

BEHAR HERALD

SECLARISM
AND
DEMOCRACY
OUR MOTTO

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Politics Of Denigration

It is only too natural for any political party to search for ways and means for its survival, and if it is in power to make efforts to sustain that power. Therefore, if the Janata Party feels that one of such means to remain in power is to create anti-Nehru bias in the country, no one should blame the Party. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's daughter, it is true, has done greatest harm to the reputation of her father by her thoughtless actions to perpetuate a dynastic rule in the country. It is now clear that whatever she did before and during emergency was all directed to perpetuate her own rule and after her to instal her son Sanjay Gandhi as her successor. That way she practically destroyed all the noble traditions of the Nehrus, and helped in the creation of ill-feelings towards the Nehrus. It is natural that the Janata Party in order to continue in power would exploit this feeling among the masses. Therefore when Mr. Charan Singh, the Union Home Minister said the other day that the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did nothing for the development of agriculture in the country during his seventeen years of rule as Prime Minister, no one was surprised. But is it true? Can it be said that Chaudhury Charan Singh, who prefers to call himself a true Gandhian, was truthful about this statement? Statistics will show that when India attained freedom in 1947 with thirtyfour crores of people, foodgrain production in those days till the year 1950 was only about fiftytwo million tonnes. When the Congress was ousted from power after the 1977 March election, the production reached as high as one hundred ten million tonnes for a population of about sixty crores. Surely this was a big achievement for any country. But truth in politics becomes the first casualty, and therefore, it is only natural that Chaudhury Charan Singh, the Gandhian could not give out the truth which would go in favour the Congress or its leader the late Pandit Nehru.

Various multi-purpose projects in the country which Nehru set up would bear testimony to Nehru's deep interest in agricultural development along with industries. Bhakra, Nagarjunsagar, Tungabhadra and in our region DVC what are these projects if not for agricultural and power development, or for flood control (which again is for developing agricultural production)? Nehru planned in a big way for power development because he felt that with power alone rural electrification would be made possible for tubewell irrigation or lift irrigation. Fertiliser projects also was planned to boost agriculture production. It is said that in the coming plan forty percent resources will be devoted to agriculture. Further increase in agricultural production in the country is possible only on the basis of coordinated increase in

investment in the areas chalked out by Nehru and his planners. Whatever may Chaudhury Charan Singh proclaim now, he will ultimately never be able to discard either power development project or a fertiliser project or even a multi-purpose project for dams and barrages with stigma that these were all big projects unrelated to the development of agriculture.

It is understandable about the lingering feelings of personal hurt which many of the present Janata Party leaders suffered at the hands of the daughter of Nehru when she declared emergency on June 25, 1975. Nehru's daughter has suffered and is still suffering, and perhaps till her last days she will have to suffer for her wicked doings during the emergency. But emergency is now a putrifying corpse and it may have some curiosity for some necromantically interested perverted individuals, who may love gnawing at dead bodies. It is one thing to denigrate or punish Indira Gandhi for her undenyng misdeeds. But it is quite another if for the crime of a daughter, the great works of the father is denigrated. No one in India can dispute the great achievements of Nehru both at the national or in international levels. Whether it is Morarji Desai, or Jagjivan Ram or even a Chaudhury Charan Singh — all thought it to be a rare privilege to work under Nehru. Is it not shocking to see that now the same leaders are ashamed even to recall their association with him? But in politics, everything is possible and one must not be astonished at anything.

The Janata Party is worried about its unity, and may be the leaders feel that anti-Nehru stance may bring about that unity. But anti-Nehru bias can never provide the basis for unity in the Janata Party because so vast a practical problem lies before them. The measure of unity among divergent constituents of Janata Party will largely depend on intellectual honesty with which they should face policy issues, and the demonstration of a moral courage that they are bold to accept the wisdom, if there was any, of some of the old policies enunciated by Nehru and the Congress, and continue them. Excepting the Prime Minister Morarji Desai and the Foreign Minister Mr. Atal Behari Bajpai none among the Janata leaders has shown this farsightedness and intellectual honesty. Morarji and Bajpai are known to be rightists and anti-Nehru; but when they took charge of their respective offices they understood the significance of non-alignment policy of Nehru and the need for continuous friendship with Soviet Russia, and they felt no hesitation to continue the same policy. That should be the correct attitude of all Janata leaders, including Chaudhury Charan Singh.

Notes & Comments

The crisis regarding the availability of mustard oil for consuming public is deepening. Mustard oil is perhaps the only cooking oil used in north and eastern Indian states. Of late because of the scarcity of mustard oil and also of large scale adulteration, some people turned to groundnut oil which is imported from Gujrat or Maharashtra. There is bumper production of new groundnut crop this year. Western Indian markets are flooded with both groundnuts and groundnut oil. The prices of groundnut oil was quoted at Rs. 550 to 600 per quintal only a few weeks back in north Indian newspapers. People in this side of India felt that they would be able to switch over to groundnut oil, when not a drop of mustard oil was available in the market. The Bihar Retailers's Association have issued a press note saying that the manufacturers in Uttar Pradesh and other states have informed them that because of high rate of local taxes and transport charges in Bihar they would not be able to supply mustard oil to them. The rates of taxes as enumerated in the press note is discriminatory compared to other neighbouring states, if it is true. Bihar government should immediately try to examine the discriminatory rates of taxes and pave the way for more import of mustard oil. Why this is not being done is not explained. Is it because of the fact that Bihar government want that the people of Bihar must swallow the rape-seed oil, refined or not because the Government of India must exhaust the imported rape-seed oil worth Rs. 500 crores? There is already a lingering doubt about the use of rape-seed oil on health grounds. Even government advertisements ask people to mix 25 percent of rape-seed oil with 75 percent mustard oil before use. But there is the mustard oil in the market to get such a mix!

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There is another question relating to the edible oil crisis in the country. If there is a bumper groundnut crop in western India and if the prices of groundnut oil is as low as Rs. 550 to Rs 600 a quintal (i.e. Rs. 5-50 to Rs. 6-00 a kilogram) how is it that this commodity is scarce in this part of the country? A popular brand of groundnut oil sometimes find its way to the market and within a few hours only handful of people get it. The scarcity continues and there is no remedy for the poor consumers. Why there is no free flow of this oil? The sealed tins of this variety of groundnut oil is considered to be pure and that is one reason why people have taken to this particular brand of groundnut oil. But if the traders want to create an artificial scarcity of edible oil to make huge profits by selling imported rape-seed oil after adulterating it then government alone is responsible. People had high hopes when a radical leader like Mr. Mohan Dharia was given charge of supply in the Union cabinet, and he had promised many things in the first flush of his enthusiasm. But it seems that he has preferred to resile, and just performing his routine work. It is known to many people the real constraints of the Janata Party government both in centre and in the States. The powerful monopoly lobby will never allow any radical move by the Janata government. If that be so how long the people will continue to tolerate it? It is time for the Janata Party government to think that by such inaction much of its prestige has eroded in the eyes of the people. If the leaders would not look to the sufferings of the people Janata Party's fate will be same as that of the Congress.

