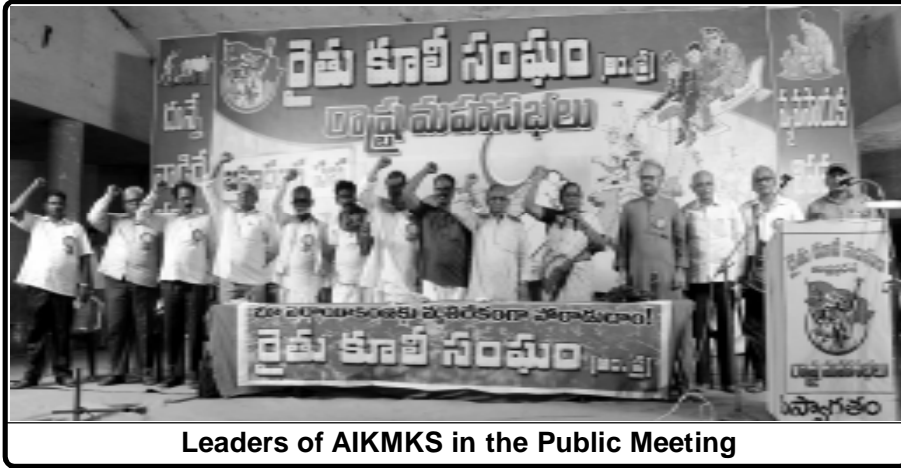


‘Let us Resist the tying of Agriculture to Chariat Wheel of Imperialism’

Call of Speakers in the State Conference of RCS (AP)



Leaders of AIKMKS in the Public Meeting

The State Conference of Ryatu Cooli Sangham (Andhra Pradesh) was held at Guntur on 10, 11 & 12th June 2016. The Flag of RCS was hoisted by Com. S.Jhansi, President of RCS as a mark of beginning of the state conference. Then a public rally through the streets of Guntur was conducted with thousands of adivasis and peasants displaying placards and mouthing slogans that echoed the present demands of the peasantry.

The rally was culminated at the venue of public meeting, Ballari Raghava open-air auditorium. Adivasi artists from Vizianagaram played a dance-drama “*Polikeka*” (Cry for Awakening) which received applause from the audience.

The President of the Reception Committee, **Dr. Kolla Rajamohan**, in his welcome address recalled the glorious struggles of peasants in Guntur district, which included the revolts by Chinapa Reddy and Kanneganti Hanumanthu against British Raj, Chirala-Perala peasants non-cooperation movement, Padayatra from Ichchapuram to Tada along the coast line of Andhra region of the then Madras presidency in 1937 and later the number of peasant struggles under the leadership of Communist Party. He wished that the activists of RCS would work by imbibing the spirit of these earlier struggles and strive to build a united peasant movement in AP against the present anti-peasant policies of the government.

Presiding the public meeting **Com. S. Jhansi** said that the present crisis witnessed by the agrarian sector is the result of the policies being pursued by the successive governments for the last three decades at the behest of imperialist powers aimed at alienating the peasantry from their lands.

Com. Aranvind Kumar Sinha, General Secretary of AIFTU (New) explained how the rulers are tying the Indian agriculture to the chariot wheels of imperialism. He said that the feudal forms of exploitation are continuing in the rural areas and the feudal mind set up is leading rising number of atrocities on dalits. On the other side, due to neoliberal policies millions of peasants are being bankrupted and more than 300 thousand of them were forced to commit suicides. He called upon the peasants and workers to join hands and fight against not only the anti-people policies of the government but also to change the present socio-economic system to new democratic society.

Speaking on the occasion, **Com. G.Vijaya Kumar**, leader of CPI (ML) severely criticized the large scale land acquisition for building the capital city of AP. He asserted that the policies Implemented by the successive governments have failed to provide gainful employment to the youth. The ‘Make in India’ slogan is only meant to give free hand to the big bourgeoisie and MNCs to loot the country’s resources. He called upon the workers and peasants to fight against the ruling classes and their oppressive rule.

Addressing the public meeting, **Com. P. Anjaiah**, state president of RPI, recalled the active role played by the RCS in the struggle for justice to the Laximpeta Dalits and emphasized the need for unity of left and dalit forces on issues concerning the poor people and sections.

The representatives of All India Khet Mazdur and Kisan Sabha (AIKMKS) to which the RCS(AP) is affiliated also spoke in the public meeting; Shamboo Mahato (Jark-hand), S.D. Bose (Bihar), Vindai Vedan (Tamil Nadu), Srikant Mahanto (Odisha), Krishnan Kutti (Kerala), and Baburao Kumbar-gave (Maharashtra). Ch.Malli-karjun Reddy (Karnataka Ryatu Sangha) and Modugula Papireddy leader of Socialist Peoples Front also spoke in the public meeting.

On the second day the state conference paid homage to the leaders and activists of RCS and democrats who departed since the last conference: B.D.Sharma, Manam Rama Rao, Vanacharla Subba Rao, Kaneti Mohan Rao, Chaya Raj, Kodru Rama Rao and many others who passed away due to ill health. It also paid homage to those peasants who committed suicides, to those who died in the attacks by upper caste landlords and to those who lost their lives in the natural calamities.

