THE VOICE OF

THE WORKING WOMAN

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VALENTINA TERESHKOVA

AVERT NUCLEAR WAR

JOBS AND NOT BOMBS



WE SAY NO TO CRUISE MISSILES

REAGAN WITH-DRAW FROM GRENADA

YES TO DIS-ARMA-MENT AND PEACE

PEACE MEANS BREAD AND EMPLOY-MENT

The first woman who piloted the Space ship—Vostok 6 on June 16, 1963

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Greetings to Soviet Women

The Co-ordination Committee of Working Women sends its warm and fraternal greetings to women in Soviet Union expressing its solidarity on the 7th November, a historical day, not only for the people of Soviet Russia but for the people all over the world. Working class women in Russia played a glorious role in the proletarian revolution breaking all the shackles of feudal bourgeois system. The production relations changed by abolishing private property. Lenin the great leader issued the decree for equality of women in all spheres. Once they were emancipated from the bondages, the Russian women have proved their mettle by heroic deeds in the acti-fascist war, on the war front and in the field of production, during 1941-45 patriotic war. More than 1,745,000 orders and medals were awarded to women including, 1,425,000 for heroism shown on labour front. 91 women were given the title of the hero of Soviet Union. The highest award for bravero-orders of Glory of three degrees-were awarded to Nina Petrove, a sharp shooter from Leningrad, Nadia Zharikina a radio operator and gunner from Moscow, Matrena Nechiporchukova, a nurse in the town of Baloklava and Danuta Stariliena, a machine-gunner from Lithunia. Thousands of women worked at the production front in the factories and in the fields to supply ammunition and grains to the front. We salute all these brave heroines without whom the victory in the 2nd war against Hitler could not be concieved.

The second World War had taken a heavy toll of lives. More than 2 million died. Every family lost at least one of their near and dear ones. But the people observe 9th May as Victory Day every year. In the words of Valentina Fedoteva, a member of the Soviet Women's Committee "it is a holiday with tears in our eyes···May 9th annually a favourite song of Soviet people is on the radio·····those who

(*Continned on page 23*)

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Third Conference Of Bihar Gramsevikas

The third conference of Bihar State Gramsevika Sangh was held at Bihar Assembly club, Patna on 26th of September 1983 under the chairmanship of Smt. Savita Verma. More than 100 gramsevika delegates from 18 districts of Bihar attended. Ten delegates came from Muzaffarpur and fifteen from Patna. Vimal Ranadive, inaugurated the conference. Comrade Yogeshwar Gope the President of the Co-ordination committee of state Government employees Association was the chief guest. Com. Keka Pal, welcomed the delegates. Smt. Savitri Varma the president of the Gramsevika Sangh read her speech.

Central and State Governments of Congress (I) have created the posts of "Gramsevika" with the intension of raising the cultural level of the women of villages. From the speeches of the delegates it was too obvious that neither they could raise the educational and cultural level of the women, nor the Gramsevikas got any promotion, grades, scales, pension and so on even after serving the Government more than 20.22 years. If they are required to teach stiching and knitting to women they are not supplied the machines and wool! These sevikas also are supposed to help the deliveres of mothers in village.

The General Secretary Rampukary Devi explained while submitting her report "We gramsevikas are supposed to raise the educasional and cultural level of women. The objective is very good. But what happens in practice, we become quite old, and our hair grey, by 'tyring' to serve the people, but the prosperty, cultural level of the people etc. just remains on paper! Why so ? she querried "while trying to brighten their future without any means in our hands, our own future becomed dark. We have no promotion, no scales, no confirmation of services even after working 20-25 years! The third pay commission decreased our salaries, and the forth one did nothing to improve our life! We are now where we were at the time of our appoinment".

The Gramsevika sangh is affiliated to Bihar State Govt. employees Association. These women were given the jobs as 'Dai' under the health department which was resented by all and they launched struggles which ultimately won their demand and they were put back in the field. Another joint action was in May 1977 during the Janata Rule, a Satyagraha for 52 days in front of the Assembly supported by the Employees Association. The result was they got their demand of 2 permanent posts of women in one unit. Other demands were still to be fulfilled. There are about 200 vacancies to be filled up. These sevikas, numbering 300-400 all over Bihar are employed since 25-30 years in worse conditions in village with no security, no proper housing and amenities, far off from their homes.

Alamidevi from Khagaria said she was working for 25 years, became quite old, draw ing the same salary. Ramasali Devi from Gaya told the delegates that she could not go out of her house after 7 in the night in the village where she has been deputed because of wild animals like elephants and tigers which may attack any person. She tried her level best to get tranasfer where she could be near her house but with no result. "I neglected my children and family to look after the children of village people but even after years I have not improved my lot 'a bit" She was very bitter while speaking. I am prepared to fight, let us unite and struggle". Joharil from Ranchi is now transferred to the BDO office as a peon. She said she did not know English, "BDO refuses to let me go back".

Com. Jageshwar Gope President of the Association spoke in detail abut the problems of Gramsevikes.

The resolution on the demands and action was passed unanimously. Main demands mentioned were: Abolishion of discrimination in wages, 20% promoted to higher grades, junior scales and 10% to higher grades, senior scales; confirmation of services as per rule, Insurance pension etc. Diploma course in training; appoinment of 2 gramsevikas in one unit, and cent percent of the post of women supervisers to be filled up by promotion.

The new committee was elected with the following members: Smt. Savitri Varma (Honurable President) Smt. Girija Sinha (President) Smt. Rampukari Devi (General secretary, Smt. Sunnitra Devi (Treasurer).

Vimal Ranadive congratulated the Gramsevikas for their consistant fight for their demands and appealed to unify their forces to fight against the authoritarian rule of Indira Gandhi.

Ad Hoc Committee Of Working Women

A convention of working women in Bihar was held on 27th at Vidhan Sabha Club, patna. About 15o women attended. Aparna Bhattacharya presided over the convention. The highlight of the convention was the large participation of women workers in Municipal Corporation who were on strike since 18 August 1983. They marched in the hall with slogans.

Com. Chandi Prasad, the General Secretary of CITU Bihar State while addressing the women explained the purpose of holding the present convention of working women. After the opening speech by Vimal Ranadive, the delegates took the floar. Khatoon, a militant Beedi Worker from Begusarai started her speech with a song on "Daughter-in-Law and Mother-in-Law" when the women were enjoying the song by clapping time to time knowing for whom it was meant. She appealed in the end to unite to fight the ruling congress led by Mrs, Indira Gandhi, giving instances as to how they got their demands by gheraoing the BDO. Com. Minati Potadar, a teacher in Patna school spoke on the working conditions of the teachers. Jayashri Devi from Khagaria told how the unequal wage in beedi still continues despite the Equal Remuneration Act. Shilani Choudhari from telephone narratend the difficulties in her profession. Though their duty ends at 4. P.M. they are made to sit till 6-7 P.M. There is no security for us on the night duty. Sagarika explained the position of a women in the present feudal society and appealed for a common fight to change it. Kumud Begsi a student, (SFI) Sangita suman spoke mainly on the dowry system which was ruining the families. The speech of Tatari Devi who was on strike in Corporation was appreciated by slogans. She said the strike was going on for 1½ months. People were suffering, dying due to starvation. "The Corporation does not give us pension, but compel us to retire early. We worked for 12-13 years but still not made permanent, what is the excuse given to us? There is no money. The Chief Minister, newly appointed by the Prime Minister had told us there was no money to give minimum wege! We are prepared to go to jail, but not submit ..." Com. Kekpal (LIC) said there was no provision of creche in LIC. The nurses have no security. Com. Sudha Bindu (Janawadi Mahila Samiti) greeted the convention promising all support to the struggles launched by working women. Com. Krishnakant (Kisan Sabha) Jogendra Prasad (Distt. Coord. Committee) Sudhir Prasad (SFI) and Jogeshwar Gope, the President of CITU greeted the convention. A resolution in support of the Corporation Workers' strike was passed.