x x x

What is the status of Parliamentary Secretaries? The Patna High Court recently ruled that Parliamentary Secretaries were not

entitled to enjoy the status of ministers and hence they should not sit in a house of legislature to which they are not members. The Constitution provides the right to sit in either of the two houses to ministers and that includes ministers of state or deputy ministers. The Constitution is silent about the Parliamentary Secretaries about this right. The question was raised in the Patna High Court and the aforesaid ruling was given. Now, a piquant situation has arisen when in the Bihar Legislative Council a Congress member, Phakur Kamalnath Singh raised this question about the status of a Parliamentary Secretary. The ruling that the Deputy Chairman Miss Rajeswari Saroj Das gave is quite important from constitutional point of view. Miss Das, who is a seasoned legislator for many years, ruled that so far as the House was concerned the Parliamentary Secretaries enjoyed the same status as that of ministers, and as such they have every right to stay in the House and take part in the proceedings. There is no question about the supremacy of either Parliament or the legislature. So, from that point of view Miss Das was totally within her rights to give her own ruling on this delicate issue. But if both legislature and the judiciary would not respect each other's opinion where it would ultimately lead to? Does it not denigrate the prestige, honour and esteem of the highest court in the State? These are the new problems that are coming up. These points must be specifically considered by the Parliament when the Bill for repealing the 42nd amendment to the Constitution would be taken up during this session. All efforts must be made to avoid confrontation between the judiciary and the legislature.

INDUSTRY/TRADE

Growth Rate Declines : Labour Situations : Ancillary Units : Managerial Remuneration

Calcutta — Among the many problems that are afflicting the economy of India, the most vital is a fall in the rate of growth. During the first six months of the current calendar year the growth of industrial production in the country, is reported to have declined to 7 per cent as against a growth rate of 12.7 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

This slow growth rate has been the factor tending to give rise to a lack of confidence of investors which is being witnessed in the stock exchanges all over the country. This appears to have further been reflected in the situation that despite the offer of soft loans by the IDBI in February last to the sugar, cement, cotton, textile, jute and certain engineering industries for purposes of modernisation and renovation it has produced no appreciable result. The fact, unfortunately, is that while the loans sanctioned have been fairly substantial, the actual disbursal has been poor.

The future prospect of industrial production is still in the region of uncertainty mainly due to two factors (1) power shortage and (2) labour unrest.

Labour situation

The labour situation is drifting and somewhat uncertain. In many parts of the country the sign of re-emergence of the strained relation between labour and management that prevailed a few years ago is becoming manifest

again. The strike at the works of an explosive manufacturing factory has now ended; but the labour there, is said to be still restive. The textile mill workers of Bombay, though granted Rs. 9.52 crores as bonus, still remain dissatisfied over other matters and sometimes earlier this month went on a lightening strike. Over 3,000 workers of a locomotive factory had also gone on strike from the end of last October. Workers at Calcutta Port are also threatening to take recourse to strike if their demands are not met. As a matter of fact it is impossible not to notice the phenomenon that labour disquiet is now slowly spreading in many parts of the country.

In certain industries, like the jute industry of West Bengal, shortage of raw materials is figuring as a formidable problem.

All the above factors are hampering production. As early solution of these problems, namely (i) Power shortage, (ii) Labour unrest and (iii) Inadequate availability of inputs, is not in the offing, great uncertainty hangs all the more over the outlook of the Industrial sector at the moment.

The export prospects also do not seem to be very happy. The Union Finance Ministry's order reducing substantially duty drawback rates is reported to have triggered off a crisis in engineering exports. Resistance is also reported to be brewing against imports of clothing and other goods in

Britain. The current duel between the dollar and the sterling and the repercussions of the same on India's trade also need careful watching.

Apart from all this, the current structure of excise and customs duty has its telling effect on the growth of industrial production. In brief, it appears that the current industrial situation in the country is extremely uncertain.

Ancillary units

A very significant observation by the Minister of Commerce, Government of India, at the Annual General Meeting of the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce may be recalled against the Janata policy of stress on small and medium industries. He stressed the need to establish small/medium scale ancillary units around the large scale units. Encouragement to this type of development is as much in the interest of the big units to arrange for their supplies of ancillaries and other requirements from the units located nearby or around them as it is in the interest of the small and medium enterprises to be associated around a big industrial unit. This is sound economics apart from the question of meeting the social obligations of big enterprises towards small and medium units.

Managerial remuneration

"The High-Powered Committee headed by Justice Sachar has been examining the various provisions of the Companies Act and the MRTP Act and will be submitting its report on which the government will take action so that the working of the corporate sector could be set in tune with the national objective of growth with social justice", observed Mr. Narsing, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, while addressing the members of Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta on November 4, 1977. He admitted that the time for replying to the 230 questions circulated by the Sachar Committee was too short. Yet he appealed to the corpora

sector to give their replies to the Committee so that even if received late they might take into consideration the suggestions, if found suitable.

Regarding reduction of managerial remuneration, he said that the basic objective of the present government was to ensure social justice and as such nothing could be allowed which would perpetuate social inequality. Yet, he thought that economic differentiation as between different social strata would continue for some time.

The owners of companies should look into the problem from this angle. The old pattern, according to him, could not be allowed to continue for long. The wind of change was blowing and a complete change would definitely come and "all of us should be prepared to welcome the same."

Railway claims

Admitting that delay in settlement of railway claims poses a deterrent to the progress of trade and industry, Mr. J. N. Kohli, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, observed at a meeting earlier the month that the South Eastern Railway had been improving upon its performance in respect of disposal of claim cases. Citing statistics, he said that the Department strove to stick to the target time for disposal of claim cases which was fortyfive days. As a matter of fact, he said that 75 per cent of the cases were being disposed of within that period. The balance could not be disposed of because of some reason or other. Citing statistics, he said that the new claim cases on April 1, 1975 were 18,455 which came down to 6,452 on October 1, 1977. The statistics, he said, spoke of the performance of the South Eastern Railway. These figures, however, included both the refund cases as well as rejected cases, but are still encouraging at least.

Central Executive Meet

BENGALEE ASSOCIATION, BIHAR

OPEN SESSION

Education Minister Reassures The Minorities

Deoghar Nov. 27 : Addressing a crowded public meeting organised by the Deoghar Branch of the Bengalee Association, Bihar at the Rajnarain Basu Public Library Mr. Ghulam Sarwar, Minister of Education (Secondary), Bihar declared that the Janata Government was pledged to fulfil all the guarantees and safeguards provided in the Constitution for the religious and linguistic minorities.

