

IGNOMINIOUS INCARCERATION IN PRISONS

SIXTYSIX PERCENT OF THE INMATES ARE FROM SC/ST, BACKWARD CLASSES

(Janabadi Bureau): According to government data presented in Parliament on Wednesday, out of the total 4,78,600 inmates in the country's prisons, 3,15,409 (a total of 65.90%) belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward class categories. According to another report, the number of prisoners in the country is consecutively increasing, but the numbers of jails are lesser. Prisoners are leading a miserable life. Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy gave in a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha. He said in the study, conducted by the National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB) updated till December 31, 2019, shows that out of the 4,78,600 inmates in the country's jails, 3,15,409 are from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The remaining 1,26,393 inmates fell in 'Others' category. According to Home Affairs Minister Reddy, 1,62,800 inmates (34.09%) are from 'Other' backward classes (OBC). 99,273 inmates (20.74%) belong to Scheduled Castes and 53,336 (11.14%) from Scheduled Tribes. There are 4,58,687 male inmates and 19,913 female inmates. Some of them are in very critical conditions, some are creating unnecessary conflicts, and some are dying. Because living in such barbaric, ferocious and uncouth life is unbearable for human beings.

RUTHLESS ATROCITIES HAS NOT STALLED!

66,692 MANUAL SCAVENGERS IN OUR COUNTRY!
237 PEOPLE FROM ODISHA

‘Janabadi’ Bureau Review

The Nation is progressing and on the path of development, & scientific innovation is being adopted. But superstitious and evil practices do not cease. The man who is not even safeguarded from poverty, becomes manual scavengers across the country by cleaning, carrying and disposing of human excreta down the toilet, only to earn his square of meal for the day. Even after the Supreme Court's order, such ghastliness persists. The latest information in this regard has been expressed by the Central Government in the Rajya Sabha.

Twenty-eight years ago, the practice of manual scavenging was banned. Nonetheless, the filthy practice still continues. In 1993, Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act was enacted.

The law prohibited the filthy practices. Then, In December 2013 Government has also formulated Rules-2013 called as "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules 2013" or "M.S. Rules 2013". After that, the employment of manual scavengers and the hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks was prohibited.

Despite this, statistics show that 66,692 sanitation workers in the country are still manual scavengers. The number of such workers in Odisha is 237. The information came as response from a question asked by Dinesh Trivedi in the Rajya Sabha. According to statistics, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of manual scavengers in the country.

This number is 37,379. It was followed by 7,378 in Maharashtra, 2061 in Andhra Pradesh, 4,295 in Assam, 137 in Bihar, 3 in Chhattisgarh, 108 in Gujarat, 281 in Jharkhand, 3,204 in Karnataka, 600 in Kerala and 560 in Madhya Pradesh, 6170 in Uttarakhand, 741 in west Bengal and 237 in Odisha. They force themselves into choked



sewers and septic tanks; hang on for hours, scooping out filth with bare hands and bearing the stench of sewage. However, these figures could just be the tip of the iceberg. For one brief moment during the COVID-19 rhetoric, sanitation workers were acknowledged as the unsung heroes who work every single day, risking their lives, to keep us all safe. Otherwise, the lives of manual scavengers - the people, the caste (almost exclusively Dalits) who clean our toilets all over India go unnoticed. They are an army of people who do a thankless, filthy job, but more importantly, so criminally neglected and

uncared for that they have become invisible. The cleaning crew, known as "sanitation workers", "sweepers" and "scavengers" are not even provided with the bare minimum necessities to perform the demeaning, filthy tasks they are condemned to do by virtue of their birth. Across India, the total number of workers is 66,692. The practice continues, according to data from the Volunteer Organization Cleanup Workers' Movement. For some reason, the occupation persists mainly because of the continued presence of insanitary latrines. There are about 26 lakh insanitary latrines (dry toilets) that require cleaning by hand, according to Safai Karmachari Andolan-an NGO that works towards abolishing manual scavenging, and perhaps, the only one in the country.

