

### HUNGER STRIKE !

## WILL MONEY TAKE OVER THE HUNGER OF POOR ?

### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

There is an average of over 1 crore families in Odisha. Of these, 93 lakh families are covered under the Food Safety Act, which is enforced by the central and state governments. This means that, 93 lakh families still depend on Rs.1 per kg rice scheme for their food security. According to the survey, only 15 per cent of the total population in the state is in a better financial condition. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited Kalahandi and inaugurated some of the schemes, saying that the geography of hunger is now the "rice bowl of Odisha". Poverty will be eradicated and development will be ensured. But an average of 10 lakh migrant labourers from the two districts, such as Kalahandi and the adjoining Balangir, are leaving their ancestral homeland and migrating to outside states for their earning their daily wage. With an average of 40 lakh daily wage-earners in the state migrating outside for work, there arises the question of development, where there is Rs. 1/kg rice bowl, 40 lakh migrant labourers reside there? Even today, in backward districts of Kalahandi in the state, the picture of child trafficking has not diminished. According to the census commissioner's office, the population of Kalahandi district in 2011 was 15.76 lakh, with a population growth rate of 18.06 per cent. By 2021, the population of Kalahandi will reach 18.71 lakh. According to the state government, as of June 2020, the total

number of beneficiaries in the Kalahandi scheme under the National Food Security Act was 13.32 lakh. This means that, despite Kalahandi being known as 'Odisha's Rice Bowl', suffers as about 71 percent of the population is still dependent on Rs.1/kg Rice scheme for their food security.

Employment in the district has been a distant dream. The Indrabati project, launched by the Chief Minister, will irrigate many farmland in Kalahandi district. But the project has not been completed in 22 years. Farmers who harvest rice are facing difficulty in selling. As a result of the exploitation of the wealthy-Gontia, most of the people are leaving their ancestral homeland and going outside the state to for their daily wage. Hunger, malnutrition, and poverty still exists. The state of affairs in the state remains unchanged, with about 70 per cent of households relying on Rs.1/kg Rice scheme to maintain food security. The Educated are jobless & are not finding employment opportunities. There is a dearth of qualified teachers, doctors and paramedicals in government schools and



government health centers. Farmland is not being irrigated. Development has come to a halt. Not only in Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput, but also in 30 districts of Odisha, the number of people living below the poverty line does not decline, but rather

the number is increasing. In the state capital Bhubaneswar and coastal districts like Kendrapara, the picture of hunger, malnutrition and poverty is still seen.

According to information from the source, the distance from Bhubaneswar is only 20 km. But many children of workers working in Ita Bhati in different parts of Balipatna are being neglected. They do not have access to basic services. Some have torn pants and some don't. Where normal children are accustomed to eating modern pizza, rolls, and junkfood, children of these poor labourers get to consume only a bowl fermented rice in the morning. These poor innocent children are also deprived of health care amenities. Tujuram, 26, who works from Ita vati in Mudhvalo village in Nuapadha district, said he left Ita Bhati and fled with his wife, two sons and a

daughter. He says ,they have been given responsibility in brick making work. After working for 5 to 6 months, they will return to their village. Whatever they have earned in these 5 to 6 months will only be managed throughout the year.

Similarly, Pinky, 25, from Padakode village in Nuapadha district, is working in Etawah with her husband Sunil Soni. Their ten-year-old girl is in the village but heir 8-year-old son is with them. Pinky says, she has moved here because she could not find work in the village. Whatever the couple is able to earn , they try to manage with difficulty. Pinky says , due to her coming to work she is unable to assist her children in their studies.

A similar condition is seen in Kendrapara, where a villager named Akshay Mallick has been living in Gopalpur in Ali block of Nial gram panchayat district. It's been two years since his wife died, and hence his 4 daughter's education has discontinued. Only at the age of forty eight, Akshay has developed many ailments in his body but is unable to take proper medication due to severe financial difficulties. The desire for education could not be completed due to financial obstacles. He requests the ordinary people and the government for assistance, by the help of which his children's education can be completed hassle-free and he can also make arrangement for his medications.

