

THE GLORIOUS TELANGANA PEASANT ARMED STRUGGLE AND ITS VALUABLE EXPERIENCES

- Viswam

II

NEHRU GOVERNMENT - NEW DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION (September 1948 to October 1951)

'On the day of Transfer of Power on August 15th, 1947 the big bourgeoisie of India entered into a treacherous deal with imperialism and feudalism. This compromise had surrendered all the wealth of our country to imperialist sharks. This agreement gave ample scope for imperialist exploitation. It allowed the continuation of and strengthening of feudalism in India. This made possible to protect the exploitation of landlords in the rural areas and to continue the exploitation in new forms.'

'This is the most heinous agreement in which the British rulers transferred power to the big bourgeoisie and landlords, while Lord Mountbatten continued as Governor-General and Nehru appointed as the Prime Minister.

"In brief, the transfer of power on Aug 15th catapulted India not into a living epoch of progress, but into a dead epoch of stagnation with all the old laws, henchmen and old names."

"The Indian people, who had taken the anti-imperialist posture of the "national" leadership under the direct management of "Mahatma's" non-violence as genuine, were betrayed"

The civil officials i.e., bureaucracy as individuals and as a part of the government will have a strong hold as before and will oppose fundamental changes in the society. This is the greatest treachery of the bourgeoisie towards its friends like peasants, working class, and middle class as it accepted the old constitutional machinery without any change on 15th August 1947. (India Mortgaged - T. Nagireddy)

A Conspiracy Well Hatched

Lord Mountbatten and Nehru who deceived Indians easily on 15th Aug, 1947 thought that it was not possible to deceive the people of Telangana. So, they hatched a heinous conspiracy. It is a known fact that the British imperialists had transferred power by dividing the subcontinent into Pakistan, Indian Union and Princely states. Nizam wanted to remain as an independent state. As he was subservient to the British imperialists, he had to follow their instructions. By August 1947 itself the peasants' revolutionary movement reached a stage that would break the backbone of Nizam. The British imperialists knew well that he could not withstand the organised revolutionary movement under the leadership of Communist Party.

On the one hand, they maintained an independent status for Hyderabad under the rule of Nizam. At the same time Nizam requested Mountbatten to bargain on his behalf with Nehru government for independence. Nehru and Nizam came to an understanding and compromised according to the orders of the British imperialists. This is a private compromise. Accordingly, Nizam inducted Hindu landlord Pingali Venkata Rami Reddy into the ministry just before the transfer of power and also appointed him as a member of delegation that held talks with Congress through British agents.

This was not palatable to Khasim Razvi, the leader of Razakars. He, on his own, continued attacks on revolutionary peasant movement unleashing a reign of terror. He prohibited the hoisting of National Flag. He continued and increased destructive activities.

The leaders of Hyderabad State Congress could not swallow the declaration of independence by Nizam. They decided to intensify the anti-razakar movement. Hoisting national flag and Satyagraha were their forms of struggle. Afterwards, it decided to launch armed resistance to razakars. In fact, the British, Nizam and Congress are in collusion. Actually the standstill agreement of November 1947 was the result of this collusion. They held that this agreement will continue for a year.

They knew well that the princely state of Hyderabad could not survive as an independent state; it could not withstand the raging peasant revolutionary movement; and any delay on their part would result in the loss of power from the hands of big bourgeois and landlord classes. Moreover, they clearly understood that the progress of Telangana peasant movement into an agrarian revolution which destroys feudalism and, if it transforms into new democratic revolution, was indeed more dangerous to them.

By that time, the anti-Nizam armed struggle had intensified into anti-feudal armed struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party. The peasants confiscated the lands, cattle, granaries and fort houses of notorious landlords like Visunoori Ramachandra Reddy, Jannareddy Pratapa Reddy, Kathari Ramachandra Rao etc. People's government was established in villages and the people's panchayats were deciding the matters like land ceiling, distribution of lands, problems that arose during the land distribution, contradictions among the people, family disputes etc. Neither the government of Nizam nor the rule of landlords did exist there. Peoples' militia – guerrilla and voluntary squads were formed to protect people from the attacks of Nizam's armed gangs. So the British imperialists did not like to delay any more.