The law stipulates that all local administrations must adopt modern techniques to clean up sewerage and septic tanks in order to put an end to the manual scavenging system. But the irony is that there are still manual tanks or toilets. According to a 2002-03 report released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, there was an average of 6.76 lakh manual toilets at the time. The most alarming fact is that between 2016-20, 340 people died while cleaning sewage lines, manholes, septic tanks and soak pits, without any machines or safety equipments. In 2020 itself, 19 cleaning workers lost their lives, out of which 4 lives were from the capital city, Delhi. A total of seventy nine workers who died in the toilet chamber are yet to receive compensation.

COAL PROJECT : WILL 15,000 FAMILIES LOSE THEIR DOMICILE ?

‘Janabadi’ Bureau Review

Angul (Janabadi Bureau): From Sundergarh to kendujhar and surrounding districts like Angul, coal mines are being implanted and residents are losing their domicile. The government has promised to relocate and compensate the displaced. No one will be displaced by hunger, nor will they suffer from disease. Apparently, that is not the scenario. In the name of developmental projects, especially those who are displaced for mining projects, the livelihoods of those are severely affected by mining pollution. Adverse effects on the environment are seen.

Angul is under an upcoming similar danger for a mining project. Because 15,000 families



will be displaced from their abode. As per the reports.

There is land disturbance because of coal

mining. It disturbs, destroys productive grazing and croplands. There are hectares and



hectares of land inclusive of deep dense forest, by the removal of which, mining can commence. Chhendipada area in Angul

district of Odisha is marked by large patches of green cover comprising forests of large tree species like Sal and others. The forest department has also installed signboards at several areas on the Angul-Deogarh road crossing through Chhendipada, warning (and also certifying) the travellers that these forests host elephants. The Chhendipada area of Angul district is now under threat. This became clear after, Four more coal blocks have already been allotted in the Chhendipada tehsil area. Earlier, 8 coal blocks were allotted. Chhendipada is losing about... ▶ Page-4

Editorial

‘AANDOLANJEEVI’

A NEW BREED OF POPULARITY OR SLAM ?

Not only language, but also power is linked to words in Democracy. This power is used to create new words in any word, weaken the old meaning, or reduce its influence. The most influential example of this is the term 'aandolan jeevi' used by PM Narendra Modi during his speech in Parliament. This is a recreated word. The word "labour" has been widely used in the past. Some people have used the word "festival" in parallel.

