

LETTER

POLITICS OF HYPOCRISY

An organization named Jamait-e-Ulema-e-Hind is an important participant in the struggle against land acquisition. Buddhadeb Bhatta-charya and Jyoti Basu, scared by the popular wrath in Nandigram, where the people successfully prevented the bid for acquisition, called the Jamait-e-Ulema -e-Hind a communal organization. The Jamait leader responded by calling Buddha Babu callow and referred to the names of Maulana Azad and Abdul Bari who were important functionaries of the Jamait in the past. More than that, twenty-five professors and civil rights activists, including the noted historian Chittabrata Palit, came out with a statement in which the remarks of these CPI (M) leaders were branded as an effort to flare up communal riots. The statement referred to the names of Tapasi Malik(of Singur), and Biswajit Maiti and Bharat Mandal(of Nandigram) to show that the propaganda of Bhattacharya and Basu has no factual basis whatsoever. Although there is no land- use map of West Bengal as yet, Buddha Babu went on to say that the area of fallow land in West Bengal is only one percent of the total, and he was vehemently challenged by Debabrata Bandopadhyay, the former Director of Land Reforms, West Bengal and an acknowledged expert on the land question.

The opposition to the CPI (M) variety of development and industrialization, which is in all senses an imitation of the Manmohan variety and the origin of which is the IMF and the World Bank, is growing. It seems that during its rule of about three decades, the CPM-led Left Front Government have never before faced such disgrace. The backing of the most influential and richest newspaper group of West Bengal has not been able to do much to revert the tide of opposition what has now brought into open the differences within the Left Front with other constituents putting all the blame squarely on the big brother.

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