The bourgeois forces, which abandoned the task of bringing democratic revolution, had taken up the task of protecting feudalism. The British imperialists and representatives of comprador bourgeoisie, Nehru, Patel and Panth under whose leadership Congress was sailing knew well the experience of Paris Commune, victory of Russian proletariat revolution, democratic, socialist revolutions in East Europe and the impending victory of Chinese revolution that cremated the feudal and bourgeois systems.

So with the advice of British representative, Governor - General Mountbatten, the Congress government speeded up the measures to amalgamate the Hyderabad state. The British-Nizam-Congress trio had taken utmost care to save the interests of feudal landlords. They adopted the attitude of trampling the democratic and national aspirations and rights of people. They came into a heinous compromise. The Congress which used to claim that it fought for national freedom had nakedly trampled the sacrifices of democratic and national forces. It became impossible to it to hide its deception under the mask of khaddar and burqa. The sacrifices and struggles of communists and peasants of Telangana exposed the real nature of Nehru congress – It is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Moreover the fighting spirit and determination of heroic peasants of Telangana have become a bone in their throat.

As the Nizam was not able to suppress the revolutionary movement, the merger of Hyderabad into Indian Union is only an excuse. Nehru beating Nizam and Nizam yielding to Nehru is only a farce. It was a great illusion. The real aim was the suppression of peasant revolutionary movement, agrarian revolutionary movement and strangling to death of newly born democratic revolution by using union military.

September 1948 - the Entry of Nehru Army

By June–July 1948 itself, the Communist Party scented this scheme of suppressing the peasant revolutionary movement by using the military forces of Indian Union under the feint of removing Nizam from power. The Andhra Provincial Committee decided to continue the armed struggle against Nizam and feudalism, as well as the army of the Indian Union. It decided to resist the re–entry of landlords and deshmukhs with the support of Nehru army. It felt that non–continuation of the armed struggle tantamount to the betrayal of the struggling peasantry and Telangana revolutionary movement.

The state committee issued certain directions to the party committees and squads. They are: 1) As long as Nehru’s army was fighting against the Razakars and Nizam’s armed forces, we should not fight with the Indian army; 2) We on our own continue our attacks on Razakars and Nizam’s armed camps and destroy them; 3) grab the arms; supply more weapons to squads and intensify training to squads.

The party gave a direction that if we wait with patience for some time, the real nature of Nehru’s military would come out with its real colours; the combine of the army–razakar–landlord goondas would start attacking peasants and the illusion about the Indian military would be shattered, and the people will again rise up in struggle. Though some differed with this analysis, they participated in the struggle according to the decision of the party.

Police Action–A Hoax; Nizam’s Surrender – a Farce

The Union military launched police action on September 13th, 1948. Nizam’s armed forces did not resist the Union military except in one or two places. They merely surrendered when the Union military appeared on the scene. The Nizam’s armed forces fled their camps throwing their weapons into water wells on hearing the sounds of firing and appearance of reconnaissance planes in the sky. Within five days of ‘police action’ on 18th September the Nawab himself surrendered. In this well – orchestrated drama, the British, Nizam and Congress trio played their respective roles.

People Utilized the Situation to the Utmost

The people and squads utilised this situation very well. They conducted attacks on many camps of razakars and Nizam’s armed forces. The initiative of people and squads surged forward in the taluks of Suryapet, Janagama, Manukota, Bhongir and Warangal.

In Suryapet Taluk, The people and squads grabbed weapons – rifles, sten guns and hand grenades from the Nizam’s armed forces and destroyed their camps. Five thousand people got organized and razed to the ground the fort–house of notorious landlord Jannareddy Pratapa Reddy.