The word "living" usually means to be dependent or dependent. According to the dictionary, it has two meanings. One is a 'living creature' and the other is 'livelihood'. Its usage is at the end of the post/word. For example, intellectuals, writer, the agriculturalist etc have evolved from the word 'life' in Sanskrit. When combined with the word labour, it means someone who works hard and leads his or her life. The PM has linked the term to 'protests'. As a result, it carries a negative context rather than a positive one. "Some people cannot live without protests," he said. In the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister said, "our countrymen are well aware of some words, such Intellectuals and agriculturalist." He had said a new community has come up in the country - "andolanjeevi" -- who can be spotted in every protest and are parasite for the nation. "Stop protests in the country. Protest means conspiracy of foreign powers. Some people are only living on the movements. "We are well aware of some terms like "Shram Jivi" and "Buddhi Jivi". But, I am seeing that from some time a new entity or new crop of agitators has come up in this country- "Andolan Jivi". This community can be spotted wherever there is a protest, be it agitation by lawyers, students, or labourers, sometimes at the forefront and sometimes from behind. They cannot live without protests. We have to identify such people and protect the nation from them. They are parasites," the Prime Minister had said. The Prime Minister has ridiculed the activists who took to the road by mentioning the word "andolanjeevi". Not only farmers who have been protesting against the agricultural law for three months, those who protested for the country's independence were also ridiculed with his remark," it said. This is an insult to democracy. Under Article 19 of the Constitution, protest is a democratic right. As a result of the movement and protest only, many atrocities have come to an end and we got Independence. The movement has enacted new laws that have helped empower people. PM Narendra Modi has used words that he should not use for fear of the peasant movement. From Gandhi, PM Modi liberated the country through agitation and is in power today. The movement is the path to revolution, liberation and progress. Without it, the regime would be dictatorial or authoritarian. It is the movement that gives citizens their rights. Gives freedom, reform and development. It would not be wrong to say that Prime Minister Modi indirectly insulted the democratic system of the country by using the term agitator. Prime Minister Modi has not limited the use of agitating words to the use of the new term FDI or "foreign destructive ideology". He spoke in support of the US Alliance, but said that maintaining some independence was important. "Democracy is our breath," he told the Lok Sabha. The Modi government has taken action against those who questioned it. He has filed a lawsuit against the perpetrators. Such remarks by the Prime Minister have been condemned in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. According to separate estimates, the population of organized and unorganized industrial workers in the country is over 28 crores. Including the number of workers driving rickshaws, autos, taxis and freighters working in various business programs, it would be Rs 40 crores. The number of people working in agriculture in the country is 26 crores. Only 6 percent of them are wealthy farmers. An average of 80 crores people in the country depends on labour for their livelihood. Whether it is the lower middle class farmers or the smallest farmers and urban workers, the number of poor workers will reach 110 crores. But only the population of 15-16 crores, which includes large and small capitalists, wealthy farmers, landowners, large and medium-sized traders, stock brokers, bureaucrats, politicians, and high-income private corporate house employees, can be brought into action. These are the parasites. But it is truly shameful and ridiculous for PM Modi to ridicule farmers, workers and those who do not have the right to live up to their rights in poverty, calling them agitators. PM Modi has forgotten his past-day agitation and the democratic way of seizing power, and has given the message that he is devoting himself to corporate gratification rather than doing what is constitutionally for the people. This is alarming and big challenge for the safety of democracy and constitution.

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL REFORM LAW- CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTIFICATION ISSUE

Chittaranjan Behera

Farmers' organizations and many political parties and non-governmental organizations across the country have been protesting since November 27 demanding the repeal of the three agricultural reform laws. These are the Agriculture and Trade (Promotion and Promotion) Act (2020) (the Agricultural Marketing Act in short), the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Act in the field of price guarantees and agricultural service agreements (in short, the Agreement on Agriculture.) Act 2020. The central law, enacted under the first law, was promulgated and enforced on October 20, 2020, although the provisions of the second law have not yet been enacted. There is no provision for the enactment of a law under the Third Amendment, although the implementation of the law depends entirely on the states. Unfortunately, the third law may differ from the other two, but in reality it is so closely linked to the two laws that it would not be an exaggeration to say that a total of three laws are one package.

The three laws were first passed as ordinances in June 2020, and were passed by Parliament in September, and passed into law in September. First in the Lok Sabha and later in the Rajya Sabha, three bills were passed by the then Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Mrs. Harasimrat Jaur Badal, resigned from the NDA cabinet. Some opposition MPs, including the BJP, demanded that the three bills be referred to the parliamentary committee for consideration. Farmers in Punjab also staged a three-day protest against the bills. However, the federal government did not respond to a request for comment. It is noteworthy that, although the content of the bills was directly related to the livelihoods of the farmers, the central government did not hold any meetings with the farmers' organizations or convene an all-party meeting. This is the immediate and strongest reason for the mass protests against the bills.

The powers of the Constitution do not specify the purpose and justification of these three agricultural laws. In response to a question from agitating farmers' leaders, the central government clarified on December 9, 2020 that the three agricultural laws had been enacted by Parliament under Article 33 of the Joint List of Schedules to Article 7 of the Constitution. Notably, Constitution lists three issues - central, state and joint. The central government can enact a law on a total of 97 items in the first list. Now we will see, what does point 33 of the joint list say? Point 33 is the trade and commerce, production, supply and

distribution of all foodstuffs, carpets and jute, including industrial goods, edible oils. In terms of land, the central government has done nothing wrong by enacting the above three agricultural reform laws. But Point 33 has a long history and has some other provisions in the constitution, which, if examined, would make the three laws enacted by the central government unconstitutional.