An ad-hoc committee of a working women with Minati Potdar as convener, was formed. Vimal Ranadive guided and summed up the deleberations appealing to raise their voice against war preparations by USA who was also supplying nuclear weapons to Pakistan which canbeused against our country.

Prime Minister Face Wrath Of Women In Bombay

The recent months have witnessed an increase in atrocities on women, dowry deaths and an amazing spurt of in the prices of essential commodities.

A broad-based has been forged with a large number of womens' organisations in the city, the Mahila Sangharsha Manch. On 24th September a meeting of the Manch has been arrnaged to study the Draft Bills on Dowry and Rape with a view to understand them and to agitate for their early introduction in Parliament.

The United Womens' Anti-Price Rise Committee has been reactivated on the issue of rising prices and non-availability of essential commodities through the ration shops, an activists meeting was held in Naigaon on September 2, 1983. On the 7th, 50 activists including Ahilya Rangnekar, (AIDWA) Manju Gandhi (NFIW),Mrinal Gore (Samajwadi Mahila Sabha) entered the Secretariat and staged a demonstration outside the room where the Cabinet meeting was in progress. The demonstrators shouted slogans and sang songs to highlight the failure of the Government to ensure availability of essential commodities especially cooking oil during the festival season. A large number of police were brought to remove the women but they could not do so for over an hour. Finally, a huge number were brought in along with several women constables and the demonstrators were pushed and shoved and finally physically thrown into lifts and taken away to the Police Station.

A big demonstration was held during the visit of the Prime Minister to Bombay on September 15. In spite of heavy rains and the Ganpati celebrations, meetings were held for mobilisation and a thousand women participated in the demonstration. Literally hundreds of policemen and women were made to form a cordon around thewomen during the demonstration. The women shouted slogans and waved black flags and placards as the Prime Minister's retinue passed.

Womens' Organisations observed National Integration Day

More than 1200 women of all communities including Muslims, participated in a procession led by Ahilya Rangneker (Shramik Mahila Sangh) Tara Shaha (AIWC) Manju Gandhi (NFIW) Pramila Dandvate (Mahila Daxata Samiti) and representatives from South and North Joint Committee. The procession started from Ranade Road reached Khodadad Circle, Dadar which was addressed by the leaders of the womens' organisations.

Women in Kanak Industries on Dharna

Women workers of Kanak Industries (CITU) sit day and night for Dharna in the tent near the factory. They have a shift system, when 10-15 women will be sitting in the tent not allowing the readymade garments to go out of the gate. There are about 850 women getting only Rs. 300 to 350 average P.M. when the Milton Owners earn more than 20 crores by export to foreign countries. Even after 5 months of lock-out of the factory. the enthusiasm of women is noteworthy. The meeting held on 7th October which was addressed by Vimal Ranadive, Secretary of AICCWW was attended by about 150 women who came from far off places which takes more than 2 hours to reach Ray Road where the factory is situated. Com, Mohini, the leader and a fighter for the cause of women is sitting on Dharna alongwith others. Women attend the court at the time of their cases, they collect funds, arrange meetings to explain the day to day activities. Some of the women are themselves the bread winners. Recently a new tactic is adopted by the owner to disrupt the struggle. Management is sending the supervisers to the houses of the women workers to pursuade them to resign under the false excuse that the factory was going to be closed. The women replied them by persuing their struggle more vigorously.

Report From Andhra Pradesh

Com. Punyavathi, Convener,
A.P. State Co-ordination Committee

Andhra Pradesh Working Women's Co-ordination Committee met at Vijayawada on 23-9-1983, Com. P. Satyanarayana, President, CITU A. P. Committee attended the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the programmes taken at the 2nd Convention held at Kothagudem.

After the2nd Convention, we held the District Convention (3nd) of Visakhapatnam on on July 10, 1983. Nearly 70 working women have attended the convention. Smt. Vimala Ranadive Secretary, All India Working Women Co-ordination Committee, N. Suryavathi, Vice-President, A. P. Mahila Sangam attended the meeting and addressed the gathering.

Before the convention, the Working women in Vizag met Divisional Manager, RTC demanding Ladies Specials and 50% reservations in the buses with 2,000 signatures. Recently again we met RTC anthorities who assured us that they will certainly implement 40% reservation, by displaying Women postures on the seats reserved for women in all buses, They also said that it is not possible for them to fly special buses for women.

We have also contacted the authorities of Urban Community Development for the arrangement of creches in the city. They assured us they will extend full coperation to us.

In Hyderabad we have taken a decision to educate the working women and Mahila Samithi activists. About 20 working women attended 4 days classes.

Future Programme of Action

The Committee has taken a decision to hold State Convention as early as possible. The committee has also decided to form District Co-ordination Committee immediately and hold District Conventions as early as possible.

Unjustified Closure Of Union Carbide

The Management of the Union Carbide Marine Products & Processing Plant, Vaizag announced closure of the plant on 4th of September 1983, thereby throwing 120 workers out of employment. This is a plant processing prawns for export. There are nearly 80 women workers out of the 120 workers.

The workers are under CITU and our Union took up the cause immediately. Ch. Narasinga Rao, President of the Union immediately went to Hyderabad and approached the Labour Minister with a request to intervene and stop the closure, The Labour minister arranged a joint meeting but the management did not attend.

The management claimed that the unit is running losses and one of the main reasons for the loss is the high salaries paid to the workers, when compared to the salaries paid to the workers of other Sea Food processing plants in the region. But this is a total lie. Out of the 5 crore annual expenditure incurred by the plant, its wage bill is around 10 lakhs only. The fact being, the management wants to give the work to Contractors whereby it need not give permanent employment to any workers nor it need pay and benefits payable to the permanent employees and thus can gain at the cost of workers. No other Sea Food processing units in the City has a union that could achieve the economic demands, achieved by our union in this plant. So the management wants to avoid the benefits paid to the workers.

The Co-ordination Committee condemned the attitude of the management and demanded that the plant should be re-opened immediately.