As a part of the state conference, a seminar on **“Tightening Grip of Imperialism on Agriculture and Tasks of Peasants”** was organized on 11th June. Delivering the inaugural address in the seminar, **com S.Jhansi** criticized the both the governments of AP and Telangana for their failure to fulfil their promises made during the election campaign in 2014. Now both the Chief Ministers are taking steps to forcefully evict the peasants from their lands and to neck out the adivasis from the forest. Every activity and need of the cultivation such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, marketing, and prices for agricultural produce came to be controlled by the MNCs. On the other side, absentee landlordism is growing in rural India and AP and Telangana were made experimental ground for contract/corporate farming. Thus the peasants are forced to migrate to find out livelihood. She called upon the activists to strive hard to build united struggles of the peasantry and adivasis against these policies.

The joint Secretary of RCS, **Com. J.Kishore Babu** presented the paper on **“Forceful Eviction of Peasants and Adivasis – Growing Migration”**. This session was presided over by com M.S. Nagaraju, who candidly described the travails and struggle of adivasis being evicted for the construction of Polavaram project. In his paper, Com.J.Kishore Babu demanded the scrapping all land acquisition laws after describing how thousands of peasants are being displaced in the name of Polavaram project, bauxite mining, industrial corridors and parks. These projects are being taken up in the name of development but they in practice are destructive of people’s lives and environment as the government wantonly failed to provide compensation for a decent alternative living and the promised enhanced employment chances remained a mirage. The attitude of the government can be seen in the comment made by the AP Chief Minister that “nothing can be gained from cultivation while the land can give you lakhs of rupees when given to industry”. The extent of land under cultivation of food grains is reducing in AP with every passing year, thus putting in danger the food security of the people. The ruling classes and their government is resorting to brutal repression and suppression of those peasants and adivasis who are resisting the eviction from their lands. Even the provisions in the law are being violated by the government to grab the land from the peasants such as making mockery of public hearings and environmental assessment. The seminar adopted a resolution demanding scrapping of land acquisition law and for providing for decent living to those evicted in the truly public interest projects.

The second session of the seminar was presided by Com. Y.Sony, Treasurer of RCS and the subject was **“Sickness and Closure of Agribased Industries–Loss of Employment to Peasants and Labour”**. Presenting her paper, Com. S.Jhansi said that many of the agri-based industries in AP such as Jute, sugar, Cotton yarn, and oil extraction mills are closing their shutters throwing thousands of workers on to the streets and peasants into helpless state. Nearly 25 thousand workers could be employed and thousands of peasants could find market for their produce if the government spend paltry Rs. 9 crore to re-open the closed jute mills in the north Andhra districts. But the government is not ready. On the contrary of promoting the small and medium industries based on agricultural produce, they are creating illusions about the industrial parks and corridors and SEZs which until now had not created 10 per cent of employment promised by them. While bagging several millions of rupees in the form of taxes from the agricultural sector, the government is not utilizing these funds to stabilize the prices for agricultural produce asserting that market forces alone could benefit the farmers by paying prices on par with world market. She vividly described the travails of both peasantry and the workers in AP and Telangana with particular reference to that of North Andhra districts. The seminar adopted a resolution demanding re-opening of closed mills and price stabilization for farmers.

The third session of the seminar was presided by **Com. D.Varma**, Joint secretary of RCS, **Com. P. Jaswantha Rao**, Editor of the Class Struggle, presented a paper on **“Revolutionary Land Reforms can only resolve the Agricultural Crisis”**.The paper briefly described the process of strengthening the landlord base by every act of the ruling classes during the last six decades in the name of developing the agricultural production, such as credit societies, panchayat Raj,and Green revolution. Com.TN for the first time described this process as the resolve of the Indian ruling classes at the behest of imperialism, to transform the feudal land relations to capitalist relation by an extremely slow rate that spans decades and that condemns peasantry into poverty and destitution. With the increasing penetration of imperialist finance capital into agriculture, this process of transformation further slowed down leading to debt trap of peasants and consequent suicides by peasants.

After the new economic policies this crisis has further intensified. The land concentration is getting more and more with peasantry losing their land as is in the Planning Commission’s statistics. Even today 60 per cent of rural population has less than 30 per cent land while the 10 per cent has 55 percent of the land. Simultaneously, the number of non-cultivating rural households and the extent of land they own and also the land and its extend owned by non-cultivating urban living households are increasing during the last three decades. This resulted in the rent farming by poor peasant and agricultural labour with exorbitant rates of rent. AS this non-cultivating land owning class has no interest in investing for improve the cultivation and the rent farmers had no resources to do so, productivity is stagnating, which is being used by the government to promote corporate/contract farming. This has its effect on the overall economy. The stagnation of manufacturing sector that should cater the needs of the people, and the basic industries like steel show clearly that the lack of purchasing power is impeding the growth of manufacturing sector. One of the major factor is the lack of ownership to those who toil on land. At the same time, the sectors of industry that caters luxurious life style of rich classes are flourishing with the finance capital from imperialist countries rushing into this sector. He argued that if the land reforms were implemented with the central theme of land to the tiller, the Indian economy could have progress with leaps and bounds. But the Indian ruling classes and their political representatives are only interested in serving imperialism, big bourgeoisie and landlord sections. Unless and until a thorough going land reforms that ensues ownership to those who toil an land, there will not be any perceptible development in the economic, social and political development of Indian people, he concluded.

The seminar adopted a resolution demanding the implementation of land ceiling laws, PES Act, and 1/70 Regulation in the adivasi areas.

On 12th June, the third day of the state conference discussed the organizational report, adopted resolutions on the immediate problems faced by the peasantry in AP and elected new executive body.

Part of the audience comprising adivasis and peasants

