

Terror sways Naxalbari, says CM

DELHI PERTURBED

BY A STAFF REPORTER

West Bengal Chief Minister has admitted in Calcutta on reign of terror was prevailing in Naxalbari and maintained that the extremists have again intended to attack the police and the army.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Think it over ...
Women made us lose paradise, but how we find it again in their arms ...

Troubled Naxalbari

To say that there is a "counter-revolution" against the ULP is to say that the ULP is a "counter-revolution" against the West Bengal Government. The ULP is a "counter-revolution" against the West Bengal Government. The ULP is a "counter-revolution" against the West Bengal Government.

Naxalbari revolt called 'Indian Vietnam'

Express News Service

CALCUTTA, June 30 (UPI) — Naxalbari rebels, who have called it "India's Vietnam", have announced that they are preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Think it over ...
An art cannot be imitated; it has to come from the people's lives and urges.

75 NAXALBARI REBELS HELD WITHOUT A SHOT IN SURPRISE SWOOP

Arms and huge rice stocks seized

The Police of the Government of West Bengal have announced that they have held 75 Naxalbari rebels without a shot in a surprise swoop. They also seized arms and huge stocks of rice.

EXTREMISTS of the Left CPI organising the Naxalbari peasant uprising

They have called it "India's Vietnam"

China in Naxalbari

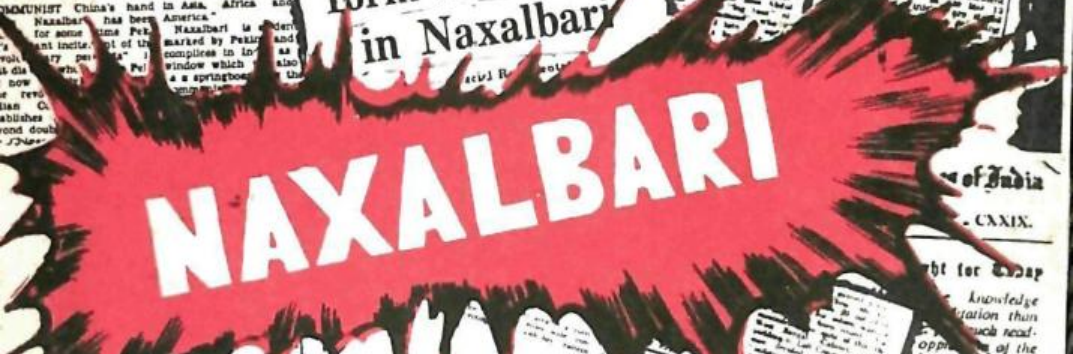
COMMUNIST China's hand in Naxalbari has been revealed for some time past. The Chinese Government has been accused of supporting the Naxalbari rebels. The Chinese Government has been accused of supporting the Naxalbari rebels.

Expelled Marxists form new party in Naxalbari

They have called it "India's Vietnam"

Rice

The Naxalbari rebels have announced that they are preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government. They have called it "India's Vietnam".



CHINESE HAND IN NAXALBARI

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, July 1 (UPI) — Home Minister Mr. Y. B. Chavan announced today that the Chinese Government has been accused of supporting the Naxalbari rebels. The Chinese Government has been accused of supporting the Naxalbari rebels.

The challenge of Naxalbari

DELHI DIARY

By S. Swaminathan

West Bengal today poses the biggest ever challenge to the Indian Government. The Naxalbari rebels have announced that they are preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government. They have called it "India's Vietnam".

INVITATION TO ANARCHY

What is the United Front Government in West Bengal? It cannot call the Naxalbari rebels "the street every now and then" and express its surprise if it tries to take the law into its own hands. It cannot call the Naxalbari rebels "the street every now and then" and express its surprise if it tries to take the law into its own hands.

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But this move proved a total failure

When the Naxalbari rebels announced that they were preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government, they were met with a total failure. The Naxalbari rebels announced that they were preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government.

