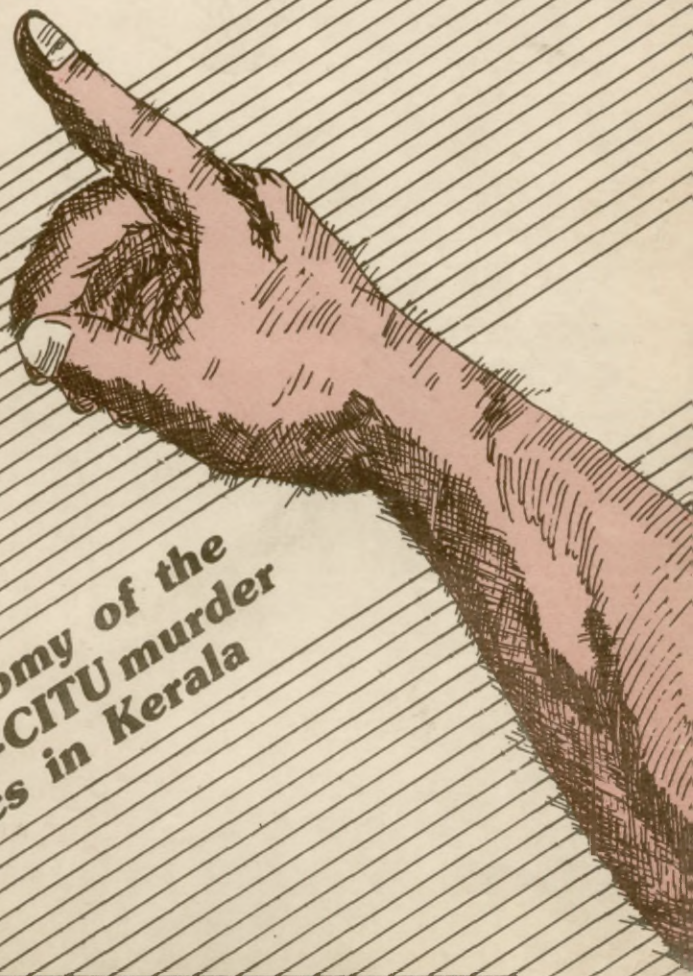


We accuse



**An anatomy of the
CPI(M)-CITU murder
politics in Kerala**

BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH PUBLICATION

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The beginning of the physical attacks on the members of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh by C.I.T.U. in Kerala dates back to the mid-seventies when the BMS began to get strong and enter the strong holds of CITU in North Malabar area. Of course, one can assume that this is also a natural corollary of the growth of Rashtriya Swayamswak Sangh and subsequent clashes with CPM workers. As the RSS grew in strength their workers in different factories and other establishments naturally took to BMS as their trade unions of choice. The CPM and CITU closed their eyes to this activity in the beginning. But, the entry of BMS into the field of Beedi workers Head load workers-which the CITU had zealously kept for themselves both as source of financial gains to the union and as potential recruits for physical clashes opened their eyes to a new threat. The presence of other organisations like INTUC, AITUC or even the Muslim League among the above-mentioned workers did not worry them. But the starting of BMS unions with an ideological grip on them worried them extremely. And that can be said to be the genesis of the clashes between BMS and CITU in Kerala.

Perhaps the first opposition by the communist Trade Union (CITU was not founded then) came in 1967 when they openly fought with BMS activists in the Gwalior Rayons factory near Calicut injuring a dozen workers. The Marxists in alliance with the Muslim League were in power. As a result of police persecution, the BMS Union had to lie low for more than a year before resuming its activities. Afterwards there were no incidents and BMS Union was even accepted by other Unions as an inevitable one!

The scene now shifts to North Malabar area of Kerala, particularly the towns of Telicherry and Cannanore and their suburbs. This district had tens of thousands of Beedi Workers. The Ganesh Beedi Factory employed a majority of them and the CITU was a major union among them. The communists had had their second run of democratic rulership in Kerala and were also getting afraid that they might be losing their revolutionary spirit in the process of concentrating on parliamentary work.. According to the basic tenets of communist ideology, revolution is an inevitable aid in creating a Communist State and, for revolution, there should be society which is disgruntled with the social and economic set up. But with Trade Unions working in competition, workers were getting on somewhat well if not pretty well. They found out that the Cannanore district had the biggest number of workers working in a particular industry, that is, the Beedi industry. And M/S. Ganesh Beedi Company employed a majority of them. It followed logically that if this particular company were to be closed down, naturally there would be a big bulk of workers on the road - all set for a revolution because of unrest.

That this was verily their line of thought has been proved by a statement of comrade Ajitha - a Naxalite woman in an article that Com. E.M.S. Nambudhiripad had asked her to go ahead with her plan of action of organising people for a rising, promising her that thousands of unemployed Beedi workers would join her. The fact that the beedi workers did not join her and that her 'revolution' failed and she had to surrender to the police was another story. She believed that E.M.S. let her down.

