

LETTERS

RAMCHANDRAN

K Ramchandran, an imaginative and illustrious leader in the Indian revolutionary politics is no more. He was popularly known as GS. With the demise of Ramchandran a link from the undivided communist party to the Marxist-Leninist ideology is lost now. He was active in the leadership roles of undivided communist party and the CPI(M) before 1967. He was the follower of the positive traditions and thoughts of communist movement.

His relentless fight against the deviations and degradations in the name of Marxism was unequalled. His noblest efforts and endeavours to evolutionise and develop Marxism-Leninism in the Indian social context is unique. He breathed his last on the 31st August, 2008 leaving memories of an eventful life filled with revolutionary spirit that lasted around 6 decades. He succumbed to his prolonged illness at Mumbai where his laborious revolutionary political activities were concentrated. He was 78 and he died due to lung cancer. He was an extraordinary man who had unrivalled will power to wipe out the weariness of Paroxism. Even after becoming heavily sick, his political activities continued with vigour and vitality.

Ramchandran was a native of Kollangode in Palakkad district in Kerala. He was one among the 8 children of Karumathil Raghava Menon and Madhavi Amma. Having had his school at Kollangode high school and graduation from Kozhikode Christian College, he set off to Mumbai in 1951 to study law. During this time too he found time to indulge in political activities of the undivided communist party. After the graduation in law he fully immersed in Trade Union activities. In 1956 he functioned as the convener of Railway Coordination Committee and worked in the leadership levels of the Communist Party. In 1964 when CPI was split he left the CPI and became one of the founding members of CPI (M) in Mumbai with AKG. He shouldered decisive role in formulating a left trade union strategy in the Indian railways. He also worked as the secretary of International Airport Authority Union. He was the secretary of the Indian Federation of Trade Unions formed for the first time in India under the auspices of M-L movement. He was one of the leading figures of the historical railway strike in 1974.

In 1984 he took over as the General Secretary of CPI (ML) after the death of Chandrapulla Reddy. In 1992 he assumed the General secretaryship of the party formed by the merger of 7 ML parties. Ramchandran was convicted politically and prisoned many a time including under MISA. He wholeheartedly dedicated his life to the party and the people. He was unmarried. He worked untiringly with the objective of transforming and developing the class struggle into a political struggle and awaken the working class for that purpose.

Janashakti

MUMBAI BLOODBATH

As usual, all sorts of speculations are circulating about the identity of the perpetrators of this act of barbarism. The truth about who are directly involved in this brutal incident and who could be the culprits behind the scene is yet to come out and we do not wish to indulge in any guesswork or blame game at this point. However, one is intrigued at its timing. Can it be termed a coincidence that it has happened on the day the Home Secretaries of the two countries concluded their talks in Islamabad and announced several concrete steps to move forward in the peace process, such as the opening of several land routes for trade - Kargii, Wagah-Attari, Khokhropar etc, relaxation in the visa regime, a soft and liberal policy on the issue of release of prisoners and joint efforts to fight terrorism? Again, is it just a coincidence that on this fateful day the Foreign Minister of Pakistan was in the Indian capital holding very useful and productive talks with his Indian counterpart? One thing looks crystal clear. The enemies of peace and friendship between the two countries, whatever be the label under which they operate, are unnerved by these healthy developments and are hell bent on torpedoing them.

At this moment of unmitigated tragedy, the first thing we call upon the Governments of India and Pakistan to do is to acknowledge the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people of India and Pakistan ardently desire peace and, therefore, the peace process must be pursued with redoubled speed and determination on both sides. The sooner the ruling establishments of India and Pakistan acknowledge this fact and push ahead with concrete steps towards lasting peace and harmony in the subcontinent, the better

it will be not only for the people of our two countries but also for the whole of South Asia and the world. While the immediate responsibility for unmasking the culprits of Mumbai and taking them to task surely rests with the Government of India, all of us in South Asia have an obligation to join hands and go into the root causes of why and how such forces of evil are motivated and emboldened to resort to such acts of anti-people terror.

**Joint India-Pakistan
People's Initiative**

THE CARNAGE

The Civil Society in Mumbai and elsewhere in India will make sure that the tragic event of November in Mumbai does not become an excuse for organized attacks on the terrorized Muslim communities by the forces of Hindutava. The governmental agencies should do everything necessary to prevent uncalled for attacks on the communities of Muslims in Mumbai and elsewhere.

Regardless of the identity of the perpetrators of these terrorist attacks in Mumbai, the process of normalization of the relations between Pakistan and India should not be allowed to be derailed. The Government of India would sincerely accept the offer of the Pakistani government to jointly investigate the source of this terrorist attack, and become an on-going partner with Pakistan in dealing with the problem of terrorism in the sub-continent. And most importantly, the need for a heightened Security Apparatus should not lead to indiscriminate arrests, detention and harassment of innocent people, as has been the practice so far; nor should it be the grounds for bringing in any more draconian laws to intimidate the ordinary people of India.

Hari Sharma, Sansad