

Yet Another Marxist Hypocrisy

THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT is going to acquire land in Dankuni, a place that is about only 8 km away from Singur and is only half-an-hour train journey from Kolkata. Here the purpose of acquisition is not to build an automobile factory or a chemical hub, but to create a housing complex-cum-mini township. The proposed township is to be built up by DLF, a big promoter group, and some others of the same kind. The State Government wants to acquire for the proposed township 4840 acres of land, which belong to 18 *mouzas*. The area inhabits more than 38,000 people, among whom about 31 percent are Muslims, 41 percent are scheduled caste Hindus and 12.5 percent are adivasis. So, here too the target of eviction is the disadvantaged sections of the population. The population's misfortune is the relative proximity of Dankuni to Kolkata. The affluent of Bengal want to live near big cities, and the chosen area inhabits mostly the people of the *bhadralok* variety. The area contains a Higher Secondary school, a High madrasa, 18 primary schools, 4 primary madrasas, 10 health centres, 34 temples, 11 mosques, 11 graveyards, 2 *sasans* and 11 playgrounds. All are going to be demolished because the big promoters and their patrons in the Writers' Building have fixed their lusty eyes on them.

What is most interesting is that there are 264 small factories in the area. These factories, using labour-intensive techniques of production, provide jobs to at least five thousand people. These factories have to be wound up and the people to lose their jobs. The official attitude has exposed the hypocrisy inherent in the so-called programme of 'industrialization' regularly paraded by the chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and his public relations brigade. When housing complex and parks are built by destroying small factories, there cannot be a shade of doubt that the 'industrialization' drive is not to promote industry but to allow big capital to reap as much profit as possible.

Land-brokers have been thrown to the field in order to negotiate with the people on the amount of compensation. But the people at the moment look determined not to witness another Singur. □□□