

'Ghatti Nahi ! Mati Chahiye ! Judh Nahi ! Santi Chahiye !'

[We Want Land; Not Missile Base !
We Want Peace, Not War !!]



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Let Us Spread the Message of Struggle of Balaipal People

The peoples movement against setting up of missile base at Balaipal-Bhograi area is already more than a year's age. The youth and students of this area are in the forefront in initiating and organising the protest movement. During this one year, the initial consternation grew into protest and further developed into a continuous struggle. It embraced various sections and classes of the people. *Ksepanastra Ghatti Birodhi Committee* was formed by the representatives of all walks of life to provide leadership to the movement. Many mass organisations had come up. The Student Front against Missile Base is one such organisation.

The Student Front took a three thousands strong rally to the district head quarters on February 10, 1986 and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister through the district collector. The memorandum brought to the notice of the PM the immense suffering that will come to the fate of the uprooted people. It explained how the independent lives of the peasants will be destroyed and degrades them to the status of daily wage earners. It made clear that the educational institutions built over decades of soil will disappear overnight and the young generation will be deprived of their right to education. It expressed apprehension that this project is not for our defence but for the war preparations of Soviet Union. If government denies the

involvement of Soviet Union and asserts that this project is strictly for testing weapons of defensive nature, then this could as well be shifted to some other place.

But their plea fell on deaf ears. By issuing contradictory statements and by promising rehabilitation, the government tried to divert the attention of the people. In the course of time and unfolding events it became clear that the promises of government are only doles and that the Baliapal project is a part of bigger and overall strategic military constructions taking place in Orissa with the 'help' of Soviet Union. The Students Front came to the conclusion that its apprehensions are real and the government is only suppressing the facts in the name of defence 'secret'. It naturally took up the demand that the entire proposal of missile base should be scrapped and it should not be built on the soil of India.

The people of Baliapal and Bhograi are not fighting for the payment of compensation. They are fighting for the scrapping of entire proposal of setting up missile base on any part of India. They are fighting for their lands and for the future of their children. They are fighting for the preservation of world peace.

The struggle being waged by the people of Baliapal and Bhograi is a struggle to defend their right to live. It is a struggle to protect the wealth of our country and the people from destruction. It is a struggle against the danger of nuclear holocaust. It is a struggle to defend world peace as it is being waged against the attempts of two super powers to drag India into their war preparations. Thus the people of Baliapal and

Bhograi are waging a most significant struggle that concerns us all.

The struggle of Baliapal and Bhograi people is the struggle of all democratic, patriotic, peace-loving and revolutionary forces. It is an united struggle for a just common cause. It ardently needs sympathy, help and solidarity from wider sections in all parts of the country. We are publishing this booklet to fulfil this task. We request all the concerned people to spread the message of the struggling people of Baliapal and Bhograi among the student masses. Let us echo the slogans of struggling people full-throatedly.

DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS ORGANISATION
(Andhra Pradesh)

Stop Missile Base At Baliapal

To

The Prime Minister of India

Through

District Collector

BALASORE

Sir

We, the inhabitants of Baliapal, Bhograi, and Basta respectfully beg to state the following facts connected with our past history, present economic prosperity and uncertain future and hope that this memorandum will receive your favourable consideration. We are aware of the fact that the Central Government has planned to acquire a large chunk of land comprising almost whole Baliapal and Bhograi Blocks for setting up a 'National Testing Range' under the Defence Ministry to test developed Missiles and Rockets. This proposal has created consternation among the people. We, therefore, place before you this memorandum and request you to have a spot enquiry of this area and make arrangements for shifting of the site of the National Testing Range from Baliapal to any other place.

2) In the past the Sadhavas of Baliapal and Bhograi who lived on the river Subarnarekha carried on prosperous overseas trade with the islands in the Bay of Bengal, Burma and Philippines. Pipil on the mouth of the river Subarnarekha was a flourishing port in the

Moghal period. The East India Company set up their second factory here in 1740 A. D. The Marathi Zamindar who fought against Colonel Fenwick at Jaleswar in the 2nd Anglo-Maratha War (1803) the most important were the landlords of Jamkunda, Shah Bandar, Bhograi and Kamarda. During the Paik Rebellion 1817 Buxi Jagabandhu had tried to stir up insurrection in the Balasore District by sending secret messengers to the Zamindars. Zamindar Bhunya Darpanarayana of Jamkunda had promised to render military help to Buxi, but when the messengers were arrested at Balasore communication between Khurda and Jamkunda was disrupted. Had this not been so, the Zamindars of Baliapal and Bhograi would have joined the Paik Rebellion.

