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# Carnage is work of goons, says Naxalite

Dipak Mishra, TNN 6 October 2009, 05:41am IST

PATNA: CPI(Maoist) on Monday confirmed what chief minister Nitish Kumar has been saying all along about the Khagaria carnage -- that it was not a Naxalite operation.

"I have talked to our men in Bihar and it is clear that we have nothing to do with the carnage. The CPI(Maoists) does not believe in instigating one caste against another. We fight for the rights of the downtrodden. The carnage is the work of goons," remarked the CPI(Maoists) Central leadership's spokesperson Kishanji while speaking to TOI on Monday.

The Khagaria carnage has surprised the CPI(Maoist) Central leadership which has maintained that the carnage did not have the trade mark of an operation carried out by their cadre. Kishanji remarked that their organization in Khagaria had become weak after the arrest of some key persons by the police.

The Maoists, however, assail both chief minister Nitish Kumar and his political rival and RJD chief Lalu Prasad for encouraging 'caste conflicts'. "Both the leaders have played one caste against another for political gains," he remarked. He said that the only way the government can stop incidents like Khagaria from repeating is distribution of land among the landless and make a move to eradicate casteism in the society. "The Nitish government should stop supporting the landed class and political parties should stop using castes as vote banks," he said.

Incidentally, when the carnage took place, the main opposition party RJD insisted that it was a Naxalite operation and attacked the government for its failure to check the spread of Maoism in Bihar. With the Maoists firmly stating that it was not their job, the focus is now on administrative lapses which led to the massacre of 16 persons.

Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi has already insisted that the government would look into the 'political conspiracy' behind the carnage leaving the field open for political parties to level charges and counter charges against each other.

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