

Struggle Unity Progress
All India Democratic Students' Organisation

(All India Committee)

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Press Release

The issue of corruption and the movement against it led by veteran Gandhite leader Anna Hazare, his arrest and the hunger strike following it, have attracted the attention of media and common people very much in recent times. The arrest of Sri Anna Hazare and his associates was nothing but a brazen attack on the fundamental democratic right of the people and is an indication of onset of administrative fascism within the country. The authority, against which the movement is directed, themselves will decide how and in which manner the movement will have to be conducted, can it ever be an acceptable approach? Although Shri Anna Hazare have been released under the mounting pressure of nationwide public opinion, it was not unconditional and the utterly undemocratic attitude of the central government is very much evident and active. They are even out to utilise the judiciary as a tool to justify their action. Unless mass movement is developed against this undemocratic step, in future the right to protest will be totally destroyed.

As far as the fight against corruption is concerned, the movement is very much necessary. Mr. Anna Hazare is being projected by media as the 'champion' of the anti-corruption movement. The veteran Gandhite leader has honestly demanded immediate passing and implementation of the Lokpal Bill, with certain proposed amendments, otherwise he will continue with his hunger strike. The media, in a planned way is creating an illusion as if once the much discussed Jan Lokpal Bill is passed, there will be end of corruption! Is it so? Though there is no denial of the fact that a strong and effective legislation against corruption, if properly implemented, will act as a deterrent against this social menace, but this step by itself cannot eliminate corruption from society.

In fact today, not a single particular sphere of public life in our country is free from corruption. The life of common people has become unbearable due to extreme price-hike, inflation-recession and unemployment. Instead of attempting to provide some relief, the central government as well as all the state governments are imposing huge taxes on the crisis ridden people. The exchequer created through taxes is rarely used for public welfare. There is little fund for roads, drinking water, schools, hospitals, medicines and other necessities. Whatever fund is allotted for those purposes that is grossly misused due to corruption. Grants for colleges - universities are being curtailed sharply. Everywhere 'user to pay' approach are being promoted. But the public exchequer, squeezed out of anaemic, starving people is being legally made available as bail outs, incentives, loans, tax exemption, free supply of water, electricity etc. to multi-billionaire corporate investors. Several lakhs of crores of unpaid loans taken by the corporate investors from the nationalised banks are being exempted by the government each year. Such grand feast with public exchequer continues most shamelessly through

unending series of scams by the nexus of ministers, high-ranking officials and bureaucrats. Corporate giants are behind all these, often share market bookies, promoters, investors, bank managers, leaders of 'big' parliamentary political parties etc. are involved in these scams.

In such a situation obviously the pent up grievance of the people is on verge of explosion against these corrupt misdeeds. The media controlled by the ruling capitalist class itself, in order to divert the attention of the people from the real problem and confine it within the bounds of legal framework, are propagating this issue in such a way that the root cause of corruption, i.e. this crisis ridden capitalism can be kept shielded. The huge mass outcry against the arrest of Sri Anna Hazare, demonstrates the depth and intensity of public grievance against the widespread corruption and capitalist exploitation through price hike, unemployment etc. The 'big' national parties, which are at the centre stage of corruption, i.e. Congress and BJP, are raising much uproar against that, as if they seriously mean it, and accusing each other, while both these parties and most of the national or regional parliamentary political parties, including the so-called lefts like the CPI and CPIM, are extremely corrupt.

In fact corruption is part and parcel of this crisis ridden capitalist system. During the days of renaissance and bourgeois democratic revolution, in the social struggle against feudalism and religious dogmatism, democratic ethos and values to a great extent rooted out corruption in the then western society, due to the impact of which still now it is relatively less widespread in Europe compared to the backward capitalist countries like India. In our country when the concept of nationalism and democracy came, capitalism as a world system had already entered the phase of imperialism and had lost its progressive role to a great extent and became compromising. In spite of this weakness, during the days of freedom movement, the impact of social struggle, particularly the impact of uncompromising trend of the freedom movement, uplifted the general moral standard of the people.

Nowadays, due to intense crisis of capitalism, corruption and malpractice is spreading everywhere across the globe. In India, during the post-independence period the ruling capitalist class, unable to solve any of the basic problems of people's life due to all out crisis, has become mortally afraid of any mass movement. So, in order to rule out the possibility of developing any social or political movement, they have launched a calculated attempt to destroy the moral fabric of the younger generations of our country. Constant propagation of self-centric attitude, aversion to social problems, careerism, unbridled greed for profit, consumerist attitude towards life and vulgar sex and violence, through the media controlled by the bourgeois class is destroying the moral backbone of a large section of people, which acted as the breeding ground for corruption. The leading Marxist thinker of this era Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that there is a total ideological vacuum within the society. Both the religious values and bourgeois democratic moral values have become historically obsolete, and their positive role within the society, have almost totally become exhausted. The impact of freedom movement has almost been obliterated. The bourgeois individualism has also become a privilege. Even where there is organisational influence of the so-called leftists like the CPI, CPI(M) etc. the cultural moral standard of younger generations, instead of being uplifted, have sharply deteriorated. But the new ideology, new moral values, yet could not extend its influence much within the society. In such a situation, when the ethos and values within the society is in serious crisis merely by introducing a new law, corruption can't be eradicated.

Movement against corruption can be decisive if and only if, a) it is directed against this crisis ridden capitalism, exposing how it is producing and protecting corruption; b) it must create a feeling and confidence among the masses that, instead of someone on their behalf, they themselves are

fighting for their own cause; and instead of passive support, active involvement of the masses upto the grassroots level through its own instrument of struggle, should be main thrust of movement; c) it will have to be guided by a scientific socio-economic outlook and higher ideology and values that may imbue those who will be involved in the movement. Furthermore, stringent law against corruption is a necessity but proper implementation of a law cannot be ensured unless movement is developed involving the masses. Otherwise, when corruption has vitiated the environment based on democratic ethos and values in every field within the society, merely by introducing a new law, corruption can't be eradicated. The Judiciary and the administration, which will implement the law, themselves have become out and out corrupt, that is why whatever existing laws are there are not implemented to restrain corrupt practices.

Our organisation All India DSO strongly feels that the question of fighting corruption is inseparably linked with the struggle against this crisis ridden capitalist system, which engenders corruption daily, hourly. If surge of mass movement can be created against anti-people policies and measures of the government across the length and breadth of the country, that will have a strong restraining effect on corruption too. Therefore AIDS0 is engaged in developing students' movement against fee hike, privatisation-commercialisation of education as a well as various issues of corruption and malpractice in the field of education, like the incident of Patan PTC college, in Gujarat, malpractice of VC in Bhagalpur university, Bihar etc. In order to fight the conspiracy of the ruling class to destroy the moral backbone of the younger generations, the AIDS0 conducts an ideological-cultural struggle also among the students, through observance of the memorial days of great revolutionary fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Asfaquallah, Khudiram Bose, Netaji Subhas etc. and great renaissance personalities of our country like Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, Jotirao Phule, Munshi Premchand, Saratchandra, Narmad, Meghani, etc. by upholding their life and struggle. AIDS0 along with other fraternal mass organisations have observed the All India Protest Day against the arrest of Shri Anna Hazare, on 19th August which received wide support from the students and youth. The AIDS0 feels that strong united movement on all India plane against corruption, different anti-people policies and privatisation, commercialisation and globalisation is the need of the hour.

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President

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