## DEMISE OF LONG-SERVING PRISONER, RAVI DULE

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Bhubaneswar (Bureau): Police-civilian conflict situations are on the rise. An unnecessary dominance by Police officials on the civilians is highly observed. The death toll at police and judicial custody has risen sharply. The police administration has been misusing their power on citizen's rights in the name of maintaining law and order. Violations of the Supreme Court and guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission have been reported. The recent death of Ravi Dule, serving for 12-years at Jharpada Jail, has given rise to many questions. A high-level investigation into Ravi's death has been demanded by the anti-false prosecution campaign, Odisha and human rights activists.



### DEMANDS FOR APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES WITH A HIGH-LEVEL INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT

Ravi Dule's successors have been compensated with Rs 50 lakh by the organization, with an allegation that an innocent person died due to false police arrests and delayed judgement by the judiciary.

Demands have also been made to expedite the trial of all other inmates.

According to the report, Ravi Dulal had moved to Bhubaneswar in 2008 due to mental illness in Chhotataranga village under Badsaranga police station in Bankuda district

of West Bengal. As per the source, One day while Ravi was walking near the Bermunda bus stand, he mistakenly boarded the bus bound for Nayagarh, thinking it was going to West Bengal. At that time as a wandering and Nayagarh police armory did not understand the Dasapalla language stagger due to attacks on Barack Maoist Dule Ravi, police was arrested Maoist suspense.

There were 5 cases filed in his name in the Nayagarh's Douraj District Court, while 4 cases were filed in the Dasapalla Court. In Ravi's process of running from one court to another, 12 years had already passed. He finally passed away at the Jharpada Jail due to his painful confinement for 12 long years ...

## LIFE IS INDISPENSABLE

The world's largest vaccination campaign was undertaken in India on Saturday, January 16th. It would not be wrong to say that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work style is centered on record keeping. The biggest fundraising, the most governed state, the most number of rallies, the biggest statues, the most trains running at the same time, the biggest vaccination campaign has started under Modi's rule. He announced financial decisions such as the demonetisation of notes, GST. He has also been seen in space programs such as Mars and the Moon. In this way, announcements have been made from developing vaccine to vaccination against corona disease. To remind health workers, Modi said the infection had caused untimely deaths. At this point, no matter how much you thank those who selflessly risk their lives and serve others, it will be less. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who declared a sudden shutdown, has never recalled how painful the lives of millions of civilians were due to the shutdown. As many people were killed and several others were injured in what became known as the Cold War. The relevance of presenting this issue today is that how sensitive is the security of the lives of ordinary citizens to the government? Meanwhile, the lockdown time is over. But how safe is the life of these ordinary citizens? In the meantime, some state governments have announced that they will provide free vaccines in exchange for votes. While there is uncertainty about when the vaccine will arrive, not one, but two vaccines have arrived. Vaccination has begun. The government has already announced plans to vaccinate health workers and frontline workers. Vaccination has begun in some hospitals. In the next few months, 30 crore people will be vaccinated. The government initially targeted to vaccinate 300,000 people. However, due to the quality of the vaccine, side effects, etc., there is a risk that the vaccine may be less than the target. Questions have also been raised about vaccines. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked Union Health Minister Harshavardhan not to ignore false rumors about the vaccination. Both the prime minister and the health minister said the vaccine was safe. But his request did not materialize. The question arises as to why Serum Institute and India Biotech vaccines received emergency wages at the same time. This is because the third phase of India Biotech's Vaccine Phase III trial has not yet been completed. Despite this, the vaccine has been approved. The controversy erupted between Adar Poonawala, CEO of Serum Institute of India, and Krishna Ila, president of Bharat Biotech, after receiving a vaccine. "Both companies will work together to end the epidemic," said Poonawala, adding that "one company's vaccine is like water!" It was later revealed that there was a dispute over the business. Doubts arose over the vaccine. This suspicion has not been completely dispelled. Because the question is life. Life is the greatest for everyone. The central and state governments are responsible for the protection of this life. Shouldn't the government do something that would make the lives of citizens insecure as per the directives of the constitution? The issue's end has the recaptured Doomsday in the control of the public and the Treasury Department. The constitution speaks of equality before the law for all citizens. Fundamental or fundamental rights will be available to all citizens. The Constitution of India does not address any discrimination against its citizens. Or does not discriminate. But in everyday life, there are different forms of discrimination in society. The government's work on the constitution has not been discriminated against. Equality, philosophy, behaviour, or behaviour cannot be biased. There is social inequality and discrimination. The government that has been formed to address this cannot address this inequality and discrimination. Our constitution provides for equal rights and fundamental rights to dignity. The Prime Minister, the Minister, the Chief Minister in the government cannot do what they are supposed to do to address this inequality and discrimination. Not all citizens have been able to gain power in the social and political spheres. Not everyone has social, political rights. In order to live a life of human dignity, the government should do something that does not raise questions about it. Vaccination is an important step. But the central government should take appropriate and precise steps to ensure that the company does not play games with life for business purposes. The decision taken by the government is undeniable and should be implemented to ensure the safety of citizens.

## MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE OR MAXIMUM MARKET RATE?

Neelamani Sahu

[During the month of July 2020 the Odia original of this article was published in Samadrusti, Nut Duniya, Mahllar, Utkal Samaja, Sanchar, Shruti, Naksatra Jyoti, Swadhikar, Odisha Bhaskar, Sahana Mela, Matrubhasa, Eka Matra and The Samaja. I am grateful to all the editors.]

If the price of the dot pen that you write with, is hiked from `5/- to `7/-, then, if you indeed wish to buy the same pen, you have to pay `2/- more, but there would be no commotion in the market - the economy of the country would remain unaffected. On the other hand, if the price of the rice you buy is hiked from `50/- per kilo to `70/-, you might not be able to buy the same quality of rice, but if indeed you do so your wallet would be severely affected. Whether you buy the same quality of rice or not, there would be a great commotion in the market, its affect would be felt in the prices of other goods, the economy of the country would be severely affected. The country would be shaken, there may be lamentations around. If the prices of cereals like rice and wheat go up, then, not to speak of others, the central and state governments have to pay their employees thousands of crores of rupees as dearness allowances. The capitalists and employers have to follow suit - pay more to their employees and workers. In order to avoid such a situation, is there any attempt to keep the prices of the cereals at the lowest possible level? - Such a question arises in the mind. So the question: "Minimum Support Price or Maximum Market Rate?"

By the time India got independence, I was just a child. I had often heard in those days that the cost of a cart load (540 kg.) of paddy and the cost of a tola (11 gm 664 mg) of gold were the same, i. e., `20/-. I heard that the government by fixing the minimum support price for paddy for this year pays `16.65p. per kg. That means for a cart load the government pays `8,991/-. Now-a-days the price for 10 gms. of gold is around 34,000. So the price for one tola of gold would be around 39,500/-. Around the year of independence in order to buy one tola of gold a peasant had to sell one cart load of paddy. Now he has to sell around four and a half cart load. That means: whatever a peasant got in return for a cart load of paddy around the year of independence, now he gets less than one-fourth of that. Naturally, the peasant is overburdened with loans, with no opportunity for other pleasant aspects of life. He feeds all, but remains hungry - overburdened with loans, commits suicide.

Looking at the pitiable condition of the peasants, all seem to shed - crocodile's, may be genuine - tears. The central and state governments too shed their tears. Considering that due to distress-sale the peasants do not get their due from their products, the governments fix minimum support price.