Article 33 of the Constitution, proclaimed in 1950, and initially included only one issue - all industries that must be controlled by the central government in the public interest, which have been declared by Parliament to be under the control of the central government, as well as their trade and productivity. Notably, it did not include food grains or agricultural products at the time. However, under the Third Amendment to the Constitution (1954), the above agricultural products were added under Article 33, which means that Parliament can also legislate on trade, commerce, production, supply and distribution of agricultural products. Notably, the trade and commerce of agriculture and agricultural commodities, as well as trade, production, supply and distribution, were included in the Schedule II, the State List, and still are, such as Agriculture (Point 14) and Market and Hat (Point 28). Here again the notable Minister of Commerce and Industry T.T. Krishnamachari introduced the 3rd Amendment to the Constitution, saying that if Article 379 of the Constitution provides for a five-year term since the promulgation of the Constitution (1950) on some other agricultural and essential commodities, including food grains, Parliament has been in power. It is noteworthy that at that time, the problem of food shortages and the black market in the country was so widespread, that the central government had to pass special legislation by the parliament to deal with it. Following the passage of the amendment, the Essential Goods Act, 1955 was enacted, which imposed restrictions on the stockpiling and unregulated purchase and sale of certain essential commodities, including foodstuffs (petrol, paper, iron, steel, etc.). But it was a temporary and temporary arrangement, which would become unnecessary as soon as normal returned to normal. In addition, it was enacted under the 1995 Joint List of Laws and was implemented after the approval of most state legislatures. Ironically, though, that temporary provision of the 1954 amendment is to be considered permanent, even if the situation is normal.

JAYAPRAKASH AND THE FIGHT AGAINST EMERGENCIES TALE OF HOW RSS LEADERS DESERTED JAYAPRAKASH AND THE RESISTANCE DURING INDIRA'S EMERGENCY!

The national general secretary of the BJP, Arun Singh, announced recently that the party will observe 25 June, the 45th anniversary of Indira Gandhi's Emergency in 1975, as a 'Black Day'. Singh called on "BJP leaders to take an oath to uphold the principles of democracy by remembering Jayaprakash Narayan and his thoughts and his struggle" and asked them "to upload photographs on social media with the hashtag # DarkDaysOf Emergency".

However, various organisations of the Sangh Parivar, especially the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), were neither unanimous nor monolithic in their opposition to the Emergency. Many of them were grateful to Indira Gandhi for breaking up Pakistan, and saw Sanjay Gandhi as a natural ally.

The relations between the RSS and the Congress were not always antagonistic. At the time of Independence, many of the top Congress leaders were sympathetic to the Hindutva ideology, and the RSS reached out to them to work together in the national interest.

RSS and the long history of Congress:

Soon after Independence, the Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, proposed to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that the Congress and the RSS should work together, writing: "I have instructed all my swayamsevak brothers to be peaceful and I shall strive to see that between the Congress, which is capable of delivering goods in the political field and is at present the ruling party, and the RSS in the cultural field ... there be no bad blood, there be only ever-lasting love, one supplementing and complementing the other, both meeting in a sacred confluence. I extend to you my hand of cooperation". After Patel banned the RSS in February 1948 following the assassination of Gandhi, he negotiated with the RSS to merge into the Congress, writing to M.S. Golwalkar on 11 September 1948: "In this delicate hour there is no place for party conflicts and old quarrels. I am thoroughly convinced that the RSS men can carry on their patriotic endeavour only by joining the Congress...." Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru stymied this move. Since 1972, Madhukar Dattatreya Deoras, then Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, kept reaching out to Indira Gandhi to work together rather than be antagonistic. But a wary Indira Gandhi rebuffed all of Deoras' overtures; she had inherited her father's suspicion of the RSS. Deoras then sought to build bridges with Sanjay Gandhi, whose anti-Communist views were in sync with the RSS.