What Com. Ajitha did not know was that, when the Ganesh Beedi company was ultimately forced to closed down, a set of devoted workers of the RSS approached Management to take up manufacture of Beedis on contract basis and management permitted it. Thousands of beedi workers who were starving were re-employed by this contracting company. Hence they had no need to march with Ajitha! The workers became disgusted with the CPI(M) and CITU leaders' fraudulent behaviour and began to join BMS Union in large numbers. The CITU men on the other hand began to prevent the workers from going to the contracting firm's godowns to take their quota of beedi leaves and tobacco. The workers were being beaten up. Naturally there was reaction and series of clashes occurred in different parts of the district between these CITU men who had joined BMS and CITU activists. Nevertheless, more and more members began to leave their organisation and join BMS. It must have been a nerve-racking experience for them, for, within four years, with their men again in the seats of power, they hastened to start a co-operative venture in Beedi Industry which was later to absorb all these ex-employees of Ganesh Beedi Company.

But the mischief had been done already, the antagonism between these two Trade Union organisations continued not only in that district, but began to spread to other district also. It must also be noted here that those who joined BMS, began to get attracted naturally to RSS ideology also, as a result of which these began a series of clashes between RSS men and CPI(M) directly.

There was naturally a lull in these clashes during the emergency period from June 26th 1975 to March 21st 1977. Because of the exemplary and historic role played by the RSS and BMS activities during emergency period in the resistance movements, both these organisations became immensely popular after the emergency was lifted. Even though the elections in March 1977 in Kerala gave chance to the Congress to rule the State, the growth of these two organisations continued to be an eyesore to the CPI(M) and CITU, inspite of the temporary cease-fire during emergency period. Our files show that from Oct. 2 1978 onwards, the attacks on RSS men in Cannanore District began in right earnest. It must be mentioned that the both the congress ministry which came to power in March 1977 and the ministry headed by the right CPI leader P.K. Vasudevan

Nair (in alliance with the Congress) were anti-RSS. On October 1979, it was Sri. C. H. Mohammed Koya of the Muslim League who headed the Ministry till December 1979. After the elections in Jan. 1980, the CPI(M) again came to power under Com. E.K. Nayanar who ruled till Oct. 20, 1981. Hence, during the period from Oct. 2, 1978 to Oct. 20, 1981 we find that the attacks on RSS and BMS activists by the CPI(M) and CITU men have been innumerable, the attackers being protected and encouraged by a sympathetic government and a too obedient police force. The records show a list of 20 R.S.S. - BMS activities murdered during this period and scores of people seriously injured.

The third series of attacks are to be seen to have begun on a large scale when Com. E.K. Nayanar and his Left Democratic front again came to power from March 26, 1987 onwards. Not that there were no incidents during the interlude. But we find that maximum number of murders and attacks on RSS-BMS men have taken place during this short period of one and half years of Com. Nayanar's rule, the partymen and their trade Unions having thrown to the winds all norms and cannons of laws, and even their ministers using their influence over the police to curb the opponents. We have appended examples from each district showing the lists of murders and injuries as well as how the police have been acting/forced to act in a partial manner. It must also be noted that not only Cannanore, but all other districts of Kerala also have been affected in more or less the same pattern from 1980 onwards. There is a definite accent on preventing BMS Unions from working in the Head load and construction sectors by use of force and police help.

The role of the Police in all these clashes has been, to say the least, most dishonourable to the very establishment. Not that the people have any illusions about the efficiency or the incorruptible nature of the Police force in Kerala or in any other state for that matter. But it has become a legend of the times here that when the communists come to power, they utilise the police to meet their ends, and the Officers of the police stoop before them. The reason which they say for this attitude is that "they don't want to be transferred to Kasargod", thereby meaning any distant and out of the way place thus destabilising their family life. They are also afraid of losing their chances of promotion. This clearly shows that the communist ministers are not ashamed of using anything in their power to subdue the police to act up to their whims. And that is the reason why the police act and arrest persons on the basis of lists of the opponents delivered by the CPI(M) or CITU local leaders even, and foist false cases upon them. Moreover, when the accused in a particular case who belong to CITU or CPI(M) are produced in a court with a bail petition, the police do not at all object for

that. On the other hand, if the accused are BMS workers, the granting of bail is objected to and then they have to go on appeal up to the High Court level. It takes at least four months before they can come out of the jail on bail. Particular incidents to prove this allegation have been detailed in the appendix.