Who is poor? Simply because the governments are not able to know who is poor and who is not, they keep on searching

for a dividing line - above the line not poor, below the line poor. Wise people differ - from politicians to experts differ and have different opinions on poverty. Some search for absolute poverty, some try to determine who is relatively poor, some others try to determine poverty with the help of the minimum amount of calorie a person needs to keep himself alive. Some keep the family in view to determine poverty, while others keep the individual. Some take the annual income, while others break up this annual income to monthly income, daily income and criticise the annual income approach. Some discarding the national poverty standard, try to determine the international poverty standard. Others saying that a normally rich man of one country may appear poor in another or a normally poor man of one country may appear rich in another, discard the international standard and search for national poverty line. Some others take the purchasing power as the standard to determine the poverty line. Thus different people take different approaches to determine poverty. Thus the poor are shrouded by illusion and keep on looking forward to the government for help. Moreover, simply because there is no parity between the central government and state government poverty lines, the help gets delayed.

Similarly, the peasants seem to be shrouded by illusion so far as the fixation of minimum support price is concerned. To speak, the governments speak in plain terms: We will pay one and a half times the cost of production. But how the cost of production is determined is an intricate question. It is said that the following 12 factors are taken into consideration in the fixation of minimum support price: (1) cost of production, (2) changes in input prices, (3) input-output price parity, (4) trends in market prices, (5) demand and supply, (6) inter-crop price parity, (7) effect on industrial cost structure, (8) effect on cost of living, (9) effect on general price level, (10) international price situation, (11) parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers, (12) Effect on issue prices and implications for subsidy. Out of these 12 factors if emphasis is put on the following 5 factors in the fixation of the minimum support price: (4) trends in market prices, (6) inter-crop price parity, (7) effect on industrial cost structure, (8) effect on cost of living, (9) effect on general price level, then there would be a definite attempt to keep the minimum support prices for paddy and wheat at the lowest possible minimum. Again, if the minimum support prices of paddy and wheat are raised, the governments have to bear loss on two fronts: (1) the governments have to pay the farmers thousands of crores more because of this minimum price hike, (2) because this hike would have its due effect on 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 resulting in the general rise of the prices of other goods, the governments have again to pay thousands of crores to their employees as dearness allowance. In industrial and business...

sectors the capitalists and employers have to follow suit. More or less, others too would be affected. So the question arises in the mind: Whether there is a deliberate attempt to keep the minimum support price at the lowest possible minimum or not?

Nowadays people talk of only minimum support price. Years back beside the minimum support price the government used to declare a procurement price to buy paddy and wheat. During those days the farmers preferred to sell their products to traders because they paid more than what the government paid. Common people too bought their needs and milled them. There used to be the traditional Dhenkis and huller mills to meet the milling needs of the common people and small traders. Dhenkis have now become things of the past and huller mills are gradually disappearing. Instead we have now sheller mills with the capacity to mill thousands of quintals of paddy. Along with the Dhenkis and huller mills disappeared from the market small traders and common buyers. In the past the government used to buy paddy and wheat to meet emergencies and also the danger and mischief caused by the black-marketeers. But now the responsibilities of the governments have increased. They now provide rice to crores of people in the BPL group @ of 1/- per kg. So the real customers of paddy and wheat are the governments and big mill-owners. We can say there is no one else in the market. The farmers are in a way bound to sell their produce at the rate they fix. There is no need of any procurement price.

