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Free food distribution is an order



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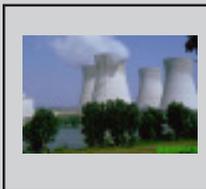
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Autonomy will strangle India

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has offered further autonomy to the protestors in Kashmir. He, in the process has ignored every basic fact about the sensitive state. We must remember that Kashmir valley is not the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. Valley is just about 10% area inhabited by approximately 20% population of the state. Even within this 20% population everyone does not share the anti India sentiment. The protestors are well organized minority who are imposing their biased opinion on the majority of the state. Also these protestors have never demanded autonomy. They are clear and vocal in asking for secession from India.

Under these circumstances why and for whom this offer of granting further autonomy to the state was made is beyond understanding. Only rational is the Congress-National Conference relationship. It is this relationship that is primarily responsible for the troubles in the state. Whenever these too selfish parties came together the common citizen was not only harassed but pushed to fence. It is time to to dump them.

– J.L Bhan, Noida

FDI in retail Trade

Congress led UPA government seems to have decided o sell India to Americans and Europeans. Every action of this government is helping MNC's from theses countries against the interests of the common citizen of India.

FDI in retail trade is the latest example. Millions of Indians are dependent on retail trade as a means of their survival. Imagine the number of people in any city on any road the people engaged in retail trade are not only shopkeepers but redi walla's ;pheriwalla's, vegetable vendors watch repairing and similar other activity including the small time shopkeepers in the colony where a poor family keeps goods worth few thousand rupees only to earn a semblance of earning. These people are living a life of penury. Instead of helping these poorest sections of urban population government has decided to further suffocate them. Pushed to wall these people will have no option but to rebel and that will be very difficult day for all of us. To avoid such a situation FDI in retail trade must be banned for ever.

– Raj Kumar, Azadpur, New Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



The greed for Muslim votes will take the country to dogs.

Ashok Singhal

VHP Leader



Abolish the Indian Administrative Service and replace it with the 'Indian Management Service'.

N.R. Narayana Murthy

Co-founder, Infosys Technologies, on corruption in the government sector



Polluters of environment must pay and they will pay.

Jairam Ramesh

Union Minister of state for environment and forests



The CBI is being misused to protect some from the clutches of law, to trap others and to keep the Damocles sword hanging on yet others.

Sushma Swaraj

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

Reprehensible management

As if delay in construction, corruption in every sphere related to the preparation and usual politics was not enough athletes testing positive for banned stimulants have added another miserable feature to the (mis) management of Common Wealth Games going to be held in next few days in the national capital New Delhi. Common Wealth Games, we all remember, were projected as a shot to the confidence and image of emerging India. Countries were bribed to earn the bid way back in 2003 and it was almost a full decade that was available to the managers for preparation for the mega event. A slow & steady hype was created to raise the expectations of the country in general and that of Delhites in particular. It was said that Delhi, while preparing for these prestigious games will be a different city after the event. People of Delhi as result of this constant sermonizing accepted unfair and unwarranted budget hikes, dreaming of living in a world class city with a more than due contribution from their already strained scanty resources. Commuters in the city, similarly, accepted every hindrance including longer travel times, unending Traffic Jams, occasional change in routes etc. hopeful to see a better tomorrow. But alas! That was too much an expectation. What has happened instead can be termed shameful using mild language. Not only has every dream, every hope & every expectation been shattered, the image of the country that was thought to get a boost has been dented beyond repair.

Envisage the implied message. Common Wealth games attracts athletes from 72 nations participating in 17 disciplines for competition and if we add up other guests related to the games like officials accompanying these athletes, media people, visitors, security personal and other related populace from across the world, it will not be more than few lakhs of individuals who will be in the national capital for a fortnight roughly. With the mess that we have created it can safely be construed that India is not able to manage a simple sporting event for which it got near about a decade to prepare itself. How can people at helm of affairs be trusted to manage world at large that too in case of emergencies? It is a blot that will take a lot of time involving tremendous effort to clear the same. Effectively, this also means that our crooked leadership has used Indian exchequer's money to fund the "Scratch India Image" campaign. It is apt to say that "with friends like these who needs enemies"? O lord! Save India that is being encircled by forces inimical to it from all sides. The financing of the Commonwealth Games is another aspect that has been subject of even parliamentary questioning since 2004. Parliamentary records show that at the time of government approval for the Games in early 2003, the Games budget estimate had been only Rs 617.5 crore. By March 2003, when Delhi submitted its official bid, the cost estimates had tripled to Rs 1895.3 crore. By 2005, the estimated costs had shot up by more than six times from the original figure. By 2008, the minister of sports was estimating a figure of over Rs 7,000 crore and in 2009, the comptroller and auditor general provided a calculation of about Rs 13,000 crore. This was more than twenty times the original cost estimate and even this figure did not include spending by many agencies. With the cost of major projects going up from Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 2,460 crore, CPWD admitting in response to an RTI query the fact that the cost of construction and renovation of five stadiums to be used during CWG 2010 has increased by almost 250 percent of the original and other aspects showing a similar trend. We have to expect further flip on account of usual official excuses like, "" revised cost indices and escalation, change in scope of work as per the requirement of venue, various additions and deletions to make venue suitable for various standards and addition of service tax, quality assurance and contingencies".

Other aspects like the reluctant participation by top notch athletes, irregularities in projects including procurement and awarding contracts for constructing the game venues, enormous and systematic violations of several laws of the land at construction sites and amid these allegations of blatant corruption, shoddy construction work at venues and security concerns for participating athletes, numerous boycott calls from individuals in India and outside are adding to the troubles forcing people to think that games may be cancelled or delayed. This entire issue calls for a serious introspection at all levels of decision making accompanied by corresponding corrective measures. It is expected that excuses like unusual rain will not be used to cover the shameful mismanagement. □

Free food distribution is an order; Mr. Minister

Rotting food grains; poor food storage conditions and rain water flowing from the sacks of wheat in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and the sacks of wheat lying out side FCI godowns has become a common scene now. Government is ready to let it rot, but reluctant to feed hungry, finds Ajay Bharti

“Tell your minister that free food distribution is our order, not a suggestion by us”, the apex court curtly told the government advocate. This came in response to Agricultural Minister Sharad Pawar’s indifferent response to an earlier directive by a two-member bench of Justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Verma on August 13: “The food grains are rotting. You can look after your own people. As a part of short-term measure, distribute it to the hungry for free”.

Sharad Pawar had told the countrymen then, “It’s not possible to implement the Supreme Court’s order. He had in fact dismissed the court’s observation as a mere “suggestion”. He termed news reports of thousands of tones of food grains rotting in Food Corporation of India’s godowns all across the country as “exaggerated”. The apex court-appointed food commissioners pointed out in their affidavit to the apex court how 50,000 tonne of food grains have already gone bad and how 1.35 lakh tonne of food grains are lying in the open in Punjab alone, since 2008-9.

The issue and the Supreme Court order led to uproar in the Lok Sabha even on the last day of the session prompting two ad-

journalments. Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj raised the issue in the midst of a discussion on the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2010, prompting a spontaneous debate on the matter.

Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar in spite of being under attack, both from the Parliament

months now. But the situation has not improved a bit.

The apex court had expressed dismay at these media reports which carried photographs of wheat and rice rotting in the open in Punjab, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and other parts of the country. But Pawar didn’t care. Neither did the Prime Minister nor the Congress leadership took note of it

Latest media reports suggest that in Allahabad, more than one lakh wheat sacks are left in the open despite enough space in the godown. The godown is spread in nine acres of land. Similar situation is prevailing in Patna and Katihar godowns. Food grains are left in open without any care. In

and from the Supreme Court said he would comment only after reading the apex court order. The SC has sought answers on why the Government has not implemented its order of distributing food grain to the poor rather than letting it rot.

Rotting food grains; poor food storage conditions and rain water flowing from the sacks of wheat in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and the sacks of wheat lying out side FCI godowns where liquor is being stored have been in news for many

Haryana itself three lakh sacks of wheat got wasted in a warehouse due to floods. Precautions were not taken and the foodgrains continued to lie in open and low-lying area inspite of warning by met department. Similarly, 4.5 lakh sacks of wheat estimated to be worth over Rs 25 crore were damaged due to rains at the FCI godown at Hapur in Ghaziabad. But when the media-persons contacted the FCI officials, they quickly denied the impact of rain. The stock was meant to be picked up by the Ut-



tar Pradesh government but it failed to do so in time.

Foodgrain storage is a major issue in India as a large part of it gets wasted due to poor storage conditions. Every year it is the same story.

There are around 492 warehouses in the country. Two third of the foodgrain is kept in government's own constructions. One sixth is kept in open and the remaining is kept in hired facilities. According to an estimate by International Food Policy Research Institute, fifty per cent of the world's hungry live in India. India ranks 65th in the world in battling hunger. Over 20 crore people are hungry. During 1997 and 2007, 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrain was damaged. With this 10 lakh tonnes of food one crore people can be fed for a year. At a time when food prices are sky-rocketing and thousands of families living below poverty line are struggling to get their meals, such wastage of food grains is not only regrettable but criminal.

There is no shortage of foodgrains in the godowns but the government has failed to provide it to the people living below poverty line through the Public Distribution System. The Central government has not released these foodgrains in the open market so as to bring down the prices. It is indirectly helping the private players, hoarders and black-marketeers who are reaping profits from the shortage of food grain in the open market. Moreover, why the government is reluctant to release the food grain in the market when it has procured more than the available space!

The PDS was established to maintain stability in the prices of essential commodities across re-

gions, to ensure food entitlements to all sections at reasonable and affordable prices and to keep a check on private trade, hoarding and black-marketing. The crumbling system of PDS has led to massive food insecurity across the country.

The issue of unlifted and rotting paddy stocks in Punjab adds to the systemic failure across the country to ensure safe storage of food grains. Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, while speaking in Parliament, said she had been making efforts since December 2009 to convince the Centre for timely procurement and lifting of the new variety of paddy.

Harsimrat disclosed that FCI was not lifting paddy worth over Rs4,000 crore, — enough to feed 50 lakh people for a year — simply due to conflicting reports given by the respective research wings of the ministries of health and agriculture. While the latter found it fit for human consumption, the health ministry's test reports did not agree. After having faced scorn in the House, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said the variety of paddy was fit for consumption and he himself had been eating it to test its veracity. He expressed his helplessness on the findings of the health ministry.

In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on December 25, 2009, Harsimrat had sought his intervention to ensure that the new variety of paddy that consumed less water should be lifted in time to prevent decay. "Needless to say, the indecisiveness of the Centre is exposing over two lakh farmers to the risk of falling prey to money lenders," she said. "The food grains are rotting while people are facing starvation," she added.

In reply to her calling attention motion the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Gh. Nabi Azad informed the House that the reason attributed to the Food Authority for rejection of the rice variety does not depict the actual picture of the incident.

During December 2009, FCI and Department of Food and Public Distribution informed that the PAU-201 variety of Paddy rice milled in Punjab is showing higher incidence of damaged grains in rice, he said.

The issue was examined by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and according to it, the blackened grains /slightly blackened grains and pin -point blackened grains in the rice of this variety were ranging from 3.39 to 8.79%. The ICAR viewed that blackened grains/ slightly blackened grains and pin-point blackened grains in the rice were due to excessive iron content in this variety. In January 2010, on the request of the Food Corporation of India and the Department of Food & Public Distribution, 75 samples of rice were collected from various places of Punjab by a team constituted by the Department of Food & Public Distribution. The samples were sent to three Central Food Laboratories situated at Ghaziabad, Pune and Mysore for analysis as per the parameters prescribed in the PFA Act 1954. The analysis reports of the 75 samples revealed that only nine samples out of the 75, were not found to be conforming to the standards of rice as prescribed under the PFA rules.

This clearly shows the careless attitude of the government. They are playing politics with even the issue of hunger. □□

Dishonesty, fraud, breach of Trust



The victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy have lost both ways. They neither got the full compensation nor saw Anderson in jail. This breach of trust by the government, which forcibly became the sole trustee for the victims, is the worst crime in the continuing story of betrayal of the poor victims from the word go, writes S. Gurumurthy

Now the almost-forgotten Bhopal gas tragedy is back in the headlines. For most readers, it is history recalled. But, for the Bhopal survivors, it is tragedy relived. A brief recount of the killer gas explosion first. The tragedy struck at the sleeping city past midnight on December 2-3, 1984. A valve defect had diverted a ton of water into a storage tank of the factory that contained some 42 tons of poisonous gas known as Methyl Iso-Cyanate (MIC). This resulted in a huge chemical implosion raising the heat to 200 Celsius. That instantly opened the tank, and emptied the 42 tons of toxic gas that exploded into the atmosphere. MIC is a deadly poison. If the MIC particles exceed 21 out of a billion in the atmosphere, that can injure, even choke, the lungs and cause death. Imagine some 42,000 kilograms of this poison are let into the air in one shot. The MIC-concentrated area will turn into a mass graveyard. This is precisely what happened in Bhopal.

Some 3,800 people, mostly dwellers in nearby slums, instantly choked to death after inhaling the poison; the toll rose to 10,000 in the next few days; some 15,000-20,000, who had inhaled less intense poison, died miserable deaths on the next two decades; and, some 5,00,000 people, almost half the



population of Bhopal then, who inhaled the toxic gas, are living an impaired life of different grades (See 'Bhopal Disaster and its aftermath: a review' by Edward Broughton of Columbia University, Environmental Health issue dated May 10, 2005). Many of those living are just breathing dead bodies. On December 3, the dead bodies of humans and animals in thousands were seen strewn on the streets. But what followed the untold tragedy was an unmitigated disaster to the victims.