In Janagama Taluk,

Ten thousand people surrounded the fort–house of landlord Visunoori Ramachandra Reddy. The squads attacked razakar camp. The Union army came to protect the landlord and opened fire on the people. The son of the landlord, Jaganmohan Reddy, and Visunooru Sub–Inspector tried to flee and boarded a goods train in Jangaon to reach Hyderabad. Both of them committed innumerable atrocities. So the revolutionary masses did not permit them to leave Jangaon. They stopped the goods train and caught them and beat Jaganmohan Reddy to death. They spit on his corpse and the sub inspector was severely beaten. In the same taluk, three thousand people attacked Razakar camp at Laddanur and killed 23 razakars and confiscated their weapons and gunpowder.

In Manukota Taluk,

Three thousand people attacked the razakar camp at Nellakuduru. Razakars yielded to them. But the Union military came to the rescue of razakars and opened fire on the people. The revolutionary masses killed two razakars and grabbed weapons from them and retreated. In

Jammikuntla, people tried to dismantle another house of Jannareddy Pratapa Reddy but were able to damage the house partially only and distributed four thousand bags of food grains among themselves.

Thousands of people and guerrilla squads participated in these actions. Marripeda Deshmukh, Damodara Reddy's house was destroyed. Hundreds of bags of food grains from the fort-house in Purushottama Gudem were distributed and lit fire to the fort house. Likewise they confiscated the granary of Rayigudem landlord Raghava Reddy and Suryapet Deshmukh's 500 grain bags located at Kanrayi. They destroyed rice mill of landlord Raghavarao.

In Manukota town, ten thousand people seized the weapons from Deshmukhs and razakars. The Union army came and rescued the enemies of people.

On September 15, ten thousand people took ten thousand bags of food grains from the Dornakal and Papatapalli railway stations.

The revolutionary masses and squads attacked the enemies of the people in Mothkur of Ramannapeta Taluk, in Narketpalli of Nalgonda taluk, in Kurraram of Bhongiri taluk etc. Even though the directions of the party had not reached them, thousands of masses smashed the Thatikonda camp, and Jaffergadh camps of Warangal Taluk, and three camps in Huzurabad taluk and killed the enemies and took possession of their properties.

While the Union military was engaged in the protection of deshmukhs and razakars, the people had chased away the razakars and landlords, established village administrative committees and distributed lands even before the union military entered into their villages.

The union military saved Khasim Razvi and tyrannical landlords. At the same time, the razakars inflicted hardships upon those Muslim families which were taking part in the revolutionary movement. Revolutionary masses took measures to protect these families.

The Naked Nature of the Military of the Indian Union

It took no time for the people to realise that the Union military entered not to fight against the Nizam. As soon as the drama of surrender of Nizam and his armed forces was completed within a week, the Union military unleashed a reign of terror on the people and guerrilla squads. They stood in protection of landlords and resorted to brutal lathi charge and firing upon the people who were forcibly taking possession of the properties of landlords.

The landlords who fled their villages started returning within two weeks of the entry of union military. They moved along with the union military to identify and torture the cadres of Andhra Mahasabha, Communist Party, people who supported the struggle and the families of squad members. They committed many atrocities on them.

Some of the cadres nurtured illusions that a free and democratic government would be established with the removal of Nizam's rule and entry of Nehru's union military. So, there was laxity of discipline. They kept their weapons in secret places and returned to their families. The illusions about the Nehru government and Congress among sections of the party were the root cause of this laxity. There were numerous bad effects because of this laxity.

Indian Union, which took over administration from the Nizam, proved itself as the staunch pro-landlord force. It not only provided protection to landlords and razakars physically, but also took upon itself the 'sacred' task of reinstating the *properties* like paddy, cattle and land of landlords that were grabbed by the people. It tortured, arrested and killed those people who refused to comply with its orders to return the properties of landlords. It took steps to trample all the victories of people's movement and hell bent upon to suppress the democratic revolutionary movement and the Communist Party.

