

"India should come Out of Proposed RCEP!"

Demands the Convention of Peasants, Workers and Youth!



Leaders on the dias at convention

Participants in the convention;

Part of mass rally

Vijayawada, 16-7-2017:

All India Federation of Trade Unions (New), Ryti Cooli Sangham (AP) and Nava Yuva Samakhya jointly organised a convention in Vijayawada today with the theme - save country's agricultural and industrial sectors from the tentacles of imperialism and fight against the regressive culture being spread among the youth.

The convention was presided over by comrades C.Peddanna, Varma and Laxmi Reddy. It paid homages to Gauri Lankesh, Bojja Tarakam, to those who lost their lives in floods in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, to those children who lost their lives in Gorakhpur hospital and those peasants who committed suicides by observing one minute silence.

Com. P.Jaswantha Rao, *Editor, Class Struggle*, explained the implications of proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), free trade agreement with European Union and trade talks at WTO with US and how these are going to destroy the agricultural and industrial sectors in India. Such agreements distress the economy, destroys the livelihoods of peasants, small traders and small industries throwing the youth into unemployment. Many of the clauses under discussion in RCEP, he said, have already been implemented by the Indian government as in the case of tariffs on imports of wheat, sugar and palm oil. The extension of patent period, protection to investment clauses and MFN clause will lead to unbridled exploitation of Indian people. He called upon the audience to fight against the policies of the government and demand it to come out of RCEP talks.

Com. G.Vijaya Kumar, *National president of AIFTU (New)*, addressing the convention said that most of the rights earned by the working class through struggles are now being trampled. Most of the Indian workers are being subjected intensified exploitation and suppression in various forms to benefit only the imperialist capital. He called upon the workers not to fall prey to the empty slogans like Make in India, welfare of workers in unorganised sector etc and unitedly fight against the anti- worker, anti-people and pro-imperialist policies of the government.

Com. S.Jhansi, *President, RCS (AP)*, emphasised in her speech the effects of various policies on the lives of adivasis and peasants in various districts of AP. The fall of prices for agricultural produce, drought, rehabilitation of displaced people due to various projects and closure of jute mills are some of the problems on which RCS(AP) is organising the people into struggles. She called upon the people to unite as they faced the same problems though they are varied in form that are being created by the ruling class parties.

Com. J.Kishore Babu, *State Secretary of AIFTU(New)*, exhorted the workers to fight against the repressive measures being unleashed on them by the managements and the government.

Com. Sk. Basha, *Secretary, NYS*, explained the influence of imperialist culture on the youth being spread by the ruling classes to divert them from the path of struggle to change the existing system.

The convention adopted a resolution demanding the government to come out of the RCEP talks.

Before the beginning of the convention, a mass rally was taken out through the streets of city. Though the police denied permission to the rally, hundreds of peasants, workers and youth marched with Red Flags and slogans.

Resolution of Convention: Get out of the RCEP and Other FTA Talks!

"In the post-Second World War period, the US imperialism imposed Bretton Woods institutions, viz, World Bank(WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) to build a new world order in which it has a dominating position on the world economy. The WB and IMF became the financial arms of imperialism through which it controlled and later designed the economies of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. At that time GATT was only a trade agreement.

As the crisis of imperialism intensified, it tried to put the burden of crisis on the backs of the people of world. By the end of 1990s imposed World Trade Organisation (WTO) with bringing services and intellectual properties under the purview of WTO. Through the Structural Adjustment Programmes of WB and IMF it sought to redesign the economies of Third World to widen and deepen its exploitation. And together they called it as globalisation.

The unbridled exploitation did not give respite to the crisis of imperialism. It again faced a severe crisis in 2008 reminding the days of great depression of 1930s. To come out of this crisis, the imperialism sought to strengthen its control on the world economy. As a part of this, in contrast to globalisation, proposals of bilateral trade agreements have come to the fore and many of them were signed.

Simultaneously many multi-lateral trade agreements were proposed such as EU-Africa, TTIP, and TPP etc. These regional FTAs goes beyond the rules agreed upon in the WTO and perpetuates imperialist hold on the countries of third world. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is one such proposal which is under discussion since 2012 between 16 countries. Indian government also engaged with FTA talks with EU as well as with the US at the WTO. It has signed FTAs with many countries.

RCEP encompasses goods, services, investments, economic and technological co-operation, competition and intellectual properties. If adopted, RCEP devastates the livelihoods of tens of millions of peasants by grabbing land and seeds, introducing GM crops and dumping the agricultural commodities into India. Consequently millions of small traders and small industries will be forced out of their business. The extension of patent time and concessions for foreign investment without any restrictions leads to intensified exploitation of working class and also the natural and financial resources of our country.

The Convention of Peasants, Workers and Youth resolves that the Indian government should come out of the RCEP and other FTA talks immediately and to follow independent self sustaining policies to build Indian society free of exploitation and foreign domination.”

**16-9-2017
Vijayawada**

AIFTU (New)

RCS (AP)

NYS-AP

AP State Committee
