

Parallel rule, as elsewhere

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Shyam Sundar Roy

MIDNAPORE, Nov. 21: As the Midnapore West district administration refuses to concede to the demands of the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) or solve the Lalgah imbroglio, a parallel administration is springing up in the district.

The PSBPC is forming "Gram Committees" (GCs) in the villages of Belpahari, Binpur, Lalgah, Jamboni, Salboni, Goaltore and adjoining blocks, akin to those run in Andhra Pradesh and Chhatisgarh by Maoists. The PSBC today announced the formation of 65 GCs in Belpahari block, with more coming up soon, each comprising 10 members, five men and five women. A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the CPI (Maoist) at a meeting in Laljal, Belpahari, yesterday.

Over 85 GCs have been formed in Lalgah block while those in other blocks will be formed gradually. The whip of these GCs would act in governance of the villages where no development activities will be allowed to be undertaken by the government without their clearance, however lofty be the packages as hinted by the state government. Neither police nor the district administrative officials would be allowed to enter the villages without the permission of the GC to their "free zone" thus formed on the lines of those made in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the announcement stated.

In a bid to run the parallel administration through GCs, their long-cherished goal, the PSBPC united the rural folk through prolonged mass movement over their one-point agenda ~ "police terror". Blueprint of this parallel administration through GCs was tactfully made through systematic blockade by rampant digging up roads and dumping tree trunks on communication networks to stonewall the entry of police and the administrative officials into the villages for days together.

Hence, it is clear that the days ahead will be tough ones for the administration to implement government programmes by overcoming the great challenge thrown by the PSBPC and the GCs. Meanwhile, Jhargram, Lalgah, Belpahari, Binpur and Jamboni blocks remained cut off for the 17th consecutive day today as police did not venture in to meet leaders of PSBPC at Dalilpur Chowk, a remote village in Lalgah block.

Meeting not held

The all-important meeting between the district administration and PSBPC leaders to discuss the 11-point

charter put forward by the latter could not be held today following a tug-of-war between the two sides over the venue, dashing hopes to end the 17-day-long stalemate over the Lalgah issue.

<http://www.thestatesman.net/page.arcview.php?clid=6&id=258445&usrsess=1>