A new negotiation:

In February 1974, a student agitation - the Navnirman Andolan - in Gujarat forced chief minister Chimanbhai Patel to resign. Inspired by their success, the student organisations Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) of the RSS and Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha (SYS) of the Samajwadi Party, began an agitation in Bihar against chief minister Abdul Ghafoor. However, the parent organisations of the ABVP, RSS and Jana Sangh, were not supportive of strikes and gheraos. The Bihar Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti (BCSS) was formed in March 1974, led by Lalu Prasad Yadav, Sushil Kumar Modi, and Ram Vilas Paswan. Jayaprakash Narayan agreed to be associated with the BCSS - on the condition that the protests will be non-violent.

The anti-Congress sentiment was growing. All through the summer of 1974, Indira Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narayan tried to negotiate a compromise. Indira Gandhi's negotiators were her principal secretary professor P.N. Dhar and my father H.Y. Sharada Prasad, who was her information adviser. JP's chief negotiator was my maternal uncle, K.S. Radhakrishna, head of the Gandhi Peace Foundation. Sanjay Gandhi tried hard to sabotage these negotiations. Indira Gandhi finally agreed to all of JP's demands, except the dissolution of the Bihar assembly. Her team entreated JP to sort out his differences with her at the hustings since elections to the Lok Sabha were due before March 1976. Saeed Naqvi published a report in the Statesman giving details of the secret negotiations between my father and my maternal uncle. As a result, these negotiations had to be abruptly aborted, just as they were on the verge of success. It was only at this stage that some senior members of the RSS got involved, under the influence of Subramanian Swamy, then a Jana Sangh Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh, and Ramnath Goenka, owner of The Indian Express. Subramanian Swamy convened a meet-

ing at the residence of Murlī Manohar Joshi, to which he invited JP, Nanaji Deshmukh, K.N. Govindacharya, and Kailashpati Mishra. It was decided that the Bihar student leaders - Lalu Prasad Yadav, Sushil Kumar Modi, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sharad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Ravi Shankar Prasad - would cede the leadership of their agitation to JP and Nanaji Deshmukh. JP nominated RSS stalwart Nanaji Deshmukh as the general secretary of his Lok Sangarsh Samiti. However, Balasaheb Deoras and several other RSS leaders did not get associated with the JP movement. On 4 November 1974, JP and Nanaji Deshmukh led a massive rally in Patna. The police beat up JP with lathis, breaking his collar bones, elbows and legs. Nanaji Deshmukh courageously threw himself over JP's unconscious body, absorbing further blows of the police. Public admiration for JP and Nanaji Deshmukh soared, and



revulsion against Indira Gandhi reached an all-time high.

A crackdown on RSS:

Indira Gandhi Anand Marg, ABVP, RSS and decided to impose stricter restrictions on other extremist religious organizations. Even he is an RSS. Then ABVP Was more opposed to. On January 4, 1955, Siddharth Shankar Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal and a renowned barrister, and H.R. Gokhale, Congress president Devkant Barua, Bombay's skilled Congress leader and renowned barrister Rajni Patel jointly planned the state of emergency. Immediately after that, the Prime Minister's Home Secretary R.K. Dhawan, Home Minister Om Mehta and Haryana Chief Minister Banshilal ABVP, RSS He planned to arrest members of the Anand Marg. On the night of June 25 and 26, 1955, the ABVP Many RSS leaders were arrested and some were able to escape. On June 30, 1955, the RSS leader Balasaheb Deoras was arrested in Nagpur and on July 7, 1955, the RSS was banned. On June 25, 1955, Indira Gandhi briefed various world leaders on the cause of the state of emergency, saying that Jayaprakash was a member of the RSS. It is joined by the organization that killed Mahatma Gandhi and is a Hindu extremist organization.