He said the problem of Bengali Textbooks has been solved to a large extent and the Bengali Readers for various classes would be nationalised soon and he emphatically stated that the problem of preparation, printing and distribution of Bengali Text Books and Readers will be solved satisfactorily very soon.

On the question of recognition, minority declaration and grants to schools established and managed by the minorities, the Minister declared that all pending cases will be disposed of by the end of December. He sounded a word of caution to concerned officials that the present Government was not going to tolerate delay in the disposal of such cases.

In an emotion-ridden voice he said that the founding fathers of the Republic of India, had dreamt of federal India, comprising diverse religions, languages, cultures, traditions. Mr. Sarwar exhorted all to strive to build up a unified India.

Earlier, the President of the meeting Dr. Sarkar introduced the guests. Mr Roy, President of the Reception Committee, while welcoming all present, recounted the past and present glory of Deoghar. He deplored that several educational and social institutions

founded by the Bengalis were languishing for want of funds.

Dr. A. Mukherjee, President, Deoghar Branch of the Bengalee Association, Bihar placed before the Minister, the difficulties being faced by the Bengali community. He pointed out that the local Deenabandhu Middle School had not yet been declared minority institution, though application for the same was put in about four years back. He referred to the difficulties in the matter of Bengalee Textbooks among others.

Dr. J. C. Banerji

Dr. J. C. Banerji, on behalf of the Central Council of the Bengalee Association thanked the Education Minister for his gracing the occasion by his presence and for the assurances given by him and also for what he had already done with regard to education of Bengali speaking students through their mother tongue.

He assured the Education Minister that the Bengalee Association would do, whatever little it was possible for it with its limited resources.

Grant to Rajnarayan Bose Public Library

During the tea recess the Education Minister visited the Library. At the request of Dr. Lambodar Mukherji, President of the Bengalee Association Bihar, the Education Minister announced a donation of Rs. 1001 to the library from his discretionary fund.

Dr. Lambodar Mukherji

After the recess, Dr. Lambodar

(Contd. on page 14)

FOUR TIGERS AND A MAN

J. N. Sinha

Retd. Chief Conservator of Forest, Biha,

Be not startled. This is not a story of four hungry tigers feeding on an unfortunate man, nor that of a brave man overpowering four ferocious tigers in physical encounter.

The scene lay in the inner recesses of the forest. Aggressive hills vied with deep valleys and dense foliage to make it a forbidden land. Here and there, at long intervals, as the woods relented, occurred tentative little hamlets of the tribal people. But it was for the wild animals to rule the kingdom. Elephants went trundling from end to end, and when evil counsel prevailed they invaded the hapless huts and pulled them down. Tusker rogues wantonly crushed people to pulp when the latter unwarily crossed their way. Tigers too took their toll.

It was the month of February. Winter was dead but its Earth-bound soul was still benighted. It raised dark clouds from out of the unseen behind the eastern hill. These clouds assumed a hundred phantom shapes and marched across the blue sky. Then, from out of nothing in the west, fierce wind rose and a battle royal ensued. Throughout the night rain fell in exhausting patter on our tent pitched at the foot of Chuklugora hill. Rain-water invaded our home-land and throughout the night I had to be raising the flaps to ascertain the latest territorial position. A renowned novelist happened to be with me at the time and only thought of the tiger the moment the flap was raised. In his novels his heroes had humbled ferocious tigers with bare arms and shouted trumpeting tuskers to object docility. But the staring realities of a helpless tent in tiger-land were more than the solver of imaginary human problems could face.

Roar of a tiger

To make matters worse, a

hungry tiger had murderously roared quite close to the camp. Here the hills embraced a narrow valley in the shape of sleepy eyelids. Opposite our camp, at the foot of the other hill, a little hamlet nestled in the laps of trees and rocks. Hardly had dusk descended when a series of frightful devastating roars filled the valley and hit the echoing hills around. The dreaded king of forest had announced himself. When a tiger gets old and incapable of catching deer he resorts to cattle-lifting.

Yet the fascination of Chuklugora was overpowering and the following morning we laboriously climbed the hill. Near the top the land had been painstakingly terraced and converted into paddy fields. These fields belonged to Chuklu Bagal. He defied the density and denizens of forest and with the muscle of his own arms and sweat of his brow turned these unwilling slopes into agricultural land.

We tentatively entered Chuklu's court-yard through the brush-wood gate. The surprised family mutely watched as Chuklu uncertainly set down a cot for us.

A quantity of paddy was vainly trying to dry itself in the court-yard under the cloudy sky. Two baskets of ripe wild plums were also spread out. The paddy must be sufficiently dry to be husked before the family would get the day's meal. The hungry eyes of the children piteously looked out. There was nothing else in the family to eat. Depredations of wild elephants had grown into seriousness, and over the little paddy that Chuklu's fields unwillingly yielded, a hard and pathetic fight raged between man and beast. The elephants had of late begun to ravage Chuklu's plantain garden at the back of the house. Just the previous evening

a tiger had killed one of Chuklu's cows grazing in the forest.

On the northern side of the court-yard was a long thatched shed open on all sides. Part of the shed was used for herding cattle and in the remainder the family slept at night.

"Are you not afraid of the elephants?" asked my novelist friend, puzzled at this suicidal idiosyncrasy.

"Very much, Sir," replied Chuklu, "and for this very reason, we sleep in the open shed."

This puzzled us still more. Chuklu then explained that from the shed they could hear the approach of the marauding elephant and then by lighting wood-torches and by beating the canister or the drum they could frighten away the beast. On the other hand if they slept behind closed doors the elephant would, without their knowing it, destroy the garden, pull down their hut and even trample them to death.

Long day's trip

One day we set out on a long day's trip among the hills on the other side and took Chuklu with us as guide. We went on and on till it grew into evening. For a deferred cup of tea I, with the novelist friend and my staff, settled down on the bed of dry hill stream. The sun had set. Darkness was dutifully descending and filtering through the foliage on to the forest floor. The romance of day was gradually putting on a sable scowl. We had come so far by a jeep through tunnels in thick sal forest, but the other bank of the stream rose relentlessly up and up to the giddy heights of a mountain.

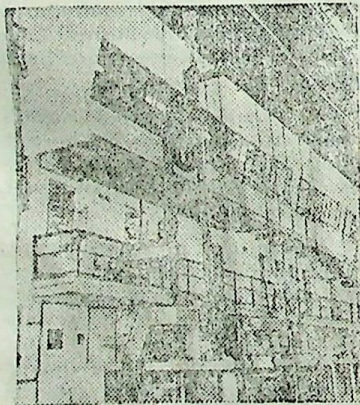
Our tea fire flitfully lighted the near space and faces but all else was dark, getting ominously filled with malignant invisible life. Talk inevitably veered round to wild animals. One of the forest

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guardr said, 'Chuklu, Sir, once confronted four tigers together just a furlong down-stream?'

'What?' I uttered in amazed bewilderment, 'four tigers at a time? And Chuklu is still alive!'