The way in which the police pursue the cases is very comical. The CITU leaders make it easy for the police to investigate and find out who the culprits on the BMS side are, in case of clash. They give a list of names and the police have to arrest and charge them. The onus of charging who did what etc is on the police. And if particular persons are not to be found for arrest, they arrest any one else belonging to BMS and the approach the BMS authorities with a "request" to "surrender" the people on their list so that they could release those already arrested. Of course these are not released unconditionally but let out after being charged and sec. 107 of the Cr.P.C. If any of the policemen are communist sympathisers, then they have ample opportunities to give vent to their hatred of "these RSS men" in the most brutal manner. That is why we accuse the CPI(M) led government of having reduced the police to base servility to the party.

It might sound astounding to our readers that a party, which does not lose any opportunity either within the legislatures or outside to criticise the congress party whenever it shows even a tinge of dictatorial tendency in administration, now stoops down so low to strangle the growth of RSS and BMS and such other ideologically allied organisations. But when we realise the fact that these organisation are based on pure Nationalism and Communists do understand that growth of Nationalism is the biggest deterrent to communism anywhere in the world, we need not be astonished any more. These are the communist ways elsewhere also.

Yet these Nationalist forces know only too well that the final fight is yet to come – or will it? The earlier enough strength is gathered, the better are the prospects to absorb all the antinational forces in this country. And Kerala has shown how wonderfully these courageous boys have resisted the onslaughts, courted martyrdom in scores, and thus contributed to the growth of the organisation:-

We have in the following pages endeavoured to cover as many incidents as possible to illustrate and justify our statements made in this chapter. These are by no means complete. We also realise that more might follow. But these will, we believe amply exemplify how much opposition these brave boys had to face from the combined party and government forces and how much sacrifice had to be made to work for the success of the ideal set before us. We will be amply justified in publishing this booklet if our brothers-in-arms in other states take lessons from their kinsmen in Kerala and act before the enemy strikes there too.

CALICUT DISTRICT.

Calicut district has been comparatively a peaceful district so far as clashes between BMS and CITU are concerned. But even here, following the murder of a DYFI worker Jolly Ibrahim by some unknown persons (the actual murderers have not yet been apprehended by the police) at Meppayur village on Jan. 28th 1988, there have been unprecedented arrests of innocent persons, looting, arson, assault etc. by the Police and CPM workers combined. The whole operation, conducted under the guidance of the local MLA, lasted more than three months. Terror reigned in that whole Taluk. Sri.M.K. Kunjiraman Nambiar, a very respected gentleman of that place and highly regarded by all parties, and his son were arrested and the house ransacked and set on fire, coconut trees were cut down and the TV set broken. The only perceptible reason for this act is the fact that Sri. Nambiar took the initiative in renovating a temple which was desecrated by the deceased Ibrahim and his DYFI friend earlier. A small teashop belonging to one Chekkotti was set on fire. A grocery shop of Sri. K.K. Prabhakaran, and two other small bunks, a thatched house of C.P. Babu, were all set on fire. A Harijan youth Balakrishnan, his mother and younger brother were cruelly tortured. Even young boys were arrested. Fifty two persons were taken in custody and kept in various lock-up and tortured for 22 days. They were all let off without any charge only after the state Vice President of BJP, Sri. V.D. Rao undertook a fast unto death for forcing the police to undo the mischief. Strong public opinion was created against the authorities because of this fast and subsequent movements. But reports of police cum CPI (M) excesses continued to come in even for more than a month afterwards.

CANNANORE DISTRICT.

The CPI (M) workers in collusion with the Police have been on rampage in this district within four months of the assuming of office by the Left Democratic front. It continues even now. Here are a few of the incidents quoted from our files. They are mostly directed against RSS workers. Complaints to the police by the affected men are not attended to in ninety percent of the cases. It can safely be assumed that the police have been tamed by the local leaders of the CPI (M).

1. 6.10.1987. At TRIKKARIPUR town, three Swayamsevaks were beaten with weapons like cycle chains, lathis etc, when they were returning from their shakha. The police did not take any action against the culprits.

2. 11.10.87. KOYANKARA near Trikkaripur. One swayamsevak who belonged to Tamilnadu was attacked with lathis and knives. They threatened him saying "You have come from Tamilnadu to work for RSS here? Leave this place immediately" No action by police.

3. 12.10.87. PAYYANUR town: Four BJP activists and one RSS worker were attacked with knives and cycle chain. Complaints filed before the police evoked no action.

4. 14.10.87. RAMANTHALI: One swayamsevak and his sister were beaten up from their house. Here also no action was taken by the police.

5. 18.11.87 PUNCHAKKAD VILLAGE: Six swayamsevaks and one BJP worker were attacked. The BJP WORKER who had gone to make enquiries about the tearing of posters by the DYFI worker was fatally hurt and he died next day at the Mangalore Hospital. In this case, the accused have been arrested but they came out on bail easily. They continue to threaten other RSS workers.

6. 18.9.88. CHOKLI: Three swayamsevaks who were sitting in a shop were attacked by DYFI people with arms. When they went to the police station, their complaints were not received. On the other hand these innocent swayamsevaks were arrested.

