



THE NAXAL LOCAL LINKAGES – A STUDY OF NAXALISM IN SONBHADRA, UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract

Naxalism has been a significant political movement since independence through the ups and downs. It was the most long-lasting movement. Sonbhadra, a district of Uttar Pradesh, is a land of historical, cultural and natural heritage. Sonbhadra district is an industrial zone with bauxite limestone, coal, gold, etc.; because of multiple power plants, this district is called the "Energy Capital Of India". As it is bounded by many states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar, it became easier for them to be Naxal.

Key Words

Naxalism, Naxal, Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, Naxalite, Jotdar, Mao

Introduction

Sonbhadra is a district of Uttar Pradesh, India, bordered by the four states Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. The district has been named Sonbhadra after the Son river that flows here. The region is famous for its natural resources and fertile land. Due to limestone, coal and stone availability here, it has become an industrial paradise. The country's largest cement factory, electricity (thermal and hydro), aluminium and chemical units are located here. Sonbhadra is in the form of an industrial district. Here, children are also engaged in many types of work for production in the mines and the factories.

Due to poor socio-economic conditions, children are forced to drop out of school and go to work, and the contractors persuade their children to work by giving various inducements to their parents. There are multiple forms of exploitation of children in these places, and child abuse is one of the most social evils faced by society. Regarding Sonbhadra's geographical point of view, this district is adjacent to the border of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The people living in these areas have already been affected by Naxalism. Naxalites adopt many methods to bring new people to their side and make youth and students their primary target for recruitment in the name of casteism, exploitation or any revolutionary personality.

Historical Background of Naxalism -

The word 'Naxal' is derived from the name of the village "Naxalwadi " in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. In 1967 some agitators started an armed struggle against the Jotdars. Naxalites - a rebel group of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) unhappy with the slow implementation of policies towards land reform and farmers' interests by the party and the government, which are associated with the leftist stream, took up arms for agitation and threatened the Jotdars. They decided to target and distribute the properties of the Jotdars among the poor farmers. This insurgent group and many formations are currently organised under C.P.I. (Maoist) after dissolution. Although 39 other groups of almost similar ideologies are also active, C.P.I. (Maio) is the most influential, and the events occur in the vibrant country."Naxalwadi" village has become such an identity in the modern history of India, which not only gave a new turn to the leftist stream but is also a symbol of the most violent movement in modern history. This village is 22 kilometres from Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan), Located at a distance of 6 km from Nepal and 120 km from Tibet. Naxalwadi, Khariwadi and Phansidewa, three places spread over 256 square miles of land, have been important in this area. In 1967, the population of this area was 1,26,000. If the Naxalwari incident is discussed, it can be agreed unanimously that the ground conditions suitable for Naxalism or Maoism or extreme leftist movements have always existed in the Naxalwari area.

Kanu Sanyal, who, along with Charu Mazumdar and Jangal Santhal, are considered pioneers of this modern violent movement, mentioned it in detail in his many reports and articles about the movement in this region. According to Kanu Sanyal, the class struggle had started in Naxalwadi as early as 1946 but was established from 1948-50 due to other priorities of the Communist leadership. But from 1951 to 1967, it was progressive without interruption. The result was the movement of 1967 called 'A Peal of Spring Thunder' by Penking Radio. However, before 1967, the movement was mainly to fulfil economic demands. Since the Naxalwadi area was full of labourers working in the gardens due to the abundance of tea gardens. That's why the farmers and the workers in the plantations jointly support this movement. According to Kanu Sanyal, in 1955, ten thousand farmers and labourers of the region had disarmed a police force with their traditional weapons like arrows and bows in the movement demanding bonuses for tea garden workers. In 1958-59, the 'West Bengal Krishak Sabha' appealed for the farmers' rights to be established on the 'benami' lands occupied by the Jotdars. But the Siliguri Sub-Division Krishak Samiti went a step further and appealed to the farmers to plough the land and keep the agricultural produce in their possession. The share of the cultivators should be given only when they show any proof of ownership of the land.

