

COMMENT

"Wolf at the Door"

IN CHATTISGARH'S TRIBAL district of Bastar, District administration has played in the hands of house of Tatas by way of stage managed public hearing bluntly violating the norms and set procedures as laid down in the Notification to grant Environmental Clearances.

By making mockey of the conditions of the Notification where Public Hearing is a mandatory requirement where consultation with the likely affected villagers are held. But to fulfil this mandatory requirements, public hearing was held at the campus of the district collector, which is at a distance of about 30 km from the project area. This was done allegedly with mischivious motives as it is known to all that the villagers are strongly opposing the setting up of any steel plant in their area.

The entire drama was enacted to show off that the mandatory public hearing is held. This has proved to be nothing less than a puppet show of the district administration where except the most of the tribals who are residents of the villages to be affected, all others were present whom the project proponent possibly hired or managed with the help of District Administration to dance to the tunes of the project management.

And finally, what does all this translate into? Well, the tribals have no one else to seek solace and help from, except Maoists. What to talk of help, no one is willing to even listen to them except the Maoist. No wonder, Naxalism is growing.

As Gandhian Himanshu Kumar said the other day in an interview with the *Times of India*, (Nov 13, 2009) : Salwa Judum saw a 22-fold increase in Maoist numbers. Green Hunt will result in genocide of Adivasis. Those who survive will become Naxalites.

How true? But does anyone care, least of all Manmohan Singh? He is more hinged to the GDP than the welfare of the human beings that he represents. With Tatas investing Rs 19,500-crore, which will add to the GDP, and that will be his government's report card.

Once upon a time communists all over the world used to predict, somewhat axiomatically, the demise of capitalism many times and proved wrong. The collapse of actually existing socialism in Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe doubly encouraged the rightists to see the 'End of History' too early. Strangely enough, euphoria in the rightist camp didn't last long. But nobody is now talking about the 'End of History' as the global meltdown looks irreversible. Now that the demise of classical capitalist order seems imminent—the wolf is literally at the door—the communists are the last to believe it, they don't believe in what they preach. Only maoists (or naxalites of different shades) continue to hold the fort and refuse to be pessimist. Not for nothing tribals who face the pros-pects of immediate liquidation, are joining the maoist ranks. □□□