

7 APR 1987
Baliapal evicted will be rehabilitated at the cost of 1,500

Harijans to lose land for mode

From S. P. Nanda

Baliapal, April 6: About 1,500 Adivasi and Harijan families in Baliapal block of Balasore district will lose agricultural land if the government implements its present scheme to acquire the land to set up model villages to rehabilitate a section of the people to be displaced from the proposed National Test Range (NTR) area.

Leaders of the NTR resistance committee, who addressed a well-attended rally held yesterday at Deula village under the auspices of the committee's woman's front, announced that thousands of people, both from the Adivasi-Harijan villages and the NTR area, would gherao the district collector at Baliapal on Wednesday, when he is scheduled to meet sarpanches in the office of the local block develop-

ment officer to apprise them of the government's move to acquire lands for rehabilitation colonies.

Men, women and children who attended the rally readily responded to the call of the leaders, Mr Bhagey Gobardhan, Mr Bhagabat Behera (both Janata MLAs), Ms Chhabirani Mohanty and Ms Tarulata Behera (both SUCI leaders), to participate in Wednesday's demonstration. The tribals' response was heightened by the call in their Santhali language given by the popular Adivasi leader, Mr Bhagey Gobardhan.

The government proposes to acquire several hundred acres in Deula, Madhapura and Balikoti gram panchayats of Baliapal block to set up model villages for displaced persons. This land has been possessed and is being cultivated by Adivasis and Hari-

jans for more than two generations. The tribals constitute a major chunk of the population of the three gram panchayats, which are situated outside the test range site.

When asked, the district collector, Mr Priyabrata Patnaik, told this correspondent that the people who would lose their lands would get adequate compensation if the lands were found to be legally occupied by them. Further, their homestead lands would not be affected.

However, the tribals alleged at the rally that the government was yet to grant them records of right for the lands though they had been possessing them for more than 100 years and regularly paying rent. The local panchayat samiti chairman, Mr Sashadhar Pradhan and Mr Aswini Kumar Patra, and the working president of the NTR

other families

l villages

resistance committee, Mr Brundaban Raj, alleged that the government had violated the law by not granting records of right long after the stipulated 30 years of continuous possession of the lands. They argued that the government's intention was to deprive the poor tribals and Harijans of the lands.

The local tribal leader, Mr Renta Soren and several other Adivasi inhabitants said the lands were their only source of livelihood as they did not have any other occupation than cultivation, although a few of them having insufficient land resorted to daily wage-earning jobs in the area. The tribals would not be able to fall back upon any other occupation in this coastal area even if they were paid compensation, they pointed out.

The collector's action in calling only the three sarpanches of

the area to the April 8 meeting was termed by the NTR resistance committee members as "a clever political move by the government to be able to first acquire lands right near the NTR site and secure a foothold there and then to extend its land acquisition operations to the proposed NTR area."

Of the three sarpanches, two belong to the Congress(I) and the third to the Janata. This would enable the government to take a majority-backed decision in favour of acquisition of land with the so-called consent of the local people's representatives.

The leaders demanded that both the panchayat samiti chairman of Baliapal and Jaleswar, who are Janata men, and all the sarpanches in the two panchayat samitis, who include a large majority of Janata members, be called to the meeting.

10 MAY 1987

NOW that the nation has been told of the final and irrevocable decision to establish the missile test range at the coastal region of Balasore in Balasore district, Orissa, the countdown for the D-Day has started in the lush green villages between the coast canal and the Bay of Bengal, the most prosperous countryside in a permanently backward state. The central minister of state for defence, Mr Arun Singh, the scientific adviser to the defence ministry, Mr Arunachalam and the Orissa revenue minister, Mr Jugal Kishore, have, in quick succession, declared that in the larger national interests of modernisation of Indian defence, 102 sq. km. area in the north Balasore coast comprising 68 villages where 6,500 families of farmers and fishermen inhabit have to be evacuated forthwith to make way for the Juggernaut of the country's development.

The farmers, of course, have been given high-sounding assurances of prompt compensation. Jobs have been promised to one member of each family to be displaced and efforts are already afoot to set up "model villages" in the nearby Basta block to rehabilitate the uprooted peasants and fisherfolk. Obviously the centre and state governments are in a hurry to start sending missiles in their 5000 km. range and the defence scientists in their overalls seem to be wringing their hands impatiently to measure the destructive potential of their darling projectiles.

Their man in the place, the district magistrate, Mr Priyabrata Patnaik, has already vented his

spleen on the villagers who do not share this all-round enthusiasm for the nation's increased muscle power. Eviction notices sent ceremoniously to the farmers have been reportedly torn up, to the dismay of these guardians of the nation's defence. Mr Patnaik has expressed his anguish over the inordinate delay of the state's prestige project and he is on record that with the help of sufficient force he can get the villages cleared in no time. In fact, there is not much time to lose as the decision-makers of Indian defence have fixed the third quarter of this year to start missile testing right in full earnest.

Our talks with a cross-section of the local population ranging from prosperous betel and cashew merchants in whose names Rs 2 lakh worth of foreign exchange accumulate every day, in the Pratappur Branch of a nationalised bank, all the way down to the fishermen at Choumukh, scraping their livelihood from the daily struggle with the sea—left us in no doubt that the defence planners are up against a veritable people's resistance movement at the very grass-roots. The chariot of massive development projects which had hitherto smashed its way through the tribal hamlets in obscure valleys predictably, comes to a grinding halt once it has reached the plains where live the farmers and artisans, rich and poor, to whose succour rush national parties of various hues from white to red. The people's refusal to being reduced to the state of refugees at the mercy of a state government impervious to the misery of the common man, has found a resolute spokesman in the Uttar Bala-

Battle for Baliapal

Baliapal, and no other site, will have the national missile test range, according to powers-that-be. But has this final decision weakened the resistance of the local population? No, says G. V. Nair, who finds that the struggle against the test range has now assumed the character of a broadbased people's movement.

sore Kshepanastra Ghanti Pratirodh Committee, an umbrella organisation in which are represented political groups from Janata Party through both the Communist Parties and SUGI to UCCRI(ML).

The Committee has raised certain vital questions the answers to which have not been forthcoming from the state government or the centre. First, what is the exact nature of the precious missiles to be tested at Baliapal which cannot be tested at Sriharikota on the Andhra coast from where periodically artificial satellites are sent to space? The chief minister himself, in one of his effusive moments, declared that the missiles might traverse a 5,000 km distance before they hit the target in some polar region. Obviously, that kind of missile is meant to carry not crackers children let off at Kali puja. Are these missiles meant for "nuclear purposes" as Mr Direndra Sarma, author of *India's Nuclear Estate*, quite reasonably suspects?

Secondly, in the selection of a site, have defence needs been the sole criterion? The alternate sites mentioned at the talks between the Janata leaders and the prime minister, namely Dwarka in Gujarat, Andamans in the Bay of Bengal, the desert region in Rajasthan, and the Sathbia Estuary region in Orissa itself, have been dismissed on grounds as flimsy as need to preserve the crocodile population at Sathbia, as untrue as the non-availability of clear sky in the Andamans, and as belaboured as the proximity of Pakistan border to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Mr Samarendra Kundu, the former central minister, who is one of the leaders of the movement at Baliapal, has in a statement exposed the hypocrisy of the centre in concealing the one real reason for the selection of Baliapal as the site for the test range. According to him, the arbitrary selection of Baliapal is a direct follow-up of the rejection by the Karnataka government headed by Ramakrishna Hegde of the central proposal to make Bindur in South Kannada a gift to the defence ministry.

Another question which agitates the minds of the inhabitants in the Baliapal area concerns the state Government's very generous offer of rehabilitation facilities and jobs. They wonder what remote credibility can the statements of the chief minister possibly have in the light of the shamefaced confession he himself made on the floor of the state assembly barely six months ago that, even after 11 years of the completion of the Rangali dam, in Sambalpur, no less than 22,000 tribals rendered homeless out of a total of 35,000 are still to have a roof over their heads. And some regular means of livelihood.

Indeed, the exhortations to make sacrifices for the nation so frequently voiced by those who proudly walk the corridors of power in Bhubaneswar and Delhi, have a strange ringabout them. They are meant to rouse the patriotism of only those whom the nation has not given much. One may legitimately won-

der at the record of self-sacrifice by those who rule the roost in the country. They seem to be singularly deficient in their proclaimed love of motherland to the point of not keeping their money in their dear country's own banks. The scions of princely families, who are in the ascendancy in Delhi's power structure have not offered any of their palaces to those hapless compatriots rendered homeless by their pet projects, defence or civil.

It is these unanswered questions that have compelled the peasants and fishermen of Baliapal-Bhograi to spurn the government's offer of compensation and rehabilitation as unworthy of consideration. Ever since the gleeful announcement of chief minister J. B. Patnaik on his return from a visit to Delhi in July 1984 that Orissa would be proud to have a central project of vital importance in North Balasore, the people of these villages have known no peace of mind. At hundreds of meetings, in gheraos of the collector at the block offices and in two district-wide bandhs, they demonstrated their attachment to their ancestral homes which they refuse to hand over to the defence ministry. And when their cries of anguish went unheeded, they declared that government vehicles would have to enter the area over their bodies.

Last year in March, when the then district collector, Mr Iswar Das, made a surprise visit to the area he was gheraoed by a crowd of about a thousand people. He was forced to leave his jeep behind and walk upto the coast canal and then seen off. Today, the youth front of the KGPC mans four check gates with which entry into the area is restricted. The check gates at Panchpali in the west, Kaliapada in the south, Kachua and Jamkunda in the north bear the notice written in Oriya: "This land is ours, this sea is ours. Entry of government vehicles is prohibited." The chief minister cancelled twice his proposed visits to the area. The collector has ceased to visit the block office after January this year

when he was shown black flags by thousands of people assembled at Baliapal.

The state government, on its part, continues to retaliate against this non-cooperation movement with a war of attrition of its own. For the last six months supply of kerosene and sugar in ration shops has been stopped. No maintenance work of roads or schools has been undertaken. It was alleged by the villagers that even stipends given to backward class students have been suspended. Not surprisingly, one newspaper has gone to the length of calling Baliapal India's Jaffna. When asked what would be the form of resistance if armoured cars tear through the check gates, the block chairman Sasadhar Pradhan gives a pensive reply. "People here are not in a mood to run away at the sight of army vehicles. At least we can throw ourselves under the wheel. But then we will not be alone in the struggle to save our hearth and home. Peace-loving people all

over the world will be with us. What will the government do then?"

Basanti Chand, mother of four children, was having a discussion with the women of Jamatkula, all members of *Nari Samukhya* the women's front of the KGPC. She told us, "We women of Baliapal have a reputation of giving alms with a generous hand. No hungry man has ever left our village unfed. To turn beggars ourselves in some inhospitable towns is something we cannot think of. So we have taken a vow: better die here as housewives than die in cuttack as beggar women. *Ame morla pore amo sabar oopar ghanti hobo.*

Kartik Das, a student of class XI in Subarnarekha College at Baliapal, laughed away our advice to enroll his name at the employment exchange specially opened at Baliapal for the young men of the locality. At Dantinida already the building has come up for a spinning mill supposedly to give employment to the youngsters of the displaced families. Kartik makes a grimace of contempt and says: "We two brothers own 10 acres of land and make Rs 50,000 a year just by selling betel leaves and another Rs 30,000 by selling cashew nuts. Have we gone mad to forsake this golden earth in exchange for a miserable job in some factory? The government has to do more than that to take my land away, sir."

Ramakrishna Majhi is a fisherman who lives in the seaside village of Dogra. This is what he has to say: "Our forefathers came from Midnapore and settled here. The mother sea has been kind to us and we have never known

starvation. We send hilsa and prawn to Calcutta even. Now if some sarkari babus come and tell me to clear out, I won't take it lying down. I tell you." He and Jwalendra Jena then hurriedly assembled the *Maran Sena* of the village. They don the red caps, lift the fist in unison and ask us to take a photograph: "Let the ministers see who are members of the death squad in Dogra. Publish the picture, please."

Durjay Patra, an active worker of the committee at Jamatkula, owns a flourishing betel and cashew export business. We ask him what will happen if the railways refuse to load the betel baskets and cashew bags. "We shall hire lorries. And if the roads are blocked we shall let the betel leaves rot here. Don't think that we could be cowed that easy."

As we return to Baliapal to catch the last bus to Balasore, we had the uneasy feeling that in the villages beyond the coast canal towards the sea, in the arcadian landscape of cocoanut groves and cashew gardens, a whole community is astir to add a new chapter of people's movement.

Have the battle lines been drawn already? Have the government and the people it purports to serve reached a point of no return? And what is in store for these sturdy farmers and proud fishermen, once they are exposed to the full blast of the state power with its own ~~scale~~ *scale* of values and list of ~~priority~~ *priority*? So many questions ring loud and clear as the government, on the one hand continues to entice and threaten in the same breath and the people, on the other, continue to resist with ever-increasing ardour and determination.

range at Baliapal

From Our Staff Correspondent
BHUBANESWAR:

EVEN as the Government of India is more determined now than in the past to locate the National Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa's Balasore District, the resistance movement by thousands of people who will be displaced from Baliapal has of late gathered momentum with no sign of abatement.

This has resulted in delay in implementation of a project of strategic importance for an indefinite period.

The massive Rs. 128-crore rehabilitation programme announced by the Government has so far failed to per-

The States

Orissa

suaude the people affected to leave Baliapal and allow the defence authorities to start the construction work on the project. The State Government which is to acquire and hand over land to the defence authorities is apparently biding its time to avoid a direct confrontation with the people affected as this will inevitably lead to bloodshed.

Indeed a war of nerves has been continuing unabated between the Orissa Government on the one hand and the people affected on the other for the last one and a half years. Although the Government is concerned about the "do or die" attitude of thousands of the people affected for quite a long period, it still hopes that the edge of the resistance movement will be softened in course of time. As it is, the affected are, however, in no mood to leave Baliapal voluntarily and move to the Government-sponsored rehabilitation centres.

The State Government had made several attempts in the past to bring home to the people through a show of police force that there is no other alternative for them but to leave Baliapal without, however, any result. On the contrary this has strengthened the determination of the people to offer intensified resistance unitedly.

The latest strategy of the Government appears to be to first complete construction of the proposed model village near the site of the National Test Range at Baliapal which will serve as rehabilitation centres for the people who will be displaced at Baliapal. Till then the affected will not be disturbed though a sustained campaign will continue to bring home to

to lay down their lives instead of moving out of Baliapal if force is applied to displace them.

So far all activities of defence personnel as well as that of Central and State Government officials are noticeable outside the actual site of the proposed test range because of the physical blockade imposed by those affected, including men, women and children. Gauging their wrath even Chief Minister J.B. Patnaik had to cancel his trip to Baliapal twice in the past. The affected have raised a "suicide squad" to resist their forcible displacement.

ONLY SUITABLE SITE

The Government of India has made it clear that Baliapal is the only suitable site in the country where the proposed National Test Range can be located. The range will be used for testing missiles, rockets and space vehicles and for launching of satellites at a later stage. Further it will undertake evaluation trials by the three defence services, practice firing of long-range missiles, electronic warfare dynamic testing as also some other functions.

However, there is no proposal for making Baliapal testing ground for nuclear warfare. Replying to a letter from a Janata Party leader in this regard, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has denied the allegation that the proposed range was tantamount to planting the seeds of a nuclear war. Stating categorically that there was no proposal to test or use missiles with nuclear warheads, the Prime Minister reminded Mr. Patnaik of India's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy "which is the greatest guarantee against any nuclear war from our side". However, the Prime Minister did not reply to the query made by Mr. Patnaik whether India would be obliged to revise its option in respect of use of nuclear weapons if circumstances so demanded in future.

In ruling out the possibility of shifting the site of the proposed test range from Baliapal to some other place, the Government of India has emphasised that Baliapal happens to be the only suitable site for such a range in view of "overriding scientific and technical compulsions." The three existing test range sites at Sriharikota, Pokharan and Suryalanka do not meet these requirements. In the archipelago of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there is no suitable site where the test range can be located. Studies were made to find an alternative site for the test range in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal but none of the sites were found suitable.

range site

Because of the protests being made persistently by the affected people as also different Opposition parties, particularly the Biju Patnaik-led Janata Party, the land requirements of the test range have been reduced from 115 square kilometres to 68 square kilometres and that of the safety zone from 45 square kilometres to 34 square kilometres. As a result the number of affected families stand reduced from about 11,600 to 6,100 consisting of 41,000 people. Cultivation and fishing will be allowed in the safety zone when there is no test firing.

FERTILE AREA

The point being focussed by the people affected as well as different Opposition parties is that the area earmarked for the National Test Range is in fact the oasis of Orissa consisting of a fertile green belt with beetle leaves, cashewnut, coconut, mango and fisheries which brought economic prosperity to its inhabitants. Those affected are not interested in the elaborate rehabilitation programme sponsored by the Government as they feel that no amount of expenditure on this would ensure them the economic prosperity they now enjoy.

Now that the Government of India has taken a final decision to set up the National Test Range at Baliapal, a high level task force consisting of officials of the Orissa and Central Governments has been formed to implement the Rs. 128-crore programme of rehabilitation of 6,100 families to be evicted from the test range site. Land has already been acquired for about 50 per cent of the range area where there had been no population.

Under the rehabilitation programme all displaced families will be resettled in model villages to set up within 45 kilometres of their homes. Even landless persons will be accommodated in these villages. Every family will be provided with a permanent house in model villages besides community facilities like schools, hospitals, water supply and playgrounds. The displaced families will be paid adequate compensation for their land to be acquired. To provide job opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled persons nine industrial projects including a textile mills, an oil mill, a vanaspati plant and an agricultural implements factory will be set up. The National Test Range will also offer 500 jobs to suitable persons from among those who will be displaced. Besides, schemes for self-employment will be financed by banks on a priority basis.

The people affected are, however, least concerned with the package of rehabilitation facilities. They have taken a pledge not to move out of the 52 villages inside the site earmarked for the National Test Range which till now remains, for all practical purposes, forbidden land for defence personnel and officials of the Central and Orissa Governments. Leaders of the people

factors which weighed in favour of Baliapal as the National Test Range site is the existence of more than 100 kilometres of coastline in a crescent shape which will facilitate the deployment of electronic tracking instruments. This again will offer protection to air and sea routes from day-to-day medium and short range missile firing. The Nilgiri Hills near the sea coast in Balasore District offers an ideal opportunity for tracking and surveillance by radar. Further the Baliapal site offers a clear zone of firing in the southern direction with the required safety zone parameters, according to a Defence Ministry press release.

These are, however, not convincing to leaders of different Opposition parties in Orissa, particularly the Biju Patnaik-led Janata Party. They have pledged to extend moral and physical support to the movement launched by the people affected to press their demand for shifting the site of the proposed Test Range from Baliapal to a less densely populated site.

Deccan Herald (Bangalore)

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THE HINDU
Bhubaneswar

Fate of a test range

25/4/87

THE reluctance of the Orissa Chief Minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, to visit Baliapal in Balasore district and explain to the people the necessity to set up a national test range there is worrying the Defence Ministry.

Neither Mr. Patnaik nor his Cabinet colleagues have visited Baliapal since the beginning of last year, though they have been drawing up programmes for visiting the area and cancelling them on one pretext or another to the embarrassment of the district authorities.

Though the Orissa Government had initially agreed to hand over the land required for the project by the end of the kharif season last year, it has so far not been able to acquire even one acre of land because of the stiff resistance by the people of Baliapal. The project would lead to the displacement of over 6,500 families from their rich and fertile land.

Ever since the Union Government announced its decision to set up a national test range in Baliapal the people have been up in arms so much that the writ of the district authorities no longer runs there. No Government official is allowed entry into the project area.

Mr. Patnaik, who is a clever strategist, is

reported to have told the Centre that the people would leave Baliapal as soon as the Government completed the construction of model villages for them to move into.

According to the district authorities the reluctance of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues to venture into Baliapal even with full protection, has led to their (the authorities) losing grip over the situation, there being no higher direction for their action. The people's feelings are so strong that there might be bloodshed if the authorities start acquiring land. And the lack of political will on the part of the leadership is not helping any.

The newspapers carry news items on the need for a national test range after they are briefed by defence authorities, but the State Government is doing nothing to promote the idea except for the Chief Minister making tall claims now and then about building model villages and setting up industries for providing employment to the displaced.

The questions generally asked by the villagers are: "Why should we leave land where we earn more than Rs. 50,000 per annum and take up jobs in industries set up by the Patnaik Government? Are we fools

to be taken for a ride by Mr. Patnaik? Do we not know what the real situation in industries is? For all we know the industries may be shut down for half the year for want of power and for the other half owing to large scale misappropriation of funds leading to their turning sick even before going into production."

One villager told THE HINDU that it appeared as if Mr. Patnaik was trying to present a picture to the Centre that only he could ensure that the project came through and that his continuance as Chief Minister therefore was a necessity. If Mr. Patnaik felt that the project was a necessity why did he not pay a visit to Baliapal and convince the people, he asked.

Mr. Patnaik had programmed to visit Baliapal in October last year but cancelled the visit on the plea that the area had been flooded. He said he would visit the place at a later date, but that day has yet to come. He was reportedly told by the district authorities that in spite of the floods he could make a visit to the place as it would do a lot of good, but the Chief Minister appeared to have developed cold feet and would not budge.

The decision of Mr. Patnaik and his Cabinet colleagues to remain, so to say, at a safe distance from Baliapal has led not only to the project work schedule being readjusted again and again causing unnecessary

delay but to the people joining hands to form a strong force. Unable to take action against them the State Government stopped the supply of essential commodities to the people of Baliapal saying they were being sold in the black market and also being smuggled into neighbouring districts of West Bengal. The issue was hotly debated in the Orissa Assembly, but supplies have not been resumed on the ground that Government officials are not allowed entry into the project area.

The Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, on Monday sought the cooperation of the press to convince the people of the need to set up the national test range at Baliapal. In an informal chat with newsmen in Bhubaneswar he ruled out the shifting of the range to another place because Baliapal had been chosen as the proper one, taking into consideration all aspects, including the weather conditions and ability to monitor the missile by the opto-electronic system.

The Defence Ministry was going ahead with its plans and had already placed orders for equipment with various public sector undertakings. "If we are to remain as a nation we should have a good defence and the people should appreciate the necessity for the test range. There are no two ways about it," he said.

Bhubaneswar Correspondent

'Scrap test range plan'

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, December 21. THE National Committee for Solidarity on Baliapal and Bogarai today presented a memorandum signed by about 4,000 concerned persons to the President, Mr R. Venkataraman. They appealed to the new government not to establish the proposed National missile Test Range (NTR) in this particular region of Balasore district in Orissa.

The project intends to acquire 55 villages covering an area of 102 square km, with a plan to resettle 6,500 families who will be affected. However, according to the Uttara Balasore Khepanashtra Ghati Pratirodh Samiti (KGPS), a protest movement of local activists and environmentalists, nearly 1 lakh people will be displaced, if fisherpeople and migrant labourers settled there are included in these statistics.

The KGPS has been agitating for almost four years, using non-violent satyagraha methods. They have erected barricades on all approach roads to the area so that no government vehicle can get to the site. They claim to have the support of local politicians. The only time the barricades were opened was when the Janata Dal candidate from Balasore, an ardent environmentalist, requested that there be free movement of election machinery in the area for three or four weeks. There was 100 per cent turnout of voters in support for this candidate, Mr Samarendra Kundu, who won his campaign.

ISLAND OF PEACE: "The local

villagers are not questioning the issue of arms or the necessity of defence preparedness," said Mrs Sujata Mehta, a spokesperson for the KGPS. "Their appeal is innocuous. They are merely asking to be left alone on their island of peace. If destructive weapons are a must for the nation, why cannot another site be chosen for testing them, such as the desert or a sparsely populated region? This will not only explode into an environmental issue, it is also a denial of the fundamental right of security, to people who are already underprivileged."

Mrs Mehta also pointed out that there would be a massive loss of agricultural revenue "in a state that suffers from famine every few years, Balasore is blessed with fertile soil that has made it the rice bowl of Orissa, and productive of four other cash crops — groundnuts, cashew, coconuts, and betel leaf—the 'Banarasi patta' that is marketed all over India. Even the poorest farmers can grow this and earn 25 to 30 thousand rupees annually from a small plot. How are the villagers to survive, if they are rendered homeless, in a state where industries are underdeveloped and there is already massive unemployment?"

Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty of Delhi University alleged that the former government chose Orissa as the site for the NTR because of its "political vulnerability," since it was a Congress-ruled state. "Other potential sites were rejected — West Bengal and Andhra because they were under opposition rule. Gujarat has a lot of desert area, but

it is too near the Pakistan border, and the western seaboard, which has heavy marine traffic. They preferred the eastern coast which undergoes much more silting, and as a consequence has less shipping backlog. Plus Orissa already has defence projects in nine districts, which is an asset for the NTR co-ordination. The interim test range from where the missile Agni was fired was set up by the British in the 1940s, about two hours from Baliapal. It has not been expanded since, but now at the expense of displacing lakh of helpless citizens, the Centre wants a permanent, massive set-up. The Orissa chief minister, Mr J. B. Patnaik, in fact described the range as "a Puja gift from Mrs Indira Gandhi." Then with the 1985 election he promised not to give permission for its installation, but went back on his words".

Plea against missile test range at Baliapal

NEW DELHI, Dec. 22

In a unique endeavour renowned scientists, academics, literateurs, artists, social activists, professionals, journalists and media people have joined hands to put pressure on the Government to reconsider its decision to locate the National Test Range (NTR) in Baliapal and Bhogari blocks of Orissa's Balasore district.

As a first step activists of the National Committee for Solidarity for Baliapal and Bhogari, on Thursday, released signatures of over 4,000 prominent citizens to mobilise public opinion against the project. A list of signatures was sent to the President, Mr R. Venkataraman. The National Test Range is a project that will research, test and launch small, medium intermediate and long range missiles.

Among those who have signed are, Dr. M. P. Bhargava (Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology), Prof. S. Chandrasekhar (Director, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore), Mr. K. N. Mukherji (Governor of Punjab), Mr. N. Jayal (Director, INTACH), Baba Amte (social activist), Mr. Shivram Karanth (literateur) and Om Puri (film actor). — Our Staff Reporter

NATIONAL TEST RANGE

Centre asked to reconsider location

By a Staff Reporter

IN all, 135 scientists, academicians, artists, social activists and mediapersons have appealed to the National Front Government to "reconsider the location of the National Test Range (for missiles) in Baliapal and Bhogarai in the Balasore district of Orissa."