The aim of Nehru's Government was clear; it was not the merger of princely state into Indian Union; it was not the formation of truly federal system of voluntary union of various nationalities;

it was not the fulfillment of national and democratic aspirations of people; it was not the establishment of genuine democratic system. Clearly, the trampling of all these was its aim.

From the other angle also, their aim was crystal clear. It was the transfer of political power from their British masters and serving their interests; it was the protection of comprador bourgeoisie and acting according to its interests; it was the protection of feudal landlordism and its exploitation: it was protection of the lavishness of feudal classes by cajoling and appeasing princely state rulers and zamindars.

The commander of Union military General J. N. Chowdhary openly declared that his troops came to suppress the Communist Party and he would wipe out communists from Telangana within six weeks. After the police action, the surrender drama of razakars was completed in a week. In the second week, the Union military used its arms to save deshmukhs, landlords and rajakars. By December 1948, the real mission of the Union military was clearly exposed. Its pro-feudal antics reached their climax. It was proved that 'independent' Indian union army was an enemy to the people.

What was the Task before the Communist Party?

The party gave a programme to the people which called for the protection and extension of the victories achieved by the people through their heroic struggles. With this aim, the party gave a programme to fight back the union military.

1. While striving to protect the old areas of struggle and achievements, extend to newer areas; striking the enemy to shatter his confidence and making him defensive and unstable.
2. With the arrest of some cadres and the people and with the re-establishment of the old rule by destroying the victories of the people, it is not proper to conclude that the enemy was victorious. Do not come to a final conclusion about the victory of enemy and the defeat of the people. As long as we could not liquidate the capability of enemy to unleash attacks, the achievements would continuously change from one side to other. Hence, we had to relentlessly strive hard to defeat the enemy by repeatedly striking him hard and reinstate the people's achievements.

What is to be Done to Achieve this?

- If the enemy tries to cultivate our lands, we should thwart their attempts. If we fail, we had to take possession of the harvest and if it's not possible destroy the crop. The enemy should be chased out of the village.
 - The people should re-occupy the lands taken away by the enemy and cultivate them. Even for a short period of time, they should keep the land in their hands.
 - Whatever might be the hardships, we should continue the struggle for land. Even if it changed hands for hundred times, we should not abandon it. Until the enemy leaves that area this struggle should be continued.
3. All the tax-collecting officers should be chased away from the old and new areas of struggle.
 - Deshmukhs, landlords and village officers should be *chased out*.
 - Isolate the enemy's agents such as hereditary heads of tribes and castes from the people.
 - We must be strict and merciless towards those who carry our news and secrets to enemies and enemy armies.
 - Enemy should be forced to abandon their camps set up in our areas, if it doesn't happen, we should destroy these camps. We had to resist the enemy's attacks from outside and not allow them to step in Our areas.
 4. We must oppose all the attempts of Deshmukhs and landlords to occupy the lands of people. In the areas where it was possible, we had to occupy the lands of landlords and distribute them to peasants.

- Organise struggles to raise the wages and for holidays for agricultural labourers and farmhands.
 - People's panchayat had to regularise the money lending and the rate of interest should be decided by it. The forms of expressing protest and social boycott should be used against those who collect higher rates of interest. Thus, we had to decrease the burden of the people.
5. Build the mass organisations and the party.
- Agricultural labourers should be organised in a separate class organisation.
 - Andhra Mahasabha should be functioned as an organ of new democratic united front consisting of all the democratic revolutionary forces. They have to appoint the executive committees through election process. They have to function as village panchayat committee.
 - The volunteer squads should be built with the agricultural labourer and poor peasants and impart training to them.

