

FOOD RIOTS, STARVATION

DEATHS IN BIHAR

PATNA: The food crisis in Bihar has further deteriorated. Acute famine conditions are prevailing in many parts of the state. Food riots and starvation deaths have been reported from some of the worst affected areas of Saharsa and Purnea districts.

ACCORDING to reports reaching here, three persons have died of hunger in Biri village of Saharsa district. Five persons have died in Purnea district (two in Sabdalpur village and three in Basantpur village).

It is feared that many more will die of starvation if prompt measures are not taken immediately to provide food for the starving people.

The situation has become extremely critical in vast areas of Purnea, Saharsa and Bhagalpur districts.

Thousands of people who are unable to get anything to eat are roaming around, going from place

to place, in search of food. Ninety per cent of them are women and children of agricultural workers.

Haunted by hunger, these people appear to be in a desperate mood. While trying to gather foodgrains from the parched and dried maze stalks, the hungry mobs have clashed with landlords in several places.

On receiving alarming reports about a series of food riots, including a serious food riot in the village Lauwalagam of Chausa Anchal in Saharsa district, the executive of the Bihar state council of the CPI met to consider the situation.

The executive decided to send

a three-man team consisting of Chandra Shekhar Singh M.L.A., Bhogendra Jha and Ramavtar Sharma for an on-the-spot enquiry into the incidents and the food situation in that area.

Chandra Shekhar Singh, on his return, said that the famine conditions were prevailing in the vast belt covering southern parts of Saharsa, parts of north Bhagalpur, north Monghyr and western parts of Purnea districts. He described the situation existing there as "very explosive".

Government Remains Passive And Complacent

From K. GOPALAN

Addressing a press conference in Patna, Chandrashekhar Singh said that the people in the region were living on various weeds, leaves, grass, roots and stalks of standing crops. Within days, these also would get exhausted.

It was in this background that thousands of people started moving in search of food. They looted the standing maze crops in many fields to satisfy the pangs of hunger.

While giving the details of the findings of the three-man team on the serious incident at Lauwalagam, Chandrashekhar Singh said:

When the looting of standing crops continued for a number of days, a rich landlord family of Lauwalagam suddenly took it into its head to teach a lesson to the hungry and helpless crowds consisting of thousands of agricultural workers and hataidars, mostly women and children.

The landlord family collected a gang of about two hundred lathials armed with spears, arrows and lathis and let them loose on the crowd on June 21. Three of the landlords, Rafique Ahmad, Shamsul Ahmad and Jalil Ahmad personally led the gang, themselves armed with guns.

The unarmed and helpless crowd was mercilessly beaten up and chased. Women were molested. Hundreds were injured and some fell dead. The landlords promptly removed the dead bodies.

However, one dead body was seized and detained by the people of Lauwalagam, led by the Communists of the village. That was the body of Iswar Paswan, son of Mahagu Paswan of Parawar Bahiyar.

There was enough ground to believe that the brutal attack was made with the connivance of the police officers, Chandrashekhar Singh said. The sub-inspector of Chausa police station was camping at the house of the landlord, was present at the spot during the murderous attack.

Police Complicity

Yet, the said police official refused to visit the scene of occurrence even 24 hours after the incident.

It is surprising that the district magistrate of Saharsa should come out with a so-called clarification on the incident. The real aim of this was to shield the landlords of Lauwalagam.

Says the district magistrate: "On June 21 when a mob wanted to make similar raids, people of Lauwalagam chased them away.

In the stampede that followed, an old man is reported to have fallen down and later succumbed."

Even on the face of it, this is a ridiculous statement. And reading between the lines—chasing, stampede, falling down, etc.—the truth can be discerned that the landlords' gang attacked the people.

The situation in Purnea district is also grave. A Staff Reporter of the INDIAN NATION, who made an extensive survey of the food situation in the district, writes (June 29):

"People of Purnea district, once called the granary of Bihar, are groaning under acute food scarcity and high prices. They live on grass roots, saag, mango, jamun and wild fruits like barbar and others.

Selling Livestock

"A cultivator of village Rupas-pur told me that some 400 persons grazed his moong crops... I heard that it happened in some other villages also."