7. 13.9.87 to 24.11.87. MAHE, KATHIRUR etc. Several incidents took place. Swayamsevaks and "Balagokulam" workers were beaten up and severely injured. The flag of "Balagokulam" were torn up-In this case also, the police took action not against the culprits but against the complaints.

8. 2.12.87 to 13.4.87. CHERUPUZHA, KANNAPURAM, PANUR:

In these places, the Taluq Pracharaks were beaten and hurt grievously. Very little action was taken by the police. Some culprits who were arrested were immediately let off under orders from party local leaders.

9. 14.1.88 PAZHAYANGADI: The Pracharak was threatened. No action by police.

10. 12.9.88 TELLICHERY: One ABVP worker was badly assaulted and threatened to leave the place. Police did not take action.

It will be noted that the police force in Cannanore district is entirely on the side of the CPI (M) and all complaints to them go unheeded.

TRICHUR DISTRICT.

1. On June 9, 1987, fifty marxists pounced upon two swayamsevaks of a village near Guruvayur. Out of this, the body of one of them could be recovered only next day morning from a near by field.

The police did not charge sheet some of the persons whose names were identified by the injured Swayamsevaks. On the other hand, seven RSS men were charged for house-breaking and arrested! Later on, seven other swayamsevaks from four other near by villages were also arrested and these fourteen were charged under section 107. The police do not allow the shakha to be conducted.

2. 25.6.1987. KODUNGALLUR: One Padmanabhan, one of the five RSS men who are undergoing life-imprisonment in an earlier murder case came out on parole and visited his own house, he was brutally attacked by the Marxists. Fortunately he did not die, but he is still under treatment at the Trichur Medical College. The other accused in this above case are not at all allowed to come out on parole. Police took action against the culprits, but later on let off the son of the late CPI (M) leader V.K. Gopalan and of M.A. Vijayan, Panchayat President, also CPI(M).

On the other hand, the accused in the murder of a Taluq Karyawah Sri. Satheeshan, are allowed to come out on parole often. The Home Minister is blatantly partial in this regard.

3. 15.9.85. KODAKARA: When the Mandal Karyawah and three other RSS workers went to NENMINIKKARA Panchayath to open a new shakha, they were attacked by DYFI workers numbering sixty five. The injured were later admitted to a Hospital nearby. The Communist Panchayat member gave the lead in this attack.

4. 7.6.1986.

Khanda Karyawah of Kodakara was attacked. When he ran to the house of a swayamsevak, that house was ransacked by 50 marxists. Two swayamsevaks had to be admitted to the hospital. There was the picture of Bharatmatha behind the lorry of swayamsevak. The marxists rubbed it away. There was a clash between swayamsevaks and marxists over this incident.

5. 5.8.87 TRIPRAYAR: Secretary of the Headload workers unit Sri. Murali was attacked by DYFI workers under the leadership of the local Panchayat President. When he was admitted to the local hospital, three goondas went there and again attacked him, with the result that Murali had to be admitted to the Medical College Hospital at Trichur. Police did not arrest any of the culprits.

6. 1.6.88 POOPATHI in POYYA PANCHAYAT. Many BMS headload workers were attacked.

7. 20.8.88 MALA Panchayat: The flags of BJP were torn down by CPI (M) workers. They then took out a procession alleging that their flag was torn by BJP people! When a marxist party worker Sri. Narayanan questioned the comrades on this false allegation, he

along with his son and three other BJP people were attacked by the CPI (M) workers. Police did not take any action.

8. *BMS workers prevented from doing work.*

In the village of Anjoor, BMS workers belonging to their Headload workers Union were prevented many times from doing their loading and unloading work. CITU men forcibly did their work. Police were prevented from taking any against CITU men.

9. *TRICHUR MUNICIPALITY.* Trichur is a big business centre in Rice, Vegetables, Groceries etc. BMS started their Union among workers who load and unload bags and other commodities from lorries. Fed up with the corruption and indiscipline of the CITU Union, many workers joined the BMS Union. The loading and unloading work was being done on "Pool system" under the Kerala Head load workers Act, supervised by officers of the Labour Department. But, angered by the growing strength of BMS; the CITU leaders forced the Labour Department to make a change in the prevailing system illegally, thus depriving BMS workers from getting enough work. It must be stated that the loading and unloading of bags from the lorries must be done by trained men and BMS workers were doing this with expertness and discipline. As a result, on 1.12.87, the CITU workers suddenly attacked the BMS workers and injured two workers namely George and Devassy. Two weeks before this, one another worker of BMS was attacked.

10. *KODUNGALLUR and GURUVAYOOR TALUKS:* Even within fifteen days after assuming of power in Kerala by the L.D.F, there have been over fifty cases of attacks on RSS and BMS workers by CITU men. They are in fact too many to be cited here. In one village, namely Arthat, even drinking water was refused to the RSS families. Police as usual have been inactive in even registering cases on complaints.

