

Historic manifestation of worker - peasant unity.

In a historic manifestation of worker-peasant unity, a country wide “Mahapadav” (sit-in-programme of action) was organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the Central Trade Unions (CTUs) and Federations from 26th to 28th November, 2023. Such a united action by the workers and peasants had never been seen in India since Independence. Tens of thousands of workers, peasants and agricultural workers participated in this Mahapadav.

Why this Mahapadav programme was organised by the workers and peasants organisations?

The Global Hunger Index is the accurate pointer to the poverty prevailing in our country. In 2014, when the Modi regime came to power, India ranked 55 out of 120 countries in this index. Today in 2023, India has sharply slid down to 111 out of 125 countries.

The alarming inequality in India is captured by the Oxfam 2023 Report. It says that, 1 per cent of the richest Indians own 40 per cent of the wealth of India. The 10 per cent of the richest Indians own 72 per cent of the wealth of the country and the poorest 50 per cent of the population (meaning 70 crore people) owns just 3 per cent of the wealth of the country.

Over 4 lakh farmers have committed suicide in the country in the last 30 years, mainly due to indebtedness. Of these, over 1 lakh farmers were forced to commit suicide in the last 10 years of the Modi regime alone. Farming has become unremunerative and hazardous. Lakhs of farmers have been forced to sell off their land to reduce their debt, and to join the ranks of the landless.

The above mentioned alarming conditions, prevailing in the country are nothing, but the creation of the anti - worker, anti- people and pro- corporate policies being adopted by the Modi government for the past 9 years. Against these policies, the workers and peasants organisations have waged struggles separately.

The Samyukth Kisan Morcha (SKM) organised massive struggles for 380 days at the borders of Delhi, from November 26, 2020. More than 700 farmers lost their lives during this historic struggle. Ultimately, the Modi government had to surrender and the three anti-Farmer and pro-Corporate laws, enacted in the Parliament, were repealed.

The Central Trade Unions are continuously fighting against the policies of the government, by way of organising massive All India strikes. The All India Strike organised by the Central Trade Unions (CTUs) on November 26, 2020 was participated in by 20 crore workers and employees.

The historic worker-peasant convention, organised at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium in Delhi, by the SKM and CTUs on 23rd August, 2023, decided that the SKM and the CTUs should organise united actions to defeat the pro-corporate, anti-people and anti-worker policies of the Modi government.

As per this decision, the Mahapadav programme is organised from 26th to 28th November, 2023. This is nothing but the beginning of a new era of united struggles by the working class and the peasants of this country. We are hopeful that, such united actions by the workers and peasants will push back the retrograde policies of the government.