He found that the people were forced to sell their goats and then bullocks and now they have nothing left with them to sell. "With empty stomachs they roam from door to door in search of work, only to hear flat 'no' in return."

Uncertainty and gloom prevailed all over the district. The Staff Reporter found that "cultivators are not prepared to part with the foodgrains stored in their houses. But they are scared that hungry people can loot their grains."

While hunger and death are haunting the people, the state government is still complacent and singing the same old tune. No food has been rushed to the starving people, nor has any step been taken to remove the scarcity.

Chief Minister K.B. Sahay, addressing the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on June 29, admitted: "Surely, the big agriculturists and traders are holding back the surplus."

But instead of taking firm steps to unearth the hoarded foodgrains, the Chief Minister was content with appealing to the Chamber "to persuade them (the hoarders) to sell their stock of surplus foodgrains at the normal price so that the common man may not starve."

The Congress organisation went a step further. On the same day the Chief Minister

STORY OF MALCO

Another Glaring Instance of Slideback From Industrial Policy Resolution

From Our Correspondent

MADRAS: "There are some people who say we are wedded to the public sector. There are others who say we must provide for the private sector. We have no such illusions. We are not adherents to any particular kind of 'ism. We want to increase the wealth of the country and whatever contributions to it must be adopted by us."

THE above is a quotation from the speech President Radhakrishnan made on July 2 at Mettur while opening the Madras Aluminium Company (MALCO).

No greater facile explanation could perhaps be given by the President of the Republic as to why this Rs. 14 crore project has been literally handed over to the private sector instead of taking it up as public sector project.

The background to the story of MALCO is quite interesting.

It seems that in 1940 a European planter discovered that bauxite, the raw material for the manufacture of aluminium, was available in large quantities near Shevaroy hills. He secured a mining lease but his project to manufacture aluminium was not successful.

In 1955 the Government of India took up the matter and appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Nagaraja Rao to specifically advise on the possible sites for the location of aluminium manufacturing plants and among its recommendations was a plant at Mettur for exploiting the Shevaroy ore.

The proving of ore was done by the Geological Survey of India and later by the Geology Depart-

ment of the Government of Madras.

The government invited an Italian firm, Montecatini, to participate in the venture and this company prepared the final project report. The Montecatini company also indicated its willingness to participate substantially in the equity capital of the project at the appropriate time.

On Govt Expense

All the expenses entailed on this account are reported to have been borne by the government.

And then came the slide down. The House of Naidus, one of the top tycoons of Madras came forward to set up a company to start an aluminium manufacturing unit.

Both the state and the central governments concurred with this proposal and the Madras government transferred the mines area to the Madras Aluminium Company which was specially floated by a group of financiers for this purpose.

A plot of land measuring over 800 acres very near to the Mettur Dam railway station was also re-

served. The Madras State Electricity Board assured adequate supply of power to this company "at an economic rate for ten years."

The Madras Industrial Investment Corporation, a Government of Madras undertaking, participated in the equity capital to the extent of Rs. 150 lakhs. The MALCO—a Rs. 14 crore project became the biggest private sector undertaking in Madras state!

So, after the survey and the proving of ore were done at the expense of the government and an ideal site—cheapest possible electricity at house door, plenty of water from river Cauvery, Mettur Chemicals working next door to supply all the caustic soda; facilities for transportation—chosen, the whole thing was handed over to a group of private business magnets for their prosperity! This is the story of MALCO.

Dr. Radhakrishnan talked about government's attitude to private and public sectors and said that it did not have any doctrinaire or dogmatic approach to the issue!

While giving glib explanations about the respective positions of these two sectors and waxing eloquent about the role of private capital and cutting down of foreign exchange drain etc., etc., he forgot (?) to give any reason why this project for which government had spent so much money and which by all means should have gone to the public sector, was handed over to a private company.

There was also no explanation available why the industrial policy resolution of the government has been violated in granting license for this project to private sector.



This was the scene in front of USIS offices in New Delhi on July 1

Youth Medical Mission and Supplies to Vietnam

NEW DELHI: Hundreds of young men and women of India have come forward volunteering to go to Vietnam in a Youth Medical Mission.

A call for volunteers was made jointly by the All India Youth Federation and the All India Students Federation in the middle of May.

