

# জমি, জীবিকা, বাস্তুতন্ত্র ও পরিবেশ রক্ষা কমিটি

পোলেরহাট ২ নং, কাশীপুর, ২৪ পরগণা (দে), কলকাতা -- ৭০০১৩৫  
Contact: 9804264020

To

The Editor

4. 1. 17

**Subject: Press conference at Press Club by Jomi, Jibika, Bastutantra O Poribesh Raksha Committee to announce protest programmes culminating in indefinite road blockade at Bhangor**

Ma'am/Sir,

The Jomi, Jibika, Bastutantra O Poribesh Raksha Committee will hold a press conference tomorrow, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, from 4-5 pm, to announce a series of protest programmes against the forcible land acquisition and setting up of a power grid substation on the fertile, multi-crop land in Bhangor, a project that will cause inestimable and irreversible damage to the ecology and environment as well as jeopardise the lives and livelihoods of countless farmers and their families of the region.

The 400/220 KV, SF6 gas insulated substation and associated 953 Km (480 Km passing through West Bengal) length of 400KV double circuit, 450MW transmission lines, is intended to transmit power between West Bengal and Purnia in Bihar and will affect scores of villages across the region. The villages immediately affected by the construction of the substation and the associated transmission include Khamarait, Macchibahanga, Tona, Padmapukur, Gazipur and Uriapara – all in Bhangor Block of South 24 Paraganas district – among others.

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has gone about this project in an absolutely high-handed manner, refusing to talk to the affected farmers and displaying an utter lack of transparency. The government and administration too have paid scant heed to the farmers' grievances. Despite the much-vaunted policy of the government to not acquire agricultural land for industry, in villages across Bhangor

extremely fertile agricultural land has been acquired for the substation and the transmission towers. This has been done without the consent of the farmers, often by the use of terror tactics.

The *Jomi, Jibika, Bastutantra O Poribesh Raksha Committee*, which was formed to protest the construction of the power grid substation and the destruction of the ecology it entails, has appealed to the government and administration for dialogue, but in vain. Now, since peaceful demonstrations by tens of thousands of villagers and humble petitions seem to have had no effect, the Committee has been compelled to announce an indefinite road blockade on January 11 demanding immediate cessation of work on the substation and withdrawal of the project from the area.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

Alik Chakraborty

Spokesperson (*Jomi, Jibika, Bastutantra O Poribesh Raksha Committee*)