As I turned my gaze towards him Chuklu came forward. A wood-torch lit up his face and in that eerie glow he looked like an enigmatic challenge to disbelief. 'You must be a very brave man, Chuklu', I added.

A faint shudder swept over us. The entire race and breed of tigers seemed suddenly to have besieged us. The leaping flames of tea-fire looked like the lolling tongues of open-mouthed tigers!

Chuklu reacted humbly. 'The story alone can tell, Sir, what I am,' he said.

Chuklu's story

Here is the story in Chuklu's own mode of telling:—

'I was going that day from my home to see a relative far far away across these hills. The summer was gruelling hot and killing. I had left my home with crow of the cock with an axe in hand. When it neared noon I felt terribly thirsty. Streams in these parts all dry up in summer and water becomes a scarce commodity for which men and wild animals have to compete. I knew of a pool in this very stream which holds water in hottest summer and unerringly headed for it. But as soon as I emerged from the forest and came within sight of the pool I saw three heads bobbing up and down in the water.'

'Whose heads?' I asked in puzzled curiosity, 'were there other people bathing in the pool?'

'That is what I am coming to', replied Chuklu unhurried, 'I wondered whose heads could those be in this solitary nook of the forest, far away from villages. Then I stood quiet and watched attentively. O, God! were these not the heads of tigers, for the stripes were distinct? After a while, as I thus stood transfixed, uncertain what to do,

the bigger head rose higher and part of the body came to view. Truly that was a huge tigress with the fairly grown cubs about her! The cubs perhaps noticed me, jumped out of the water, and started gazing at me from all angles and postures. Sometimes they would squint fixedly, then clamber up the mother's body and look out as if from behind a fence. Either in curiosity or for mischief they indulged in such fantastically funny antics that even in that grip of death I could not help laughing to myself. Then the next moment they would make faces at me exactly in the way as naughty urchins do at helpless old men. If they were human children I would surely thrash them into decency towards age.'

Another tiger in front

Chuklu smiled to himself and then went on, 'Luckily the tigress had remained unconcerned. I decided quietly to withdraw and turned right about. But what do I see but another tiger camping camouflaged under a tree only a few yards in front! So now I was securely sandwiched between two big tigers, to say nothing of the none-too-innocent grown-up cubs.'

'What did you do?'' I asked in impatience, although I had known by then that Chuklu did not relish any kind of jolt to his smooth story-telling.

'What did I do?'' ruminated Chuklu; 'that is what I am still asking myself. I was dead, you may put it one way. I just stood petrified. Then like a remote-controlled doll I turned left so as to keep both the tigers in view and looked once towards the male tiger—for the one under the tree was obviously the male—and next towards the female.'

'Death was certain,' continued Chuklu, 'whether it came from the right or from the left. To run away would be a futile attempt—the frog in serpent's grasp has more hope of hopping away to safety.'

After a brief moment of pause, in which the ponderous silence of

the woods beat upon us like a high wave upon the unwary sea-bather, Chuklu resumed—

'Anyway, what was to be done? Indecisively I began to withdraw in imperceptible back paces. I was prepared any moment for a murderous leap of the tiger that would be the last of me. But I had decided that I would not die without giving a fight with my axe, however unavailing that might be.

'But most surprisingly, and in a manner not heard of by me, the tiger raised himself laboriously, yawned leisurely, and began slowly to walk in a direction away from me.

'The tigress too rose from the pool and slowly paced towards the forest. The cubs did a final face-making and hurried after their mother.'

'Then you won over the tigers, brave man!' I said applaudingly to Chuklu. But Chuklu interrupted, 'The story has not yet ended, Sir', he said and went on—

Tigers disappear

'At last when the tigers had disappeared from the scene I was free and safe again. In curiosity I went up to the tree and there found the remains of a big Sambhar. The horn was beautiful and I picked it up as a memento. It was obvious that the parents and the cubs had eaten their full of the Sambhar and thereafter were resting, one under the soothing shade of a tree and the rest in the luxury of a cool water-pool. They did not need any food so they did not care to kill me. They only seemed to be mildly annoyed at thus being disturbed and when they found that I would not budge—though I had stood there more in death than in life—they themselves decided to move away.'

Chuklu ended the story and said—'Call it my victory or the tigers' victory, Sir, as you like'.

As we rose to get into the jeep my novelist friend said in sighs, 'Would that men were as discriminating as tigers!'

(The movelist referred to was Bibhuti Bhusan Bandopadhyaya of 'Pather Panchali' fame.

INDIRA'S SECRET

S. K. Ghose

Excerpts from S. K. Ghose's forthcoming book "The Crusade & End of Indira[Raj]"

I was not impressed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi when she was the Congress President. I saw her for the first time at close quarters when she came to Patna in 1959 to address a Congress workers' meeting as PTI Bureau Chief at Patna at a Press conference. I had heard she was very pretty. I saw but a pale woman with sunken cheeks and decaying teeth. She looked like a faded flower. Nor did she have the gift of the gab. Her ideas were confused. When after the meeting I asked her for clarification, she only made the confusion worse confounded.

But when she took up the gauntlet thrown by the Syndicate, I turned into an admirer. I used to have frequent quarrels informally with Karpoori Thakur, George Fernandes, Madhu Limaye and Pranab Chatterji (former Chairman of the State SSP), who looked upon her and considered her as incarnation of evil. My admiration knew no bounds when she successfully manouevred the liberation of Bangla Desh and beat Pakistan hollow.

Disillusionment came slowly but surely. Doubts started creeping in when I found pressmen being won over through inducements by men known to be close to her to sing her praise. Many years later, as a member of the Ganga Bridge Committee of the Bihar Legislative Council in May, 1973, I met her again at her Delhi residence. Oh, the difference! She looked like a flower in bloom. When she smiled, I was surprised to find she had teeth like a set of pearls. A nagging doubt assailed me.

Ghost writing stopped

But I forgot that too. I used to ghost write a column on behalf of my wife (the PTI did not

permit its staffers to write for others) for a Patna daily for many years. When Mrs. Gandhi's slips started showing, I became a little critical. When in my writings I was more critical of some members of her coterie, I found the pressures mounting against me. At least on two occasions my articles were not published. This had never happened in the past 17 years. In disgust and as a protest, I stopped writing that column. JP's agitation and her ambitious and anti-democratic stance made my disillusionment complete.

But what was the secret of her hold on a large majority of her partymen? This has never been properly explained. She was feared beyond reason. Most Congressmen, Ministers, MPs and legislators felt tongue-tied in her presence. Pandit Nehru, her father, the tallest leader of our country, was respected, even held in awe, but never feared. Not in the same way.

Pandit Nehru never treated his Cabinet colleagues or State Chief Ministers as his subordinates. Dr. B. C. Roy often behaved as if he was superior to Nehru. Congress MPs and State Ministers never played the role of abject sycophants. He did not allow anybody to touch his feet nor did he allow the performance of 'Arati'. He accepted only garlands which he used to give away to children.