A 'MARCH' Backgrounder

India's defence is a matter of great importance. The Naxalbari rebels have announced that they are preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government. They have called it "India's Vietnam".

shortly after the local police had fired and wounding seven other people

This incident threw the match into a powder.

But the comparison ends in a dead end

There is no comparison between the Naxalbari rebels and the Chinese Government. The Naxalbari rebels have announced that they are preparing to launch a "people's war" against the Indian Government. They have called it "India's Vietnam".

But this move proved a total failure

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NAXALBARI

A Report

By

N. Dandeker, M.P.

D. N. Patodia, M.P.

A SWATANTRA PARTY PUBLICATION

Introduction

Little-known *Naxalbari* is now a household word in India. Its connotation — looting, arson, political murders, subversion and all types of mayhem.

It is from Naxalbari that the Left Communists with the active assistance of Mao tse Tung's men, decided to create a base of operations. As Mao called it, their effort in Naxalbari represented the "front paw" of communist advance to establish their hegemony over the Indian sub-continent.

Why did they choose Naxalbari? Why not Telengana or even Kerala? For the answer, one has only to look at the map of India. Naxalbari is strategically situated in the middle-of-the-neck connecting Assam and Bengal with the rest of India. More important is its proximity to Communist China and to East Pakistan.

Kerala or Telengana would not serve the nefarious purpose. How can the poor Communists in India seek a safe haven across the border in case "the Indian reactionaries" were able to suppress them? Historically, nations which have today the misfortune to be under Communist rule owed this fate to a common border with the Soviet Union or Red China. In terms of infiltration of men and material and the provision of a safe haven to fleeing communists, proximity to their Soviet or Chinese fatherland is of the utmost importance.

The rape of Tibet with the active connivance of the Government of India has provided this basic pre-condition for armed insurrection within India. Hence Naxalbari. It was meant to be a base of operations. It was to be our Vietnam.

With increasing reports of lawlessness and communist subversive activities helped by a State Government heavily loaded with communists, the Swatantra Party, like any other patriotic national party, felt deeply concerned. Thus it was that Mr. Dandeker and Mr. Patodia, Swatantra Members of Parliament, decided to visit Bengal and see things for themselves. While Mr. Patodia visited Naxalbari, Mr. Dandeker spent his time in Calcutta, discussing the situation with various persons including high officials, politicians, industrialists and the like.

This is their report, mainly as respects Naxalbari. It is neither exhaustive nor a perfect treatise. It is a report for the common man, made with a full sense of responsibility, in a language which he will understand. If it can make the people realise the ugly face of communism, if it can make them wary of communist double-talk, if it can expose their masquerade of being the champions of the people, then this little report would have more than served its purpose.

NAXALBARI

THE area of disturbances consists of three police stations, namely, Naxalbari, Kharibari, and Phansideva situated on the north-eastern borders of India. The total area involved is about 274 sq. miles facing 16 miles border with Pakistan, 40 miles border with Nepal and 30 miles border with Bihar. The area is not well developed of which large portions are covered by thick jungles and contact between one place and the other is quite difficult. Communications become particularly very difficult during the monsoons and at places the roads get covered with knee-deep mud. Most of the land is used for cultivation and for plantation of tea. Several tea estates are located within this region and were actually affected by the disturbances.

There was not much of trade union problem in the tea estates and only a few trade unions were connected with the Communist party, the others being mostly connected with Parties like Gorkha League, P.S.P., R.S.P. and INTUC. In any case, there was hardly any trade union activity in the region.

The land of this particular region is not very fertile, and the cost of land is relatively very low fluctuating within the region of Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 per bigha. The area is mostly inhabited by *Santhals, Rajbanshis, and some other tribal people of which the* larger number of persons had migrated to this area from Bihar. Among jotedars (which is the name for the landlords of the area) also large number of people had migrated from Bihar.

