

India's Revolutionary Armed Struggle Surges Forward

FIRMLY taking the revolutionary road of seizing political power by armed force, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) has gone deep into the rural areas, done propaganda work among the masses, organized and armed them, and developed armed struggle with agrarian revolution as its main content, thus bringing on a new vigorous development in the revolution in India.

After the spark of the peasants' armed struggle was kindled by the Indian revolutionaries in 1967 in Naxalbari (West Bengal State), the flames spread in 1968 to Srikakulam District (Andhra Pradesh), Lakhimpur District (Uttar Pradesh) and Muzaffarpur District (Bihar State). This year the peasants' armed struggle has expanded further. The armed struggle in Andhra Pradesh which started in the remote mountainous area of Srikakulam District has developed and extended to 19 rural areas in 10 districts on the broad plains of that state and the jungle areas of neighbouring Orissa State. Peasant guerrillas are also active in Nainital and Unnao Districts (Uttar Pradesh), Ranchi District (Bihar State), Rupar District (Punjab State), and the southern coastal area of West Bengal.

In Srikakulam District, where the peasants' armed struggle is raging, the peasant masses under the leadership of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) have set up an area for armed struggle encompassing some 300 villages. Peasants set up people's courts in this area to try enemies of the people and have begun to organize the apparatus of rudimentary revolutionary political power.

Wherever the peasants' armed struggle has developed, the peasants who were oppressed and enslaved for generations have proudly stood up and swept away the arrogance of the landlord class and all other reactionaries.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) which was founded in April this year explicitly stated in its political resolution: "It is the responsibility of the working class as the leader of the revolution to unite with the peasantry — the main force of the revolution — and to advance towards seizure of power through armed struggle." The resolution also stressed that "to fulfil this task the revolutionary Communist Party must study Chairman Mao's thought."

Cherishing the great ideal of overthrowing reactionary rule in India and achieving complete freedom from oppression and exploitation for the people, members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and other Indian revolutionaries have gone to work in places where feudal oppression is serious and class contradictions are acute. They work in the revolutionary

spirit of "whether we live or die, it must be for the people." Regarding the propagation of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought among the peasants as their primary task, they have ardently disseminated the great truth that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun" among the poor peasants. Applying Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, they made typical investigations about the economic conditions and political attitudes of the various classes in the rural areas, formulated the class line in rural work and put forward the task of developing agrarian revolution and eliminating feudalism in the countryside.

After the revolutionary peasants were aroused and organized, the Indian revolutionaries first helped them to set up their armed organizations — guerrilla units and peasant self-defence forces — and then they launched attacks on the feudal forces in the rural areas. They frequently punished despotic landlords and corrupt officials who had committed many bloody crimes, seized guns, grain and land from the landlords, and ambushed reactionary police and landlord armed forces sent to carry out "encirclement and suppression" operations and round up the peasant armed forces and revolutionary peasants. In July this year, a guerrilla unit in an area in Srikakulam District repulsed a reactionary police force of 60 men, killing its two officers. The guerrillas and peasant self-defence force in another area attacked a 150-man reactionary police unit in June. In Sompeta area, Srikakulam District, hundreds of peasants together with the guerrillas confiscated the property of a despotic landlord and seized his firearms. In the Pathapatnam area in the same district, several guerrilla units along with well over 1,000 peasants attacked the homes of four landlords. Terrified by this powerful mass action, the reactionary police stationed less than one mile away were afraid to show themselves.

Since the guerrillas are closely united with the peasant masses, they are able to frustrate the "encirclement and suppression" operations conducted by the reactionary government and they are growing in strength steadily. In the Pallia area in Lakhimpur District (Uttar Pradesh), where there was a vigorous peasant armed struggle, the revolutionary peasants were active in providing the guerrillas with information about the police while preventing any information about the guerrillas from reaching the enemy. The reactionary government had sent armed police to make about 10 sudden raids in different villages in the area, but, under the people's protection, none of the revolutionaries was arrested. The police arrested some peasants, cruelly tortured them and tried to force them to give information about the

leaders of the armed struggle. But the peasants, valiant and indomitable, refused to utter a single word that would harm the revolutionaries. Further incensed by the police atrocities, the people joined the guerrilla forces more actively and took up arms to hit the enemy. The number of guerrillas doubled. Once, three leaders of the revolutionary armed struggle were arrested by the police in Bihar State. Over 200 local armed peasants carried out a successful ambush while the reactionary police were escorting these leaders through a dense forest. The peasants wounded 19 policemen and rescued their leaders from a police jeep. The flesh-and-blood relations between the guerrillas and the peasant masses have greatly dismayed the Indian reactionaries.

In summing up the experience of armed struggle, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) pointed out that armed struggle is not merely for land but for state power. It pointed out: The monopoly of land ownership and feudal exploitation by the landlords in the villages are being preserved by the state power which serves the landlords. To end the monopoly of land ownership and feudal exploitation by the landlords, it is necessary to establish a new political

power through armed struggle. In some areas where armed struggle has been developed, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) has led the revolutionary peasants in destroying the reactionary political power at the basic level, abolishing the reactionary laws and establishing rudimentary people's political power.

The great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out: **"The world is progressing, the future is bright and no one can change this general trend of history."** Today, the broad masses of the people in India are awakening and the peasant movement is rising. The vigorous development of the peasants' armed struggle led and supported by the Indian Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) foretells that hundreds of millions of Indian peasants will surely rise to overthrow the four big mountains — U.S. imperialism, social-imperialism, feudalism and comprador-bureaucrat capitalism — which bear down like a dead weight on them. Although the Indian people's revolution may meet various kinds of difficulties and have twists and turns in its course of advance, no force in the world can prevent the Indian people from marching forward triumphantly along the road of seizing political power by armed forces.