The response has been heart-warming. Dozens of doctors, nurses and medical students have offered to go to Vietnam in an unprecedented expression of solidarity with the fighting Vietnamese people.

Most of the doctors and medical men and women approached expressed sympathy for the Vietnamese people. Some of course refused to volunteer, but criticism of the US atrocities in Vietnam was not lacking even on their part.

Foremost in expressing their desire and willingness

to go to Vietnam to serve the people who are fighting against US imperialists were the young doctors of Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta.

The sponsoring organisations have now selected 25 doctors out of those who have volunteered to be included in the Youth Medical Mission to Vietnam.

The list is ready and the youth leaders are currently negotiating with the Government of India to get the young doctors' passports and other facilities to go to Vietnam.

Collection of medicines and other medical supplies to be sent to Vietnam, for which also a call was given, is also going on in full swing all over the country.

According to the reports received at the headquarters of the All India Youth Federation, already medi-

cines worth Rs. 20 thousand have been collected in various parts of the country.

Pride of place in the collections goes to Maharashtra, particularly Bombay. Medicines worth Rs. 10 thousand have been collected by the youth workers in that state.

Most of the medicines collected in Bombay have already arrived in the Youth Federation office in several crates. Collections from other places are expected within the next few days.

Collection of medicines and sending the Youth Medical Mission are not the only forms of solidarity with the Vietnamese people expressed by the young people of India. They have also organised protest demonstrations and other actions.

Reports of the country-wide hungerstrikes and satyagraha actions in front of United States official establishments in this country on July 1 are published elsewhere.

Earlier, in May and June the Students Federation and the Youth Federation held several protest demonstrations to denounce the American imperialist attacks against North Vietnam.

Demonstrations were held in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and several other cities. Several meetings were also held in these months to denounce US atrocities in Vietnam.

Of course, the increasing protest voiced by the American youth and students against their government's actions in Vietnam has given inspiration to the Indian youth.

INDIAN YOUTH CONDEMNS US AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM

July 1: Joint All-India Action By Youth And Students Federations

NEW DELHI: The youth of India has moved into concerted action in solidarity with the fighting people of Vietnam and in protest against the American imperialist atrocities against the Vietnamese people.

On the call of the All India Youth Federation and the All India Students Federation demonstrations were held in front of United States organisations on July 1 in several cities of the country.

In many places young men and women sat in front of offices of the USIS and other American establishments; in some places effigies of Lyndon Johnson were burnt in symbolic protest against US aggression in Vietnam.

In Delhi a peaceful satyagraha was organised before the United States Information Service office at Bahawalpur House by about a hundred young men and women.

The satyagrahis had planned their demonstration before the US embassy but the Government of India has clamped Section 144 in the Diplomatic Enclave and banned any kind of demonstration. Therefore, the venue was changed to the USIS premises.

The satyagraha began at 9 a.m. when the young men and women took position before the USIS. They put up a shamiana and sat under it till 5 p.m. unmindful of the sweltering heat.

YANKES, QUIT ASIA

Placards were put up around the shamiana. Slogans shouted by the demonstrators included, "Hands Off Vietnam", "Yankes Quit Asia", "Vietnam for the Vietnamese" and "Down With US Imperialism".

At 5 p.m. a meeting was held which was addressed, among others, by Sarada Mitra, general secretary of the All-India Youth Federation.

An effigy of Lyndon Johnson was burnt by the demonstrators at the end of the meeting.

Towards the end of the satyagraha a police official tried to provoke the peaceful demonstrators and threatened to use force against them. He wanted the demonstrators to vacate the place!

However, he had to beat a retreat when the demonstrators refused as a body to move.

Earlier, a deputation consisting of Sarada Mitra, Balzor Singh, J. P. Jain and

Subir Ghosh went to the US Embassy and presented a memorandum to the officials there.

The memorandum said: The youth and students of India are observing this day, July 1, as a protest day throughout the country against US aggression on Vietnam.

We consider that your armed intervention in South Vietnam and the unprovoked bombing of Democratic Republic of Vietnam is mainly responsible for the worsening of the situation in South East Asia and for bringing the world to the brink of thermonuclear war.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements which created the basis for restoring peace in Vietnam and for guaranteeing the reunification and independence of that country has been grossly violated by your action.