With the abolition of Zamindari system after Independence, jotedars were permitted to retain upto 25 acres of land each and any excess land over and above 25 acres got vested in the State. Our investigation reveals that in the case of 90 per cent of the jotedars the land holding is within the prescribed limit of 25 acres. It is only in the case of about 10 per cent (or even less) of the jotedars that the land holding exceeds 25 acres which is held by him in the name of some of his relatives. The relation-

ship between a jotedar and a cultivator had been quite cordial and friendly in the past. By custom the jotedars give away their lands for cultivation to the cultivators, who, in the local language, are known as Adhiars or Bargadars, on crop-sharing basis according to which in addition to land a jotedar makes available to the cultivator full quantity of seeds needed for cultivation, the bullocks and plough, in return for which the cultivator gives away 50 per cent of crop yield to the jotedar. The amount of land revenue is also paid by the jotedar. The physical control over the land however remains with the cultivator and therefore some amount of misappropriation of the crop has become a regular practice and in effect a jotedar is ultimately able to get only about 35 to 40 per cent of the crop from the cultivator.

In view of the cost of land being low and in view of the pattern of arrangement stated above, there is not much of a difference and disparity between the living conditions of a jotedar and a cultivator and the image of class distinction between a Zamindar and a landless cultivator does not apply to this particular region.

After the abolition of Zamindari system the land which was held by the jotedars in excess of 25 acres and which automatically got vested in the State has not so far been properly distributed amongst the landlords on account of the defective and lazy administrative machinery of the Government of West Bengal. Such land however is no more under the control or the custody of the jotedars and is being used by the cultivators without paying any rent either to the jotedar or to the State.

We are convinced that the recent agitation in Naxalbari was completely unrelated to any problem of land reforms. The agitation was scientifically organised and planned by the Communist Party about which as our investigations reveal, the Government of West Bengal was aware as early as 1965. The Intelligence Branch had been feeding this information from time to time to the government until the agitation actually started.

The area around Naxalbari was selected, firstly, on account of its strategic position being situated on the borders of Pakistan and Nepal and, secondly, on account of the topography of the

area being suitable for guerilla type of activities. Another consideration for the selection of this spot was that the Communist Party which did not have much hold on the trade unions of the area wanted to eliminate other trade unions and impose their control by resorting to the usual Communist tactics.

The timing was deliberately selected when the Communists happened to be in a controlling position in the West Bengal Government.

The agitation in Naxalbari started on 3rd March 1967 and continued until the first week of July broadly unfolding itself into three different stages.

In the first stage which started on 3rd of March and continued until the 3rd week of April, the agitators started making propaganda all over the area to the effect that it was their government and insisted upon the inhabitants to join the Communist party and to donate cash or land to the party. They also threatened that the person not abiding by their command would be punished. Processions were brought out by the agitators giving a fearful and outlandish appearance — some of the processionists wearing black trousers, other wearing red shirts, some others wearing red caps or black spectacles. These processionists passed through various villages, cultivation fields and tea plantations shouting pro-Chinese and pro-Communist slogans.

All such activities were known to the police and were also brought to the notice of the police, but the police did not take any notice or action on the same. The people in the region were permitted to be demoralised and threatened.

The second stage which started in the third week of April and continued until the third week of June consisted of further intensification of these activities in the course of which agitators started forceful occupation of the land of those persons who refused to join their party. On such forcefully occupied lands red flags were planted. Houses of several persons were looted during which apart from cash and other properties, several guns were also looted. According to our estimate about 25 guns were snatched away by the agitators.

The situation started becoming very panicky, some murders were also committed and people started leaving their homes migrating either to the towns or in some cases to Bihar.

Police again remained absolutely inactive inspite of the incidents having happened with their full knowledge. We came across evidence to suggest that in some cases the police officers bluntly expressed their inability to take any action in view of directions from their superior authorities.