'Sole trustee' hoax

Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL), a subsidiary of Union Carbide Corporation US (UCC), was

operating the Bhopal factory. But, UCC disowned its subsidiary once the tragedy occurred, contending that the Bhopal works was that of UCIL, an Indian company; it also 'fabricated scenarios' of 'sabotage' by 'unknown Sikh extremist groups' and 'disgruntled employees'. In the process 'the ethical implications of the tragedy and its effect on the Bhopal people were largely ignored' in the litigations (Broughton). In March 1985 the Indian government, by law, declared itself as the sole trustee of the victims in legal proceedings anywhere. Eventually the US courts, where cases had been first filed, pointed the litigants to the Indian courts — 'to the detriment'

of the victims (Broughton).

As the sole trustee representing toxic gas victims, the government had first made a claim of \$3.3 billion on UCC. The UCC counter-offered about a tenth of it, \$350 millions. Suddenly, on UCC owning 'moral responsibility' for the tragedy, the sole trustee-government shockingly agreed to an unbelievable, measly compensation of \$470 million against its claim of \$3.3 billion. The Supreme Court of India mediated this claim, a pittance. Not just a sixth of government's claim, it was less than five per cent of what UCC itself paid to similar victims in US. The day the settlement was sealed by the Supreme Court, Ram Jethmalani, veteran jurist, said that there was large-scale corruption in the deal. He charged that the government, which forcibly became the sole trustee for the victims, was guilty of criminal breach of trust against the victims. This breach of trust is the worst crime in the continuing story of betrayal of the poor victims from the word go.

Victims shortchanged

The settlement was based on false data that understated the tragedy, as if 'only 3,000 people died and 1,02,000 suffered permanent disabilities'. But, the actual casualties were five times more — 5,54,895 survivors and relatives of 15,310 dead had actually collected the meager compensation by 2003. That the shares of UCC rose by seven per cent on the very day the Supreme Court sealed the deal testified to how much the UCC gained by this fraud on the Bhopal victims. A grateful UCC thanked the Supreme Court for braving all opposition and approving the deal. In

1993, Jackson Browning, a high UCC officer wrote, 'Exercising great political courage in the face of (that) opposition, the court directed a settlement of \$470 million and nullified criminal charges'.

But what is the maximum that the Bhopal victims could have claimed in an honest deal? Some \$10 billion-plus, according to Broughton, applying the rates at which the victims of asbestosis (respiratory injury caused by inhaling asbestos fibres) were paid in the US, including UCC. That means that the Bhopal victims would have claimed more than Rs 21 lakh per head, that is, 21 times that what they actually got! But, without benchmarking the asbestosis victims that could make a \$10 billion-plus claim possible for Bhopal victims, the court agreed to the paltry amount and yet acclaimed it as 'just, equitable, and agreeable'! But could UCC have been forced to cough up more? Yes, but if, and only if, strong criminal charges had been made and used as a strategic weapon. And this is precisely what the apex court order disabled the CBI from doing.

The issue about the tragedy in criminal law was this: first, was the mass death caused by negligence of UCC officials? Second, or was it with their knowledge that, 'by such act', they were 'likely to cause' the deaths? The first is like death caused by rash driving, punishable with two-year jail term (Section 304A of the IPC). The second is 'culpable homicide' (without intent to murder) punishable with jail life extending to 10 years (Section 304 of the IPC). The CBI had pressed for culpable homicide, based on evidence that showed that UCC knew (and it was even fore-

warned publicly) that its acts were likely to cause deaths. The UCC manual itself says that MIC is 'a poison by inhalation', 'an oral and contact poison'. By stocking the poison that could leak and choke to death the thickly populated neighbourhood, UCC must have known that mass deaths were likely to happen.

Hint of cyanide

The UCC was publicly forewarned about it two years ahead of the tragedy. In the year 1982 itself, Rajkumar Keswani, a local journalist, wrote a series of articles in Hindi titled 'Bhopal on the edge of a volcano', predicting that the disaster was waiting to happen. He later got the prestigious B D Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism for his investigative work on UCIL. So UCC could never say that it did not know that its arsenic stocks were not likely to cause the Bhopal disaster. Broughton sees deadly cyanide mix in Bhopal gas leak. Remember the cyanide pill of LTTE intended for instant death? The conduct of UCC, a critical clue to one's guilt or innocence, clearly points to its guilt. Broughton says: 'at every turn', UCC 'attempted to manipulate, obfuscate and withhold scientific data of the disaster'; even to this date it has not disclosed 'what was' in the killer toxic cloud; there was 'clear evi-

Bhopal victims would have claimed more than Rs 21 lakh per head, that is, 21 times that what they actually got!

dence' of the presence of 'deadly hydrogen cyanide' in the gas leak; the 'cherry-red colour of blood and viscera' of victims was characteristic of 'cyanide poisoning'; many victims had responded to anti-cyanide therapy; the UCC itself had recommended anti-cyanide therapy first, but withdrew it on afterthought, to cover-up evidence of cyanide in the leak. Is any further proof needed to show that UCC knew, in fact was forewarned, that by its acts, it was likely to cause the deaths?

Yet, in the Supreme Court, Justice A H Ahmadi's legalism helped the UCC to get away by handing petty sums to the tragedy victims. In 1996 Ahmadi reduced the charge against UCC to causing death by negligence, dropping the charge of culpable homicide. Ahmadi ruled that vicarious criminal liability was unknown to criminal law; meaning, legally, UCC was not liable for the acts of its subsidiary, UCIL. But is that view correct? In civil law, acts of the agents automatically make the principal liable. In criminal law, it is not so. The principal is liable, but only if he abets in the acts of the agent. So, if it had abetted in the acts of UCIL, UCC would be criminally liable. But whether UCC (or its then chairman Warren Anderson) had abetted in the offence, was an issue of fact that needed probe and trial. But, Ahmadi's view effectively prevented such probe and trial and thus removed the most potent weapon of charge of homicide from the armoury of CBI. As a result, the CBI could not press the charge of culpable homicide against UCC and Anderson. It had to stop with charging them for traffic offences. This dilution was pre-

cisely what the UCC had desperately wanted. But this gift was given in return for the measly settlement at five per cent of the compensation that UCC would have forked out in US. Granting that the US government was keen to protect Anderson, this dilution could have been traded off for getting, if not the US-rated compensation for the victims, at least the \$3.3 billion claim of the government of India. The Congress government committed a criminal breach of trust on the poor victims. And the Supreme Court lapsed in its vigil, when it put its seal on the deal.

Anderson, the state guest

In February 2001, a US multinational, Dow Chemical Company, acquired UCC for \$11.6 billion, and made UCC a subsidiary. The annual revenue of Dow (2007) was \$54 billion, with profit after taxes of \$3 billion. When asked about possible Bhopal claims, Jon Mussner, Dow PR, said, "It won't ever happen." How confident. Another Dow PR official, Kathy Hunt, said, "\$500 (compensation) is plenty for an Indian." How arrogant. Dow has on hand a huge liability for cleaning the Bhopal factory, which has been lying in an 'as-was-where-was' state since the tragedy. The remaining toxic stocks continue to leak and seep into subsoil. These 'have found their way into' local water sources. The 'dangerously contaminated water' is now 'part of the legacy' of UCC for the people of Bhopal. Yet, two members of the newly re-constituted Group of Ministers dealing with the Bhopal tragedy, belonging to the Congress, had earlier written to the prime minister that forcing Dow to clean the factory and restore the

water sources would adversely affect foreign investment in India. Why, after all, will the Dow officials not be confident and arrogant?

Finally, media reports have cited the declassified records of CIA, which disclosed that the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had instructed the then Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh to free Anderson after he was arrested on December 7, 1984. The media also says that Anderson was treated as a state guest, sent back in the state plane to Delhi. It does not need a seer to say that the Congress government at the highest level had sided — or colluded? — with the UCC, against the Bhopal victims. Is that why Anderson, who was arrested, was released on bail; is that why he was saluted as he left Bhopal? Is that why the government forcibly became the sole trustee of the victims? Is that why it had settled for a paltry compensation for the victims? Is that why the charge of culpable homicide was not slapped on him to ensure that he was not extradited to India? Even a strategic threat of investigation and trial of Anderson would have coerced UCC to cough out a higher, if not the full, compensation. Finally, the victims have lost both ways. They neither got the full compensation nor saw Anderson in jail. But the verdict of the sessions judge in Bhopal is being lampooned. Could he have overruled Justice Ahmadi and held that Anderson was guilty of culpable homicide? Why blame him then? □□

QED: Abhishek Singhvi says that being a Congress party spokesman and pleading as legal counsel for Dow (the new owner of UCC), is not a conflict of interest. Why, for the Congress party itself there is no conflict of interest in being the sole trustee of the gas victims and not acting for them against their killers!

Poverty reduction needs ample will and innovative approach:

– Muralidhar Rao

This is the extract of the speech of Sh. Muralidhar Rao delivered in ICAPP Conference on Poverty Alleviation in Kunming- the capital of Yunnan Province of china.



Jose de Venecia
Founding Chairman,
international conference of
Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

“Asia Has accomplished a great deal– but there is a much more Asia must do. In all our countries, uneven development– sharp income inequalities– & institutional inefficiencies– still foment internal instabilities. We’re also realizing that, ironically, growth itself creates new social problems.”

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express pleasure and honour for having been provided an opportunity to attend and address this ICAPP Conference on Poverty Alleviation in Kunming- the capital of Yunnan Province of china. I wish to congratulate Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Government for hosting such an important meeting on a very crucial subject confronting Asia.

The leadership of my Party, my country and its leadership accords top priority to poverty alleviation. Various Schemes and projects including various forms of subsidies are provided to combat this challenge. My country is a democracy with universal adult franchise and a rainbow of political parties-which has helped us in calibrating the opening of our economy and also has provided with scope to come up with various innovative schemes and campaigns in the form of state interventions so as to have the poverty reduced progressively.

How ever, this challenge (poverty) still exists

in its worst form. India still has more than 456 million people (41.6 % of the total population) living below poverty at or below \$1.25 per day. A lot more needs to be done in this regard.

At the global level, there is a clear shift of growth towards Asia which is visible and perceptible. Unwavering slant is in favor of Asia. Long dark times of dependence and diffidence are noticeably over. World growth dominated by the west is now becoming more balanced.

If this situation is carefully handled and the socio -economic policies are creatively crafted on the basis of balanced vision and maturity – the 21st century may become Asia’s century in terms of growth and development.

Poverty Definition Debate

There is a debate about the definition of poverty going on various levels. Different agencies and individuals have tried to define poverty in their own ways. And this makes it difficult to gauge the extent or even the approximate figure. Periodic changes in the definition of the poverty line makes the issue



P. Muralidhar Rao addressing ICAPP Conference in Kunming (China).

even more complicated. It is obvious that in the absence of a uniform statistical measure of poverty, alleviation programmes cannot be meaningful.

It is a healthy sign that there is an intense debate in our country to have a wider definition. I don't consider it as a conflicting effort but in my opinion its aim is to enlarge the definition to grasp the changing ground realities. With the opening of our economy the level of ambition and also the levels of people's aspirations have grown multifold. So the urge to include certain basic needs of the people suffering from poverty in to the frame work seems to be logical. A consensus building exercise for a near uniform approach to poverty estimation may be useful.

There is another aspect that needs to be kept

in mind. And that is Asia is young people's continent. Number of youth in the population of Asia is much more than compared to any other continent. This underlines the need to have more avenues and opportunities for these young citizen's to unleash their youth power. This also means more; food, resources, energy and consumable items are required. In India population below 35 years of age constitutes more than 70% of Indian population. Coupled with young population, another unique characteristic of Asia in general

is existence of family as a unit. We largely are family centric people. And family centric societies world over are saving societies. Asia is a saving continent with abundant social capital & trust- critical for development. It is with this background that we are discussing poverty alleviation.

The Suresh Tendulkar committee of the Planning Commission of India has reviewed the present methodology for measuring poverty and has suggested major changes for the future.. Multi dimensional poverty index (MPI), the new measure of global poverty developed by Oxford poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support has also discussed the same. These efforts have to be welcomed and pursued to the logical end.

Asian Political leadership should take initiative



H.E. Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban—

Secretary-General of the Democrat Party of Thailand. (Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand)

“Economic growth cannot be the only goal. We need moderation to ensure a sustainable & quality growth resilient to external shocks. Related measures include, among others, fiscal discipline, effective banking regulations especially during economic booms, & appropriate monetary & fiscal policies to stimulate the economy during its downturns.”



“In the current era of political multi-polarization, no single country could dominate the world. Therefore, joint efforts of all nations are necessary in coping with some major issues having an overall impact to the globe.”

Jiang Mingjun – Director-General of International Eco-Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO).

to come with enlarged and more appropriate definition of poverty suitable to our realities. Similarly we will have to understand the meaning of growth in our context. Western model of growth that leads to inequality and dislocation will have to be replaced by a bi-podal model that includes agriculture and informal sector into growth engine so as to enhance and improve the capacity to reduce the poverty by creating sustainable employment.

Presently in India for example If we look into the composition of growth we find that though India experienced a very fast growth but this was confined to non agriculture sector and informal sector. They have been laggards. The growth is mainly, driven by services sector. Informal or unorganized sector contributes 92% of our workforce while only 8% are in organized sector. Hence, it is important to focus on skill development and productivity of this vast majority of people to improve their standard of living. Education is also an area that needs our focused attention. Primary education and its universalisation is high on our agenda, but dropouts are still a challenge. Gross enrollment at around 11% in 2004-05 was below global average of 23.2%.

Health sector has its own challenges. Children with mal nutrition is a major concern facing India. A large number of children don't have access to nutritious food and immunization. Women are also worst sufferers on this count.

Unshackling the informal Sector

Informal sector has tremendous potential that can be unleashed by providing micro-credits. Small credits without collaterals can change the destiny of our huge population. The experience in this regard in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India is exemplary. This has established beyond doubt that they too are (1) efficient in fact more efficient at times, and (2) they are more trust worthy.

It is up to the political leadership with adequate will and innovative approach in designing the products and policy frame work suitable to the needs of this section of society to really make an impact on poverty reduction front.