Party Building

- Those who understood and agreed to the aims and programme of the party i.e., those who agree with the directions, programmes and activities that were being implemented in the guerrilla areas;
- Those that are ready to accept the democratic centralism and iron discipline of the party and had the sufficient political consciousness;
- Those who could sacrifice their everything including their life for the sake of the party;
- Those who observe high standards of morality i.e. those who would not bring infamy to the party should be allowed to join the party.
- The party should be built on a strong basis. The political knowledge of the members should be improved; methods of secret work should be developed. There is no place in the party for drunkards and debauchers. (If all other qualifications are satisfied and provided there would not be any erosion of prestige of party and its activities because of drinking and debauchee, this rule may be relaxed as an exception).
- Build small guerrilla squads. Conduct our campaign among the armed forces of the enemy. Secret and tech methods that are formulated should be strictly implemented.
- Patiently expose and explain to the people the real nature of the other political parties and try to bring them out of their influence.

This was the programme adopted by the Communist party. The programme was accepted by the party units, guerrilla squads and people. They were eager to implement it with revolutionary spirit. It raised their consciousness to the level of fighting against the Nehru's government and General J.N. Chowdhury's troops. The struggle turned from anti-Nizam and anti-feudal nature to that of anti-union military and anti-feudal nature. The revolutionary peasantry entered into a phase of protecting their victories. With the tactics of protecting and slowly moving forward, the armed resistance began.

ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST NEHRU GOVERNMENT

Nehru's Government Declared War on Revolutionary People's Movement

Nehru's government completed its police action on raskars in ten days and unleashed reign of terror upon the struggling masses that were waging struggle under the leadership of the Communist party. The people were able to see the naked nature of the Union military within two months of its entry. They experienced its pro-feudal and comprador nature. This experience shattered the illusion that Nehru was a friend of anti-Nizam, anti-feudal people's resistance movement and of national and democratic revolution. The government of Indian Union was proved to be an enemy of the people.

General J. N. Chowdhury, the military Governor appointed by the Union, acted as the trusted servant of feudal classes and the Congress. He opened military camps with hundreds of soldiers in the princely state. He gave all his support to Deshmukhs, Jagirdars, landlords and village officers to return to their villages. He opened offices of Congress volunteers by the side of military camps in order to reestablish their domination. He entrusted the task of anti-communist propaganda to Congress volunteers and used them to capture the communists and members of guerrilla squad.

The Propaganda of Congress Volunteers

The propaganda of congress volunteers continued as follows.

“Now, we had people’s power. Nizam was no more in power. Ask the squads to surrender with arms. Return the properties, cattle, grains and lands of landlords, Deshmukhs and Jagirdars that were taken by force. Then the Congress government will introduce land reforms and distribute the lands to the landless. We are all Hindus. The Communists are agents of Russia. In the Communist government everyone becomes a labourer. They will kill all the old people. They will not observe any social customs. So do not believe them. Immediately pay the land tax, levy of food grains and excise taxes. If you do not follow our instructions, we will punish you. Our armed forces are so strong that even the powerful Nizam had to surrender within ten days. So Communists are not at all a menace to us. We have powerful weapons that can strike a target located two miles away. We have aeroplanes that can drop bombs on villages. We have tanks that can destroy everything that came in its way. We came to protect and save you. If you do not listen to us, you are doomed”.

While Congress volunteers were engaged in such propaganda, the military governor asked the Communists to surrender within a week or face their total wiping out. Under these circumstances, the party intensified its programme of educating the people by explaining the implications of the propaganda of the Congress volunteers and of the military governor. They explained to the people that Congress committees mean committees of landlords and deshmukhs and the Congress had joined hands with these forces.

They asked the people to protect the lands and livestock which were acquired through hard struggle and sacrifices. It is impossible to have a compromise between a rat and a cat. Communists decided to resist instead of surrender. The programme given by the party is- protecting the victories achieved in the old areas and extending to new areas and achieving new victories there; not recognizing the government of Nehru; opposing tax collection; distribution of lands; increasing the wages of agricultural labourers; resisting the Nehru’s military and destabilising it; building a disciplined party organisation, exposing the political opponents- was being implemented in all the areas.

