Why Left Fails

People live in a morass of bad politics, bad economics and bad education as well. The process of political and social degradation seems irreversible. Despite the Great Crash what is called globalisation of poverty is getting grimmer day after day. And the political left, here and abroad, has no respite from being caught between a theoretical puzzle—either to work to reinforce the sovereignty of national governments against domination of transnationals, or to strive towards a non-national alternative to the present form of globalisation and that is equally global. Many on the left in the 1980s thought globalisation would create a kind of opportunity for mass movement to ignore national boundaries and to bring people together globally, across national lines in opposition to globalisation of capital. But no broad-based international platform of oppressed people opposed to the present form of globalisation emerged, notwithstanding massive mass upheavals in different corners of the world.

A world without national boundaries but also with people organised as groups, as collectives, is still unthinkable. After all the left everywhere is in no mood to think beyond the status quo, beyond the national barriers or sub-national prejudice.

During the last three decades or so, globalisation has succeeded in creating a docile labour force in all economies, advanced or not so advanced, to serve global capital almost under Dickensonian conditions. But the left has failed to motivate toilers globally and has done nothing to make sincere efforts to organise the oppressed on national issues that are equally international in character if viewed against the prevailing perspective of globalisation. The main problem is that they themselves believe in invincibility of unjust global order.

Regional wars that are raging all the time across the globe, particularly in third world countries, are directly related to global capital that creates unstability for the toiling masses to maximise profits. The left has no idea as to how to paralyse economic life-lines that sustain such wars. Nor do they seriously organise labourers to withdraw labour for peace and development. Right now Israeli barbarism in the Gaza Strip has created a living hell for the Palestinians who are the most persecuted of the century. The strip is just 25 miles long and seven miles wide but it is again the symbol of resistance and source of inspiration to millions of people who refuse to accept US-Israeli bullying as fait accompli.

Unless the America-led global war machine—and Israel is an integral part of it, faces threat from workers and primary producers throughout the world wars will continue. Also globalisation in its present form means war. The leftists of India, communists included, have never made any serious attempt to organise labour against war economy. Their once-a-year peace march—in September every year—is so casual and routine that it is too naive to produce any symbolic, not to speak of sustainable, movement against war and global capital that generates war.

Electoral politics being the sole pre-occupation of political left, no effective mass mobilisation can be done against the evils of globalisation. By working perennially through the political system that poisons the atmosphere, the left, communist or socialist, is bound to corrupt their ideals. Reacting to spontaneity

cannot deliver. The changed situation demands changed tactical and strategical line.

Globalisation demands thinking not in terms of periodic change in government, not in terms of electoral politics only; but thinking in terms of organising social movements, organising in the work place, organising collectives, rather people's collectives that can become strong enough to eventually take over the institutions, not excluding the government. If there is a powerful social movement, it doesn't matter, who is in office. But the left is itself in a dilemma as to how to develop a powerful social movement while paying lip service to anti-globalisation rhetoric. □□□