

Naxalite movement

*183. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:††

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the naxalite movement in various parts of the country is a local movement or is centrally directed; and

(b) the sources of its support, funding and arms supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Incidents of naxalite violence have increased following the merger of Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and Maoist Communist Centre in 2004, thus forming the Communist Party of India (Maoist). CPI (Maoist) is the most potent group in terms of spread, strength and violence profile, accounting for nearly 90% of all naxal violence.

The CPI (Maoist) has an elaborate pan-Indian organization with a Politburo, Central Committee, Central Military Commission, Regional Bureaus, and State Committees/ Special Area Committees/ Special Zonal Committees at the state level, and Zonal Committees, Sub-Zonal Committees and Area Committees under each state level formation.

The CPI (Maoist) mainly raise funds from contractors, businessmen, etc. by imposing levy, extortion and also by looting banks. The CPI (Maoist) sources its arms and ammunition primarily from looting Security Forces and from purchases through clandestine means.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, my first supplementary is this. From reply to the Question it appears that the words 'Maoist' and 'Naxalite' are synonymous. Of course, 'terrorist' is different specie and, I presume, it applies to those who come from across the border. So, my supplementary to the hon. Minister is: Whether a person becomes Naxalite or Maoist or Terrorist because of poverty or ideology or is it religion or a combination thereof.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, primarily the cause is ideology. The *modus operandi* is that it continues to persist in terms of spatial spread, intensity of violence, militarisation, and consolidation. The naxalites operate in the vacuum created by the absence of administrative and political institutions, espouse the local demands and take the advantage of disenchantment prevailing among the exploited segment of the population and seek to offer an alternative system of governance that promises emancipation of these segments from the clutches of exploiters.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rahul Bajaj.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, I am not very clear. The hon. Minister has started by saying 'ideology'. That will not be very easy to handle because you can't change a person's ideology so easily unless you start from the primary school level. It was 'poverty' which was mentioned in passing towards the end when you mentioned, Mr. Minister, 'exploitation'. What are you doing to diagnose and, then, solve these problems, whatever may be the cause – poverty or ideology or even religious? As per your answer, it has increased, whether after the merger of the two organizations or not, from 160 districts to 200 districts. We are all very worried. People go on and do whatever they like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: What is being done to contain all this. Of course, that cannot be done overnight, but can we, in the next year or two, solve it? Can we take care of this serious problem for the sake of India's integrity?

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, the answer to this problem is this. The strategy that we are adopting is a multi-pronged strategy. The first and foremost is, of course, the 'development strategy'. And, as far as the development strategy is concerned, we have various methods to tackle this problem. First of all, there is a 'focus area approach' in which we have selected 34 districts of eight States and they are paying special attention on planning, implementation and monitoring of development work. Out of these eight States, we have selected four States and, in these four States, eight most affected districts have been put under integrated security and development action plan. And, this would be replicated elsewhere also. Under the 'focus area approach', what we have done is that we are trying to provide road requirement plan in which we are going to construct the National Highways, the State Highways and the major district roads. The total money allocated for this purpose is Rs. 7,300 crores. Under the *Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana*, a three-years' perspective plan has been prepared for all such habitations in these areas with 250 and above habitation in tribal areas, which is much less than the usual normal norms, and 500 and above in plain areas. Thirdly, in the focus area approach, we are giving 100 per cent Central assistance for *Ashram* Schools in tribal sub-plan areas. We are also providing 100 per cent Central assistance for ST boys and girls hostels. Other than this, we have 'backward district initiative', in which Rs. 2,475 crores were given to 55 such districts—Rs. 15 crores per annum for three years, that is, Rs. 45 crores which comes to Rs. 2,475 crores. On the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Environment also, now, has allowed for social and physical infrastructure. Now, one hectare of forest area can be converted for non-forest purposes, wherein we can have social and physical infrastructure in these areas. Also, the Ministry of Environment and Forest has allowed us to convert all *kuchha* village roads into *pucca* roads.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Has the Government initiated any dialogue with the naxal leaders? If so, what are their demands to come into the mainstream of the country? Can those demands be met as per the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, there is no dialogue, at the moment, with any Naxalite group. Earlier, the Government of Andhra Pradesh attempted a dialogue with the naxalite groups that failed. I have offered talks with the naxalites provided they abjure violence. If they abjure violence and say we want to talk, I say "we can talk about any subject -- development, infrastructure, governance institutions; we can talk about any subject provided the naxalites abjure violence.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, Karnataka was free from naxalite activities, but, recently, after the closure of Kudremukh iron ore in the Western Ghat area, the naxal activities have increased. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the extent of naxal activities going on therein? Secondly, is there any Joint Action Plan for all the naxalite-affected States to prevent the naxalite activities?