The movement soon started taking a violent form. Along with the news of the agitators clashing with the Jotdars' lathas and the police, the police officers' weapons were snatched away. About two thousand farmers surrendered themselves. Finally, on the instructions of the West Bengal Provincial Farmers' Assembly, this movement was withdrawn in Naxalwadi. Charu Mazumdar was the main facilitator of the incident in Naxalwadi. It is necessary to know who Charu Mazumdar was and what was his intention behind instigating such rebellion. In 1962, even during the Indo-China war, the leftist cadres of Naxalites, considering India, the aggressor, gave their arrest in support of China. Charu Mazumdar was one of those who was arrested in this. 1966 Communist cadres (leftist activists) of the Siliguri area learned about Charu Mazumdar's revolutionary articles (Eight documents) and considered several options to intensify the movement. At this time, Charu Mazumdar emerged as a well-known local leader. Charu Mazumdar came in contact with leftist ideology in 1948 and was particularly influenced by Mao Zedong. Therefore, in 1938, even before the intermediate examination, he joined the banned Communist Party of India (C.P.I.). First, he worked for the farmers, then for the labourers, first in Jalpaiguri district and later in Siliguri district on behalf of the party. From the beginning, he disagreed with many policies of the Communist Party. Due to that, the party also condemned many of his works. In response, Charu opposed the party's "revisionist" ideology. He was released in 1963 after being arrested for opposing his country's policies in the

Indo-China war. At the same time contested as a representative of C.P.I. in the by-election of the Siliguri Assembly, in which he was defeated.

He joined C.P.I. (M) in 1964 after the split in Communist Party. The C.P.I. (M) suspended him in 1965 due to his anti-party activities. Following the decision of the C.P.I. (M) to join the United Front after the elections in 1967, he wrote a series of articles urging the cadres to wage a popular armed war as per Mao's policy. For the implementation of these policies, he started preparing land in Siliguri. On March 2, 1967, a farmer named Bigul was mercilessly beaten up by armed goons of the local landlord in Naxalwadi village. From the second day, the farmer agitators started digging the land and raising red flags. On March 3, 1967, three agricultural labourers, Lapa Kishan, Shangu Kishan and Ratia Kishan, along with 150 supporters of C.P.I. (M) armed with sticks and bows and arrows, took away all the grain from the Jotdar's store.

The Siliguri Sub-Division Kisan Convention was organised on March 18, 1967, in the backdrop of the above events. According to Kanu Sanyal, the farmers were warned that this fight could be a protracted war, and the central and state governments could also use force to suppress the farmers' movement. But the victory will be of the proletariat. The farmers were appealed to be armed to deal with the hooligans of the Jotdars and the administration. Kisan Kameras will have priority in every matter of the villages, and the land will be redistributed by ending the monopoly on the land of Jotdars. A historic conference of "farmers and workers" was organised on May 7, 1967. The intention was confirmed that the fields being ploughed by the farmers but still do not have ownership redistribute farming by capturing all that land. The leftists of Siliguri had started adopting an extremist form, and this ideology was being introduced to the general public. Between March 2, 1967, and May 1967, more than 100 violent incidents were reported to the police, while many incidents were never reported to the police for fear of retaliation.

The district administration was completely unprepared to deal with such a situation. The issue was politically sensitive as Communists were part of the government. As a result, Hare Krishna Konar, Minister of Land Revenue (Government of West Bengal), came to Siliguri on May 16 1967, for talks and met Kanu Sanyal on May 17 1967. It was agreed that Kanu Sanyal would not be arrested, but he and Jangal Santhal would surrender. All violent activities will be stopped, and land distribution will be done after consultation with the local agency. The illegal collection of food grains will be exposed and acquired by the government on the information of the public's committee. But the extremists among the agitators did not allow it to be implemented and backed out from the agreement. It is said that Charu Mazumdar was not in favour of any such agreement. In this way, within two decades of its independence, the nation presented the option of ending colonial slavery before the world through the practical use of truth and non-violence, Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal and Jungle in Naxalwadi, within two decades of its independence. A movement was born under the leadership of Santhal, which was abolished then. Still, even after years, the movement of farmers and labourers or extremists or Maoists is known as Naxalism. Different sections, in their way, explained this incident. Otherwise, the agitators would have got time and support to strengthen their position. But Kanu Sanyal called the movement successful.

According to him, there were ten advantages of the farmers' movement in the Darjeeling Terai region:

- (1) The old feudal system, which had been running for centuries, was broken.
- (2) Forged deeds and documents were burnt.
- (3) The unusual agreement (agreements) between farmers and tenants was declared invalid (declared null and void).
- (4) Hoarded rice was seized.

- (5) Open trial was conducted for the tyrannical Jotdars.
- (6) The hooligans who supported the Jotdars were eliminated.
- (7) Peasants were armed with traditional weapons and guns snatched from the Jotdars.
- (8) Night guards were deployed for law and order.
- (9) Revolutionary committees were formed for the political power of the farmers.
- (10) Feudal law and courts were made inactive.

The achievements listed above by Kanu Sanyal may not be objective, yet a glimpse of the underlying revolutionary ambitions of this movement was found. To improve living conditions, the fate and finality of any 'divine intervention' of the Indian public depended on violence as another option.

