

NOTE

Resisting POSCO

Abhay Sahu writes :

In protest against the joint conspiracy by the Manmohan Singh Government at Delhi, Naveen Government at Bhubaneswar and South Korean President, the people of Dhinkia Charidesh have been continuing their day-and- night peaceful Dharna (Sit-in) at Balitutha since 26th January 2010 mid-night. Everyday thousands of women, men, children from families of peasants, fisher-folks, landless labourers, dalits are participating in the sit-in. Sadly enough, views of affected people did not create any sense of responsibility among the governments supposed to represent people of India. Moreover, they have been showing extra-ordinary favours to the corporates such as POSCO, Vedanta and TATA.

On the last Republic Day, both Manomohan Singh and Naveen Patnaik governments had assured South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in a special meet at Delhi that the state government would expedite works 'to hand over lands to POSCO'. Throwing behind all protocols related to Republic Day celebrations in Orissa, a frustrated CM rushed to Delhi to prove his allegiance to SK President. PM, CM along with UPA Chairperson had a meeting with him. They did not hesitate to sell the 'dignity' of Indian people to a private company on the same day of India's pride.

Having failed to displace the people by any means they now look desperate. On 12th May 2010, the Orissa Police killed a person at Kalinga Nagar, where they had massacred 14 persons on an earlier occasion on 2nd Jan 2006. They are going to use the same murderous tricks at Dhinkia Charidesh to dissuade people from their resistance. On 11th May they sent, twenty five platoons of heavily armed police force to take position around Balitutha and Dhinkia Charidesh to attack, the unarmed peasants, fisher-folks, landless daily labourers, dalits, other backward classes, women, men, children those who were continuing their peaceful resistance movements for their lands and livelihoods. With a well-crafted evil design, they also brought 3 Magistrates with the police and sent 5 ambulances to nearby Kujanga Hospital. Almost all the schools at nearby villages have been forcibly occupied by the Police force in spite of opposition by the villagers.

At this decisive juncture, Posco Pratirodh Sangram Samity (PPSS) decided to face the reality and called to observe Mass Resistance Week from 15-21 May 2010 at Balitutha and affected villages. People in thousands gathered there to express their support and solidarity to the struggling villagers. In this context, PPSS would like to call people's movements, political parties, trade unions, human rights organisations, solidarity groups, activists, supporters, sympathisers from various corners of the country to participate in the on-going anti-POSCO Resistance. □□□