

NOTE

Clearing the way for Army

S B writes :

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN Naxalite-dominated Abujh-maad (or Maad) in Chattis-garh does hardly get media attention. Hard news is usually not carried by English language media, both locally and nationally. They officially call it 'Operation Vijay' or 'Operation Haka'—aiming at liberating three villages under the administration of the People's Committees led by the CPI (Maoist).

For the first time police entered 80 km within the stronghold of the Maoists. Chhattisgarh Police and CRPF carried out searching operations with 3000 strong force. In this period 13 Maoists were arrested and dozens of camps were destroyed. This Operation was carried out to raise the morale of the Police force. This major action was carried out two years after the bar on entering Abujhmaad had been lifted.

According to DGP Anil Navaani, in this Operation named "Haka", the police entered inaccessible jungle areas and destroyed the Maoist camps of Lekhavaada and Podgu.

Claiming that this Operation was a part of Green Hunt, one Naxalite leader said that the armed forces, on the one hand, run the Civic Action Programme, and on the other, on the lines of Salwa Judum, they are hatching new conspiracies each day to burn houses, and to chase away adivasis from Maad, so that the multinational corporations can capture the minerals and forest wealth of this area.

The Naxalites also alleged that in the name of Operation, the security forces have wreaked terror on the adivasis. During the Operation conducted from 13th to 18th March, the Security Forces raided a dozen villages in the Abujhmaad area and beat up several adivasis, owing to which they have sustained injuries. The Naxalites have alleged that in this Operation some villagers have also been killed. Through the statement and photographs released by the Maad-North Bastar Divisional Committee, its Secretary KA said that in these villages the security forces of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra conducted joint operations and caused large scale mayhem, to which the People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) has also countered. In this encounter two jawans of the COBRA battalion were injured. Naxalites have claimed that they have seized the rations of the security forces. It was alleged that this operation by the Security Forces was in order to clear the way for the Army.

The Naxalite leader in his statement has said that the villagers of Godelmarka, Ikonaar, Jetvaaya, Podenaar and Toke villages have been affected the most. It has been said that an adivasi named Dunga has been killed in the course of beating. It has also been said that some houses of the adivasis have also been burnt. Idma Karu of Kodenaar has not been produced before the court even after being arrested by the police.

It is quite evident that after the phase of “Salwa Judum” and the phase of “Operation Green Hunt”, anti-Naxal operations have entered into a new phase variously called “Operation Haka” / “Operation Vijay”.

During the phase of “Salwa Judum” about 500 deaths were documented on affidavit in a part of South Bastar alone, and these affidavits have been filed in the Supreme Court by Kartam Joga and others. (Kartam Joga is a senior CPI leader who is now in jail on false allegations of participating in the Tadmetla attack on the CRPF.) This case, linked with the Nandini Sundar case, is awaiting final adjudication in the Supreme Court.

Another list of 192 extra-judicial killings, alleged to have occurred in Dantewada during Operation Green Hunt, between 2009 and 2011, has been submitted by the National PUCL with a request for investigation/ enquiry before the National Human Rights Commission, but no action seems to have been taken so far.

The Government is in a denial mode in which officially there is no armed conflict in this area. It is thus protecting itself from the operation of international conventions relating to the protection of human rights. How can this be effectively countered? □□□