There are over a score more such reports in our files in Trichur District. In fact, it has become a nightmare for the family members of Swayamsevaks to live in peace and one does not know when and from where attacks will come on them. They live in a state of constant fear. Yet, it has to be noted, that greatest courage is being shown by the youngsters of RSS who work with a sense of dedication and determination to face the marauders.

7.12.87. *MANNUTHI*

Siddhan alias Thampi, a young Mukkayasikshak aged 20, of a shakha had been an eyesore to the DYFI. Police, and They had falsely implicated him in seven cases. Not satisfied with this, he was

severely tortured by the Sub-Inspector in the presence of three DYFI leaders. The Inspector finally told Thampi that "we will one day get you examined post-mortem!" And that was what really happened on Dec. 7, 1987. Thampi and a few other swayamsewaks were sitting in the house of one Raju at MOORKANIKKARA village that afternoon when sixty marxists surrounded that house and set fire to it. The inmates ran for their life. Thampi was pursued and killed. Another boy, Surendran had so many injuries that he had to undergo an operation lasting 52 hours! And, instead of arresting the culprits, the police charged the remaining boys along with 9 others under sec. 107.

In October 1987, one Sivaraman of Palazhi Village was murdered. The only mistake of his was that he gave lead to get a temple open to all Hindus. He was president of the SNDP yogam there.

KOTTAYAM DISTRICT.

We have before us a long list of incidents, big and small, which follow the same pattern as in other districts. We find that in every panchayat there is a particular group of CITU and DYFI workers whose sole work seems to be on the look out for RSS, BMS activists in their area and then attack them. Of course, as usual, the police are at their beck and call. Otherwise, how can we account for the fact that the same groups are involved in the attacks in a particular Taluq on different dates? It only shows that the police do not take any action against them on complaints given by the injured. A few of the more important incidents are quoted here in:

KOTTAYAM TALUQ.

Unloading of materials of the Kerala Water Authority at a boat jetty in Vijayapuram Panchayat was being done by members of three unions. But in the month of July 1987 the CITU began to claim that they alone are entitled to work in that area. This dispute led to violent clashes and even after an agreement reached before the Labour Officer, by which BMS Union got 20% of the work each day, CITU men attacked one of the BMS workers on September, 11 at night.

VAIKAM TALUQ.

We have a list of 18 incidents from this Taluq from 21.11.1987 to 17.9.'88 which carry the usual incidents of attack on shakhas,

individual Swayamsevaks, the Shobha yatra in connection with Janmashtami celebrations, ransacking of houses etc.

Additionally, the CITU-led fishermen's Union influenced the Fisheries Inspector and the Police to capture the fishing nets of the workers of BMS fishermans Union. No amount of appeal to the Fisheries Inspector was of any avail and finally, they had to approach the High Court to get a stay order against the action of the Inspector.

PALGHAT DISTRICT.

After Cannanore district, the Marxists claim that Palghat is their next strong-hold district. This is mainly an agricultural district and the communists had for many years claimed their influence over the agricultural workers and peasants as well. But forcible extraction of excess wages, violence etc made their organisation lose the confidence of both the workers and peasants. In the later elections, congress won more seats in that district than CPI (M). In the last ten years, one particular area of that district, namely Kanjikode, has been fast developing industrially and over 25 big and small industries have already come up there. Naturally, a lot of construction activities are going on. Hundreds of workers are also engaged in loading sand from the near by river beds into lorries and unloading it near construction sites. The head-load workers Union of BMS entered into that area and got good support from the workers. The main reason for this influx into BMS Union is said to be the high rate of levy taxed by the CITU on its members. The main clashes between the two Unions is over the right to work in the riverbeds and at construction sites. More over, sangh shakhas are also widely spread out into the remotest villages in this district. BMS has started Unions in the factories also there.

There have been clashes leading to murders earlier also in other areas. But continuous tension is prevailing in Kanjikode industrial area even now. The beginning of the present series of troubles can be traced to the incidents which happened within a week of the assuming of rule of Sri. E.K. Nayanar as Chief Minister in March 26, 1987. On April 2, a set of CITU workers stopped a lorry which was going to load sand in the river bed at Puthur where only BMS workers were working for a long time. They tried to forcibly enter the lorry, which was resisted by BMS workers and clash ensued, in which both sides suffered serious injuries. From then onwards a series of the vindictive measures from CITU side began, which was to last for long. That same night, one Imbaraj, joint secretary of BMS Union in the Madras Spinners Ltd. was attacked and hurt. Sri

Imbaraj was so much provoked and threatened that the poor man had to resign his job in the Mill and go to seek his fortune in Tamilnadu. It must be stated here, that all the Office-bearers of our Union in Madras Spinners were activists of the CITU Union earlier. Thus they were waiting to wreak vengeance on their ex-comrades and they got it later again.