From the point of view of demand and supply, some people may say that in the past the production was less than the demand, but now the turn-out is more than the demand. It is true that because of the Green Revolution the production of paddy and wheat has increased in the country, so, they may say, the price is less. If that is the state of affairs, it is the duty of the government to arrange the sale of the regionally excess produce at the national and international markets. If the production is more than the demand both at national and international levels, then there is the necessity of growing some other crops instead of rice and wheat. Let us take the case of Odisha. Potatoes, onions and innumerable number of other food materials are imported from other states. During the summer months, even coriander leaves are brought from Bengaluru and sold in Bhubaneswar @ `150/- to `200/- per kilo. Odisha is a state with rich climatic diversity. The Agriculture Department of the state should take the responsibility of determining which area can grow which crop best and encourage the peasants accordingly. The best step

would be: the village level workers of the agriculture department should be provided with an acre or two of land (government or private land on lease) with some fund to carry out experiments to find out which crop can grow best in their respective areas and inform the government about input, output and the infrastructure necessary so that growing the recommended crops becomes profitable to the farmers. It is the duty of the government to keep agriculture and agriculturist both healthy. News about the famines in Maharashtra appear again and again in the newspapers. There are movements too by the farmers. But there seems to be no remedial action. The government is providing Bullet Trains from Ahmedabad to Mumbai by spending thousands of crores. If the same amount on priority basis were spent on the infrastructural development of agriculture in Maharashtra, then the peasants of Maharashtra would have stood strait on their own feet. A country in which about 65% of the people depend on agriculture for their sustenance, it is to be seriously pondered over whether the infrastructural development of agriculture or Bullet Trains would benefit more people. I am not opposing Bullet Trains. But they could have been inducted later. High Speed Trains, Airports, etc. are symbols of infrastructural development for industry. If some infrastructural development for agriculture is carried out in some remote areas of Kalahandi district of Odisha, can it be counted as the symbol of development?

Farmers resort to distress sale of their produce year after year. All the causes of distress sale are worthy of serious consideration. But two are quite evident. First, most of the peasants raise their crops on loans with the promise to pay back at the time of harvest. Second, most of the peasant families do not have enough space to live in. So the question of storing their produce to get a better price at a later date does not arise. Primarily because of these two reasons the peasants are forced to make distress sale. So it is highly essential that the governments take necessary steps, on the one hand, to free the peasants gradually from the burden of loans and, on the other hand, build warehouses at village and panchayat levels where the peasants can store their produce till they get a better price. It would be better if such warehouses are put under the charge of local banks, so that, till the produce is sold, the banks can support peasants from time to time in their hours of need.

It is a matter of great regret that the majority of the poor in the country are peasants as if there is some kind of inherent bond between poverty and peasantry. Agriculture is claimed to be the backbone of the

country. If it is true, then it is not to be neglected. To set agriculture on its own feet, both the governments and the peasants have responsibilities. But what responsibilities the governments have towards agriculture and what role they themselves can play, the peasants themselves should suggest.

The peasants are today a divided lot. Let us take the case of Odisha. There are BJD peasants, Congress peasants, BJP peasants; some belong to the Communist and socialist peasant organizations; some independent political groups have floated independent peasant organizations, some belong to them too. As a result, if some peasant organizations of the opposition demonstrate in Bhubaneswar to put forth their demands, then immediately after the supporting organizations of the ruling party come and demonstrate in Bhubaneswar in support of the government; and thus, the peasant movements fail in Odisha. These groups of peasants think that the political party or parties they support can do wonders for them. But in reality nothing like that happens. Had that been so, the peasants would not have been in the condition they are at present. Only the interests of the political parties are served by following them slavishly, and that is not going to bring about real changes in the life of peasants in general.

If the peasants themselves want to speak about their own problems, they should have meetings in every village and while in the meeting thinking themselves only peasants and nothing else, discuss about the problems of peasants and agriculture. They should be careful about giving any political colour to their discussion and decisions. The decisions should be conveyed to the authorities from the Panchayat level to the government. If the demands are not fulfilled in due time, they should start their demonstrations from the Panchayat level so that all peasants would be involved and aware of the problems they fight for. They should not go for such demonstrations under the flag of any political party. They should have their own flag - the peasants' flag. They can have the traditional plough on a red flag, or a flag of any other colour of their choice. The supporting political parties may come with their own flags, but the peasants as peasants would not raise slogans in favour of any political party. Depending on the support and help of different political parties, they should vote at the time of elections. They should not remain in the pockets of the political parties. They are about 65% of the population and they can and must become a political force to determine the qualitative nature of the governments. Then only their

votes would have any value.

