

LETTERS

FOR HUMANE DEVELOPMENT

Italian affiliates of the International Metalworkers' Federation are urging FIAT for clarification about the establishment of a new production unit in India.

"According to press reports, the Fiat Group is involved in the setting up of a new Tata Motors plant at Singur in the Indian state of West Bengal for the production of a low cost car," read a joint statement from the Italian unions.

"International and Indian labour groups have voiced concern that such an industrial establishment would have a devastating impact on the fertile agricultural area, which is home to about 22,000 inhabitants, many of whom would receive no indemnity at all for the expropriation of their land.

"The area involved has in recent months been the site of protest demonstrations and, unfortunately, repressive measures taken against the farmers including the arrests of trade union leaders.

"The Fim, Fiom and Uilm National Secretariats in Italy are requesting that clarification be given on any participation of the Fiat Group in this initiative. They are demanding that FIAT, together with Tata Motors, take initiatives so to ensure that the government of West Bengal sets aside a location other than Singur in order to make the necessary industrial development possible while safeguarding the living conditions of the agricultural community."

A Reader, Italy

SOCIALIST MAN

Socialism is about all-round freedom of man. It is the alternative to capitalism which creates alienation and exploitation of man by man by all possible means—social, economic, political, cultural, intellectual and psychological. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) the French philosopher, rightly said in his *Du Contrat Social*. "Man is born free, and everywhere is in chains". Socialism alone can regain the birthright of man.

Dialectical materialism questions the concept of monopoly of truth as Renaissance In the 15th Century (1500-1700 A.D.) rejected scholasticism of the Church of the day as the sole authority of knowledge and wisdom. The socialist movement must have a whole network of institutions and practices to ensure the play of dialectical reasoning where people at all levels participate. This is the only way of establishing truth based on reason and logic. It will lay the foundation of self-correction and self-development of the individual and the society as a whole. This must start from day one of the socialist movement only then after the victory of the revolution, the revolutionaries can build the further structures of self-correction and self-development of socialist ideology. This is, perhaps, the shape of Marxian socialism to come. It needs also to be remembered that programme and commitment beyond revolution is more important than the revolution itself. On these, depends the survival, sustenance, progression and transmission of socialist Ideals to successive generations.

First the socialist man, then the socialist society—then the socialist state. The reverse order was tried during the last 77 years since the Great October Revolution in Russia in

1917. But It has apparently failed temporarily due to internal contradictions and more powerful external onslaughts. The great social and sociological experiment has failed. Greed, selfishness, treachery, won the day.

The mode of transmission of socialist legacy from one generation to the successive generations needs a sound and scientific vehicle. Socialism needs to be woven into a moral network. Material incentive is only one string In that network. It Is not enough. Moral instinct can only make socially, politically, culturally, educationally, economically, psychologically and intellectually vial and sustainable socialist man. Creed and selfishness are basic human instincts. These vices dehumanise a human being. These are beasts in man. Marxism is the only way to remove these beasts. Marxism, again, is the only available means of humanising this mortal Homo Sapien. Man in crude form, is the cell of the society. Making of the socialist man should start at the root Once made, the purity of the socialist man needs to be maintained and protected from opposing forces. Mao Tse-Tung (1893-1976) innovated the Cultural Revolution in the Sixties to protect socialist purity, but did not succeed.

Sisir K Majumdar,
London

BAREN BHATTACHARYA

Baren is no more. Baren Bhattacharya CPI(ML) Kolkata district committee member and secretary of Tallygunge-Garia area Committee died of liver cancer at 56 after a brief illness.

Professionally he was a freelance journalist working for a few dailies. viz, *Business and Political Observer* (later converted to the *Observer*), the *Statesman*, the *Financial Express*, the *Hindustan Times*, the *Ajkal* etc. He began his career in investigative journalism working in *Lok Samachar*, a monthly organ of West Bengal People's Front (Gana Front) as a wholetimer. Later he joined *Pratik-shan*, a Bengali fortnightly magazine, as a parmanent staff. But after few years he lost his job due to closing up of *Pratikshan*. Then he started his new career with the English dailies expertising mainly on business reports.

Simultaneously he continued his party work organising different sects of people. In the early 1980 and onwards he along with his fellow activist Falguni Mitra, a dental surgeon (then he was a dental medical student) and others took possession of the WB state CPI(ML) party office at Moulali, Kolkata from the clutches of Congress (I) Hoodlums. In this respect he played a great role in building up this stste CPI(ML) office (earlier it was IPF office). He came up from a uprooted family from Khulna district of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and spent his early life in a refugee camp.

The CPI(ML) Kolkata district committee remembered Baren in a condolance meeting held at Moulali Yubs Kendra on 19 Jan.' 07. CPI(ML) General Sectarary, senior journalist Shankar Roy, Ex-editor of *Pratikshan* Swapna Dev, writer Kinnar Roy, dramatist Amal Roy, *Madhyanna* editor Sailandranath Basu, CPI(ML) leader Soifuddin, *Nagarik Mancha* Secretary Naba Dutta, Baren's personal friend Doctor Kishalay Mukherjee, CPI(ML) State Secretary Kartick Pal highlighted Baren's political life.

Nityananda Ghosh,
Kolkata