Report From Delhi

Com. Ranjana

In Delhi our work so far has been mainly in sections outside CITU, but in Faridabad we concentratod on women workers in industry under the CITU banner. The nursery teachers of NDMC schools had been defunct for seven to eight years before our Co-ordination Committee member revitalised it. Now meetings are neld regularly, elections take place every year and our Coordination Committee member has been elected Secretary of the Association. The teachers have won two of their demands, for increased employment opportunities (formerly these were six schools, now the number has been increased to 18) and promotion and are still agitating for their remaining demands. The Co-ordination and CITU have been helping and guiding the Union of Social Welfare Centers in Delhi and it will be soon affiliated to CITU. In Le mount, in Faridabad where readymade garments are made, the women wanted better facilities and permanancy of services for all the workers, as well as proper grades and increments. When the union gave charter of demands to the management, the latter refused to discuss it and promptly laid-off the workers The women defended the gate for two months, gheraod the management and faced the police and forced the lifting of the lay-off as well as won their demand for implimentation of the minimum wage. In the Mahavir Metal Factory the workers stayed out of the factory for 3 months on demand of regularising the contract labour in the factory and finally won a good victory.

The participation of women delegate at the CITU District Conference and Delhi State Conference was better than in the past, but is still unsatisfactory.

Delhi District : Total Delegates		204	Woman	4
Faridabad	-do-	285	-do-	16
Ghaziabad	-do-	288	-do-	14

However, we have not been effective enough in activising the women under the CITU banner. We have to concetrate on activising women workers in unions under CITU. With this object we plan to start work among women workers in the water supply department of the Municipal Corporation and the National Seeds Corporation where the unions are affiliated to CITU. Regarding Voice of the Working Women, our committee feels that in order to be effective and usefull to us in the Northern part of India, the bulletin should be in Hindi. Currently we have enrolled about 100 subscribers in Delhi and we sell another 150 choies by hand.

The Co-ordination Committee participated in the anti-dowry campaign organised by DVCM. We held meetings at factory gates and in offices, utilised working women for the Marches.

PUNJAB
Day-long Dharna by Sevikas

Nearly 200 womenmembers of the Punjab State Gramsevaks and Sevikas Union held a day long dharna at Chandigarh on September 13 to demand the withdrawal of retrechment orders served on 150 gramsevikas and 75 bal sevikas by the State Government.

The protesters from several districts of the State sat outside the Directorate of Panchayats and Rural Development in Sector 17.

A deputation also met the Director of Panchayats, Punjab, later. The Union said its members would wear black badges and meet the Deputy Commissioners at various district headquarters on November 3 to demand the continuation of the services of all gram sevikas and bal sevikas by the Government.

Rajasthan

Women Forest Workers Denied Permanency

Com. Madhu Sethia

The Forest Department of Government of Rajasthan has a number of nurseries under it all over the State to prepare plants for forests. These nurseries have been employing labour on daily wages. They get no holidays except on 15 August and 26th January, no casual leaves or maternity and medical banefits.

At if this is not enough their superior staff has found ways and means of making easy money through these poor women. They were marked present even for those days when they were actually absent from work. Later on, at the time of payment of wages the extra amount paid to them for the days when they were absent was recovered from them by the superior staff. If any woman refused to accept the extra amount in order to give to the superior staff she was simply told not to come back for work from the next day.

Workers of some of the nursaries of Jaipur district have been unionised during the last few years, and the unions are affiliated to the CITU. They have been struggling militantly and unceasingly for improving their lot despite the never ending efforts of the Government to break their union by ail means such increase in workload, transfers, retrenchment and even goondaism. They started getting minimum wages after a long strike in the grassfarm nursery of Jai pur, which was the first nursery to get unionised. As a result of this victory unions were formed in many other nurseries of Jaipur. The Government was also forced to prepare a seniority list of the labour employed in the nurser ies and to follow it in case of retrenchment and reemployment.

Ever since then, the officers of the Forest Department have been trying, to check the sprit of struggle and unionisation, on the one hand by patronising the growth of INTUC in the nurseries and on the other hand bo continuously hamarring those workers who refuse to give up the banner of CITU. The first device adopted was to immediately reduce the number of women and men workers in each nursery on the plea of less work or no funds. While the workload of those retained in employment was being increased at the same time. In the grass farm nursery alone out of 80 women just 25 were retained. The latest device to harrass, particularly, the women workers who are in a majority in the idea of haying roadside nurseries outside the city to prepare plants for the highways and green patches and to send the women workers to these rmote nurseries. Since, these nurseries are situated on the highwavs away from any regular settlement of human beings, it is impossible for a women to go and live there all by heraelf.

In 1982, five women and two men workers were suspened after the union protested against the attempt by a Forest department officer to rape a women worker and false police cases were registered against them. However, after a prolonged legal battle the workers had to be reinstated on 12th October 1983. This has enchanced the prestige of the union. Recently, the workers mainly the women demonstrated to press for their charter of demands which the government has been keeping under consideration for the last two and a half years. The Government replied to this by, throwing out six women workers from jobs in the Secretariat nursery of Jaipur, However, when all other workers refused to go to work till these women were taken back the order was revoked. Now the government is trying to transfer the main activist of union in Jaipur to the remote road side nurseries.

Women Protest Against Punomma's Murder

A large meeting of representatives of different Woman's Organisations was held on 28th August in the senior Staff Nurses Hostel in Jaipur. The women from university, girls colleges, nurses, Kachi bastis, trade unions and even house wives turned up to participate in the meeting to protest against the murder of Punamma Abraham on 11th June, who was working as a nurse at Railgaon, Kota. The women felt that the sorry plight of working women in Rajasthan was due to the failure of the government in providing even minimum security to women working in remote areas, such as safe living quarters, and no attention to their complaints about harrassement not only by local anti-social elements but even by their fellow workers at times. It was also noted that the delay in counducting enquiry and taking legal action in such cases by the police and administration was due to the political patronage being provided to the criminals. The women wanted to know why the report of the second postmortem of Punamma's body, which was conducted in July as a result of the protests of Malayalee Somajam of Kota and nurses of Rajsthan was not being disclosed by the police. Such unncessary delay in completing the preliminary investigation is indeed very shocking.

The meeting was presided by Lucy M.Jacob. A number of women expressed their feelings and views on this issue. Nandini Upreti from Kanoria College, M. J. Lille from the nurses Association, Krishna Gupta from Mahila Lok Jageiti, Mamta Jaitley from RUWA, and Madhu Sethia from Janwadi Mahila Samiti, Jaipur urged the women to build up a strong and united movement of women in Rajasthan to be able to fight against such cases. Later on, a joint deputation of all the organisations met the Home Secretary of Rajasthan Government and handed him a memorandum on this issue.

Irrelevance of Law and Private School Teachers

Madhury Sukla, Madhya Pradesh

After independence, education system in our country is making rapid strides. And it is opening avenues for employment. So, every third person, so to say, is getting involved in this holy business! In our country education can be a costly affair but educationists are cheap. In these institutions where fortunately or unfortunately women are involved in teaching, task becomes more easier. Socially oppressed & exploited as they are in this capitalist society, they naturally become the target of exploitation. However, inspite of social taboos & limitations, advancement could be made & struggles could be launched. One such struggle of the private school teachers could force the Janata Government in 1978 for enactment, of Madhya Pradesh Private School Teachers, Principals & other employees Wages Act 1978." Agitations were launched against these irrelevancies of the Act and during Congress(I) rule, some amendments like (1) provision for payment of 100% salary, (2) provision for following special procedure for Victimisation & termination of teachers & non teaching staff, (3) passing of bill without the signature of management representative, etc. were made.

