

(6)

Comrade Promod Gogoi (Transcription of the interview of Com Promod Gogoi in Shivsagar (Assam) on June 7, 20001) (Phase III)

Com Promod Gogoi is Vice President of the AITUC and president of the state unit.

"I was born in September, 1930. Initially I was in the AISF and joined the CPI in 1947. I was arrested in 1950 and was released only in 1952. In this period, I had organised printing workers and private bus drivers in Shivsagar which was in the hands of AITUC till late 60s.

In 1969, I organised oil and gas workers at a large scale with a team of party comrades. It was the first big trade union in the public sector. The cause of casual workers was taken up and movement was launched. At least 1000 workers were regularised and the AITUC union was consequently recognised in 1972 which continued till last year. Even now, the union has a significant following. Several battles were fought under the AITUC banner and benefits received.

In fact 1948-51 period was marked with several revolutionary struggles like the Telengana movement in Andhra Pradesh. The leadership of such agitations was jointly shared by Revolutionary CPI and the CPI. In fact in 1950, alongwith my comrades I had organised the peasants and launched historic struggles. The movement for setting up oil refinery in Assam was also launched by the CPI and the socialists and finally succeeded.

It cannot be denied that there were several setbacks too. The issue of language agitation was one of such example. The agitation was supported by majority of the Assamese and demanded that Assamese must be made the first language of the state. It was decided that English and Assamese would be given official status in the state. We had opposed the move and got isolated.

The Chinese aggression was another unfortunate setback and most of the communists were arrested and put in jail. They could not even explain their stand. It was difficult to recover from the blow.

In 1978, the communists had to face another crisis when Assam agitation was launched and the party was accused of supporting the "foreigners". At least 30 CPI comrades were killed in the agitation.

It must be mentioned here that on the basis of CPI proposals only the Assam Accord was formulated."

(18) Comrade Promod Gogoi (Interviewed in Shivsagar on June 7, 20001)

Com Promod Gogoi is Vice President of the AITUC and president of the state unit.

Com Gogoi was born in September, 1930. Initially he was in the AISF and joined the CPI in 1947. He was arrested in 1950 and was released only in 1952. In this period, he organised printing workers and private bus drivers in Shivsagar which was in the hands of AITUC till late 60s.

In 1969, he organised oil and gas workers at a large scale with a team of party comrades. It was the first big trade union in the public sector. The cause of casual workers was taken up and movement was launched. At least 1000 workers were regularised and the AITUC union was consequently recognised in 1972 which continued till last year. Even now, the union has a significant following. Several battles were fought under the AITUC banner and benefits received.

In fact 1948-51 period was marked with several revolutionary struggles like the Telengana movement in Andhra Pradesh. The leadership of such agitations was jointly shared by Revolutionary CPI and the CPI. In fact in 1950, Com Gogoi alongwith his comrades organised the peasants and launched historic struggles. The movement for setting up oil refinery in Assam was also launched by the CPI and the socialists and finally succeeded.

According to Com Gogoi there were several setbacks too. The issue of language agitation was one of such steps. The agitation was supported by majority of the Assamese and as it was demanded that Assamese must be made the first language of the state. It was decided that English and Assamese would be given official status in the state. In this context, the party got isolated.

The Chinese aggression was another unfortunate setback and most of the communists were arrested and put in jail. They could not even explain their stand. It was difficult to recover from the blow, observed Com Gogoi.

In 1978, the communists had to face another crisis when Assam agitation was launched and the party was accused of supporting the "foreigners", observed Com Gogoi. At least 30 CPI comrades were killed in the agitation.

It must be mentioned here that it was the proposals of the CPI that prepared the basis of Assam Accord.

Com Gogoi is extremely popular in Assam and whenever he speaks, it becomes the headline for all the newspapers in the state.