So long as Mrs. Gandhi was dependent on the **Syndicate** for making her position secure, she played the role of a helpless, fatherless widow. She had not gathered any sycophant, not publicly then. Even after the Congress split she seemed to lean on two 'Babujis'. Yes, there were two Babujis and not one as is commonly believed. This I came to know quite by chance on December 22, 1970.

Governor Kanungo

Mr. Nityanand Kanungo, the Governor of Bihar, used to consult me, I do not know why, whenever there was a political crisis. That morning I had gone to Raj Bhawan on receipt of an urgent summons from him. He was very unhappy over the pressures he was being subjected to from Delhi for delaying the formation of the Ministry after the Daroga Roy Ministry fell on December 15. He told me that he had been offered the bait of another term of Governorship if he would just delay the formation of the Ministry obviously to enable the Prime Minister's men to do some political horse trading. He said he was fed up with it and was going to invite Mr. Karpoori Thakur, who enjoyed majority support as the leader of the Sanjukta Vidhaya Dal, to form the Ministry.

I asked: 'Have you invited him or are you still waiting?' He said: 'No, Karpoori is waiting downstairs.' I advised him to extend the invitation at once and arrange for the swearing in of the new Ministry that very evening. He did. As soon as he had signed the necessary papers, his Secretary, Mr. Sukhen Chakrabarty, came running. He said Babuji was on the phone from Delhi. Mr. Kanungo took the call.

I could hear only one side of the conversation. He was saying: 'Babuji Pranam. Wo Kyase Hoga? I have already invited Karpoori to form the Ministry and invitations are going out for the swearing in this evening. . . . Yes, Babuji, Yes. . . .' But the other side had banged the phone angrily.

Mr. Kanungo came back a little crestfallen. I asked if it was Jagjwan Babu and if so what was he saying. He replied it was Jagjwan Babu all right and he was suggesting postponement of formation of the Ministry.

After we had talked for about ten minutes, another phone came

from Delhi. Mr. Kanungo took the phone and repeated his performance: 'Babuji Pranam... Wo Kyase Hoga... etc. etc.' The other side banged the phone again leaving an unhappy Kanungo holding the line.

I was piqued, I asked him how was it that Babuji, who had cut him off just ten minutes ago, rung up again? Mr. Kanungo nodded his head: 'It was the other Babuji, Mr. Satya Narain Sinha.'

Mrs. Gandhi had shunted Satyanarain Babu, a member of the Central Cabinet since independence, at the first opportunity as Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Jagjiwan Babu was a much tougher proposition. He could not be disposed of that easily. Moreover he was still needed. So, Jagjiwan Babu remained. Gradually she started building up her own power base after the midterm Lok Sabha poll in 1971 when, in the wake of the liberation of Bangla Desh, her popularity was at the peak.

Hand-picked men and women

Most candidates, who were given tickets for Lok Sabha, were hand-picked men and women and loyal supporters. Many of them were gradually corrupted through devious means by men supposed to be close to her. Some mild critics with radical images had, of course, to be retained even if they could not be made to bend to all her wishes, to keep up the show. They were also needed because she herself had to take up radical postures if and when it suited her. But by and large many of her supporters were encouraged by her loyal Ministers and men of her inner circle to soft living beyond their means. Temptations were put in their way in the true KGB style. Such MPs wined and dined and feted their friends in five-star hotels. The lecherous among them led the life of gay Lotharios. Under the law of demand and supply, the institution of call girls became a fact of life in Delhi. In short, many of them lived much beyond their known sources of income. A sizeable number of them also amassed wealth by peddling influence. Tulmohan Ram was only the tip of the iceberg.

Mrs. Gandhi must have carefully assessed the dossiers on her colleagues and Ministers in the States from her own sources of intelligence besides information supplied by the Central Intelligence Bureau, the RAW and the Governors of States, who maintained their own dossiers, copies of which were supplied to her. In Delhi a close watch was kept on MPs and Ministers by surveillance through wire-tapping and bugging. In an expansive mood one of her most loyal 'Bhaktas' once told me how the car in which he had been travelling had been bugged to test his loyalty. She had the secret bio-data of all important politicians and journalists on her finger tips.

Mr. R. D. Bhandare, Governor of Bihar, had once invited some of us, all editors of important local dailies and news agencies, for morning tea and told us jubilantly that he was updating the dossiers maintained by his predecessors on all Ministers and important officers. He said their misdeeds were known to him. He even made public speeches later at Poona and Nagpur while on a holiday that he had enough material to send some Ministers and bureaucrats to jail. His allegations received countrywide publicity. When he was pulled up he simply denied having made such allegations and said he had been misrepresented.

The conclusion is inevitable that Mrs. Gandhi kept herself informed of the indiscretions of her partymen. She knew of every skeleton in every cupboard. And the people around her knew that she knew. That was the secret of her strangle-hold on the party. There can be no other valid reason of explanation for the strange power she wielded over a large section of her partymen. She has herself provided an indirect proof that she maintained every bit of evidence that could be used as material to silence her critics within the party. She gave herself away when she threatened Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, once considered to be her right-hand man, with releasing the letters that he had written to her before he broke away from her

after her defeat at the polls. That was the only lever she had against Ray and she hurled the threat to silence him when he turned into a critic. Ray also had her letters. So there was no showdown, fortunately for both.

She had spies everywhere

She had here spies everywhere. They had infiltrated even the Sangharsh Samitis. Her remark that there were corrupt men even in the movement (this related to some minor bungling involving a small amount of money collected through coupons) gave her away. She did maintain dossiers against her political rivals. Those against whom she did not have a handle, she sent them to her dungeons during the emergency. She was not only ruthless but also very vindictive. This characteristic became more evident after she started projecting Sanjay as India's Coming Man and when her authority was being challenged by Mr. Narayan and his followers.

Mrs. Gandhi's personality has been more enigmatic than charismatic. It is difficult to imagine why the lady, who was virtually worshipped at the height of her glory after the liberation of Bangla Desh, should have cast away the love and esteem of her own people, which every human being pines for and cherishes, and invited a precipitate fall. To keep herself in power? She already had absolute power. Then why have elections.

Power corrupts, absolute power, absolutely. How right JP was. 'Vinash Kale Biparit Buddhi.' If the Constitution is to be amended, it should be amended to limit the term of office of the Central Ministers, including the Prime Minister, and of State Ministers, including the Chief Ministers.

There is another ancient explanation:
"Striyah Charitram, Purushasya Bhagyam,
Daibo Na Jananti, Kuto Manusyah?"

(The character of a woman, the fate of a man are not known even by the gods in heaven, what to speak of ordinary mortals?)

Even when all the facts are known, the mystery will remain, the triumph and the tragedy.