The third stage which started from the third week of June and continued until the first week of July witnessed large scale looting, assault, and arson resulting into complete lawlessness and anarchy in the entire region. The agitators resorted to firing on several occasions. A delegation consisting of several Ministers of West Bengal Government was sent to Naxalbari for studying the situation. They however failed to established any contact with the leaders of the agitation and returned back to Calcutta leaving two of their comrades behind. These two gentlemen namely Mr. Biswanath Mukerji and Mr. Konar belonging to the CPI Left were able to establish contact with the ring-leader of the agitators immediately after the remaining Ministers had gone away. They however also failed to bring the situation under control. As the situation was deteriorating very fast and it became impossible for the administration to continue with such a state of affairs, the Government of West Bengal gave ultimatum to the agitators to surrender. The ultimatum was afterwards extended till 4th July. None of the ultimatums worked and ultimately the Chief Minister had to issue instructions, possibly against the wishes of his Communist colleagues, to the police to take action.

The fourth stage started on the 5th July when police operations started in the area.

In order to understand the true nature of the agitation and the *modus operandi* of the communist party, two illustrations are given below:

Illustration—1: This relates to Mr. Porus Kunjur of the village

Bhatjore under the police station of Kharibari. This person migrated from Bihar many years back. He was originally a cultivator and thereafter bit by bit he purchased land from his own earnings and ultimately he and his family became holders of nearly 40 acres of land. His entire property consisted of this land, cash amounting to Rs. 4,500, a pair of bullocks, a small house consisting of ground and first floor and some foodgrains. He also possessed one gun. The members of the Communist Party insisted upon him to join the Communist Party and to hand over his gun to them. This man consistently refused; on 15th June 1967 at about one a.m. a procession consisting of about 50 persons came to his house and without any provocation or notice set fire to the ground floor. They looted about 16 maunds of maize which was stored in the ground floor. Mr. Porus Kunjur asked his two sons to go down and resist the hooligans. The hooligans opened fire on the two sons both of whom were injured, one on the face and the other on the arm. At this point Mr. Kunjur brought his gun out and fired, resulting in the death of two agitators. After hearing that the two persons had been killed by Mr. Kunjur, the Police led by the OC of Kharibari police station arrived on the scene in the evening and took Mr. Kunjur away to Kharibari town.

Mr. Kunjur narrated the whole story to the OC and requested him to provide protection in the village so that his remaining property including cash and bullocks may be saved. He also requested for police help so that he could start sowing his land. The police refused to give any such protection and exactly after three days his house in the village was attacked again, the entire house was set on fire and the entire property including cash of Rs. 4,500 and a pair of bullocks was looted. His land was occupied by the miscreants and red flags were planted.

When I interviewed this person he was still living in Kharibari town and the police had failed to provide protection to him until then. In order to verify the truth of his statement I contacted the OC and was not satisfied by the answers given by

him. I am inclined to believe that the statement by Mr. Kunjur is correct. Other persons living in Kharibari town corroborated his statement.

Illustration—2: This relates to a Tea Estate. The manager of the tea estate is an Englishman whom I had the occasion to interview personally. The labour union of this particular Estate was not very strong, although in a way it was controlled by the Communist Party. Mr. Khoken Mazumdar one of the ring leaders of the agitation happens to belong to this particular area. Taking advantage of the situation of lawlessness he wanted to develop the influence of Communist Party among the workers of the Tea Estate and started bringing out processions consisting of a few labourers belonging to the Tea Estate and some outsiders. The processionists shouted pro-Chinese slogans asking the people to join Communist Party who alone were capable of delivering the goods, they said. Most unreasonable demands were put forward to the management which were not capable of being accepted.