Farmers are fighting for minimum support price. Even if they come out successful in this struggle, it is not going to give them permanent solutions to their problems. - The movement of agriculture would continue to be a paralyzed movement. It would not allow the peasants to stand on their own feet with straightened backbones. The peasants themselves have to search for the solutions to their problems.

Only by way of suggestions certain things can be said. Keeping in the mind the demands of the market, if the peasants can think of other crops that would be better. If only the paddy is taken into consideration, they have to keep the minds free of minimum support price. They have to recreate the disappeared market. I cannot ask them to go back to the Dhenki era, but we have to blow life into the dying hullers - recreate the huller age. If we can create a taste Dhenki pounded rice, the better. It would engage many more number of people. We have to bring back small traders and individual customers to the market. This market would not keep the BPL people in view. The governments take care of them by providing them rice @ `1/- per kilo. The farmers should keep in view the needs of the people above the poverty line. For them the farmers can cultivate indigenous varieties of paddy preferably through organic method. But the indigenous seeds might not be there with the farmers. So far as I know, one man - Natabar Sarangi of Narisho village near Niali - can help the farmers in this regard. He is a very well-known person at all India level among the people concerned about the problems of agriculture in India. He is not unknown to the peasants of Odisha. Many know him. He has collected hundreds of varieties of indigenous seeds and still continues to do so. Year after year he demonstrates in his own fields how indigenous seeds yield more through organic farming. If, following his advice, the farmers grow indigenous paddy, they would be saved from purchasing the multinational capitalists' costly seeds, fertilizers and pesticides - also the crops would be saved from pests and insects. Many people are being attracted towards organic vegetables. Similarly, they can be attracted towards organic rice. As a result, small traders and individual buyers can be created in the market. Then only most probably the farmers can bring back the procurement price era.

Here some organizations should come forward to make the peasants and their products global. They should put on the Internet what is grown where, the expected quantity of the yield and other information to attract national and international buyers. In this age of

globalization, the capital of the multinationals is free to move around the globe unrestricted. Similarly, whatever the farmers produce must be free to be sold around the globe unrestricted.

It seems necessary for our farmers to know about the standards of national and international market and the preservation methods involved.

The cattle are a source of organic manure. Fine husk is food for the cattle. Only Dhenki and huller mills produce fine husk, which sheller mills cannot. So it is necessary for us to see that they continue to be there.

Gandhiji was very much concerned about the condition of our peasants. They are engaged in farming only for three to four months and for the rest of the year they have no work. So he urged them to take up spinning during the lean months. The Khadar Era ended with Gandhiji. Those who should have worn Khadar, forgot to do so. So spinning has no meaning now-a-days. But Gandhiji's concern for peasants continues to be there as it was. The farmers have to give thoughts to Gandhiji's concern, discuss the matter in Gram Sabhas and send their proposals to the governments for necessary action to turn their idle hours to earning hours. If necessary, they should launch movements.

Our democracy functions in such a manner that the common citizens have only one role to play - to vote at the time of election. In between the elections they have no role to play - no voice in the administration of the country. In order to attract the voters to vote, the political parties promise to the people to provide, in one way or the other, benefits from cradle to the grave. But they do not talk of creating opportunities to enable the people to stand on their own feet to live honourably with their own earnings and support their kith and kin from cradle to the grave. There should be demand for the recognition of Peasants' Sabhas to voice the interests of peasants and agriculture and Gram Sabhas to voice the interests of the village and villagers in common. Not only the right to vote, but also the people must have the right to raise their voice through such Sabhas on any local, regional or national issue which concerns them.