Speculative Trends in the present Growth Model

While working for growth we have to be aware of speculative capital propelled growth. In today's world speculation has created fluctuations that at times are shocking. These shocks have created hardships for the common man and poor people. This speculative trading has led us to a position where trade in goods is very less as compared to trade in capital. This has severe consequences for our physical resources and the poor. To meet this challenge we have to evolve a consensual regulatory approach.

The same spirit should also reflect while handling the trade – negotiations at the international level which have serious implication for farmers and other people in conventional occupations – in their livelihood and life style as well.

Last not least is the challenge of Terrorism. It threatens the stability and hence the poor of Asia has a very big stake in peace and stability. we just can't ignore it.

Before I finish, let me convey the appreciation and best wishes from the highest leadership of my party -Sh.Nitin. Gadkari, national President, Sh. L.K. Advani, Chairman, Parliamentary Party, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition and Sh. Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition. Rajya Sabha to the organisers-ICAPP, Hosts - CPC (International Department) and the Government of China for successfully organising this event on very important subject.

Our leadership is also hopeful, this endeavor would help in evolving the consensus and also a common strategy to realise the dream of poverty alleviation. Lastly, I personally thank one and all. □□



Sh. Ajay Patki introducing the topic & speakers at Dr. M G Bokare Memorial Lecture, besides Dr. Diwakar Bokare, Arun Ojha, Dr. Yoganand Kale & Nitin Bokare

Save Farm Save Country

Ajay Patki

Jain Bhavan, Gandhi Bagh, Nagpur, wherein Swadeshi Vichar Varga of four central states was held, remained fully imbued in Swadeshi colours for three days from 19 to 21 August. Dr. Sharad Nimbalkar, Ex VC of P A University, Nagpur spoke on the topic of **Save Farm, Save Country**. He criticized the policy of urbanization at the cost of villages. The money spent for farmers in the form of 75,000 crores of rupees has not reached the real sufferers, he lamented. When there is rise in the price of petrol, vehicles and other industrial products, there is no hue and cry, but a rise by a single rupee per kg on milk or foodgrains creates uproar in the whole of country, he went on. That

is one, and there are other various reasons, that farmers are leaving farming, and some leaving the world also! He added in utter disgust. While answering on the issue of connecting the rivers, he said he was also a member of the apex committee and whole-heartedly supported that issue and affirmed that it should be taken up even now. If asked to name the number one problem of the Vidarbha, he claimed that he would like to name - the paucity of water.

While speaking on the topic of genetically modified seeds and products, Arati Pankhraj of Hamara Beej Abhiyan, detailed several examples of fraudulent practice adopted by companies like Monsanto, which certainly is one of the

most corrupt and hated company in America. The climax of the programme of first day was certainly the Memorial Day Celebration of Dr. MG Bokare wherein Diwakar Bokare, younger brother of DR. MG Bokare was the inaugural speaker. A booklet written by him profiling the biographical sketch of DR.MG Bokare, was released. Similarly a rare book of Dr. Bokare "Tax less Economy" was also released on this occasion. Sh. Arun Ojha recalled Dr. Bokare as the supreme advocate of Arsha economic heritage, a renowned economist, sensitive activist and a visionary social worker. Dr. Yoganand Kale, retired Pro Vice Chancellor narrated several inspiring anecdotes of Dr. Bokare of times

when he remained his student and colleague. Sh. Ajay Patki, Varga Pramukh also recalled several incidents of Dr. Bokare's life. On this occasion members of Bokare family were also present.

Six teams from various schools displayed exquisite Street plays on various topics of Swadeshi themes. A large number of participants and teachers of various schools were also present in this programme. Bachhraj Vyas school won the first prize. Sh Anand Sohani, a social activist engaged in philanthropic activities in the field of Vidarbha farmers' suicides also gave a brief introduction of his activities and was honoured by Dr Apte.

Sh. Balkrishan Bhartiya, former chairman of All India Retail traders Association and a leading CA, gave a presentation on the topic of direct foreign investment in retail sector. Dr. Madhukar Apte described the contribution of Indian scientists to the world and especially of Dr. PC Ray, whose 150 Birth anniversary is to be celebrated this year. Sh. Dhananjay Bhide gave a very vivid description on Bamboo Vikas Kendra.

The prime attraction of the



Top prize winning school children of Bachhraj Vyas school, Nagpur in streetplay parodying Bharoda folklore style on Swadeshi theme.



Dr. Sharad Nimbalkar, Vice Chancellor (Retd) of Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, stressing his point on the topic SAVE FARM SAVE THE COUNTRY. Dinkar Bhakre and Ajay Patki look on.

programme remained two speeches of Sh. Arun Ojha, wherein he described the journey, concept and development of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and WTO and its vicious designs. At a time when even so called developed countries are resorting to restrictions on outsourcing and other restrictive measures, the concept of Swadeshi has become acceptable throughout the world, he added. Sh. Ashwani Mahajan while detailing the Free Trade Agreements added that 9

FTAs had been concluded and around twenty were in the pipeline. He lambasted that when WTO has ceased to be the instrument of exploitation for the developed countries, they have resorted to FTAs. Dr. Vinayak Deshpande's HOD of MBA deptt. Of Nagpur University presentation of Indian perceptive in Management Science was full of brilliant examples from Chanakya and other Indian luminaries, exhibiting indigenous management systems. He urged the need for further research on these lines. Sh. Kashmirilal described the latest threats from China in the form of financial, spying and strategic issues and recent planting of high range missiles on Indian borders should not be taken lightly. Sh. Avinash Sakle and Shrish Tare warned about the environmental hazards and plastic menace. About 130 participants from Maharashtra, Chhattisgrh, Gujarat and MP took part in it very enthusiastically. At the end, let us know the encouraging number of ladies in the programme: 34. □□

FTA's will benefit none in India Except MNC's: Prashada

Besides affecting investment and our ability to access affordable healthcare, medicines, education and municipal services such as water and sanitation, farmer's right to save seeds and citizens' ability to prevent theft of our traditional knowledge is also under attack through FTAs, M. Gopal

A seminar on Free Trade Agreements was held on 14-15 August in Ernakulum, Kerala, a state which has been most affected by recently concluded FTA with ASEAN countries. In brief, a hundred-plus-participants', 9 sessions dissecting different aspects of FTAs. VK Prashada, Secretary AIBOC, speaking on the FTA and Indian financial service sector claimed that FTAs were not going to benefit anybody in India, except multinational companies and big corporate houses. Consultation if any is done with FICCI, ASSOCHAM like big business confederations. Farmers and general public- the most affected parties are not taken into confidence at all, he added. He further criticized the policy of neglecting the priority sectors like agriculture, SMEs, weaker sections and exports at the time of providing loans, but, on the contrary, big business houses, citing fake agricultural reasons receive it easily. The financial sector is totally devoid of vision for the underdeveloped sections of society, and is serving the big players, he concluded.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof. Kumaraswami, All India co-convenor of SJM, explained in detail the vicious design of FTAs. WTO, which was wrongly propagated as the mantra for free trade, is dying slowly owing to its own contradictions and exploitative nature. So developed countries are trying to push FTAs, which is bilateral trade

and investment treaties with other countries and regional blocks. He further stressed that FTAs with ASEAN and SAFTA is causing havoc to the domestic auto-components, industry plantation, crops sector, edible oils, textiles and SMEs in a wide variety of sectors. Sh. Sundram, CA and convener SJM southern states, warned that India is going to conclude two of the biggest FTAs this year, one with the European Union and other with Japan, and that these FTAs will create legally binding obligations on the government related to agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing which stand to be severely affected. Besides affecting investment and our ability to access affordable healthcare, medicines, education and municipal services such as water and sanitation, he stressed that farmer's right to save seeds and citizens' ability to prevent theft of our traditional knowledge is also under attack through FTAs.

Dr. Srinivasan spoke very metaphorically that three things expected through these FTAs are employment, technology and investment from developed countries and the claims are nothing but a mirage. In bullet sentences he pointed out that in the name of technology they are providing us chutney-pickles and talcum powders, and that "we asked for computer chips and they provided us potato chips". Regarding employment, he ridiculed – "fifty years ago American mummies were advising

their kids to spare something in their plates otherwise poor Indians will suffer without food. Fifty years after American Mothers are advising their off-springs to study Maths and Physics otherwise Indians will take away yours jobs and you will suffer without food." Regarding investments, he added, these so-called developed countries are left with banks which are mostly bankrupt – what will they give others? So expecting these three things is an illusion.

Dr. Priyesh, CA, presented a well-researched document on the topic ' FTAs and Agriculture', explaining that after Uruguay Round Agreement of WTO, a process was initiated for deregulation of trade in tropical commodities specially among the producing countries, whereas under FTAs tropical commodities would become more vulnerable to price fluctuations, besides pushing down the share of producers in the value chain. Our farmers will not be able to stand in competition before the lavish subsidies the US and EU countries are providing to their farmers, he added.

Sh. Gopa Kumar, an expert from Third World Network, had numerous reports and studies with him to explain his topic "Intellectual Property Rights: Impact to Affordable Health Care" and FTAs - a Threat to Indian Industry. Adv. Sajinarayan, BMS functionary and a Trade Union Representative to ILO, with PPP explained the topic FTAs and Jobless growth.

Two other topics were covered in this seminar, one by Prof. Kumaraswami on FDI in retail and the other by Prof. Kanaksabhapati on Entry of Foreign Educational Institution in India and its impacts. Prof. Kumaraswami discussed at large the intentions behind issuing a Discussion Paper on FDI in Retail by Ministry of Commerce. Whereas Prof. Kanaksabhapati alarmed that a sudden move by various world-level universities to enter India has something sinister behind it. After the recent global financial meltdown, these so-called global brands in education too became bankrupt as 70% of their corpus funds were invested in share markets and other financial juggleries. So these have an eye on countries like India. In a country like ours where indigenous world-level institutions are thriving like IITs and IIM, where is the need for foreign universities, he asked. Director, Urban Institute of Management, Coimbatore, Prof. Sabhapati lamented that out of total budget 6% is earmarked for higher educa-

tion and only 50% is utilized only by the government! So India should utilize these means to improve the educational standards that to rely on foreign universities from countries where moral degradation in students had plummeted to the lowest.

In the concluding session, Kashmirilal summarized the matter saying that in total 8 FTAs have been concluded by this time and 29 others are in the pipeline. We should know that world-wide a negligible number of 20 FTAs were concluded by the year 1990 or so, and increased exponentially to over 300 by 2005 and are close to 400 today. According to a World Bank report, if we exclude RTAs involving countries that have close to zero most favoured nation (MFN) tariffs, the share of world-trade in RTAs falls from 33% to 20%. Lastly, that most countries, especially African countries, are members of Regional Trade Agreements or multiple agreements. Though FTAs or RTAs are more harmful, more undemocratic, less transparent and more inhuman than WTO provisions, yet there is little

discussion in the society about this. Hence the need for such seminars, he explained. Moreover FTAs with developed countries undermine the right of “special and differential treatment” explicitly recognized under the WTO framework. Secondly, preferences obtained through FTAs from developed countries tend to lose their value relatively quickly, as new FTAs are concluded with other developing countries, including those that compete in the same product range. Thirdly, many FTAs with developed countries contain provisions related to investment, intellectual property, competition policy, government procurement, & services, & require legislative & policy changes in developing countries.

The feedback of participants was also taken in written and discussion form and utmost satisfaction was visible from their side in it. Sh. Biju thanked and urged the participants for further discussion on this topic at their various places and need of the state level conventions on this topic. □□

M. Gopal is co-convenor of SJM (Kerala)

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SJM ensures relief to Handloom Weaver's of Dubbaka

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch has succeeded in arranging immediate relief to the suffering weavers of Andhra Pradesh. In a short period of just few months the SJM helped the issue of these victims of official apathy become focus of the policy makers and ensured that some sort of relief is rushed to them without any delay. SJM first conducted a door to door survey later took a padyatra and other forms of mass awareness contacted different political parties and lastly approached Andhra Pradesh Human Rights Commission. The Commission passed an order on 9/8/2010 directing, the Collector; to attend to the problems of the persons mentioned and file his report before it by 31.8.2010. The order read.

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, a Voluntary Organisation, represented by its State Secretary, Appala Prasad, and accompanied by some of the weavers families of Dubbaka Mandal of Medak District have filed a petition before this Commission complaining of violation of human rights.

Having perused the material on record and hearing the petitioners and having regard to the facts and circumstances, this Commission is satisfied that there is immediate necessity of providing AAY Cards to all the sufferers and also other welfare measures including the payment of ex-gratia to the families of 120 persons



Pooja Jyoti & others with Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

who committed suicides on account of poverty.

In turn the Revenue Divisional Officer, Siddipet in the letter 3rd cited has reported that in all. 1368 applications of the weavers families in Dubbak Mandai were received by the Tahsildar Dubbak (M). Enquiry was conducted in to the eligibility for issue of AAY cards. by drafting the personnel from various Mandals. door to door verification has been done. and reported that during the enquiry (171) representations were received for issue of AAY cards to the families of Weavers. thus a total number of (1539) applications were got enquired and the enquiries revealed that. out of (1539) applications (1162) families are found eligible for issue of AAY Cards and

the remaining (377) families are found ineligible for various reasons. A list of eligible handloom weavers containing (1162) families for issue of AAY Cards proposals were submitted to the Commissioner. Civil Supplies AP Hyderabad. vide reference 6th cited. Necessary steps are being taken to issue AAY Cards to all the eligible families of weavers on receipt of sanction from the Commissioner Civil Supplies; Regarding Suicidal Deaths the report says; Further. the Revenue Divisional Officer. Siddipet in the reference 4th cited. duly enclosing the Divisional Level Verification Committee Report. consisting of Assistant Director (H&T) Medak at Sangareddy, SDPO Siddipet and the RDO Siddipet. has furnished a report stating that

the Divisional Level Verification Committee has visited the villages and enquired into the genuineness of (115) cases of suicidal deaths reported to have been committed by the Handloom Weavers living in the Villages of Dubbak Mandai in terms of G.O. Ms. No. 46 I&C (TEX) Department, Dated: 13.02.2006.