In respect of one particular job in the tea gardens the measurement of job is done by luggies and a worker not completing minimum 40 luggies is not paid full wages but is paid prorata wages in accordance with the quantum of job done by him. Such practice had been followed over the last several years in consultation with all concerned. On 17th May, 28 workers deliberately worked 35 luggies only instead of 40 luggies and thereby they were entitled to deduction of their wages totalling to Rs. 19.19 for all the 28 workers. The workers had deliberately worked less as part of their planned programme to put up unreasonable demands with the management.

On 24th May 1967 these 28 workers accompanied by about 40 to 50 outsiders and led by Mr. Khoken Mazumdar marched in procession to the office of the manager and demanded that the manager come out of his office. A list of nine demands of which the principal demanded was to make payment to the 28 workers on the basis of full day's work without any deduction was placed before the manager. The manager explained the

difficulty in making such payment and requested the leaders of the procession to discuss the matter in his office in friendly atmosphere across the table. The processionists would not yield and Mr. Khoken Mazumdar threatened the manager that unless a decision was taken by him within 15 minutes on the spot, the life of the manager and his two other senior officers would be in danger. After seven minutes had passed Mr. Mazumdar repeated his threat talking in very loud voice that seven minutes had already passed and if he wanted the security of his life the manager must take a decision within the remaining 8 minutes. Under such an atmosphere the manager yielded and those 28 workers got full payment involving an excess payment of Rs. 19.19 only.

The police was informed of the event and was requested to take necessary action and to post a permanent police force for security purposes. No action whatsoever was taken, nor any arrest was made. In the meantime the miscreants continued taking out processions in the area every day shouting slogans and enrolling members for their party. In the process, the morale of the managerial staff and those who opposed such lawlessness was considerably affected and the elements of lawlessness could create an impression of being successful in their game. It was only on 26th June 1967 that police force was posted in the garden.

The above two illustrations indicate the *modus operandi* adopted by the Communist elements in the areas to influence and force their ideology on the masses.

Chinese Involvement

On this point despite detailed investigation only two worthwhile facts came to our notice. The Third Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in India visited Siliguri just before the agitation took a violent turn and met Mr. Sanyal one of the ringleaders. Another fact which was more important in our opinion was the movement of Chinese on the Nepalese side of the border. In Badrapur a township in Nepal across the

river Mechi which could be crossed over on foot from our side, the First secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal had stayed for three days in the second week of June. It will be significant here to mention that the Chinese activities are more noticeable in Nepal rather than in Pakistan. There is no official restriction on the movement of persons coming from Nepal to the Indian border town and vice versa and people cross over the borders practically everyday.

With the exception of the above two instances no other direct evidence was available to suggest any direct involvement of the Chinese in Naxalbari affairs. In a general way however there was sufficient material, like Chinese literature, Chinese red books, Chinese flags, etc. to suggest that the movement was encouraged and possibly financed by the Chinese.

Leaders

The following are the four important ring leaders:

Kanu Sanyal, Jangal Santhal, Khokan Mazumdar, Charu Chandra.

All these persons are known goondas of the area. Mr. Khokan Mazumdar is widely known as a Pakistani national and he has several other aliases like Yaqub Husain, Mohd. Husain etc. According to one report he was arrested at the time of Pakistani aggression, under DIR as a Pakistani national but according to another equally dependable report he was arrested as a pro-Pakistani only. There was however a consensus that Mr. Mazumdar was a Pakistani national whether such fact was admitted by the Government or not.

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Shoulmari Ashram

The Report will be incomplete without making a brief reference about this Ashram which is already widely known all over the country in connection with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I have been told by two different and not unreliable

sources that Mahant of this Ashram who sometimes is thought to be Subhas Chandra Bose is a Chinese agent. Regular military training is given to the Ashramites under his guidance. It has been reported that on several occasions, the Mahant disappears without anybody's knowledge and reappears again after an interval of 10 to 15 days.

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The agitation was originally started by the Kisan Sabha in West Bengal. Mr. Bishwa Nath Mukherji, a Minister in the West Bengal Cabinet is the President of Kisan Sabha, and happens to be the brother of the Chief Minister. Mr. Konar another important leader of the Kisan Sabha is also a Minister in present West Bengal Cabinet.

