

Beating the Realism

These days the leftists spend more time cutting business deals than shaping revolutionary ideals. The leftist strategy has already shifted from fighting to suppressing. The essence of what exists in the left-ruled state of West Bengal today is not democracy but authoritarianism and political and administrative structures to enforce that authoritarianism. What they spread around the country is not social equality but social inequality and political opportunism to defend that inequality. The aggressive land acquisition drive by the CPM-led left front government has created a situation in which the toilers no longer see the left as the saviour of the oppressed humanity. People don't need to get right with what the left is saying about welfarism, they actually need to get rid of the left at this critical juncture.

After Singur, the marxist monarchs are facing stiff resistance to acquire land in Nandigram for industrialists with dubious distinction of being called the collaborators of communist killers. With the voice of dissent descending ever further into chaos and mass violence, the first order of business of the authoritarian CPM-led left in power in Bengal is to lie low for the time being without really abandoning their pet idea of industrialisation that makes the poor poorer. But in the new leftist culture the rich get richer.

In truth the left is reaping the bitter harvest of its own creation. 'Operation Barga' has boomeranged. While the bargadars feel cheated and deprived the landowners, the absentee landlords to be precise, have reasons to cheer about. Whether one likes it or not despite many a shortcoming in operation barga campaign bargadars are de facto owners because of the marxist party's muscle power as owners in most cases do not get their legitimate share. So they are not unhappy and soon they will become the left's main social base.

In a bid to build a permanent vote bank in rural Bengal, they initially didn't hesitate to forcibly and sometimes illegally occupy land of intermediaries and middle peasants otherwise politically aligned with the Congress Party and got accolades from the progressives, both here and abroad. The share-croppers and landless labourers who got a sense of identity in the post-Operation Barga phase are now being asked to sacrifice small pieces of land they till. The principal aspect of the contradiction has changed. In other words the land question has returned with a difference, with different sets of interest groups, though sometimes working at cross purposes.

With 'Operation Barga' remained unfinished they gradually tried to divert public attention to secondary issues and the rise of saffron power gave them an opportunity to nurse a minority vote bank even by wooing minority religious fundamentalists. Suddenly they realised that there was no reason to talk about the poor peasants, about poverty, about land reforms. Because secular drum would deliver the goods. With Nandigram up in arms both pro-peasant image and secular credentials are in jeopardy now. One reason CPM and its apologists are retreating in Nandigram for the time being is post-Nandigram configuration in minority vote base. If minority community voters desert the CPM-led left camp, the possibility of which does not seem remote in view of large scale land-grabbing by the government in favour of big business, the marxist left

may lose parliamentary power and privilege as well. To break the peasant resistance movement from within they even tried to raise the communal bogey without much success of course.

In the yester years they used to project 'land reforms' as the only viable means, in a basically agricultural country like India, to resolve the massive unemployment problem. And now they think unemployment can be resolved by abandoning land reforms—or by creating a few special economic zones and some capital intensive industries with very little job potential.

The so-called industrialisation by the left is a myth. In effect they are dismantling the village community, leaving a deep security vacuum, administrative chaos and forcing rural people to migrate to cities in search of job. Having lost their old livelihood, people can think more of the same—helplessness. If the ruling marxists cannot give them a sense of security, they can always give them a civil war. ~~████~~