If the administration and Government really wanted to provide some benefits to the Private School employees through Act, 78, then necessary amendments should have been made to plug the loophole of the Act. The question is not one of Government's inability or lack of resources to do better things but it is naked exposure of bad intentions & support of vested interest. Only an united militant struggle can stop this injustice and ameliorate the condition of the hopeless teaching and non-teaching staff of the Private Schools throughout the country.

Technical Education For Women In Tamilnadu

A prerequisite for a job in the organised sector is a 'skill' or technical expertise. While considering the question of women's employment in this sector, it is important to look at the number of opportunities available to them to train themselves and acquire the necessary skills. We would confine ourselves to examine briefly the facilities available to women in Tamilnadu, with a little more details about facilities in Madras. The opportunities examined here relate to those offered in polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), leading to award of diplomas and certificates. The inadequacy of these facilities, glaring in itself, becomes more striking when looked at in relation to those avaiable to men.

In Tamilnadu, there are a total of 50 polytechnics, 43 out of which are exclusively for women. Out of 16 districts, only 5 have polytechnics for women. Madurai and Coimbatore each have 2 women's polytechnics and Madras Thanjavur and Trichy one each. A comparison of opportunities for technical education available to men and women reveals the following features :

1. There are as many as thirty one courses offered in men's polytechnics which are not avilable to women at all. These include, among others, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering available 'full time' in 28 institutions and 'part time' in 10 polytechnics. A varitety of other courses are offered, some simultaneously under Diploma (full time), Post Diploma (full time), Post Diploma (Part Time) programme to enable the students to choose the one most suitable. These courses are not available to women under a single category/ duration.

2. Out of a total of 13 courses available to women's polytechnics, 10 are designed specifically for women, i. e. they are not available to men. Predictably, these include courses like Costume Designing, Dress Making, Bakery & Confectionery, Cosmetology etc. A look into the syllabi of other courses available only to women reveals the resean why they have not been adopted and monopolised by men's polytechnics: the jobs for which the courses prepare the women are relatively ill-paid and of a subordinate nature.

3. Civil Engineering, which is one of the three courses common to men's polytechnics and those for women, is offered in 28 polytechnics for men and 3 polytechnics for women. (However, the other two courses, Electronics Engineering and Commercial Practice are more or less equally accessible to men and women.)

4. There are five 'part time' courses available in men's polytechnics which are not available to women's polytechnics.

A quick survey of the information available on ITIs in Tamilnadu shows a picture similar to that relating to the polytechnics. Out of a total of 35 ITIs in Tamilnadu, only 3 are specifically for women. Only 3% of the total seating capacity for the 35 ITIs is available to the three women's ITIs. The remaining 32 ITIs are supposedly coeducational. However, according to the Directorate of Employment and Training, Madras, of the students who complete the courses every year out of the coeducational ITIs, women constitute less than 10% of the total. Like the polytechnics, courses in women's ITIs predominantly train women for cutting and Tailoring Embroidary & Needlework, Stenography etc.

In Madras, in addition to the ten polytechnics for men and one for women, there are seven 'Affiliated Institutions' and five 'special Institutions' under the control of Directorate Technical Education. Some of these were

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"Do Not Treat Us As Sex Objects"

Women Labour Delegates, England

"They have no interest in the debate. What I have been talking about was that women should not be used as sex objects. What actually happened when they started photographing me was they were using me as a sex object ....." Lesley a woman delegate from hackney North in the Labour Party Conference held at Brighten in England, told the delegates. It started when she was asked to take floor inviting her as "girl" jokingly which was resented by her and other women delegates who constituted a small part of the conference. It is reported that each Labour Party conference it was common that the "cream of movement-TUC and Labour Party delegates-get challenged for this". The present conference also was no exception. The women delegates too reported by addressing the chairmen as "Comrade chairboy and boys" which provoked the male delegates ! This was perhaps not expected. The press next day reported about "Angry labour girl Lesley" ! Women delegates decided not to leave at that. The discussion was to be held on the subject "Women activists in the Party" which would surely be heated discussion. Three resolutions on women's organisations, call for varrying major changes in the Party's organisational structure to make women more active in the party's campeigning and to give more weight to the national women's committees national conference of labour women were to be moved. It was reported all these resolutions would be opposed by the National Executive Committee. Another resolution on the blatant discrimination and more involvement of women, equal representation of "disadvantaged groups at all levels of the Party" was also "likely to cause a row". It was surprising that despite representatives from 20 delegates, the resolution was not tabled for debate among the delegates. The women were going to try again by moving it. The point was made rightly that they were not asking for any special previlage, but to have some opportunites as white, middle class males to others. The women pointed out that less than one in four of the Parliamentary Labour Party has links with the mannual labour working class, only 10 of Labour's 209 MPs are women and no black MPs !

It was a welcome feature, that the meeting called by women's Action Committee was well attended. Frances Morrell from the GLC women's committee told in the meeting that "Labour now believes in women's rights, it just does not believe in women ! Therea son for the less number of women delegates was no child care facilities were provided at the conference, the delegates complained. Frances Morrell told woman that along with trade union leaders in the Party at the head, there is need for bringing women in the leadership and the Party's Organisation unless this was done it would not be a "whole Party". She told men and women that labour movement should know better. "We expect men to outlaw the sexist issues and giggles as well..." women would like to come out of the ghetto of women's issues into political areana, expressing themselves as political women. Women activists want men to take up the women's issues. Joe told in the meeting, "I am sick to death when it comes to debating in the house of commons on women, home or health as they look round for me or Harriet". She said the men should get up as well and argue our case. Health care for women, child care, and women's unemployment are all important for me too ! It was reported a heated debate would take pleace on the Model Bill prepared

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More Women Join US Work Force

The number of women in the American work force grew from 16.7 million of 45.6 million (173 per cent) from 1947 to 1980, representing "sweeping changes in demographic social and economic patterns", a recently released U. S. Bureau of the Census report said.

During the same period, the number of American men working were by only 43 per cent. About half of all adult women worked outside the home in 1980 compared to onethird in 1950, the census report said.

"Perhaps no other changes has more far reaching implications for society and the economy than the dramatic increase in labour force participation of women', concluded the report's.

In the report, entitled "American Women : Three Decades of Change", researchers Suzanne M. Bianchi and Daphne Spain found American women are less likely to have children these days and more likely to complete their university studies.

Women are making ever larger in-roads in the labour force, though they continue to be paid lower wages than men, and women are more likely to live alone or head their own hosehold than in the past.

"The question for the upcoming decades is where the balance will be struck between the roles of women as wives and mothers and women as workers and economic providers for their families," the authors said.

The growing presence of women in the American labour forces has led to growing demands for child-care services, the authors reported. But they added, that women continue to carry the brunt of household tasks too, at the expense of leisure and sleep-time.

Letter from Soviet Committee

We were glad to hear from you and learn that you had taken away pleasant memories of your visit to this country and learned many useful things.

We, in turn, also taken a positive view of the meeting, and hope that it will contribute to the further development of friendly relations between Soviet and Indian women.

The seminar proved to be of exceptional educational value for us, Soviet women, too. Your delegation's reports have extended our views and given a better insight into the position of Indian women, their achievements and problems.