Sharing Of Ganga Waters At Farakka

Text Of Official Agreement

New Delhi : The text of the agreement on division of Ganga Waters at Farakka Barrage site between India and Bangladesh Governments were announced on Nov. 14, 1977 both in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha simultaneously by Prime Minister Morarji Desai and External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Bajpai respectively. As the agreement is of greatest importance for both India and Bangladesh we publish below the full text of this historic agreement.

Text of the Agreement

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka and on Augmenting its flows

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,

Determined to promote and strengthen their relations of friendship and good neighbourliness,

Inspired by the common desire of promoting the well being of their peoples,

Being desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and of making the optimum utilisation of the water resources of their region by joint efforts,

Recognising that the need of making an interim arrangement for sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka in a spirit of mutual accommodation and the need for a solution of the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga are in the mutual interests of the peoples of the two countries,

Being desirous of finding a fair solution of the question before them, without affecting the rights and entitlements of either country other than those covered by this Agreement, or establishing any

general principles of law or precedent,

Have agreed as follows :

A. Arrangements for sharing of the waters of the Ganga at Farakka.

Article I

The quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka.

Article II

(i) The sharing between India and Bangladesh of the Ganga Waters at Farakka from the 1st January to the 31st May every year will be with reference to the quantum shown in column 2 of the Schedule annexed hereto which is based on 75 per cent availability calculated from the recorded flows of the Ganga at Farakka from 1948 to 1973.

(ii) India shall release to Bangladesh waters by 10 day periods in quantum shown in column 4 of the Schedule :

Provided that if the actual availability at Farakka of the Ganga waters during a 10-day period is higher or lower than the quantum shown in column 2 of the Schedule it shall be shared in the proportion applicable to that period;

Provided further that if during a particular 10-day period, the Ganga flows at Farakka come down to such a level that the share of Bangladesh is lower than 80 per cent of the value shown in column 4, the release of waters to Bangladesh during that 10-day

period shall not fall below 80 per cent of the value shown in column 4

Article III

The waters released to Bangladesh at Farakka under Article I shall not be reduced below Farakka except for reasonable uses of waters, not exceeding 200 cusecs, by India between Farakka and the point on the Ganga where both its banks are in Bangladesh.

Article IV

A Committee consisting of the representatives nominated by the two Governments (hereinafter called the Joint Committee) shall be constituted. The Joint Committee shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flows below Farakka Barrage and in the Feeder Canal, as well as at Hardinge Bridge.

Article V

The Joint Committee shall decide its own procedure and method of functioning.

Article VI

The Joint Committee shall submit to the two Governments all data collected by it and shall also submit a yearly report to both the Governments.

Article VII

The Joint Committee shall be responsible for implementing the arrangements contained in this part of the Agreement and examining any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and of the operation of Farakka Barrage. Any difference or dispute arising in this regard, if not resolved by the Joint Committee, shall be referred to a panel of an equal number of Indian and Bangladeshi experts nominated by the two Governments. If the difference or dispute still remains unresolved, it shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion and failing that by such other arrangements as they may mutually agree upon.

B. Long-Term Arrangements,

Article VIII

The two Governments recognise the need to cooperate with each other in finding a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga during the dry season.

Article IX

The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission established by the Governments in 1972 shall carry out investigation and study of schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga, proposed or to be proposed by either Government with a view to finding a solution which is economical and feasible. It shall submit its recommendations to the two Governments within a period of three years.

Article X

The two Governments shall consider and agree upon a scheme or schemes, taking into account the recommendations of the Joint Rivers Commission, and take necessary measures to implement it or them as speedily as possible.

Article XI

Any difficulty, difference or dispute arising from or with regard to this part of the Agreement, if not resolved by the Joint Rivers Commission, shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion.

C. Review and Duration

Article XII

The provisions of this Agreement will be implemented by both parties in good faith. During the period for which the Agreement continues to be in force in accordance with Article 15 of the Agreement, the quantum of waters agreed to be released to Bangladesh at Farakka in accordance with this Agreement shall not be reduced.

Article XIII

The Agreement will be reviewed by the two Governments at the expiry of three years from the date of coming into force of this Agreement. Further reviews shall take place six months before the expiry of this Agreement or as may

be agreed upon between the two Governments.

Article XIV

The review or reviews referred to in Article 13 shall entail consideration of the working, impact, implementation and progress of the arrangements contained in parts A and B of this Agreement.

Article XV

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of its coming

(Surjit Singh Barnala)
For the Government of the
Republic of India

into force. It may be extended further for a specified period by mutual agreement in the light of the review or reviews referred to in Article 13.

In witness thereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Dacca on November 5, 1977 in the Hindi, Bengali and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

(Rear Admiral Musharraf
Hussain Khan)
For the Government of the
People's Republic of
Bangladesh

DACCA, November 5, 1977

SCHEDULE

(Vide Article 2(i))

Sharing of waters at Farakka between the 1st January and the 31st May every year

1		2	3	4
Period		Flows reaching Farakka (based on 75% availability from observed data (1948-73))	Withdrawal by India at Farakka	Release to Bangladesh
January	1-10	98,500	40,000	58,500
	11-20	89,750	38,500	51,250
	21-31	82,500	35,000	47,500
February	1-10	79,250	33,000	46,250
	11-20	74,000	31,500	42,500
	21-28/29	70,000	30,750	39,250
March	1-10	65,250	26,750	38,500
	11-20	63,500	25,500	38,000
	21-31	61,000	25,000	36,000
April	1-10	59,000	24,000	35,000
	11-20	55,500	20,750	34,750
	21-30	55,000	20,500	34,500
May	1-10	56,500	21,500	35,000
	11-20	59,250	24,000	35,250
	21-31	65,500	26,750	38,750

Women And Soviet Constitution

Aruna Asaf Ali

The new Soviet constitution is unique because it enshrines the great principle that even if all men and women are not born equal, those who are citizens of the USSR are entitled to enjoy every facility that can enable them to be free from all manner of exploitation, to enjoy in full the fruits of their individual and collective labour, and to choose their way of life according to their own inner urges.

It is further more unique because in the society envisaged in this revolutionary Constitution, no parasitism is encouraged or tolerated. The opportunities this great socialist state offers to human beings are so comprehensive that unless a person is handicapped at birth there is no reason why he or she cannot attain the highest standards of mental and physical health, reach such intellectual heights as one is capable of, and also develop into humane individuals free from the curse of greed, envy and all that sours the inner core of one's personality.

As such, the impact of the values upheld in this truly ennobling document inspire those men and women in different parts of the world, especially those who have dedicated themselves to the task of bringing about equality and well-being for their fellow citizens.

