

Peasants' Armed Struggle Led by Communist Party of India (M-L) Develops Steadily

THE Indian peasants' armed struggle led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) is developing without let-up. The Indian bourgeois press deplored that this struggle "has spread unbelievably fast."

Defying hardships and difficulties, the masses of cadres of the Communist Party of India (M-L) have gone deep into the rural areas, the scene of the acutest struggle, to propagate to the peasant masses the great truth of "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun" and rouse them to take part in the revolutionary armed struggle on a wider scale. At the call of the Communist Party of India (M-L) many revolutionary intellectuals went to the countryside to join peasant guerrilla units.

Since the peasant guerrillas under the leadership of the Communist Party of India (M-L) staged armed uprising in Goalpara in November 1969, in Assam State, a strategic zone in northeastern India, the raging revolutionary flames spread rapidly to other areas. As disclosed by the Indian bourgeois press, the peasant guerrilla fighters are working to rouse the masses in Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar and Darrang of this state. In many areas, the peasants attended secret meetings and took part in group discussions, with Party members disseminating the revolutionary truth among them. Guerrilla warfare training classes have been set up in some villages. The Indian bourgeois press stated in alarm that peasant guerrilla units are frequently active in many areas of Assam State and the situation has become "quite serious."

In West Bengal State, members of the Communist Party of India (M-L) and other Indian revolutionaries have been extensively propagating among the masses the revolutionary truth of seizing political power by armed force. They roused the peasant masses on a wide scale in attacking the notorious and deeply hated despotic landlords with spears, bows and arrows as weapons. They also attacked police camps and patrols. According to Indian press reports in early June quoting the *Deshabrati*, an underground weekly of the C.P.I.(M-L), the peasant guerrillas of West Bengal State annihilated 80 class enemies inside the state up to the end of May this year. On April 17, a police contingent was sent to a place near Ranaghat to suppress the people. The peasant guerrillas attacked this unit and wounded 13 police officers and men. On June 18, 500 revolutionaries in Bandhaghat, near Calcutta, hurled home-made bombs and brickbats at the police, wounding five policemen and a police officer. On June 26, peasant guerrillas attacked a special train carrying military supplies of the Indian Defence

Ministry at Kharagpur, West Bengal, and captured a large quantity of explosives. At the important railway junction of Siliguri in the northern part of the state, a number of revolutionaries locked up the chief administrative officer and killed a police officer on July 4 in protest against the unjustified arrests of revolutionary students by the Siliguri authorities.

According to the July 1 issue of the *Hindustan Standard* which quoted a report of the *Deshabrati*, the Bengal-Bihar-Orissa Border Zonal Committee of the Communist Party of India (M-L) has formulated the guiding principle that guerrilla activities should be stepped up in the rural areas so as to overthrow the rule of the feudal landlords and set up the political power of the landless and poor peasants. Under this guiding principle, the peasant guerrillas employed flexible strategy and tactics and carried out extensive activities in the broad rural areas of the border zone of these three states.

In Andhra State, the peasant guerrillas under the leadership of the Communist Party of India (M-L), defying hardships and sacrifices, have persistently waged heroic and staunch struggles and dealt incessant blows at the enemy. This was done amidst repeated "encirclement and suppression" operations conducted by large numbers of police sent by the reactionary government. According to a UPI report, a peasant guerrilla unit of Srikakulam ambushed a police unit on June 12, killing four policemen and a reactionary village headman. A PTI report said that on June 13, in a village of Guntur District, Andhra State, the peasant guerrillas launched a surprise attack on the police and other officers supervising the so-called *panchayat* elections. More than ten police and other reactionary officers were injured.

The *Indian Express* revealed that in various areas of Srikakulam District where armed struggle is being waged, many women actively joined the guerrillas and took part in attacks on the reactionary police. Another Indian paper, *Free Press Journal* admitted that the influence of the peasant guerrillas is "slowly spreading to hitherto unaffected areas," and that revolutionary ideology "is taking root in a wider area in Andhra."

The Indian peasants' armed struggle is also quite active in Bihar, Kerala and Punjab and revolutionary armed insurrections of the peasants took place again and again, according to recent reports of the Indian bourgeois press. The *Hindustan Times* disclosed that in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Purnea, Monghyr and Santal Parganas Districts of Bihar State, the peasant guerrillas unfolded a series of

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revolutionary activities. In Purnea District 48 peasant insurrections took place in the past few months. On May 20, armed with spears, bows and arrows over 2,000 peasants of Bettiah District, Bihar State, raided a local plantation. They fought with the police sent to suppress them and wounded a police officer and 14 policemen.

In spite of the savage suppression by the Indian reactionaries, the Communist Party of India (M-L) continued to rouse the masses in a deep-going way and launch armed struggle in the rural areas. Indian newspapers reported that not long ago, Charu Mazumdar, leader of the Communist Party of India (M-L), in an

article in the *Deshabrati*, called on Party cadres to come forward with all their might to spread guerrilla warfare to all Indian villages. UPI reported in early June that the Communist Party of India (M-L) distributed leaflets calling on Party cadres in basic-level units to go deep among and rouse the peasant masses and keep moving among the masses as fish in water so as to launch armed struggle more effectively.

The great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out: **"The richest source of power to wage war lies in the masses of the people."** With the support of the masses of the people, the peasants' armed struggle led by the Communist Party of India (M-L) will certainly witness a still higher upsurge.

September 25, 1970