The people of Balasore have had their fair share in the non co-operation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements. Ratai in Baliapal and Sartha in Basta where contraband, salt was manufactured under the leadership of Acharya Harihara, Ramadevi and Harekrishna Mahtab. Many volunteers and vanarsena participated in the Salt Satyagraha at Chandaneswar. Before the Quit India Movement Ashrams were set up, one at Dagara in South Baliapal and the other at Jayarampur in South Bhograi, where constructive programme of Gandhi was sincerely followed. The role of Baliapal and Bhograi in National Struggle for independence is inestimable.

3) As regards the culture of the people one can see today a temple in every village. Besides the village temples, there are famous temples of Chandaneswar, Basuli, Bhusandeshwar, Navadeshwar, Langareshwar, Jagateshwar and Madan Mohan [Jamkunda]. They are

said to have been built during the mediaval period of Orissa History. They were so skilfully built that they have stood the near and tear of time. They are the living examples of our age-old culture and religious beliefs.

4) The cultural life, feasts, festivals and fairs of this area intimately linked up with agriculture, the mainstay of Orissa's National life.

5) Balasore is the smallest district of the state, but it is also the richest. It has the highest literacy rate of 42.06 percent for a population of 22.53 lakhs most of the people of Baliapal and Bhograi are prosperous farmers. The people are highly educated and politically conscious. The coastal area they inhabit is very fertile. In the eyes of the people it is their gold mine. The area is in this area that betel vines and grape vines exist together. It is in this area again coconut trees yield their sweet ripe fruits. In and around the fields modern varieties of paddy grow. The area is rich in other cash crops like cashewnuts, ground nuts and betel-nuts. The Bay of Bengal and also the river Subarnarekha provide steady catch of fish to the area's fish farmers. A farmer with betel crop of just 0.05 decimals of land can support a tolerably big family with his income.

We are sure that no Central Team of Investigating far less any Minister over took time off from the official conference to place their feet on the solid ground of Baliapal and Bhograi. No detailed report was ever placed before them as to what exists on the ground which they are so eager to convert into a Missile Base. They have apparently not considered that wealth is considered what wealth is created in this area year after year.

They have manifestly not turned their attention to know what was the condition of the area at the dawn of independence and what it has turned out to be now. They obviously do not know the present prosperity of the area is not a windfall of successive plants but has been the end products of private initiative and efforts. All this prosperity will be washed away by a single stroke in an official file. The most sincere and honest Government under the sun will fail to recreate a part of this area. It is simply impossible.

6) We place here the figures of the statistical indicator the area, the people, the houses, the trees, the crops and the various commercialised agricultural and horticultural adventures. A look at the chart, a bare glance of it will reveal what destruction will be wrought by unwanted and human decision.

Approximate loss that will be caused by the N. T. R. (I. C. B. M. Base) scheme of South Baliapal in Balasore Dist.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Affected area | 300 Sq. kilometere (30
km X 8. 8 km.) |
| 2. Affected village .99 | |
| Bhograi | - 23 |
| Basta | - 04 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 126+8 = villages |
| 3. Affected families : | 11,950 |
| 4. Population : | 10,15,700 |
| 5. Affected cultivated land : | 52,000 acres produ-
cing about |
| 6. No. of Betel Vines affected: | 30,000 annual
income is about Rs; 20 Crores. |

7. No of coconut trees : 1,50,000 annual
income about Rs. 5 Crores.
8. Annual Income from various
fruits : Rs 21 Lakhs
9. Annual income from Mats : Rs. One Lakh
10. Cashew Nut [Kaju] : Annual income
Rs. 2 Crores
11. Ground Nut : Annual Income about Rs. 2
Crores.
12. Marine Fish : Annual Income about Rs 10
Crores
13. Educational Institutions : 133

College	1
High Schools	13
M. E. Schools	32
Primary Schools	35
Non Formal School	30
Sanskrit Toles	2
14.

