

New Wave Call To Defend Indian Science

The Aug. 28 issue of New Wave makes another major contribution to these programmatic efforts. The Committee For Democratic Action and in particular, New Wave issued a call for the defense of the Indian scientific establishment, led by the Center for Science and Industrial Research (CSIR). The major scientific institutions, under attack and on the verge of reorganization, represent the leading edge of India's 25-year-long effort for self-reliance, industrialization, and development. We reprint that call.

Defeat Janata's Anti-Science Conspiracy... Save CSIR

The anti-Nehru tirade, which is aimed at destroying the reconstruction of the national policy on the basis of democracy, secularism and socialism, gathered momentum at the three-day long Janata working committee meeting. The three decades of Congress rule was repeatedly denounced as 'Congress misrule'. Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram, Petroleum and Chemicals Minister H.N. Bahuguna and a host of other former Congressmen who were closely associated with the formulation and execution of the policies quietly listened to the denunciation of the organisation they once belonged to.

These tirades, reminiscent of Hitler's fulminations, are by no means accidental. The forces which are totally opposed to building a modern India with a self-reliant modern economy based on the application of advanced science and technology, have captured power, thanks to the misdeeds of the Indira caucus.

It is also not accidental that in the midst of anti-industry and anti-science chorus, the government has decided to dismantle the research and development infrastructure of the nation which is a sine qua non of industrial and agricultural development. The Cabinet has decided to liquidate the CSIR under the pressure of multinational corporations and their Indian agents.

This decision was taken without consulting any of the national scientific organisations like the National Committee on Science and Technology, Indian Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, and National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad. The governing body of CSIR and Directors of the various prestigious laboratories were totally ignored. The government decision is also in violation of the recommendations of the various committees and commissions, including the Administrative Reforms Commission of which Morarji Desai was the chairman.

A number of members of parliament, including R.K. Mishra, Saugata Roy, P.N. Sayeed, Ahsan Jafri, K.D. Rajan, Somjibhai Damor and M. K. Chandrashekar Murthy have strongly protested against the government decisions and asked for its reconsideration.

The CSIR was formed by a resolution of parliament. The only competent authority that can reverse the decision is again parliament. Naturally the haste shown

in taking the decision is inexplicable.

The decision to hand over the various laboratories to respective ministries will lead to a complete disorientation of the various interdisciplinary projects currently in hand. It is not the ministries but the public sector undertakings, including defence establishments and private sector industrialists, who use the scientific and technological achievements of the laboratories. They will be the worst sufferers.

Secondly, it will lead to large scale, brain drain and flight of talent from India to other countries. This process is bound to take place not only because of the disorientation in the sphere of scientific investigations but also because of the inspired propaganda against scientists and engineers which one can already see in a section of the mass media.

Wages of Sin

For cow dung age politicians, who cannot distinguish between the requirements of developing a modern society and the dictates of IMF and the World Bank and their native and foreign agents, the dismantling of the infrastructure of research and development is evidently of not much consequence. It is the upcoming generation, which is being asked to go to the countryside for building roads, and dams without mechanical aid, that will have to pay the price for the stupidities of the Janata conglomerate.

Second Attack

The dismantling of CSIR is only a prelude to the disbandment of atomic and space research establishments. Already a well calculated whisper campaign can be heard against these bodies. This reminds one of the campaign against the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the early sixties, in which western oil cartels and their Indian agents played a decisive role. The result was that the oil exploration programme was pushed behind by a decade and but for the timely assistance of some progressive Arab regimes and the socialist countries, India's industrial wheel would have long ago ground to a halt.

It also reminds one of the well orchestrated campaign inspired by the oil cartels against the coal gas based energy and petrochemical industries in the sixties.

With the developing global conflict on the utilisation of fusion-fission energy, the U.S. administration and its two principal monetarist agencies, the World Bank and IMF, are undoubtedly behind the campaign against India's ambitious atomic and space research programme. Delay in these two vital fields is bound to place the country in an unprecedented crisis by the end of the century. Already not much space is left for Indian satellites; further delay will knock the country out of the space.

Stop This!

Only a nationwide protest against the anti-science, anti-technology philosophy of the Janata conglomerate

can reverse the neo colonialist designs against India's aspirations to become an industrial power with modern industry and agriculture. It is not a party or class issue. Every section of the Indian society, working class, intelligentsia, science-minded bureaucrats and forward looking industrialists in the first place, has to raise its voice of protest. If the Janata is allowed to get away with its backward philosophy it is only a matter of time, when the Planning Commission, which Indira Gandhi

has already incapacitated, would also be disbanded or turned into a department of the Ministry of Finance.

The entire developmental structure is under attack. The anti-industry and anti-science stance of the Janata, if not checked, will pave the way for neo-fascism in India. This is what the neo-colonialists want and are working for with the help of ignorant politicians, sold-out bureaucrats and the agents of multi-national corporations.

— Ganesh Shukla
Editor, *New Wave*