

## INCREASE OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP

PARTY MEMBERSHIP HAS increased by over 50 per cent since the last Congress (see table). That is good. But it is still a drop in the huge ocean of India's humanity. Vast areas in the Hindi belt still remain outside our organisation. Even in areas where we have our district organisations, there are big pockets without any membership. In many states, because of the prevalent economism, we have done little

to carry our politics to the workers in our trade unions and as a result, membership is very restricted in the working class and not at all commensurate with our general influence. There is a considerable scope for more enrolment in such cases and also in our old rural bases. But still there is resistance to enrol young candidates into the party.

This economism and this resistance must be overcome. We must organise party education on a vast scale, organise mass study circles in all localities and have continuous enrolment of militants into the party. There should be special drives to educate and enrol workers, agricultural labourers, students and women.

The annual renewal of party membership should neither be irregular nor just a formal affair as at present. It should be done properly and regularly and from year to year and should help in toning up the party at the base and cleanse it of undesirable elements.

This annual renewal must, in future, be over by 31 January. Branch and area conferences should follow, their time-schedule to be fixed by the respective state committees. Every effort should be made to ensure that these conferences really help to pool and evaluate experience, draw lessons, and nail down weaknesses and to unify and improve the organisation at these levels so that it becomes a more effective instrument of implementing the party's line. These conferences must be completed in February and March and should in no case go beyond the end of April.

A planned drive to expand party organisation into new sections and areas should be launched in all states keeping in view the local conditions and possibilities. After every mass campaign and mass struggle, there must be a campaign of party education and enrolment. This should be done with the proper class outlook so that the class composition of the party is constantly improved and party entrenched among workers, agricultural labourers and poor peasants. Special efforts to recruit members from women and students are also an urgent necessity.

Following table gives the party membership figures since the Seventh Party Congress:

State	7th Congress (based on 1962 membership)	1965	1966
1. Andhra	22,094	20,000	25,909
2. Assam	2,100	2,475	5,055
3. Bihar	13,235	11,780	25,162
4. Delhi	1,123	1,000	1,326
5. Goa	56	150	250
6. Gujarat	431	764	790
7. Himachal Pradesh	200	306	567
8. Haryana*			1,078
9. Jammu & Kashmir Valley	—	—	55
10. Karnatak	964	625	1,200
11. Kerala	11,473	12,193	21,217
12. Manipur	825	1,200	1,500
13. Maharashtra	7,398	8,151	11,175
14. Madhya Pradesh	2,300	2,862	3,000
15. Orissa	4,022	1,380	4,000
16. Punjab	7,124	6,661	9,000
17. Rajasthan	1,870	1,500	2,600
18. Tamilnad	15,015	13,922	18,500
19. Tripura	—	1,000	1,000
20. Uttar Pradesh	9,917	8,000	21,726
21. West Bengal	7,560	7,010	17,639
22. PHQ	55	56	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,762</b>	<b>101,034</b>	<b>172,902</b>

\*Part of Punjab till 1965.