The Divisional Level Verification Committee visited door to door and enquired into the genuineness of suicidal deaths committed by the Handloom weavers. before the village elders and family members of the deceased. Out of (115) cases reported to have been committed suicide. Only seven cases are registered in the concerned Police Station.

Further, it is also reported that out of the above seven cases, three cases are found ineligible and not attracted by the provisions of G.O. Ms. No. 46 I&C (TEX) Department, Further. the remaining (108) cases are found ineligible as no cases are registered in the Police Station. and no records are available to confirm the causes/reasons of the suicidal deaths.

Again as regards the steps taken for admission of children of the deceased families of the Handloom Weavers in the Residential Schools. the District BC Welfare Officer. Medak at Sangareddy in the letter 5th cited has reported that During the course of enquiries. it has been brought to their notice that. no dropouts were reported in the villages. and 57 children are already admitted in various hostels. Further. in Dubbak (V) the six children who are going to the nearby schools are identified for admission in to the hostels.

The clearly shows how with

active efforts of SJM concerned authorities were forced to act. SJM has on its part resolved to pursue all those case terms ineligible by authorities for relief and compensation.

Another aspect of the SJM effort is equally heartening. One Eppanpali Harikrishan and his daughter Pooja Jyoti have been working in their own way for weavers. They have put in a lot of hard work through "save Weavers forum" to help the sufferer. For last 4-5 years they have focused on the issue. After SJM's movement they have appreciated sincerely of SJM leadership and have joined hands to help handloom weavers revive their lives.

Pooja Jyoti, a 11th grade student at Livingston High School, New Jersey, is a young leader and founder of Save the Weavers Organization, actively promoting a global signature campaign through www.SaveWeavers.org, to appeal to the Government of India to address the problems faced by weavers. She has met and submitted the petition to the HRD Minister and Prime Minister of India.

Similarly Smt. Gunda Sudha Rani of TDP has also lend its support including financial help from MPLAD fund.

With the combined efforts of all the concerned people more and more persons are joining the movement to help weavers overcome the hardships they are facing. Shri Sridhar Godala, dr. Srinivas, Shri Jagan Babu and others have already extended their active support. All of them have infact had an tele-conference along with Shri Appala Prasad ji to find solution, both short term and long term to the problems of weavers. In fact a rally

on 14 th September has been proposed in Dubbaka to take forward the movement.

The online petition which Pooja Jyoti for which sh is mobilizing global support reads: We, the undersigned, here by request the Government of India to STOP the suicides and Save the Weavers by implementing a long term comprehensive solution in partnership with state governments, generating demand for their cloth initially by mandating various government organizations, and providing support to produce the cloth to meet the demand so that they can earn their living and become self supporting.

Generate market demand for weavers' cloth through state and central government organizations.

Mandate all government establishments like hospitals, railways, prisons, military, and tourism to use the cloth manufactured by weavers.

Mandate all public school teachers and students to wear clothes/uniforms made out of cloth manufactured by weavers.

Mandate all government employees to wear clothes made out of cloth manufactured by weavers to offices.

Provide infrastructure/facilities to setup textile/apparel parks to produce quality cloth and garments. Provide low interest loans to individual weavers and cooperative societies to produce the cloth.

Encourage individuals and cooperative societies to produce uniforms and garments with the latest fashion/designs.

Provide support to establish sales channels to sell the cloth and garments produced by the weavers. □□

ILLUSION ABOUT FULL EMPLOYMENT

Instead of offering only one hundred-days employment of non-productive nature of economic activity to selected people the government should start a scheme to create sustainable self-employment for all people. All family members including handicapped as well as old people also could find the value-addition jobs in such enterprises, suggests D. G. Bokare

I find there is lot of confusion in the economic thinking about the definition of full employment amongst economists. The present UPA-II government has been beating its drums of achieving employment for almost all the persons of our country. They do eulogize the 'revolutionary' steps taken in achieving full employment though Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the first time in the developing world. How far is it true? I would like to start with the normal concept of full employment as taken for granted by the leading capitalist economists.

Keynes' Definition of Full Employment

The definition of **FULL**

EMPLOYMENT in Keynes' General Theory is in the classical economics. It studies employment in the capitalist-labour relationship. In my opinion, it is inadequate in the goal-oriented book of Keynes. He discusses the classical concept of unemployment and simultaneously draws his conclusion for all employment outside this relationship. This has been pointed out by many leading economists like Abba Lerner, S. Harris, and others.

There is a difference in defining employment between what is defined by Keynes and that is considered for national income. If we consider the definition of Keynes, we are left with many people who are outside the classical relationship. We should,

therefore, include all the people in any economy besides wage-employment as defined by Keynes. There are self-employment-establishments, government employees, both public and private sector and in the department of law and order and employees of charitable institutions. We should call **GENERAL** employment instead of **FULL** employment for our better understanding in solving the issue.

If we take that capitalism as an eternal economic system to stay in this world, we then have to have millions of capitalists or entrepreneurs to give employment to all the able-bodied people of any economy. Is it possible to employ all the people in capitalist economy when progress of technology and science is depriving the existing workmen from the jobs? The present tendency in capitalist economic system is to reduce the employees to maintain the profits of capitalists and entrepreneurs. This is unavoidable since the main objective of capitalist economic system is to maximize the profits. **Capitalists will and are preparing to invest more in modern machines instead of labour.** In such a situation, job creation in the present capitalist economic system is just not possible. Workers lose jobs during boom period as the capitalists prefer to increase



the profits by expanding the production by investing in machines than men. On the other hand, during recessionary period also, capitalists reduce the strength of workers to maintain the bottom line of profits. Marx calls these unemployed people as “Reserve Army”. These people are useless for any revolution, Marx says.

As a result of this attitude of capitalist class, we see across the world a cry for more employment for the people to avoid joblessness among young people and also to avoid anarchic situation in any country. The working wage-workers are divided into two streams. Some employed within the capitalist enterprises still surviving from the shock of long recession of late 2010-decade; others try to become self-employed by undertaking some small productive activities to survive. These self-employed people contributing to national income exist and, therefore, we have to consider them in our studies.

The government policies across the capitalist world, including India, have followed the liberal expressions exactly like full employment, and not general employment. Former President Roosevelt in his message to the Congress in 1944 outlines an economic bill of right: “The right of a useful and remunerative job in the industries, or shops, or farms, or mines of the Nation”. The measurement of employment and unemployment is illusive from the standpoint of Keynesian theory and the actions on the part of governments.

Household families receive income for family expenditures. If we classify incomes in that process, we may get many types of



***Capitalists will
and are
preparing to
invest more in
modern
machines instead
of labour.***

income-earning activities for family's expenditures. They can be as follows:

1. Wages and salaries in business enterprises.
2. Wages and salaries in government services & public sector.
3. Income of owners of enterprises and business that earn rent and interest.
4. Income of self-employed establishments' i.e. wageless production in the economy.

Presently, we see in the capitalist countries a revolt-like situation due to job losses in millions. Latest figure of jobless people for more than six months in the most advance economy like the USA is around 14.4 million. People of all the capitalist countries are found in panic conditions as they are not sure whether their economies will ever improve in near future. There are signs of economies of these countries that their economies are on the path of total collapse.

The working of national income working does not exclude the self-earned incomes of the wage-less workers and it is known that their number has increased over time in agriculture and retail trade and services. There exists self-employment, their income as capital in their assets and their income originating in their estab-

lishments. They cannot be theorized in Keynes' scheme of General Theory. As a result, we need to look beyond the present concept of Full Employment to reach our goal to provide employment to all in an economy.

Need to Develop Programme for General Employment

The objective of any government is to create atmosphere in the economy where any citizen could possess the opportunities to earn income for families. The opportunity may be in the state civil services. The opportunities to earn income in self-employment also need to be incorporated in the programme. In real sense, government needs less money to create self-employment for a large section of the society as compared to investments in industry to take pride in achieving higher gross domestic products (The Economist of London has called this sometime back as 'grossly domestic product). Self-employed establishments also need less money as capital for starting the productive activities for the family expenditures. The potentiality of promoting maximum employment in this sector of self-employment is much higher.

We should envision full employment from the national income measurement. The family ex-

penditures plus savings are studied for promoting the solution of self-employment. This category of wage-less units of production in agriculture, industry and commerce especially needs money as credit in their economic development. These are people who are thrown out of employment during depression as well as boom periods and also the people who could not get any jobs in the present day capitalist economic system need opportunities to earn some income. Some income is better than no-income. Self-employment is the logical economic category in an economic development.

Interest-free Credit

A survey of ideas of some social thinkers would reveal that the genesis of Keynesian socialization of credit lies in the literature of 19th century. More important is the fact that these thinkers urged that the state should give credit to re-

move unemployment. Some specifically urged in favour of credit without the interest charges, i.e. interest-free credits. Keynes himself revisited his earlier thinking about ideas governing the rate of interest. In this process, in a care-free moment, he touched upon zero-rate of interest. This conclusion was certainly revolutionary.

Full employment means full income for all the families.

Keynes' programme in General Theory did not permit him to explore an entirely new economy. He, however, suggested low rate of interest for full employment.

The state policy should be designed to promote economic development by giving interest-free credits to any needy person to earn income in a competitive economy. In this process, the unemployed people can become self-employed entrepreneurs. Interest-free financing has been appreciated and eulogized by many econo-



mists. Their analytical expression, however, remained without further exploration. Government should plan the rate of interest for full employment. This is just opposite of the principle of laissez faire, which is accepted as a failure by many economists from the West. In other words, this decision of rate of interest should not be left to the market forces. In a competitive economy, rate of interest reaches nearest to zero, over time.

Interest-free credit will help the unemployed people; their rehabilitation becomes easy. What is satis-

factory rate of interest for credit? Today, in the capitalist economies (the USA, Japan, European economies etc), the loans are offered at almost zero rate of interest. This is to promote employment.

We can promote full employment in this widest definition of full employment. All families, wherever working, will receive incomes for consumption. Full employment means full income for all the families.

National Employment Guarantee Scheme

The present government of India is patting its back for promoting this scheme. The state is calling it a revolutionary scheme ever practiced in this country. Does it solve the unemployment problem of our country? Offering only one hundred-days employment of non-productive nature of economic activity to selected people from the rural India has failed in removing the unemploy-

ment as well as poverty besides large scale migration of rural people to urban areas. How much each family earns from the guaranteed scheme? $100 \text{ days} \times \text{Rs. } 100 = \text{Rs. } 10,000$ per family of average five people per year. It works out to Rs. 5.48 per day per person. What one could get from this small amount of Rs. 5.48? One meal a day? No way. One cup of tea per day? Yes, it could be. This tea will also become costly considering the present trend of uncontrolled inflation. Instead of this, the government should have started a

scheme to create sustainable self-employment for all these people. All family members including handicapped as well as old people also could have found the value-addition jobs in such enterprises. They could have been given interest-free capital as loan along with some vocational training and management skills to earn some income in a competitive market economy.



Conditions of Free Competition

Employment for all can be generated in any economy provided all the monopoly privileges (limited liability companies, patents, copyrights, trademarks, etc) are repealed for general growth of the economy. What we see today in the capitalist economic system is monopoly competition, notwithstanding being called free competition by many capitalist economists including some Noble Laureates. Capitalist economists have earlier criticized communist countries by using the lexicon of 'free enterprise'. However, they had avoided telling them the truth that their own economies did not have free enterprises.

If many enterprises take part in a competitive economy, the prices in future of commodities and services are bound to be lower as a secular trend. Agriculture economy is nearest approximation of free and competitive economy. In this sector of agriculture, there are no patents, trademarks, etc. Also the liability of each farmer and self-employed establishment is always unlimited. This sector is more risk-prone as compared to safe in-

dustrial sector. The man-made monopoly laws have divided the society into privileged and underprivileged people. Karl Marx rightly says (though he had never practiced it) that laws that divide people are reactionary laws and are against the Nature. Laws that are against the Nature are immoral and therefore cannot be immortal. Downward moving prices in a competitive economy will reduce the government expenditures also for meeting all the budgetary expenditures. Similarly the burden of taxes would also be less on the citizens. With proper planning, the taxes (direct as well as indirect) can be abolished in an economy by the government.

In summary, we can say:

1. There is no alternative than having a programme to promote self-employment in the economy. There will be zero-unemployment in the competitive economy. In the present day capitalist economic development model, unemployment cannot ever be abolished.
2. Through the efforts of self-employment, all the people will have no pains of unemployment. Every family will not have to beg for jobs with the

government or with industrialists. They will enjoy equal economic status as in the society. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was trying to achieve this through our Constitution. He was not allowed by vested interests.

3. This will be a totally decentralized economic development activity in the country. This can be practiced by any

country. This is Swadeshi economics.

4. Lowering prices of commodities and services due to open and free competition will remove poverty, inflation, interest charges as an economic category will disappear. Once the interest is removed from the economic system, the theory of distribution will also disappear.
5. Technological changes will be appropriate to the new economic development. Deendayalji's dream of "appropriate technology and decentralized economy" would thus be consummated.
6. Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'small is beautiful' and decentralized economy would also be fulfilled.
7. Taxes would also be lower over a long period.
8. The situation being presently faced by capitalist economies as regards unemployment, widening gap between rich and poor would not be experienced in our new economy. This will help us to reduce crime rates in the society.
9. This will be a holistic approach for the well being of mankind. □

Strolling down the memory lane

 **Saroj Mitra**

Sh Saroj Mitra is National co-convenor & a very senior leader of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. Hailing from Orrisa, he has been a witness to almost all important events of free India. He shares some memorable moments of his active life with the readers of swadeshipatrika. -Editor

Kutch Agitation and Satyagrah

India surrendering about forty thousand sq.miles of its territory in Himalays to China in the war of 1962 led Ayub Khan, the then President of Pakistan to believe that Indian army was weak and vulnerable. Ayub devised a strategy to capture Kashmir while keeping Indian army engaged at Rann of kutch, Pakistani army sneaked into deserts of Kutch in January 1965 and skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani armies continued till April when Pak army captured Kunjerkot a small desert town. Indian forces launched counter attack by air strikes to destroy US tanks used by Pakistan. Fall of kunjerkot evoked great resentment in entire India. Dr. Rammanohar Lohia asked government to continue firing till kunjerkot was liberated. Pt.Deendayal Upadhaya stated that national honor was not safe in hands of Congress Prime Minister. Late. Lal Bahadur Shastri though assured liberation of kunjerkot to be his first priority, agreed for a ceasefire due to mediation by Harold Wilson Prime Minister of UK and referring the dispute to International Arbitration Tribunal to be constituted by U Thant Secretary General, UNO.

