of justice which should give courage for the Indian plural masses to resist dollar colonialism. Americans are above our rule of law. Brown India must be satisfied by White Justice where MNC bosses are indicted.

Washington swears by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But it uses a nuclear treaty to leverage things to its own advantage. India has no guts to call this bluff. We have MNCs with cosmic jurisdiction. Anderson is an American, so is Union Carbide. Its ukase is just on Asian fuel in earth. Indian justice is for municipalities and panchayats, not beyond.

Israel Barbarism Against Humanity

Israel is continuing its aggressive military attacks against the people of Palestine even after several

rounds of negotiations and UN interventions. On 30th May 2010, the Gaza Freedom Flotilla of six ships carrying 10000 tons of humanitarian aid including baby food and school materials and about 700 peace activists from different countries were attacked by the Israel military at the international waters, 65 miles from Gaza Coast without any provocation. More than a dozen people have killed and tones of materials have been destroyed. The whole world stood up in condemning this barbaric act of Israel.

The people of Gaza are suffering due to the economic blockade imposed by Israel with the covert and overt assistance from USA and Egypt since June 2007. Israel is saying that they have vacated Gaza Strip and West Bank according to David Camp Accord and an agreement with Egypt. But the fact is that both these areas are still under the domination of Israel. It is also reported that the Israel is not allowing any organizations or individuals to extend humanitarian help to the people of Gaza.

When the entire world was protesting against this attack and the people came out in large number to demonstrate, the government of India has issued a statement, which is very mild and carrying not a single word against the perpetrator of this cruelty against humanity. It doesn't want to displease either USA or Israel because both the countries are the main supplier of arms to India. It is been noted that the arms trade between Israel and India has gone up over 8 billion US dollars.

The All India Forward Bloc strongly condemns the barbaric act of Israel and urges upon the government of India to utilize the international platforms to lift the illegal blockade against the people of Palestine, who are fighting for their motherland.

Rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils

The issue of proper rehabilitation of the Tamil civilians of Sri Lanka is a grave issue to be addressed by the newly elected government of Sri Lanka immediately. After the defeat of LTTE and the return of Rajapaksa government with two - third majority, the Tamil people are willingly waiting with hope for proper rehabilitation and protection of their rights. The Tamil people also aspiring for reconciliation with the Sinhalas, the majority community for equal rights. But even after the thumping victory, the Rajapaksa government is not acting swiftly to rehabilitate the displace people. The condition of the Tamils living in Sri Lanka after the ethnic war is very pathetic, which attracts the international sympathy and condemnation. Reports are pouring everyday about the ongoing human right violations in the camps and colonies of the Tamil settlement.

More than 3 lakhs Sri Lankan Tamils got shelter in India. The government of India is providing rehabilitation packages to these displaced people. But refugee settlement is temporary one. Now the ethnic war is over in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the government of Sri Lanka should speed up the procedure to take back all these refugees and to make necessary arrangements to settle them in their original places of habitation. The government of India should make all its diplomatic channels to ensure the proper rehabilitation of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The All India Forward Bloc hopes that the recent visit of President Rajapaksa to India and the meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will certainly make tangible results in this direction.

US Browbeating Iran

The USA successfully maneuvered the UN platform to adopt a resolution against Iran for making its ground to extend its blockade and to pressurize the other dependent countries to follow them. While raising the question of Iran's nuclear programme, the USA is acting as the world non-nuclear state. But the fact is that the USA is the only country used the nuclear weapon against the humanity in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945. The USA has become the major nuclear exporter of the world and it never endorsed the NPT and CTBT. Therefore it is irony that USA is browbeating Iran on its nuclear programme.

The All India Forward Bloc is of the opinion that stockpiling of nuclear arms and developing more and more nuclear weapons will not reflect the strength of any country rather it will reveal the weakness and fear psychosis of the nations. Therefore world should refrain from mobilizing nuclear arms and to work closely for nuclear non-proliferation for the sake the humanity. The UN agencies of nuclear non-proliferation should work with all concerned countries without any prejudice or under any pressure. The democracy loving people of all over the world should come forward to condemn the US attitude of overpowering the developing nations.