No solid resistance:

The attitude of senior RSS leaders about the Emergency was divided: several opposed it staunchly, others apologised and were released, and several senior leaders, notably Balasaheb Deoras and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, sought an accommodation with Sanjay and Indira Gandhi. Nanaji Deshmukh and Madan Lal Khurana managed to escape the police and led the RSS resistance to the Emergency. As did Subramanian Swamy. Others who led the resistance to the Emergency were Dattopant Thengadi, Madhavrao Muley, Moropant Pingle, Rajendra Singh, and Bhausahab Deoras, brother of Balasaheb Deoras. However, these zonal RSS leaders also authorised Eknath Ramakrishna Ranade to quietly enter into a dialogue with Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi had helped Ranade, who had been second to Golwalkar in the RSS hierarchy, in numerous projects to commemorate Vivekananda. She had nominated Ranade to the governing council of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and the two used ICCR as a facade to conduct secret one-on-one negotiations. But many of the RSS rank and file alleged that Ranade was being exploited by Indira Gandhi to sabotage the resistance.

Arun Jaitley, head of the ABVP in Delhi, was among the first to be arrested, and he spent the entire Emergency in jail. However, other ABVP leaders such as Balbir Punj and Prabhu Chawla pledged allegiance to Indira Gandhi's Twenty Point Programme and Sanjay Gandhi's Five Point Programme, in return for staying out of jail.

Original English - Ravi Bishweshwaraya Sarada Prasad.

Betraying with resistance:

From Yerawada jail, RSS Sarsanghchalak, Balasaheb Deoras, who was not part of the JP-Nanaji Deshmukh alliance, wrote numerous times to Indira Gandhi, Maharashtra chief minister Shankarrao B. Chavan, and Acharya Vinoba Bhave seeking a compromise.

Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were arrested in Bengaluru, where they had gone for a parliamentary committee meeting. Vajpayee, who was in poor health, quickly reached an agreement with Indira Gandhi, and spent most of the Emergency under parole at his residence. Subramanian Swamy, now a Rajya Sabha MP from the BJP, had written in an article titled "Unlearnt lessons of the Emergency", published in The Hindu on 13 June 2000: "Most of the leaders of the BJP/ RSS betrayed the struggle against the Emergency... RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras wrote several apology letters to Indira Gandhi from inside the Yerawada jail in Pune disassociating the RSS from the JP-led movement and offering to work for the infamous 20-point programme. She did not reply to any of his letters. Atal Bihari Vajpayee also wrote apology letters to Indira Gandhi, and she had obliged him.

"After Nanaji Deshmukh fell into a police trap in South Delhi, and Dattopant Thengadi was captured, the morale of the RSS cadres plummeted. By September 1976, even those RSS activists who had been staunchly opposing the Emergency till then were ready to throw in the towel. The families of the 40,000 RSS members who had been jailed were in dire straits financially, and over 80 RSS members had died in custody.

Documents of surrender:

In November 1976, over 30 leaders of the RSS, led by Madhavrao Muley, Dattopant Thengadi, and Moropant Pingle, wrote to Indira Gandhi, promising support to the Emergency if all RSS workers were released from prison. Their 'Document of Surrender', to take effect from January 1977, was processed by my father H.Y. Sharada Prasad. In the last week of December 1976, Om Mehta, the minister of state for home and a key member of Sanjay Gandhi's cabal, began talks with Biju Patnaik, Asoka Mehta, and H.M. Patel, to find a rapprochement. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was not invited for these talks, found out about them, and he visited Om Mehta. It is not known exactly what happened during these discussions, but it was strongly rumoured that Vajpayee had offered to sever his connections with the RSS, and reveal the whereabouts of Subramanian Swamy, Madhavrao Muley, and other RSS activists who were still underground. On his return from his meeting with Om Mehta, Vajpayee ordered the cadres of the ABVP to apologise unconditionally to Indira Gandhi. The ABVP students refused. The RSS 'Document of Surrender', which my father described as 'cringing', was also confirmed by Subramanian Swamy in his article: "...I must add that not all in the RSS were in a surrender mode...But a tearful Muley told me in early November 1976 and I had better escape abroad again since the RSS had finalised the Document of Surrender to be signed in end January of 1977, and that on Mr. Vajpayee's insistence I would be sacrificed to appease an irate Indira and a fulminating Sanjay...." It is ironic that Arun Singh is now ordering "BJP leaders to take an oath to uphold the principles of democracy by remembering Jayaprakash Narayan". The Jana Sangh betrayed their promise to JP that they would sever their connections with the RSS, and the Morarji Desai government fell on this issue in July 1979. The consequence of JP getting involved with the RSS is that the once-banned organisation became part of the political mainstream, even though it deserted him. It is significant that a Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, K.S. Sudarshan, as well as VHP supremo Giriraj Kishore, highly praised Indira Gandhi during Vajpayee's tenure as prime minister, describing her as India's best prime minister ever.