Protest Meeting

At Cuttack we conducted one protest meeting against fall of

Kunjerkot. We invited J.B. Pattnayak then Editor of Prajatantra, a local daily, who became chief minister of Orissa latter and R.N. Singhdeo Leader of Opposition in Orissa Assembly as speakers, Some people gathered at meeting place. Announcement was made to start meeting. J.B. Pattnayak arrived but the Loud Speaker failed as the battery got discharged due to its contact with grass. Further. One cultural programme started nearby with accompaniment of musical sounds of dance drama. Whatever gathering was there it melted .Pattnayak expressed his indignation. Singhdeo did not get down from his car. Suddenly it flashed in my mind, George Bernard Shaw's story "How I became a Public Speaker". I told sternly if one man is there we would conduct meeting and register our protest. Fortunately for us Sarala Devi firebrand lady leader of Orissa arrived and addressed. She did not need loud speakers. Pattnayak presented vivid picture of Rann of Kutch and its logistics. Next day it came out in Ananda Bazar Patrika largest circulated daily published from Kolkata. Besides local News papers. It was the first protest meeting by any Student Organization (ABVP) in India.

Indo-Pak War 1965

In August Pakistan infiltrated more than thirty thousand soldiers

as civilians into Kashmir under "operation Gibraltar" to carry out insurgency activities and destabilize govt. Pakistan attacked Akhnoor in Jammu on 1 September to cut off supply lines with rest of India. Indian army crossed line of control on 6 September. Large number of Patton tanks supplied by US were being destroyed and captured like sheep by Indian army which was unheard of in modern war history. Seeing their protectorate facing defeat western powers got a resolution passed by United Nations to declare cease fire by both India and Pakistan which was done. But to get back its lost territory Pakistan sought Russian help.

Tashkent declaration; Lal Bahadur Shastri's death

For peace talk Russia invited both Shastri and Ayub to Tashkent.

Though warned by Guruji Golwalkar of RSS about his personal security and safety in Russia Shastri ji left for Tashkent in January 1966. On January 10 at night Tashkent Agreement was announced under which Indian forces were to withdraw to pre August 1965 line .Some time later news came that Shastri died. When Prime Minister of India was dying at Tashkent his cabinet ministers were enjoying ice dance there. Lal Bahadur Shastri was poisoned. His

face turned blue. No postmortem was done to ascertain cause of death. Prime Minister's Office refused to disclose documents related to Shastri's death and Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister of India.

Kutch Satyagrah 1968

The Kutch Tribunal award came out on 19 February under which Pakistan was to get 10% of its claim out of 35000 sq.miles of Rann of Kutch. Opposition parties demanded govt. of India to reject the award. A.B. Vajpayee President of Bharatiya JanSangh and Socialist leaders gave call for Satyagrah at Kutch border. Thus kutch satyagrah was launched in April 1968.

From Odisha we, eight in number decided to join satyagrah. On 10April we proceeded from Cuttack towards Ahmedabad in passenger trains conducting meetings on the way to collect funds for our Railway tickets. On 17April we could reach Baroda. Passenger trains were over crowded. I sent a telegram to Vasant Gajendragadkar organizing secretary of Jansangh to receive us at Ahmedabad Railway Station. It was the memorable journey for us. We pushed ourselves into a compartment and finally landed inside toilet where four persons were already there. Train left Baroda at 11p.m.

We were to wait till morning in that standing position. But still greater ordeal was awaiting us. At half past midnight some ladies came and asked us to vacate toilet cabin. I asked them to wait for next stoppage where they might use the platform. Elderly lady looked towards me and uttered 'platform' and something in Gujarati and entire group burst into laughter. I was

a fresh law graduate then. Every one came out and we were all standing like match sticks inside a match box the ladies left. Then came a rustic seven feet tall man with a polished lathi of equal height and said, 'humko bhi jana-hoga I am to go inside. I repeated same words again, "Since you are a male person you can get down and use platform". But that sturdy rustic forced his way into toilet. We reached Ahmedabad early morning on 18 April. Tired exhausted with swollen eyes we got down at Railway Station where we were greeted by one Parrut waving Jansangh flag. We came to main road. Parut asked us to form a line to walk in procession. Parrut with our bags hanging on his shoulders stood in front on his left toe raising his right leg and hands horizontally in dancing pose and shouted 'chalo chalo'. We did not respond. He taught us to say 'kutch chalo'. Chalo chalo kutch chalo with our slogan shouting Parrut presented his tandav dance, people gathered around us. We laughed heartily, our fatigue exertion vanished. Suddenly Parrut dropped our bags and ran to other side of road to rescue one person being hit by a Auto. We reached Bhuj on 19 April and preceded to Khabra the last border town in Kutch by bus. . We stayed in a Dharmasala at Khabra.

I was sleeping in verandah along with others. It was past midnight I woke up and came out. The area was moonlit and calm. We would cross border to restore territorial integrity of mother India, such ideas pervaded my mind. For a moment my body shivered I lost myself. Months later I recalled the event but that vibration was missing.

Next day on 20April we assembled to march towards border at about 10a.m.I was asked by Chiman bhai Sukla one of the two M.L.As of Jansangh in Gujarat to meet the Press. "National flag we intend to hoist in Indian Territory, how it amounts to an offence for which police will arrest us" this statement of mine came out in all news papers of Gujarat. After walking about 10k.m. we reached a dry river called Banchai nadi over which the Badrai Bridge was encircled by armed police. We crossed the bridge and were arrested. Some people from Junagadh shouted, we broke police cordon and entered Police van. Public show through dramatized gestures did not appeal us. I pushed a Jawan, his belt sank some inches but it normalized soon, after repeated attempts I stopped when that Jawan told me, " Ap bharat ke jawan ko hila denge ? Yes, Indian Jawans are competent enough to protect our border though politicians compromise with territorial integrity of India. We were put before one Magistrate at Khabra who sentenced us to stay till rising of the court. While returning to Bhuj we came across thousands of activists marching towards Khabra to launch satyagrah at India –Pakistan border. We were thrilled, excited to see young men of Gujarat at last rising. That rising trend in Gujarat is continuing till the date.

*And about Parrut, a political novice;
" the flowers that drop before blossoming forth
river in desert that lost its course
I know for certain it's not lost"*

- Rabindranath Tagore

[Translation mine]

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Don't kill the quacks, register them



Both barefoot- and registered doctors are equally dishonest. Need is to establish an independent regulatory authority that redresses grievances against all medical practitioners along the lines of Lokayukta, suggests **Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala**

Reports of medical mistreatment by barefoot medical practitioners appear frequently in the media sometimes even leading to death of the patient. But similar mistreatment is often done by registered medical practitioners (RMPs) as well. One teacher suffered a minor fall in the school. The doctor told her that there was a hairline fracture and terrorized her by saying that she would become lame if she did not have a full cast put on. The poor lady paid two thousand rupees to put the cast. Back home her husband showed the X-Ray to another RMP friend. He said there was no fracture at all. There was only an

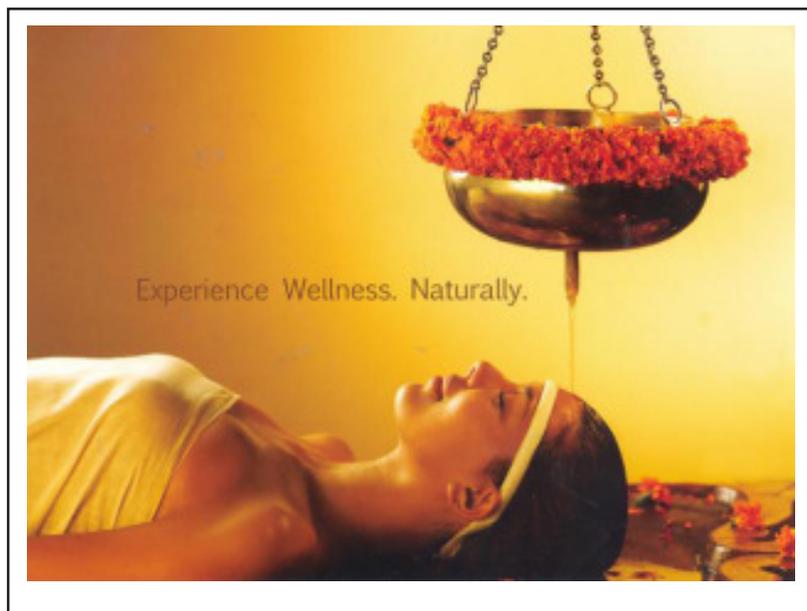
injury to the vein. He removed the cast and told them to do regular hot fermentation. Soon the pain was gone. It is clear that mistreatment is done both by barefoot- and registered doctors. But mistreatment by a barefoot doctor is considered a crime while same mistreatment by a RMP is passed off as a mishappening.

It is also well known among medical circles that RMPs prescribe many unnecessary tests because they get commissions from the labs. A lab owner in Delhi told this writer that Rs 20 out of every X-Ray costing Rs 100 goes to the doctor. They get commissions of Rs 500 to Rs 2500 on every CT-

or MRI scan.

The situation of RMPs in government hospitals is no better. WHO's World Health Report 2000 had pointed out that employees of the government hospitals serve themselves more than the public; they use government hospitals as a window for charging illicit fees; and being in command of more information they mislead and fool the public into paying more. The WHO says that they "have serious shortcomings when it comes to the provision of health services. Bureaucracies are vulnerable to capture by the vested interests of the bureaucrats and providers who work in them. They are often associated with abuse of monopoly power (such as collection of rents in the form of informal charges) and information asymmetry." The Report further adds that government employees very frequently engage in illegal private practice during duty hours, charge illegal fees and use government hospitals to promote their private practices.

It is clear that both barefoot- and registered doctors are equally dishonest. The solution, therefore, is not to put a lid on barefoot doctors and give oxygen to RMPs. Need is to establish an independent regulatory authority that redresses



grievances against all medical practitioners. This function cannot be truly discharged by the government doctors who invariably come from the RMP stream. Worse, giving regulatory function to the Chief Medical Officer is putting the accused on the seat of the judge. Complaint against a Government RMP is heard by another fellow Government RMP. Thus there is an all-encompassing regulatory failure in the system. It is necessary to establish an independent regulator for all medical practitioners along the lines of Lokayukta.

Barefoot doctors are providing cure in distant rural areas. Government doctors are unavailable because they prefer postings in metros where they can earn big commissions by writing CT- and MRI scans. Putting an end to the services provided by barefoot doctors will deprive these areas of all medical cure. Worse, reduced competition from barefoot doctors will enable RMPs to increase their charges. It is seen that the call for action against barefoot doctors is coming mainly from RMPs and not from the affected patients. RMPs want to remove competition from these barefoot doctors so that they can charge exorbitant fees from patients who have no alternative.

Solution is to increase the supply of RMPs. This will lead to increased competition and bring down their consultation charges as well as commissions from labs. There is a need to establish a parallel stream of examination and registration for barefoot doctors. A candidate has to pass certain examinations and do apprenticeship with an established Chartered Accountant to become one. There is

no need for him to attend four years of college for becoming a CA. A similar registration system can be set up for barefoot doctors. They can be given the authority to prescribe medicines in a limited area. We can establish a graded registration system akin to the star-rating for hotels. Barefoot doctors can be given one-star rating and super-specialists can be given five-star rating. Registration of barefoot doctors will increase their accountability. Another way to increase supply is to introduce a private examination system for RMPs. Many compounders, pharmacists and nurses have more experience than RMPs. They do not presently have the authority to write medicines. These may be registered as doctors if they are able to pass an exam just as 'private' candidates are allowed to sit in exams of BA. These measures will lead to an increase in supply of RMPs, they will set up their clinics in distant rural areas and also lead to a reduction in the fees and commissions charged by them.

The subject also has bearing on our traditional medicine system. There was no system of registration of vaidyas, astrologers and pundits. Young men became apprentices of a practicing vaidya and, in due time, became vaidya themselves. This system spontaneously led to decentralization. Different vaidyas were free to evolve different methods of treatment. They also experimented with locally available herbs and made new formulations that were suitable to local climate, culture and eating habits. This research was not done in air-conditioned labs. It was done by the vaidya prescribing different medicines and observing the results. This system was economically

efficient. Different medicines were developed for wet- and dry, warm- and cold, vegetarian- and non-vegetarian conditions. The cost of treatment was less because of reliance on locally available herbs. It does not cost much to eat two leaves of Tulsi everyday. The same treatment would cost more if a RMP prescribes Tulsi extract. This traditional system of medicine is now dying. One reason is that an experienced vaidya is treated as an unregistered doctor and his knowledge is declared illegal. Another reason is that vaidyas have started prescribing medicines produced in big companies. These are expensive. They do not now discover or prescribe locally available remedies. Thus ayurvedic treatment often turns out more expensive than allopathic treatment. We have, therefore, become dependent upon the modern centralized and expensive medical system.

