

On 4th of February 2007 nearly 150 villagers of Beraberi and adjoining villages under Singur Police Station assembled near the fences erected by the administration as acquired for Tata motors. The protest was a peaceful one and led by Krishi Jami Rakha Committee. When the protestors supposed to assemble adjoining the fence at about 10.30 AM to lodge their protest and shouted slogans, a large number of police bodily resisted them and resisted them to approach the fence, though on that time the area was not under 144 Cr. P.C.



Amitava Bhattacharjya is being pulled out after merciless assault

The police started beating protestors with their lathis and women were pulled by their hairs and abusive language was used by them, which was shown and heard by the audio-visual medium. The police charged tear gas shells and their aim was absolutely toward the village and due to that one hutment of a villager caught fire and turned into ashes.



Anuradha Talwar & another girl are being dragged away with sexual abuse



Hey stack got fire after tear gas shell burst

Then number of protestors including Ms. Anuradha Talwar of Right to Food Network has been arrested. The arrestees included with villagers and some leaders of peoples' movement. The irony was that the arrestees were calm during their protest and police were reckless. Two of the protestors viz. Sudip Sarkar and Partho Chakroborty had been admitted in Singur Block Hospital with injuries not so grievous others like Becharam Manna and Ajoy Das were referred to District Hospital, Chuchura, with every knowledge that the said District Hospital does not have any infrastructure to deliver basic treatment to a patient with brain or neurological ailment and Ajoy Das was definitely suffering with head injuries and vomiting which was a certain symptom of severe crisis related to head injury another shocking fact was the protestors having grievous injuries were denied medical treatment, for an example Amitabha Bhattachrya was beaten brutally and it was shown by audio visual channels and thousands of viewers are witness of the fact that Amitabh was pinned down on the ground after severe bashing by the police and for long he was not able stand on his feet and police dragged him to their vehicle. Three women, named Ganga Das, Kabita Bag and Mamata Manna were getting treatment at Singur primary health center due to severe assault by the police and they were unconscious on that time and their name were not in the cases lodged by the police, as accused. The arrest was totally uncalled for, whilst police framed severe sections with a partisan approach.



Ms. Anuradha Talwar & others at the open ground of Chandannagar PS



women prisoner looking her friends from prison van, 5/2/07

The police with vicious intention started two cases; Singur PS case no. 25 dated 04.02.07 under sections 147/ 148/ 149/ 448/ 186/ 332/ 333/ 325/ 326/ 353/ 307 of IPC and 9(B) of IE Act and 3 & 4 of P.D.PP Act against Mr. Amitabha Bhattacharjee, Mr. Samiran Mudra, Mr. Astu Malik, Mr. Becharam Manna and Mr. Gopal Pal and the complainant was Mr. Priyabrata Bakshi, Officer in Charge of Singur Police Station another case was initiated against Ms. Swapana Tripathy, Ms. Jaba Murmu, Ms. Anuradha Talwar, Ms. Namita Gayen, Ms. Ashtobala Maity, Ms. Jamila Khatun, Juthika Pal and Mr. Ajoy Das having case number 24 dated 04.02.07 at 4.35 PM, under sections 147/ 148/ 149/ 427/ 186/ 353/ 332/ 333/ 325/ 307 of IPC and the complainant was Mr. A. Mazumdar, SI, Singur Police Station.

The arrestees were produced before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Chandannagar, Mr. Apurba Singha Roy, ACJM granted bail to all except three. The bail application of Mr. Amitabha Bhattacharjee, Mr. Gopal Pal and Mr. Becharam Manna were rejected.

The persons referred to District Hospital, Chuchura has been shifted to Calcutta Medical College Hospital.

- ◆ The Singur Police Station case number 24 dated 04.02.07 was shown registered at 4.35 P.M. but the incidents took place around 10.30 am and all the people were arrested by 11 am to 11.30 A.M. on that day but the unanswered question remains why police took so much time to register the case? Is it not clear that the police were waiting from some definite instructions from higher administrative levels and preparing the case in such a manner so that graver and serious penal provisions can be introduced to secure longer period of detention of the arrested persons? By practicing such repressive tactics, is not the administration suppressing the democratic movement and more and more pushing the people to a closed corner where the protesting people shall have no option but to adopt the violent measures?

There are several other pertinent questions remained unanswered under the present unrest and volatile situation at Singur. The State government did not come up with clean hands in its land deal with Tata and are playing the cards keeping close to its chest!

- ◆ The government has acquired the land at Singur about 997.11 acres and put fencing around the so called acquired land, and the state government disclosed that Tata Motors has taken possession of the land. Under such situation, who are owners of the said land now? The government is silent over the issue. Though West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) is the face from the government side but the deal between WBIDC and Tatas is made to known and the government has been treating it as 'trade secret', s the spirit of Right to Information Act is getting defeated here by the deliberate concealing conduct of the State Government.

- ◆ It is fact that State Government has disbursed chunk of money to the land holders of Singur on account of compensation, but sizable section of the land holders have not received the compensation amount from the government so far but their land has been taken over by the government, then what is the status of the holders of the land who so far have not received any compensation amount from the government? In prevalent situation in the state, the real cultivators i.e. *Bargadars* (As per West Bengal Land Reform Act 1955) have definite rights and interests in the agricultural land and produce which the bargadars are cultivating. The recorded land owners who are getting dividends from the produce without giving any labour are walking out with the compensation amount leaving the real cultivators in penury. So, is not it clear that the state government is siding openly with the privileged and taking stands against the peasants?
- ◆ Already more than thousand land owners of Singur openly declared their strong objection on giving consent to the land acquisition of the government under the project of Tata. They even executed written declarations to this effect denying giving consent of forgoing their land to the government by swearing affidavits, but the government is relying on the technical points of Land Acquisition Act and considering such technical point, the government has been considering the consent on deeming provision without considering social unrest, discontent and the mood of agitation the land holders. Several wrong and false statements have appeared in government websites.
- ◆ The government has declared that they have acquired land at Singur but conspicuously no gazette publication has been made by the government so far. Does not it reflect that the state government is not sure of its own act
- ◆ A huge number of police and Rapid Action Force have been deployed in Singur for several months to protect the acquired land. Who is actually bearing the cost and expenses? The fact remains that the State Government is spending money from the state exchequer and wasting the public money at random to protect the property though the land has been handed over to the private agency.
- ◆ The question of livelihood of the people is the fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution of India. Apart from the agricultural land holders who are not giving labour in producing crops and enjoying the usufructs of the cultivating land and *Bargadars*, there are huge number of landless agricultural labourers who mainly depend on cultivation shall become jobless and unemployed. Past experience showed that they were the worst affected and promise of providing job for them was never kept in course of so called development and industrialization process. They are deprived of their livelihood. Who will protect their interest, the people of the most marginalized section?