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The tactics adopted by the Communist Party in the area were identical to those adopted by this party at any other place. They exploited the poor and the weaker sections of the society on the plea of giving them protection against landlords and Zamindars. They threatened those people who did not co-operate with them, created unrest, disorder and lawlessness and so far succeeded in achieving their objective in the sense that in the weaker sections of the society they could project themselves as the champions. Their strategy for future for the cause of the poor and landless, is therefore quite clear and the West Bengal Government which at the moment is unfortunately controlled by Communist elements is likely to lend support to this strategy by which although they will not permit the situation to go so bad as to invite serious attention of the Centre, they will at the same time never permit the situation to become absolutely normal and a sense of disorder and insecurity will be permitted to prevail. Such an atmosphere will be a suitable breeding ground for further expansion of the Communist ideology in the area.

With such political background the police action in the area started on the 5th of July. Although the communist section of

the Cabinet wanted the police action to be delayed a little more, it commenced on the 5th July on the personal insistence of the Chief Minister who by then started having some differences with his other cabinet colleagues on Naxalbari affairs. The instructions given to the police were however of a reserved nature which demanded of the police to act in a manner which could isolate the extremist element without resorting to any bloodshed. The motive was to avoid arresting the ringleaders as also to avoid punishment of the culprits. The atmosphere of disorder and in security which prevails in the area cannot be effectively checked and reversed, unless these ring leaders who were successful in projecting themselves as heroes are arrested and severely punished for their sins. The culprits must not be permitted to reap the fruit of their sins. But so long as the communist element in the Cabinet remains powerful, they will not permit such culprits to be punished and allow the ground gained by them to be lost again.

In course of their operations, police arrested approximately 600 persons. Most of the arrests were made under Section 396 and the arrested persons were given third class treatment. About 124 persons were released after interrogation. Police were hopeful that their mopping up operations would be completed by end of July and they were confident that the situation will be brought under complete control.

In view of the reluctance of the police and the State Government to take drastic action against the culprits, it was apprehended that the situation was only being suppressed and serious trouble was likely to start again at the time of the harvest. Nobody appeared to be serious enough to take precautionary measures.

A few persons like Mr. Sampat Roy, an RSP leader and Mr. Ishwar Chandra Tirka another labour leader are organising resistance movement against the communist elements. They were hardly successful but their efforts continue.

The area has been very badly affected economically. On account of this agitation, 12,000 acres of cultivable land which should have been sown about three weeks back still remained

fallow. Sowing was only recently started in some of the portions and their production of foodgrains was likely to be considerably affected in this region. All the tea estates in the neighbourhood of this area were also greatly affected, and the production was likely to be reduced by not less than 15 per cent compared to the quantity expected to be produced this season.

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The agitations in West Bengal started from the month of March 1967 onwards. Whether reflected in the form of gherao or large scale lawlessness in Naxalbari or in the coal fields of Raniganj and Asansol they are all part of a wider game of the Communist Party of India, and the one cannot be isolated from the other. In a House of 180 the strength of Communist Members (both Right and Left) is only 60, and it is significant that inspite of their low strength they happen to be in a controlling position today practically dictating their terms and prevailing over other parties. Conscious of their minority position and knowing fully well the possibility of such a coalition government not continuing very long, the Communist strategy is directed towards taking full advantage so long as they are in the Government. All their efforts therefore are directed towards conversion of trade unions, student organisations and other poorer sections of the society by persuasion or force into communist way of thinking. Maximum possible use of administrative machinery is being made to meet these political objectives. It is very reliably understood that executive positions in the interior of the State like Munsifs etc. are being filled with pro-communist officers and wherever any officer holding anti-communist view is traced, attempts are made to replace and transfer him to some other nonexecutive section. It has also been reported that the village units of the Communist Party are extremely active and with the reluctant assistance of the local tehsildars they have made inventory of practically all the persons in the villages about their land holdings, income and ideology etc. In the process they are, with the help of administrative machinery, influencing the inhabitants of the rural areas towards communist thinking.