The people of South Vietnam have every right to choose their own government and their own way of life. Any attempt by any foreign power to prevent the Vietnamese people from exercising this basic right is against their sovereign rights and detrimental to the cause of peace.

Your refusal to heed the appeal of the world public for stoppage of bombing of North Vietnam shows your belligerent attitude to decide the Vietnamese issue by force and coercion.

Your policy of pushing to the brink of war the countries concerned has been condemned by all and even in your own country democratic opinion has come out sharply against it; against the spilling of American blood and imposing on them greater misery.

STOP BOMBING

We the students and youth of India demand immediate cessation of bombing of the North Vietnam territory, immediate withdrawal of all American troops from South Vietnam; and the implementation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

We hope you would refrain from precipitating the issue further and stop all measures for escalation of war in Vietnam. We hope you would listen to the voice of reason and peace which is ringing the

world over, concluded the memorandum.

S. SHARMA writes from Trivandrum:

P. K. Vasudevan Nair, MP and president of the All India Youth Federation, was arrested by the police for defying a ban imposed by the district magistrate on use or burning of any effigy of Lyndon Johnson for fourteen days.

Along with Vasudevan Nair, C. K. Chandrappan, general secretary of the Kerala Youth Federation, and C. R. N. Pisharody, member of the executive committee, were arrested.

The arrests came at the end of a daylong satyagraha on July 1 in front of the Cultural Centre run by the USIS in Trivandrum. About a hundred young men took part in the satyagraha.

The satyagraha was in protest against American imperialist atrocities in Vietnam and in response to the call of the joint appeal by the All India Youth Federation and the All India Students Federation to observe July 1 as a day of solidarity with the people of Vietnam.

EFFIGY BURNT

The satyagrahis were led by Vasudevan Nair, Chandrappan, Pisharody, J. Udayabhenu, N. Krishnan Nair and Thengamom Balakrishnan, youth leaders of the state.

The demonstrators had no intention at first of burning the effigy of Johnson. But they decided to do so when the district magistrate issued the ban order.

An effigy was hastily made with cardboard and it was burnt by the youth leaders amidst shouting of slogans. Immediately the three youth leaders were arrested.

The unwarranted step of the district magistrate has created much resentment among the people here. Why this anxiety to protect the "honour" of the Yankee war-monger, people ask openly.

Such a mark of protest against such pro-American steps, the Kerala Youth Federation has decided to burn effigies of Lyndon Johnson all over the state beginning July 2.

A largely attended meeting in the evening of July 1 to protest against the US aggression in Vietnam and condemn the district magistrate's action was addressed by youth leaders and also E.M.S. Namboodripad.

From Bombay, SARALA KARKHANIS writes:

More than 150 young men and women undertook a token hungerstrike at three selected spots in Bombay to condemn American atrocities against the people of Vietnam.

They sat in batches in front of the USIS offices at Churchgate, the US Consulate at Beach Candy and the Martyrs Column at Flora Fountain.

The satyagrahis sat through the whole day in pouring rain shouting slogans against American bombings against Vietnam, against American imperialist interference in the affairs of Asian and African countries.

JOINT ACTION

The protest demonstration was organised by the Bombay City Youth Association and was joined by Bombay Students Union, Awami Idara, Nalgam Mitra Mandal, Yuvak Vikas, Naujawan Party, Samajwadi Yuvak Mandal and many other organisations.

At the end of the satyagraha a meeting was held. It was addressed by Prabhakar Valdia, Munsifi Mohidin, G. L. Reddy, Kumud Desai and Vinayak Karade.

A memorandum submitted to the US Consul General in Bombay demanded immediate stoppage of US bombings in Vietnam.

The people of Vietnam should be left alone and allowed to have their own

way of life and government, the memorandum demanded.

"The fighting in Vietnam is an internal matter and no nation or country has any right to interfere with the internal affairs of any other country," it declared.

In Calcutta more than 200 young people including many students squatted before the US Consulate from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 1 to protest against US aggression in Vietnam.

The young people later took out a procession and demonstrated before the USIS offices also.