In a letter to the President, they called upon him to put forward their views before the new Government since "the decision to locate the project in a naturally rich and resourceful area contradicts its own policy not to destroy but to aid the people and enable them to attain a better life-style."

The letter, released at a Press conference in New Delhi on Thursday, voiced their apprehension that the test range was a "project that would research, test and launch small, medium, intermediate, long and possibly intercontinental missiles" in the near future. This, the signatories to the letter argued, would deprive the people of Baliapal and Bhogarai of their economic, social and cultural

rights.

"This struggle (of the people, there) transcends political affiliations and covers an area of about 100 square kilometres, encompassing 55 villages. The area benefits not only its inhabitants but also generates income for those in Orissa and in other parts of the country," read the letter.

The signatories to the letter include Rajni Kothari, Vijay Tendulkar, Tyeb Mehta, Nayantara Sehgal, Raghava Menon, Zai Whitekar, Satyajit Ray, Om Puri, Aparna Sen, Mrinal Sen, Justice P. S. Potti, Atul Setalvad, Gobinda Mukhoty, Nirmal Mukarji, R. C. Dutt, Dileep Purohit, Narayan Desai, Dr Mira Shiva, Sharad Kulkarni and Nalini Jayal.

Appeal to relocate missile test range

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec. 21

More than one lakh people of Baliapal and Bhogarai blocks of Balasore district of Orissa have been peacefully protesting for the last four years against the setting up of a National Test Range (NTR), India's first missile test base in the area.

In a memorandum presented to President R. Venkataraman here today, scientists, social activists and journalists urged the President to put forward their viewpoint before the new Government to reconsider the location of the NTR project.

These people have unitedly struggled to fight against the NTR for their basic rights over natural resources as well as the land and the sea that generates them. The NTR is a project that will research, test and launch small,

medium intermediate and long and possibly intercontinental missiles.

These people have been engaged in a peaceful non-violent struggle for obtaining the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, for adequate livelihood, for a clean environment and for survival — at economic, social and cultural levels.

According to the memo presented to the President this struggle transcends political affiliations and covers an area of 100 square kilometres encompassing 55 villages. This area is part of the district of Balasore, considered the rice bowl of the State.

In addition to rice this area also produces groundnut, cashewnut, coconut and betel leaf. The Government's decision to locate the project in a naturally rich and resourceful area, contradicts its own policy not to destroy but to aid the people to obtain better life styles.

IF Kalahandi in Orissa is India's little Ethiopia, Baliapal is our own tiny Jaffna.

This proposed site for the National Test Range (NTR) for missiles and rockets, is under siege. Fearing displacement, over one lakh inhabitants of the chosen site have sealed all entry points into the area. Officials have not been allowed to step in for the last two years.

In turn, the government has put up an "economic blockade", to break the popular will against the test range. The blockade has now been partially lifted. Essential supplies, however, are still not available in four of the eight panchayats in the area.

Battle lines are thus sharply drawn. The people of Baliapal refuse to leave their hearths and homes, making way for the test range. "We do not wish to become refugees in our own homeland," they say. The government also has so far not budged. It keeps reiterating, that the test range will come up at Baliapal — come what may.

Passions are consequently running high. Everyone appears to be ranged against the test range. The children of Baliapal have not gone untouched. They do not play normal games anymore, but imitate dharnas and demonstrations staged by elders against the test range. Five-year-old Subash gesticulates frantically, as he tries to keep pace with Sanjoy Patro, a student of class six. Sanjoy is supposed to be leading a procession of agitators. The procession is faked but the spirit is for real. "The land is ours, the sea is ours. Government better go back." Their playful slogan, nevertheless, is akin to what their elders often raise.

On the shores of the Bay of Bengal, just where the river Subarnarekha joins the sea, Baliapal-Bhograi in Balasore district of Orissa is the selected site for the test range, to be used by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Space. This Rs 1,000 crore project will result in displacement of 6,100 families and eat up 68 sq km of lush green fertile land.

In fact, initial plans were for acquiring over 110 sq km, which would have displaced over 1,000 families. But taking note of the popular resentment, the government chose to scale down the area to be taken over.

And as per detailed plans spelt-out so far, the entire area is to be divided into three different zones. Zone A would have the main project and has to be completely cleared of inhabitants. Zone B is to be the safety zone, from where people would be driven out, but fishing and farming would be allowed. Zone C would house the residential quarters of defence staff.



Check-gate in the Baliapal area: people's blockade



People destroying plinths dug by government contractors at the proposed site

BLOCKADE IN BALIAPAL

But then, why Baliapal? This query seems to be nagging everyone. Baliapal is no backward, underdeveloped area, nor is its populace under-nourished and poverty stricken. Its fertile soil has made Baliapal the granary of Orissa.

The region earns annually Rs 50 crore by selling betel leaves, fish, coconut and groundnut. Its 30 km long coastline provides a livelihood for over 1,500 fishermen, who earn Rs 10 crore for the state every year. The test range in Baliapal would mean an end to all

existence.

What irks the inhabitants the most is Baliapal's current affluence which the government is seeking to replace. Its prosperity, besides the high density of population in the region, would normally have put off a project which would result in displacement. Against Orissa's average population density of 151 per sq km, Baliapal has 441 per sq km. In Bhograi, it is as high as 538 per sq km. Thickly populated as this region is, where will they all go?

The resistance to the test range project, stems from this very deep sense of uncertainty. The peoples' resolve is unbending. "They can have the range only on our graves." Death squads have been formed and men, women and children have joined them alike. "Let them come and beat us, but we are not moving out. They will get tired of beating us," says Manmatho, a prominent member of the death squad.

"Where do we go," asks Durga Patro of Jamatpula village somewhat helplessly. A Congress supporter, Patro is active in people's resistance. For the sake of our land, party affiliations are no barriers, maintained Patro, an affluent betel leaf grower. What Baliapal is witnessing today is an unique confluence of people, of different affiliations and varied backgrounds. The rich and the poor have joined hands in popular resistance. Activists are from political parties of varied hues — some Congressmen, some Janata, some Communists, some Naxalites.

A remarkable people's movement in Baliapal, Orissa, has successfully prevented local government officials from visiting the proposed site for the National Test Range (NTR) for the last two years. Fearing the consequences of displacement if the project is implemented, the people of Baliapal have literally dug in their heels and refuse to move. RUBEN BANERJEE reports.

And unlike at other places, women here are playing a dominant role. At the beck of their leaders, they pour out of their homes. The three entry points into the area have been sealed and a round-the-clock vigil is maintained at the check-gates. At the sight of an approaching government vehicle, conch shells are blown and brass utensils banged and the alarm is relayed to the interior of the region within no time.

Officials have failed to penetrate the barricade during the last two years. Even the police have been refused entry. The Peoples' Committee, set-up to spearhead the agitation, adjudicates disputes of any kind. Two or three murders were reported and on each occasion, a few handpicked policemen were allowed in, asked to remove the corpse and then leave.

One striking quality of the Baliapal people is the warm hospitality they extend to guests. Yet, also remarkable is their persistent

hostility towards government servants. The District Collector has tried time and again to penetrate, but has failed each time. On February 3 this year, platoons of policemen were moved in as the Collector prepared a final assault. In retaliation, over 30,000 villagers gheraoed the block headquarters. In face of their resilience, the Collector chose to go back.

The Collector is not alone to have run away. Even elected Congress(I) legislators from the region have had to flee, fearing the peoples' wrath. Judhistir Jena, Congress(I) MLA from Baliapal once sneaked in, but was soon chased out. Mrs Umarani Patro, the party legislator from Bhograi, has no sapon to enter the zone.

Initially, she had made public her objection to the test range and sought the party High Command's permission to resign her Assembly seat. Once she even went on a hunger-strike in front of the Chief Minister's residence here. But then, the Chief Minister had a

discussion with her and her opposition to the test range vanished. Now she vouches that her service is needed for the "rehabilitation" of those to be displaced.

The people's resilience is extraordinary. Gadadhara Giri's death shook the movement, but could never spell its end. Others have moved in to fill the void. Mr Brundaban Raj, a freedom-fighter, is currently at the centre of the agitation. His flesh has grown old, but his bones are still strong. This young man of 70 years treks 30 km a day, moving from village to village binding the people together. "No test range," Brundaban Raj says with a glow in his eyes. "We will not allow that," he affirmed confidently.

Sashadar Pradhan, currently the general secretary of the People's Committee against the test range, asks, "Can they compensate for our ancestral soil?" Definitely not, Mr Pradhan reaffirms. "No land on earth can compensate for the lands we have inherited from our forefathers." Inhabitants of Baliapal-Bhograi are not swayed at all by government assurances of adequate compensation and rehabilitation. All that the government has been uttering on rehabilitation has been viewed with suspicion and distrust.

The administration claims that everyone displaced would be given a house and an alternative job. But there are hardly any takers for such promises. They know that people displaced by the

Hirakud Dam and Rengali dam projects years ago in other parts of Orissa have yet to be rehabilitated.

There are other practical considerations that have forced villagers to believe that they will live through hell, once evicted from their homes. The government has grandiose plans of starting industrial units in the area to provide alternative jobs. A spinning mill, a dairy plant, and cottage units are planned. But for whom, ask those who will be displaced. For ages, they have been farmers,



Brundaban Raj: determined fishermen or plantation workers. Is it possible to change their vocation overnight?

On July 31, 1984 Chief Minister J.B. Patnaik had announced the location of the test range at Baliapal. On his return to the state capital from one of his routine trips to Delhi, Patnaik had

then boasted of bringing a "gift" for these people of Baliapal. "The defence project will open job avenues in plenty," The Chief Minister gloated before newsmen at the Bhubaneswar airport. But few had a premonition then that the professed "gift" would be a curse in disguise.

Facts spilled out gradually. As more and more details of resulting displacements emerged, resentment grew. But why Baliapal? Could not the site for the test range be shifted to some other place.

Former State Chief Minister, Nilamani Routary has recently been engaged in a running-battle with Union Defence Minister, K.C. Pant, pressing that the test range be moved to the Andaman Islands. Many Opposition leaders have also strongly opposed its location at Baliapal. They include Biju Patnaik, former union Minister of State for External Affairs, Samarendra Kundu, former AICC general secretary, S.S. Mohapatra, veteran Sarvodaya leader, Malati Chowdhury and Orissa Janata Party general secretary and MLA, Bhagwat Behera. Support has been extended by national Opposition leaders as well. Madhu Dandavate has expressed opposition to the test range. So has Mrinal Gore. Janata president Chandra Shekhar has stated, "If Baliapal is the best site for the range, let it be shifted to the next best site."

The fight against the test range thus continues, children continue to write letters to "Uncle Rajiv", pleading to spare their homes. Their pleas, however, seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Defence experts are convinced about Baliapal's geographical location, its shallow sea and unending coastline. The shallow sea would ensure that enemy ships or submarines do not come close. The Nilgiri Hills, just 20 km away provide a natural high altitude observation point. The seemingly endless coast is a safe ground for missiles. For defence experts Baliapal is the most suitable location.

Suggestions to shift the site have been shot down almost with contempt. Satabhaya in Cuttack district has been rejected on grounds that it might endanger the Paradip Port. The Andamans have been rejected for the prohibitive costs of locating a test range there. Dwarka in Gujarat has been found unsuitable for its proximity to Pakistan and the Sagar islands reportedly for their soft soil.

The casualty, thus has to be Baliapal and Bhograi, profess the experts. But unrelenting are the villagers too. The bonds with their ancestral homes are too strong to be snapped easily. And this the government must have realised now.

PHOTOS: EASTERN PRESS AGENCY

CM, Biju talks to end Baliapal stir

Hindustan Times Correspondent

BHUBANESWAR, May 17 — Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik today said that efforts would be made to bring an end to the opposition by the people of Baliapal in Balasore district and impress upon them to allow the setting up of the National Missile Test Range there.

It may be noted that thousands of people of that area have barricaded the proposed site of the range and do not allow any Government officer to enter the area.

The agitationists are demanding shifting of the project elsewhere as this was the most fertile land in the State. The setting up of the project here will lead to unemployment and uprooting of many families. The would be affected families are not convinced with the Government assurances that they would be rehabilitated in model villages and provided adequate compensation.

The agitationists under the leadership of Opposition leader and President of the State unit of Janata Party Biju Patnaik have agreed to have a dialogue with the Government tomorrow at Balasore. Chief Minister will lead the Government delegation.

Mr Patnaik in an informal chat said that it was now three years that people of that area were resisting the project and running a Government of their own and that efforts would be made to persuade them to call off the agitation

and maintain peace in the area.

He pointed out that he was always willing for a peaceful talks with the Opposition parties and the agitationists but the latter were always reluctant to do so.

He said that now they have agreed to hold a meeting and some solution would be found to end the deadlock which was there for the last three years.

Mr Biju Patnaik is reported to have said that efforts would be made to have the project shifted elsewhere and not disturb the families of Baliapal.

Plea to keep Leh identity

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 17 — Minorities Commission member Kushok Bakula today met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and apprised him of the Buddhists' concern in Ladakh over the recent activities of some Christian missionaries in the region.

Mr Bakula handed over a letter to the Prime Minister stating that a Mizoram based Christian missionary organisation had recently taken 50 young Buddhist children from Leh to Srinagar for indoctrination. A book written by a Christian had added fuel to the fire.

He said a peaceful dharna was on at Leh Chowk and so far no State Government Minister had visited the city.

number of families homeless in the sudden storm. The local MLA, Mr Harbhajan Singh Bhaji, visited the affected families in the morning and

the temperature in Celsius, rainfall during past 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since beginning of March 1, AP denotes airport.

Govt firm on missile range at Baliapal

From Rakesh Bhandari

BALASORE (Orissa), May 18 — Normal civil administration is likely to be restored in the Baliapal area of this district soon after a gap of nearly three years.

Thousands of people here had erected a barricade around 60 odd villages, and do not let any Government official inside the villages in protest against the setting up of the national missile test range there.

The people have been demanding shifting of the project as this would render them homeless and jobless.

The Central and State Governments made all efforts to restore administration in the Baliapal area, where the people are running a parallel Government of their own. The State Government represented by Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik, the Opposition parties led by Mr Biju Patnaik, leader of Opposition and president of the State unit of Janata Party, and the agitationists today for the first time, after the project site was announced, met here and discussed the problems relating the missile test range.

The talks were held in most cordial atmosphere and all the parties hoped that an amicable solution would be reached. Meanwhile the agitationists and the Opposition leaders have not changed their stand of having the project shifted elsewhere. The State Government is firm on its stand of having the project here. The people of the area are willing to allow the officials inside the area but will always resist the project.

Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik later told newsmen that all the problems including law and order and functioning of the administration in the area were discussed and hoped that the problem of the people would be solved in a peaceful manner. He said the negotiations would continue till a

settlement was reached. Mr Biju Patnaik said that he would visit the area and discuss with the people about the problems and try to solve the issue.

Asked if the barricade would be lifted, he said that there was no barricading and anybody was free to enter the villages. He said that after today's discussion all the tension in the minds of the people had been released and everybody was happy after the meeting.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the Baliapal issue had to be resolved peacefully and at the earliest and discussions as to how to solve the problems would be held in the next few days. He said today's meeting would lead to a peaceful decision and normal administration would be restored.

The meeting was held in the Circuit House here under heavy police guard, was attended by Chief Secretary N. K. Panda, Home Secretary Vinod Jha, Revenue Minister Jugal Kishore Patnaik, Education Minister J. N. Dash Mohapatra, Labour Minister Bhopal Mohapatra, Orissa Pradesh Congress president K. C. Lenka and other senior Government officials. The Opposition parties were represented by former Chief Minister Nilamani Routray, former Union Ministers Rabi Ray, S. Kundu, member of the Assembly Bhagabat Behra, former legislator Arun Dey, from Baliapal area, and representatives of the Anti-National Test Range Committee.

Mr Arun Dey pointed out that he was happy that the tension had been released after the meeting. He clarified that the people of Baliapal would not let the missile project to be established in the area for that was the most fertile land and thousands of families would lose their homes and jobs. Mr Dey added that the Government officers would be allowed to move inside the villages but the barricade would not be lifted.

Television

May 19

DELHI CHANNEL I: 7.30 p.m. Suprabhat, Rudra Veena by Asad Ali Khan, Samachar, Ulta pulta, A face in the crowd — Kaberi Das (Choreographer), The news, 8.15 Close down, 5.45 p.m. Opening announcement followed by programme in regional language — 'Malayalam', 6.15 Vishwa Darshan, 6.30 Grameen bachchon ke liye, 6.55 Programme highlights, message regarding missing persons and other announcements, 7.00 Grameen mahilaon ke liye, 7.20 Gharelu Nuskhe, 7.30 Bullesha ki kafi: by Fete Ali Khan, 7.40 Bazam, 8.05 Baaton Baaton Mein, 8.35 Zara Sochiye, 8.40 Samachar, 9.00 Udan: Serial in Hindi, 9.30 The news, 9.50 The Enigma of Srinivasa Ramanujam, 10.20 Jashn-E-Kashmir: Cultural Festival in J&K, 10.40 Kabir Bhajan — Anoop Jalota (Relay from Bombay), 11.15 News headlines.

DELHI CHANNELS II: 6.30 p.m. Aap ka bagicha, 6.45 Bachhon ke liye, 7.00 Parichaya: Interview with Neena Gupta — film and stage artist, 7.30 Samachar, 7.40 'Tender is the night' (Serial in English), 8.30 Close down.

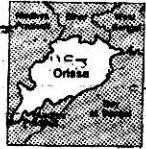
Radio

DELHI: A: 6.10 a.m. Vandana, 6.45 Swasthya Charcha, 7.05 Vichar Bindu, 7.40 Apne Desh Ki Baat, 7.45 Dilli Darshan, 8.10, 11.05 Allauddin Khan: Israj, 10.15 & 5.20, 9.00 p.m. Gouhar Ali: Violin, 10.35 Jayawati Srivastava: Vocal, 12.15 p.m. Jhalki: Dhar Aakhar, 12.30 Mahila Karyakram, 1.11 Aap Ki Pasand, 2.00 Ek Hi Kalakar, 2.20 Chitrapat Sangeet, 7.45 Rozgar Samachar, 8.15 Aap Ki Chithi Mili, 10.30 Sita Venkatachalam: Vocal.

DELHI: B: 6.50 a.m. & 6.55 p.m. Railway Bulletin, 7.30 Sangeet Surabhi: Girja Devi: Vocal, 1.05 p.m. Music by Rachmaninov, 2.11 Music without words, 3.15 & 4.05 Shobha Sharma: Himachali Lok Geet, 3.30 Sita Venkatachalam: Vocal, 6.45 & 8.45 Rajendra Kumar Kachroo: Geet & Ghazlen, 8.20 Radio Newsreel, 9.45 Arias.

Times of India - Delhi - 26/5/88

Will Biju Patnaik pass the Baliapal test?



BHUBANESWAR : Talks held last week between the government, representatives of the opposition and the National Test

Range (NTR) resistance committee have helped defuse the tension that had been building up in and around Baliapal in Balasore district. It also cleared the atmosphere of mistrust, to some extent, according to observers here.

They, however, point out that it will be premature to read too much into the outcome of the talks. Sharp differences persist among the parties involved — between the resistance committee and the Janata leadership and also between Biju Patnaik and his senior colleagues in the party.

There is some satisfaction over the fact that the three parties to the dispute could be brought together. Each of the parties returned from the talks with a sense of achievement — each for its own reasons.

The government side, led by the chief minister, claims that the other two sides — the opposition and the NTR resistance committee — are at last "reconciled to the inevitability of the project" at Baliapal and that its acceptance by the people at large is only a matter of time.

On his return from the talks, the chief minister said much now depends on how successful the leader of the opposition, Biju Patnaik, at whose initiative the marathon exercise was

undertaken last Wednesday is at allaying the fears of the people at Baliapal.

He said the Balasore meeting gave the government its first opportunity to clarify its stand on the eviction and use of police force to acquire land for the project.

Representatives of the NTR resistance committee, on the other hand, consider it no small gain that the government, which was gearing up for action, had to eventually give them an assurance that no one would be evicted until rehabilitation arrangements were completed and the villagers adequately compensated for their losses.

The agitators led by the committee have, however, declined to dismantle the barricades around the project site or allow the entry of official vehicles. As things stand, a formal withdrawal of their three-and-a-half-year agitation appears to be a remote possibility.

Biju Patnaik, if not the entire opposition, feels content about his new role as arbiter and about the fact that the chief minister, with an eight-year-rule to his credit, could not bring about a rapprochement in the Baliapal tangle without his personal involvement in the issue. J. B. Patnaik's failure in this respect is considered a big gain for his arch political rival.

Observers give credit to the chief minister for having created a favourable impact on the people of Baliapal and the committee members by his attempts to allay all misgivings over probable use of force and their imminent eviction.

Biju Patnaik, who had held large public meetings in the area and appealed to the people to fight the project tooth and nail, and had thrown a challenge to the chief minister to face the people of Baliapal, is in an unenviable position himself now. The chief minister deftly turned the tables on Patnaik who found himself with the unpleasant task of persuading the people to change their stand.

The agitators are further impressed by his claim that he had been successful in persuading the defence ministry to cut down the project area from the original 110 sq. km to 68 sq. km covering 54 villages. As a result, 41,000 people would now be affected instead of 75,000, as estimated earlier.

The chief minister even went to the extent of announcing that he would try to have the project area further reduced so that more people are spared the trauma of eviction.

The coastal belt of Balasore district, regarded as the granary of Orissa, earns over Rs. 50 crores a year from

its long stretches of betel vines, coconut, groundnut and paddy fields. The project threatens to engulf about half a lakh hectares of land producing 30,000 tonnes of paddy per year.

Besides farmers, the projected population of 41,000 to be evicted will include traditional village artisans, weavers, petty traders, craftsmen, and other wage earners. More than 1,500 fishermen, whose catches earn Rs. 10 crore a year, will be uprooted from the 30-km coast.

The present project area has 113 educational and other institutions including 13 high schools and a college,

three banks, one sub-post office and about 100 temples.

The project has also posed social problems for the villagers. With the fate of their settlement hanging fire people from outside refuse to enter into negotiations for marriages or real estate deals.

While political controversies centre on the selection of Baliapal and the period when the decision was taken, the people express their misgivings over the government's claims about their Rs. 128-crore rehabilitation scheme on the grounds that it had not been able to successfully rehabilitate the displaced people of Hirakud and Rengali projects all these years.

Political observers are generous in giving credit to the chief minister for having successfully put the ball in Biju Patnaik's court and declining to take on the task of convincing the people of Baliapal about the inevitability of the project.

Biju Patnaik, who had held large public meetings in the area and appealed to the people to fight the project tooth and nail, and had thrown a challenge to the chief minister to face the people of Baliapal, is in an unenviable position himself now.

The chief minister deftly turned the tables on Patnaik, who found himself with the unpleasant task of persuading the people change their stand.

The chief minister has also managed to create a rift in the Janata leadership,

which now stands divided on the project. While several Janata leaders and MLAs do not hesitate to say that they are opposed to dismantling the barricades and will continue to resist the project, Biju Patnaik and others want the agitation withdrawn.

The people of Baliapal, it may be recalled, have been agitating against the project ever since it was announced in 1984. They formed a Khepanastra Pratirodh Committee which has been spearheading the movement. The people set up a 5,000-strong Maran Sena (death squad) professing that its members would sooner die resisting the project than surrender their land.

All notices for the acquisition of land were ignored and the entire area was cordoned off in an attempt to keep the district officials and the police away from the site.

The district collector's writ did not run in the area where a virtually parallel administration came up with popular support.

A six-member panel of "judges" was formed by the committee to dispose of cases as per its rules and regulations. Penalties were imposed on those pronounced "guilty", and in many cases fines up to Rs. 20,000 were imposed.

Roads, school buildings, telephone lines and tubewells could not be repaired and public health department employees did not dare visit the area. Cases of murder and decoity could not be investigated. There has been no let-up in the intensity of the agitation ever since.

Officials' entry into Baliapal blocked

Times of India, Delhi
22/5/85

The Times of India News Service

BHUBANESWAR, May 26: The hopes built up at the talks last week for a reconciliation between the state government and the people of Baliapal block in Balasore district on the controversial National Test Range (NTP) project, received a setback after the agitators denied entry to the district collector, Mr Pitabas Patnaik, and other senior officials into the area yesterday.

After the talks on May 8 among representatives of the government, the opposition and the NTR resistance committee, the official claim that the agitators had agreed to allow district and block officials to enter the project area, gained currency. The area had been barricaded by them for the last three-and-a-half years. The local administration was conspicuous by its absence in Baliapal all this time.

While the agitators had refused to dismantle the barricades at the tripartite talks, it was reportedly decided that they would not obstruct the normal functioning of the administration in the area.

But contrary to the government's claim, the district collector, Mr Pitabas Patnaik, was stopped by the illagers outside the barricade yesterday and requested by the president of the Khepanastra Ghati Pratirodh committee (NTR resistance committee) Mr Brundaban Raj, to desist from forcing his entry into the area. The collector was scheduled to visit a primary health centre at Pratapapur and a college at Jagei inside the barricaded area.

BIJU PATNAIK'S VISIT

The agitators reportedly requested the collector to wait till May 30, when the leader of the opposition, Mr Biju Patnaik, was scheduled to visit Baliapal. The collector was accom-

panied by the DIG, Mr Indrajit Jachuk, the superintendent of police, Mr Sushil Kumar Das, and the sub-divisional officer, Mr Raghunath Singh.

The collector and his entourage later returned to Balasore after their futile attempt to assert authority in the area.

An estimated 5,000 people, including women and children, had congregated near the barricade as news of the district collector's arrival spread. The Janata leader and former Union minister, Mr Samarendra Kundu, and the CPI leader, Mr Arun Dey, later joined the agitators.

The home secretary, Mr Vinod Jha, has regretted that the agitators and their leaders did not cooperate with the district administration despite the understanding reached at the tripartite talks last week.

Meanwhile, the state unit of the Yuva Janata has decided to hold an anti-NTR rally at Baliapal on May 30 even as the state government has been claiming that Mr Biju Patnaik has taken responsibility to persuade the people to accept the reality of the project. Party sources, however, claimed that Mr Patnaik would address the anti-NTR rally.

TNV chief under pressure to give up

By ANIL BHATTACHARJEE

The Times of India News Service

AGARTALA, May 26.

THE Tribal National Volunteers chief, Bijooy Hrankawl, is believed to be under pressure from his wife,

Ceasefire in Indo-Pak war was "ill-timed"

The Times of India News Service

SRINAGAR, May 26: The ceasefire in the 1947 war was ill-timed as Indian forces were in a position to recapture the areas which had been occupied by the Pakistani army.