The Suppression Policy of the Enemy

As announced, General Chowdhury started measures to suppress the Communist Party and Andhra Mahasabha. Military started its onslaught directly on the guerrilla squads and people. The Congress volunteers started to act in the fashion of razakars and acted as special agents of military. The union military intensified its suppression through encirclement.

The Communist Party took measures to save the people and squads from this encirclement;

- The number of squad members should not be more than five;
- They should wear the ordinary dress and mingle among the people;
- They should not carry weapons openly;
- After sensing the military attack, immediately they should retrieve from the area and mingle among the people;

This was the direction given by the party to the village squads.

The guerrilla squads followed these directions. Yet, the people, who were the mainstay for the defence of squads, were not able to withstand the attacks of military in the beginning. The military carried out atrocious and fascist bloodbath on people to know the whereabouts of squads; to return the confiscated properties of landlords and deshmukhs; starting concentration camps for every four miles, where the people were herded together to be tortured and asking the people to accompany them in their combing operations. The people used to say while the Nizam ate goats; Union military eats oxen comparing the atrocities of nizam to the union military. In Manukota, Janagama, Suryapeta, Khammam and Yellandu the union military surpassed Nazis in torturing people. They invented novel methods of torture. The army of Nehru reminded the people of Hitler and Mussolini. The torture was made on young and old, male and female without any discrimination.

Beating with the bayonets of the rifle, beating with canes, bending the canes in the shape of anvil and sickle and beating with it so that its impression falls on the back of the body; taking to the heights through ropes and suddenly releasing them from that height; keeping the people in the gunny bags and playing with them like balls by throwing hither and thither; swaying the body as in the cradle and kicking with iron heels of the boots, pressing with a wooden plaque from the backside; placing huge rocks on the stomach, chest and thighs; pricking the nails with pins, creating scars with hot iron rods; giving electric shocks, making one to run in front of lorries or dragging the body by tying to the running lorry, making one to crawl after breaking his legs and hands, if not able to crawl killing them by beating with stones, asking one to crawl in the thorny bushes; making one stand in the scorching sunlight over the sand dunes; pouring boiling water on the body and burning those who are alive are the brutal methods adopted by the army towards the people.

Three lakhs of people belonging to more than two thousand villages of Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Hyderabad districts were tortured like this. 50 thousand people were arrested and imprisoned in the military camps and prisons.

Women were subjected to horrific sexual assaults without considering whether they are pregnant or babies. Raping women in front of their husbands and children, cutting nipples, parading them nakedly in the streets, killing them in front of their children were some of the assaults used by the military against women. The military forced women to wear pyjamas and by closing those at the other end threw Geckos into the pyjamas. Such atrocious acts were committed by the military of Nehru. Within a year more than thousand women were victimized with sexual violence. Thousands of women were subjected to such inhuman brutalities of congress razakars (volunteers) and as a result hundreds of them were dead.

The Union military within a few months after attacking the peasant revolutionary movement had killed communist revolutionaries in a large number. The Nehru military inflicted different types of torture on heroic guerrilla fighters who were with people. It caught, tortured and killed many communist fighters who were among the people and with the people in their hardships. This reign of terror continued for one year. The people, who were not able to withstand the first round of onslaught, were now seething with anger. To live or to die was the question. Gradually the people became steeled and tempered. *Jeenahai to marna seekho; kadam kadam par ladana seekho* (Let us not live to die; let us fight to live) became their motto. When the Union military asked them after brutal torture whether they would disown Andhra Mahasabha and Communist Party or not, the people answered with one voice that they would not disown it. The white terror could not liquidate their determination and the spirit of struggle.

The people were defending their achievements of struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party and Andhra Mahasabha. They chased away those landlords who came back

to the villages with the help of the union military and congress volunteers. The rule of union government could not be established in the villages. In spite of this severe suppression for one year the rule of the peoples' panchayats continued. The occupation and distribution of lands continued. The activities of the Communist Party and Andhra Mahasabha still continued. Tax collection was stopped. The power of forest officers was ignored. People made use of the forest freely. Even the Congress leaders in their own way accepted the peoples' capacity to fight back the repression.