IMPERIALISM AND LIES

• Fidel Castro Ruz •

I had no choice but to write two reflections on Iran and Korea explaining the imminent danger of a war with the use of nuclear weapons. I have also expressed my opinion that in one of these cases the danger could be thwarted if China decided to veto the resolution promoted by the United States at the UN Security Council. The other depends of factors that escape any possibility of control, given the fanatic behavior of the State of Israel, which the United States has turned into a strong nuclear power that refuses to accept restraint from the superpower.

At the time of the first US intervention to crush the Islamic Revolution in June 1953, --in defense of its own

interests and of those of its close ally the United Kingdom-- which placed Mohammad Reza Pahlevi in power, Israel was a small State that had yet to seize nearly the entire Palestinian territory, a portion of Syria and not a small part of neighboring Jordan that was still then defended by the Arab Legion, of which not a shadow was left after that.

Today, the hundreds of missiles with nuclear warheads, supported by the most sophisticated planes supplied by the United States, are threatening the security of every state in the region, both Arab and non-Arab, Muslim and non-Muslim, which are within the extensive operational range of its missiles capable of hitting barely a few meters from the target.

Last Sunday May 30, when I wrote the Reflection on Imperialism and Drugs, the brutal attack on the flotilla carrying food, medicines and other things for the one-and-a-half million Palestinians who are besieged in a small piece of what for thousands of years was their own Homeland, had not happened.

The overwhelming majority of people use their time to try to cope with the necessities that life brings on them --including food, the right to recreation and studying, and other crucial problems that afflict their closest relatives. They cannot stop to look at the information of what is going on in the planet. They can be found anywhere, with a noble expression on the face trusting that others will care to find the solutions to the problems that affect them. They are capable of rejoicing and laughing. Thus they cheer up those who have the privilege of observing with equanimity the realities threatening us all.

The very strange fabrication that North Korea had sunk the South Korean corvette Cheonan -designed with state of the art technology and equipped with a wide range sonar systems and submarine acoustic sensors-off the coast of that country meant blaming the former for the atrocious event that took the lives of 40 South Korean marines and caused injuries to tens of them.

I found it hard to unravel the problem. On the one hand, there was no way to explain how it could be possible for any government, regardless of its authority, to use the command mechanisms to order the launching of torpedoes against an insignia vessel. On the other hand, I did not believe for a second the story that Kim Jon IL had given that order.

I lacked the elements of judgment to enable me to reach a conclusion, but I had the certainty that China would veto a draft resolution in the Security Council leading to sanctions on North Korea. On the other hand, I had absolutely no doubt that the United States cannot prevent the use of the nuclear weapon by the uncontrollable Israeli government.

Late during the day of June 1st the veil was lifted off what really happened.

At 10:30 p.m. I listened to a sharp analysis by journalist Walter Martinez, the anchor of the Venezuelan TV star program Dossier. He concluded that the United States had misled the two Koreas into believing what each was saying about the other, this with the intent of solving the problem of the return of the territory occupied by the Okinawa base that the leader of Japan demanded echoing the people's yearning for it. His Party had rallied great support during the elections based on his promise to achieve the withdrawal of the US military base stationed there, which is like a dagger stabbing for more than 65 years the heart of Japan, today a rich and developed nation.

The truly amazing details of what happened there have been known through Global Research, thanks to an article by Wayne Madsen, an investigative reporter working in Washington DC, who disseminated information from intelligence sources in the Web site Wayne Madsen Report.

These sources, he said, "...suspect that the attack on the corvette Cheonan of the South Korean Navy for submarine war was a false flag operation intended to make believe the attack was coming from North Korea."