We were also glad to make your acquaintance and establish contact with the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women. Using this opportunity, we'd like to express confidence that the cooperation between our organizations will help to promote understanding and strengthen the traditional friendship between the Soviet and Indian peoples.

With best wishes,

Ksenia Proskurnikova
First Vice-President
Soviet Women's Committee

A TRADITION WOVEN IN GOLD



Time was when even an Egyptian pharaoh or a Roman empress would beam with special pride over the muslin piece in the royal wardrobe. The handloom saris of Bengal were out on world conquest even in that hoary past. Today their very names spell class. The world over, as always.

Not only saris, in their endless varieties in silk and cotton, the magic touch of our master craftsmen is unmistakable in the rich treasure of our handicrafts too. Be it a decorative or a utility piece, a quaint doll or an exotic floor mattress, each is an admirable work of art, through which speaks a golden tradition. Let them beautify your homes and also be a mute testimony to your refined taste.

For these dreams in fabric and artefacts, come sharp, come today to TANTUJA or TANTUSHRI MANJUSHA and GRAMIN Shilpa Bipanis—

GOVT OF WEST BENGAL



Protest In Pakistan Against Flogging

Doctors, lawyers, students, consumers are joining now women protesting against the inhuman practice of flogging women charged of adultry, in military ruled Pakistan. A group of women picketed silently on 3rd October in front of the military governor's house in Lahore in protest against the public whipping of a 35 year old widow on Adultry Charge. The women's Action Forum (WAF) stood for about half an hour holding placards reading "Flogging women publicly-shameful" "Laws against women not acceptable". WAF distributed handbills stating that women would not accept a second class status. The another unit of WAF in Isllamabad stated that women were again singled out for punishment and let the male offender go free. The public flogging of a woman had enraged people on a large scale and they have started expressing their anger. WAF appealed to members of Zia Cabinet to reconsider the impact of these laws which encourages the perverted elements in society. The law of evidence equating the evidence of two women with that of one man is coming up now for approval which has been totally rejectcd by women in Pakistan. The protests also came from all over the world. The International public opinion has stated that this was against the violation of the declaration of human rights to which Pakistan was a signatory, the Pakistan Women Lawyers Association passed resolution on this.

In these incidents, the doctors have been asked to witness the flogging. Dr. Zawar Hussain the President of Pakistan Medical Association has appealed to the military regime not to involve the doctors when the whipping operations of political workers and leaders take place, as they belonged "to non-political and humanitarian profession", Dr. Hussain asserted that "the right of dissent was permitted in Islam which championed freedom of conscience and speech". The Gentral Committee of the Baluch Students Organisation in their meeting in Turbat demanded a ban on lashing of political workers and urged the military rulers to hold free elections.

The consumers in Pakistan are gradually feeling the pinch of high prices and shortages, because of demonstration, blocking the goods etc. by the demonstrators, in Sind. The main demand being raised now by all oppositional parties, including women's organisations in Pakistan is the resignation of Zia-al Huq and holding of general elections immediately.

The Secretary of AICCWW and the Vice-President of AIDWA Vimala Ranadive issued the following statement on the public flogging on 5 October 1983:

The All India Democratic Women's Association and the AICCWW denounces the Military Rulers of Pakistan for publicly flogging a young woman, Lal Mai, with 15 lashes in front of 5000 people. The cruelty had no limits as the young woman was denied water twice in violation of Universal Charter of Human Rights during the flogging when, in pains, she asked for it. The unashamed cruel and unheard of public flogging for the first time by tin-pot military dictator Zia-ul-Haq regime reminds one of the slave age when women were treated simply as animals.

It may be noted that the women from all fields and sections in Pakistan had protested massively against lashing of women including a blind girl in jail for adultery under the Islamic law. Women all over the word including ourselvcs had condemned such action. It is repredensible that the dictatorial regime of Pakistan had ignored the world-wide protest.

We appeal to all section of democratic people of our country to raise their powerful voice of protest against maltreating women in this fashion.

Reagan Losses On Female Factor

U. S. President Reagan no longer attracts American Woman. A recent opinion poll has confirmed that the President is losing his charm with women. U. S. political circles feel that this "female factor" would go against Reagan when he runs for Presiding for the next term. "Newsweek" says that the Republican Party is going to spend 10,000 dollars to determine what they should do to win back the favour of U. S. woman ..... We patted him on appoiting a woman member of the U. S. Suprem Court for the first time....

However, activists of the equal rights movement of the American Women stress that these appointments are no more than awkward attempts to buy out the mounting opposition to the administrations civil rights politics.

For, it is none other than the incumbend President who fervently opposes the adoption of the constitutional equal rights amendments. American Women get, for the same work, 59 per cent of Men's salaries. Although women make up more than half of the U. S. population, there are only two women in the 100 member senate and only 19 among 435 representatives.

U. S. S. R. constitute 51 per cent of the factory, office and other professional workers and produce a good half of the countries material and intellectual wealth. They are guarented equal pay for equal work and as women they have been granted privilages like maternity benefit, pension etc.

There are 487 Deputies in the Supreme Soviet that is 32.5 per cent of the total number of Deputies. In Soviet Russia about 70 per cent are women doctors while in America it is only 5 per cent. The United States assign women a definite role as "happy home makers."

It is against this social system that the U.S. women are raising their voice. It is that worries President and his men about the "Female Factor" in the next election.

Women's Employment in China

Both the countries, China and India achieved freedom more or less at the same time. But the canditions of women improved rapidly in China, with regard to equality, employment, protective legislations and so on. One out of three people in China's payroll is a woman. At the end of 1982, 40.93 million women were employed in factories, mines, schools, hospitals, research institutes and other Government undertakings accounting 36 per cent of the total employment In the post liberation period the figure was only 7.5 per cent. Women are employed now on a large scale, 80 per cent in the Textile and garment industries, while 30 per cent in Machine building and petro-chemical industries. "Women are now an indispensible force in China's efforts to modernise". The women scientific and technical workers account for 1.93 million in 1982. The Chinese Government is encouraging women to be delegates in the workers' congress in the factories and mines, to play still a bigger role in the enterprises. China is paying more attention to the protection of women's health. There are 18,000 clinics for women in industries, and almost all factories and mines have such where the medical check up is done. The question is raised why so much progress in the conditions of working women in China, when China achieved its Independece in 1949 while we in 1947, two years earlier? The answer is simple. Two different social systems of Governments, give different results! China's is socialist wtile ours is capitalist.

(*Continued from p. 11*)

by Joe Richardson for equal opportunity which would be placed in parliament, women have determined to show their strength as equal partners in the movement for a fairer and better Britanin, "We have got to come back year after year, till we win.....and we will win.....".

Ashoklata Is No More

Ashoklata, President of Janwadi Mahila Samiti, and a member of the Delhi State Committee of the CPI (M) passed away on Oct 3, 1983 leaving behind her husband Prabir and 6-week old son. Ashoka, as she was only 32 years old at the time of her death. A brilliant student throughout, Ashoka had passed her M.A. with full honour receiving a gold medal from Agra University. In 1971 she registered for a research degree at the JNU. It was here that Ashoklata became involved in the student movement. Ashoklata was a symbol of courge and commitment. In 1974 she successfully contested the election for a councillor to the JNU students union. It was during the tenure as Councillor that Ashoklata, along with other friends and comrades became the target of attack from the authorities.