This was today observed by Lt. Gen. P. S. Wadhwa, chief of staff, northern command, who rose from the ranks of the Jammu and Kashmir militia which was raised by the National Conference to fight the Pak raiders along with the Indian army. Lt. Gen. Wadhwa will be retiring on May 31 after 40 years of distinguished service in the Indian army. His last posting is as chief of the staff, northern command.

Gen Wadhwa was speaking at a farewell organised by the journalistic community of the city.

"Indian forces should have not been stopped at a time when they were in a position to recapture the lost territory. This I can say when I look back on the happenings during that difficult time. Those who accepted the ceasefire must have had their compulsion and understanding of the situation," he observed.

He said the vulnerable points in the Jammu sector which have come to light in the last three wars have now been completely taken care of and the enemy will make a mistake of its lifetime even to think of attacking India.

been gripped by a bitter controversy over its future, aided and abetted by some neighbouring countries, according to reliable reports. Hrankawl is under pressure, allegedly from President Ershad of Bangladesh, where the TNV has its camps. Apprehending a "sudden surrender" by the TNV,

BRCC women

Baliapal project

Hindustan Times
21/3/80

Hindustan Times Correspondent

BHUBANESWAR, May 20—Prof Madhu Dandavate, leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, today said that Janata Party would fight against the setting up of the national test range for rockets project at Baliapal in Balasore district step by step in a Gandhian way.

Addressing newsmen here after a tour of the area, Prof Dandavate pointed out that his party would first persuade the Government to reconsider its decision of setting up the project there as it would cause lot of human miseries and if this move failed then an agitation would be launched.

Referring to the area as "qasis of Orissa", he said that apart from displacement of thousands of people there the State would lose a lot of agricultural and marine produce and this should not be allowed as Orissa was already a poor and backward State.

The Opposition leader said the site would be shifted somewhere in Andamans and Lakshadweep islands and these places had a very small population who could be easily shifted. After talking to a cross section of people in Baliapal, Prof Dandavate felt that the agitation in the area was quite similar to that witnessed for country's freedom.

Prof Dandavate will soon meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and discuss the issue in detail. He will give top most priority to this issue in the next session of Parliament, he added.

"Baliapal should decide whether planning was meant for man or man for planning. This has to be settled once and for all", he said.

Orissa, which has the lowest per capita income in the country, should not be sacrificed.

The committee in its 13th action taken report submitted in Lok Sabha today by its Chairman E. Ayyappa Reddy said the resources available to the

Test range site to be reconsidered

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 21—The Defence Ministry may look for alternative sites for the National Test Range for its missiles programme in view of the strong opposition expressed against the present site in Balasore district in Orissa.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is understood to have given the assurance that the decision on the location of the Rs 300-crore project would be reconsidered.

A Janata Party delegation led by Prof. Madhu Dandavate which met Mr Gandhi suggested that he could pay a visit to the area before a final decision.

It was also proposed that a non-official body of experts which would include Mr H. M. Patel, MP, a former Defence Secretary, would study and recommend alternative sites for the Test Range.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister along with a petition signed by more than a lakh of inhabitants demanding that the project be shifted from Balasore.

It was argued that the agriculturally rich area which produced cashew, betel leaf and coconut in large quantities would be rendered useless, uprooting 110,000 inhabitants of 126 villages and an additional two lakh persons who subsisted on the trade in these commodities.

No relief to private exporters of rice

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 21—No subsidy to the private

continue to play in constructing the local struggle.

The localisation of the struggle in Baliapal is a result of the consolidation of certain economic, political and social processes in one conjuncture. These are, the topographical and historical developments that have restricted the growth of both large landholdings and absentee landlordism, excellent natural resources including fresh water supply all through the year, the spread of cash crop economy and the growth of the market for rice, groundnut, coconut, cashewnut and *paan* (betel-vine), the specific nature of *paan* cultivation which made it possible to cultivate it on homestead land and the significant role played by *paan* traders who by disseminating knowledge regarding *paan* cultivation among the lower non-cultivating castes, were instrumental in expanding its production over large tracts of this area, such that Baliapal *paan* has a monopoly in the market for Banarasi *patta*.

The consolidation of these features was made possible by the increased demand for *paan* leading to a growth in the volume of trade in Baliapal, with demand exceeding supply. This process was dependent on the integration of the local market with the national market. Micro processes in Baliapal occurred in context of the thrust provided by market forces. Two phases in the class dynamics of Baliapal preceded the crystallisation of the agitation. The first was initiated in the early fifties with the slow growth of the cash crop economy among the landed peasantry in this area, consisting mainly of the upper castes—Khandayats, Goalas and Rajus. The changes inaugurated by the extension of the cash crop economy in this area put pressure on land increasing the volume of disputes and creating conditions for the crystallisation of class tensions among the upper castes, given that fertile land was mainly cultivated by the upper caste small and medium peasantry. The mobile upper caste first encroached on the common property land, displacing the herders, the caste of gopals and later on fertile lands of small cultivators, who were mainly Khandayats.

The process of consolidation of the upper peasantry and the displacement of the small cultivators and other castes dependent on common property resources received a set-back after the sixties with the growth in the cultivation and production of *paan*. The first stage in this development occurred when the outsider *paan* traders were eliminated and substituted by the Baliapal traders, thereby establishing direct links between the national and the local market increasing the demand for *paan* in Baliapal. The upper caste peasantry diverted its efforts to the production of *paan*. Two factors intervened to curb the landed upper caste's need to further consolidate landholdings. The first was the fact that *paan* needs

intensive care, nurturing and constant attention. Secondly, *paan* can be grown on small plots of land. The landed peasantry in search of higher incomes found it profitable to cultivate *paan* on the land they had, without aggressively pursuing land consolidation. On the other hand the demand for agricultural labour increased. Initially this demand was met by the small cultivators who however used the knowledge gained to start *paan* production on their small plots of land. Later supply of labour by migrant Santhal cultivators also dried up as they too became *paan* cultivators. As a result wages increased. The second stage in this development took place when the demand for *paan* exceeded local supply. Simultaneously, there was an increase in the number of *paan* traders largely emerging from the upper caste small cultivator stratum. This put pressure to bring more land under *paan* cultivation. In the seventies efforts were made by *paan* traders to induce the non-cultivating lower castes to commence *paan* cultivation.

The early eighties inaugurated a decade of hope for the people of Baliapal, specially its lower caste mobile sections. The market had introduced phenomenal changes giving substantial opportunities to the lower sections of this society. The spread of the market had led to peasantisation. If the fifties had inaugurated processes that began to crystallise class tensions between the upper caste peasantry and the small cultivators, the seventies had deflected this process creating a block of interests whose main goal was the sustenance of the cash crop economy and whose chief architects were *paan* traders.

Given the role that the macro economic processes have played in providing the impetus and context for the consolidation of localised forces, what role does it and can it play today? To answer this question it is necessary to evaluate the political-ideological dimensions of the struggle, its dynamics and its present crisis.

Three features distinguish this aspect of the agitation. These are, its mass character, its independence from political parties, in spite of having obtained support from all political parties and its well articulated ideology of *bheetamaati* that formed the basis for various sections identifying themselves with the struggle.

When Oriya newspapers announced the government's intention to acquire land from Baliapal block to establish the NTR, it was the *paan* traders who initiated discussions to confront this move. With elections on the anvil, the Congress(I) attempted to channelise this discontent by forming the KGPS in December 1984. This committee was dominated by the upper caste peasantry which had crystallised its class interests in the early fifties (this group being the Congress's mainstay) and some big *paan* traders. Though the Congress(I) was able to win the election of 1985 by channelising public opinion

against the NTR, with the then chief minister even campaigning against it, its post-election stance decreased its political influence leading to the reconstitution of the KGPS under the leadership of Gadhagar Giri, an ex-socialist, with the Janata Party and the assembly representative from this constituency in all previous terms.

The new KGPS was dominated mainly by *paan* traders. Of the twelve-member KGPS, eight were *paan* traders, and the other three, apart from Giri represented the upper caste peasantry which had dominated the earlier KGPS. Though the leadership of KGPS rested in the hands of Giri and the *paan* traders, mobilisation was largely done through the fronts of students, youth, women and fisherpeople.

Two political currents integrated the various sections of Baliapal society and the block of interests based on cash crop economy and created a political entity. These currents were represented in two individuals, Gadhagar Giri and Gananiath Patra—the former socialist and a liberal associated with the centrist Janata Party, but because of his grassroots political base was autonomous of factions in the party and the latter a member of the United Centre of Communist Revolutionaries of India, Marxist Leninist (UCCRI(ML)). If Giri's mass appeal helped in mobilising all sections and converting them into a community, Patra's input was in giving the formula for organising the lower classes through the formation of fronts. The two together were able to integrate all sections without disturbing the fine lines of class, caste and gender and political division.

The organisational structure of the KGPS reflected the authority structure of that society and the political dexterity with which Giri manipulated these to provide for lower caste participation in the struggle, while ensuring that control and decision-making remained with the committee managing the KGPS. Below this nominated committee of twelve, was a nominated 229 member general assembly of representatives from villages. As a result representation from the lower castes was meagre with only one woman and a few students and youth, as heads of the fronts, being represented. While the KGPS and the general assembly were empowered to take political decisions and co-ordinate the struggle, the students, youth, women and fisherwomen's fronts were asked to mobilise the masses. While Giri managed the KGPS and the assembly, Patra managed the fronts.

Since land had been an issue of contention and dispute in this region which could divide the struggle, Giri revived the institution of *vichaar*, which used discussion to arrive at a consensus, to deflect divisions. Eight KGPS committee members took charge of and conducted *vichaar* sessions in the eight gram panchayats, the remaining four acting as arbitrators. The constitution of *vichaar* and its proceedings

helped in providing legitimacy to the leadership of the *paan* traders and through them, the upper castes, and provided the context for the binding of various interests into a community, even as it created conditions for the decline of registered police cases and thus restricted the entry of the law and order machinery into the area.

This institutional structure and the political block was defined by the ideology of *bheetamaati*, a word which can be loosely denoted to mean 'home', 'hearth' and the emotions that are rooted in these words. This ideology converted a cultural sentiment for land into a political demand for the absolute right to its continued use through religious-mythological tools. Stories from the puranas and heroic tales of Shiva, Parvati, Durga and Kali were intertwined with political action to confront the state. The fight was thus for *Sonar Maati*, the golden land and for the protection of *Ma*, the mother, who was the symbol of *Prakriti*, nature; a fight conducted by the entire community against the state which wanted to destroy all three: *Sonar Maati*, *Ma* and *Prakriti*.

The articulation of this ideology of *bheetamaati*, in this manner brought out the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of the struggle. It should be noted, though that the ideology as it was articulated and extended during the struggle emphasised economic issues rather than the cultural and the environmental. The concept of the use of land for peaceful purposes remained a weak impulse in the agitation.

KGPS described the nature of economic activities by computing figures of output and turnover as well as profits accruing to the area and its people. These figures were provided by the traders and gave indications of the actual profits of the trading community from the sale of produce of the area. While these figures were no myth, they did mystify the different class stakes on land and did not differentiate between varied incomes earned by different stratas of the society. The political implication of this ideology was clear. As the community had absolute right over land, the KGPS could not negotiate over its parcelling, rather it could only represent the community and influence the state to revoke its decision. This also made possible the creation of a political block against narrow party interests, for the struggle was willing to accommodate any political interest so long as the basic principle that the community had absolute right over land was accepted.

Over the last two years a rupture has occurred both in the political block and the ideology that sustained this struggle, accompanied by a crisis in leadership following the death of Gadhagar Giri in January 1987. While Giri's death set the context for the formal dissociation of Patra from the struggle, the erosion of

personal equations between them had taken place earlier and revolved round questions of strategy and tactics. Most of Patra's intellectual input and suggestions had been accepted and converted by Giri to suit the needs of the struggle as he visualised it. Patra's suggestion to block the entry of government officials by putting gates and physically restraining them was converted by Giri into a strategy of non-violent satyagraha where women and children would lie down on the roads to stop officials and the military. The suggestion to arm the youth did not find favour, nor the suggestion to kidnap Congress(I) workers and hold them to ransom. After Giri's death Patra attempted to implement the last suggestion by bypassing the KGPS leading to a direct confrontation between him and the committee which ousted him from the general assembly and restricted his influence to the fronts.

However, Giri's death and Patra's ouster led to a crisis. This leadership vacuum made it susceptible to external political influences, specially that of the mainstream political parties. This froze the growth of this struggle, diluted its ideological thrust and made it prey to factionalised influences thereby fracturing the block consolidated earlier affected its political will to continue. Within KGPS, three clear political tendencies now crystallised, two affiliated to each of the mainstream parties and the last seeking to remain neutral and none having enough political influence and motive to direct the struggle. As a result the agitation became defensive changing its image and its strategy from confrontation to containment. In this new situation, the KGPS and the assembly hardly met to discuss issues while the fronts became inactive. The only institution that was maintained was that of *vichaar*.

Simultaneously, there was a change in the Congress Party's strategy. The Congress(I) seizing the opportunity of Giri's death attempted to fracture the block by reorganising its traditional supporters, the upper caste peasantry. Their efforts started yielding results when the Janata Party's influence over the committee started increasing with the working president of the KGPS taking all decisions in consultation with Biju Patnaik. The confrontation that was building up actually occurred in the first two weeks of September when the KGPS now under the influence of the Janata Dal supported the Bharat Bandh of August 31, 1989. Some leaders mobilised the people to block transport and trade while the Congress with the help of some *paan* traders attempted to confront this move. For the first time, since the start of this agitation, Baliapal became divided on party lines. This led immediately to a physical show of strength. Anti-social elements from nearby towns entered the area and created an environment of chaos; though there were no deaths, injuries to many and

molestations of some were reported.

Crisis was averted when the neutral section of the leadership intervened and attempted to reconstitute the block mobilising opinion to curb physical confrontation and violence. This timely intervention helped to challenge government's intention to enter the area and introduce its law and order machinery. However, their second move of reconstituting the KGPS in order to involve lower caste participation came to naught. Representation continued to be based on nomination and the Congress influenced upper caste peasantry were able to get a significant proportion of members nominated to the assembly. This led the Janata Dal to dissociate itself from these efforts and the reconstitution of KGPS could not be undertaken.

Following the announcement of elections the Janata Dal candidate was able to get the committee to lift the blockade of Baliapal and let the election machinery enter. His success in the election brought the Janata Dal-dominated section to the fore. The February elections divided this leadership completely. The working president of KGPS resigned because he was not selected as a candidate, the general secretary stood as an independent candidate and the Congress(I) put up a strong candidate and were able to get a higher proportion of votes from Baliapal than they did in the November elections.

This leadership crisis has affected the ideological thrust of the agitation. The consolidation of the block against displacement has been fractured mainly because of the division of the upper castes. Attempts made by a section of leaders not affiliated to parties to reconstitute the block, as mass support had remained faithful, has not yielded fruit because the intervention of mainstream political processes has factionalised the upper caste and class leadership. The Congress(I) influenced local leadership aggressively questions the Janata Dal's silence on this issue on the other hand, the influence of the anti-militarisation elements within the National Front has become marginal. It seems unlikely that the struggle can reconstitute itself, in the form that it had constructed itself, earlier.

Macro economic processes provided the impetus and the context of the growth of the struggle while the intervention of macro-political processes is aiding its slow death. This struggle had posed a significant question of ideology and politics, but its resolution now will be part of the politics of mainstream parties.

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Baliapal Agitation: Leadership Crisis

Sujata Patel

Over the last two years a rupture has occurred both in the political block and ideology that sustained the struggle in Baliapal. A leadership vacuum made the movement susceptible to the influence of political parties and the ensuing factionalisation of the political block froze the growth of the struggle.

THE struggle in Baliapal against the establishment of the National Test Range (NTR), India's first missile testing project, in the Baliapal and Bhogarai blocks of Orissa's Balasore district, is now entering a critical stage. The growth of this agitation has been a significant development in the Indian polity, for, it has been able to mobilise all the inhabitants of the area, cutting across the lines of class, caste, gender and tribal affiliation, on the issue of displacement. In the November elections to the Lok Sabha, the Janata Dal candidate won on the promise of influencing the centre to revoke the decision of the earlier government on this issue. He was able to convince the committee managing the struggle, the Uttara Balasore Khepanashtra Ghati Pratirodh Samiti (KGPS), to lift the restriction on the entry of government officials and let the election machinery enter to conduct the elections. He won and six months after that election the National Front government has remained silent on this question, though the prime minister's statements regarding the need for vigilance and increased defence expenditure provides some indication. Recent press reports from Orissa suggest that the people of Baliapal are reconsidering the nature of their support to the NF government. Does this indicate that the struggle is going to reconstitute itself once again to confront

the state on the issue of NTR? Given that the momentum of the struggle has declined, is it possible for it to reconstitute itself? What are the processes and characteristics aiding or debilitating the further growth of the agitation?

To understand this and to estimate further developments it is necessary to analyse and ascertain the role played by, on the one hand, macro forces that promoted and provided the impetus for the growth of this struggle and the developments and dynamics within the struggle, today, in relation to the changing politico-ideological climate of the country.

The fact that this agitation has remained restricted to the Baliapal block and not spread to the Bhogarai block where thirteen villages are to be acquired in the revised scheme (as against forty-five in Baliapal), indicates the localisation of this struggle. Further, evidence of its specificity lies in the failure of the attempts to mobilise the Chandipur peasants and tenants against the use of the Interim Test Range's facilities for testing missiles (Agni was tested in May 1989). Features specific to the locale of Baliapal have facilitated the growth of the movement, conditions which have to be analysed to understand the present constraints in the movement. Such analysis should contextualise the role that the macro processes have played and

Dec 14 1990 TOI Delhi

METRO

Baliapal's cry : We want our land

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, December 13.

HE seems to have stepped out of the pages of a history book. This frail, old man with a flowing white beard and a voice that cracks with emotions when he speaks of his people and his land.

Mr Brundaban Chandra Raj, president of Uttar Balasore Khyapanasra Ghati Pratirodh Committee, is a living history in many ways. This 72-year-old freedom fighter, who joined the freedom struggle at the tender age of 12 and became a "local legend" during the 1942 movement, is also a man with a mission. He is leading "one of the largest mass movement since the Quit India Movement" in the Baliapal region of Orissa, a region marked out for the establishment of a National Missile Test Range (NTR).

The Baliapal story is an old one and has all the ingredients of a "political tragedy" — a fertile land with a Rs 248 crore economy, uprooted people, an insensitive bureaucracy and a succession of dithering politicians. In August 1984, the defence ministry decided to set up NTR at Baliapal, and the local people protested. A slogan came up — "We do not want a missile range, we want our lands". And leaders like Mr B. C. Raj took up the cause.

UNIQUE PROTEST: The protest of the people of Baliapal was unique. Taking a cue from the Gandhian era, they hit upon the method of "peaceful obstruction". Men, women and children blocked the road leading to their village, town and for the next five years no

politician or bureaucrat was allowed entry.

With the fall of the Rajiv regime, whose ministers had often termed the Baliapal agitation as "anti-national", there was a ray of hope for the local people. The chief minister, Mr Biju Patnaik, reportedly wrote to the Centre and suggested shifting the site from Baliapal to Sunderbans in Bengal. As one of his last official acts as Prime Minister, Mr V. P. Singh also wrote a letter to Mr S. Kundu, M.P., on November 6 and stated that "alternative sites will be examined keeping in mind the overall interest of the country".

But this glimmer of hope was short-lived. On December 7, Mr V. S. Arunachalam, senior scientific adviser to the government of India, denied that there was any move to shift the site. Mr Arunachalam pointed out that the test site was chosen after "careful consideration" and Baliapal was "ideally suited" for setting up an instrumental test range as a national facility for launching missiles and rockets. According to anti-NTR workers, the attitude of the present Prime Minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar, has also been "unsympathetic and unhelpful".

It was the denial of Mr Arunachalam that forced Mr Raj to come all the way to the Capital and speak to newsmen. He spoke in the local language, which had to be translated into English because most newsmen could not understand it. But even without understanding the language of Mr Raj, his message came across loud and clear. As did the pain in his eyes

and the determination of his gestures.

Mr Raj spoke with loving care of the land and the people of Baliapal. He told the city-bound newsmen how Baliapal fishermen catch fish and earn up to Rs. 100 every day. He spoke of the fields of betel leaves, from which the famous Benarsi Paan are made, and of coconut groves and cashewnut trees. He described how the craftsmen of Baliapal weave baskets to earn more than Rs. 40 per day.

ORISSA'S GRANARY: "One-twentyfifth of an acre of land is enough to feed an entire family there and leave a surplus", said Mr Raj. He added, a trace of pride creeping into his voice, "Baliapal is the granary of Orissa. Our fish is sold in Calcutta, our betel leaves, baskets and groundnuts are sent outside Orissa. Our craftsmen and farmers earn foreign currency for the nation. We grow three crops every year and rely mostly on natural irrigation."

But the last five years have not been easy for the people of Baliapal. Says Mr Raj, "During the agitation, the government stopped sending us essential supplies. The attempt was to starve the people into submission. In reply, our people stopped supplying local products to outside places. Despite the economic disruption, the will of the agitators remained firm for three years. This official reprisal further strengthened the movement, with the result that the government has resorted supplies for the last two years."

Mr Raj goes on to describe the

movement. "There is a gate outside Baliapal, which is guarded by local people, irrespective of age and sex. For five years they guarded it and till today the people have refused to allow any administrative vehicle to enter."

"This is the land of our ancestors. We have emotional links with this land. It has given us all we have, it has made us what we are. If any government takes any step to acquire our lands, we will fight to the last child," says Mr Raj. His voice chokes with emotion. He stops to push back the memories and the tears that have gathered in his eyes. Suddenly, he is a tired old man, and his supporters pat him on the back.

But Mr Raj continues, "After the Janata Dal came to power there was no attempt to acquire our lands forcibly. But if ever any such attempt is made, the whole population of Baliapal will resist to the end of their lives.... We cannot be bought over or driven away. We will not be vulnerable. We have put no conditions under which the missile range can be built at Baliapal. Our only condition is that the lands of our forefathers should be left alone."

And so, the peaceful protest of the farmers and fishermen of Baliapal continues. For them, the 102 km to be acquired for NTR is their home, the place where they grew up and where their ancestors died. It is as much a part of their lives as the betel leaves they grow and the prawn they fish. For the defence ministry, however, their land is a bit of statistics "ideally suited for a missile site."

March 1988

Baliapal Agitation: Socio-Economic Background

Sujata Patel

The sustained nature of the agitation against the National Test Range in Baliapal as well as its militancy is to a large extent due to the mass involvement of the people, including the poorer sections. This participation of all sections can in part be explained by the commercialisation of agriculture which has yielded benefits for the rich as well as the poorer classes.

THE last three years have seen the growth of a militant agitation in the coastal district of Orissa, Balasore, against the establishment of the National Test Range (NTR) in its two blocks, Baliapal and Bhograi. The area of the site extends over 102 square kilometres in the two blocks, a major part of it being in Baliapal. It is here that an agitation has been launched which questions the government's right to establish and place a project in an agricultural belt that may turn out to be the most prosperous area in Orissa.

The agitation in Baliapal was formally launched in December 1985 with the formation of the Uttara Balasore Khepanashtra Ghati Pratirodh Samiti (KGPS) and since then has become one of the most militant agitations that this country has seen in recent times. It is an agitation that has been able to mobilise people from all classes in society and has broken down barriers of caste, age and gender in making it a mass agitation. What is most interesting and significant is the fact that it has been able to garner the support of all the mainstream political parties as well as political groups on the fringes of the parliamentary process for its objectives. Active support for the agitation extends all the way from Marxist-Leninist groups to the Congress(I) at the village and the block levels. In a dominant political climate, vitiated by narrow political objectives and considerations of personal gain, the support of a wide spectrum of political parties and groups for the agitation reflects not only the political strength that it commands but also its political maturity for not compromising for narrow political gains.

The twin issues of displacement and rehabilitation have been the source of the growth of many agitations in the country in the recent past. What distinguishes this agitation from others of a similar nature is the mass involvement of all the people in this area irrespective of vertical and horizontal hierarchies as well as its militancy. In no other recent agitation has

every individual in the acquired area got involved so passionately.

An example of this militancy is the incident which led to the gherao and the subsequent banishment of the then collector from the area in March 1986. Some people, thinking that the then collector had come to acquire their land, surrounded him and asked him to leave the area. Barricades were established to restrict his further entry. Later the KGPS took the decision to block the entry of revenue officials into the area by mobilising women and children to make a human barricade. Thus no revenue official has been able to gain access to the area in the last three years even when accompanied by para-military forces. Last May in an operation termed 'Operation Baliapal' an 8,000-strong police and para-military force attempted entry only to be stopped by a human barricade of children and women. Fearing that this would lead to a massacre the government withdrew, but covert attempts at entry continued.

The government retaliated by suspending all developmental work such as the maintenance and extension of the infrastructure like roads, transport and electricity systems and also suspended the implementation of the poverty alleviation schemes. For some time, even the supplies of kerosene and sugar were stopped. Even though the law and order machinery in the form of a police post has remained people have boycotted it, effectively negating any presence of the state in the area. For the last three years, the KGPS has functioned as a *de facto* government, resolving disputes and tensions and managing the barricaded area. And over the last three years, people's commitment to the objective has not diminished. Rather, the government's intransigent attitude has led them to advocate greater militancy.

There is no doubt that the militancy reflected in the agitation is the product of poorer class participation and support. This in turn is related to the nature of the

Baliapal economy and its benefits to people, specially the poorer classes, contemporary phase of development.

The area allocated to NTR in Baliapal block is situated on the crescent shaped coast of north Balasore bordered by two rivers. Geographical topographical attributes have historically hampered the growth of settled agriculture in this area. The continuous change in the river belts and the receding of the sea had on the one hand led to the displacement of entire villages, leading to disputes, and on the other the creation of new land area, which has drawn migrant groups, leading to further tensions over land rights, increasing demand and pressure on land. Presently, the density of the population per square metre stands at 441. Before the 1931 settlement the average landholding size was not very high but after the settlement decreased substantially. Today the Baliapal block is spotted with medium-sized landholdings with very few large holdings. The average landholding is between five to six acres.

Late nineteenth century records indicate that the main cultivating castes were Khandayats and the Rajus. The Khandayats of Orissa are like the Kurmi or Kurma peasant cultivating castes. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century these two cultivating castes were joint migrants from Bengal, the Barajias the Golas, the latter a bigger group who, in addition to acquiring tenancy, settled through the 1934 settlement held harvest land rights called *amal patta*, pattas declared by zamindars. Areas recently cultivated as a result of the receding of the sea. Today the upper strata of Baliapal society are dominated by Rajus, Golas and some Barajias as a section of the Khandayats. It is difficult to find a poorer class Raju or Gola, this is not true of the Khandayats, a caste which is proportionately the largest among all the cultivating castes in the area.