"One of the main purposes of increasing tension in the Korean peninsula was to put pressure on Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to make him change his policy on the withdrawal of the US Marine Corps base from Okinawa. Hatoyama has admitted that tensions over the sinking of the Cheonan had a significant influence on his decision to allow the US marines to stay in Okinawa. Hatoyama's decision has caused a split in the center-left coalition government, an event welcomed by Washington, in view of the threat of Mizuho Fukushima, leader of the Social Democratic Party, to leave the coalition due to the change of heart about Okinawa.

"The Cheonan was sunk near the Baengnyeong Island, in the extreme west, a place distant from the South Korean coast but in front of North Korea. The island is highly militarized and within range of the artillery fire of the North Korean coastal defenses, which are on the other side of a narrow canal.

"The Cheonan, a corvette designed for antisubmarine warfare, was equipped with a cutting-edge sonar system. Furthermore, it operated in waters with extensive hydrophone sonar systems and submarine acoustic sensors. The South Korean sonar and audio show no evidence of a torpedo, a submarine or a mini-submarine in the area. Since there is hardly any navigation in the canal, the sea was quiet at the moment of

the sinking.

"However, the Island of Baengnyeong shelters a US-South Korean military intelligence base and US Navy SEALs [special forces] operate from this base. Also, as the Cheonan was sunk, there were four ships of the US Navy in the sector, as part of the US-South Korea exercise Foal Eagle. An investigation into the metal and chemical traces of the suspicious torpedo shows it is of German manufacture.

"It is suspected that the US Navy SEALs keep a sample of European torpedoes to make deniability plausible for attacks under false flag. Furthermore, Berlin does not sell torpedoes to North Korea, but Germany has close cooperation programs with Israel for the joint development of submarines and submarine weapons.

"The presence of the USS Salvor, one of the ships taking part in the Foal Eagle, so close to the Baengnyeong Island during the sinking of the South Korean corvette raises questions, too.

"The Salvor, a civilian salvage ship with the Navy, involved in mine-setting operations by the Thai marines in the Gulf of Thailand in 2006, was also in the vicinity at the moment of the explosion with an additional force of 12 deep-water divers.

"Beijing, satisfied with North Korean Kim Jon Il protestation of innocence after an urgent trip from Pyongyang to Beijing by train, suspects the role of the US Navy in the sinking of the Cheonan, associated to specific suspicions arising from the role played by the Salvor. The suspicions are the following:

"1. The Salvor was taking part in a mine-setting operation in the sea bottom. In other words, it was setting antisubmarine mines that are shot horizontally in the bottom of the sea.

"2. The Salvor was conducting a routine inspection and maintenance of mines in the sea bottom and programming them in an electronic activation mode --shot by sensitive trigger--as part of the inspection program.

"3. A SEALs diver attached a magnetic mine to the Cheonan, as part of a clandestine plan intended to influence the public opinion in South Korea, Japan and China.

"The tensions in the Korean peninsula have conveniently eclipsed every other item on the agenda of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her visits to Beijing and Seoul."

Thus, in an amazingly easy way, the United States was able to solve a major issue: to remove the National Unity government of Yukio Hatoyama's Democratic Party, but at a very high cost:

1. It has deeply offended its allies in South Korea.
2. It has emphasized the skill and celerity with which his adversary Kim Jong IL acted.
3. It has enhanced the prestige of the Chinese power, whose President took personal action and with full authority sent the main leaders of China to talk with Emperor Akihito, with the Prime Minister and with other outstanding personalities of Japan.

The political leaders and the world public opinion have proof of the cynicism and absolute lack of scruples that characterize the United States imperial policy.

DPRK CLARIFIES ITS STAND ON SINKINGSHIP

National Defence Commission Issues Statement

[Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the DPRK National Defence Commission issued a statement as regards the sinking of warship "Cheonan" of the South Korean puppet navy.]

The statement reads:

We had already warned the South Korean group of traitors not to make reckless remarks concerning the sinking of warship "Cheonan" of the puppet navy.