The demonstration was organised by the Students Federation, Democratic Students Organisation and the Calcutta Yuvak Sangh.

In Hyderabad 40 young men and three girls undertook a twelve-hour fast in

front of the Cultural Centre being run by the United States Information Service.

In the evening hundreds of young men and women demonstrated in front of the US establishment demanding immediate withdrawal of US forces from Vietnam.

The demonstrators later went round the city in a procession shouting slogans condemning US atrocities in Vietnam and expressing solidarity with the people of Vietnam who are heroically fighting the imperialists.

A twelve-hour fast was undertaken by about 150 young people before the Ame-

rican Library at Guntur also.

In Srinagar, a meeting was held on July 1 to protest against the US aggression in Vietnam which was addressed, among others, by Rajinder Singh Sawhney.



Above, burning Johnson's effigy in New Delhi; below, a view of the satyagraha in Trivandrum



OIL BOSS LOBBIES FOR BRITISH FIRM PROPOSAL TO HAND OVER ASSAM OILFIELDS TO BOC

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Strong lobbying is on in the capital for granting more concessions to the Burmah Oil Company and give additional exploration rights in Assam to the British-owned oil concern.

AT present the exploration rights in Assam are held by the government-run Oil and Natural Gas Commission. Exploration work is done with the help of Soviet specialists.

Heading the lobby to grant more concessions to the BOC is Khandubhai Desai, chairman of the Oil India Limited. Currently he is on an informal visit to Britain on the invitation of the BOC.

The Oil India Limited is a joint venture in which the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company hold 50 per cent shares each. The British company has consistently favoured Khandubhai Desai as the chairman of the joint company.

British oil interests evinced

keen interest in Khandubhai Desai's visit to Britain. They were hoping that he would be able to wangle the exploration rights for them. Though there is a strong section of opinion in the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry which stands for strengthening the public sector in oil.

Prospects of producing oil on commercial scale from the oilfields in Assam are very bright, according to Indian and Soviet oil specialists engaged in exploratory and test production drilling in the eastern region.

These circles hope that in one or two years the oilfields in Sibsagar might be able to produce two million tonnes, which is considerably more than what the Ankaleshwar field is producing now.

At present, drilling is going on in three areas—Sibsagar, Teok and Lakwa. In the first, exploratory drilling has already been completed and test production has started. The oil will now be sent to the Digboi and Gauhati refineries for tests.

In the two other areas exploratory drilling is still going on, but the results of the wells already drilled give sufficient ground for confidence that the Lakwa oilfield will prove the largest among those being operated by the ONGC.

This does not of course include the new structure recently located in Gujarat where exploratory drilling has yet to start and which according to seismological studies might prove to be one of the largest in the world.

The drilling work has been considerably intensified in recent months and Indian and Soviet engineers working in cooperation has improved their techniques considerably.

When drilling was first started it took sixty to seventy days to drill a well, now this is being completed in 30 to 35 days. Seventy thousand metres have been drilled already, the main concentration of work having been in the last eighteen months.

Work started in 1959 but the situation arising out of the emergency in 1962 delayed operations and held up work for some time. Some eighteen months ago it was resumed in full swing.

The ONGC hopes to drill another one lakh metres in the next

year, that is, 1966-67. About 29 wells are expected to be drilled in the course of that period. This will include exploratory drilling in a number of other promising structures in the Brahmaputra Valley which have been located recently but where exploratory drilling has yet to start.

The Soviet experts who are collaborating with the ONGC are understood to have suggested sinking of four or five wells in a stretch of area from Port Canning to Netra via Nagertala.

During the last ten months ONGC worked in Port Canning, Netra and Nagertala to collect geophysical data. The data available so far have been found to be very good and on the basis of these geophysical works, the Soviet experts are believed to have suggested sinking of the well in Netra.

During the monsoons foundation construction, civil engineering works, construction of approach roads and bridges will continue and heavy equipments for drilling are most likely to be moved to the site in September.

S. E. Railways' Plan To Sack TU Militants

From AJAY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA: Reproduced below is a copy of a secret circular issued by the Divisional Engineer (I) of the South Eastern Railway to his four sectoral heads.

The circular dated June 14 advises the sectoral heads to "black list" seven leading workers at Kharagpur who "are tak-

ing prominent part in the demonstration."