Inspiring improvement

The very fact that the USSR and other Socialist countries actually guarantee and provide gainful work, ensure child care from the infants birth till it matures, make community services easily available, in terms of health protection, right to housing, maintenance in old age and sickness and gives innumerable advantages undreamt of in countries under totally different social systems—inspires us to carry on our struggle for a similar way of life for our people. If all this did and can happen in a short span of sixty years, in one corner of the globe, why should it be impossible for other peoples

to achieve all this? True, conditions differ from continent to continent and region to region but if the fundamental laws of social development in socialism are accepted by the vast majority of the people of a country, no power on earth can suppress them. The revolutionary history of the USSR finds its fulfilment, as it were, in the Constitution which the citizens of the USSR are giving to themselves on this memorable 60th Anniversary of the first Socialist state in the world. The fact that socialist ethics are quite at variance with earlier codes of human behaviour becomes obvious to every student of the Soviet social structure. By inculcating qualities such as kindness, diligence, comradeship and an attitude of friendliness to human beings at large, the Soviet Union's political thinkers and leaders have paved the road to a now world wherein the principle of democracy will not be a mere slogan but an active element which transforms not only the physical and natural environment of a country but helps human beings to practice their beliefs honestly.

Impact on women

The Soviet women today are very fortunate because they live in a society where socialism is not only the State's policy but is put into actual statutory practice.

Even before the adoption of the present Constitution on the 7th October this year women in the Soviet Union had made vast

strides in matters such as education, professional training and every aspect of their social political and cultural life.

The new Constitution has further enhanced their position because it has recognised the fact that women actually constitute the majority of the population of the USSR and a great deal depends, will always depend, on their capacity for productive, highly skilled and specialised work. The allround progress achieved hitherto by the USSR makes it practicable now to guarantee even greater opportunities to function efficiently and diligently in the task of building a socialist society. Even in matters of political and state power Soviet women constitute a force to reckon with.

Significant stride in six decades

To think that women have acquired this significant status in a period of just six decades is to wonder at the limitless possibilities of human growth and development—given the will-power necessary for a revolutionary society. Way back in 1917 the great majority of women in the USSR were illiterate and backward in many ways. Today they not only share power with men and take active part in shaping their country's national and international policies but dominate many a sphere of life where they dared not enter earlier. Every visitor to USSR cannot help observing the fact that large numbers of women are doctors, teachers, lecturers in higher institutions of learning, besides being factory and farm workers. Science was supposed to be a discipline in which men only could function but the young Soviet women of today have entered this sphere and have equalled themselves with their fellow-comrades in producing amazing results. The new Constitution will further enhance her

status and prove once again that genuine freedom when guaranteed enables women to contribute very significantly to create a socialist state, and to enrich the lives of its citizens. By participating on equal terms with men in the task of producing material and spiritual wealth of their nation women in the USSR have smashed the myth of women's inferiority. We who have as yet to travel many miles before we reach the goal of a society free from exploitation and equality, can gain a great deal by studying the relevant portions of the new Constitution adopted by the people of the Soviet Union by observing how they function and what is the secret of their enormous energy, their large heartedness, their generosity and everything that makes a woman admirable. The secret obviously

lies in the fact that when human beings are happy and can satisfy their basic urges fearlessly, are not haunted by the fear of hunger, unemployment shelterlessness and sickness, the noblest qualities in man overcome whatever is base and degrading. In the struggle for improving our social conditions we also improve ourselves. This is the reason why the moral law operates more effectively in socialist countries, although their leaders do not always talk about it.

Women living in countries where the laws of socialism do not operate but the laws of capitalism govern their lives have to learn how to be equal to man, by joining the larger struggle to emancipate society. Then only can we emancipate ourselves.

touch and everything turns to gold. He branches out into Brendan enterprizes. But does wealth bring him happiness. No. His friends and dear ones become completely absorbed in their work and he is left lonely at the top. He tries to find distraction outside, and in these distractions Robbins describes some of his best and most lurid sex and drug scenes. Gareth then decides to make his enterprizes a limited concern but falls apart when the Treasury Department seize his clubs, hotels etc. for narcotics and he pays back the loan advanced. It is then that he finds happiness with one of his girl friends.

The moral of this story seems to be that wealth, power and fame does not necessarily bring happiness. Nor for that matter does poverty. Happiness is some where in between. Robbins has that easy readable style which has made all his books, particularly in India, popular. India Book House had this novel published in paper back even before it came in the best-seller list and all the book-stalls are stacked, side by side with the Two Faces of Mrs. Gandhi. It is heavily spiced with sex and dope, and this mixture pleases many, for most of us in India like our curries really hot. A pleasantly written novel to while away an idle home.

RECENT FICTIONS

BOOK REVIEW

Dreams Die First by Harold Robbins, Indian Edition by India Book House; Priced at Rs. 15

The Chancellor Manuscript by Robert Ludlum; Pantha Paperback; Priced Rs. 15-20

Dreams Die First :—Robbins recipe for a fast moving popular novel is a young power hungry ambitious young man, having besides good looks a penchant for high life, girls, every type of sex, one who can stand the use of drugs; as many pretty girls as possible; a backdrop of villainy either the Mafia or some similar organization; with money flowing like water and you have a dazzling exciting novel you cannot put down till you come to the last page.

Gareth Brendan is the young man in *Dreams Die First*. Sentimental, handsome, an extrovert indulges in every type of sex, who lives and breathes drugs. His sentimental dreams died in Viet Nam and he is now out to ruthlessly conquer the magazine world. His associates are Bobby, a rich

homosexual photographer, Verita a Chichano cost accountant graduate, Denise, Eileen, Maressa and the delectable twins Dana and Shanc. In the background are Gareth's uncle John Lonegan, Bobby's father, the Reod Sam, Ronzi a Mafia leader, the Brother Jonathan a not so good ex-cop priest and others. Gareth after his return from Viet Nam is without a job. He tries writing but gets nowhere. His uncle John sets him up in the publishing business and he gets down to publishing a monthly magazine with sex as the leading topic. This turns out a huge success but brings threats and obstruction from the under world, from the law and from rivals. He sells out. He then starts a new magazine *Machs* and this proves a fabulous success. Thereafter Gareth has the Midas

The Chancellor Manuscript : Ludlum has in a very short time become one of the leading and most interesting of the type of popular thrillers, not exactly detective not spy but somewhere in between. He selects a subject which is topically being discussed and builds up an absorbing story along the lines of a thriller with a highly dramatic almost breath-taking ending. In the *Mattock Paper* it was about the pedalling of drugs in University campuses. In the *Rhinemann Exchange* it was about the German refugees in Latin America; and now in this new novel it is about no less a person than the hated John Edgar Hoover.

It is common knowledge that Hoover when he was head of the

(Contd. on page 15)

BENGALEE ASSOCIATION, BIHAR

(Contd. from page 4)

Mukherjee explained to the audience the aims and objects of the Association. He said that Association was striving to obtain the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution. Unless the Bengalis of Bihar joined hands to make the Association strong, their language and culture were bound to perish. As all the activities of the Association were constitutional and above board, no one should have any apprehension in joining the Association.