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, in 2008, four police stations out of 805 police stations in Karnataka reported naxal violence. The same figure, that is, four, was in 2007. But in 2006, it was six police stations. So, from six police stations in 2006, it came down to four in 2008, out of 805 police stations in Karnataka.

DR. K. KESHA RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister just now said that talks in Andhra Pradesh were a failure. Let him recall that I was the interlocutor from the Government side. Myself and the chief of the naxalites held a joint press conference to say that talks were successful. It is another matter why they reached a stalemate. My question is this. Since you are now interested and for the first time the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have come and said that we are not asking them to lay down the arms *per se*, but we are asking them to abjure violence. If that is the case, the peace initiative groups, the other groups have come forward to play a mediatory role. Will the Government take advantage of them and invite them so that we can, again, restart what could not be continued in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, while some civil society, organisations have, indeed, indicated that they could facilitate talks between the Government and the naxalites, there has been no concrete proposal whatsoever. In fact, to a letter received by me from Shri Rabi Ray and others, I immediately responded to Shri Rabi Ray. There has been no response to that in any concrete fashion. I repeat that the policy of the Government is, we are willing to hold talks with the naxalite groups, we are willing to facilitate talks between the State Government concerned and the naxalite groups operating in that State, but the condition is that they should formally abjure violence. In fact, in an interview, I had said, "If you abjure violence, I will be able to respond to that statement of yours within 72 hours, but they have to give up violence. Violence has no place and as long as violence persists, I do not see any scope for talks. So, they should give up violence first.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, in the first para of the reply given by the hon. Minister, it is mentioned that incidents of naxalite violence have increased following the merger of different groups and parties which began this ideology. My question is very specific. It is a fact that some weeks ago, some Members of the Council of Ministers visited the naxalite-affected areas in West Bengal and

gave speeches before the Maoists activists and the situation worsened. Has this matter come up before the Ministry? This is my simple and pinpointed question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, these are perceptions and I can't really deal with perceptions. When a group of people in West Midnapore formed an organization purportedly to protest against Police atrocities, it is true that one or two of my colleagues visited the area. They wanted to visit the area – and I spoke to the West Bengal Government – in order to talk to that group to find out what their complaint against the Police was. That has nothing to do with the CPI (Maoists). Once they found that that organisation formed by the person concerned is only a front organization of the CPI (Maoists), I think, my colleagues who visited that area made it abundantly clear that they have never supported the CPI (Maoists), they will never support the CPI (Maoists) and they are totally opposed to violence. But despite that statement, there are perceptions among other political parties about that political party. I can't obviously deal with perceptions. These perceptions have to be debated on the political platform and the people have to judge, as I believe they are judging.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 184. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: We are speaking about West Bengal ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: ... and I am representing West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may be; there are others also who are representing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. Please, resume your place. Yes, Question No. 184, please.

Talks on Kashmir issue

* 184. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: ††

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister recently offered to talk on the Kashmir issue, to address both its external and internal dimensions, with all sections including the separatists; and

(b) if so, the response of the separatist groups thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In a speech on October 28, 2009, Prime Minister stated that talks could be held with anyone who has any meaningful ideas for promoting peace and development in Kashmir. He was also willing to carry all sections of the people in resolving the political and economic problems of Jammu and Kashmir. Some groups have indicated an interest in holding talks.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Govindrao Wamanrao Adik.