



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

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FOREWORD by K.N. PANIKKAR

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INTRODUCTION

This is a short history of the Communist Party of India.

Shri Balaram wrote this short history originally in Malayalam so that it will be of use in educating party workers and members. I am of the view that this book will be read with interest and use even by the non-Communist readership who are desirous of knowing something of the Communist Party of India.

It is a fact, though a surprising fact, that no authoritative history of the Communist Party has been written so far. It was left to a sworn enemy of Communism like Shri M.R. Masani, or certain American authors of the same type to have attempted to write on the growth of the Communist movement in India.

As a result, certain untruths and falsified versions regarding the aims and growth of the Communist Party are prevalent today. The Amritsar Congress of the party which met in 1958, appointed a Commission to write the history of the Party and remove this lacunae. But, unfortunately, no serious effort was undertaken in that direction.

Again, in June 1963, a meeting of the National Council of the party appointed another Commission to write the history of the party. But by then, sharp differences had cropped up inside the party leading to the serious thereafter. Member split of the Commission could not sit together to discuss the work of writing a history. Shri Adhikari, who was the Convener of the Commission, did some work in this regard. on his own. The result of this work is consummated in his book Communist Party and India's Road to Socialism.

It is in this background that Shri Balaram has written this short history. The book though short, has been well written, making use of all the available material on the subject. But it is natural that this

work suffers from certain defects and shortcomings. I take this opportunity to invite suggestions and criticisms from readers so that the author and the Party can benefit from them and make use of them for an improved edition, later.

I have pointed out that this is not an authoritative book prepared by a Commission of Party historians. It is natural, therefore, that differences with regard to interpretation and appraisals of policies and activities of the party may arise. Such differences are inevitable and are not either a matter for concern or confusion.

Shri Balaram has handled the subject in his own characteristic simple and direct style. I trust that this timely and necessary publication will be welcomed by all.

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