Nevertheless, the group of traitors had far-fetchedly tried to link the case with us without offering any material evidence. It finally announced the results of the joint investigation based on a sheer fabrication, which assert that the warship was sunken by our torpedo attack, in a bid to mislead the public opinion inside and outside Korea.

It is, at the same time, crying out for "punishment" and "retaliation" internally and foolishly seeking to prod the international community into applying additional "sanctions" against the DPRK.

What matters is that traitor Lee Myung Bak is taking the lead in such anti-DPRK smear campaign, even daring slander the headquarters of our revolution.

Meanwhile, Kim Thae Yong and other gangsters of the south Korean puppet military accustomed to flattery and blind obedience echo Lee Myung Bak's outbursts. This smear campaign is fanned up by Ryu Myung Hwan and other ultra-rightist conservatives of south Korea.

This is also joined by the U.S. and Japanese aggressors who are making desperate efforts to keep their hostile policy towards the DPRK on its orbit.

We would like to question them so busy linking the above- said case with the DPRK why they don't

link with it the death of a puppet army soldier, crashes of fighter plane and gunship of the puppet navy and air force and the sinking of a civilian fishing boat that occurred one after another almost simultaneously.

It is the age of science and technology.

As a swollen is bound to break, any lie is bound to be brought to light no matter how hard one may try to make it sound plausible.

What is evident is that the sinking of warship "Cheonan" can never be construed otherwise than a "conspiratorial farce" and "charade" orchestrated by the group of traitors in a deliberate and brigandish manner to achieve certain political and military aims because only 46 soldiers met miserable deaths while officers survived the case. This being a hard reality, they are pointing a dirty accusing finger at us like a thief crying "Stop the thief!"

It is a trite method of the successive south Korean puppet regimes to fake up a shocking case and use it for floating a story about "north wind" whenever they find themselves in a crisis.

These days they are using for this plot even "deserters from the north" who had found their ways to a dumping ground and human scum. The National Defence Commission of the DPRK responsible for the defence of the country and the security of the national clarifies the principled stand of our army and people in view of the grave situation where the sinister plot of the group of traitors may lead to reckless actions against us.

1. As the group of traitors declared that the sinking of the warship "Cheonan" is linked with us, the NDC of the DPRK will dispatch an inspection group to the spot of south Korea to verify material evidence concerning the linkage.

The group of traitors should produce before the dignified inspection group of DPRK material evidence proving that the sinking of the warship is linked with us.

We remind the group of traitors in advance that there should be not a shred of doubt about the material evidence to be produced before the inspection group.

2. Our army and people will promptly react to any "punishment" and "retaliation" and to any "sanctions" infringing upon our state interests with various forms of tough measures including an all-out war.

The all-out war to be undertaken by us will be a sacred war involving the whole nation, all the people and the whole state for completely eliminating the strongholds of the group of traitors who orchestrated "the conspiratorial farce" and "charade" and their followers and building instead a reunified power in which the whole nation emerges powerful and prosperous.

The tough countermeasures to be taken by us will prove to be practical actions of justice for dealing unpredictable sledge-hammer blows at the group of traitors who blocks national reconciliation and unity and stirs up an atmosphere of confrontation in the south Korean societ.

3. Now that the group of traitors declared what it called "decisive actions", we will brand any small incident that occurs in the territorial water, air and land where our sovereignty is exercised including the West Sea of Korea as a provocation of confrontation maniacs and react to it with unlimited retaliatory blow, merciless strong physical blow. It is our invariable iron will to react to "retaliation" with more powerful retaliation and to "punishment" with indiscriminate punishment of our style.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we sternly warn the U.S. and Japanese authorities and riff-raffs, heir poor lackeys, to act with discretion.

The world will clearly see what dear price the group of traitors will have to pay for the clumsy "conspiratorial farce" and "charade" concocted to stifle compatriots.