The declaration of emergency in the country emboldened the authorities in JNU to put restrictions on the students' union to disallow all elections, to interfere with the admission poliey, and the democratic set-up in JNU. Students in JNU led by the Students' Federation of India resisted all attacks on the student community. The same year she was expelled from the university for publicly denouncing the vice-chancellor for violating the norms of admission policy and victimising students on political grounds. Ashoka's room was sealed and all attempts made to keep her off the campus failed. The courage she displayed at this time was remarkable,. She could rssume her studies only after the emergency was lifted.

In 1979 she was elected President of the Delhi State Unit of the Student Federotion of India. During this time she was particularly keen to focus on problems of girl students, and to draw girl students into the fight for democratic rights.

In 1980 when the Janawadi Mahila Samiti was set up in Delhi, Ashoklata was a prominent activist. Tne last few years in Delhi have seen many attacks on women, be it on account of dowry, or because of the deepening social and economic crisis. These years have also seen growing organised resistance on the part of women.

These years have seen long drawn agitations against the henious crime of dowry deaths, against eve-teasing, rape, police atrocities, against obscenity and goondaism, against price-rise, unemployment, bus fare hike and failure of public distribution system. Ashoka was always on the forefront af these struggles, facing the blows of police lathis, objecting to police molestation of women. demanding that immediate action be taken against erring officers, blackmarketeers and hoarders, calling on women to fight injustice, to organise and to get their demands met through collective strength. That was Ashoka-in all places, at all times and with everyone.

On 8 October 1983 a condolence meeting



was held by Janwadi Mahila Samiti presided over by Indu Agnihotri. At the meeting Rita Karat, General Secretay of JMS recalled her contribution to the democratic movement and her role in bullding the Janwadi Mahila Samitl in Delhi. She particularly emphasised Ashokalata's capacity to draw women out of their houses, knit them into a team and inspire confidence in them. Rita highlighted Ashokalata's role in the anti-dowry movement and the importance she attached to united struggle.

Ranjan, Vice-President of Janwadi Mahila Samiti, Delhi read out message which had been recived from Susheela Gopalan, General Secretary of AIDWA, Kanak Mukherjee, Manju Gupta, Vimala Ranadive, Ahilya Rangnekar, all office-bearers of AIDWA and others. Others who spoke included Omvati, Vice-President of JMS, Delhi, Shyamkali and Saraswati, Secretaries of Mongolpuri and Jwalapuri units respectively. All the speakers recalled the courge Ashokalata had displayed on so many occasions during struggle, in time of crisis. Aditi read out a poem, written in memory of the beloved friend, now no more. An announcement was made for an Ashoklata Jain memorial scholarship annually to a needy girl student to finish her school education. The meeting ended with Kalindi reading out the condolence resolution and everyone observed a two-minute silence.

Punjab Lost Asharani

Com. Asharani, the Treasurer of Panjab Branch of A I D W A and the President of Patiala Branch died on 12.10.1983 due to viral fever. She was one of the active workers of Punjab Branch.

She formed the Co-ordination Committee of Working Women in Patiala on her own. In her death we lost a good active comrade who sacrificed her life for the party and the working class.

In March 1980, when the foundation stone of Democratic Women's Association in Punjab was laid, she became one of the members of its Adhoc State Committee. She formed unit of DWA, travelling from village to village, sometimes even on foot despite physical trouble in Patiala District, organised the District Unit of DWA and became its founder President in 1982, She was elected Treasurer of Panjab State Unit in the Longowal Session the same year. She also initiated a unit of Working Women in the State.

She took active part in the mobilisation of workers during the prolonged CITU strike of October-November 1982 in the BCI, Rajpura. She went from door to door doing agitation and propoganda work among the workers, their families. In Dera Bassi, Asha led a women's demonstration in support of striking workers and student, violating Section 144 and shouldering brutal PoliceZulum on 18 9.82. She was enta gled in a court case of 'Police Encounter' which is still on the files of Court.

Asha took active part in all the major actions of Indian working class and the democratic forces of the country such as the Delhi demonstration against Industrial Relations Bill (Nov.78) Working Women's Convention Delhi (Nov. 1981), the Delhi Demonstration of workers at the call of N. C. C. (Nov. 1981), the Delhi peace rally (Oct. 1982) Parliament March of Youth and Student Organisations (Sept. 1981) etc. etc.

Hearty Congratulations-Rashmi Doraiswami

Victory Of SFI

Rashmi Doraiswami was elected President of JNUSU held on Oct 21st in the election defeating her rival by 112 votes. She is the fisst women president in the JNUSU's decade long history. SFI has won all the four seats of office bearers besides 9 seats on the 19 member council. This victory is significant since the SFI has won the election on its own strength. The AICCWW congratulates all the elected members of SFI and particularly Rashmi.

Joint Convention of Working Women

As reported earlier, the decision of holding the All India Convention of Working Women had been taken in the second Trade Union convention helt in Delhi on 21st August 1983 by the National compaign committee. The AICCWW in their meeting on 22nd August discussed the issue of "March to Parliament" and decided to have it in the month of February, at the time of the budget session in 1984, for their specific demands including the right to employment. The meetings held on 4th and 6th October 1983 by the NCC and the Federations, the question of holding the convention was discussed in detail. The different suggestions about the venue and the time, and also the March to Parliament were discussed. The general opinion expressed was to hold the convention in Bombay in the month of February 1984. In preparation for the conference, NCC has decided to hold a meeting of leading women activists of all the constitutents of NCC including industrywise Federations along with the members of the National campaign committee on 20th November 1983 at MP's club North Avenue at 3 P.M. to consider the issue and fix up the date and venue of the All India convention and decide the preparatory steps to be taken to make the convention successful.

Misbehaviour Towards Tribal Girls

Despite repeated assurances from top-ranking military officials, atrocities of the military on tribal women folk are not totally stopped On 7th September at about 8 P.M. in the night a private, jeep was stopped at the checkpost illegally erected by the military personnel. The jeep was going with goods for LAMPS situated in Jampuri. Four military soldiers compelled two tribal women passengers Miss Thangi and Miss Lalbiaki to get down from the jeep. Other passengers were allowed to proceed with the jeep. These two ill-fated girls were compelled to remain there at night with the military personnel. "All their attempts to complain to the officer in charge was frustrated, "said Chief Minister, Mr. Nripen Chakraborty in a press conference held in his chamber after the cabinet meeting. He was speaking on how the area was being disturbed by the same personnel who are supposed to restore normalcy in the area.

Here it is worth mentioning that a part of North Tripura including Jampui was declared disturbed in the last year in the name of containing MNF who were alleged to have crossed over to Tripura.

The Chief Minister informed the Press that he had already brought the matter to the notice of the Central Home Minister.

(*Continued from page 21*)

2. The government must ensure widespread publicity of the fact that the polytechnics and ITIs are coeducational, wherever they are open in law to women.

3. The government must open new polytechnics exclusively for women in those areas where social conditions for coeducational training are not favourable yet, in additions to ensuring that the existing men's institutions are opened to women in law and in fact.