The blacklisting is to prevent their re-engagement on the expiry of the existing sanction.

The cloak and dagger method of the railway authorities, reminds one of the British days when secret circulars and "special reports" used to be the order of the day.

The casual workers and daily-rated staff of the railways, particularly of the South Eastern Railway, have been fighting for

quite some time now against the gross violations of the Industrial Disputes Act and rules and orders of the Railway Ministry by the railway authorities at various levels.

A number of such struggles were won despite the threats and intimidations by the railway authorities. The circular is one more proof of the nefarious methods the higher echelons in the Railways resort to for penalising the workers who fight against injustice.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

SECRET

D.O. No. Con/DEN(I)/6
KGP the 14th June, 1965.

K. S. Guha,
Divl: Engineer (I)

My dear Pal/Gupta/Dawson/Mondal.

Casual labour unrest at Kharagpur

Appended is an extract from the CPO/GRC's secret D.O. No./SE/P/9/KGP, dated 11.8.65 for your information and necessary action.

"The investigation of C.S.O. further reveals that the following casual labours are taking prominent part in the demonstration.

1. Appalaswamy, mate under DEN Doubling KGP.
2. Rameswar Ojha, mate DSC store under DEN-Extn of loops Ks.
3. Sri Memta, casual khalasi of IOW-North East-KGP.
4. Gangamani, Female Khalasi of -do-
5. Subodh Kumar Roy, DSC store-DEN office.
6. Sripati, casual labour Ghatsila under PWI-GII.
7. Niuya, CPC Khalasi, IOW-N-East KGP.

It is suggested that these men be "Black-listed" with a view to preventing their re-engagement on the expiry of the existing sanction against which they are working."

Pls. take necessary action and let me know so that the Dy. CPC can be apprised of the same.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- K. S. Guha.

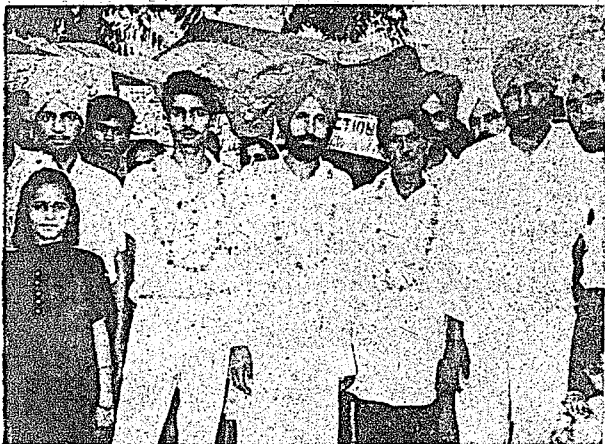
1. Sri M. A. Pal, DEN Doubling KGP.
2. Sri J. C. Gupta, DEN-Extension of Loops.
3. Sri G. A. Dawson, AEN (South) KGP.
4. Sri S. K. Mondal, AEN (North) KGP.

No.: CON 1.

Copy to PWI's GII and KAF, IOW's, L/KGP and GII CH No:1 d/ II KGP, CM/MW/KGP, DSC/D/KGP, DRI/II/KGP and S.O.S.R.-DVM.

for information and necessary action.

Asstt.
S.E. Rly.



HUNGERSTRIKE AT NANGAL WORKSHOP

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH: A 72-hour hungerstrike was undertaken before the main gate of the Nangal Workshop by three leaders of the Ekta Mazdoor Union, namely Kirpal Singh, Satpal Singh Bedi and Fakir Chand.

The hungerstrike began on June 24 and ended on June 27, followed by a rally addressed by Madan Lal Didi, Sarwan Singh and Prakash Singh.

The hungerstrike was organised to impress upon the government the urgent neces-

sity of granting the workers their minimum demands.

Negotiations carried on by the union for quite a long time to realise the demands have proved to be fruitless.

The demands of the workers include wheat advance of Rs. 200 to all workers, hill allowance, weekly off to the daily-rated workers and daily rates of three rupees, new grades for skilled workers, gratuity, earned leave and medical facilities.

Picture above shows the hungerstrikers being garlanded after they ended their three-day fast.