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Interpretation: Bichitra Biswal.

AGONIZING THE FARMERS !

Bargarh (Bureau): "The work of farmer is filled with happiness," this phrase was in my second-grade textbook. Only he will know in what context it was written, but the present scenario is different in reality. On the one hand, there has been a long-run farmers' agitational protests on the Delhi Board over the Union government's three agricultural bills, while on the other hand, farmers in Odisha have already taken to the streets over the sale of paddy. However, both the central and state governments have become deaf and mute spectators.

Roadblocks were set up at various places in Bargarh district from 12 noon to 3 pm after being announced Farmer leader Rakesh Tikayat. Movement joined by others, farmer leaders Utpan Bhoi,



Ramesh Mohapatra, Arun Sahu, Balkishore Chhatra, Sitaram Meher and many more farmers, among others. Farmer leader Lingaraj roared at the scene. He strongly condemned the anti-agriculture and anti-capitalist

Suhaila bill to the central government. He warned that the movement from village to town would intensify in the coming days if the government did not repeal the anti-farmer bill. At present, most of the mandis in the state are still

facing the problem of not being able to sell their hard-earned paddy. Currently, 25,400 quintals of paddy are lying in various mandis and ambavana mandis in the Padmapur subdivision of Bargarh district. Similarly, 13,036 bags of paddy are

lying in 113 farmers of Bijapur and M Sirgida. Similarly, thousands of pockets of paddy are lying in the Sapal mandi. Farmers have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of paddy sales. Farmers in the Padmapur area initially blocked the road, but the administration has not been able to find a solution, and farmers are now protesting in front of the Padmapur sub-district commissioner's office. Farmers in the 'Dhavabhana area' have also been protesting by placing paddy in the 'Ambavana block' office. Is this the concern of the poor farmers of the central and state governments? They will say again during the election, "We are poor and the stand with peasants." Our government is dedicated to the poor and the farmers!!

BELGUDA: THE DILAPIDATED VILLAGE, WILL FORTUNE SHINE ON THEM ?

Malkangiri (Bureau): Bandaghati in the Khairput block is known as the most remote, Naxal-prone and primitive tribal-dominated villages of Malkangiri district. Two of the nine panchayats in the block are in Mudulipada and Andrahal. The two panchayats, located 5,000 feet above sea level, are inhabited by the indigenous Banda community. Despite, crores of money being spent by the government on their well-being, but nothing has changed in the region or in their lifestyles. The two panchayats has a total of 32 villages. However, even after seven decades of independence, many villages still have no access to roads. The people of this community, far from the city and society, depend on the forest for their livelihood. While many of these villages are in a neglected state, we are referring to one village here. The village has 30 families, but there is no drinking

