

Report from West Bengal

Condolence Meeting At Naxalbari

CPI (ML) leaders and members of the Party's Central Control Commission Com. Khudanlal Mallik (1941-2017) and Com. Kotaiah (1937-2017) died of cardiac arrest on November 29th and December 1st (2017) at North Bengal Medical College Hospital, Siliguri and Krishnalanka in Vijayawada respectively. In remembrance of their glorious political achievements, a condolence meeting was held on January 14, 2018 at the Naxalbari Community Hall in Naxalbari, Darjeeling district by the West Bengal State Committee of CPI (ML). It was attended by the representatives of different Communist Revolutionary groups and mainstream left parties.

At the beginning of the meeting presided over by Com. Aloke Mukherjee, senior leader and Party CCM, audiences and representatives from different political organisations observed two minutes' silence and paid floral tributes before the portraits of the departed leaders. They raised their clenched fists with the resolve to carry forward the rich legacy of Naxalbari and Telangana struggles and vowed to fulfil the dreams for which Com. Khudanlal and Com. Kotaiah had dedicated their lives. Following this enthu-siastic session, two revolutionary songs were sung by eminent people's artist Com. Mita Tewary.

In the second phase, representatives from different political organisations assumed their respective positions on the dais. On behalf of the Party's West Bengal State Committee, Com. Subodh Mitra, the Bengal PCS and Party CCM, welcomed them and shared fond memories of Com. Khudanlal and Com. kotaiah before the audience. He emphasised the need to learn from their lives and spoke about the importance of Communist unity. He also called upon the listeners to be on guard against the danger of imperialist-backed comprador plunder and Hindutva fascism.

Next to speak was Com. Shambhu Mahato, CCM and Jharkhand Party Secretary of CPI (ML). He greeted the audience with 'Hool Johar' and stated before them how the two departed leaders epitomised the ideals of communist revolutionary unity. In his brief speech he put forth the significance of organising revolutionary peasant struggles and also spoke about the danger of religious fascism lurking before us.

After Com. Mahato's speech, leading representatives from different ML groups and other left parties such as CPI (ML) Liberation, CPI (ML) New Democracy, CPI (ML) PCC, CPI (ML) Red Star and CPI paid their homage to Com. khudanlal and Com. Kotaiah. Leaders of different mass revolutionary organisations like All India Khet Mazdoor Kisan Sabha (AIKMKs), All India Federation of Trade Unions-New (AIFTU-N), Shamik-Krishak Sangrami Mancha (SKSM) etc. also paid rich tributes to them and spoke about the necessity of taking inspiration from their lives and accomplishments.

The programme lasted for about five hours.