The non-cultivating castes can be divided into those who were in fishing (fisher) sub-divided into four groups, the Khandayats, the Rajus, the Barajias and the Kaivartas, the Bhoomijas (the Sanskrit version Ujjias), the Jhali and the Jali and the artisan castes of Sonai, Tanti, Khumbhar, Barber, Dhobi, Gonds and Domo and Hadi. According to the 1931 census the cultivating upper strata constituted more than 20 per cent of the population. In addition some Scheduled Tribes have settled in this area. They constitute five per cent of the population.

The last twenty years have seen

major changes in the economy of this area as a result of two developments: one, the commercialisation of existing crops like rice and coconut, and of fish and, two, the introduction of new cash crops such as peanut, cashewnut and, most importantly betel vine or paan. The commercialisation of agriculture gave immediate benefits to certain sections of the cultivating peasantry who intensified the use of land for agriculture by introducing lucrative second crops: groundnut, in the northern tracts alternating with til and rice in the southern tracts where there is more than adequate supply of fresh water making irrigation redundant. Government statistics reflect these attributes—irrigation is hardly present, yet HYV rice constitutes a significant proportion of the rice produced. Peanut production is another important feature of the area.

The benefits accrued initially to the upper sections of the peasantry who used their access to land to start second crops. Successful attempts were also made to encroach on gochar land. As a result it is difficult today to find *gochar* land in this block, a process which has effectively displaced the occupation of the Gopals who have stopped maintaining cows and have shifted to cultivation.

What changed the course of the growth of class crystallisation, with its resultant land alienation and increase in sharecropping and the ultimate out-migration was the introduction and the extensive cultivation of paan in addition to that of cashewnut in this block. Paan cultivation was introduced by the Barajia caste who brought it to this area from Bengal. Its spread in the early twentieth century, when it was first introduced, was restricted because of superstitious beliefs regarding its production. However, its production started expanding over the following decades when the Banares paan traders established brokers in this area to buy this paan. This paan known locally as the Jaggi paan (after Lord Jagannath) was marketed as Banaresi patta after it reached Banares, where it changed colour from green to yellow through a heating process.

About 20 years back, this chain of supply broke when paan producers from Baliapal established their own networks of supply of this patta to Delhi, Agra and later to Bombay. Simultaneously, the quality paan market slowly shifted from the north Indian cities to Bombay which started demanding bigger and better quality green patta. The producers-turned-traders from Baliapal tried to keep the Bombay market supplied with these quality goods. They discovered that the best quality paan could be produced half a kilometre from the coast, in the sand dunes skirting the coastal line of the Baliapal block. Once cultivated, it was this varie-

ty that started commanding high prices.

This led to the encroachment of this tract by the cultivating castes. However, they were not the only ones that immediately seized the opportunities. This tract was occupied by the fisherpeople who started experimenting with paan cultivation on their homestead land or on encroached land. They were highly successful in these attempts.

Paan can be intensively cultivated in small tracts of land. A paan *baraj* (a *baraj* is a bamboo enclosure in which rows of betel vine are grown) can be as small as 3 decimals (1 decimal = .01 acre). Its maximum size is 16 decimals. A three decimal-size paan *baraj* can yield profits; at current prices yearly income could be Rs 20-22,000 while initial investments are comparatively low.

The introduction of paan was not the only factor responsible for the sudden prosperity of the poorer classes. Along with the growth of paan and cashewnut cultivation, fish also became an important marketable commodity. The demand for fish in the neighbouring districts of Bengal has been increasing at a steady pace with supplies always low, specially after the diversification of certain types of fish for the export market. Orissa being the immediate neighbour and Balasore being the adjoining district soon started supplying the Bengal market. The nature of demand led to the introduction of new technology: new kinds of nets to attract different types of fish and the introduction of deep sea fishing. Also, shrimp cultivation was introduced the area.

These changes together with the introduction of paan, cashewnut trees as well as vegetables and fruits led to an almost radical change in the work and life styles of the lower class population as well to the restructuring of the division of labour in the family. It significantly changed their diet and introduced them to new kinds of food. The enormous profits from paan and cashewnut production and the incomes earned through the main occupation, whether that of fishing or of various artisan activities, made possible considerable economic mobility. Some families were even able to buy cultivable land and start rice production while the artisan castes of Domo and Hadi reaped enormous benefits out of their traditional activity, that of basket making.

As most of these families continued to maintain a stake in their traditional occupation, it was women and children who were now involved in these new economic activities. The burden of maintaining the new crops generally grown on homestead land, usually fell on the women whose sphere of activities now expanded. Among the lower fishing communities, specially the Jhali and the Khejali, the women of

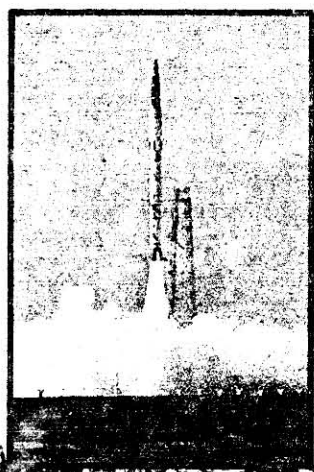
the family also trapped lobsters while the children collected shrimp eggs for sale. The Bhoonija women have been traditionally sellers of fish, selling it either in the local market or in the villages. None of these activities were redistributed, rather other work relating to agriculture increased, giving the poorer class woman a significant stake in the land, the sea and its resources. Their militancy can be traced to these factors.

If the upward mobility of the lower groups in the social structure had started a decade back, its spread to the other sections of this class has been a recent phenomenon. An idea of its extent can be gauged from the fact that not only is it rare to find a cultivating caste which does not produce paan but it is also rare to find any family which is totally dependent on one major occupation as a source of income. If it is not paan, a family is involved in producing cashewnut or vegetables and fruits in addition to fish and selling it in the market. Unfortunately, there are no government statistics which highlight the nature and extent of paan production or that of other cash crops in this area. The only available statistics are quoted in the recent report brought out by the Peoples' Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR), entitled *Bheeta Maati*. It quotes the district agriculture office as indicating that there were more than 10,000 paan *barajas* in the area to be acquired for the NTR in the Baliapal block. This seems to be a gross underestimate. There must be as many as a lakh *barajas* in that area if we depend on the estimate I made after doing a detailed eight-village survey of that area.

If the lower classes used their homestead or encroached land to cultivate paan, cashewnut and initiate other horticultural activities, the upper groups made paan *barajas* near their cultivable land or on land encroached or acquired near the sea. In most cases, the males of the household with additional wage labour tended to their cultivation. It is rare to find the upper groups having more than two paan *barajas*. Paan needs intensive nurturing and most owners prefer to do this personally. When outside labour is used, it is mainly to do the hard work relating to watering which takes place twice or thrice a week. This may be one of the reasons for the lack of monopolisation of paan production by the upper classes in the society with the consequent growth of landlord form of capitalism, the other being the lack of availability of permanent agriculture labour, most non-cultivating castes having started their own cultivation on homestead land. Perhaps for these reasons competitive capitalism seems to have its heyday in this area at this juncture of the development of its economy.

Can V.P. Singh afford to junk the Baliapal National Range project and jeopardise the Indian missile programme?

LAUNCHING PROBLEMS



Agnion on the launching pad: (inset) the missile after it was launched from Chandipur: adding to the country's defence capability.



Politics and national interests do not always go together. The Baliapal National Range project is a classic example. In an era where missiles continue to dictate global realpolitik, there is a general consensus on the need to develop indigenous missile capability. Yet, Opposition politics has found it more expedient to stonewall the missile programme and, in particular, the defence establishment's proposal to locate a National Range at Baliapal in Orissa for test-launching the missiles. Today, the Opposition is in power and it is responsible for preserving the long-term security interests of the country. The point is: can the Opposition government now make domestic political issues subservient to national security needs?

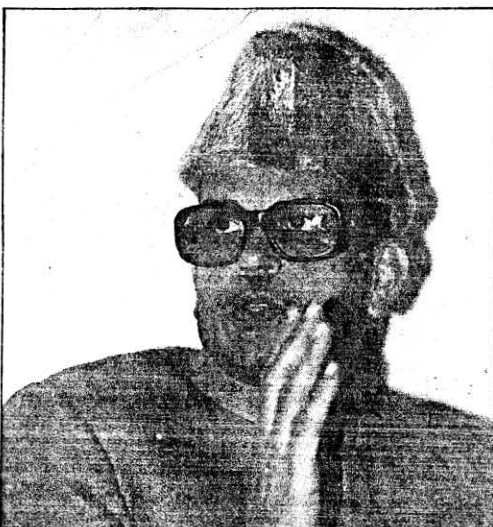
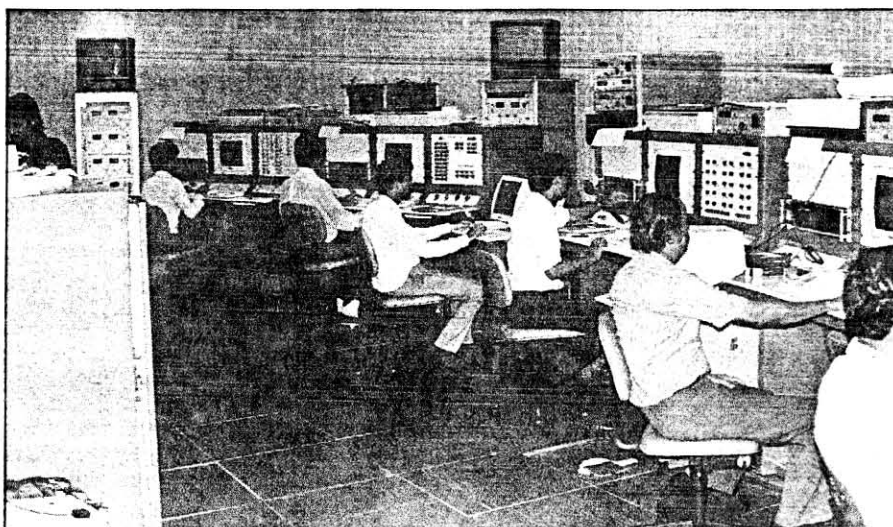
Prime Minister V.P. Singh is clearly in a dilemma. Three important Orissa-based leaders of his party, the Janata Dal, have for the past few years made their political career by opposing the setting up of the National Range at Baliapal. Orissa Janata Dal chief Biju Patnaik has gone to the extent of condemning the entire missile programme on the assumption that it is aimed at developing nuclear capability and two of his top lieutenants, Nilamoni Routray and Samarendra Kundu, have used the issue to organise the residents of Baliapal against the test range proposal. Leading the Baliapal agitation has paid rich political dividends for the Janata Dal in Orissa. In the November 1989 Lok Sabha polls, Kundu won from Balasore (the district in which Baliapal is located) and Routray from the neighbouring Puri seat. Routray has subsequently been inducted into the central Cabinet as health minister.

V.P. Singh seems to appreciate the importance of Baliapal and to avoid controversy has taken the easy way out. When he was asked in Parliament whether the government will go ahead with the Baliapal range proposal, he sidestepped the question and declared that the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), of which the National Range is a part, would continue. But the question is whether he can politically handle the problem. Especially since leaders like Biju Patnaik have openly condemned the Baliapal proposal. Patnaik, in fact, in a letter to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (dated 2 June 1986), had stated: "I am considerably disturbed about starting an

exceedingly high cost test range under the aegis of the defence ministry, the military use of which can only be had by missiles with nuclear warheads...Must India also participate in the ultimate 'crime' of destroying life on this planet."

Patnaik's argument rests on the assumption that the Indian missile programme is aimed at developing missiles for nuclear strikes. This, despite the government's emphasis that none of the five missiles under development are capable of carrying nuclear payloads. Even Agni, the largest missile, is just a 'technology demonstrator' and, unlike the other missiles of the IGMD programme, is not being developed for full-scale production. Patnaik's other assumption is equally fallacious. He contends that by developing missiles capable of carrying nuclear payloads, Baliapal (and, for that matter, the rest of the country) will automatically become a target for nuclear attack by foreign powers. "Why does the defence department feel that the Baliapal site will not some day come under the spectrum of telemetric intervention from the soil of Bangladesh through the 'good offices' of China or USA? What prevents nuclear devastation from being let loose on India from Tibet or Diego Garcia in the event of nuclear conflict in our subcontinent?" Patnaik wrote. Apart from anything else, this argument is naive because it presumes that India is not already under any nuclear threat. Contrary to what Biju Patnaik believes, experience has shown that a nuclear deterrent capability is the best guarantee against military adventurism.

If it is accepted that India needs to develop indigenous missile capability, then the necessity of a test range at Baliapal cannot be denied. For, the fundamental point missed out by the critics of the National Range proposal is that Baliapal is not an optional site. It is the only site available in the entire country for testing long range missiles



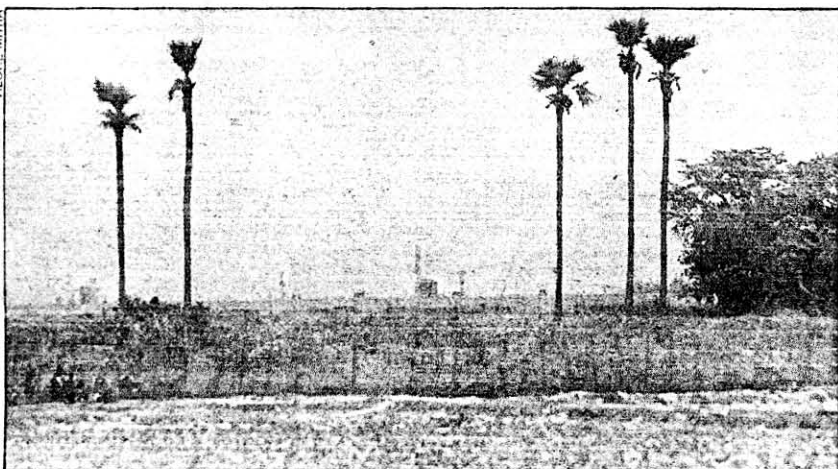
■ (Clockwise from top) The missile tracking station at Chandipur; Biju Patnaik; and, V.P. Singh: in a dilemma

and for satellite launches. As far back as in November 1978, the government had set up a committee to identify a site for the establishment of an in-

strumented test range. A group of experts had surveyed a number of places including Sunderbans in Bengal, the Kanyakumari area in Kerala, the Bhaya in Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Balasore (Orissa) coast. The only suitable site was the Balasore coast. In 1980, the Orissa government had approached the Union government for the necessary land. The then chief minister, who was other than Nilamoni Routray, agreed in principle.

The Baliapal range was proposed as a 'national facility' since it would be used for launching the Indian Research Organisation's (ISRO) polar satellite (PSLV) and stationary (GSLV) launch vehicles. Baliapal, in fact, is more crucial for ISRO's space launches than a

The critics of the National Test Range must realise that Baliapal is the only site available in the country for testing long range missiles



■ (From top) Villagers demonstrating against the Baliapal test range; the National Test Range site: popular movement

else. For many years now, ISRO has been trying to develop rockets which can place large satellites capable of photographing the earth (remote sensing) in polar orbits and to station even larger satellites in orbit over the equator for communication purposes. Till this day, India is dependent on western sources for remote sensing data and launches its communication satellites in French and US rockets. India's ambitious PSLV programme is certain to be seriously jeopardised if the Baliapal project is not completed on time.

Space experts point out that the amount of payload or the size of the satellite the PSLV can put in polar orbit is critically dependent on the place from where it is launched. Baliapal is the only site from where the PSLV rocket can be launched in a longitudinal direction and directly into polar orbit. If, on the contrary, it is launched from Sriharikota, the present ISRO range, the PSLV will have

to be launched in a south-easterly direction and then guided into a polar orbit. This will take far more fuel and its payload consequently will have to be decreased.

Rockets launched from Baliapal can, moreover, be tracked all the way during its ascent into the upper reaches of the atmosphere. During the

P rime Minister V.P. Singh is clearly in a dilemma regarding the missile programme. For, three important Janata Dal leaders from Orissa have made their political career by opposing it

take-off stage, the rockets are tracked optically from the launch site and during the first initial seconds of flight the launch range's instruments can track and receive data from the rocket. But within seconds, the rocket moves out of range and tracking and telemetry (data receiving) stations have to be placed down range. Down the coast from Baliapal, there are a number of telemetry stations already established including one at the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur. Further down the coast, tracking can be done from Sriharikota and from the ISRO station at the Car Nicobar Island.

The Bay of Bengal similarly provides an ideal stretch of sea over which missiles can be fired. This part of the Indian Ocean does not have major international maritime or airlines routes criss-crossing it and during test launches the few existing routes can be closed temporarily without causing much disruption. More important, the Bay of Bengal, is, in a sense, a protected sea. On the western side it can be monitored from peninsular India and in the east there is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands chain. This means that telemetry stations can be set up easily to cover most of the Bay area.

Baliapal, moreover, is located in a 'charmed' meteorological spot. This is an area off the Orissa coast that forms a natural concavity and is not prone to cyclones that frequently develop in the Bay of Bengal. The continental shelf extends to several kilometres into the sea from Chandipur and the shallow waters dampen wind speeds. Consequently, studies shown that at an average between 248 to 280 days a year are available for launches. This is better than what can be obtained at any other site along the eastern coast. Baliapal's greatest advantage, of course, stems from the fact that ballistic missiles can be launched longitudinally. Baliapal is located close to Longitude 87 degrees 20 minutes East and missiles launched from here could have a totally unobstructed trajectory over the sea. In case of failure the missiles would plunge into the sea without raining tonnes of highly explosive fuel on land areas.

S horn of politics and the attendant anti-nuclear rhetoric, opposition to the National Range now revolves around a very simple issue: rehabilitation of the 40,000-odd villagers who

are likely to be displaced. The Centre in conjunction with the Orissa government had come up with a Rs 25 crore rehabilitation plan, which included provisions for homestead land, building model villages with all civic amenities and the setting up of industries that would employ a percentage of the displaced persons. The ambitious plan, however, ignored the fact that the principal livelihood of the locals is the cultivation of highly lucrative cash crops, including betel leaf and cashew. The rehabilitation package contained no provision for alternative cultivable land and consequently was strongly opposed by the local villagers, who have in the past few years become so militant that no official of the district administration are even allowed to enter the Baliapal area.

If the rehabilitation plan was short-sighted, it was chiefly because the state government (under former chief minister J.B. Patnaik) was highly lack-



Nilamoni Routray being sworn in as Union minister: what now?

adaisical in its approach to the entire project. Patnaik did not once visit the area and the state administration made no efforts to find out how the villagers could be best resettled. As one defence ministry official pointed out: "Considering that the Government of India is prepared to spend hundreds of crores on the National Range, it is hardly conceivable that it would have demurred in spending a few extra crores on rehabilitation." Some defence ministry officials have studied the problem and have found

out that betel leaf and cashew cultivation was no traditional to the Baliapa region but was introduced by the state government a couple of decades ago. These officials say that hundreds of acres of unoccupied land is available north of Baliapal where the affected villagers can be resettled.

What seems to be lacking in the circumstances is the requisite political will. The previous government, despite championing the National Range proposal, did little to solve the immediate problems on the ground. Instead, it compromised by setting up much smaller and inadequate Interim Test Range at Chandipur, a few kilometres downstream from Baliapa. The present government, in contrast, is even more handicapped. The setting up of the National Range will depend largely on whether V.P. Singh chooses to play the role of a politician or statesman. ●

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BALIAPAL TEST RANGE : PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

By KAVALJIT SINGH *

Quite often, the government's choice of various project sites is devoid of human considerations and leads to avoidable human misery. The decision of the Government of India to establish the National Testing Range (NTR) project at Baliapal and Bhograi blocks in the Balasore district of Orissa is an example of this. In spite of serious protests by many eminent citizens to reconsider the decision, the government wants to displace nearly one lakh people from their traditional agricultural land and establish a ballistic missile base—ostensibly to test the missiles that the country is now about to produce.

The Government has maintained a great deal of secrecy about the exact structure of the NTR project. According to defence sources, the total cost of the project would be around Rs. 4,000 crores. The project will involve 350 km. of the Orissa coast - from Baliapal in the north to Chilika lake in the south. Missiles with a range of 150-200 km. will be tested in the beginning and the radars would also have the same tracking range. The Nilgiri Hills, barely 35 km. south-west of Baliapal, will be developed as the central tracking station and Baliapal-Bhograi will function as the infra-^{str}uct^{ur}al and managerial core of the project. Meanwhile, construction work at Nilgiri Hills has already begun and an abandoned air-force base, constructed during World War II at Rasgobindpur, 35 km. west of Baliapal, is being renovated.

* Society for Participatory Research in Asia, 45, Sainik Farm, Khanpur, New Delhi - 110 062.

Baliapal and Bhograi blocks are a strip of land on the south and north of the mouth of Subernekhra river as it meets the Bay of Bengal. These blocks have the highest density of 441 and 538 persons per square km. respectively against Orissa's average density of 151 persons per sq. km. Known as the granary of Orissa, the area has fertile agricultural land. At current prices, an acre of land costs between Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 75,000. Bet^eal leaf, groundnut, cashewnut and coconut are the major crops. Fish catch is very high as the coastal zone is ^{relatively un-} ~~least~~ disturbed by naval traffic.

To understand the exact magnitude of the displacement the Ganatan-
trik Adhikar Suraksha Sangathan (G.A.S.S.), Orissa, affiliated to the
All-India Federation of Organisations for Democratic Rights (AIFOFR)
sent a team on ^a fact-finding mission to Baliapal and to submit a
report to the nation highlighting the problem of the democratic
rights of the people. The terms of reference of the fact-finding
team were ^{the} following :-

- a) to assess the human problem;
- b) to weigh the pros and cons of the proposed defence base; and
- c) to gauge the psychological problems of the uprooted humanity
of that area for generations to come.

The team visited 25 populous villages of Baliapal block and held meetings with about 35,000 people in various gatherings. Prior to this visit, village-survey parties surveyed the area in advance, made an inventory of productive and valuable things and brought out a detailed report. The important findings of the report are given in the following tables : (Table-A, B and C)

Suicide squads formed at Baliapal

From Our Special
Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, April 24: The National Test Range resistance committee has stepped up the recruitment of volunteers for suicide squads in Baliapal area of Balasore district, which has been virtually under its control for over two-and-a-half years.

The committee leaders feel the government, which is preparing to dispatch its official teams to the area, may attempt to move into the area on May 2, when a large Congress(I) rally is scheduled to be held at Baliapal block headquarters, just outside the proposed National Test Range site. This will, however, depend on the turnout at the rally, where government officers and policemen will be present in adequate strength.

According to the chairman of the test range resistance committee, over 1000 people enrolled themselves in the suicide

squads during the current village-to-village recruitment drive. The number of the volunteers—mostly students, young men and women—would soon reach 5000, he said. He added that each village would have a suicide unit.

The government started gearing up its machinery to en-

he also had talks with high-ranking officials and ministers from Balasore district.

The government's first move would be to enter the site and re-establish the government's authority over the local populace. The resistance committee has been virtually running a parallel administration in the area,

base," they have been barring everyone from the zone, except those recommended by the resistance committee.

The committee has taken charge of law and order and the essential administrative jobs, like auctioning of fishing zones and cashewnut fields. The people have not been paying taxes to the government and have denied themselves the benefits of the development projects.

If the government succeeds in regaining its hold over the area, the most difficult task of acquiring the lands for the defence project would remain to be accomplished. The government feels that once the land is acquired and the villagers accept the compensation, it would become much easier to evict the people. A public relations drive is being mounted to convince the people that they would be paid adequate compensation and rehabilitated in the "model villages" now under construction.

FOCUS

ter the area after the chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik's recent visit to Balasore, where he said the administrative deadlock in Baliapal would not be tolerated any longer. Following the defence minister, Mr K.C. Pant's advice last month to expedite implementation of the delayed test range project, Mr Patnaik held a series of discussions with the district officials and his partymen at Balasore. Earlier,

posing a challenge to the Patnaik government, which has so far not confronted the situation for fear of large-scale violence.

The committee volunteers, who broadly speaking, include almost all the residents of the area, have been guarding the "no entry" gates erected at strategic points. With slogans like "We would rather die than leave our native land" and "We want our land and not a military

The Telegraph 7/6/87

Balasore lives in fear of stray missiles

Bhubaneswar, June 6 (UNI): The upcoming National Missile Test Range (NTR) at Baliapal, the Proof and Experimental Organisation (PEO) of the Defence and Research Development Organisation at Chandipur, 16 km away and now the Interim Test Range (ITR), also at Chandipur, have all compounded the Balasore district people's fears.

The people have peacefully lived with the PEO but have been resenting the establishment of the NTR, as it will uproot thousands of them. But the ITR has come to them as a new phenomenon.

The defence ministry recently announced in Delhi that it had successfully tested a powerful missile in April, and that another would be tested in July from the ITR at Chandipur, very near to Balasore town. It also said that future testing would require temporary evacuation of the local population.

This has left the people, including those of Balasore town, restless. The CPI leader, Mr Arun Dey, their spokesman, told a news conference here yesterday

that the defence ministry's denial of their earlier allegation that testing had started from the ITR without demarcating the safety zone had further complicated the situation.

The ministry clarified that whatever activities went on at Chandipur were a part of, and followed the original design of, the NTR. It claimed that the concrete structures that were being built there were for the safety of the inhabitants.

The chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, had, at a public meeting at Balasore recently, accused "frustrated Opposition leaders" of trying to mislead the Balasore people about the range, and warned of stern action against mischief-mongers.

Mr Dey said the report on testing long and medium range missiles from the ITR, necessitating shifting of population, had struck panic in the people of Balasore town and the adjoining Chandipur, Gadupahi, Jaydev Kasaba Pahi, Nidhipada and Inchudi areas, especially because the testing had commenced without demarcating the safety

zone as required under the Field Artillery Practices and Firing Act and the Seaward Artillery Act.

Missiles off course

Mr Dey alleged that the tests already carried out in April were not a success as claimed by the defence department. Some of them had failed to produce the desired results, giving rise to the fear that powerful missiles test-fired in future could as well hit unspecified objects.

He alleged that some of the missiles were "truant" ones, leaving scientists engaged in the testing confused, and some missile spoils reached Basudevpur, about 50 km away from the testing site. Several people experienced a shower of metal particles, though no casualty was reported.