After the above incidents, the issue was settled by talks with the police as mediators and three CITU men were allowed to work at Puthur along with 40 BMS men. But this settlement was not liked by the local party secretary. He was marking time for a reprisal. *Sept. 28, 1987.* When some INTUC workers joined, the BMS Union at Puthur, the CITU attacked the whole group of BMS workers. In the subsequent clashes, 2 CITU people died. All these incidents might have been avoided had the police taken prompt actions immediately. On *Sept. 17, 1987*, a theatre belonging to one Manjappa Gowder, an RSS sympathiser, was completely burned down at night. A rice mill belonging to another sympathiser was destroyed.

On *Dec. 12, 1987*, the CITU had their vengeance at one more of their ex-comrades of Madras Spinners, Sri. S.D. Ranganathan (35) who was Secretary of BMS Union there. When he was going to his house near by the mill for food at the interval time, he was brutally attacked by a dozen CITU men with bombs, and knives and killed on the spot. There was absolutely no provocation at that time for them to do this devilish act.

May 26, 1988. One CITU man was beaten up by some unknown people at Kanjikode when he was going to a prostitute's house. In retaliation, the CITU men attacked next day a group of three BMS men who were working. They killed one Manikantan (18) who had joined BMS only a few weeks earlier. It must be mentioned that the parents and all the five brothers of Manikantan are CITU workers.

JULY, 11 1988. When the accused in the above-mentioned cases were being produced before the court, there were some altercations between the friends and relatives of the BMS and CITU, within the court premises as well as outside. The Police were simply looking on! That same day, one Radhakrishnan (20) BMS members of Malabar Cement Factory at Walayar was forcibly pulled down from the bus in which he was returning from work and stabbed and killed. The conductor in another bus was also beaten up severely when they found that he was an RSS man wearing "Rakhi".

In, all these cases also, instead of trying to catch the real culprits, the Police arrested and charged swayamsevaks and BMS activists whose names were given to the Police by the CITU leaders. This

list also included the name of the Secretary of the District BJP who was actually away on organisational tour then. Those arrested in these cases and a subsequent case were severely beaten in the Police lock up, which the police said, were under "orders from above"—which is general synonym for order from the communist party leaders. The CITU accused were given bail early at the lower court itself while BMS people had to appeal to the High court.

Mathur is a village with a big population of handloom weaver community. All these weavers were formerly communists. But when RSS shakha was started there, practically the whole lot of weavers became either swayamsewaks or sympathisers. When Panchayat elections came, the marxists tried to prevent these people from voting BJP and also set fire to their rows of thatched houses. Still the BJP candidate won. Because of these, the boys from that community are being beaten up at different places where they go to sell clothes. Any amount of complaining to the police would not do any good.

ERNAKULAM DISTRICT.

An old industry name M/S. Binny Engineering Co., was purchased by the FACT company and was being dismantled. Naturally, head load workers of different Unions went there to get the work of loading and unloading of material. An usual, BMS Union was objected to by CITU. There were skirmishes and police cases afterwards. Finally under an agreement before the Labour Officer, BMS got recognition. When this happened, more and more people joined BMS at which the CITU got angry and attacked very severely two of our workers. One was hospitalised for more than two months.

IDUKKI DISTRICT.

Though undeveloped industrially, socially or educationally, this district which lies on the top of the Sahyadri Mountain has the best dollar-earning cultivations of Tea, Coffee, Cardamoms, pepper etc. It has also big Hydro-electric projects. More than fifty percent of the workers in the Estates come from Tamilnadu and are an uneducated lot. They had been exploited to the utmost by the CITU and other Trade Unions who work in collusion with the managements. But with the entry of RSS in that area in the early sixties, and of BMS later, there began an era of understanding, love, sympathy, self-respect etc. which these workers had not known hitherto. BMS had to face opposition from other Trade Unions as well as certain managements who found it more convenient to run their shop with the leaders of CITU or Kerala Congress to help them.

DEVIKULAM TALUQ

March 3, 1987 The day of elections to the state legislature saw the beginning of the clashes in Devikulam Taluq. Secretary of BMS Estate workers Union Sri. P.K. Soman was struck with knives and chains by CITU men near their party office in Senapati Panchayat. Sri. Soman's friend Kuttappan also was hurt. There were frequent threats on the heels of this incident and in the month of May, again, clashes occurred. Then there began a reign of terror by the Police and CITU men combined. The houses of Sabu and Vijayan which were very near the Police-outpost were looted and things worth thousands of rupees stolen.

12.4.87. When the BMS men who were arrested in the earlier case came out on bail, CITU men exploded a country-made bomb on the road and then complained to the Police that RSS people had thrown bombs at their car! The four BMS men were again charged on the basis of this complaint.

