

MALABAR SPECIAL POLICE TO AID OF LANDLORDS

By E. M. S. Namboodiripad

An Associated Press of India message from Madras, dated December 22, says that the Malabar Special Police (MSP) killed two and injured five in firing against a "Communist mob."

The place of the incident is Karivelloor, a village in Chirakkal taluk, Malabar, and the reason is that the people of the village, under Kisan Sabha leadership, prevented an absolute landlord from taking paddy out of the village.

NOW Karivelloor is a deficit village; it has to import over 60 per cent of its food from outside. A good part of the land in the village is owned by a landlord who lives about 20 miles away. It is his usual practice to collect his rent (in kind) in this village, transport it to his home all the way, use it and sell it.

This year, because of acute famine conditions (rice ration was reduced last year from 10-oz. to 8-oz. and was threatened to be further reduced to 6-oz.), the people under Kisan Sabha leadership, asked the landlord to take rent in cash and allow the whole local produce to be used locally.

Kisans Prevent Removal Of Paddy

When the landlord refused to do so, the people prevented its removal. At this, the obliging bureaucracy sent its most ruthless police (the M.S.P.) to the aid of the landlord.

This, however, is only the most naked act of the M.S.P. For, the same repression (short of firing) is taking place all over Chirakkal taluk and parts of Kasargod, Kottayam and Kurumbranad taluks. The M.S.P. has been posted in eight centres in Chirakkal taluk.

They are regularly going into villages, raiding houses, arresting and beating up men, women and children. Cases have also occurred of the M.S.P. looting shops, and destroying property.

Details of all these have been published in *Deshabhimani*, the Malayalam daily of the Communist Party.

Why is it that all this is al-

lowed? Because the kisans tell the landlords: "Do not take your rent in kind. We will pay your rent in cash at the control rate." The landlord does not allow it; he wants it in kind or in cash at rates 50 per cent higher than the control rate.

Kisans refuse this unreasonable demand and hand over the paddy to the Government and not to the landlord. And then comes the bureaucrat with his MSP and tells the kisans: "You are legally bound to pay rent in kind. If you refuse to do that, we will use force."

While thus forcing kisans to pay rent in kind to landlords who are thereby allowed to fill their granaries, the bureaucrat does not allow the kisan to keep his own ration out of what he produces. The whole produce minus seed is to be handed over to the landlord as rent and only if there is anything left after that can he keep his ration—this is "Monopoly Procurement!"

The result is that, while landlords have thousands of maunds of paddy in their granaries (most of which they sell in the blackmarket), the kisans who produce paddy have to buy rice.

The damage done by this to procurement may be gauged from the official figures of pro-

duction and procurement in Malabar.

	Tons of rice.
Total Gross Production:	3,60,000
Seed:	24,000
Consumption by landholding classes:	1,70,000
Actual Procurement (1945-46):	56,000

That is, while the total surplus procurable (gross produce, minus seed and consumption by landholding classes) must be no less than 1,70,000 tons, the quantity actually procured is only 56,000 tons i.e., 1/3rd of the available surplus.

Save Paddy From Landlords' Granaries

The Kisan Sabha said that this unjust and corrupt procurement should be replaced by a system under which:

Kisans will be allowed to keep seed, cultivation expenses (that part of it which is made in kind) and their own family ration till next harvest.

● They will be asked to hand over the whole surplus (gross produce minus the above) to the Government.

● Landlords will be forced to receive rent in cash at control rates and not in-kind or in cash at higher rates.

The adoption of this would mean that, while kisans will get their own food from what they themselves produce, the whole quantity of paddy that goes into the landlords' granaries will go into the hands of the Government.

Instead of adopting this reasonable proposal of the Kisan Sabha, the Congress Government is allowing the bureaucrats to run wild against kisans, beating and killing them and allowing landlords to fill their granaries and sell in the blackmarket.

MALABAR COMMUNIST DAILY'S SECURITY FORFEITED

The Madras Government has forfeited the security of one thousand rupees deposited by *Deshabhimani*, Malabar Communist daily. The Collector of Malabar has asked the paper to furnish a fresh security of FOUR THOUSAND RUPEES.