

## **OPPOSE SETTING UP OF MISSILE BASE IN BALIAPAL AREA**

The Central Government has announced its decision to proceed with the setting up Missile Base in Baliapal area of Balasore District in Orissa. It has repeated the same old plea that the Baliapal area has several advantages that are not found in other areas and this base is vital for the development of the missile programme as well as future space launch requirements.

Baliapal people made it quite clear that the proposed Missile Base, which deprives one lakh people of 132 villages from their homes and hearths is nothing but a part and parcel of Soviet strategy for world hegemonism. They have also made their resolve clear to resist the attempts of ruling classes to play holy with peoples' blood and do not leave even an inch of their land. Till yesterday the Government was saying that it was not a Missile Base. But now it concedes that this base is vital not only for Missile Programme but also for the future space launch requirements. This further strengthens the apprehensions that not only Missile Bases but also space programmes undertaken by the Indian Government are part of military strategy. It is not difficult for all those who are aware of the past record of aggressive overtones of the Indian ruling classes towards the neighbouring countries to understand that the proposed Missile Base is nothing but a war-mongering act.

Faced with a rising peoples resistance in Baliapal the Centre has declared that it will review the question of proposed Missile Base. But in practice the review has turned out to be an empty talk and an eye-wash. The Govt. has come out with some more deceptive moves to pour cold water on the mounting peoples' protest movement in Baliapal area and to sow divisions among the people. Its talk about the scaling down of the original plan to half of its size is only a part of these moves. Its promise to allow cultivation in the "safety zone" though the Government acquires the entire land and habitations in the area and its promise to permit fishing "off the area subject to regulation" are nothing but a deceptive talk. Indulging in this talk while at the same time proceeding with the steps to grab all the means of peoples livelihood to chase them away to distant places is only playing with the lives of people.

The Government announced that the people displaced from the area would be paid compensation for the land at the

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existing rates with a solatium grant of 30 per cent of this sum. It promised setting up of a number of industrial projects in the area and a job for one person from each of the affected families in these projects. These promises are only part of the conspiracy to drown the people in illusions so that it can proceed with the setting up of the Base with no obstruction. Here, the Government is evading to provide a honourable and self-reliant rehabilitated life for the people whom it is trying to deprive from their lands, habitations and thousands of years of social life with the setting up of proposed Missile Base. The talk of providing job for one person in each affected family is also a farce. As it happened in many instances like the case of Visakha Steel Plant, the displaced people would be reduced to hapless daily labourers rather than being employed in a gainful job. There are several instances where in the government used lathies and Guns against the displaced people for the simple crime of demanding jobs that were promised to them at the time of their displacement. When this is the fate of people displaced by a steel plant it needs no special mention how this project of defence branch which seeks to keep in secret every small thing in the name of 'national security' deals with the displaced people.

It is only a deception to appeal that the people should rise above narrow local considerations and help the setting up of the so-called national project. It is absurd to demand sacrifices from the common people to facilitate the setting up of a Base that drags India into the war preparations of super powers. Our people want peace. They are not prepared to throw themselves into the flames of war that is meant to satisfy the hegemonic ambitions of one or the other super power. The struggle of Baliapal people in defence of their lands and homes has now become part and parcel of the struggle against the war preparations of two super powers and for world peace.

The U. C. C. R. I. (ML) appeals all the peace-loving people, patriotic, democratic and revolutionary forces to not only extend their solidarity to the struggle of Baliapal people against the setting up of the Missile Base but also to organise themselves in to a powerful movement against the setting up Missile base.

GANANATH PATRO

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE

U. C. C. R. I. (ML)