15.4.87 BMS activist Gopalakrishnan was arrested from his house by the police and when he was being taken to the Police Station, CITU worker Sukumaran beat him cruelly in the presence of the Police. Sri. Gopalakrishnan was again beaten by the police also.

Following the terror let loose by the CITU men, many BMS families were forced to move to other places. At such a time, the houses of BMS members Smt. T.G. Sarojini and Smt. Subhashini, Sri. Vijayan were looted by CITU men. Even though complaints were filed to the police, no action was taken till now.

11.6.87. Four swayamsevaks Udaykumar, Keshavan, Mohanan and Rajagopal were arrested and beaten on the road itself and then taken to Shantanpara police station again cruelly tortured. We have the names and numbers of the policemen responsible for this.

The house of V.M. Joseph, a CITU worker of Vattapara is a miniature bomb factory as is evinced by the explosion which happened in his house. Such bombs were thrown at the house of several BMS workers on 10.8.87, 19.8.87 and 23.8.87.

There were more than a dozen such incidents in one Taluq alone, and BMS secretary had given a memorandum to the District Collector on 2.9.87 detailing all the incidents. But this officer, being under pressure of the CPI (M) leaders, could not take any action whatsoever. Sri. P.T. Rao, General Secretary of Pradesh BMS had personally met the Collector and the Police Superintendent and appraised them of the lawless acts of CITU men and of the inactivity of the police.

Similar memorandum has been given to the Collector on 21.4.88

by the RSS organiser also about the attacks on Swayamsevaks by Marxists in other parts of the District.

PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT

The incidents in this district are too many to be cited in a booklet of this size. Both RSS and BMS are very strong there. BMS has the largest membership compared to other Trade Union organisation. We only give below a very general resume of some of the incidents in each Taluq for the purposes of recording here.

PUNALUR TALUQ

25.11.87. Student of BSc class attacked by DYFI. 23.11.87 ABVP worker of S.N. College attacked by DYFI. 6.12.87 Manikuttan beaten and left on the road in an unconscious state by DYFI. When some people offered to take the boy to the Hospital, they were also chased away. He could be taken for treatment only after half-an-hour.

Young boys of a shakha in Punalur beaten up and the flag torn up. 18.2.88. Taluq Karyalaya attacked and ransacked. It must be mentioned here that Sri. Durgadas aged 22, Taluq pracharak was murdered by SFI workers when he went to the NSS college at Nilamel on July 21, 1981.

CHATAYAMANGALAM TALUQ

16.12.1988. Jayan, a rubber-tapping worker of BMS plantation Union at Kadackal was attacked and killed when he was witnessing a temple festival. The culprit, a DYFI worker was caught by other people at the temple and handed over to the police. But within minutes, fifty marxists under the leadership of two Panchayat Presidents who were camping in a nearby place, came to the temple and forcibly took away the culprit from the hands of the Police! Even after ten months, nobody has been arrested in this case.

There are also reports of combined DYFI-S.F.I. attacks on ABVP workers in two colleges in this Taluq.

RANNI TALUQ

When BMS plantation workers' Union kept away from a strike organised by the CITU and AITUC, they were attacked many times. One Raghunathan, convenor of the Union in one estate found that the CITU marauders had spoiled the rubber trees in his own house. It is common knowledge that a marxist leader of Chittar rules the taluq from inside the Police Stations! His main work from

this 'Office' seems to be make the police torture RSS and BMS workers.

CITU men forcibly stopped BMS headload workers from loading sand from a river near Angadi Panchayat. There were no CITU workers there before.

It Ranni Panchayat, two drunkards, quarrelled with each other and one of them stabbed the other. Both were DYFI workers. At the hospital, the wounded man had actually told to police that the other DYFI man had stabbed him. Yet, the marxists under the leadership-of the Taluq Secretary forced the police to charge 15 RSS men of stabbing this one drunkard DFYI worker!

The Sub-Inspector of Police of Konni took the initiative to compel the Unit Secretary of BMS Union of Head load workers to sign an agreement to include CITU men also in the loading of sand into lorries at Kodinjimoola. It is known that these CITU men had taken loans up to 25000/- from the Government under the scheme of "self employment to educated youth."

31.8.88 Ramachandran alias Babukuttan, a member of the BMS plantation Union was killed and then hanged from a tree. The BMS workers pointed out the murderers of Babukuttan to the police, and yet nobody was arrested.

MALLAPPALLI TALUQ.

A whole batch of CITU headload workers joined the BMS Union in Kottanad Panchayat. They were afterwards prevented from doing work by the CITU with the help of the police.

CHENGANNUR TALUQ

CITU exercised pressure upon the new contractor of an Abkari shop not to employ the BMS workers who were already working under the earlier contractors. The police was in league with the contractor and CITU and they charged many BMS workers under Section 307, 107 etc.