Centralization is harmful for research. The RMP is like a clerk. He reads the rule book and prescribes the medicines. His own contribution is limited to deciding which page in the rule book to read. The RMP is not oriented to undertake innovation and research. It becomes very difficult to mainstream his findings should he made some invention because the procedure of clinical trials etc. is expensive and cumbersome and requires a pharmaceutical company to sponsor his research. All this is a consequence of us denigrating our traditional system of medicine. We should not blindly adopt the expensive centralized modern medicine system to the detriment of our inexpensive decentralized system. □□

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Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray: A swadeshi saint-scientist 150th Birth Anniversary (1861–1944)

✍ **Ajit Kumar Biswas**

Of the towering personalities, who were born in Bengal in the nineteenth century and who by their thoughts, words and deeds, moulded the intellectual, cultural, political and economic life not only of Bengal but also of India **Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray** contributed a lot for the emergence of modern Being. Though a pioneer of chemical education and chemical research in India, his activities were never confined within the four walls of his laboratory and lecture theatre, but embraced almost all spheres of human interest, Intellectual regeneration, industrial development, social reform, economic freedom and political advancement of the country—all made equally strong appeal to him, as did his scientific research and teaching. Above all, in time of distress and suffering of the mass, he was the first man to respond to the call of humanity.

Born on August 2, 1861 in



Shri SP Mukherjee, Shri Manmohan Nath Mazumdar, Shri P. C. Ray, Shri C. Chatterjee, Prof. Chou Chandra Bhattacharya, Principal, Panchanan Saha, Sanshodhan Prasad, Madhyam of Hoop Park, All - Secondary Education III Conference, 1941.

Rarulikatipara, a village in the district of Jessore, now in Bangladesh, Prafulla Chandra was the third son of Harish Chandra. Prafulla Chandra's early education started in his father's Village school. Harish Chandra and his family shifted to Calcutta in 1870 when Prafulla Chandra was admitted to the Hare School. He entered the Metropolitan Institution established by Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. Here he came under the influence of Surendra Nath Banerjee, the father of Indian Nationalism. He was equipped with a fair knowledge of several languages even in his early college days. This prompted him to appear at the competitive examination for the 'Gilchrist Prize' for which knowledge of at least four different languages is prescribed. Prafulla Chandra appeared for this examination while a student in the B.A. class. Encouraged by his success Prafulla Chandra decided to proceed to the United Kingdom for further studies.

In 1885 the Rector of the University of Edinburgh announced the award of a prize to the best writer of an article on "India be-

fore and after the Mutiny". Profulla Chandra's article received unstinted praise from Sir William Muir, the Principal of the University. Profulla Chandra got his article printed and distributed it among his fellow students prefaced by an appeal to them for help in the task of liberating India.

In 1887 at the age of 27 he was admitted to the D. Sc Degree of the University of Edinburgh, in recognition of his work on "conjugated ("gepaarte") sulphates of the copper-Magnesium Group. A study of Isomorphose Mixtures and Molecular Combinations." He also received the Hope Prize Scholarship of the University which enabled him to continue his work in the University for another year.

Professor at the Presidency College, Calcutta

In 1889 Profulla Chandra joined the Presidency College as temporary Assistant Professor of Chemistry and earned a great reputation as a successful and inspiring teacher in a short while. He would often refer to the chemical knowledge of the ancient Hindus during his lectures. One of his very favorite citations was from the treatise '**Rasaratnakara**' by the famous Indian alchemist, '**Nagarjuna**'.

Students were also acquainted with his active interest in industrial development and economic regeneration of the country as he

would never fail to remind them that the progress of India depended on her youths getting trained in increasing numbers for industries, business and trade, instead of crowding the universities with an insane craze for degrees to qualify themselves for clerical services or for professions of law, medicine and engineering only.

At this time with a view to preparing ground for the teaching of science through the medium of mother tongue, he set out writing primary text books of science in Bengali. He was an uncompromising exponent of the view that science can never flourish in a country where it is taught through the medium of a foreign language. Prafulla Chandra's first attempt was to write a primer of Zoology in Bengali named '**Prani Vijnana**' Published in 1890.

Prafulla Chandra started thinking about giving some practical shape to his ideas of industrial regeneration of the country. He ultimately decided to set an example himself. We can feel the working of his mind in his book 'Life and Experience'. About this time the germ that subsequently led to the establishment of the '**Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works**' took root in his mind. He started preparing common pharmaceutical products for the market in his own house from the locally available raw materials. But his resources were very limited, savings from his meager salary was the paid up capital for his enterprise. undaunted by nature, he decided upon starting a regular pharmaceutical works under the name '**Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works**'. He had to go for an uphill fight from the beginning to push his products in the

market against the competition of imported foreign drugs. In 1901 the 'Works' converted into a limited liability company.

In 1904 Dr. Morris Travers, the first director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, visited the B. C. P. Works made the following observation about it in his report to the Calcutta University.

"The construction and management of the work is the work of the past students from the Chemistry Department of the Presidency College. The design and construction of the sulphuric acid plant and of the plant required for the preparation of drugs and other products involved a large amount of research work of the kind which is likely to be the greatest service to this country and does the greatest credit to those concerned."

History of Science and particularly the History of Chemistry had always a fascination for him. His curiosity prompted him to read some of the original Sanskrit works quoted in **Udaychand Dutta's 'Materia Medica'** of the Hindus (1877) in which an account of many metallic preparations used by the Auyrvedic physicians is given. A study of Berthelot's L' Alchemites Grecs (the Greek Alchemy) obtained from the Presidency College Library further stimulated his interest and he started correspondence with the great French Chemist intimating to the latter that in ancient India also the study and practice of alchemy were zealously pursued. The reply from the illustrious French Savant in 1897 asking for detailed information about Indian alchemy stirred Prafulla Chandra to fresh activity. A paper based on the introductory chapters of '**Rasendrasara**

Samgraha' was soon sent to Berthelot by Prafulla Chandra in response to his (Berthelot's) appeal. Berthelot published an elaborate article in the 'Journal des Savants' based on Prafulla Chandra's manuscript with a highly appreciative acknowledgement of Prafulla Chandra's investigation on the subject. As a result of persistent study and toil for several years coupled with a vigorous search for Sanskrit manuscripts in various libraries of India and in the India office, London, the first volume of the '**History of Hindu Chemistry**' was published in 1902 followed by a second enlarged and revised edition in 1904.

In matters of education Prafulla Chandra would attach little value to University degree and would never cease to condemn the 'degree hunting mania' and 'insane craze' for an academic hall-mark usually shown by young men of the country.

He inspired the students of University College of Science not to join service but to start business, Industry etc.

Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works was the first Industrial Venture of Dr. Ray. The sales of the Company rose from Rs. 23,371/- in 1901 to Rs. 3 Lakhs in 1910. The Capital in 1915 was estimated at about Rs. 4 lakhs. In 1922 a new factory site of 133 Bighas of land was purchased at Panihati. The number of workers employed by the factory rose to 1400 by 1926.

A branch factory had already been opened in Bombay in 1934 which was converted into a full-fledged factory in 1938. With the help of Govt. of India this company is running in a good condi-

tion even today.

In 1901, a gentleman discovered a good deposit of china-clay Near Rajmahal in Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand. Maharaja Manindra Nandi of COSSIMBAZOR, Baikuntha Nath Sen and Hemendranath Sen of Baharampur formed them selves into a private company and a pottery works was started as a humble enterprise. No pottery expert was available at that time. One Narain Chandra Banerjee who knew something about pottery took charge of the venture. He constructed several furnaces but all failed. A sum of Rs. 27,000/- was spent on experiment. In 1906 Satya Sundar Dev, a student of Acharya Roy, who had gone to Japan with a Scholarship, returned after specializing in ceramics and was placed in charge of the Factory. A site was secured on Tangra Road near Beliaghata and a proper factory was erected. Dev was again deputed to Japan to bring two workmen who were to train Indian workers.

Acharya Ray, one of its directors stood as guarantor in securing a Loan from the Imperial Bank. This firm changed hands and is now a growing concern. World War II gave a new impetus to the pottery industry in India as all supplies were cut off from Europe, England and Japan. Under the guidance of Acharya Roy two pupils Devendranath and Dwijendra Nath Bhattacharya went to Japan to see the Enamel works in that country. At the beginning name plates and house numbers only were made. This concern is now one of the pioneer enameled iron-ware producers in the country.

India had a glorious tradition of ship building and maritime activity. It was no wonder that

Swadeshi Movement in 1905 saw the renewed efforts to revive this industry. Every attempt made to revive this activity met with powerful opposition from the British vested interest. Thanks to the incessant preaching of men like Acharya Ray, V.J. Patel, Walchand Hirachand and others, the consciousness that simultaneously with the establishment of industries it would be essential to establish the shipping grew in the country.

During the Swadeshi Movement and after several Indian Insurance Companies were started. It was realized that the premium paid to foreign firms constituted a serious drain. The Swadeshi Movement was designed to stop the economic drain in all possible manners. 5 crores of rupees was paid to foreign Insurance companies as premium in 1930.

Acharya Roy turned his attention to giving support to **Bengali Insurance Co.** S. C. Roy who was connected with **Aryasthan Insurance Co.** came under the spell of Acharya Prafulla Chandra. His indirect Contribution to the growth of the business of this concern was considerable.

Nilratan Sarkar, a friend of Acharya Ray of youthful days and a great medical practitioner was also imbued with the spirit of Swadeshi. He started the National Tannery Works and being Acharya Ray's friend used to consult him at every step. Acharya Ray was a great patriot who was deeply distressed at the poverty of the country. He was great visionary. Acharya Ray was elected the first Chairman of the newly formed **Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association** in 1938.

Acharya Prafulla Chandra did not actually enter the arena of Pol-

itics, but he was a nationalist to the core. He was a great scientist and a great constructive worker, Khadi, anti-untouchability, attention to cottage industries, mass educations, women's education in all these fields of constructive work he was a leader and he stood side by side with Gandhiji and Rabindranath Tagore. The Jalianawala Bagh affair had struck the same chord in him as in the case of Rabindranath. The flood and famine of Bengal brought him in close touch with national workers.

Though agreeing with Mahatma Gandhi for whom he had warm hearted admiration in his constructive work but he did not agree with the **Khilafat Movement**. Acharya Roy was bold enough to speak out his mind when delivering the convocation address to the **Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligar**, he made no secret of his views. "We must not allow our loyalty to the mother country to be swamped by the wave of extra-territorial patriotism. India must not be a spoke in the **Khilafat Wheel** gyrated from Istanbul. The Swaraj of India must be our one all compelling goal and everything else must be kept in its Place."

Acharya Ray disliked the word "Boycott" "**Swadeshim**" is based upon pure love of one's country made products. "**I am Swadeshi**" he said, "**and Swadeshi is my religion and it has been my life long aim to manufacture those articles which I have to import from foreign lands. Political consideration does not sway one. Science can afford to wait but Swaraj Cannot.**"

He will be remembered for his great Book "**Hindu Chemistry.**"□

(Author is the working Committee member of Shikshak Mahasangh)

Census 2011: “Blinkered Vision Fragmented Idea’s

Report by Ankit Bhargava

India Policy Foundation, a think tank, which encourages research on policy matters, organized an impressive function related to census 2011 and come out with an intervention paper on the subject on August 5, 2010 at India International Center. The Intervention Paper, titled census 2011: “Blikered Vision Fragmented Idea’s was released by Shri Jag Mohan (Former Union Minister & Governor, J&K) in the presence of Dr. Amitabh Kundu, Professor, JNU who was also the main speaker of function.

According to Prof. Amitabh Kundu (CSR, JNU), Collecting caste based data will be a major challenge. No one can argue that the government does not need this information. However, collecting information on caste characteristics through Census schedule would inevitably encourage respondents to deliberately misrepresent facts. This is because people would know that the data are likely to be used for designing or monitoring policies and programmes for affirmative action. Self declared nationality is another serious issue that should be verified before it is legally accepted and entered into the NPR Register. If it not done, crores of infiltrators would get the opportunity to legitimize their presence in the country. In the process they would become Indian citizens.

Interestingly, Prof. said NSSO (National Sample Survey Organi-

zation) will give better results than Registrar General Office of India. National Sample Surveys try to meet objective of systematic assessment and are conducted at regular intervals within a well defined framework.

Also, China had adopted the policy of not counting the floating population in urban areas without a Hukou (legal Permit) system, resulting in gross under – enumeration of urban population until recently. There are the reasons why Indian census data are considered much more reliable than that of China.

Another point of view, very different from Prof Amitabh Kundu’s perspective. Was that of Shri Jag Mohan, He said cast enumeration is dangerous for India. He said we should strongly oppose caste enumeration. This process is going to make a very weak nation, going to break social, political and economic fabric of this Nation. Caste should be removed completely.

He who believes in caste system is not a Real Hindu; He spoke of the need to revisit the core of Hinduism. That life is all divinity and we are different aspects & sparks of same divinity. He said, with emphasizing cast enumeration is going to create problem with deep significance; we have to reconstruct Indian Society which is casteless.

He also said, there is no need of cast, I am Jag Mohan, and I am

an Indian.

Why we need cast for my Identity. Indianness and Divinity should be the Identity of an Indian National. Politics is playing its own game, we have to be careful and we need to create National Identity, we need to develop feeling of Oneness, we need to create environment in which we can feel casteless Indian Society which is fulfill with Love, cooperation and respect for each other.

Prof. Rakesh Sinha concluded session by noting that the impact of our efforts, success of this session and our intervention on caste census will be known only in the future any Prof. Sinha also said that the International Policy foundation is trying to make a better society in the form of a reliable think tank.

In any democratic country, if debate and discussion is stifled then it would not yield new Idea. He felt that the civil society of our country rejects identity based politics. It aspires for a casteless social order Prof. Sinha concluded with the hope that his brain storming session will coil yield fruitful results and motivate the Government and Officials to take up the issue in the larger interests of the country.

Many journalist and renowned personalities was attended the program which is really on time and has depth importance of nation building process. □□

(Reporter is a project coordinator at SJM.)