The other side of their activity is directed towards creating a suitable breeding ground for communist ideology by encouraging labour and political unrest, breaking social discipline and creating an atmosphere of distress, insecurity, frustration and helplessness. Agitation in the industrial area of West Bengal started with large scale gheraos. Managerial staff were wrongfully confined for hours together, forcefully exposed to sun and several other tortures, isolated, humiliated and demoralised, and in certain cases were stripped of their clothing. In some cases group of agitators gathered around and spat on the face of the managerial staff. The police not only failed to take any action but in spite of continuous reporting of such events to the police they were prevented by the West Bengal Government from acting in such matters irrespective of the consequences. Police were completely rendered inactive and were demoralised to such an extent that in several cases in spite of search warrants police hesitated in rescuing the persons confined in gherao. There had been innumerable cases where police officers had openly confessed their inability to render protection.

Murders were committed at Burnpur, Asansol and in other coalfield areas of West Bengal. Murders were committed in the presence of hundreds of people and sometimes in the presence of police officers; they were reported to the police, and to the West Bengal Government in spite of which no action whatsoever was taken and no arrests were made for weeks together. The situation was permitted to grow from bad to worse and a state of nearly complete lawlessness, anarchy, and lack of security prevailed in the industrial area of West Bengal. Democracy ceased to function: as if there was no authority to give any protection to the law abiding citizens of the State.

The whole agitation gathered momentum when gheraos in the industrial areas were defended by the West Bengal Government including the Chief Minister on the plea of defective labour legislation and exploitation of the labour by the employers. One of the principal arguments advanced by all of them was the delay in redressing the grievances of labour, pointing out the defective

machinery by which whenever the management wanted, they could postpone giving relief for years together by taking the matter from one court to another up to the Supreme Court; and whereas the labour suffered, the management remained unaffected, the cost of litigation incurred by the management being paid by the company. Irrespective of the merits of the argument, the attempt by the West Bengal Government to equate the situation of lawlessness in West Bengal with the labour grievances has no justification whatsoever. It was open to the West Bengal Government to change labour laws to make them more effective. It was therefore clear that such argument has been advanced only to cover up the designs of the Communist Party directed not so much towards redressing grievances of the labour but more towards achieving their own political objectives by creating the situation of lawlessness and unrest.

In the course of the last few weeks the intensity of gheraos has to an extent subsided, which is being mistaken as a sign of suppression of the movement. The intensity of gherao has subsided merely because of the resistance of the management having further gone down to a point where management has become extremely demoralised and on account of the labour having become tired due to continuous agitation over the last four months. The intensity of gherao, appears to be somewhat subsided on the surface only and, the movement has started manifesting itself in various other forms of lawlessness and lack of security. In and around the city of Calcutta the number of cases involving robbing of cash and jewellery, forcible demand of donations, forcible lift in cars, assaults, and such other threats of a demoralising nature have considerably increased. A few illustrations in this respect will be helpful to understand the extent of demoralising effect on the law abiding citizens of West Bengal. All the illustrations given below relate to the month of July.

(i) One woman while coming back after making purchases on Lindsay Street was approached by a group of three or four young men who demanded a donation of Rs. 10 for Bihar Relief Fund. On the refusal of the lady to pay any such donation one

of these young persons conveniently unloaded the articles purchased by the lady from her car and asked the lady to go away as those articles could be appropriated against the donation they wanted from her. This incident happened in the afternoon in the presence of many persons but nobody protested or prevented these undesirable youths from snatching away the articles from the lady.

