

LETTER

'RED FASCISM'

During the British rule and even after independence there had been many instances of brutal attack of police-military-CRP-RAF on the legitimate movements. But it is for the first time that Party-controlled mafias under police protection have been deployed to carry out such a cowardly assault on the unarmed struggling masses. Moreover, since the women had been in the forefront of the historic peasants' movements of Singur-Nandigram, the CPI(M) leadership in a calculated way made the mothers and sisters victims of gang-rape and inhuman sexual torture with the hope that they would bend down disgraced, their morale would be lost, and they would not dare to come forward in any mass movement in future. In the world history there are very few instances of such cruelty on women to throttle voice of genuine protest.

Though the West Bengal chief minister, in a dramatic overture, held himself responsible for the gory episode of Nandigram, not even a single culprit has been arrested so far, let alone punishing them. The C3I had arrested ten anti-socials with police uniforms, CPI(M) party flags, and a large amount of arms and ammunitions from a brick-kiln in adjoining Khejuri—all of whom have been released without prosecution. The raped women have lodged complaint with the hospital authorities, which were not recorded. Medical reports have either been tampered with or incorrectly filled up to hush up any evidence of rape. The victim women also met the highest police authorities, the governor and the Human Rights Commission to narrate their tale and in expectation of justice. But now the CPI(M) leaders and their government are saying that there is no proof of rape or torture. They are now trying to put the attackers and the attacked, the raped and those accused of rape in the same bracket and thereby paint the movement as a clash between two groups. They are also crying themselves hoarse about returning the displaced persons back home in Nandigram and inflating the figure to be in several thousands, while the fact is that only the CPI (M)-goons who participated in the murderous attack and mass rape fled their homes along with their families to escape mass fury and the number is around three hundred only. The 'Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee' members have already said that while the criminals would not be allowed inside Nandigram to precipitate fresh trouble, their family members can safely return and stay in their homes. In fact many have already returned. The whole intention of the CPI (M) and its government is to continue firing and bombing from the criminals' camps erected in and around Nandigram to sustain an atmosphere of terror and intimidation and in the name of rehabilitating the 'displaced', push inside the notorious criminals and anti-socials in greater numbers to stoke fresh violence.

The struggle the people of Nandi-gram have been waging shedding their blood and sacrificing their lives has been a great inspiration for the workers, peasants and common people as a whole round the country in their fight against capitalist exploitation in general and against the establishment of SEZ in particular. While this historic struggle has forced the monopolists and capitalists to have sleepless nights, the saner section of the people including the honest rank of the CPI (M) have stood by the side of the movement. The CPI (M) leaders have of late stooped to the level of openly playing communal card to drive a wedge between the Hindus and Muslims but the struggling peasants have given a big rebuff to such a vile attempt.

All India Citizens' Convention,
New Delhi