



# **COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)**

## **CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Press Release**

**16 June 2017**

**Hail the growing wave of peasant's agitations in the country!**  
**Extend full support to the country's peasants fighting for their just demands!**  
**Build a firm unity of all the people's movements with the ongoing peasant movement!**  
**Only armed agrarian revolution can fully resolve the burning problems of the peasants!**  
**The path of Naxalbari is the only path of liberation for the Indian peasantry!**  
**Boldly raise the slogan of *land to the tiller and all power to the people!***

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the glorious armed agrarian revolutionary uprising of the peasants of Naxalbari in Bengal's Darjeeling district which changed the country's history forever, the peasants are once again rising up to seek a solution to their acute problems. Starting in Maharashtra on 1 June, the agitation of the peasants has spread to parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, during which six agitating peasants were shot dead by the police in indiscriminate firing. Other repressive measures such as imposition of curfew and prohibitory orders, mass arrests, use of tear-gas and beating up, foisting of false cases, closing down internet services, etc., are being widely used by the central and state governments to scatter the gathering storm of this latest wave of peasant movement. Before this, agitations by the peasants of Tamil Nadu, Punjab and other states had fallen in deaf ears. Attempts by these governments to silence the voice of the peasants through brute force accompanied by announcing some deceptive measures will prove to be futile in addressing the burning problems of the country's peasant masses. The Central Committee of our Party condemns in strongest terms the killing of six peasants by the MP Police in Mandsaur district on 6 June and other forms of fascist repression on the peasant agitators and demands the punishment of the guilty police and civil officials and the vigilante gangs of the Sangh Parivar. Our Party extends its wholehearted support to the just struggle of the peasants in various parts of the country and demands that the governments fulfil all their demands without delay. We call upon all classes and sections of the people to strengthen this movement either by directly participating in it or by standing in solidarity with it.

It is no secret that apart from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the peasants of states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, etc. too are in dire straits. The landless and poor peasants who constitute the vast majority of the peasantry are suffering from landlessness and bear the most severe burden of semi-feudal exploitation and oppression on their backs. Coupled with this, the tightening noose of the pro-imperialist policies of successive central and state governments irrespective of the party in power has made their condition even more precarious. Not only the poor peasants, but even the middle and rich peasants are finding it difficult to compete, sustain and survive in a market-oriented economy that is controlled by big multinational corporations and their domestic collaborators closely connected to the imperialist world market. A vast majority of them are forced to reduce their consumption to the barest minimum and to struggle against utter ruin.

But the exploitation and oppression of the Indian peasant masses to serve the needs of imperialism and its domestic props is nothing new. Ever since the country became subjugated by colonialism, the peasants have gone through the harrowing experience of destruction of their economy, pauperisation, hunger, famine and death. They bore the burden of colonialism and their local props – the big landlords and comprador big capitalists – on their backs for over two centuries. To throw off these chains of subjugation, they also rose in a series of peasant rebellions with arms and traditional weapons. They were the main force in the war of independence in 1857. But every time, they were crushed with extreme brutality. They fought militantly during

the anti-colonial movement with the aspiration of a better life, but the Congress leadership betrayed them. They fought in the Telangana armed struggle, in Punnapra-Vayalar and during the Tebhaga movement, but they were again betrayed, this time by the leadership of the reformist CPI. The so-called 'independence' and the subsequent so-called land reforms or agricultural policies of the ruling classes failed to address the needs of the vast peasant masses. All the parliamentary parties that have come to power at the centre or the states from Nehru-led Congress onwards down to the present Modi government have made tall promises to the peasants but betrayed them after capturing government power. The reformist social movements led by the likes of Vinoba Bhave, Jaiprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, etc. too proved to be utter failures in showing the way out for the peasantry.

So, the condition of the peasantry that gave rise to Naxalbari fifty years back has basically remained unchanged, and indeed, has become far worse due to increased imperialist stranglehold over the Indian economy, politics and society. Particularly since the early 1990s, when the Indian rulers began opening up all sectors of the economy for unbridled imperialist exploitation by capitulating to the diktats of the World Bank, IMF and WTO, the crisis besetting the large majority of the Indian peasantry have multiplied. The adverse affects of the Green Revolution which was introduced to counter the red revolution have also begun to make themselves felt more strongly by this time even in the regions of relatively more advanced agriculture. Landlessness on one hand and the crisis of poor, middle and rich peasant economies on the other resulting from the pro-imperialist policies of the government has contributed to the spate of farmer's suicides that began in the cash-crop regions of AP and Maharashtra in the 1990s. This has not only continued but has spread to all corners of the country in the last two decades, demonstrating the seriousness of the agrarian crisis.