(ii) A group of five or six young persons entered a flat of a respectable family on Southern Avenue without notice. They made themselves comfortable in the drawing room, put the fan on and demanded of the servant to call the master of the house immediately. They asked for donation which the house master was not willing to pay. They threatened him that if he wanted to live in peace, he could not be permitted to live in comfort while others were dying. The group of young persons refused to move out and started shouting, creating an atmosphere of tension under which the housemaster had to pay the desired amount to these persons.

(iii) On 9th July a young couple were walking in the evening in front of Victoria Memorial. A few young men approached and wanted to snatch away the jewellery which the lady was wearing. On resistance, both these people were stabbed. The wife succumbed to the injuries and died very soon. The husband is lying in a serious condition in the hospital.

(iv) This illustration relates to Mr. Parekh, Managing Director of ICICI. The name is being disclosed because we understand, it was reported in the press. One of the leading football clubs, Mohan Bagan, was defeated and the supporters of Mohan Bagan were returning back home. Near the Victoria Memorial the car of Mr. Parekh was stopped and he was asked to get down. He was then told that his car would be set on fire. On asking the reason for setting the car on fire, he was told that because their favourite club had been defeated they wanted to set the car on fire. The group of persons started preparing for setting the car on fire but due to the intelligence of the driver just at the right moment he drove away at a very fast speed.

(v) A businessman was driving back home towards the north when his car was stopped and a few young persons forcibly entered the car and wanted him to give them a lift up to South Calcutta. On explaining to them that he was going towards the north, those persons would not yield but demanded why he should be permitted to drive in luxury when others were made to hang on the buses. Those young persons refused to get down and the man had to give them a lift upto the South.

The tragedy of the whole situation is that in spite of such cases now happening around Calcutta very frequently, and the cases being reported, police remain inactive. There is no respect for law and order. The law abiding citizens are living there in a state of considerable helplessness and insecurity.

(vi) Movement of trains in West Bengal is being obstructed very frequently. In one case 400 people forced the train to stop on the way. The passengers were looted in the name of search for rice.

(vii) In another case while a truckload of rice was looted by the crowd in the presence of the police, police did not take any action nor the case was registered.

(viii) An unusual thing, is said to have happened in the Calcutta High Court: One particular order of the Chief Justice was resented by the staff of the High Court; the Chief Justice was virtually gheraoed by the staff; and ultimately the Chief Justice had to reverse his order.

The situation has been permitted to deteriorate day after day due to inaction of the police on the one hand and moral support to the agitation by the Government on the other. The goonda elements have come up in the forefront and the effect of demoralisation is prevailing all over. There is hardly any effort or attempt by the police to apprehend and punish the culprits and in a way the persons who had violated the law are being sheltered and given protection. Only such trade unions which are supported and sponsored by the Communist Party are being encouraged and other trade unions are being crushed, their leaders molested and various kinds of threats used.

Our assessment of the situation is that the first round of the movement sponsored by the Communist Parties has in a way ended and they have been able to achieve their objective by creating a situation of general lawlessness and disorder and laying the roots of communism still deeper. In West Bengal, the time immediately before Pujas namely September/October is always the time for labour unrest. This year there appears to be a thorough preparation by the Communist Party to launch agitation in a big way at the time of Puja on the pretext of labour demands.

The economic recession which is already very bad in the country has been permitted to grow worse in West Bengal. There is rising unemployment and a large number of factories have curtailed their production. No entrepreneur is willing to implement any expansion programme and in the present state of mind no attention is being paid for efficient running of the industries. The middle class Bengali businessmen appear to have been most hard hit. As a result production has suffered to a considerable extent and the Central and State Governments have lost revenue running into crores of rupees.

In the course of our discussions with the Chief Minister we gathered the impression that such economic losses, unemployment and state of insecurity are not given much importance and the Chief Minister is only trying to cover up the situation as a labour revolt resulting out of high cost and exploitation of labour by the management. The Chief Minister appeared to be a completely confused person not knowing definitely the way he should proceed in order to bring the situation under control.