

elect a PCC candidate, and not his CPI(M) counterpart? He goes to say that it is obvious to all that a CPI(M) candidate, being a member of the most organised parliamentary Party within this State enjoys much greater leverage over the PCC candidates in matters that need to be passed through the assembly or squeezed out of the government.

In the end S. K. formulates, "Revolutionary tactics comprises a set of theoretical weapons with which the people fight for their political power and not for their local tubewells". S. K. does not spell out what these theoretical weapons are, and seems to make a very basic mistake. People fight for their political power not with theoretical weapons but because of their own needs and desires, and Marxist-Leninists have to start from these needs and desires to build up any mass struggle be it for political power or for an immediate objective. Theoretical weapons are used by the vanguard for mobilising the masses for the seizure of power. The masses come to grasp the need for armed political struggles through the propaganda of the vanguard as well as from their own experiences.

The question of participation in or boycott of elections is one which should be decided by the objective conditions facing the Marxist-Leninists. In a country like India, the objective conditions of revolution develop in an extremely uneven fashion and even when revolutionaries decide to launch armed struggle in one pocket, they have to adopt milder forms in another. And these mil-

der forms have to be adopted with the ultimate objective of launching armed struggle.

In today's conditions, there is no pocket in India where a revolutionary armed struggle has decisively begun, and the masses in general still retain the hope of getting some immediate benefits through elections. This is especially true of the more backward sections. In such a situation any direct call to start revolutionary struggle is unlikely to evoke much response; struggles on immediate issues have to be launched in order to arrive at the ultimate and free masses of constitutional illusions.

At this stage of Indian revolution, when class struggle is at a low ebb, participation in parliamentary institutions and not boycott, is the correct tactics. In order to draw the backward sections of the masses into struggles of various forms, one has to wait patiently till the relief-providing capacity of the social-democrats is exhausted. The symptoms of such exhaustion are already emerging. Moreover, the total number of votes secured by the PCC and the Jharkhand Kranti Dal in the Jhargram sub-division shows clearly that a large number of peasants have been drawn on the path of active mass movement.

Sarat Sen  
Calcutta

#### Human Rights In India

Recently a declaration on the human rights situation in India has been published in the Netherlands, signed by about 20 Dutch committees and groups concerned

with India, as well as by the 7 main political parties in the Netherlands (having 144 seats out of a total 150 seats in Parliament).

The declaration expressing great concern and shock at the systematic violation of fundamental human rights in India today, says the Indian government and other authorities (at different levels) largely fail to implement various laws and other measures which could guarantee or promote the implementation of these rights, especially for Harijans, tribals and other oppressed minorities. Besides, as the Dutch committees and political parties do believe, the police (and other government officials) often prove to be involved in the tremendously rising amount of 'atrocities'. The Bhagalpur blindings, massacres, so-called 'encounters' and other forms of repression are only some of the examples of what (euphemistically) are called 'incidents'.

The declaration is an initiative taken by the **India Committee, of the Netherlands** and the Humanistic Committee on Human Rights and has been formulated after consultation with Amnesty International (Netherlands section).

India Committee of the  
Netherlands

#### For Frontier Contact

Mr K. Dhar,  
C/o. Basanti Stores,  
Laban,  
Shillong-793004.