The CPI leader also expressed grave concern at the ITR's reported move to have nuclear missiles tests at Chandipur in the coming months. "This will not only seriously affect the environment, but also affect nearly five lakh fishermen living between Chowmukh and Dhamra,"

he said.

Mr Dey said the defence ministry's leaflet indicating its intention to build a road along the sea between Baliapal and Dhamra only confirmed popular suspicion that days of marine fishing along the Balasore coastline were numbered once the ITR and NTR functioned regularly.

He said non-specification of safety zones gave rise to the apprehension that large areas, including the outskirts of Balasore town and the entire Chandipur area, would be included in the ranges. He wondered if ITR authorities had indicated the safety zone to the state government.

He expressed surprise over the fact that the state government and the defence department kept silent despite newspaper reports quoting Maj. Satish Chandra, in-charge of defence planning in Orissa, about test-firing from the ranges. He demanded that the state government immediately take the Balasore people into confidence about the whole matter.

Protesters turn militant in 10/6/87 test range zone

From S. P. Nanda

Balasore, June 9: The resistance movement against the national test range (NTR) in the Baliapal area turned more militant late last month, with the kidnapping of the Balasore district Youth Congress(I) president, Mr. Jayanarayan Mohanty, a supporter of the project.

Mr Mohanty was kidnapped by hardliners among the agitationists, confined to a room and assaulted. The police managed to rescue him after several hours of confinement only with the help of other leaders of NTR movement. However, it has not yet dared to arrest the abductors, fearing that the agitation would then intensify further.

For the first time, too, two ministers belonging to Balasore district, Mr. Jadunath Dash Mohapatra and Mr. Bhupal Mohapatra, failed to attend a high school function in the Baliapal area (but outside the NTR site) as about 10,000 residents from the proposed NTR zone obstructed the road protesting against the location of the test range and their resultant eviction.

Taxes not paid

The state government has failed miserably in its attempts to "persuade" the people of Baliapal to accept the project and agree to their displacement. The special public relations officer posted at Baliapal three months ago with fairly adequate manpower and transport facilities has chosen not to move into the NTR site in the face of the movement. No other officials of the government have been able to enter the area either during the last one-and-a-half years.

The non-cooperation of the people with the government machinery in the form of non-payment of taxes continues. The government has retaliated with

The Telegraph
an unannounced restriction of supplies of essential commodities and stoppage of development work.

The government's obvious intention to demoralise the people has not achieved the desired result, but on the other hand has left people more antagonised and agitated.

Land acquisition

The government's plan was to acquire the entire land of the NTR site by the end of summer next year (1988). The chief minister, however, made a statement last year that the land acquisition would be deferred till the people were ready to accept the plan for their rehabilitation elsewhere.

The CPI's Mr. Arun Dey, a prominent leader of the resistance movement, has said that the government now intended to evacuate the Baliapal people by the end of this year (1987) itself, after starting the process of land acquisition around the Durga Puja time. He has reiterated his demand that the government first honour its commitment to persuade the people that their eviction was in their own interest.

CM avoids visit

The chief minister, Mr. J.B. Patnaik, has been avoiding visiting Baliapal to meet the people and explain to them the justification of the project's location there. He has remained silent about his long overdue trip to Baliapal, after the last-minute deferment of his much-publicised scheduled visit in the latter part of last year, under the plea of heavy rains. To add to his embarrassment and fear, the local Congress(I) MLA, Mr. Yudhisthir Jena, has now turned as strong critic of the NTR as any Opposition politician. Mr. Patnaik undertook a three-day tour of Balasore district last month.

Test range stir spreads beyond Baliapal area

From S.P. Nanda

Baliapal, June 8: The resistance movement against the proposed location of the National Test Range (NTR) at Baliapal in coastal Balasore district has assumed a new dimension with the disclosure by the defence ministry this week that the ongoing Interim Test Range (ITR) project at Chandipur, near Balasore, is part of the NTR.

The people of Baliapal got powerful support from the people of Balasore town, which observed a total bandh on June 1 in protest against the location of the ITR at Chandipur, which is only 3 kms from the district headquarters town. Hitherto, the people of Balasore had given only lukewarm support to the residents of Baliapal, after the government had explained to them that the NTR project would not affect them but would instead help in the development of the district.

Observers here feel that, the government's efforts to isolate the people of Baliapal from the residents of Balasore town and other areas of the district will fail totally. The June 1 bandh was an unexpected measure of success despite the arrest of the leaders of the NTR resistance movement, particularly Mr. Arun Dey of the CPI and Mr. Samarendra Kundu of the Janata Party, and also despite the presence in the town since the previous night of the chief minister, Mr. J.B. Patnaik.

Fear turns to panic

The fear of the Balasore residents emanated from the statement of the minister of state for defence, Mr. Arun Singh, in Parliament in April that a surface-to-air missile had been successfully tested at Chandipur. The fear developed into panic when Maj-Gen. Satish Chandra, director of the NTR project, indicated to the press in May that the testing of the powerful missiles would necessitate shifting of the local population elsewhere and removal of the concrete civilian structures. Mr. Arun Dey reminded newsmen that the spoils of some missiles tested in early April had landed at Basudevpur, about 50 kms from Chandipur, with the local people "experiencing a shower of particles, including metal pieces." No damage to any property was, however, reported.

'Half-truth'

Adding to the sense of panic was the press reports from Delhi in early May quoting experts working on the ITR that no safe-

ty zone had been demarcated to Chandipur. It was only after the Balasore people's reaction was manifest through the June 1 bandh that the defence ministry issued a release denying the report about the non-demarcation of the safety zone. The release, however, said a compound wall was being constructed to ensure safety of the people. This has not dispelled suspicions and the defence ministry's clarification is regarded as at best a "half-truth."

CM's remark confusing

The people here had so far been given the impression that the NTR would be confined to the Baliapal-Bhograi areas. The chief minister, Mr. J.B. Patnaik, announced at a Congress(I) workers convention at Balasore on June 1, that the NTR would not be shifted to Chandipur. But his statement has only confused people in the light of the disclosure that the ITR is part of the "originally planned" NTR at Baliapal.

Mr. J.B. Patnaik had never mentioned the NTR-ITR link and so there is suspicion that the government is not revealing the whole truth. Some of the areas left out from the proposed NTR site during a review about a year ago might gradually be included in it.

As far as the ITR is concerned people in areas adjoining Balasore town have also begun to press fears about their eviction in the near future. They also feel that the ITR-NTR project would rob several lakhs of fishermen of their sources of livelihood and that the age-old marine fishing in Balasore district, on a wide stretch between Chowmukh in the north and Dharma in the south, would come to an end.

28 die of cholera in Kerala

Trivandrum, June 8 (PTI): The health minister, Mr. A.C. Shanmugasundaram, today informed the Kerala Assembly that 28 persons had died of cholera in Palghat district in the last few weeks.

He said 3617 cases of gastroenteritis and cholera had so far been reported from the district. All arrangements had been made to provide medicines and other relief measures to the victims.

A team from the Trivandrum Medical College had visited the area and the situation was now under control, the minister said, adding that anti-cholera operations would be continued.

Balasore rocket test range project resented

ORISSA

Bhubaneswar: No proposed location of a government project in Orissa has provoked such strong resistance from local residents in recent years as that of the national rocket test range at Baliapal in Balasore district. With the chief minister, Mr J. B. Patnaik, repeatedly announcing his government's determination to extend all assistance in constructing the Union government's defence establishment, there are increasing signs of a movement taking shape in the coastal north Balasore areas of Baliapal and Bhograi where nearly one lakh people have to be displaced in the event of the proposal being implemented.

The strongest warning against going ahead with the scheme has come from Dr Harekrushna Mahatab, former chief minister and the head of the state's second largest circulated daily newspaper, *Prajatantra*, who announced at a news conference last week that there was a distinct possibility of "bloodshed" if the government did not withdraw its proposal. Dr Mahatab, who hails from the Balasore district has, in all effect, furthered the Janata Party-led stir against the proposed defence establishment with his large following in the district and a major newspaper at his command.

That the local people are up in arms against the scheme is well evident from the massive response to several public rallies organised by the Janata Party in the area during the recent months. Hundreds of women came out in a procession during Mr Biju Patnaik's

visit to the area. While the former state minister for external affairs, Mr Samarendra Kundu, has already organised a series of agitational programmes, Mr Gadadhar Giri, a former legislator of the area, has announced that the defence establishment could be set up "only on my corpse."

Judging from the feeling of the people to be affected, it is but natural that the Opposition politicians would take full advantage of the situation. The ruling party leaders' counter-argument that the scheme was

approved during the Janata regime is hardly helping them to absolve themselves of the responsibility. Political observers here feel that in the event of a fresh Assembly election, not only will the two north Balasore constituencies of Jaleswar and Bhograi be lost to the Congress(I), but almost all the 12 seats of the Balasore district as well. All the two Lok Sabha seats and 12 Assembly seats in the district went to the ruling party in the last polls.

Wooing legislators: This is one of the reasons why the

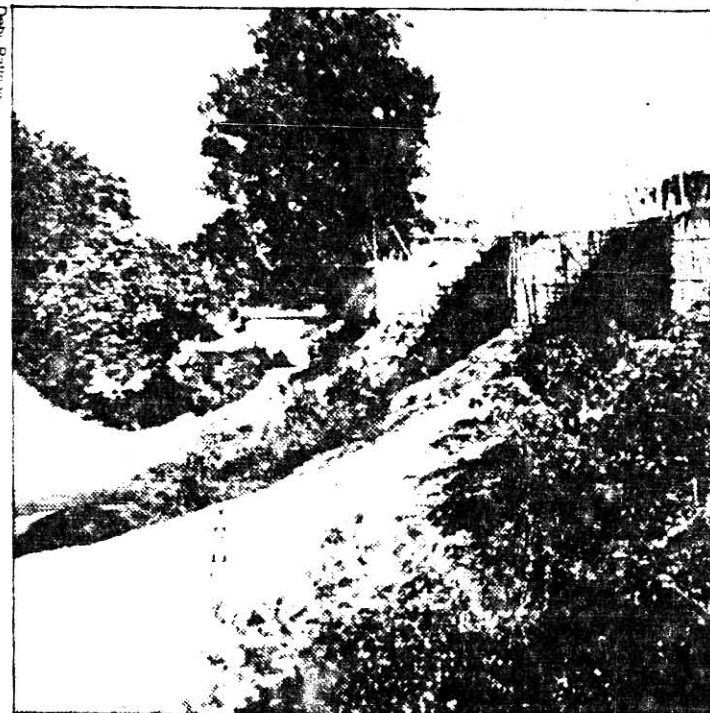
chief minister has inducted as many as three members from the Balasore district into his ministry—the largest ministerial representation given to any district. While the ministers have not reacted to the implementation of the scheme, the few legislators who were previously critical of it are of late silent in the face of the chief minister's announcement to go ahead with the project. This provoked Dr Mahatab to react sharply that the legislators were "cowards" and the ministers had no time to think

of the people as they were preoccupied with "laying foundation stones of laboratories."

The proposed location of the national rocket test range is to cover a densely populated area of 170 sq km depriving people of about 12,000 families of their traditional sources of livelihood. The area includes nearly 30,000 acres of private land where paddy, betel leaf, cashewnut, groundnut and coconut crops grow. Besides, a large number of people depend on fishing in the sea and the river Subarnarekha. Construction of the test range will also deprive the people of their existing educational institutions—one college, 20 high schools, 50 middle schools and many more primary schools.

The people of the Baliapal-Bhograi area, who are highly politically conscious, are averse to the idea of losing their hearths and homes for a project which, Dr Mahatab argues, can be set up in a thinly populated area like the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Moreover, the compensation of Rs 17 crores for alternative employment facilities in rehabilitation zones is considered to be too meagre a provision, which would reduce the people to perpetual poverty and misery. No specific rehabilitation measures seem to have been planned yet. Further, the compensation for the land to be lost has been estimated at the 1971 price, which is claimed to be 10 times lower than the present rate.

S. P. Nanda



A woman who is among more than a lakh of people to be displaced from the Baliapal area, pleading against the implementation of the project (left), and a part of the 30-km stretch of land under betel cultivation, which is to be acquired for the national rocket test range

ମାଧ୍ୟମ
 ବାମନ

ବାଲିଆପାଳ : ଅଭିଯାନ ପାଇଁ ଆକର୍ଷଣ

ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର, ତା ୨। ୬-୧୯୫୫
 କିଛି ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହେବାକୁ
 ଥିବା ବାବଦରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦେବା
 ଯେଉଁ ଲୋକମାନେ ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବେ,
 ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଅଭିଯାନ ପାଇଁ ହେଉଥିବା
 ବହୁକୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ
 ଆଶେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତୁ । ଏହି ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବର ଅର୍ଥ
 ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲିଆପାଳ ବୃକ୍ଷର ଏକ ଓ
 ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ବୃକ୍ଷର ଗୁଣ ଗ୍ରାମର ମୋଟ
 ୪୧ ହଜାର ଲୋକ ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବେ ।
 ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବାକୁ ଏକା ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର
 ପୁନର୍ବାସନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ ନ ହେବା
 ପାଇଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
 ବାଲିଆପାଳ ନିକଟରେ ଏକ ବିସ୍ତୃତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ
 ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ
 ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ କିଆରି ହେଉଛି ଏବଂ
 ଏହି ଗ୍ରାମଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଅଭିଯାନ ହେବାକୁ
 ଥିବା ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତ
 ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବାକୁ
 ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ଏହା ବ୍ୟତୀତ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମ ନିକଟରେ
 ଗୁରୋଟି ମଧ୍ୟମ ଧରଣର ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା
 କରି ଗାଁ ଗାଁ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ
 ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ଅଭିଯାନର ସୁଯୋଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି
 କରିବାକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହାତକୁ
 ନିଆଯାଉଛି ।

ଯେଉଁ ଲୋକମାନେ ଗାଁ ଗାଁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା
 ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର
 ଅଭିଯାନ ପାଇଁ ପୁରୁଣା ଗ୍ରାମଗୁଡ଼ିକରୁ
 ୧୦ରୁ ୧୫କିଲୋମିଟର ଦୂରରେ ନୂଆ ଆଦର୍ଶ
 ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିବାକୁ ସରକାର
 ନୀତିଗତଭାବେ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେଇଛନ୍ତି ।
 ସୂଚନା- ଓଡ଼ିଶା 'କୋଷ୍ଠକେମାଲ'ର
 ପୃଷ୍ଠପଟେ ଥିବା ୧୮ଟି ଗ୍ରାମକୁ ଏହି
 ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଇଁ ମୋଟ
 ୨୨୭ ଦଶମିକ ୫୧ ଏକର ଜମି ଦଖଲ କରା-
 ଯିବ ଏବଂ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତିକୃତି ହାରରେ
 ମୋଟ ୩୩ ଦଶମିକ ୨୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା
 ସଂପ୍ରତି ଜମି ମାଲିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଳ୍କପ୍ରଦାନ
 ଆକାରରେ ଦିଆଯିବ । ଏଥି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ
 ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ୨୭ ଦଶମିକ ୮୮ ଏକର
 ଜମି ଦଖଲ କରାଯାଇଛି ଏବଂ ବାବଦରେ
 ମୋଟ ୩୪ ଦଶମିକ ୨୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା
 ବାଲିଆପାଳ ବୃକ୍ଷର ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବାର ଓ
 ବାହାବଲପୁର ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଳ୍କପ୍ରଦାନ
 ଆକାରରେ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଜମିକୁ
 ଲଢ଼କୋ ସଂସ୍ଥାକୁ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ
 ତା ୮-୨-୮୮ ଓ ୨୦-୪-୮୮ ତାରିଖରେ
 ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର କରାଯାଇଛି । ସେହିଭଳି
 ଗ୍ରାମ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ଦେଉଳା,

ବାଲିଆପାଳ ବୃକ୍ଷର ବହୁକୋଷ୍ଠାପଦ
 କଟିପାହି, ଗୁଣପୁର, ଶେଡ଼ପୁର, ବଡ଼-
 ସିମୁଳିଆ, ଲୁଗାଲୁଗାପାଳ, ସିମୁଳିଆ,
 ଡୋଳିପାଳ ଓ ନାଦରା ତଥା ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ
 ବୃକ୍ଷର ବର୍ଷାକାଳୀନ, ବିଧାପଦପୁର
 ଏବଂ କୁଷ୍ମନଗର ଆଦି ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀଙ୍କ-
 ଠାରୁ ଯେଉଁ ୪୭୦ ଦଶମିକ ୨୭ ଏକର
 ଜମି ଦଖଲ କରିବାକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ରହିଛି
 ତାହା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ବିଶ୍ୱାସୀନ
 ଥିବା । ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଓ
 ବିଧାପନ ପରେ ଏହି ଜମି ଦଖଲ
 କରାଯିବ । ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଇଁ
 ସର୍ବମୋଟ ୧୭ଟି ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା
 କରାଯାଉଛି ଓ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ୪୦୦
 ପରିବାରକୁ ଅଭିଯାନ କରିବାକୁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା
 କରାଯାଉଛି । ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ
 ଗୃହନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ୧୮ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟ
 କରାଯାଉଛି । ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଏହିସବୁ
 ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମ ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବାରୁ, ଭାବଲପୁର
 ଓ ଦେଉଳା ଗ୍ରାମରେ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
 ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଏହା ଗୁଣପୁର
 ଛକବାଲିଆପାଳ, ବଡ଼ସିମୁଳିଆ ଓ ବଡ଼
 ଥାନାର ଭାବଲପୁର ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଏହି
 ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯିବ । ଆଦର୍ଶ
 ଗ୍ରାମ ହେଲେ ଯୁକ୍ତ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ
 ମଧ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯିବ ।

ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗୃହଗୁଡ଼ିକ ୧୦ ଡେସି-
 ମିଲ ଜମି ଉପରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେବ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ
 ଘର ଗୋଟିଏ ବା ଦୁଇଟି କୋଠା ରହିବ
 ଏବଂ ଏଥିରେ ରୋଷେଇ ଗର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା
 ମଧ୍ୟ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି କୋଠାଘର-
 ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପାଇଁ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ
 ସୁବିଧା ପାଇଁ ଅଧିକା ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଡେସିମିଲ
 ଜମି ମଧ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା
 ଅଛି । ତାହା ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣଙ୍କରେ
 ରାସ୍ତାଘାଟ, ସ୍କୁଲ, ଡାକଘର, ଡାକ-
 ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର, ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ, ଡାକଘର, ଅବ-
 ସର ବିନୋଦନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର, ଖେଳପଡ଼ିଆ ଓ
 ସାଧାରଣ ବୈଠକ ଗୃହ ଆଦି ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ
 ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବାର
 ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଛି । ବାଲିଆପାଳ
 ନିକଟବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବାରୁ, ଦେଉଳା ଓ
 ବାହାବଲପୁର ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଏହି ମଧ୍ୟରେ
 ଏହି ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗ୍ରାମ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ
 ହୋଇଗଲାଣି ।

ଏକ ନୋରାଡ଼ ଯୋଜନା ଅନୁସାରେ
 ବାସନ୍ତୀ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ୮୪୨ ମଧ୍ୟ-
 କାଳୀ ପରିବାରଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯାନ ପାଇଁ
 ବଡ଼ାବଳର ଭାବଲପୁର ଓ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ
 ବୃକ୍ଷର କୁଷ୍ମନଗରରେ ଜମି ଦଖଲ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ପରି-
 ବାରଙ୍କୁ ମାଗଣାରେ ଜାଲ ଓ ମାଛଧରା
 ତୁଳା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯିବ । ତାହା

STOP MISUSE TELEPHONE

INSTALL

Kundlia Re Dolmund Ph

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khach

Buy

ABH DOLAMUNDA

ବାଲିଆପାଳକୁ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ପ୍ରବେଶ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରନ୍ତୁ

୧୯୫୫, ତା ୨୭।୫-ବାଲିଆ-
 ପାଳର ପ୍ରସାବିତ ଗାଁ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ
 ଯିବାକୁ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଗଡ଼କାଲି
 କରିଥିବା ଉଦ୍ୟମକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ବିରୋଧୀ
 ଦଳ ନେତା ଆ ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ତାକୁ
 ନିରା କରିଛନ୍ତି ।
 ସଂପ୍ରତି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଚତୁର୍ଥରେ ଥିବା
 ଆ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଆଜି ସକାଳେ ଏହି ଖବର
 ପାଇବା ପରେ ସେଠାରୁ ଏକ ବିବୃତିରେ
 କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଜେଜେ କଲେଜ ଓ
 ପ୍ରତାପପୁର ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍କୁଲରେ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ
 ଆଳରେ ପୋଲିସ୍ ଅଫିସର ଏବଂ ସଶସ୍ତ୍ର
 ପୋଲିସ୍‌ମାନଙ୍କ ମେଳରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ
 ବାଲିଆପାଳକୁ ଯିବାପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ
 କରିବା ଆଦୌ ଉଚିତ ହୋଇନାହିଁ ।
 ବାଲିଆପାଳ ସମସ୍ୟା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ
 ଗତ ୧୮ ତାରିଖ ଦିନ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରଠାରେ
 ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନଙ୍କ
 ସହ ବିରୋଧୀ ଦଳ ନେତାମାନଙ୍କର
 ପ୍ରଥମ ବୃତ୍ତା ଆଲୋଚନା ପରେ ସେଠା-
 କାର ଉତ୍ତରଦାନ କିଛି ପରିମାଣରେ
 ହ୍ରାସ ପାଇଥିବାବେଳେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ତଥା
 ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କର ଏଭଳି ଚରବିଆ
 ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଉତ୍ତରଦାନକୁ ନିଷିଦ୍ଧ ହେବ ।
 ବଡ଼ାବଳ ବୋଲି ସେ କହିଛନ୍ତି ।
 ଗାଁ ଗାଁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ବିଷୟରେ ବିରୋଧୀ
 ଦଳର ନେତା ଆ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ବିରୋଧୀ
 ପ୍ରତିରୋଧୀମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ
 ନେତାବର୍ଗଙ୍କ ସହ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବେ
 ବୋଲି ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ବୈଠକରେ ସୂଚନା
 ଦେବାପରେ ଓ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଦିନରେ ଗୁରୁ
 ସେ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ତଥାପରି
 ବେଳେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କର ଏ ପ୍ରକାର
 ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟମୂଳକ ଓ ଲୋକ-
 ଭେଦକ୍ଷେପ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ବୋଲି
 ସେ କହିଛନ୍ତି ।
 ଆ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଆଜି ତାଙ୍କର ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିୟା
 ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇଦେବା ସଙ୍ଗେ
 ସଙ୍ଗେ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଚାଲି
 ପୋଲିସ୍ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାହାର କରିନେବା ପାଇଁ
 ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାସନସଚିବ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ
 ଜଣାଇବାକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ଦଳର ସାଧାରଣ
 ସମ୍ପାଦକ ଆ ଶ୍ରୀକାନ୍ତ ଜେନା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ
 ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି । ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ଉତ୍ତରଦାନ
 ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଥିବା ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର କୌଣସି
 ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବେ ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ସେ
 ଆଶାସତ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ।

ମେ ୩୦ ତାରିଖ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ସମାବେଶକୁ ସଫଳ କର

ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯୁବକନିଧିର ନିବେଦନ
 କଟକ, ତା ୨୭।୫-ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯୁବ
 କନିଧି ଆନୁକୁଲ୍ୟରେ ବାଲିଆପାଳ
 ଠାରେ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା କ୍ଷେପଣୀୟ
 ବିରୋଧୀ ସମାବେଶରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର
 ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଯୁବକ ଓ ଛାତ୍ର
 ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ସଫଳ
 କରାଇବାକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯୁବକନିଧିର
 ସଭାପତି ଆ ନଳିନୀକାନ୍ତ ମହାନ୍ତି
 ଏମ.ଏଲ.ଏ ସାଧାରଣ ସଂପାଦକ
 ବିଧାୟକ ଆ ଶ୍ରୀକାନ୍ତ ଜେନା ଓ
 ପୂର୍ବୀ ବହିଦାର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଏକ ବିବୃତି
 ଦେଇ ନିବେଦନ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।
 ଆସନ୍ତା ୩୦ତାରିଖରେ ବାଲିଆ-
 ପାଳଠାରେ କ୍ଷେପଣୀୟ ଗାଁ ଗାଁ
 ବିରୋଧୀ ସମାବେଶରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର
 ଜନପ୍ରିୟ ନେତା ଆ ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟ-
 ନାୟକ ଓ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ କନିଧି ଦଳ
 ସମ୍ପାଦକ ଆମତୀ ମେନକା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ
 ଉଦ୍‌ବୋଧନ ଦେବେ । ରାଜ୍ୟର
 ଯୁବ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ନେତାବୃନ୍ଦ ବାଲିଆପାଳ-
 ସମାଜ ଦୁଃଖ ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦଶାବେଳେ
 ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ୟା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ
 ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଷୟରେ କନିଧି
 ନେତାମାନେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବେ ।
 ସଂପ୍ରତି ବାଲିଆପାଳର ଜନ-
 ସାଧାରଣ ଶାନ୍ତିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓ ଗଣତାନ୍ତ୍ରିକ
 ଉପାୟରେ କ୍ଷେପଣୀୟ ଗାଁ ଗାଁ
 ବିରୋଧରେ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ କରୁଥିବା
 ବେଳେ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ
 ବାବଦର ବ୍ୟାପକ ପୋଲିସ୍
 ଫୋକ ଜରିଆରେ ଆତଙ୍କ ସୃଷ୍ଟି
 କରି ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନକୁ ମୁକାବିଲ
 କରିବାକୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରୁଥିବା ଲଜ୍ଜା-
 ଜନକ ବୋଲି ଉକ୍ତ ନେତାମାନେ
 ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ରାଜ୍ୟର
 ଦୁର୍ବଳ କଳକିତ ସରକାର ସମୁଦ୍ଧ
 ବିକାଶ ଦିଗରେ ବିଫଳ ହୋଇଥିବା
 ବେଳେ ବାଲିଆପାଳର ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ
 ଲୋକଙ୍କର ଉତ୍ତାମାତି ଉଦ୍‌ବେଗ କରି
 ଜନସ୍ୱାର୍ଥବିରୋଧୀ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପମାନ
 ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିବାକୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରୁଥିବା
 ବେଳେ ସୁତରାଫ ଜନଜାଗରଣକୁ
 ଚପାଇ ଦେବା ପାଇଁ ନିରାହ
 ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ଲଠିମାର୍ଦ୍ଦ ଓ ପୋଲିସ୍
 ଫୋକ ମୁତୟନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ
 ନିଜେ ଏଠାରେ ଆଜନ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା
 ସମସ୍ୟା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛନ୍ତି ବୋଲି
 ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।

ସରକାରଙ୍କ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାନୁସାରେ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରୂପେ ଦୃଷ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି । ଗତ ୧୩ ତାରିଖ ଦିନ ଦିଲ୍ଲୀରୁ ଫେରିବା ବାଟରେ ଜଳେ-ଶ୍ୱରଠାରୁ ରେଳରୁ ଦିଶୁଥିଲା । ପୁଲିସ୍ ଡାଏ ଓ ଟ୍ରାକ୍ । ଏକ ଶାନ୍ତ, ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ରତ୍ନପାତ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଆୟୋଜନ । ସମସ୍ତ ନିବେଦନ, ଆବେଦନ ଏବଂ କ୍ଷେପ-ଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ପାଇଁ ଅନ୍ୟ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ସ୍ଥାନର ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦେବା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କର ଗୋଟିଏ “ସ୍ୱର ବାଲିଆପାଳ ହୁଁ କ୍ଷେପଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାନ ।” ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସୁବେଦାର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଶାସନର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଏ ଭିତ୍ତିରେ ଦୁଆ ଦେବାକୁ ବସିବା କାଗାରୁ ଛିଡ଼ାହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଛନ୍ତି । ଉପରକୁ ହାତଟେକି ନେତା କଡ଼ରେ ଡେଇଁବା ତ କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପ୍ରତୀକ ତା’ ପଛକୁ ସେଠା ପ୍ରଶାସନର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ‘ଧରିଆଣିବା’ର ଆଦେଶକୁ ‘ବାନ୍ଧି ପକାଇ’ ଜାହିର କରିବାରେ ସକା ତପ୍ତ । ତା’ ନହେଲେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଫୌଜର ଏ ତାମସା କାହିଁକି ?

ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ଦୁଇ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଓ ମହତାବ ଏବଂ ଗଦାଧର ଗିରି କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିରୋଧ କରି ଆମଠାରୁ ଚିରଦିନ ପାଇଁ ବିଦାୟ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି । ସେଠାରେ ମରଣ ସେନା ଗଢ଼ା ହୋଇ ଘାରିଛି । ଶିଶୁ ଏବଂ ମା, ଭଉଣୀମାନେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ସରକାରୀ ଆକ୍ରମଣକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଅଗ୍ନି ଶପଥ ନେଇ ସାରିଛନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରଶାସନର ମୁଖ୍ୟ କିନ୍ତୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ନିକଟରୁ ସାବାସ୍ ପାଇବାକୁ ପଲଟଣ ସଜାଇ, ଥରକୁ ଥର ବଳପ୍ରୟୋଗ, ଶାସନର ଶକ୍ତି ଖଜାଉବାର ଯୋଜନାରେ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ । ଆଇନ ରକ୍ଷକ ଜାଣିବା ଉଚିତ ଯେ, ଯେଉଁ ପଟ୍ଟ ଉଭେଜନା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୁଏ, ସେହି ସମସ୍ତ ଅବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା, କ୍ଷୟକ୍ଷତି ପାଇଁ ଦାୟୀ ହୁଅନ୍ତି । ବହୁଆଲୋଚନା ଓ ବିରୋଧ ପରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସେ’ଦିନ ସମସ୍ତ ବିରୋଧୀବଳକୁ ଡାକି ଆଲୋଚନା କଲେ । ତାଙ୍କୁ ସାଧୁବାଦ ଜଣାଇବାର କଥା; ମାତ୍ର ଆଲୋଚନାର ଗୁରୁକଡ଼ରେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଫୌଜରଖି ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବାର ତାପସ୍ୟ କଣ ? ପୁଣି ଆଲୋଚନା ସ୍ଥିତି ରହିଥିବା ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଫୌଜ ସେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ପଇଁତରା ମାରି ଉଭେଜନା ବଢ଼ି କରିବାର ଅଭିପ୍ରାୟ କଣ ? ଆଲୋଚନା ସ୍ଥିତି ରହିବା ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ କିଲ୍ଲ ପ୍ରଶାସକ ଶତାଧିକ ପୋଲିସ୍ ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ଅଧିକାରୀ ପ୍ରଶାସକଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ କଲେଜ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ ଆଳରେ ଭିତରକୁ ଯିବାର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକା କାହିଁକି ! ଛଳନା ଓ ପ୍ରତାରଣା କେତେଦିନ ?

ବାଲିଆପାଳ ସଂପର୍କରେ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ଏକ ସ୍ୱରଶିଳା ଗାୟ ପାଉଛି । ସେଥିରେ ଅନେକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ପ୍ରଶ୍ନଟିଏ, “ଭର୍ବର ଭଉଁକୁ ବାନ୍ଧି ବାନ୍ଧି ବନ୍ଧୁ କରିବା ପଛରେ ବିଦେଶୀ ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ ସଂସ୍କାର ହାତ ନାହିଁ କି ?” ଯେଉଁପରି ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ : କ୍ଷେପଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନାର ଅର୍ଥ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ କେଉଁ ପଞ୍ଚବାର୍ଷିକ ଯୋଜନାର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ ? ପାଞ୍ଚଶହ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଯୋଜନାର ଅର୍ଥ ଭିତରେ ଅଛି କି ? ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ : “ସମସ୍ତ ସଂପର୍କ ଓ ବାଲିଆପାଳର ବାର୍ଷିକ ଆୟ ୧୫୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା, ଯାହା ଦେଶ ହରାଇବ ତାକୁ କେବେ ଓ କିପରି ଭରଣା କରାଯିବ ଓ କେତୋଟି ଯୋଜନା ପରେ ? ଯେଉଁ ଶତଶତ ପାନ ଓ ସପର କୁଟୀର ଶିଳ୍ପମାନ ଲୋପ ପାଇଯିବ, ସେ ସବୁତ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଦଶହଜାର ଶିଳ୍ପ ବାହାରେ । କାହିଁ ଏ ସଂପର୍କରେ କୌଣସି ସରକାର ତ ପଦେ ଆମକୁ ସୂଚନା ଦେଲେ ନାହିଁ । ମହାଭବେଶ୍ୟା ନଥିଲେ ସରକାର ନାରବ ରୁହନ୍ତେ ନାହିଁ । ନାରବତାରୁ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟକୁ ଠିକ୍ ବୁଝୁଛୁ ।

ଏ ଲେଖକ ସେତେବେଳେ ବି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରିଥିଲେ ଯଦି ଲେଖକ ପ୍ରତି ସରକାରଙ୍କର ଆକର୍ଷିତତା ଅଛି ତା’ ହେଲେ ସରକାର ବାଲିଆପାଳ ପରି ଏକ ବାସ ଓ ଶୁଷ୍କୋପ-ଯୋଗୀ ଭୂମି ଆଉ ସ୍ଥିର କରନ୍ତୁ । ଥର-ଥାନ ପାଇଁ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରା, କଥା, ପୋଖରୀ, ଘରର ବନ୍ଦୋବସ୍ତ କରନ୍ତୁ । ସମସ୍ୟା ସମାଧାନ କରି ଲେଖକଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିଧାନ କରିବା ପରେ ବାଲିଆପାଳକୁ ଅତିଆର କରନ୍ତୁ । ସୂତା-କଳଟିଏ ଦେଖାଇ, କିଛି ଲେଖକଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଲେଭିତ କଲେ କ’ଣ ହଜାର ହଜାର ମଣିଷ କୋଟି କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଓ ତତ୍ତ୍ୱ

ପୁରୁଷର ଭିତାମାଟି ଛାଡ଼ି ଦେଇ ପ୍ରତାରିତ ହେବେ ।

ଭିତାମାଟି କେହି ଛାଡ଼ିବେ ନାହିଁ । କଂଗ୍ରେସ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଏମ୍. ଏଲ୍. ଏ ଓ ଏମ୍. ପି-ମାନେ ତ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବଂଶମରା ତାହୁଁକ ସାଜିଛନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କ କଥା ନ କହିଲେ ଭଲ । ତା’ ନହେଲେ କେତେଠାରୁ ତ ସେମାନେ ଜନ୍ମମାଟି ରକ୍ଷାପାଇଁ ଲଞ୍ଚପା ଦେଇ ସାର-ତେଣି । ଆମେ ଶାନ୍ତି ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ତେଣୁ କୈଫିୟତ ମଧ୍ୟ ମାଗି ପାରୁନାହିଁ ।

ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କେତେକ ମୌଳିକ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ମନକୁ ଆସୁଛି । ପାଇଁମେଣ୍ଟରେ ବାଲିଆ-ପାଳ ସଂପର୍କରେ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଭୋଟଦାତାଙ୍କୁ ଏ ସଂପର୍କରେ ସୂଚନା ଦିଆଯାଇ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିତ୍ୱର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନିଆ-ଯାଇଥିଲା କି ? ଯଦି ତାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ଉତ୍ତର ଆସେ; ତା ହେଲେ ଭୋଟଦାତାଙ୍କର ମୁଣ୍ଡକଟାଯିବାର ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ପାଇଁମେଣ୍ଟ ନେଇ ପାରିବେ କି ? ଏପରି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ଏକ ସାନ ଭୋଟର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି ଏକ ନିଜଳ ଗଣତନ୍ତ୍ରରେ । ପୁଣି ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ମୌଳିକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ : କ୍ଷେପଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ସୀମା କ’ଣ ଆଜିର ସୀମା ସରହବ କି ? ଗୁରୁପୁରର ବିଗତ ବା ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟ ଓ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଯୋଜନା ସଂପର୍କରେ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରବାସୀ ସଚେତନ । ତେଣୁ ମନରେ ଯେଉଁ ସନ୍ଦେହ ଆସୁଛି ଯେ ଅମର୍ଦ୍ଦା ଗାଁରୁ ନାକଗିରି ଲଗାଯିବ ସମସ୍ତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ କ୍ଷେପଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ, ଏହାକୁ ଅସମ୍ଭାବିତ କରିବାର ଯୁକ୍ତିକ’ଣ ?

ଅନ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଦେଶର ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ପ୍ରତି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ କଲେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ୨୦ ବର୍ଷ ପଛରେ ପଡ଼ିଛି । ସାମରିକ ଗାଟାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ରଖି ଯେ ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗୁଲିଛି, ତାହା ପ୍ରତାରଣା ନୁହେଁ କି ? ସମୟ ହୁଏତ ଆସିବ ଯେତେବେଳେ କୁହାଯିବ ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଓ ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼, ବିହାରରେ ମିଶିବ, ଯେପରି ସିଂହଭୂମିକୁ ମିଶାଇ ଦିଆଗଲା । ତା’ପରେ ସମ୍ବଲପୁର ଓ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର, କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ସହ ମଧ୍ୟ-ପ୍ରଦେଶକୁ ଗୁଲିଯିବ ଓ ଆହୁ ସହିତ କୋରାପୁଟ ମିଶିବାର ଆପରି ଆଉ ରହିବ ନାହିଁ । ସମୁଦ୍ରକୁ ଜିଲାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସାମରିକ ଗଞ୍ଜଟୀ ହୋଇ ରହିଯିବ-ଭାରତର ସାର୍ବଭୌମତ୍ୱ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ।

ଯଦି ଏପରି ଏକ ସନ୍ଦେହ ଆଜି ମନକୁ ଛୁଇଁ ଲାଗି; ତା’ ହେଲେ ଆଉ ଭୟ କଣ ? ଆମ ପାଇଁ ଆଜିର ବଞ୍ଚି ରହିବା ଏବଂ କାଲିର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଭିତରେ ତପାତ କେତେ ? ସେଥିପାଇଁ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଓ ଗନ୍ଧମାର୍ଦ୍ଦନକୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆର ଜାତୀୟତା ଓ ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନର ପ୍ରତୀକ ରୂପେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ ।

ସମ୍ପାଦକ
ଗଜ୍ ନାଗରୀକ ଅଧିକାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ସମିତି
ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ପେନସନଭେଗୀଙ୍କ ଅନୁରା

ସାମରିକ ଗାଟାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ରଖି ଯେ ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗୁଲିଛି, ତାହା ପ୍ରତାରଣା ନୁହେଁ କି ? ସମୟ ହୁଏତ ଆସିବ ଯେତେବେଳେ କୁହାଯିବ ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଓ ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼, ବିହାରରେ ମିଶିବ, ଯେପରି ସିଂହଭୂମିକୁ ମିଶାଇ ଦିଆଗଲା । ତା’ପରେ ସମ୍ବଲପୁର ଓ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର, କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ସହ ମଧ୍ୟ-ପ୍ରଦେଶକୁ ଗୁଲିଯିବ ଓ ଆହୁ ସହିତ କୋରାପୁଟ ମିଶିବାର ଆପରି ଆଉ ରହିବ ନାହିଁ । ସମୁଦ୍ରକୁ ଜିଲାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସାମରିକ ଗଞ୍ଜଟୀ ହୋଇ ରହିଯିବ-ଭାରତର ସାର୍ବଭୌମତ୍ୱ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ।

ଯଦି ଏପରି ଏକ ସନ୍ଦେହ ଆଜି ମନକୁ ଛୁଇଁ ଲାଗି; ତା’ ହେଲେ ଆଉ ଭୟ କଣ ? ଆମ ପାଇଁ ଆଜିର ବଞ୍ଚି ରହିବା ଏବଂ କାଲିର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଭିତରେ ତପାତ କେତେ ? ସେଥିପାଇଁ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଓ ଗନ୍ଧମାର୍ଦ୍ଦନକୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆର ଜାତୀୟତା ଓ ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନର ପ୍ରତୀକ ରୂପେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ ।

ସମ୍ପାଦକ
ଗଜ୍ ନାଗରୀକ ଅଧିକାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ସମିତି
ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ପେନସନଭେଗୀଙ୍କ ଅନୁରା

ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର(ଗଞ୍ଜାମ), ତା ୨୮-୫-
ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ପେନସନଭେଗୀମାନେ ଠିକ ସମୟରେ ଅର୍ଥାତ ନିୟମିତ ପେନସନ ନପାଇବାକୁ ବହୁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ଅସୁବିଧାର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଅଭିଯୋଗ ହେଉଛି ଯେ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟ୍ରେଜରୀ ପେନସନଭେଗୀମାନଙ୍କର ପେନସନ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ କାଗଜପତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବାରଣ କରିବାରୁ ଏହି ଅସୁବିଧା ସୃଷ୍ଟିହୋଇଛି । ଏହି ପେନସନଭେଗୀମାନେ ଜାତୀୟକରଣ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କମାନଙ୍କ ଜରିଆରେ ଏହି ପେନସନ ପାଇଆସୁଥିଲେ । ଅନ୍ୟ ପକ୍ଷରେ ଜାତୀୟକରଣ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କମାନେ ଗିରଜ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କରୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ପାଇବା ପରେ ପେନସନ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ କାଗଜପତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା କରୁନାହା । ଆହୁରିମଧ୍ୟ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ହେଉଛି ଯେ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟ୍ରେଜରୀ ପେନସନ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ କାଗଜପତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବାକୁ ଅର୍ଥ ବିଭାଗ ଦେଇଥିବା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକୁ ଅବମାନନା କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ପେନସନଭେଗୀମାନଙ୍କର ଏକ ପ୍ରତିନିଧି ଦଳ ଗତ ୨୫ ତାରିଖ ଦିନ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟ୍ରେଜରୀ ଅଫିସରଙ୍କୁ ସାକ୍ଷାତକରି ତୁରନ୍ତ ପେନସନ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ କାଗଜପତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଥିଲେ । ମାତ୍ର ଟ୍ରେଜରୀ ଅଫିସର ସିଧାସଳଖ ମନାକରି ଦେଇ-ଥିଲେ । ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ପେନସନଭେଗୀମାନେ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାସନସଚିବ ଏବଂ ଅଧିକାରୀ ସେକ୍ରେଟାରୀଙ୍କୁ ନିବେଦନ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।

T-9 May 26 '88

Will Biju Patnaik pass the Baliapal test?



BHUBANESWAR: Talks held last week between the government, representatives of the opposition and the National Test

Range (NTR) resistance committee have helped defuse the tension that had been building up in and around Baliapal in Balasore district. It also cleared the atmosphere of mistrust, to some extent, according to observers.

They, however, point out that it will be premature to read too much into the outcome of the talks. Sharp differences persist among the parties involved between the resistance committee and the Janata leadership and between Biju Patnaik and his colleagues in the party.

There is some satisfaction over the fact that the three parties to the dispute could be brought together. Each of the parties returned from the talks with a sense of achievement — each for its own reasons.

The government side, led by the chief minister, claims that the other two sides — the opposition and the NTR resistance committee — are at last "reconciled to the inevitability of the project" at Baliapal and that its acceptance by the people at large is only a matter of time.

On his return from the talks, the chief minister said much now depends on how successful the leader of the opposition, Biju Patnaik, at whose initiative the marathon exercise was

undertaken last Wednesday is at allaying the fears of the people at Baliapal.

He said the Balasore meeting gave the government its first opportunity to clarify its stand on the eviction and use of police force to acquire land for the project.

Representatives of the NTR resistance committee, on the other hand, consider it no small gain that the government, which was gearing up for action, had to eventually give them an assurance that no one would be evicted until rehabilitation arrangements were completed and the villagers adequately compensated for their losses.

The agitators led by the committee have, however, declined to dismantle the barricades around the project site or allow the entry of official vehicles. As things stand, a formal withdrawal of their three-and-a-half-year agitation appears to be a remote possibility.

Biju Patnaik, if not the entire opposition, feels content about his new role as arbiter and about the fact that the chief minister, with an eight-year-rule to his credit, could not bring about a rapprochement in the Baliapal tangle without his personal involvement in the issue. J. B. Patnaik's failure in this respect is considered a big gain for his arch political rival.

Observers give credit to the chief minister for having created a favourable impact on the people of Baliapal and the committee members by his attempts to allay all misgivings over probable use of force and their imminent eviction.

Biju Patnaik, who had held large public meetings in the area and appealed to the people to fight the project tooth and nail, and had thrown a challenge to the chief minister to face the people of Baliapal, is in an unenviable position himself now. The chief minister deftly turned the tables on Patnaik who found himself with the unpleasant task of persuading the people to change their stand.

The agitators are further impressed by his claim that he had been successful in persuading the defence ministry to cut down the project area from the original 110 sq. km to 68 sq. km covering 54 villages. As a result, 41,000 people would now be affected instead of 75,000, as estimated earlier.

The chief minister even went to the extent of announcing that he would try to have the project area further reduced so that more people are spared the trauma of eviction.

The coastal belt of Balasore district, regarded as the granary of Orissa, earns over Rs. 50 crores a year from

its long stretches of betel vines, coconut, groundnut and paddy fields. The project threatens to engulf about half a lakh hectares of land producing 30,000 tonnes of paddy per year.

Besides farmers, the projected population of 41,000 to be evicted will include traditional village artisans, weavers, petty traders, craftsmen, and other wage earners. More than 1,500 fishermen, whose catches earn Rs. 10 crore a year, will be uprooted from the 30-km coast.

The present project area has 113 educational and other institutions including 13 high schools and a college,

three banks, one sub-post office and about 100 temples.

The project has also posed social problems for the villagers. With the fate of their settlement hanging fire, people from outside refuse to enter into negotiations for marriages or real estate deals.

While political controversies centre on the selection of Baliapal and the period when the decision was taken, the people express their misgivings over the government's claims about their Rs. 128-crore rehabilitation scheme on the grounds that it had not been able to successfully rehabilitate the displaced people of Hirakud and Rengali projects all these years.

Political observers are generous in giving credit to the chief minister for having successfully put the ball in Biju Patnaik's court and declining to take on the task of convincing the people of Baliapal about the inevitability of the project.

Biju Patnaik, who had held large public meetings in the area and appealed to the people to fight the project tooth and nail, and had thrown a challenge to the chief minister to face the people of Baliapal, is in an unenviable position himself now.

The chief minister deftly turned the tables on Patnaik, who found himself with the unpleasant task of persuading the people change their stand.

The chief minister has also managed to create a rift in the Janata leadership,

which now stands divided on the project. While several Janata leaders and MLAs do not hesitate to say that they are opposed to dismantling the barricades and will continue to resist the project, Biju Patnaik and others want the agitation withdrawn.

The people of Baliapal, it may be recalled, have been agitating against the project ever since it was announced in 1984. They formed a Khepanastra Pratirodh Committee which has been spearheading the movement. The people set up a 5,000-strong Maran Sena (death squad) professing that its members would sooner die resisting the project than surrender their land.

All notices for the acquisition of land were ignored and the entire area was cordoned off in an attempt to keep the district officials and the police away from the site.

The district collector's writ did not run in the area where a virtual parallel administration came up with popular support.

A six-member panel of "judges" was formed by the committee to dispose of cases as per its rules and regulations. Penalties were imposed on those pronounced "guilty" and in many cases fines up to Rs. 20,000 were imposed.

Roads, school buildings, telephonic lines and tubewells could not be repaired and public health department employees did not dare visit the area. Cases of murder and decoity could not be investigated. There has been no let-up in the intensity of the agitation ever since.

କଂଗ୍ରେସ କର୍ମୀ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ: ବାଲିଆପାଳବାସୀଙ୍କ ଘାଟୀ ବିରୋଧୀ କଳାବିବସ୍ଥା ପାଳନ

(ନିଜ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିକତା)

ବସ୍ତା, ତା ୧୫ । ୫-ବାଲିଆ-ପାଳରେ ଗତ ୧୩ ତାରିଖରେ ପୋଲିସ ଘେର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଛି କିନ୍ତୁ କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) କର୍ମୀ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବିତ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ହଜାର ହଜାର ଆବାସ-ବ୍ୟବସାୟକର ତିନୋଟି ପ୍ରବେଶ ପଥରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ଦେବା ଏବଂ 'କଳା ବିବସ୍ଥା' ପାଳିତ ହେବା ଘଟଣା ସମଗ୍ର ଭାରତ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ବାତାବରଣକୁ

ଭରଜମାପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରିଥିଲା । ବସ୍ତା, ବାଲିଆପାଳ, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର ଓ ଭେରଗର କୁକର କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଗତ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨ ତାରିଖରେ ଏଠାରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ହେବାର ଥିଲା; ମାତ୍ର କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟି ପକ୍ଷରୁ ତାହାକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା ଏବଂ ଦଳୀୟ କନ୍ଦକ ଯୋଗୁଁ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀକୁ ବାତିଲ କରି ପରେ ଦିନ ଧାୟୀ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ହଜାର ହଜାର ସଂଖ୍ୟାକ ସମସ୍ତ ପୋଲିସ ଏଠାରେ ରୁଣ୍ଡ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ଫଳରେ ସମଗ୍ର ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପୋଲିସ ଛାଉଣିରେ ପରିଣତ ହୋଇ ଯାଇଥିଲା ।

କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ନାମରେ ଠୁଳ ହୋଇଥିବା ପୋଲିସ ପୌଢ଼ ଘାଟୀ ଭିତରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବା ଯୋଜନା ସରକାର ଶେଷ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ବାତିଲ କରି ଦେଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଧିବାସୀ ତାହାକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରି ନ ଥିଲେ । କାଳିପଦା, ପଞ୍ଚୁ-ପାଲି, ଦାମକୁଣ୍ଡା ପ୍ରବେଶଦ୍ୱାରାରେ ହଜାର ହଜାର ଲୋକ ପୋଲିସ ପ୍ରବେଶକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରି ନିଜ ଭିତା-ମାଟିର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଜଗି ରହିଥିଲେ ।

ବାଲିଆପାଳ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ପଡ଼ିଆରେ କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଚାଲିଥିଲା । ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ତିନି ଜଣ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସର୍ବଶ୍ରୀ ସୁଗଳ-କିଶୋର ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ, ଯଦୁନାଥ ବାଣୀ ମହାପାତ୍ର, ଭୁପାଳଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହା-ପାତ୍ର ଏବଂ ଭେରଗର ବିଧାୟକଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟତୀତ ସମସ୍ତ ବିଧାୟକ ଜିଲ୍ଲା କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସଭାପତି, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବୃଦ୍ଧ ବଂଶୋଦ୍ଧାରକମାନେ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମହିଳା

କଂଗ୍ରେସକର୍ମୀ ଜନତା କର୍ମୀଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବିଶୋଭରେ ସହଯୋଗ କରି-ଥିଲେ । 'ବାଲିଆପାଳରୁ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତର କରାଯାଉ' ଧ୍ବନ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଖାଳମୁହାଣିଠାରେ ବିଶୋଭକାରୀମାନେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବୁଣିପୁରୁଳିକା ପୋଡ଼ିଥିଲେ ।

ଦାମକୁଣ୍ଡା ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବିଶୋଭ କରିବା ଅଭିଯୋଗରେ ଜନତା ଦଳ ନେତା ସର୍ବଶ୍ରୀ ରଘୁନାଥ ମହାନ୍ତି, ଅମିଳ ମହାନ୍ତି, ବିନୋଦ ପାଣି, ସିଂଲାଇରେ ନବକୃଷ୍ଣ ଦାସ, ଗଜେନ୍ଦ୍ର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଉତ୍ତର ଜେନା, ଅଶ୍ୱିନୀ ଗିରି, ବିଶ୍ୱନାଥ ଦାସଙ୍କୁ ପୋଲିସ ଗିରଫ କରିଥିଲେ ।

କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର କଂଗ୍ରେସ କର୍ମୀମାନେ ସଭାରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ନ ଥିବା ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି । ବସ୍ତା, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର, ଭେରଗର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରୁ କଂଗ୍ରେସ କର୍ମୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ଅଣାଯିବାରେ ୫୬ଟି ବସ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।

ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ନିରପରା ପାଇଁ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ଶୁରିପଟେ ଅସ୍ଥାୟୀ ତାରବାଡ଼ ଘେରାଯାଇଥିଲା ।

-୮ ପୃଷ୍ଠା ଦେଖନ୍ତୁ-

ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉଗ୍ରବାଦୀଙ୍କୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ବନ୍ଦପାଇଁ ପାକିସ୍ତାନକୁ ଭାରତର କଡ଼ା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ

ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ, ତା ୧୫ । ୫-ପଞ୍ଜାବରେ ଶିଶୁ ଉଗ୍ରପନ୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ସହଯୋଗ ତୁରନ୍ତ ବନ୍ଦକରିବା ପାଇଁ ପାକିସ୍ତାନକୁ ଭାରତ କଡ଼ା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଇଛି । ଏହା ସହିତ ଶିଶୁ ଉଗ୍ରପନ୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ ପାକିସ୍ତାନ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବାରୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ତଥ୍ୟଗତ ପ୍ରମାଣ ପାକିସ୍ତାନର ଘରୋଇ ସଚିବକଠାରେ ଭାରତ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଜମା-ସାଦିତ ହୋଇଛି ।

ଏଠାରେ ଶୁଣିଥିବା ସାହି-ଭାରତ ସଚିବକ୍ଷେତ୍ରର କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତାରେ ସାମାନ୍ତରେ ନିଶାକୁବ୍ୟ କାରବାର ଶ୍ରେଣୀକିନିଷ୍ଠ

ପ୍ରମୁଖ ପଦ୍ଧତି । ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ପାକ ପ୍ରତିନିଧି ଦଳର ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି ଯେଠାକାର ଘରୋଇ ବିଭାଗ ସଚିବ ସହଯ ଖାଲିଦ ମହମ୍ମଦ । ଗତ ଜୁଲାଇ ଦିନର ପକ୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମୋଟ ଶୁଣିପକ୍ଷା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆଲୋଚନା ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଏହି ଆଲୋଚନା ଦୁଇ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଶେଷ ଦିଆ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।

ଏଠାରେ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ କରାଯାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇ ପାରେ ଯେ କିଏ କଣ କାନ୍ଦୁଥିବା ମାସରେ ଲହୋରଠାରେ ଦୁଇ ଦିନ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏଭଳି ଏକ ସଚିବ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାସ

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପୁଲିସ ଡେପୁଟିର ବାଲିଆପାଳ

ମାପୁଷାର ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟାଂଶ—

ଜିଲ୍ଲା କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସଭାପତି ଶ୍ରୀ ପୁରୁଷୋତ୍ତମ ସେଠୀଙ୍କ ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷତାରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ସଭାରେ ଉଦ୍‌ବୋଧନ ଦେଇ ଗଜସ୍ୱମୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଯୁଗଳକିଶୋର ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ କହିଲେ, ରେଝାଳି, ହୀରକୁଦ ବନ୍ଦି ଯୋଜନାବେଳେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଜନସାଧାରଣ ପ୍ରବଳ ବିରୋଧ କରୁଥିଲେ; ମାତ୍ର ତାହା କଣ ବନ୍ଦ ହେଲା ?

ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଭାବେ ଘାଟୀ ହେବ, ଏହାକୁ କେହି ବନ୍ଦ କରିପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ ।

ଶିକ୍ଷାମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଯଦୁନାଥ ଦାଶ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଘାଟୀ ପାଇଁ କ୍ଷତିଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସବୁ ପ୍ରକାର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଦିଆଯିବ ବୋଲି ସୂଚନା ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ଶ୍ରୀମ ରଞ୍ଜନମଣି ଶ୍ରୀ ଚୂପାଳଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାପାତ୍ର କହିଲେ ଯେ ଘାଟୀ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟି ପକ୍ଷରୁ କ୍ଷତିଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କ ଥଇଥାନ ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଲାଗି ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରାଯିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ।

ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) କର୍ମୀ ମହଲରେ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ କଦଳ ତୀବ୍ର ଆକାର ଧାରଣ କରିଥିବା ଜଣାଯାଇଛି । ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ବିଧାୟକଙ୍କୁ କେତେକ କଂଗ୍ରେସକର୍ମୀ ବିରୋଧ କରୁଥିବା ଦେଖାଯାଇଥିଲା ।

କଳା ଦିବସ ପାଳନ

ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ବାରସାର ହଜାର ହଜାର ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ପୋଲିସ ସମାବେଶ, ବିପ୍ଳବ ଅର୍ଥ ବ୍ୟୟ ଏବଂ ବସ୍ତା, ବାଲିଆପାଳ, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର, ଭେରଗଇଁ ବୁକର ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ପାଇଁ ସରକାରୀ କଲର ଅପବ୍ୟବହାରର ବିରୋଧ କରି କାଳୀପଦାଠାରେ ଘାଟୀ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟି ବିରୋଧୀ ଦଳ ପକ୍ଷରୁ କଳାପତାକା ଉଡ଼ାଇ ‘କଳା ଦିବସ’ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏଥିରେ ହଜାର ହଜାର

ଆବାଳ ବୁଦ୍ଧ ବନିତା ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ, ଚୈତନ୍ୟ, ଗଧାକୃଷ୍ଣଙ୍କ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ରଖି ପୂଜା ପାଠ ଓ ଅଷ୍ଟପ୍ରହରୀ ଆୟୋଜନ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ଘାଟୀ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟି ସଭାପତି ଶ୍ରୀ ବୃନ୍ଦାବନ ଗଜଙ୍କ ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷତାରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ସାଧାରଣ ସଭାରେ ଜନତା ଦଳ ବିଧାୟକ ଶ୍ରୀ ଭଗବତ ବେହେରା, ପୂର୍ବତନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ସମରେନ୍ଦ୍ର କୁଣ୍ଡୁ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଜନତା ଦଳ ସଭାପତି ଶ୍ରୀ ହୃଦାନନ୍ଦ ମଲ୍ଲିକ, କମ୍ୟୁନିଷ୍ଟ ନେତା ଶ୍ରୀ ଅରୁଣ ଦେ, ବାଲିଆପାଳ ବୁକ୍ ଟେୟାରମ୍ୟାନ ଶଶିଧର ପ୍ରଧାନ, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର ବୁକ୍ ଟେୟାରମ୍ୟାନ ଅଶ୍ୱିନୀ ପାତ୍ର, ଭେରଗଇଁର ସୁଶାନ୍ତ ଗୁନ୍ଦ, ଅନନ୍ତ ଭଞ୍ଜ, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱରର ଗୌରଗୋପାଳ ଦାସ, ଉଦ୍‌କର ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ମହାପାତ୍ର, ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ ସାମଲ, ଧାମନଗରର ଯୁଧିଷ୍ଠିର ନାୟକଙ୍କ ସମେତ ଛାତ୍ରନେତାମାନେ ଘାଟୀ ସ୍ଥାପନକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରି ତୀବ୍ର ସମାଲୋଚନା କରିଥିଲେ ।

ଘାଟୀ ଭିତରେ ପୋଲିସ ପ୍ରବେଶର ଦୃଢ଼ ମୁକାବିଲା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରବେଶପଥରେ ଜାରି ରହିଥିବା ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯୋଗସୂତ୍ର ରକ୍ଷା କରିବାରେ ୨୫ଟି ମଠର ସାଇକେଲ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଏହା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ୫ ହଜାର ୨୧୬ ଜଣ ଆବାଳ ବୁଦ୍ଧ-ବନିତା ମରଣସେନାରେ ତାଲିକାଭୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଥିବା ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।

ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ପୋଲିସ ଡି. ଆଇ. ଜି., ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଏସ. ପି., ଇନ୍‌ସ୍ପେକ୍ଟର, କମାଣ୍ଡରଙ୍କ ସମେତ ୧୨୦ ଜଣ ଉଚ୍ଚପଦସ୍ଥ ପୋଲିସ ଅଫିସର, ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ, ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ, ବସ୍ତା ତହସିଲଦାର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ୧୫ ଜଣ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ୍ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରିଥିଲେ ।

ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ନିଜର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ମୁହଁମୁହିଁ

(ନିଜ ପ୍ରତିବିମ୍ବିତାଙ୍କ)

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ତା ୧୭ । ୫-ବାଲିଆ-ପାଳରେ ନିଜର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ବିଭାଗର ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ମାନେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଆ ପାତକାସ ପତ୍ର-ନାୟକଙ୍କ ସହ ମୁହଁମୁହିଁ ହେବାପାଇଁ ଗତ ୧୦ ତାରିଖ ଦିନ ପ୍ରସାବିତ କ୍ଷେପଣୀୟ ଘାଟୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ବହୁପୁରବ ପୁଲିସ ପ୍ରବେଶ ସମ୍ଭବ ହୋଇ ନୁଥିଲା ବୋଲି ଏକ ନିର୍ଭରଯୋଗ୍ୟ ସୂତ୍ରରୁ ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।

ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ପ୍ରକାଶ ଯେ ମାଲିଆ ଚାରିଖର କ-ସ୍ତେସ(ର)କର୍ମୀ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଘାଟୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ କର୍ମୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରରକ୍ଷା ଦେବା ଆଳରେ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ଓ ପୁଲିସ ପଠାଇବା ପାଇଁ ବନ୍ଦୋବସ୍ତ କରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ୨୨ ଜଣ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟଙ୍କୁ ଆଦେଶ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ୧୦ ତାରିଖ ସକାଳ ପ୍ରାୟ ବାଲିଆପାଳର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଶିବିରରେ ପୁଲିସ ଫୋର୍ସ ସହ ପହଞ୍ଚି ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହେଲେ ଏକ ମାସରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସମୟ ସେଠାରେ ରହିବା ଲାଗି ଆଦେଶ ନାମରେ ଲେଖାଥିଲା ।

ତେବେ ନିଜର ଅତୀତରେ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପାଦନକେତେ ଦୂର ଦୂରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ହତ୍ୟାର ଶିକାର ହୋଇଥିବାରୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ନିରାପରା ଦିଆ-ନ ଗଲେ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଯିବେ ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟମାନେ ଏକ ବୈଠକରେ କୁଆଡ଼େ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେଇଥିଲେ । ତାହାପରେ ଦିନ ସେମାନେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ରେଡି କେବେକ ସଂସ୍ଥାକରଣ ଲେଉଟିଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ନ ଚାହିଁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ଭାବର ନବେର ଫୋଡ଼ିବାରା କଣ୍ଠଦର୍ପ ଆଇନର ପରିସର ମଧ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ଆଦେଶ ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ସୁରକ୍ଷା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ନ ପାଇଲେ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟମାନେ ବରଂ ଛୁଟିରେ ରହିବାକୁ ପସନ୍ଦ କରିବେ ବୋଲି ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଶେକ୍ଷଠାକ୍ କରିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ସେବା ସଂଘର ସଭାପତି ଓ ପ୍ରଧାନ-ଶିମୋହନ ଗଉଡ଼ଗଘଙ୍କର ଦୃଷ୍ଟି

ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ମାନଙ୍କର ଏହି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ପରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ 'ଅପରେସନ ବାଲିଆ-ପାଳ'କୁ ଗୁଞ୍ଜାଇ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଏଠାରେ ସଂଘର ସଭାପତି ଆ ରାଉତରାୟ ଘରୋଇ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ସଚିବଙ୍କ ସହ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟଙ୍କ ଦାବି ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିଥିଲେ ।

'ଅପରେସନ ବାଲିଆପାଳ' ଶିବିରପାଳ ଯେତା ଆ ଅନୁଶୀଳନ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଯେତା ଆ ଅନୁଶୀଳନ ଓ ଆ ବ୍ୟାବସାୟ ରାଜ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ସହ ଆଲୋଚନା କଲେବେଳେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ କୁଆଡ଼େ କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କାବେ ନିଜର ଅଧିକାର ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ଯେ କୌଣସି ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ପଠାଗଲା ।

ସେ ଗଲା କଲେବେଳେ କେହି ତାହାକୁ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କଲେ ସେ ତାକୁ ବରଦାସ କରିବେ ନାହିଁ । ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କର ଏହି ଉକ୍ତି ଶୁଣି ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନକାରୀମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କୁ ଘାଟୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଛାଡ଼ି ଦେବେ ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେଲେ ଓ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟିର ସଭାପତି ଆ ଶଶଧର ସ୍ୱାମୀ ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ବିରୋଧୀବଳ ନେତା ଆ ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକଙ୍କୁ ରେଡିଥିଲେ ବିଜୁବାବୁ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାସନ ସଚିବ ଓ ଘରୋଇ ସଚିବଙ୍କ ସହ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବା ପରେ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ କୌଣସି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ନ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କୁ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ପଠାଗଲା ।

ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଗତ କିଛିଦିନ ହେଲା ଉତ୍ତେଜନାପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଥିବାରୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସହ ବିରୋଧୀବଳ ଓ ସେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସହ ଆସବା ବାଲି ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରଠାରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ପାଇଁ ବିଜୁବାବୁଙ୍କ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବକ୍ରମେ ଯେଉଁ ବୈଠକ ଶିବିର ହୋଇଛି ତହିଁର ପକ୍ଷାଘାତ ଘେନି କେବଳ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ମୁହଁ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଉଚ୍ଚତା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଛି । ଏଣେ ସରକାର ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ହେଲେମେଟ ନିରାପରାୟଣ, ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଗାଡ଼ି ଓ ପରିଚୟପତ୍ର ଦେବାକୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶନାମା ଦେଇ ସାରିଛନ୍ତି ।

May '18, 1988
The Hindustan Times

CM, Biju talks to end Baliapal stir

Hindustan Times Correspondent

BHUBANESWAR, May 17 — Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik today said that efforts would be made to bring an end to the opposition by the people of Baliapal in Balasore district and impress upon them to allow the setting up of the National Missile Test Range there.

It may be noted that thousands of people of that area have barricaded the proposed site of the range and do not allow any Government officer to enter the area.

The agitationists are demanding shifting of the project elsewhere as this was the most fertile land in the State. The setting up of the project here will lead to unemployment and uprooting of many families. The would be affected families are not convinced with the Government assurances that they would be rehabilitated in model villages and provided adequate compensation.

The agitationists under the leadership of Opposition leader and President of the State unit of Janata Party Biju Patnaik have agreed to have a dialogue with the Government tomorrow at Balasore. Chief Minister will lead the Government delegation.

Mr Patnaik in an informal chat said that it was now three years that people of that area were resisting the project and running a Government of their own and that efforts would be made to persuade them to call off the agitation

and maintain peace in the area.

He pointed out that he was always willing for a peaceful talks with the Opposition parties and the agitationists but the latter were always reluctant to do so.

He said that now they have agreed to hold a meeting and some solution would be found to end the deadlock which was there for the last three years.

Mr Biju Patnaik is reported to have said that efforts would be made to have the project shifted elsewhere and not disturb the families of Baliapal.

Plea to keep Leh identity

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 17 — Minorities Commission member Kushok Bakula today met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and apprised him of the Buddhists' concern in Ladakh over the recent activities of some Christian missionaries in the region.

Mr Bakula handed over a letter to the Prime Minister stating that a Mizoram based Christian missionary organisation had recently taken 50 young Buddhist children from Leh to Srinagar for indoctrination. A book written by a Christian had added fuel to the fire.

He said a peaceful dharna was on at Leh Chowk and so far no State Government Minister had visited the city.

Samaj

14/7/88

ବାଲିଆପାଳକୁ ସେନାଛାଉଣି କରି ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସୂଚି କର ନାହିଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଶ୍ରୀ କୁଣ୍ଡଳ ସତର୍କବାଣୀ

ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର, ତା ୧୨।୩-ପୂର୍ବତନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ବୈଦେଶିକ ଗଣ୍ଡମଣି ତଥା ଜନତା ଦଳର ନେତା ଶ୍ରୀ ସମରେନ୍ଦ୍ର କୁଣ୍ଡଳ ଏକ ବିବୃତିରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓ କିଛି ପ୍ରଶାସନ ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ୧୩ତାରିଖ କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) କର୍ମୀ ବୈଠକର ଆକ କରୁ ଯେଉଁ ବିରଟ ସଶସ୍ତ୍ର ପୋଲିସ ବାହିନୀ ମୁତୟନ କରି ଆକ ସୂଚି କରିଛନ୍ତି ତାହାର ସେ ଘୋର ନିନ୍ଦା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ସାୟ ବଣ ହଜାଉଛୁ ଉକ୍ତ ଗୁରୁ । ପୋଲିସ ସମେତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ପୋଲିସ ମୁତୟନ ହେବେ, ଏହାଦ୍ୱାରା ନାନା ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେଉଛି । କେଉଁଥି ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପୋଲିସ ବାହିନୀ ମୁତୟନ ହେଉଛି । ସେ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ କୌଣସି ସୂଚନା ନାହିଁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଶାନ୍ତ ମଣୀ ଦୁଇଦିନ ଧରି ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ସକ୍ରିତ ହାଉସରେ ବସି ମିଶ୍ରା ପ୍ରଶ୍ନା ଚଳାଇଛନ୍ତି । ସାଧାରଣତାପ୍ରାପ୍ତର ୪୧ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧିଙ୍କ ଦେଶରେ ବାଲିଆପାଳ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ବିରୋଧୀ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଏକ ଅପୂର୍ବ ଅହିଂସ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ । ପଞ୍ଜାବ, ଗୁଜୁରାଟ ଓ ସିଂହଳ ପ୍ରଭୃତିରେ ଯେଉଁ ହିଂସା ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଗୁଲିଛି: ସରକାର ସେଠାରେ ହିଂସାକୁ ପ୍ରତିହତ କରିବା ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ବରଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବୁଝାମଣା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ । ଏଠି ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଦିଲ୍ଲୀରେ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କେ. ସି. ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ସହିତ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାମାନ୍ତରିତ ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋଚନା ଚାଲି

ଥିବାବେଳେ ଏହି ଅହିଂସ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଶକ୍ତି ଦ୍ୱାରା ଧ୍ୱଂସ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଯେଉଁ ଚକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଚାଲିଛି ତାହା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିଦାୟକ । ବାଲିଆପାଳ ପରି ଏକ ଜନାକୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏବଂ ଏ ଶ୍ରେଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନରେ ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀଆପନହେବ ଏହା ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଶକ୍ତ ଦେଶ ମାନଙ୍କ ଆକ୍ରମଣର ଲେଉଟା-ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ବାବଦ୍ଧିକ ନାହିଁ । ଏହାକୁ ଧ୍ୱଂସକରିବା ପାଇଁ ଅଶ୍ୱାସ ପ୍ରୟୋଗର ସମ୍ଭାବନାକୁ ଏତାରି ଦିଆଯାଇ ନପାରେ । ଏହାର ଓଠବର୍ତ୍ତ କି. ମି. ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନରେ କେହି ବସବାସ କରିପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ଯେଉଁ ଯୁକ୍ତି ହେଉଛି, ତାହାର ଉତ୍ତର ଦେବାକୁ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ପ୍ରଧାନ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ନୁହଁନ୍ତି । ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ପାଇଁ ଦଳମତ ଉକ୍ତରେ ସେଠାରେ ଏକାଧିକ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଚାଲିଛି । ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ଅର୍ଥ ସରମାନେ ଏହାକୁ ବୁଝିବା ସମ୍ଭବ ନୁହେଁ । ସେମାନେ ହୁକୁମ କାହିଁ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ହିତଲୋଭୀ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟରେ କଥା-ବାର୍ତ୍ତା କରନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିର ବିଷୟ ଯେ କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) ଦଳର କେତେକ କର୍ମୀ ଓ ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହାଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କର ଏହି ଯଥେଚ୍ଛାତାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପୋଗୁ ଯଦି ଧନକାବନ ନଷ୍ଟ ହୁଏ ତାହାର କଳଙ୍କ ଟାକା ସେମାନେ ନ ପିନ୍ଧନ୍ତି ବୋଲି ଶ୍ରୀ କୁଣ୍ଡଳ କଂଗ୍ରେସବାଲକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।

ସମାକ ୮ ଘାଟୀ ପାଇଁ ଭିଟାନାଟି ନ ଛାଡ଼ିବାକୁ ବାଲିଆପାଳବାସୀଙ୍କ ଦୃଢ଼ ସଙ୍କଳ୍ପ (ନୈବ ସଚ୍ଚିନିଧିକାବୁ)

କଟା, ତା ୧୫ । ୪-ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ ଯୋଗୁଁ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ ପାଇଁ ସରକାର ଆକର୍ଷ ଗ୍ରାମ ନିର୍ମାଣର ଯୋଜନା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବିତ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ପରିସରରୁ ସାୟ ୮ କି. ମି. ତୁର ବାସୁଦେବପୁର, ଦେଓଡ଼ା ପ୍ରଭୃତି ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଏହି ଗ୍ରାମଗୁଡ଼ିକ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ଅବଶ୍ୟକ ଜମି କ୍ରୟ କରାଯିବାର ଯୋଜନା ରହିଛି । ଉଚ୍ଚମଧ୍ୟରେ ବହୁ ପରିମାଣର ଜମି ମଧ୍ୟ କିଣାଯିବାର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟମ ହୋଇଛି । ମାତ୍ର ଏ ସବୁର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ବିରୋଧ କରି ଗତ କାଲି ସାୟ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଲୋକେ ଏକ ଶୋଭା-ଯାତ୍ରାରେ ଆସି ବାସୁଦେବପୁରଠାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ଆକର୍ଷ ଗ୍ରାମ ଓ ଗର ପାଇଁ ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ମୁକ୍ତ ଆକ୍ରମଣ କରନ୍ତା ଜନତା ପୋତି ଦେଉଥିଲେ ଏବଂ କାତାୟ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀର ଏକ କୁଣ୍ଡପୁରୁଷିକା ପୋଡ଼ିଥିଲେ । "କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀକୁ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ମାଟିରେ ଜଳର ଦିଅ", "ମରିବୁ ପଛେ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ପାଇଁ ଲକ୍ଷେ ମାଟି ଛାଡ଼ିବୁ ନାହିଁ", "ଗାନ୍ଧୀମାନେ ଆକର୍ଷ ଗ୍ରାମ ଯୋଜନାକୁ ବାତିଲ କର" ପ୍ରଭୃତି ଧ୍ୱନି ଦେଉଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ସାଧାରଣ ସଭାରେ ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଇ ଜନତା ଦଳ ବିଧାୟକ ଶ୍ରୀ ଉତ୍ତର ବେହେରା କହିଲେ ଯେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର କଂଗ୍ରେସ (ଇ) ସରକାର ନିର୍ବୋଧ ଓ ନରହତା ରୂପେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନିଜର ପରିଚୟ ଦେଇ ଗୁଲିଛି । ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଜୀବନକୁ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର କରି ବାଲିଆପାଳର ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ ନିଷ୍ଠୁରଠାରୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଉଚ୍ଚତମରେ ନାହିଁ । ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ମୁକ୍ତି ପରିସ୍ଥିତି, ଅନାଥର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଘଟଣା, ବିଶେଷ କରି କଳାହାଣ୍ଡିରେ ଉପାବହ ଚଳୁଥିବା ସମ୍ଭାଳିବାରେ ଦୁର୍ନୀତିଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜାନକୀବଲ୍ଲଭ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥିବାବେଳେ ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ କରି ବାହାଦୁରୀ କେବାକୁ ଗୁହ୍ୟିତ । ପୂର୍ବତନ ବୈଦେଶିକ ଗଣ୍ଡମଣୀ, ତଥା ଜନତା ଦଳ ନେତା ଶ୍ରୀ ସମରେନ୍ଦ୍ର କୁଣ୍ଡଳ କହିଲେ ଯେ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାମାନ୍ତର ପାଇଁ ସାମାନ୍ୟ ଜନସାଧାରଣ ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧ ୪ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ଯେତେ ପ୍ରକାର ଆଦେଶ, ନିଦେଶ, ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ କରି ଆସୁଥିଲେ

ମଧ୍ୟ ସରକାର କିନ୍ତୋର ମନୋବୁଦ୍ଧି ନେଇ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ ଦିଗରେ ଯେଉଁ ଆଲୋଚନା ଗୁଲିଛନ୍ତି, ତାହା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ କ୍ଷୋଭର ବିଷୟ । ତତ୍ତ୍ୱ ସରକାର ଗଣତନ୍ତ୍ରର ହତ୍ୟାକାଣ୍ଡ ବୋଲି ଏହି ଘଟଣାରୁ ପରିଚୟ ମିଳେ । ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ କରାଯିବ କି ନାହିଁ, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସେ ପ୍ରବୃତ୍ତିରୁ କହିବେ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷାମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ କେ. ସି. ପଟ୍ଟ ଆଲୋଚନା ସମୟରେ ତାହା ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ଦେଇଥିଲେ ବୋଲି ଶ୍ରୀ କୁଣ୍ଡଳ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିଥିଲେ । ମାତ୍ର ଯଦି ବାଲିଆପାଳରେ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାପନ କରାଯାଏ, ତେବେ ସେଠାର ଜନସାଧାରଣ ତାହାକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରି ପ୍ରାଣବଳି ଦେବାକୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୋତ ହୋଇଥିବା ନିଷ୍ଠୁର ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଶ୍ରୀ ପଟ୍ଟକୁ ସେ କ୍ଷୋଭ ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି ବୋଲି କହିଥିଲେ । ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ବିରୋଧୀ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ନେତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଶାରଦା ଗିରି ଏବଂ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀମଣି ଦେବୀ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ସାମାନ୍ତର ପାଇଁ ଏକାଧିକ ସମ୍ମାନ କରିବା ଲାଗି ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ନାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ସଭାରେ ଉତ୍ତର ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରଗାନ୍ଧୀ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କମିଟିର ସଭାପତି ଶ୍ରୀ ବୃନ୍ଦାବନ ଗୁଡ଼ ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷତା କରିଥିଲେ । ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ବୁକ୍ ଚେୟାରମ୍ୟାନ ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଧର ସିଂଧୁ, ସର୍ବଶ୍ରୀ ଗୌରହରି ଦାସ, ଅନନ୍ତ ନାଗ, ଛାତ୍ର ନେତା ଶ୍ରୀ ଅରୁଣ ଦେବୀ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରା ଓ ସଭାରେ ନାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ସର୍ବାଧିକ ଥିଲା ।

କମିଶନା ବାବଦ ଟଙ୍କା ବଣନ ବନ୍ଦ ହେଲା ?

