

one of its strongest left and communist bases so miserably failed mainly due to the line and behaviour of those who are supposed to be 'true Marxist-Leninists'.

ANTI-CPI ELECTORAL AIMS OF CPM MEET WITH FIASCO

Whether the CPM leadership recognises it or not, the fact remains that its electoral objective vis-a-vis CPI has met with a fiasco in every respect: ideological, political and organisational. Judged even by the pre-election statements, it can be safely stated that if the CPM had done better, especially in Andhra and West Bengal, to say nothing of repeating the Kerala mid-term show, that would have only strengthened further the dogmatic and disruptionist trends, already dominant, within their party. After all, their Kerala success in 1965, notwithstanding the subsequent dissolution of the assembly, had not brought them sobriety but only made them so dizzy that wherever they felt they were strong, they dreamed of repeating Kerala. This was a line for them—the line of 'eliminating the revisionists' by which they meant the CPI. Their declared line of defeating the Congress and the CPI has been shown up, in effect, as a line of facilitating congress victories. There is every reason to be sorry because the left and democratic movement has suffered on account of the split and everything possible must be done to overcome the rift. But equally there is every reason for satisfaction that the elections have been a smashing blow to the 'repeat Kerala' line and to ideological and deeper political inspirations behind it. The interest of the communist movement in the situation prevailing needed this experience.

It is not accidental that after this ideological and political debacle, too difficult to cover up by phrases, there is some heart-searching among sections of the CPM leaders and ranks—some seeming and partial attempts to make self-criticism. It will be, however, an illusion to think that radical changes in that party would come without certain basic corrections. So long as they nurse the thesis that the split was in the interests of the cause of India's communist

movement, they can never fully recover from their malady and make the needed turn.

To sum up, the political battle of the fourth general election and its aftermath are a clear rejection of the outlook, understanding and line that seeks to justify and foster split and disunity in the ranks of the communist movement. It is the positions of unity that have been enormously strengthened and offered new potentialities in the struggle for unity of all communists and the communist movement. Election has thus strengthened the forces of unity.

OUR LINE AND STAND VINDICATED

The election provided a test for our party's basic line, as well as its approach to the pressing problems of the democratic movement. And it is over these that a bitter clash of ideas with the CPM developed. The latter denounced our line and tactics as 'revisionism' and even publicly rejected our bona fides as fighters against the congress misrule. Let us now examine our basic positions in the light of the experience of the greatest political battle of the recent time that the fourth general election was.

In the programmatic sphere, we hold that in order to complete the tasks of national democratic revolution all democratic classes, including sections of national bourgeoisie can and must be united in a common front—National Democratic Front. Our conception of national democracy, which is always distorted and misrepresented by the CPM leadership, provides the theoretical basis for building up such a front and for seeking socio-economic transformations. Our Programme stresses the non-capitalist path and rejects the present capitalist path.

We stress the unity of left and democratic forces. But we have laid—and still lay—great emphasis on the need for uniting the masses that follow the democratic opposition and that follow the Congress, basing ourselves on the growing popular disillusionment as well as differentiation among the national bourgeoisie.

Our Programme stresses the possibility of peaceful transi-