ANOTHER SET BACK FOR LEFT FRONT IN CIVIC POLLS IN BENGAL:

State Committee reviews the results and formulates mass action programmes.

Elections were held on 30 May 2010 in 81 municipalities of West Bengal, results of which are by and large disappointing for the Left Front. Out of 81 municipalities, Left Front has secured control of 18 municipalities, while control of 27 municipalities has gone to opposition Trinamool Congress and 7 to Indian National Congress. Interestingly, none could get absolute majority in 25 municipalities and there was 'tie' in 4 municipalities. Obviously this shows a distinct erosion in vote-bank of Left front in comparison to results of 2005 elections.

In the midst of such adverse situation, Forwad Bloc could win 43 seats in 21 municipalities, in comparison to 55 seats in 2005 election.

The whole result was reviewed by the Bengal state committee in its meeting held on 6 June 2010. The district leaders participating in the discussion opined that this set back in civic polls was not an isolated incident. It was the outcome of the trend of erosion in Left Front vote-bank started since the Panchayat elections held in 2008, continuing through the major defeats in Lok Sabha election held in 2009. The people expressed their lack of confidence in the performance of the Left Front, mainly due to omission and commission of its major partner CPI(M). But at the same

time, it was freely admitted that as a long-term partner of Left Front, Forward Bloc, too, can not escape its responsibilities for the overall failure. It was high time for the party to reorganize and rejuvenate its units upto grass root level and to strengthen its mass organisations at the same time. The party holds high its task of further strengthening the left unity to adequately fight against the right-wing bourgeois forces threatening to capture power in the state. The essence of the fight is to move along with the people -- for the causes of the people.

The state committee, after its day-long deliberations, formulated the following 4-point programme for immediate and sincere implementation:

- (i). District level G.B. meetings to be held in each district, in presence of state secretariat members, during the month of June 2010.
- (ii) Membership drive of all the mass organizations to be further strengthened and its conferences from the Branch to the District level to be organised to achieve wider mass contacts.
- (iii) As a continuing process, mass movements to be organised at the levels of Panchayats and Municipalities as well, against all sorts of corruption and nepotism.
- (iv) Left unity must be extended to all the villages at the grass root level and it must be followed continuously with due sincerity.

While formulating this programme, the state secretariat reminded party members the motto of the Left Front, which was formed as a tool for mass movements. The erosion of Left Front started since we deviated from its declared path of movement -- with the people and for the people. The Left Front was equated with the Left Front government and we let ourselves dependent on bureaucracy and overpowered by reactionary bureaucratic culture. This has weakened the class character of the party. The people started losing confidence in the Left Front, the revival of which is now again dependent on our going back to its original motto -- continuous struggle for emancipation of the people.

..... • *Kolkata Correspondence* •

AGRAGAMI MAHILA SAMITY KERALA CONFERENCE HELD AT KOCHI

The Agragami Mahila Samity (Akhilendia Purogamana Mahila Samity) Kerala state conference was held at Kochi on 22nd and 23rd May 2010. The delegate session was held at Vyapari Bhavan, Palarivattom, Kochi. 265 delegates from nine districts of Kerala participated in the Conference. Elaborate arrangement has been made for the successful conduct of the Conference. The Conference venue and the near by areas have been decorated with flags, flex boards, arches etc.

The delegate session was inaugurated by Com. Aparna Sengupta, General Secretary of All India Agragami Mahila Samity, Central Committee. While addressing the delegate session, Com. Aparna opined that the women of Kerala are always in the forefront of the struggle for equality and women's right. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the first Indian leader who realized the strength of women power and established separate wing as 'Rani Jhansi Vahini regiment' in the INA. In order to achieve the demand of women's reservation, the AIA Mahila Samity has to wage relentless struggle along with other likeminded organizations. She expressed hope that the Kerala Unit of AIA Mahila Samity will hold high the legacy of Netaji and the struggle of our freedom fighters to carry forward the mission of AIA Mahila Samity.