water source. So people are forced to rely on nearby springs and ditches. So much so that villagers are forced to use pits and other contaminated water bodies for domestic purposes and resort to carrying patients on cots over long distances in absence of roads. Steeped in poverty, illiteracy and backwardness, these villages do not even have access to basic provisions like clean drinking water, health, education, and Anganwadi centre and road connectivity. All the basic amenities of the government are inaccessible here today. People still are unaware about Indira Awas yojna, allowances, Biju Pakka Ghar and so on. They have learned to

survive only in their traditional way. The family survives by collecting forest products and selling them at



the local market. Due to lack of jobs in the village, many young people are working as migrant labourers in different parts of Andhra Pradesh and Malkangiri. Department

officials have all the information in this regard but have not taken any action on it. While the government is spending crores of rupees on the B a n d a Development Agency to make the region's youth self-sufficient, the children of the area are still neglected. Many elderly people in the village still do not have received a l l o w a n c e . Government officials rarely come here as the Naxalite areas are vulnerable. So they do not have the opportunity to express their grief to anyone. The two - meals per day consists of fermented 'maandia' is their staple food. It would not be an

exaggeration to say that, rice is a dream food for them. Every village in the Banda Valley has huge problems similar as the height of hills. From the block administration to the district administration and the Banda Development Agency everyone boasting about the development, but the real situation is different here. Visiting there in reality can only help you understand the problems of the region. There are no schools, no orphanages, no Anganwadi school, children are living in miserable condition. Children roam around in the forest and spend their life. After becoming youth also they migrate outside as labourers. The situation is similar in villages like Belguda, Magniguda and Bairiguda, which are under the Kichpada village. A day of progress and development of such remote villages in Bandaghati with its destiny to unfold in future is still awaited to be seen.

COAL PROJECT...

30,000 acres of land for 8 coal blocks. It has extensive forests and farmland, it is certain that many of the ever-flowing canals and watercourse will be lost forever. Not only will that, about 15,000 sinless families lose their domicile status forever. Angul is now known as the industrial hub of the state for its mines and factories. Pollution continues to rise. Forests are also declining. The situation is getting worse day by day as land and forests are being destroyed for the mine. It was at this time that the central government took up...

the allocation of coal blocks for

commercial upliftment.

The process has begun. Of these, 8 coal blocks are in Chhendipada tehsil. The process is underway to allocate coal blocks at Machhakuta, Mahanadi, Chhendipada-1, Chhendipada-2, Brahmanbil-Kardabahal, Phuljhari (east and west), Radhikarpur-east and Radhikarpur-west. About 30,000 acres of land in the Chhendipada tehsil will be acquired for all these coal blocks.

Importantly, it has many dense forests. About 2,000 acres of forest will be uprooted for coal mining. The forest is home to many animals including several elephants.

Known as the elephant corridor, the deforestation has further ignited the risk of intensifying elephant-human conflicts. Not only that, but half a dozen canals like Singda, Gauduni, Tikira, Kumbhira will be lost forever. While these canals have been instrumental in supplying water to the Brahmani river, it is quite useful for cultivation and used in the local area. With the allocation of the new coal block in Chhendipada, about 124 million tonnes of coal will be mined annually, leaving about 15,000 families here to lose their habitat. Hundreds of villagers are expected to be displaced. Due to the fertile soil of the area, many

people cultivate for livelihood. So now people's livelihood will be severely affected. Pollution is now a major problem in Angul district, but it is likely to be more deadly. Dozens of coal mines in Chhendipada alone are expected to collapse. While the general public is worried about this, they are worried about the future. That's why lawyer Shankar Pani, who is fighting the case at NGT, said it should not be allotted so many coal blocks at once. Extraction of coal from these 8 nearby coal blocks will result in extensive land and forest loss and increased human-elephant tension.

Groundwater levels will drop. He demanded that the government allocate one coal block at a time without allocating all coal blocks at once. According to the latest data, the central government has approved 1 coal block in Odisha. It is learned that the coal block will not only destroy the forest, but also the local people's life. According to the report, people are worried about how they will survive now and in the future. This is because the government does not live up to its promises, the example of the past shows. The implementation should be for the good, not worse.