KOZHENCHERY TALUQ

When BMS started a new Union of Headload workers at Kulanada Panchayat, they had hoisted a new flag and flagpost. This flag was torn way by CITU. Next day a set of CITU-DYFI workers attacked BMS workers. Following this incident, the Police were kept on watch at this place.

DYFI workers sprayed chloroform on the face of Sri. Ramachandran convener of BMS unit at Malayalapuzha with intention to kill him. Luckily he escaped.

Nine false cases were foisted by one marxist worker on Sri. Omanakuttan Nair, Secretary of BMS in Malayalapuzha panchayat.

When a new Unit of BMS was started at Mullanikkad in Omallur Panchayat, a worker was stabbed. He had to be hospitalised for two weeks.

KONNI TALUQ

The petitions given to the police by RSS workers in July 1988, against half a dozen DYFI workers about physical harrassment have gone unheeded upto now.

THIRUVALLA TALUQ

The CITU Union pressurised the management of an Abkari (Toddy) shop to transfer those employees who had left them and joined BMS. Those who refused to go on transfer were arrested by police on false charges under pressure from CITU.

Readers will note that in every Taluq and almost every panchayat (we have not reported all the incidents here) is affected in this district. And a similar pattern of offence like forcibly taking the work out of BMS people, instituting false cases, Police inaction, attack on shakhas, is to be seen in every taluq. One cannot but believe that all these are being done under the direct directions of the party offices.

TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT.

Trivandrum, the capital city of Kerala, had not been disturbed by the RSS-Marxist clashes till five years ago, even though it is the new centre of all political activities. But from the eighties, this district has also not been spared.

In the month of May, 1980 the CITU workers surrounded a shakha which was started in a new locality and stoned and attacked the helpless swayamsevak. They were all hurt seriously. The Karyawaha Sri. Narampunathan had to be hospitalised for a month. From the onwards there were continued disturbances in the labour field also between BMS and CITU on 2.12.'87, Sri. Anilkumar, a contract labourer was killed on 26.3.'87 Sri. Cheruvakkal Gangadharan Nair, an elderly man aged 54 was brutally killed in front of his wife. The murders asked for his sons who were swayamsevak, but when they were not available, the father was killed! Another boy, Hari, aged 18, and a worker in a cloth store, was killed as he was returning from work on a cycle by a DYFI man. The murderer then hid in a nearby house, and the police did not arrest him at that time, even though he was identified to them by the local people.

And then comes the most tragic event of all times. Three RSS youngsters who had gone to a temple to worship on was attacked inside the temple by a group of thirty DYFI men and murdered on the spot. The body of one of them was ragged to a field and buried in the mud and could be recovered only next day after a long search. This incident created such a huge protest from all sections of the people that E.M.S . Nambudiripad had to recede from his earlier policy statement of "we will take up arms against RSS" to one of "we are ready for talks with RSS."

In Trivandrum, it was a case of actual murder of the father of a swayamsevak. Both these incidents remind us the famous story of the hound and the goat; only in the present case it is in the reverse, abusing the son and eating the father instead.

In the conduct of the Trade Unions also, no morality is kept by them. Before the CPI (M) came to power here, the CITU was holding rallies and protest meetings of coir, cashew and such other unorganised industrial workers against their neglect. But as soon as they came to power, all such agitations were stopped. Not that they were able to do anything to these workers to improve their lot in these one and half years.

It might seem very curious to many outside Kerala to know that Head-load workers in Kerala "sell" their jobs to others for a high premium which often amounts to Rs. 20,000/-. It means that the man who 'Purchases' this job can work in that locality in the place of the seller. Only, both should be in the same Union. The CITU encourages this sort of 'business', because they can get a levy to the leaders from this amount! Other forms of corruption is also rampant among them. Perhaps, the best 'Certificate' for this corruption has been given in the 'in-camera' report of the CPM plenum of Nov. 20-24, 1985 which accepts that its Trade Union leaders do earn money utilising their position (page 94). Hence, there is a craving among workers for non-political Trade Union leaders and also BMS.

We have in the forgoing pages ventured to show the pattern of action of the communist party (Marxist) and thier T.U. organisation in suppressing RSS and other ideologically identical organisations like BMS. But the records with us also show that the communists are also involved in clashes and murders with every other party in Kerala-and, at least in one case, with themselves. These, of course, constitute a very small percentage of the total list.

- Hence, we accuse the CPI(M) and DYFI and CITU—
- of encouraging murder politics in Trade Union field.
 - of trying to crush the nationalist organisation of RSS
 - of utilising the police by subjugating them to the party workers to achieve their means and ends.
 - of trying to destabilise the democratic heritage of the people of Kerala.

Let the nationalist forces in other states be forewarned. The incident which happened at Delhi on when a set of Marxist goondas beat up a delegation of youths from Kerala who wanted to present a memorandum to the Chief Minister about the law and order situation in Kerala is a pointer to the fact that they have already begun to think in terms of crushing opposition in other states also!

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