Swadeshi Products

Bathsoap: Santoor, Nirma, Swastik, Mysore Sandal, Wipro-Sikakai, Medimix, Ganga, Cinthol, Godrej, Raja, Fresh, Krishnathulasi, Pyary, Radhas, Vimal, No.1 Chandrika, Vanasree, Sarvoday, Neem, Lakhu Afgan, Premium, Gladis, Ayurvedamix, Nima, Chandanam, Eva, Orchid, Olivia, Manjal, Cuticura, Sanjevanam, Happy Products, etc.

Detergent Soaps: Nirma, Aankto, Vimal, Hepolin, T-Series, Dait, Fena, Ujala, Shudh, EG, Ghadi, Gentle, Manjula, Padmalaya 555, Nebula, Speed, Rakshak, Solo, Sun Brand, Vanamala, Dr. Wash, Sunplus, Gold 916, Radhas, Khadi and SME Products etc.

Beauty Products: Tips & Toj, Shrangar, Cinthol, Santoor, Emami, Boroplus, Tulsi, Vicco Termaric, Arnika, Hair and Caire, Hemani, Perashoot, Faim, Kedila, Sipla, Dabar, Franki, Efka, khandelwal, Torant Farma, Unicum, Jhandu Farma, Himalaya, Maharishi Ayurved, Balsara, J.K. Dabur, Jhandoo, Sandoo, Vaidhyanath, Bhaskar, Borolin, Bajaj, Sevashram, Kokoraj, Move, Crack Cream, Park Avenue, Cavincare, Shringal, Cuticura, Kaveri, Premium, Afgan, Dhatri, Deedi, Pankajakasthori, Thiruthali, Bhagavathi Madom Products, Khadi & SME Products etc.

Toothpaste: Babool, Promise, Vicco, Anchor, Dabur, Meswak, Ajay, Harbodent, Ajanta, Garwary, Brush, Clasical, Egle, Bandarchhap, Vaidhyanath, Emami, Choice, Truegal, K.P. Naboothiris, Effarment, Khadi and SME Products etc.

Shaving Cream Eraser: Godrej, Emami, Super, Super-Max, Ashok, V-Zon, Topaz, Premium, Park Avenue, Lazer, Vidhut, J.K., Gallant, Vidyuth, Swadeshi, Afgan, Khadi and SME Products etc.

Bisket, Chocklete, Milk's Products: Nutrine, Shangrila, Champion, Ampro, Parle, Crack Jack, Crimptoms, Arrow Root, Foster, Campko, Crystal, Craise, Sathe, Bekman, Priya-Gold, Monaco, Krackjack, Gits, Shalimar, Pairy, Rawalgaun, Clasical, Amul, Nutramul, Vijaya, Indana, Syfal, Asian, Verka, Madhu, Mahan, Gopi, Himgi, Vita, Elite, Fanta, Winner, Turbo, Melto, Campko Cream, Fantan, Britannia, Tiger, other smallscale products. etc.

Tea, Coffee: Girnar, Tata-Tea, Asam-Tea, Society, Dankan, Brahmputra, Tej, Tata Cafey, Tata-Tatli, Kannandevan, Elite, Tata-Koorg, Tata Tetli, AVT, Melam, Surya, Mountainmist, Indian Pride, Eastea, etc.

Cold Drink: Guruji, Oanjus, Jampin, Nero, Pingo, Fruity, Aswad, Dabur, Mala, Rajars, Besleri, Rasna, Humdard, Mepro, Rainbo, Culvart, Cetemblika, Ruhafja, Jai Gajanan, Haldiram, Gokul, Bikaner, Vek-

field, Noga, Priya, Ashok, Mothers Resapi, Uma, H.P.M.C Product, Him, Maa, Fizz, Energy, Mangotime, Zippy, Sprint, Pamlehar, Parle, Pops, Baily, Greenwally, Laza, Estern, Royal Drops, Surabhi, Goodluck, Haritha, Goldenwally, Aone, Campacola, Tata Tion, Citran, Lemonza etc.

Ice-Cream: Amul, Himalya, Nirula, Mother Dairy, Vinde, Verka, Joy, Gokul, Milma, Lazza, Vadia, Uncle John, Vasta Karavan, Other small Scale Products.

Food Oil & Products: Maruti, Postmen, Dhara, Rokat, Ginne, Swikar, Kornela, Rath, Mohan, Umang, Vijaya, Span, Parachute, Ashok, Sphola, Kohinoor, Madhur, Engine, Gagan, Amrit, Vanaspati, Ramdev, MDH, Everest, Bedakar, Sahkar, Lijjat, Ganesh, Shaktibhog Aata, Tata Salt KPL, Sunflower, Dabur, Shankar, Kera, Anand, VVD Shudi, Dalda Khadi and SME Products.

Electrical Product, Home Use Product Watch: Videocon, BPL, Onida, Slora, ET&T, T-Series, Neco, Westen, Uptron, Keltron, Kosmic, TVS, Godrej, Crawn, Bajaj, Usha, Polar, Anchor, Surya, Orient, Sinny, Tullu, Crompton Greaves, Lyads, Blue Star, Wholtas, Cool Home, Khaitan, Eveready, Jeep, Novino, Nirlep, Elight, Jaico, Titan, Ajanta, HMT, Maxima, Alvin Ghadi, Bengal, Maisure, Hawkins, Prestige, Pressure Kukar, V-Guard, Chakson, Stream, Ampro, Sumith, Kelvin, Alvin, Kulirma, Misoor, Havells, HCL, Senith, Pegion, Wipro, Sahara, Intex, Chirag.

Write's Product: Giflo, Wilson, Kaimlin, Rehwlan, Rotomac, Cello, Estic, Chandra, Montex, Camel, Bittu, Plato, Triveni, Flora, Apsra, Natraj, Hindustan, Lotus, Cammy, Link Camilin, Omega, Chelpark, Lexi, Flair.

Shoes: Lakhani, Liberty Standard, Action, Paragon, Flash, Crona, Welcome, Rexona, Lotus, Red-Tep, Phenix, Vayking, Billi, Karnoba, Kiwi Shoe Polish, Lunar, Rubco, Fenix, Asian, VKC, Smartech, Politech, Vivifi, Jogger, Prestige, Hivack, Mark, Cubics, Stylo, Finix, Eurostar, Tygrees, Horizon, Orange, Facco.

Readymade: Maphatlal, Trende, Cambriz, Double Wool, Jhodiak, Arvind Denim, Don, Prolin, TT, Lux, Amul, VIP, Rupa, Raymond, Park Avenue, Altimo, Newport, Killer, Fling Machine, Dux, Kolkata, Ludhiana and Tirpur, Ex Caliber, Trent Duoble Bull, Flyngmachine, Ducksun, King Richard.

Vehicle: Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Eicher, Swaraj Masda, TVS, Hero Honda, Bajaj, Kinetic, LML, Sonalica, Hindustan Motors, Force, Atul, Tafe, AMW. □

Foreign Products

BATH PRODUCTS

Lux, Liril, Lifeboy, Piyers, Rexona, Humam, Jai, Moti, Caime, Dev, Ponds, Pamolive, Jonson, Clearcil, Detol, Lesansi, Jesmin, Gostmist, Lakmay, Amway, Kwantum, Margo, Cyami, Dove, Hamam, Chandan, Jasmin, OK, Gold Mist, Fa.

DETERZEN SOAPS

Sunlight, Wheel, Ariel, Check, Duble, Trilo, 501, OK, Key, Rebail, Amway, Kwantum, Surf, Excel, Rin, Vimbar, Robin Blue, Tide, Henko and other products of Hindustan Liver Ltd.

BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Johnson, Ponds, Old Spice, Clearcil, Brilcream, Fair & Lovely, Velvet, Medicaire, Lavender, Nicil, Shawar to Shawar, Kyutikura, Liril, Lakmay, Dainem, Organix, Painten, Roots, Head & Sholder, Amway, Kwantum, Clinic, Nihar, Coco Caire, Gluxo, Ne-wrights, Glakso, Pairs, Dove.

TOOTHPASTE

Colget, Cibaca, Closeup, Pepsodent, Segnal, Maclins, Prodent, Amway, Kwantum, Aquafresh, Neem, Oral-B, Forhuns.

SHAVING CREAM ERASER

Pamolive, Old Spices, Niviya, Ponds, Playtinum, Zelet, Seven-O-Clock, Vilmen, Viltage, Erasmic, Swis, Lakme, Danim, Gillek, Vimal, Gillettee, Durmix, Swish etc.

BISKET, CHOCKLETE, MILK'S PRODUCTS

Marry, Nestle, Kedvary, Bornvita, Horlicks, Boost, Milkmade, Kissan, Maigi, Phairex, Anixpray, Complian, Kitket, Charge, Eclair, Modern Bred, Briten-ia Bread, Maltoa, Hiwa, Mylo, Viva, Farex, Maltova.

TEA, COFFEE

Bruck Bond, Tajmahal, Red-Level, Daimond, Lipton, Green Labell, Tiger, Nescafe, Neslay, Delka, Bru, Sunrise, three flowers.

COLD DRINK

Lehar, Pepsi, 7-up, Mirenda, Team, Coca-Cola,

Mecdowel, Magola, Goldsport, Limca, Citra, Tumps-up, Sprit, Dux, Fanta, Cadburry, Kenda dry, cresh, Maza, Slice, Aquafina, Kinley..

ICE-CREAM

Cabury, Dalop, Nice, Product's Brook Bond, Quality Wals, Baskin-Robins, Yanki-dudals, Carnet-to, Karneli, Baskin Robins.

FOOD OIL & PRODUCTS

Dalta, Cristal, Lipton, Annapurna Salt, Aata and Chapati, Magi, Kisan, Tarla, Brook-Bond, Pilsbari Aata, Capton Cook Salt and Aata, Modern Chapati, Kargil Aata, Uncle Chips, Lehar, Pepsi, Kellogs, Maggi, Lays.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCT, HOME USE PRODUCT WATCH

GIC, Philips, Sony, TDK, Nippo, National-Pe-sononic, Sharp, GE, Whirlpool, Samsung, Devu, Toshiba, LG, Hitachi, Thamson, Electrolux, Aky, San-sui, Kenwood, Awa, Alwin Freeze, Career, Konka, taperwayer, Japan Life, Omega, Timex, Rado, See-ma, Pioneer, Dimex, Hair, HP, Dell, Lenova, Chinese Products

WRITE'S PRODUCT

Parker, Paylet, windser-nutton, feber-caicel, lug-zer, vik, mat-black, Koras, As, Rotring, Bamos, Bira-ka, Fiber, Castal, Yes, Hero, Ad, Chinese Products.

SHOES

Bata, Fluma, Power, Chairy-blasm, Aadidas, Re-bock, Nike, Lekoooper, Gaisolen, Pach, Cheriblosam, Polo, Inblu.

READYMADE

All product of Lee, Peter England, Berlington, Aro, Lacost, Sonphisco, Colourplus, Hawan Husan, Lui Philip, Levis, Paibe Jins, Wrenglar, Benaton, Red & Tayler, Alen Sali, Boyford, Chiserve Products, Re-gent Tailor, Alian Levis, Van Huesan.

VEHICLE

General Motors, Ford, Honda, Toyota, Merzdes Benz, Rols Roes, BMW, Scoda, Suzuki, Volvo, Pia-geo, Wolkvagon. Hundai. □□

SJM is observing "Swadeshi Week" every year to propogate use of Swadeshi items in daily use. It is for the purpose of distribution to general public that we are publishing this list. Local products shall be added to Swadeshi List.

Different price rise data make policy making tough: RBI study

A study by the central bank says various measurements of the rate of price rise in India makes it difficult to frame policies, as all of them are volatile in nature.

“In the Indian context, the alternative measures of inflation, such as month-over-month seasonally-adjusted inflation and core inflation, do not exhibit the desirable properties for becoming the key reference indicators in monetary policy, as they are significantly volatile, like the headline inflation,” the study said.

However, the new proposed consumer price index (CPI), which is expected to come into effect in January next year, is expected to eliminate some of the shortcomings in measuring the rate of inflation, according to the study, titled, ‘Measurement of Inflation in India, Issues and Associated Challenges for the Conduct of Monetary Policy.’

“Recent initiatives on improving price statistics in India, especially in terms of generating data on CPI-Urban and CPI-Rural and a representative CPI for the country as a whole over time, would address a major data gap in India,” it said.

CPI is a measure estimating the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households and measures the price change for a constant market basket of goods and services from one period to the next within the same area like a city, region, or country.

Currently, there are four CPI inflation indexes — the CPI for industrial workers, CPI for agricultural labourers, CPI for rural labourers and CPI for urban non-manual employees. This will be changed with the new index. The study said discrepancies in proper inflation measurement could lead to complications in policy making. □

Cos with captive mines to share profits with affected people

The government is determined to implement a policy intended to give those displaced by mining a share in the profits of the miners despite a less than enthusiastic response from industry, the minister for mines said.

The policy, part of a legislation setting the rules for investment in mining, will also apply to captive mines of companies such as Tata Steel, SAIL and Hindalco. The bill, if approved by Parliament, could make it mandatory for companies to issue equity shares to each member of every family displaced by the project as well as 26% of the profit, according to a draft version of the bill, minister added.

The draft of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill, 2010, being prepared under the supervision of a group of ministers, has endorsed a proposal stipulating that all resource operations of what it describes as “standalone companies” share 26% of their net profit on an annual basis with the people affected by the project.

Government starts anti-dumping probe into soda ash imports

India has initiated a probe into alleged dumping of soda ash by countries like China, Iran and Pakistan to protect domestic players.

The Commerce Ministry’s designated authority, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), has started an investigation into alleged dumping of the chemical, used in detergent and soap making, on the basis of an application filed by the Alkali Manufacturers’ Association of India.

“... The authority (DGAD) hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping and consequential injury to the domestic industry... to determine the effect of dumping and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duty... to remove the injury,” the Commerce Ministry said in a notification.

The period of investigation for the purpose is from April, 2009, to March, 2010.

It said that the DGAD has sufficient prima facie evidence of dumping of soda ash by China, the EU, Kenya, Pakistan, Iran, the US and Ukraine to initiate the probe.