Com. Dolly Roy MLA from West Bengal was guest of honour in the conference. While addressing the delegates Com. Dolly Roy urged upon the activists of AIA Mahila Samity Kerala Unit to come forward to rebuild India in Netaji's way. She demanded that women constitutes 50% of our population should get their fundamental rights and should get proper representation in the decision making forums otherwise the decisions of the administration and the political parties cannot be considered as democratic.

Com. N. Velappan Nair, Chairman of the All India Forward Bloc was the Key Speaker in the Conference. He expressed his satisfaction over the vast participation and the successful conduct of the Conference. He said that this conference will be an eye opener to the ruling class who plays tricky dramas whenever the issue of women's reservation comes. He further said that the women should come forward under the banner of AIA Mahila Samity not only for the women's rights but also for re constructing the modern India as envisaged by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

A seminar on women empowerment was held on the occasion of the State Conference. Com. G. Devarajan inaugurated the Seminar. Com. V. Ram Mohan, General Secretary of AIFB, Kerala Committee, Com. Thankachan Varghese, Secretary of AIFB Kerala Committee, Com. Abdul Khader Vazhakkala, AIFB Ernakulam District Secretary and Chairman of the Reception Committee, Com. Jaison Manjali, AIFB State Committee Member, Com. Baiju Menachery, AIYL State Finance Secretary, Com. Thampi Punnathala, AIFB Kollam District Secretary etc. also addressed the delegate session and the Seminar. Com. Sherly Santhosh presided over the Conference, Com. Sreekumari Amma made the welcome speech and Com. Sreelatha

Hareendran made vote of Thanks.

In a resolution adopted in the Conference urged upon the government to include all women organization's representatives in the state women commission. The meeting also demanded to constitute a state women council to assist and monitor the self employed women to develop their entrepreneurships. The meeting further urged upon the government to take sufficient steps to depoliticize the women neighbourhood groups, Kudumba Sree and other Self Help Group (SHG) programme.

The Conference has elected a 21 member state Committee consists of President - Com. Sherly Santhosh (Ernakulam), Vice President - Com. Sreekala Brhmanandan (Kollam), General Secretary - Com. Sreekumari Amma (Thiruvananthapuram), Secretary - Com. Sujatha Thampi (Kollam), Treasurer - Com. Sreelatha Hareendran (Kannur), Members - Com. Geetha Unni (Kollam), Com. D. Sathee Bhai (Kollam), Com. (Adv.) Jeeja James Kandathil (Thiruvananthapuram), Com. Rathee Devi. D (Pathanamthitta), Com. Sherly Remin (Kannur), Com. Subaida Hassan Baba (Ernakulam), Com. Rama Sathyan (Ernakulam), Com. Anita Pratap (Ernakulam), Com. Shani Suresh (Ernakulam), and Com. Saradambha (Kollam).

ELECTION IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IN JHARKHAND

The marriage of convenience is over in Jharkhand. The JMM-BJP Government of Jharkhand has collapsed after 153 days rule. It is an inevitable outcome of any opportunistic alliance. While ruling with the help of BJP, Shibu Soren, the leader of JMM voted in favour of the Congress (I) in the Parliament on the cut motions moved by the opposition on 27th April 2010. When the relation became bitter, the central leadership of BJP interfered and tried for a patch-up partner in the to be formed new BJP led government but in the last minute, the JMM leadership backtracked from the deal and put the BJP into dock. The Central Government, while using the volatile political situation of the state, declared president rule and kept the assembly in suspended animation.

In a statement issued by Com. Janardan Pandey, General Secretary of All India Forward Bloc, Jharkhand State Committee demand fresh election to the state assembly. The local body elections are due in the state, which can conducted only by a elected government in a democratic way. The Mafia-ridden and Maoists affected ensure democratic rights of the common people. The All India Forward will launch state wide agitation against the President rule and for the demand of fresh election as early as possible.