Primary Health Centre	-	1
Live Stock Centre	-	3
Ayurvedic Dispensary	-	1
Sub Post Office	-	1
Branch Post Office	-	16
State Bank	-	1
Gramya Bank	-	3
G. P. Baliapal	-	8
Bhograi	-	1
Basta	-	3
Temples	-	120
R. I. Office	-	4
Number of Cattle	-	21 Lakhs

7. The loss that the people will suffer is irreparable. The loss can never be compensated. An unwilling can, however, be physically shifted or removed under the threat of force or by use of local force. The state has the monopoly in this matter. But no State can shift the area by an inch. No state can remove the betel vines and replace them elsewhere. The coconut trees cannot be transplanted anywhere nor can paddy grow in all areas. The question of recreation of facilities is, thus, a dream. Monetary compensation is more than the useless. The value of money decline each day and there is not no limit what money can buy. Terms of money cannot eradicate the emotional shock and the sentimental alienation. Nor can it provide satisfaction that this work brings. The promise of compensation and adequate compensation is therefore illusory, a mere smoke screen.

8. The policy of the State will end in keeping the displaced persons in huts or in temporary settlements denuded of even ordinary facilities of common rural life. Freedom as we know it will be totally lost. We will have to depend for our living on the mercy of petty officials or contractors. A hand to mouth life will descend upon us for no fault of ours. We will willy-nilly be less than second class citizens.

9. We have discussed the immense suffering that will come to the fate of the uprooted people. But this is only a part of story. The Institutions catering to the educational needs of the people built over decades will disappear overnight and the facilities can never be provided again in the inhospitable surroundings to which they are likely to be transported. Right to receive

education is a fundamental right. The State has obligation under law to establish and maintain suitable institutions for the intellectual development of the people, but the Baliapal Project will negate the dreams of thousands of youngmen. A new generation will pass into the depth of ignorance. It is difficult to imagine what talents and genius will get burried in the pits of this bureacratic insanity.

10. The mass in India crave for spiritual regeneration. The traditional centres of peoples spiritual and a vour had been the temples founded from the time the inhabitations came off. The fact that nearly 120 temples will suffer decimations probably has not entered into consideration of those whose whimsical decision has created this problem.

11. The traditional attachment of the Indian peasant to this inherited paternal property is often condemned by those who never know the intimacy and close identity that the former has with his land. The Government should understand that the land where the peasant works is a part and a very important part of this body, mind and of his soul.

12. Neither we say that the country should not remain prepared for eventualities especially when the country faces hundreds of security problems, nor it is our purpose to oppose new scientific experiments in armament manufacture especially arms of defensive nature. But recent utterances of the Chief Minister of Orissa and various clarification letters from Shri Arun Singhe, the Minister of State, Department of defence, Govt. of India to many opposition leaders of Orissa, raise many genuine doubts, as regard the purpose of this Project. Chief Minister's utterance that the missile

will be fired from Baliapal can travel a distance of more than 5000 kilometres and can be controlled and observed from ground. Control and Radar Station at Nilgiri prove beyond doubt that the Missile will be Ballistic one i.e. I. C. B. M., which carries thermo nuclear war-head. Mr. Arun Singh's letter to Sri Samarendra Kundu, an Ex-Minister where the former has indicated that Baliapal will be Cape Kennedy of India. All this only substantiate our above assertion taken together there arise a number of fundameutal questions which need early reply from your high officers.

The Questions Are:

- a) Does India need such strategic offensive weapon like I. C. B. M., which carries thermo-neuclear war head?
- b) If so then what is our policy towards the use of neuclear energy?
- c) If it is not our defence but for the war preparation of Soviet Union, which is our treaty-bound friend, then what is our stand towards non-alignment, war and peace? Further it questions our territorial integrity, independence and democracy. Even if your answers for our above questions are in negative and Baliapal Project is strictly for testing defence weapons, it is our demand to shift such Project to some other place where not a blade of grass grows, not a head of cattle roams and no man ventures to rear a family. India has not run short of such places. Indeed this vast sub-continent has enough space for such experiment. Why then this craze for destroying

ancient settlement? It will result in shifting or physically quitting lakhs of people from their ancestral homeland. It will denude a vast number of citizens of the property they enjoyed turn the haves into havenots, the prosperous peasants into labourers. It will bring them down to the level of more howers of wood and drawers of water.

In conclusion we most fervently and trustfully look up to you to consider the points discussed above carefully and favourably and shift the site of the National Testing Range from Baliapal to any other place. If it is not shifted grim resistance is obvious, which may lead to a great blood bath.

November 10, 1986.

We remain,
Your most faithfully,
Arun Kumar Jena
Secretary.
Student Front against
Missile Base

The struggle being waged by the people of Baliapal and Bhograi is a struggle to defend their right to live. It is a struggle to protect the wealth of our country and the people from destruction. It is a struggle against the danger of nuclear holocaust. It is a struggle to defend world peace as it is being waged against the attempts of two super powers to drag India into their war preparations.

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