As many as 15 anti-dumping duties have been imposed in the first 11 months of the current fiscal, with the maximum on Chinese goods. India has slapped the restrictive duty on several items such as yarn, fabrics, certain stainless steel products, auto parts and chemicals.

India may miss \$12 bn exports target

Apparel exporters are apprehensive about achieving the target of USD 12 billion for 2010-11, as over-

DoT Releases 3G Spectrum to Successful Bidders

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has allotted 3G spectrum for commercial use on 1st September as per the timelines indicated in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) and in the Letter of Intent issued after the bid amounts were deposited. The 3G spectrum has been allotted to AirTel, Aircel, Vodafone, S Tel, Reliance, Idea Cellular and Tata Cellular Services who won the bids through the electronic auction conducted by the DoT spread over a period of 34 days in respect of 3G and 16 days in respect of BWA. The BWA spectrum has already been assigned to the successful bidders' which are

Aircel, Augere, Tikona, Qualcomm, Infotel and Bharti. 3G & BWA spectrum would enable users to have value added services like video streaming, mobile internet access, higher & faster data downloads. These services are expected to be launched early next year by the service providers.

With the allotment of spectrum, the Department of Telecommunications has met all the timelines in strict adherence to the NIA, right from the issuing of the NIA, conducting the auction, earning a revenue of Rs. 106000 crores and assigning spectrum on due date. □

seas shipments declined for three months in a row, with little signs of improvement in the coming months.

“In the first quarter, apparel exports were cumulatively down by 8 per cent. But we hope that we can cross last fiscal's figures of USD 10.72 billion,” Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Premal Udani has said.

Garment exports in the first quarter of this financial year saw a negative growth. During April-July, exports dipped by 8 per cent to USD 3.4 billion on year-on-year basis.

Udani said that with reduced demand from western markets like the US and Europe, the next quarter also looked unpromising.

To reduce the dependence on traditional markets like the US and Europe, apparel exporters are exploring new markets in Japan, West Asia, Africa and Australia.

The APEC has also asked the government to ensure that exports of cotton and yarn are calibrated and do not cause supply disruptions for producers of garments for export and domestic markets.

The prices of cotton/yarn have started sharply rising again due to the government's decision to allow exports from October 1 and the withdrawal of export duty on cotton, the council said.

Cotton prices have increased by 55 per cent between July, 2009, and August, 2010.

Udani said the cost of production was going up because raw material costs are climbing fast.

“Yarn mills have once again stopped deliveries and are planning to increase minimum Rs 10 per kg

price for September delivery,” he added.

Earlier, the government had announced that the Rs 2,500 per tonne export duty on cotton was being withdrawn and the Textiles Commissioner would start registration of mandatory cotton contracts from September 1.

Further, Udani said there were also labour law problems which did not give exporters the flexibility they need.

Realtors unfazed by SC's verdict

Most builders seem unaffected by Supreme Court ruling, which prohibited them from selling parking areas as independent units to flat buyers.

The apex court rejected a real estate company's argument that developers are entitled to sell garages/stilt parking areas as separate flats to owners who intend to use it as parking facilities.

A cross-section of real estate insiders say that it was highly unlikely that builders would let go of this revenue despite the order. “They will either jack up the price of the apartment or quote a lumpsum rate to the buyer. No builder in this city will give anything for free,” said an industry source.

Inquiries done by TOI show that a stilt parking in new building in suburb like Borivali could be Rs 7 lakh. In the Napean Sea Road area, a closed garage in an old skyscraper could go for between Rs 35 lakh and Rs 40 lakh.

In the Pedder Road area, the rate quoted by the builder for an area demarcated as parking space in a premium residential high-rise was a phenomenal Rs 1.5 crore. □□

Europe agrees new agencies to supervise financial firms

EU states and the European Commission agreed to create agencies that from next year are to oversee banks, insurers, and financial markets. The deal must still be approved by European finance ministers and the European Parliament. Europe's move follows the sweeping Wall Street reforms that President Barack Obama signed into law in July. It is hoped the agreements in Europe and the US will help stop a repeat of the financial crisis in which loose supervision of companies was blamed for contributing to problems.

Michel Barnier, European Internal Market Commissioner, said after the deal was agreed: "We

have reached a crucial milestone. We have reached a political consensus on the creation of a European financial supervisory framework." The agreement also creates a European Systemic Risk Board with the task to look out for threats to Europe's economy from the financial sector. Mr Barnier said the new agencies would give Europe "the control tower and the radar screens needed to identify risks, the tools to better control financial players and the means to act quickly, in a coordinated way, in a timely fashion". If the agreement is ratified, the EU hopes to launch the new agencies in January. □

BP says oil spill cost up to \$8bn

The cost of the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster continues to mount up for BP. The company says the cost has risen to \$8bn (£5.2bn) - a rise of more than \$2bn in the last month alone. The company said it had paid out about \$399m in claims to those affected by the spill. Responsibility for the claims was transferred to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF), which has so far paid out a total of \$38.5m. Plans to permanently seal the well were also progressing well, BP said. The final sealing of the well is now expected to be completed later this month.

London builders eye rich Indians

As Britain's housing market continues its downward spiral due to recession, London's biggest builders are targeting cash-rich investors from India and other emerging economies to stay afloat. A pad in London is avidly sought by upwardly mobile Indian and other foreign entrepreneurs who see the city as a safe and attractive destination. Property dealers in London have reported sales to several foreign investors, including Indians. A weak pound sterling has added to the attraction of buying houses in Britain.

Housing industry sources say foreign buyers bought more than half of the London homes that sold for more than 2 million pounds each last year. The snapping up of houses in London by cash-rich foreign investors has sparked some concern that prices will remain artificially inflated, which will make it difficult for local British buyers to enter the market.

London is said to be particularly attractive to the global super-rich because of its accessibility, stability, safety and the global standing of its financial institutions.

London is already home to 23 billionaires, 11 of them of foreign origin.

World trade grows by 25 pc in 2nd quarter

World trade continued to rebound strongly in the first half of this year, rising by over a quarter from year-ago levels, with emerging economies showing particularly powerful export growth, World Trade Organization figures showed.

Trade typically grows and contracts at much faster rates than the overall economy, but the WTO data confirm the strength of the global recovery in the first half of this year.

Global exports of merchandise goods, measured by value in current dollars not adjusted for price changes, were 25.8 per cent higher in the second quarter than a year earlier, after a 25.7 per cent rise in the first quarter, WTO statistics showed.

That meant trade in the first half of the year was about 25 per cent higher by value than a year earlier, but still below its mid-2008 peaks.

The second-quarter rise in Russia and other former Soviet republics was 43.9 per cent, and in Asia 37.5 per cent.

Even North America, including Mexico, outpaced the global figure, with a rise of 28.5 per cent, but export growth in Europe at 13.2 per cent grew at only half the overall global rate.

The figures are based on monthly statistics from about 70 economies representing about 90 per cent of world trade. Global exports contracted in value terms by 23 per cent in 2009 to \$12.15 trillion.

The WTO expects they will grow by over 10 per cent in volume terms this year after shrinking by 12 per cent in 2009.

Germany to extend life of 17 nuclear reactors

After months of wrangling, Germany has decided to extend the lifespan of the country's 17 nuclear reactors by 12 years on average, reversing the existing plans to shut down all reactors by 2020. The decision to increase the lifespan of nuclear reactors came after 12 hours of hectic parleys between senior politicians and forms a key component of the future energy policy of Europe's largest economy. The leaders of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, its Bavarian sister party Christian Social Union and the liberal Free Democratic Party agreed that seven older reactors will cease to operate after eight years while the 10 young-

er reactors will continue to feed electricity into the national grid for another 14 years.

As they met in the chancellery, several thousand anti-nuclear campaigners demonstrated outside, demanding an early phasing out of atomic power and greater support for the development of renewable energy. The coalition also agreed to impose a nuclear fuel tax on the companies operating the reactors over a period of six years. The proposed tax, which is part of the government's austerity package, was endorsed by the cabinet to scale down the budget deficit, is expected to bring an annual revenue of about 2.3 billion euros. □

Hefty payouts amid massive layoffs

Cost-cutting moves might have cost thousands of US jobs, but many CEOs at companies that resorted to massive layoffs saw their pay packets fatten in 2009, says a study. An in-depth survey of 50-listed American companies by the Institute of Policy Studies showed that many of them, which slashed the most number of jobs, also paid around 42 per cent higher compensation to their respective CEOs. The study on the 50 companies in the broader S&P 500 Index that had laid off the maximum number of workers, revealed that their CEOs enjoyed larger payouts in comparison to their peers heading other S&P firms.

As per the report, firms headed by these 50 CEOs had laid off at least 3,000 workers between November, 2008-April, 2010. Ironically, the majority of the job cuts (72 per cent) were announced at a time when these companies saw good earnings, the study pointed out. Among the 50 US firms surveyed by the institute, Schering-Plough CEO Fred Hassan received a golden parachute of USD 33 million when his firm merged with Merck in late 2009. The mega merger had resulted in at least 16,000 workers losing their jobs.

Bone drugs and Oesophageal cancer

Long-term use of bone-strengthening drugs - used to treat fractures - may boost the risk of oesophageal cancer, Oxford University research suggests. The study of 3,000 people found taking bisphosphonates for five years upped the risk from one in 1,000 to two in 1,000 for 60 to 79-year-olds. The researchers said the risk was small, but reliable information on risks and benefits was needed.

The findings, published in the British Medical

Journal, were based on an analysis of anonymised GP records. They contrast with previous research which found no increased risk for the bone-strengthening drugs. It is not known why the risk may be increased, although the drugs are known to irritate the oesophagus. Thousands of stomach and colorectum cancers were also studied, but no increased risk was found.

Food crisis sends UN into a huddle

The UN food agency said it would hold a special meeting to discuss rising world food prices, as Russia extended a wheat export ban and food riots broke out in Mozambique.

"It is a special meeting because so far there is no emergency on the markets but a lot of volatility" in world cereal markets, a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) official said. The announcement by the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organization followed Russia's decision to extend its ban on wheat exports. The ban has been held as partly responsible for the 5% rise in food prices worldwide over the last two months to reach their highest level in two years.

According to a spokesman, the inter-governmental committee on grains will be held September 24, most likely in Rome. He said a large number of member countries had expressed concern about a possible repeat of the 2008 food crisis. A food price rise has triggered deadly riots in Mozambique this week. There has also been anger over rising prices in Egypt and Serbia, while in Pakistan - where floods destroyed a fifth of the country's crops - the prices of many food items have risen 15%. Drought in Russia - and the country's subsequent restrictions on wheat exports - forced a sudden sharp rise in wheat prices, the agency said. □□

US visa restrictions WTO incompatible

Recent visa restrictions imposed by the United States are not compatible with WTO regulations, a senior Indian government official says. The US Congress passed legislation to strengthen security along the border with Mexico, trying to tackle the politically sensitive issue of illegal immigrants ahead of November congressional elections.

The Indian government has protested to Washington against what it called a highly discriminatory US immigration bill that will double the cost of work visas for some high-profile Indian companies. "Yes, this is WTO incompatible. I have no doubt about it," Trade Secretary Rahul Khullar said when asked whether the recent visa restrictions were incompatible with WTO regulations.

Under the Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 — popularly called the Border Security Bill — the US has hiked fee for certain categories of H-1B and L1 visas by at least USD 2,000 for the next five years. US says the hike will help it foot nearly \$550 million, out of the proposed expenditure of \$650 million, on increasing security along the US-Mexico border.

Like India, American Inc has flayed the US government's move, which will hurt Indian IT companies the most, saying that the law would undermine investment relations with India. However, the US Administration said the measure, "makes sense" and would in no way undermine "robust and vital" ties with India. Trade Secretary has also said that consultation with Washington is ongoing and that he is confident the matter will be resolved bilaterally.

WTO raps EU tariffs on technology goods

A WTO panel has given broad backing to the United States, Japan and Taiwan in their complaint over controversial European duties on electronics products, and told Brussels to bring its trade measures into line with international rules. The panel said the EU had imposed the duties on flat-panel displays, multifunction printers and television set-top boxes in violation of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement.

U.S. trade officials estimated worldwide trade in the three products at \$44 billion in 2009. The European Union's 27 nations imported \$7 billion worth of the products that year. The European Commission criticized the 704-page ruling before it was published,

repeating its view that negotiations on a comprehensive revision of the agreement were preferable to litigation on only a few aspects of it.

The Information Technology Agreement, which is voluntary, abolished tariffs among 72 countries on products like computer screens and printers to foster trade in high-tech goods.

EU screw makers suspend Malaysia, India complaints

European fastener producers have dropped complaints that rivals in India and Malaysia are receiving illegal state aid and dumping screws and bolt in the European Union, but said they could file new allegations. The European Fasteners Institute said it had withdrawn its complaints after European regulators signaled they might dismiss them.

The Institute, which represents European producers including Italy's Agrati and Celo of Spain, said it was reviewing its accusations and were working on filing more extensive complaints in the coming months.

The EU imported Indian screws and bolts worth 52 million euros (\$65.50 million) in 2009, up from 2.5 million euros in 2005. Imports from Malaysia rose to 15 million euros from 2 million euros during the same period, according to EU statistics office Eurostat.

The EU began investigating allegations of illegal subsidies and price-dumping in both countries in August 2009.

GPCA may petition WTO

The Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) may petition the World Trade Organization (WTO) should India levy antidumping duties on exports of polypropylene (PP) from the Gulf region, the GPCA's secretary-general said.

The GPCA has protested against India's rejection of the Saudi pricing mechanism for propane used to manufacture PP and its move to impose antidumping duties on PP supplies from Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Indian investigations into dumping of PP by Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Oman which were initiated in March 2009 and provisional duties, ranging from \$44.40 (•34) to \$1,033.65/tonne were announced in July 2009.

India is also carrying out an investigation on dumping of PP by producers from South Korea, Taiwan and the US.