My dear readers, here I beg to apologize. I am not an economist. Whatever I have said, said as a common man concerned with the problems of farmers. Many of you may have different views. Quite natural. But if you also wish the welfare of the farmers, then we have the same objective. Kindly put forth your valuable suggestions. And let the farmers choose what is in their interest and act accordingly.

## THE STATE'S DEBT BURDEN IS RISING, WITH MORE THAN A LAKH & CRORES !

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): The state government has been forced to borrow more from the open market to expedite development work due to declining grants from the Center. As a result, the state's debt burden has so far crossed millions. The state government has prepared an annual budget of Rs 1 lakh 60,000 crore for the fiscal year 2020-21, with an estimated revenue of about Rs 68,000 crore from the Center. However, it has not been possible to get the estimated funding from the Center, as both the central and state revenue collection campaigns have been severely disrupted in Corona. As a result, grants from the center are declining. At the same time, development is slowing down due to a lack of funding for all central projects.

Under such circumstances, the state government is borrowing more

from the open market. According to special sources, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed the government to borrow about Rs 20,000 crore from the open market in the current financial year. The debt burden of the state has so far reached Rs 110,000 crore. The figure is estimated to be around Rs 5,000 crore over the next three months. The state government has been in a slump for the past four months due to its revenue collection, which has been slightly normal for the past two months. It is true that the state government is trying to make up for this shortfall in the next two months, but it is likely to be fruitful. The state government needs to invest more and more money as the state's financial situation is in turmoil. So the government is reportedly taking steps to invest more in health, education, employment, agriculture

and allied sectors. In addition, the government plans to spend more on infrastructure development. In the last six months, departmental authorities have not spent more than the target. The government has set a target of spending about Rs 50,000 crore over the next two and a half months. So the government seems to be forced to borrow more from the open market, with the revenue collection system being activated to raise the money.

The state government is taking steps to borrow for development work so that the debt burden does not increase and the repayment does not increase as much as the next time and the next time there is no difficulty in repaying it. It may be mentioned here that due to financial restraint, the state government has been quite fruitful in recent years to maintain balance in this regard.

## VILLAGERS DEPRIVED OF BASIC PROBLEMS

Khordha (Bureau): The Chief Minister of Odisha is the number one Chief Minister of all the states in India. The ruling chief minister of Odisha, who is facilitating the people, is blowing up the proportions. At the same time, the state government is planning to provide clean drinking water to the people of rural areas, but in reality, it is not accessible to the rural population. There is no road to the village or clean drinking water in the village. Let's take a look at this report in Harijan Sahi, Sundarpur Gram Panchayat, Khordha Tangi. This is the view of Harijan Sahi of Sundarpur Gram Panchayat. There are 30 families residing here. There is no road from the main road to the village. While there are two tube wells in the village, one is

completely defective and the other functions but clean water does not come out of it. The Sahi people depend on only one well in the village. People use that well water for cooking, bathing, and drinking at home. However, the condition of



the well is unbelievable. The inside of the well has been washed off with water. There is no doubt in saying that when you take water from that well, it may collapse and your livelihood will be ruined. Villagers have repeatedly complained in writing to local sarpanch and BDOs to rehabilitate the wells and provide basic amenities such as water supply, roads to the village, cemeteries, etc., but no action has been taken, causing dissatisfaction among the locals. News8 Oriya from Khordha Tangi.