Congress leaders Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Konda Venkata Ranga Reddy and Marri Chenna Reddy toured Warangal and Nalgonda districts and issued a statement which appeared in the daily newspaper 'Golkonda' on July 15, 1947:

"The village panchayats started earlier by the communists were working as in the past. Every dispute in the village was being solved by these panchayats. They were occupying lands by forceful eviction of those who had title deeds. Patel and Patwari could not dare to enter into villages because of the activities of the communists. Panchayats were collecting money to conduct meetings, processions and festivals".

"Those who returned to village (all of them were Deshmukhs-correspondent) after the police action were fleeing to towns because of communists. Police stations were not receiving weekly reports from these villages".

"Communist unrest and atrocities were growing with every passing day. Some of the higher officials and Congress cadres were alleging that the communists were not distributing lands properly. If the land distribution was conducted on proper lines, peace could be restored".

"What is the cause for our inability to re-open schools in the villages? At one place, one school was opened on the condition that Burra Katha (folklore form of musical rendering of stories of peoples' heroes, which was revived by the Communist party) would be taught as a part of syllabus. Why the people were cutting toddy (palm) trees? Why the people were cutting tress in the forest without the permission of the government? As far as we could observe, there was no tax collection. In some places, the officials were not even trying to collect the taxes. There were no indications until now that the land tax for second crop was collected".

This statement made it clear that the people had not abandoned the revolutionary practice even after the police action - fascist onslaught and were fully engaged in the revolutionary activities.

An interview with one of the police officers of Hyderabad State clearly showed how the revolutionary people's movement was continuing. Here we are reproducing some excerpts from that interview.

Question : *What are their activities?*

Answer : *They formed armed squads. They are not directly attacking the military. They are touring the villages. There are three or four wealthy people who own lands and buildings in the villages. The remaining people are poor. The armed squads are going to the villages and instigating the poor to kill the wealthy people and confiscate their properties.*

Question: *The communists are raping women, looting the properties and killing the visitors. Is it true?*

Answer : *No. Communists are not like that. You feel like that by the reports of the newspapers. Communists are not doing such things. All their atrocities are committed against Deshmukhs and Jagirdars only. They never touch the people.*

Question : *Why the government is not suppressing them?*

Answer : *The government is trying in all ways; yet it is becoming difficult. Police camps are set up for every group of ten to twenty villages and each camp is under the supervision of a circle*

Inspector. It is becoming impossible for them to suppress the communists. The people in villages are not co-operating with the government. Moreover, they are secretly helping the communists. The communists have weapons; so, the police are afraid of going near them. The police are so frightened that they request their friends in the camps to convey their departing words to their families if they do not return. When they have to go for a combing operation, no police have the confidence that he will return safely after the operation. There are many reasons for this situation. All the police belong to Malabar and Mysore regions. They are new to this area. Their families are hundreds of miles away. There is no increase in their salaries. The people are not supplying them milk and butter even for payment. Soon after the people came to know about the police attack, they destroyed milk and other food items. Because of this, police committed some atrocities. People are severely criticising the government. People particularly those who are residing near the police camps are facing many difficulties because of police attacks.

Question : *Why did not the government raise the salaries?*

Answer : *There is unrest among the policemen as the government did not raise their salaries. They submitted a memorandum to the military governor through proper channel. It did not yield any result. Moreover, military governor warned them that they are succumbing to the communist influence. Communist danger is there in four districts. Though there is no movement in other districts, the situation is not satisfactory. If the police opened fire, they have to submit the empty cartridges to the officials as evidence. If they fail, they will be severely punished. The government is suspicious that policemen are selling bullets to communists”.*

The statement of congress leaders and interview of higher police officer reveals that the people of telangana had not abandoned the banner of agrarian revolution and the 10 months of white terror by the Nehru’s military could not liquidate the fighting spirit of the people.

(The role of workers, students and middle class, expansion to various areas will be given in the next issue as part-III).