

PREFACE

The peasant question particularly its Asiatic syndrome is one of the most embarrassing issues to the Marxists since the days of Marx himself. Therefore the problem in the agrarian system of Asiatic countries has received a special treatment in Marxist literature. This issue was singled out and theorized altogether differently. Lenin's famous 'National and Colonial Question' and Mao's emphasis on 'Peasant Revolution' have opened up a plethora of new aspects for the succeeding generation of communist activists of the Asiatic countries to pay their deep attention to.

These broad guidelines being too general, it is imperative to the communist-activists of these countries to frame their own strategy and tactics upon the careful analysis of the concrete national factors which are typically & peculiarly their own. These factors are different on many counts from one country to another. This unevenness of social situations which are typical properties is bound to be dealt with in social science.

Therefore, it is seen in all countries, without exception, that communists differ in appreciation of the objective situation of their given countries, though they commonly held the Marxist principles of social change as their guide line to determine the ultimate course of revolution.

It is evident that communists in India are divided; and they are working under different shades. Their main difference revolves round thinking on agrarian question and the early completion of the unfinished democratic revolution. They equally admit the handicapped position of our agrarian economy under the existing ruling class but they differ on the type and amount of domination.

Indian communists observe, agrarian economy provides the main livelihood to the largest segment of our people, but that economy is handicapped owing to pressure from the exploitation of semi-feudal, landlord and capitalist market (which has a definite link with multinationals and the world imperialist economy). To the Marxist, the agrarian economy serves the basis of the rural economy which affects the life of the majority of the exploited peasants and agricultural labourers. The rural administrative bodies serving the interests of the landed class can be seen as a superstructure which also preserves or helps to continue the prevailing casteism, bias against sex, religious bigotry, illiteracy, and similar other feudal prejudices. The power over land in India's vast countryside determines the power over rural administrative bodies. Here the Marxists' intention is to bring to an end the existing situation dominated by the semi-feudal, landlord & bourgeois classes and to get this change through the initiatives and efforts of peasants and

agricultural labourers. In doing so, the Indian communists are not of the same opinion as they perceive the problem with some difference.

In brief, this present study is designed to explore areas of difference on two important programmatic issues - agrarian reforms and rural democracy. It is also intended to look closely into the actual practices of the two communist parties, namely, the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) both of which feel it urgent to achieve these targets in the present stage of democratic revolution. These two communist parties understand, as their respective programmes reveal, that the democratic revolution has not been completed in India even to this day under the leadership of the present ruling class. Though they differ on the nomenclature of the revolution, nature & alliance of the classforces of the appropriate revolution which is due to be achieved at the present historical stage of Indian society. The CPI calls it 'National Democratic Revolution' (NDR) and the CPI(M) calls it 'peoples' Democratic Revolution' (PDR). Difference of approach was revealed with the adoption of the separate programmes by the two communist parties emerging after the great split of the communist movement in India in 1964.

I have tried my level best to explore the areas of difference on these two important issues from their respect

party programmes and their actual practices from the field examination without any bias. Now the thesis will tell in its own.

I remember with gratitude the encouragement I used to receive from my deceased mother who I can't but remember on this date.

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