In the 60s, when the Chinese Communists, a clear line of demarcation was drawn against the revisionists under the party's leadership. After adopting the revisionist path by the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and writing eight documents against the revisionism of Communists. The Naxalwadi incident was a significant turning point in the history of Indian peasant and labour movements.

The structure of mainly three Naxalite organisations have come to light in Uttar Pradesh, whose details are as follows:

1. M.C.C. (Maoist Communist Centre).
2. P.W.G. (People's War Group).
3. C.P.M.L. (Liberation).

4. On September 21, 2004, M.C.C. After the merger of P.W.G., their power increased further. Naxalites do not follow the Indian Constitution. They call the entire political and judicial system of India a puppet of empire and feudalism and the democracy of India a pseudo-democracy. Some part of CPML (Liberation) has become peace-loving, but some believe they still have armed forces. Naxalites are trying to make an intensive red corridor from Nepal to Andhra Pradesh via Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Naxalite organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand are active here in Sonbhadra district. Systemic injustice, landlordism, lack of development, unemployment, poverty, corruption etc., in rural areas are giving energy to this extremism.

5. They know that the source of their strength is the deepening and widening socio-economic disparities all around. MCC (Maoist Communist Centre): After the formation of C.P.I. (ML) on May 1 1969, the Maoist Communist Center was formed on October 20 1969. Whose founders were comrades Kanai Chatterjee, Amulya Sen and Chandrashekhar Das? P.W.G. (CPML People's War Group) was established in 1980. Before the merger, it was the largest Naxalite organisation in the country. Despite the ban by the Andhra Pradesh government, it continues its activities. The main centre of their activities is the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana region. This group is also active in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. From Bihar itself, this organisation conducts its activities in Uttar Pradesh.

Structure of Naxalite activities in districts of Bihar-Jharkhand state adjacent to Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh (organisational structure of MCC)-

1. Naugarh-Vijaygarh Organizational Area Committee: Some areas of Chandauli district and Sonbhadra police stations, Machi, Pannuganj, Robertsganj, Raipur etc., come under the jurisdiction of this area committee.

2.Rajgarh-Ghorawal Organizational Area Committee: The area of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra police station-Ghorawal, Robertsganj, comes in this area committee.

3.Ahraura-Chunar Organizational Area Committee: In this area committee, Ahraura, Adalhat and nearby areas of district Mirzapur police station come.

4.Madihan-Lalganj Organizational Area Committee: In this area committee, police station Madihan, Lalganj and surrounding areas of district Mirzapur come.

5.Halia-Jigna Organizational Area Committee: Efforts are being made to form a committee in this area, which includes the Halia police station and the surrounding area of the Mirzapur district.

In this way, M.C.C. The Central Committee functions at the top of the organisation's structure. Each Organizational Area Committee consists of 13 members, who draw a salary from the Zonal Committee. The Chief Trainee of the Area Committee is from Palamu (Bihar), and out of the remaining 12 members, one is the Area Committee Commander. Joint meetings of these committees and training camps of 7-8 days are held. It is in these camps that discussions are held on deciding to take action against the identified persons and distribution of money and weapons to the area committees. Two wings have been made at all the above levels. The first civilian wing is responsible for strategy formulation. Second Armed Wing (Executive Wing) executes the proposed work. At the commander level, action is taken for people's court, levy recovery, recovery from contractors or government employees and murder etc.

Working Methodology of Naxalites : The working method of Naxalites is divided into four levels, the details of which are as follows:

- 1.**First phase** - marking the work area.
- 2.**Second Phase** - Contacting the local people in the identified work area and making them your supporters.
- 3.**Third phase**- Committing serious crimes by setting up a team and making the organisation strong.
- 4.Construction of liberated zone.

Effect of Naxalism :

The maximum impact can be seen in eight big states of the country. These states include West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Red corridors were built in different states of the country. Thousands of people were killed due to the Naxalite movement. Property worth billions of rupees were destroyed in the country. The effects of Naxalism can be seen in the following forms:

- 1.Internal Disturbance
- 2.The Problem of Law and Order
- 3.Encouragement to Separatist Elements
4. Formation of Parallel Government
- 5.Fear of Armed Insurgency
- 6.Widespread Loss of Life and Property
7. Promotion of Class Discrimination

8. Illegal purchase and sale of armed forces
9. Increase in violent activities
10. Economic loss Solution

Conclusion

The government has done much more than plan to suppress the Naxalite Movement. After the economic, historical and ideological origins of the movement, dissatisfaction is a significant cause of Naxalism if we see the socioeconomic perspective of Naxalism that shaped due to the failure of the institutional framework of socio-economic justice. It is a universal truth that an order achieved through violence does not long-lasting and eventually breaks down. On the other hand, the government should also rise above the problem of law and order and try to solve their basic problems.

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