ଆକର୍ଷ ଗ୍ରାମ ପାଇଁ କିଣାଯାଉଥିବା କେତେକ ଜମିର ମାଲିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେ ବାବଦରେ ଟଙ୍କା ଦେବା ପାଇଁ କିଛି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନାସନ ଯାଇଥିବାବେଳେ ସେଠା ଲୋକେ ଉକ୍ତ କ୍ରୟ ଘଟଣାର ଗତ କାଲି ପ୍ରକଳ ଗତେ ବିରୋଧ କରିବାକୁ ଟଙ୍କା ବନ୍ଦନ ସମ୍ଭବ ହୋଇପାରି ନ ଥିଲା । କିଲପାଳ ଶ୍ରୀ ପାତବାସ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଆସି ଏଭଳି ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନକୁ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରି ଯେଉଁ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି ।

ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକମାନଙ୍କର ବେଠକ

(ନିଜ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ)

ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର, ତା ୨୫୩-ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ ପକ୍ଷରୁ 'ଅଗ୍ନି' କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହା ସର୍ବାଧିକ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର । ଏହି କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରିବାପାଇଁ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରଠାରୁ ୧୨କିଲୋମିଟର ଦୂର ଗୁନ୍ଧପୁରଠାରେ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଦିବାରତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଗୁଲିଛି । 'ଅଗ୍ନି' କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଭୂମିକୁ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ନିରୀକ୍ଷା କରିବା ସମ୍ଭାବ୍ୟ ଭାରତର ବହୁ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକ ଆସି ଗୁନ୍ଧପୁରଠାରେ ବେଠକ ଓ ଆଲୋଚନା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଗୁନ୍ଧପୁରଠାରେ ଏନ.ଟି.ଆର ଆଇ.ଟି.ଆର ଏକସପରିମେଷାଲ ଏଣ୍ଡ ସୁପରକେଟ ଷ୍ଟେସନ ପ୍ରଭୃତିର ସଂସ୍ଥାପନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଦିବାରତ୍ର ଦ୍ରୁତ ଗତିରେ ଆଗେଇ ଗୁଲିଛି । ଯଥାଶୀଘ୍ର 'ଅଗ୍ନି' ସମେତ ଭାରତର ଓ ଭାରତ ବାହାରେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହୋଇଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଏଠାରେ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାଯାଇଛି ।

'ଅଗ୍ନି' କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ସମୟରେ ଗୁନ୍ଧପୁରଠାରୁ ଦକ୍ଷିଣକୁ ଖାଣ୍ଡିଆ ମୁହାଣ ଅଥାତ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୦ମାଇଲ ଲମ୍ବ ଓ ୩୪ମାଇଲ ଓସାର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରିତ କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରଚାର ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଖୁବ୍ ଶୀଘ୍ର ବିଜ୍ଞାପନ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇବ ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଉଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଏହି ବେସରକାରୀ ପ୍ରଚାର ଫଳରେ ସେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆତଙ୍କ ଖେଳିଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଉପକୂଳର ଶତକଡ଼ା ୯୦ଭାଗ ଲୋକ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ହରିଜନ ଓ ଆଦିବାସୀ । ଘରଦ୍ୱାର ଛାଡ଼ି ଯିବା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରେ ଘୋର ଅସୁବିଧା ହେବ ବୋଲି ସ୍ୱର ଉଠିଛି । ଏ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଲୋକମାନେ ଉଦ୍‌ବିଗ୍ନ ହୋଇ ଗଣ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ କରିବାର ସିଦ୍ଧାନ୍ତ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଏହାର ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି ପୂର୍ବତନ

ଭୋଳନାଥ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠରେ ବିଜ୍ଞାନପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ

(ନିଜ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କଠାରୁ)

ପୁରୀ ତା ୨୫୩-ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଭୋଳନାଥ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠରେ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥଳରୁ ୪୯ଜଣ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିକ୍ଷୟିତ୍ରୀ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ଏହାକୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠର ପ୍ରଧାନଶିକ୍ଷକ ହରଦେବ ତିଡ଼ିଆ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଉକ୍ତ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ସରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଦିବାରତ୍ର ଦ୍ରୁତ ଗତିରେ ଆଗେଇ ଗୁଲିଛି । ଯଥାଶୀଘ୍ର 'ଅଗ୍ନି' ସମେତ ଭାରତର ଓ ଭାରତ ବାହାରେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହୋଇଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଏଠାରେ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାଯାଇଛି ।

'ଅଗ୍ନି' କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ସମୟରେ ଗୁନ୍ଧପୁରଠାରୁ ଦକ୍ଷିଣକୁ ଖାଣ୍ଡିଆ ମୁହାଣ ଅଥାତ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୦ମାଇଲ ଲମ୍ବ ଓ ୩୪ମାଇଲ ଓସାର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରିତ କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରଚାର ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଖୁବ୍ ଶୀଘ୍ର ବିଜ୍ଞାପନ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇବ ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଉଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଏହି ବେସରକାରୀ ପ୍ରଚାର ଫଳରେ ସେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆତଙ୍କ ଖେଳିଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଉପକୂଳର ଶତକଡ଼ା ୯୦ଭାଗ ଲୋକ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ହରିଜନ ଓ ଆଦିବାସୀ । ଘରଦ୍ୱାର ଛାଡ଼ି ଯିବା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରେ ଘୋର ଅସୁବିଧା ହେବ ବୋଲି ସ୍ୱର ଉଠିଛି । ଏ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଲୋକମାନେ ଉଦ୍‌ବିଗ୍ନ ହୋଇ ଗଣ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ କରିବାର ସିଦ୍ଧାନ୍ତ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଏହାର ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି ପୂର୍ବତନ

ଭୋଳନାଥ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠରେ ବିଜ୍ଞାନପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ

(ନିଜ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କଠାରୁ)

ପୁରୀ ତା ୨୫୩-ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଭୋଳନାଥ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠରେ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥଳରୁ ୪୯ଜଣ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିକ୍ଷୟିତ୍ରୀ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ଏହାକୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାପୀଠର ପ୍ରଧାନଶିକ୍ଷକ ହରଦେବ ତିଡ଼ିଆ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଉକ୍ତ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଅଧ୍ୟାପକ ଶ୍ରୀ ସୁହାସ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ନାୟକ, ପ୍ରକାଶନୋହନ ରଥ, ବନବିହାରୀ ପୃଷ୍ଠି ପରିଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ ଦିବସରେ କିଛି ଶିକ୍ଷାମଣ୍ଡଳୀୟ ଶ୍ରୀ ଦେବୀବି ଦାସ ଓ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପରିଷଦର ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ଶ୍ରୀ ପ୍ରକାଶଚରଣ ସ୍ୱାଇଁ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ନୂତନ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନୀତିକୁ ଦୃଢ଼ୀକରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଶିକ୍ଷାପ୍ରତି ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କର ଆଗ୍ରହ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କ ପରମର୍ଶ ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ବିଧାୟକ ଶ୍ରୀ ଅରୁଣ ଦେ । ଏଥି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏ ସଂପର୍କରେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବେଠକ ହୋଇ ଗଲାଣି । ଯଥାଶୀଘ୍ର ଏହା ବିରୋଧରେ ସଭା ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରା ହେବ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନେ କିଛି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟକୁ ଦେଖାକରି ସାରକପତ୍ରମାନ ଦେବେ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରକାଶ । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ଜୋରସୋରରେ ଗୁଲିଛି । ଏହି କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ପ୍ରୟୋଗର କୁପଳ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ସହର ଉପରେ ପଡ଼ିବ ବୋଲି ବିଚାର କରି ସହରର ସର୍ବତ୍ର ଆଲୋଚନା ଗୁଲିଛି ।

ସୁଜାତ ପାରିକାତ'ର ପଞ୍ଚମ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ

କଟକ, ଡା ୨୫ । ୩-ଗତ ୧୨ ତାରିଖ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ପାଟଣସାହି, ଗୁରୁଗୁଣୀ ପାଠଶାଳା ପ୍ରୋକ୍ସାନ୍ସରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଓ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ 'ସୁଜାତ ପାରିକାତ'ର ପଞ୍ଚମ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ସଭାପତି ଡକ୍ଟର ବିଦ୍ୟନାଥ ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ସଭାପତିତ୍ୱରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଉତ୍ସବ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ସମାଜର ସାଧାରଣ ସମାବେଶ ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ମନୋରମା ମହାପାତ୍ର ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି, କବି ଶ୍ରୀ ବ୍ରଜକିଶୋର ଦାସ ସମ୍ମାନିତ ଅତିଥି ଓ ଶ୍ରୀ ପରମାନନ୍ଦ ଅଧିକାରୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟବକ୍ତା ଭାବରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ମୁଖ୍ୟଅତିଥି ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ମହାପାତ୍ର ତାଙ୍କ ଭାଷଣରେ ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଆଗେପ କରିଥିଲେ ଓ ସଙ୍ଗୀତକୁ ଭିତ୍ତି କରି ଭାରତୀୟ ପରମ୍ପରା କିଭଳି ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ମହାନ ହୋଇ ପାରିଛି, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସୂଚନା ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ହିଂସାଦୈଷ୍ଟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ବାତାବରଣ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମଣିଷ ମଣିଷ ଭିତରେ ଐକ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ପରସ୍ପର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମିଶାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ଏକ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ବୋଲି ସେ କହିଥିଲେ । ସମ୍ମାନିତ ଅତିଥି କବି ଶ୍ରୀ ବ୍ରଜକିଶୋର ଦାସ କହିଲେ ଯେ ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ମାଧୁର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅନୁଭବ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଗୁଣର କୌଣସି ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ । ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ସ୍ୱରମାଧୁରୀ ହିଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିର ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ଆନନ୍ଦରେ ଅନୁସାରିତ କରିଥାଏ । ମୁଖ୍ୟବକ୍ତା ଶ୍ରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଏକ ସାରଗର୍ଭକ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିବେଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । କୁମାରୀ ନିବେଦିତା, ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରକା, ସୁଜାତା, ସମ୍ବିତା, ବି. ଜୟଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ, ସୁସ୍ମିତା, ନିର୍ଝରିଣୀ, ରେଖାଲିନ, କୃଷ୍ଣସୁଧା, ଗୀତାଲି, ଗାୟତ୍ରୀ, ସୁଜାତାପାରିକା, ଅନୀଲ କୁମାର ଓ କେ.ସଲିଳକୁମାର ସମୂହ ଯଥାମେ ଏକ ସଂସ୍କୃତ ଭଜନ ସମବେତ ଭାବରେ ଗାନ କରିଥିଲେ । କୁମାରୀ ଅନୁଶ୍ରୀ ଖେୟାଲ, ମାଷର ଚଞ୍ଚଳ କୁମାର ତବଲ ନହର, ବିଶ୍ୱାସଦ-ଅତିନ ବର୍ଷର ଛାତ୍ରୀ କୁମାରୀ ସୁସ୍ମିତା ଖେୟାଲ ଓ ଭଜନ ଏବଂ କୁମାରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଲେଖା, ଅପରାଜିତା, ପ୍ରିୟଦର୍ଶିନୀ, ଦେବାସୁତା ଗୋଡ଼ା ନାଟ, କୁମାରୀ ମଧୁସୂତା ଓ ପାଠଶାଳା ପ୍ରୋକ୍ସାନ୍ସରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଓ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ 'ସୁଜାତ ପାରିକାତ'ର ପଞ୍ଚମ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ସଭାପତି ଡକ୍ଟର ବିଦ୍ୟନାଥ ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ସଭାପତିତ୍ୱରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଉତ୍ସବ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ସମାଜର ସାଧାରଣ ସମାବେଶ ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ମନୋରମା ମହାପାତ୍ର ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି, କବି ଶ୍ରୀ ବ୍ରଜକିଶୋର ଦାସ ସମ୍ମାନିତ ଅତିଥି ଓ ଶ୍ରୀ ପରମାନନ୍ଦ ଅଧିକାରୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟବକ୍ତା ଭାବରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ମୁଖ୍ୟଅତିଥି ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ମହାପାତ୍ର ତାଙ୍କ ଭାଷଣରେ ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଆଗେପ କରିଥିଲେ ଓ ସଙ୍ଗୀତକୁ ଭିତ୍ତି କରି ଭାରତୀୟ ପରମ୍ପରା କିଭଳି ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ମହାନ ହୋଇ ପାରିଛି, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସୂଚନା ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ହିଂସାଦୈଷ୍ଟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ବାତାବରଣ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମଣିଷ ମଣିଷ ଭିତରେ ଐକ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ପରସ୍ପର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମିଶାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ଏକ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ବୋଲି ସେ କହିଥିଲେ । ସମ୍ମାନିତ ଅତିଥି କବି ଶ୍ରୀ ବ୍ରଜକିଶୋର ଦାସ କହିଲେ ଯେ ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ମାଧୁର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅନୁଭବ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଗୁଣର କୌଣସି ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ । ସଙ୍ଗୀତର ସ୍ୱରମାଧୁରୀ ହିଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିର ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ଆନନ୍ଦରେ ଅନୁସାରିତ କରିଥାଏ । ମୁଖ୍ୟବକ୍ତା ଶ୍ରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଏକ ସାରଗର୍ଭକ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିବେଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । କୁମାରୀ ନିବେଦିତା, ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରକା, ସୁଜାତା, ସମ୍ବିତା, ବି. ଜୟଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ, ସୁସ୍ମିତା, ନିର୍ଝରିଣୀ, ରେଖାଲିନ, କୃଷ୍ଣସୁଧା, ଗୀତାଲି, ଗାୟତ୍ରୀ, ସୁଜାତାପାରିକା, ଅନୀଲ କୁମାର ଓ କେ.ସଲିଳକୁମାର ସମୂହ ଯଥାମେ ଏକ ସଂସ୍କୃତ ଭଜନ ସମବେତ ଭାବରେ ଗାନ କରିଥିଲେ । କୁମାରୀ ଅନୁଶ୍ରୀ ଖେୟାଲ, ମାଷର ଚଞ୍ଚଳ କୁମାର ତବଲ ନହର, ବିଶ୍ୱାସଦ-ଅତିନ ବର୍ଷର ଛାତ୍ରୀ କୁମାରୀ ସୁସ୍ମିତା ଖେୟାଲ ଓ ଭଜନ ଏବଂ କୁମାରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଲେଖା, ଅପରାଜିତା, ପ୍ରିୟଦର୍ଶିନୀ, ଦେବାସୁତା ଗୋଡ଼ା ନାଟ, କୁମାରୀ ମଧୁସୂତା ଓ ଶୁଭାସୁତା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ଓ ପରିଶେଷରେ କୁମାରୀ ବନଶ୍ରୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରିବେଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ କୃଷ୍ଣା ମେହେଟା ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ ଓ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରିଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ ଶ୍ରୀ ହରିହର ମହାନ୍ତି । ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ସମାବେଶ ଶ୍ରୀ ଚିତ୍ରେକାନ୍ତସାହୁ ତୃତୀୟ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଦିବରଣୀ ପାଠ କରିଥିଲେ । (ସ୍ୱ.ସ.)

CURRENT EVENTS

appeared on the scene. As the money changed hands, policemen pounced on the four, all of whom turned out to be important members of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO). Following the arrests, the police were able to free Mohandas that night from a hut in Koyambedu on the fringes of Madras city. Forty-five TELO members were also taken into custody.

The police have concluded, after all their investigations, that groups like PLOTE and TELO, which have started disintegrating as a result of serious internal factional quarrels, are facing an acute shortage of funds and are getting increasingly tempted to resort to kidnappings for ransom. In November last year, Point Pedro (in Jaffna) businessman K.T. Rajasingham and travel agent K. Jeyarathnam were kidnapped by Tamil militants and released only after realisation of the demanded ransoms. After the Liberation Tigers proved their domination of the militant struggle, donations from expatriate and other Sri Lankan Tamils to the other militant groups started thinning down and they are now struggling to even sustain themselves. Corroborated Durairaja: "I found that my kidnappers were having only bread for breakfast, lunch and dinner on most days."

The latest series of kidnappings and the fact that desperate Tamil militants belonging to the smaller groups have begun to openly come out in the streets of Madras toting guns has come as the proverbial last straw for the people of Tamil Nadu. Said Madras Police Commissioner Walter Dewaram: "Sri Lankan Tamil refugees here should realise that they are our guests and have to behave themselves to continue to enjoy our hospitality." PLOTE spokesman A.S. Skanda says blandly: "We did not kidnap Durairaja. We arrested him because we had given him money for safe-keeping and he has not returned it." While Srikant, the TELO spokesman, says that certain irresponsible members of the group were responsible for the Mohandas kidnapping and they have been expelled. But the militants are now under considerable public pressure.

However, the militarily-most powerful militant group, the LTTE, and the Eelam revolutionary organisers who have recently been working in close cooperation with the Tigers still enjoy public support. Otherwise Tamil Nadu's sympathy for the cause of the Tamils of Sri Lanka would have by now been drowned in disenchantment with militant misbehaviour.

—S.H. VENKATRAMANI



ORISSA

Siege of Balasore

THE battleground is familiar: the shores of the Bay of Bengal in the lush Baliapal and Bhograi blocks of Balasore district—abode of Lord Shiva—where the Defence Ministry had been trying for the past four years to set up a National Test Range (NTR)—estimated cost: Rs 3,000 crore—to test newly-developed missiles, rockets and pilotless target aircraft.

But the battle strategy has changed. Everyday, at dawn and dusk, women and children gather in their lush green fields blowing conch-shells and beating brass utensils each time they spot a stranger in the area, while the men block village roads to reiterate their resolve to fight the creation of the NTR which they believe will bring economic disaster. Village youth instead of working in the fields, vie with each other to enroll themselves as members of the *Marna Sena* (suicide squad) and guard entry points preventing government officials and their vehicles from entering the area. "We will not surrender even an inch of our land come what may," declared *Sena* volunteer Saroj Kumar Kar.

The battle has now escalated with villagers imposing a ban on the movement of government personnel and vehicles. The Orissa Government on the other hand has clamped an undeclared "economic sanction" on the area, denying the villagers essential commodities and agriculture credits for the past three months in a bid to force them to leave their homes and surrender their rich fertile lands.

But that has only made the villagers more determined. Village dwellings and shop walls are littered with slogans in Oriya, *Yudhanahi Shanti Chauhun, Ghati Nahi Mati Chauhun* (We don't want war, we want our soil). The slogans at the peoples' checkgates are more direct: "Warning: stop! the land is ours, the sea is ours." With the battle lines drawn, observers fear that a bloody confrontation



TAMIL NADU

The Militant Menace



KANDASAMY Durairaja, 49, a Jaffna Tamil and formerly a prosperous merchant from Trincomalee, took refuge with his family in Madras about two years ago. Last month, Durairaja was returning to his flat in Mylapore in the heart of Madras, when he was abducted by armed youths. The kidnappers demanded Rs 6 lakh as ransom for his release. Durairaja was forced to write letters to his wife imploring her to somehow raise the money and give it to the boys, otherwise he would be killed.

Three weeks earlier, a gang of revolver and sub-machine-gun wielding militants had stormed their way into the posh Anna Nagar residence of Thamodharam Manivasagam, a rich businessman hailing from coastal Valvettithurai town in the Jaffna peninsula, now a

dras, was also kidnapped from his Arumbakkam residence on the outskirts of the city.

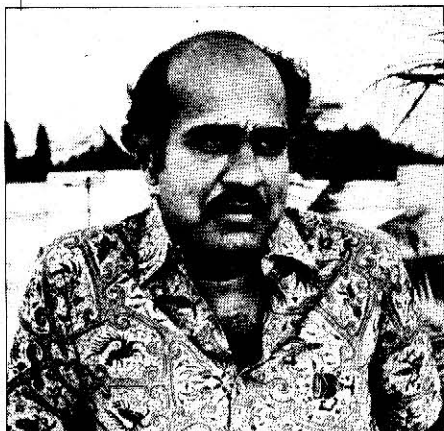
The families of these kidnapped Jaffna businessmen preferred not to lodge formal police complaints. The reason adduced was that they had been warned of militant reprisals in case they chose to do so. But top police officials had

Thamodharam Manivasagam

Photographs by SHYAM TEKWANI



Tamil militants are now kidnapping rich Jaffna businessmen—who have taken refuge in Madras—to acquire much needed funds.



Kadirvelu Mohandas

director in a Singapore shipping company, and spirited him away. The boys demanded a ransom of Rs 25 lakh from his family. His wife paid up Rs 3.5 lakh.

Yet another bunch of armed Tamil youths whisked away another rich Jaffna businessman, Sinniah Kadirvelu Mohandas, from the same Anna Nagar locality, and demanded Rs 5 lakh for his release. Mohandas was tortured by his kidnappers, and left to spend his nights in a mosquito-infested toilet. In yet another similar incident around the same time, Suryakumar, a Sri Lankan Tamil travel agent operating now from Ma-

been privately informed and the cops had spread their dragnet.

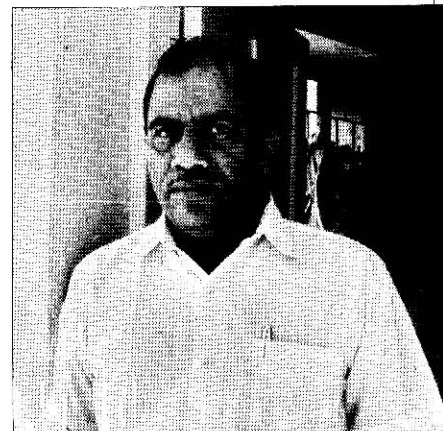
On the morning of February 16, events came to a head. Durairaja's captors had told his wife that they were prepared to show her husband to their 11-year-old son, Mayuran, if the boy was brought to a prominent hotel in central Madras. There was an unofficial police trap laid for the militants at the hotel. As Mayuran was picked up and taken in a car by the kidnappers, a plainclothes policeman got into an autorickshaw

with Durairaja's wife and gave chase. Luckily, the speeding car hit a scooter in west Madras, and as the public closed in on the car Mayuran shouted that he was being kidnapped.

Two of the four kidnappers managed to escape while the public caught the others. Police subsequently identified them as Selvam, 24, and Subramaniam, 25, belonging to the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), headed by Uma Maheshwaran.

Based on the information extorted from the two PLOTE militants, police parties fanned out into different areas of west Madras and rounded up 40 PLOTE members of the Uma Maheshwaran group. The same night Manivasagam was released by his gaolers. Subsequently, the shipping company director's relative who had handed over Rs 3.5 lakh to his kidnappers was able to identify the recipient, another PLOTE member. And, thanks to the large-scale round-ups, Durairaja was also set at liberty the following morning.

But Mohandas had yet to be traced. The police crackdown on the PLOTE did not bring about his release, so it was



Kandasamy Durairaja

obviously another group that was holding him captive. Luckily, a couple of days later, an anonymous telephone caller ordered Mohandas' wife Bhagavathi to produce Rs 5 lakh in half-an-hour, and hand the money over to her husband's kidnappers near the Ayyappa Temple at Anna Nagar. Policemen, who had tapped her telephone, asked her to plead for a little more time, which was granted.

Well before the appointed hour, over 25 policemen in disguise had surrounded the rendezvous, some as Ayyappa devotees and others as vegetable vendors. At the scheduled time four



Villagers enforcing blockade (left); and slogan against test range: defiant mood

between the administration and members of the suicide squad is inevitable. Last fortnight, Janata Party leader Samarendra Kundu, the former minister of state for external affairs, sent a memorandum to Defence Minister V.P. Singh saying: "The people are determined not to leave the area. If the Government uses force, it will spill innocent blood." Opposition leaders have asked the Defence Ministry to locate the NTR in a place like the Andaman Islands, where it would affect less people, but Minister of State for Defence Arun Singh has insisted that the Andamans would cost much more. The Government also maintained that apart from the cost factor, the Andamans had far more rainy days, and testing required at least 200 clear days, a theory the opposition leaders refuted, saying that Baliapal had more rainy days than the Andamans. Still, with government officials claiming that there is no alternative site to build the NTR, the situation seems to be a stand-off.

The administration has now taken the extreme step of imposing an unofficial economic blockade by stopping the supply of essential commodities and refusing to ply buses to lift local farming products. Said Bansidhar Dey, a retail shop owner: "The Government has stopped supplying sugar, kerosene and other foodgrains since December as a result of which people are buying kerosene in black at the rate of Rs 9 a litre and sugar at the rate of Rs 7 a kg." Added another retailer Gauranga Bebarti: "Before the economic blockade was imposed, each centre was allotted 4.5 quintals of sugar and 416 litres of kerosene besides other commodities, but now our shops are empty." Collector of Balasore Priyabarta Patnaik denied that the administration had imposed any eco-

nomic blockade but added that since government vehicles and personnel were not permitted to enter the villages, they were unable to monitor the supply.

For farmers, the area, spread over 400 sq km along the seashore and comprising 132 villages, is a virtual goldmine with cash crops like betel-vines, coconuts and cashew besides profitable fishing in the shallow waters. Farmers earn an esti-

Saroj Kar: ready to die



mated Rs 20 crore a year from betel-vine alone. Local farmers say that the NTR project would not only destroy vast paddy land but also over 30,000 betel-vines, thousands of coconut trees and cashew plants worth over Rs 750 crore.

Said Sanatan Shee of village Tahalia and a member of the Pratirodh Committee: "Even the landless and poor here are richer than their counterparts in any industrial area. Even a child earns not less than Rs 20 a day." Said Collector Patnaik: "It was natural for the villagers to oppose such a project when they found that valuable land and houses would be taken away and the administration instead of provoking a confrontation was trying to ensure normalcy through negotiations. But the fear and panic had created a big gap between the administration and the people." That was amply illustrated recently when the Government, unable to meet village leaders, airdropped pamphlets explaining the Government's rehabilitation plans.

The Centre has announced a Rs 127-crore rehabilitation package which envisages paying the villagers Rs 50,000 per acre of land, a chain of industries to absorb all persons to be rendered jobless and even compensation for government land under occupation of the villagers. Chief Minister Patnaik has stated that the Government will not acquire land until all affected persons are completely rehabilitated. Village leaders, however, disbelieve the rehabilitation package and feel that once they move they will be denied compensation. The Government, under pressure, has now agreed to reduce the area for the project, thus affecting only 68 villages. The Government has also proposed the setting up of a model village by the end of the year so that at least 3,000 villagers can be accommodated in the first batch.

But the villagers are adamant and have received support from many opposition parties. Members from the affected villages are running a parallel state and peoples' courts, setting up a network to bring in essential commodities and sending local products outside. Last month, they turned down a Rs 15-lakh offer of the NTR development fund for their local college. "We know how to manage our own affairs," said a Pratirodh spokesman.

The area is being compared to Jaffna, with the Government resorting to blockades and the locals defiantly resisting. But by last fortnight, it was clear that tension here is rising to dangerous levels and the Balasore test range could well echo with the sound of gun-fire even before it is built.

— FARZAND AHMED in Baliapal