Professor Rangin Haldar

Professor Rangin Haldar, the chief guest in his address recounted the association of such eminent personalities as Raj Narayan Bose, Jogindra Nath Basu, Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar with Deoghar. He dwelt on the contribution of Bihar to the Bengali literature and the life, society and culture of Bihar in Bengali literature.

He stressed that the impact of industrialisation has done away with many aspects of traditional Bengali culture. It is now only the language that remains. He exhorted the Bengalis of Bihar to see that the Bengali language does not die out in Bihar.

Professor Pathak

Professor Pathak in his speech stressed on the need of inclusion of Maithili in the 8th Schedule of languages and said that primary education of children in Maithili speaking areas should be conducted in Maithili.

Cultural functions

A group of 'Baul' singers from Birbhum presented a lively programme of 'Baul' songs in tradi-

tional style, which was highly appreciated.

The N. G. S. Club, Deoghar presented a short drama 'Parwana' in Bhojpuri. The Secretary stated that the playlet was awarded certificates for best production, best direction, best male artist (Sri Biswanath Chatterjee) second best male artist (Sri Prasanta

Chatterjee) and for script (Sri Shambhu Singh) in 10th All India Short Play Competition held at Allahabad in Feb. 1977.

Superbly produced and directed the drama drew repeated applause from the audience in which Mr. Ghulam Sarwar was present. He congratulated Sri Biswanath Chatterjee and Sri Prasanta Chatterjee for their fine acting.

TENDER NOTICE

IPRD 2365/77-78

Tender for the work for construction of High level submersible bridge over River Nutandih Nala in Kandrahunti Ichagarh Road in 12th mile will be received from the P. W. D. contractors by the Superintending Engineer, P. W. D. Ranchi Road Circle, Ranchi upto 4 P. M. on Thursday the 8th December, 77 and will be opened on the same day at 4.30 P. M. in presence of the contractors or their authorised agents.

1. Estimated cost — Rs. 2,28,925/-
2. Earnest Money to be deposited — Rs. 6,000/-
3. Cost of Bill of quantity — Rs. 150/-
(non-refundable).
4. Time for completion 1 (one) yr. (12 months).

Bill of quantities and its relevant papers will be available from the office of the undersigned on any working day and hours except the day fixed for opening the tender.

Sd. I. Tariq

Executive Engineer, P.W.D.

Singhbhum Divn,

Chaibasa

BOOK REVIEW

(Contd. from page 13)

Federal Bureau of Investigation built up a huge number of files regarding important persons in America and used the information compiled in a process of blackmail. At one time it seemed that America was going the way of Hiller's Germany. This novel deals with a set of honourable gentlemen, out to set the world right and using the cover name of Inover Brass. At a secret meeting they decide that However is to be eliminated and the files against persons computed by him taken over and destroyed. A federal agent named Varak is given this duty. Hoover's assassination is duly accomplished but when a search is made for the files half of them from M to G are found missing. The story concerns the search and finally of these missing files. Peter Chancellor thus comes into the picture. He is a young writer whose thesis on a historical world event had been rejected and he had been advised to write novels giving them the cover of fact. He does so and soon becomes a best-selling historical novelist. He had come in contact with one of the members of Inover Brass and he inveigled into taking an active part in the recovery of the files by being the information that Hoover was murdered and that he is in the position of building up a first rate novel about it. It was currently given out that Hoover had died of a heart attack. The story he builds up is the *Chancellor Manuscript*. It is so close to fact that the members of Inover Brass become alarmed, as also other persons. Chancellor undergoes a series of exciting and dangerous adventures in the attempts made to eliminate him and the novel has a most dramatic end. There is a love interest in Alison Mac Andrew the daughter of an American general hounded to his death by Hoover.

The *Chancellor Manuscript* is a spine chilling absorbing novel. Some of Peter's adventures seem contrived probably with a view to screen rights, but at all times, after a slow start, the story moves with speed, and there are corpses by the

HOLOCAST IN BANGLADESH

Ancient Treasures Looted During
Pakistani Occupation

P. C. Roy Chaudhury

Historically, Bangladesh was a synthesis of religious beliefs and practices and possessed a sense of unity in spite of differences, in religious creeds. The followers of Buddhism, Natha Dharma, Sahajjiya and Baul cults were on the periphery of Hinduism. Islam with its emphasis on brotherhood appealed to them.

The Vaishnava Sahajjiya cult was widespread in Bangladesh. Some other cults, loosely described as crypto-Buddhistic, had given rise to songs and *dohas*. There were a large number of fakirs, sadhus, bauls, wandering priests in green or saffron robes, who took religion to the lowly huts by the banks of the rivers or the swamps or by the lush green fertile fields. These itinerant peddlers of a broad-based religion were held in great esteem by the village folks irrespective of their religious creeds.

Sufism came to India in the 11th century A. D. and came over to this region as well. The Sufi idea of *murshid* (disciple) is akin to Hindu conception of *gurvada* and Sama songs and dances were like the Sahajjiya songs and dances. Sufism did not remain the preserve of the educated elite but penetrated into the lowly huts as well.

dozen. Anyone can be a police agent no matter how innocent he may look. Even if a portion of the espionage described is true, America must have been a horrid place to live in during Hoover's regime at the Federal Bureau. A most readable book, H.A.B.

Old Bengali literature of Bangladesh has ample references that indicate religious tolerance. *Dharma-puja-vidhana* has many pseudo-Urdu verses ascribed to Ramai Pandit. Many Muslim like Ali Raja, Syed Sultan, Muhammed Shafi and Murshid composed Yogic literature. Many Muslim poets wrote on Hindu themes. *Padma Purana* used to be read out by a Hindu at the bed of sick Muslim children. Amulets given by Muslim fakirs were worn by the Hindus, *Sindur* (vermilion) ghat (earthen pot), mango twigs were auspicious insignia for both the creeds.

This sense of catholicity and synthesis continued from the 15th to the 18th century, and this was the period in which most of the shrines, Muslim or Hindu, were set up. Minor differences did not blight away the innate idea of unity. Dargahs, mosques and temples flourished side by side. Muslim kings and generals had the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* rewritten by their own court poets.

But with the advent of the East India Company, there came a definite change. The Muslims were denigrated, while the Hindu middle classes were patronised. Then came the 'Permanent Settlement' which created a large number of Hindu Rajas and zamindars, while there were only three sizeable Muslim nawabs — those of Dacca, Bogra and Jalpai-guri.

(To be concluded)

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LIC BONUS

RATES INCREASED

	Present valuation (1.4.75 to 31.3.77)	Last valuation (1.4.73 to 31.3.75)	
Whole Life	Rs. 25.00	Rs. 22.00	} Per thousand per year
Endowment	Rs. 20.00	Rs. 17.60	

Scheme of differential Bonuses for erstwhile insurers continues as before.



Life Insurance Corporation of India

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