4. In the existing women's polytechnics and ITIs, part time courses must be introduced to enable working women to make use of them.

5. There is a need to change the content of the courses in women's polytechnics and ITIs to correspond with the changing values and needs of our society. There is a bias apparent in designing courses according to the traditional areas considered suitable for women for employment. The change in the syllabi, equal to men could, in fact; hasten the process of change in attitudes towards women and recognise their ability and potential for employment in areas hither to considered unsuitable for them. This is an important component of the struggle for democracy in our country.

Legal Note

A Land Mark Judgement

R. Vaigai

In an important and history making judgement, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has recently struck down Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 as unconstitutional and void. The judgement assumes a great importance since it has in no uncertain terms judicially recognised a woman's (wifes') right to decide whether to have or not to have conjugal life with her husband and whether to have a child or not. This right of the wife has been held to be a basic part of her personal liberty which is guaranteed as a fundamental right by Article 21 of the constitution of India. The judgement is of great significance, coming as it does to recognise and uphold a woman's identity and her freedom even while in matrimony in times of great crisis in the society in regard to woman's dignity and survival with the increasing atrocities on account of dowry and rape.

Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provided for passing of a decree for resituation of conjugal rights when either the husband or wife petitioned to the court for such restitution on the ground that the other spouse had withdrawn from his or her society without reasonable excuse. When it was proved that there was such withdrawal from society without reasonable excuse, a decree for resitution of conjugal rights was liable to be passed. The consequence of the decree was that the husband or the wife who has so withdrawn has to go back to the other spouse not only to give mental companionship but also to have physical cohabitation, whether he or she was willing or not.

In the above legal set up, a husband petitioned for restitution of conjugal rights and the wife saritha (a film actress) challenged the legal provision for passing such a decree as being voilative of her fundamental rights.

The High Court, after noting that even in England the provision did not exist, upheld the challenge. It observed that the result of the decree would be that not only was the wife required to give mental companionship but also to have physical cohabitation with the husband totally against her will. The Court further observed that the consequence of the decree would be the wife would be forced to have a child even if she did not want to. Noting that the choice to have child or not was a most basic constituent of a woman's personal liberty, which is guaranteed as a freedom under Article 21 of the Constitution the Court struck down Section 9 as violating her fundametal freedom of liberty.

The judgemet has been hailed by everybody as historic one. But another important decision in the judgement on Article 14 has not been noted by the media. The Court has also said that in such matters the wife and the husband are not equals and that therefore giving the right to petition for restitution of conjugal rights to both husband and wife equally amounts to treating inequals as equals. Such treatment is violative of Article 14 of the constitution and therefore it was held that section 9 is also void as being violating of Article 14.

This dicision on Article 14 would be very useful in opposing the proposed provision for decree for divorce on ground of irretreivable breakdown of marriage Most of the women's organisation have demanded special safeguard for women if such a provision was to be introduced, but the proposers of the provision have not given a thought to it apparently on the principle of equal treatment. Now that the judgement has recognised that in such matters of matrimonial remedies, the husband should not be treated on a par with the wife, one only hopes that the law makers make suitable amendment to their proposals at least now.

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(*Continued from p. 10*)

examined as cases of polytechnics ostensibly available to both men and women. These institutions, notably the Institute of Chemical Technology (established in 1963), Institute of Leather Technology (established in 1946) and Institute of Textiles Technology (established in 1965) have a record of not a single women student in their history.

One of the reseaons offered for the absence of women in these institutes by their respective Principals is that the 'heavy' and 'rough' nature of the jobs for which students are being prepared is not suitable for women. This, according to them, is the reseaon why women are not 'coming forward.'

A more likely reason for the absence of women students in these institutes, however, seemed to be the fact that these institutes are believed to be exclusively men's institutes by most people, including women candidates. When, the students and clerical staff were approached on the question of eligibility require ments for women candidates, it was firmly and categorically 'confirmed' by all that no women are allowed to apply, the Institute in question being men's one. This has serious implications as any women candidates who might approach these institutes may be discouraged from even applying to the courses, adding substance to the claim put forward by the Principals that women never apply. Some women who might apply out of 'ignorance' are thus likely to get disqualified on grounds of sex even before their application is considered on account of qualifications, marks obtained etc. Since the discouragement to apply seems to take place by word of mouth, and not by any actual written notification, it is difficult to hold the authorities responsible.

In their defence, the Principals also claim that very few eligible women apply to these courses. (It is claimed that women who do apply never have the required minimum of marks for admission). This statement is impossible to verify as a legitimate objection, as no records are available on rejected applications.

A prominent exception is the Institute of Printing Technology where after a period of 26 years, from 1981 wamen are being admitied again. (The Institute has a record of one woman student completing the course in 1955).

The Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition has registered 42 men as against 12 women students for the academic year 1983-1984. It is evident that the higher the degree of professionalism in the courses traditionally considered suitable only for women, and thus the more the chances of getting well paid jobs after the courses, lesser the chances for women to gain access to these courses. Thus interestingly enough the course on 'Trade Cookery' which prepares the students as chief in places like the star hotels, is open only to men. While other courses available in the Institute like Canning, Food Preservation, Bakery & Confectionery, Restaurant Counter Service Reception and Book Keeping are available to both men and women, less than 15% students are women in the current year in these courses.

Conclusions

It is clear from the facts reviewed that the following propositions need to be considered regarding the opportunities for technical education for women in Tamil Nadu :

1. An obvious need is not only for more number of polytechnics and ITIs, but also more courses in each institution. Ten courses in women's polytechnics and 13 courses in women's ITIs are spread over 7 polytechnics and 3 ITIs for women. It is important to note that not all the women's polytechnics and ITIs have all the courses. This is true of course for men as well, but relatively fewer number of courses are available to women.

(*Continued on p. 18*)

Jobs Denied To Primary Teachers

The reported "row over recruitment" of 26,000 women teachers in the primary schools in seven backward states between the Education Ministry and the Planning Commission is depriving the small children from the elementary education as well as women who would get training and jobs. It is reported in the press that the scheme is "unsual", "a State Subject", it is to be supported by the measures like "housing for the teachers and other facilities" and also it "requires the state participation in the funding to keep them interested and involved in the education drive". These and other arguments have been put forth by the Planning Commission as reported in the press, while the demands made by the Education Ministry were resisted. The Education Minister Smt. Sheela Koul is supposed to have written a letter after the failure of the Education Ministry officials to "push the scheme through the planning commission."

The backward state such as "Andhra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh Orissa, Rajasthan, U. P, and West Bengal" according to the reports proposed to open about 26,000 primary schools with 2 teachers, based on 50:50 ratio policy and would need 26,000 women teachers, The Uuion Education Department suggested a scheme for recruiting the teachers which would be in operation upto 1990, the target year for the universalisation of elementary education. According to the press reports the recruitment and training will be the responsibility of state Governments. The scheme will involve about Rs. 126 crores in the sixth and seventh plans.

There is no denying the fact that the literacy rate of our country is very poor, particularly among the girls. The drop out of the girls as per various surveys confirms this. The drop out starts from the secondary schools, reasons being, the girls in the countryside help the parents in the house and in the fields. In such a situation, the demands made by the Education Ministry to open more Primary Schools for children should have been considered. One does not know what actually transpired between the Education Ministry and Planning Commission.