## SHELTER LESS & DISABLED LIFE !

Mayurbhanj (Bureau): Dibyang life under Palithin Cover will give life to the helpless, many schemes from birth to death. Money spent is similar like wasted water for this purpose. However, many are not benefiting from the government's plans because of the greed of some government officials. Both the state and central governments have come up with various schemes for the disadvantaged and vulnerable. So the real beneficiary is the disabled who lives under the open sky because of the wrong beneficiary selection .... we are saying ...? Bankas Behera and wife Behera of Mundakota village, Mundakota village, Sarsakana village panchayat, Sarsakana block, Mayurbhanj district ...? Palithin is standing in the open, 100 meters from the Sarsakana block. The administration has been silent on the issue, which has long been a source

of concern for Lok Sabha MP Loknath Naik and Saraswati Sarpanch Loknath Naik, a local legislator. So, disabled Banka and the woman are running from one office to another and the legislator, the sarpanch BDO to get a piece of the house and they are living under the open sky. Due to the mercy of some kind people in the village they could manage to get a piece of polythene for their rooftop, that even hangs out. The Disabled husband and wife live in a very miserable, unhealthy environment by hanging polythene. Banka Behera a disabled from his birth, who survives by begging, thus spending his whatever earnings on salt and oil for their household. The disabled couple who receive Rs.500 allowance and 35 kg of rice from the government, for them their torn polythene-based shed is like a royale haven. However, in the Saraskana block of Baghabuda

panchayats, the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme has found houses on forest land, but the disabled husband and wife have not been able to get a house, this gives rise to many questions. How does the



administration not understand the plight of disabled Banka Behera and his wife Bid Behera? It is very difficult to survive during the winter. Eligible beneficiaries in the Sarsakana village

panchayat have been living in semi-detached houses for half a year, even though they have got permanent houses under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme. Some anti-social contractors, who have benefited from the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, are not completing the house by embezzling money out of greed to make a better house. Some eligible beneficiaries have been denied access to housing under the Biju Pakkaghar or Prime Minister's Housing Scheme. As a result, the families of the beneficiaries are forced to live in dilapidated and dilapidated houses. Similarly, some stakeholders are taking refuge in Parpinda. However, the government's housing scheme has failed to reach the real poor, forcing people to start running from the panchayat office to the block office. However, the state government's No.

1 huge number schemes have only become a farce, same as putting oil on an already oiled scalp. When will the state government hear the desperate pleas of this paralyzed husband and wife? Even after the emergence of so many politicians in Mayurbhanj district, many areas have been neglected and displaced. Where there is no good road, no electricity, no clean drinking water supply. Even poor disabled are denied access to government housing. Mundakota village, 100 meters from the Sarsakana Panchayat Samiti office, is a non-governmental area. In many tribal-dominated areas, the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme has become political smog. However, the state government's plan for development has failed. So it remains to be seen when the government will hear the grief of the disabled husband and wife ?

### DEMISE OF LONG-SERVING..

on the morning of January 16. He was acquitted in five of the total 9 cases in his name, while in 4 other cases, witnesses said he did not recognize or know Ravi Dule. Ravi lost his mental balance due to unreasonable delays in the trial. He appealed to the West Bengal Human Rights Commission, the National Human Rights Commission,

including the judges of the ongoing court, claiming his innocence, but his immediate trial was not possible.

Many inmates have been sentenced from 7 to 12 years in prison, but they are being re-assigned to new courts, further leaving them to lose their hope for justice. However, the Jharpada Jail and Laxmisagar police received

news of Ravi Dule's death, and the West Bengal human rights organization Masum and CDR, along with the False Trial Campaign and the Political Prisoners' Liberation Committee, tried to contact their families and relatives. Eventually, Ravi Dule's wife Pratima Dule, younger brother Bholanath Dule, daughter Falguni Dule, son

Jay Dule and other relatives arrived at the Laxmisagar police station at night. After autopsy in the presence of a magistrate at the Capital Hospital the body was handed over to them, and they went to their village in the evening for cremation of the body.

Thousands of convicts should be left behind in this regard, not to mention the innocence of the

innocent and the delay in justice - not to get justice - to expedite the judicial process of all judicial prisoners and especially political prisoners. Lawyers Pratima Das, Niranjana Mohanty, Rumita Kundu of the Political Prisoners' Liberation Committee and Swati Mishra, a social activist, have made major demands.