

## **Who is afraid of the joint forces?**

Shyam Sundar Roy

MIDNAPORE, 20 SEPT [2009]: The Maoist menace remains undiminished in Junglemahal of West Midnapore district, paying little heed to what chief minister Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has to say.

Even as Mr Bhattacharjee assured the masses at a Left Front meeting in Kolkata recently, that the joint state and Central forces will stay to tackle the Maoists, the extremists continue to negate the presence of the forces in the area.

The houses of two CPI-M activists, Mr Deb Singha and Mr Prithvijit Singha at Chandabila in Midnapore Sadar block were looted and torched by the ultras last week and two trucks set ablaze by the Maoists and they were able to walk away without any resistance from the terrified villagers or the joint forces.

The Maoists also torched a mini truck of the public health and engineering department at Lakat in Lalgah on the same day. The vehicle was returning to Midnapore from Kantapahari with some labourers on board, who were beaten up for working for the police. The labourers have been engaged by the PHE department to build up water supply connection in a make-shift complex for accommodation of the security forces at Kantapahari. Earlier, a truck of a contractor was also set ablaze by the PSBPC men at Andharia in Binpur carrying bricks for building one such make-shift camp. But no one has been arrested in either of the cases.

An announcement over deployment of party cadres to take on the Maoists was made by the state minister and Garhbeta CPI-M leader, Mr Susanta Ghosh, at a DYFI rally in Midnapore town earlier this month. To build up the brigade and also to procure weapons the CPI-M fleeced teachers of secondary and primary schools of Garhbeta I, II and III blocks to the amount of Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.

Meanwhile, the CPI-M organised a huge rally in Jhargram town recently to protest against the alleged Maoist-Trinamul nexus in perpetrating murder and abduction of CPI-M comrades and looting and torching their houses in the Junglemahal for their political ends.