The question of training for women as teachers is vital considering the large unemployment among women. It is reported in the press, that the schools are without any teachers, at many places. In the nine educationally backward states to which the scheme was to apply, the percentage of women primary teachers was only 19. The schools which are supposed to provide the teachers would be 50 : 50 basis, 2 teachers schools.

It is unfortunate, that in the "row over the recruittment of women teachers" between the Education Ministry and Planning Commission, ultimately the education of poor children, especially of the girls suffer. Women are denied the jobs as teachers. The excuses given if at all thev are true, are strange. In the remote villages if a primary teacher is sent, the hous ing and other facilities are defnitely to be provided. This should not be a plea to deny the jobs by the planning commission. The question of finances is raised when any scheme for the common people is suggested, such as schools for the children, housing for the poor, tube wells for the village and so on. But the percentage of literacy, the drop outs of girls, jobs for women - these questions will remain to be solved in our country. It is for nothing the common people look forward to socialism where, education is free, employment is no problem, womens position is equal in every sphere.

(*Continued from page 2*)

fell on the battle field could have been anyone's grand father, father, or husband, son, brother or beloved···"A widow gathering is held on the eve of this victory day, at collective farm with the soldiers' wives in Siberia, from a village where 195 men went to the front and 111 died ! Millions of children were left orphans, millons of widows. A beautiful statue of Samakh couple in Tashkant in the square of friendship is displaced who adopted 16 children whose parents died in the war !

The first decree, the newly Soviet power adopted in 1917 was for the peace. Lenin's words "Disarmament is the ideal of socialism" are always remembered by the people.

To-day the situation has once again become very grave. The USA is preparing for a nuclear war by spending huge amounts for weapons of mass destructions intervening in the Central America, in Nicaragua, El-Salvadore, whose people are fighting for their independence. They are building a navel base at Diago Garcia and furiously arming the military dictator of Pakistan with F-16, Harpoons. They have also decided to deploy Pershing-2 and Cruse missiles in Europe in December.

The war industry in USA is flourishing, they are exporting all kinds of missiles and weapons to underdeveloped countries for which people have to pay. It is intent on unleashing war with socialism and USSR as its target with their aim of global domination.

After 66 years, the Soviet people and their Government have the same motto "Peace and disarmament."

The people of Europe, specially women in England, Germany, France, Sweden are demonstrating against deployment of pershing and cruise missiles which will be directed against Soviet Union. The first cosmonot, and the Vice President of WIDF Valentina Tareshkova headed a delegation of women to the UN General Assembly for disarmament in 1982. She appealed to the Nuclear States "to take upon themselves a firm obligation, following the example of the Soviet Union, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons".

The reason for which men and women are demonstrating for Peace since many years in Europe, Germany, France and in USA can be very well understood. They know what war means ! Therefore they demand "No more nuclear wars" "No Hiroshima, Nagasaki". "Jobs not Bombs" ! Women in Greenham common in England are sitting day and night in frozen condition since 20 months demanding no deployment of crucise. Women are in the forefront in all the demonstrations even in USA, At no other time, the demonstrations and peace movement were so strong and effective all over the world demanding peace and no third war.

The General Secretary of CPSU, stated on 29 September 1983, that "those who encroached on the integrity of our state, its independence, will be found themselves on the garbage heap of history. We shall be able to ensure the security of our country, the security of our friends and allies under any circumstances".

Valentina Fedoteva in her speech in the Seminar held in July said : Today thestruggle for peace must become the cause of all and every one. It demands special vigilance and alertness from us. Every person for whom peace is near and dear must join the ranks of anti-war fighters..... Time can not wait".

The Indian Women denounce the Raeangan administration of U. S. A. for its diabolical war preperation, and blatant attack on Granada. The co-ordination Committee calls upon the Indian Women, to intensify their struggle for peace and against war, on the occassion of the November revolution day this year. Let us join and march shoulder to shoulder with the mighty peace movement that is raging in all countries of the world, as a part of our international duty.

Did You Know

108 Bihar Landless Killed by Landlords

The landlords' gang have been responsible for at least 108 killings of landless peasants and their organisers in the last 3 years. The majority of the victims were poor peasants who had organisations to demand their due share of land, minimum wages, better employment opportunities and implementation of welfare scheme, among others. Interestingly, in some cases, notes the PUDR report, the Bihar police accompanied these private armies to carry out combine operations to eliminate peasant organisers. 2.10.1983 Patriot.

Tough Bangla Law to Protect Eves

The Military Government of General Ershad issued yesterday a tough law calling for severe punishment for cruelty to women, including the death panalty. Offenders will be tried by special tribunals. Safia Khatun, Minister for Women's Affairs and a great crussader for women's right, said cruelty to women in all forms—Kidnapping, rape, and trafficking—had assumed immense propo tion in Bangladesh and many women commit suicides after being unable to get redress. Any cruelty to women by husband or lover—including attempted murder or coercion to get dowry from the wife or her parents would be punishable by a maximum sentence of death.

12.10.1983 Free Press.

Kumud Joshi's Guards Chase Away Nurses.

The staff and securty men of the Deputy Health Minister, Miss Kumudben Joshi, on Tuesday pushed some women nurses out and chased away the rest of them when they went to her residence to submit a memorandum. About 30 nurses had gone to Miss Joshi in the morning to seek her intervention regarding the Government's recent decision to ban private recruitment of nurses for jobs in Saudi Arabia. Miss Joshi is understood to have refused to meet them and asked the security men to "remove" them immediately. "When they pushed and chased us, we had to run for life" said the nurses "we hoped as a health minister and a woman she would atleast listen us".

28.9.1983 Indian Express.

800 Years to a Lady Mayor

London yesterday broke with eight cnnturies of tradition by electing its first woman lord mayor. Lady Mary Donalsdon, 62, wife of England's leading appeals court judge, was elected by acclaim by members of the 44 ancient guilds and companies of the City of London in a ceremony which dates back to 1191, a city spokesman said. She takes office on November 11, succeeding Sir Anthony Jaliffe.

1.10.1983 Indian Express.

Pakistan Women Step up Movement

"One development deserves attention and one point deserves clarification. The development is that a large number of women in Pakistan and not only from the elite educated class-are participating in the movement. This is the clearest possible evidence that the hogwash that General Zia and his cohorts have been trying ro sell in the name of Islam has a few buyers in Pakistan. The military set-up treats women as inferior and second class citizens on the spacious plea that Islam asigns such a status to them. In General Zia's scheme as outlined by him on August 12, no women can be President of Pakistan. The Women of Pakistan are making it clear beyond doubt that this is not their view of Islam. History is on their side women have played important roles in Muslims history, of the history of different lands can be so grouped. But the more pertinent point is that ife people of Pakistan were included to accept the orthodox view of Islam Pakistan women would not have joined the present struggle in such large numbers."

Times of India Sept 9th 1983

Wholesale Price Index

The official whole sale price index for all commodities again rose and stood at 318.2 points (P) during the week ended October 8. It was 317.4 during the previous week.