The problem of monopoly control over agricultural land by big feudal landowners, big corporations and the state and the stranglehold of usurers and moneylenders has been accentuated by the growing monopoly control of the rural market by foreign and domestic big corporations selling seeds, fertilisers and other inputs as well as buying the agricultural output. Sporadic agitations and movements by the peasants have continued in different parts of the country against this, particularly in those regions where agricultural production has become more closely integrated to the market. In addition, struggles against displacement, which is essentially related to the land question, have intensified in the last two decades as peasants fought against attempts by the government and private companies at forcible acquisition of agricultural and forest land. Peasants from Narmada Valley in Gujarat to Kalinganagar and Niyamgiri of Odisha, from Singur, Nandigram and Lalgarh of Bengal to Surjagarh of Maharashtra, all over the country the peasants have been fighting militantly against the government with the slogan '*We will give life but not land*' to defend their *jal-jangal-zameen-izzat-adhikar* and forced it to withdraw many anti-peasant industrial and infrastructural projects. Like in Jharkhand, they have been fighting to defend the provisions of CNTA and SPTA or implementation of Constitutional provisions like PESA, the Fifth and Sixth Schedules in Maharashtra and some other states. In AP-Telangana, the peasants are fighting against destructive projects like Polavaram dam while in the Western Ghats of Kerala they are opposing displacement in the name of 'Biosphere Reserves', etc. In Chhattisgarh and other states, they are fighting for higher MSP and remunerative price for forest produce. In this way, conditions have been maturing for a countrywide peasant movement.

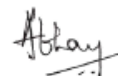
The present wave of struggles started with the peasants of Maharashtra going on an indefinite strike starting from 1 June demanding the writing-off of their bank loans similar to the decision of the UP government. They are also raising their long-pending demands like remunerative prices for their produce, interest-free loans, free or subsidised inputs like water, electricity, fertilisers, etc., implementation of the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission (which Modi promised before the last parliamentary elections but his government made a volte-face in a recent affidavit in the Supreme Court claiming that it cannot be implemented), and so on. Since the beginning of the movement, the peasants of Maharashtra refused to sell their products, closed down procurement centres and agricultural markets, blocked roads, threw their produce like milk and vegetables in protest, and carried out militant demonstrations. It is the first

strike called by peasants in a long period in the state and even the country. Though a section of the leadership agreed to withdraw the strike after discussions with BJP-led Maharashtra government, another section has continued the agitation. The movement rapidly spread to the Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra with similar demands. The assurances given by the Modi government or the state governments, the political dramas enacted by the likes of MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan by sitting on indefinite fast and shedding crocodile's tears for the peasants have failed to fully satisfy the agitators. It is unlikely that the ongoing movement, which is the largest and the most widespread since the introduction of the policies of Liberalisation-Privatisation-Globalisation in the country a quarter century back, will die down completely until the fundamental causes behind the peasant's unrest are resolved.

It is true that unlike Naxalbari, the ongoing peasant movement lacks a proletarian leadership, a unified organisation, a revolutionary programme or the appropriate strategy and tactics to accomplish such a programme. Thus, the movement inevitably remains sporadic and fragmented, confined to partial or economic demands and limited to forms of struggle laid out by its present leadership. Nevertheless, the seriousness of the agrarian crisis affecting over two-thirds of the country's people who subsist on agriculture makes the ongoing peasant movement an event of immense political significance. No one who is concerned about the country's future and desires the country's liberation from the yoke of imperialism, feudalism and comprador bureaucratic capitalism can ignore this stirring of the vast peasant masses in the countryside. They are fighting to be heard, and the rulers are mistaken if they think that their voices can be suppressed through bullets or a few dole-outs.

History has shown over and over again that in an agrarian country, the peasantry is capable of challenging and overturning any ruling power detrimental to its interests if it has the correct leadership and the correct strategy. Their life experience and failure of the peaceful agitations are showing the peasants that there can be no permanent solution to their problems within the existing system. It is only by following the path of armed agrarian revolutionary struggle opened up by Naxalbari to complete the national and democratic revolution that the country's peasantry can overthrow the three mountains of imperialism, feudalism and comprador bureaucratic capitalism and resolve their basic problems. While fighting for their immediate economic demands, therefore, efforts should be made to co-ordinate and integrate the peasant movement with the ongoing Protracted People's War based on worker-peasant alliance and the unity of the four oppressed classes (workers, peasants, urban middle and petty bourgeoisie) within it.

Similarly, the unity of the peasant movement with the ongoing movements of all oppressed classes and social sections – be it the workers, the middle classes, small and medium-scale entrepreneurs and traders, the self-employed and the unemployed, Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, oppressed nationalities, women, students and teachers, intellectuals, artists, advocates, journalists and all other working people, is the need of the hour. This unity is necessary to wage a successful struggle against the country's rulers and their most pernicious political representative, the Brahmanical Hindutva-fascist BJP governments. The CC of our Party once again extends full support to the agitating peasants and demands that the central and state governments fulfil all their demands, waive all agricultural loans and implement the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission without further delay. We call upon all the revolutionary and democratic forces of the country to come out in strong support of the peasant movement and build up a mighty storm of countrywide united struggle of all oppressed people against the Modi-led NDA government.



**(Abhay)**  
**Spokesperson**  
**Central Committee**  
**CPI(Maoist)**