

Lalgarh: Another PCPA top leader brought to Kolkata

KOLKATA [October 5, 2009]: After bringing tribal leader Chhatradhar Mahato to Kolkata, investigators are now probing the connection between PCPA, the Maoists and their sympathizers in Kolkata. On Sunday, another top PCPA leader, Sukhshanti Baskey arrested last week was brought to the city for interrogation.

Police claimed that Baskey was the assistant cashier of the PCPA, which was believed to be backed by Maoists.

"Some suspected Maoists and PCPA members, including Baskey, who were nabbed by the district police, will be handed over to CID for investigation," said West Midnapore superintendent of police Manoj Verma.

A day after chief secretary Ashok Mohan Chakrabarti said that those extending support to Chhatradhar Mahato could be booked under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, officials revealed that two teachers of a city university and a group of 20 university students who used to visit Lalgarh quite often are now under police scanner.

Police sources said that investigators are now trying to find out the sympathizers of the PCPA who are stationed in Kolkata and other metro cities. Police believe that those who helped Mahato and his organization are playing a crucial role in spreading Maoist insurgency across the country.

"The Maoist sympathizers are raising funds and playing a crucial role as the liaison between guerrillas and different other outfits," said a senior police officer who is also member of the special team that is monitoring Maoist insurgency.

Sources said the cell phone details of Mahato have revealed that he had close links with some city-based people, including some intellectuals. But apprehending trouble, police are yet to call them for interrogation because till June 19 when he actually went "underground" Chhatradhar has been known to be a leader of mass organization.

A few days after Mahato's arrest, Baskey was arrested in Lalgarh and charged for sedition under IPC and UAPA. On Sunday morning, he was taken to CID headquarters, where senior IPS officers grilled them.

Sources said Mahato and Baskey were made to sit together and interrogated to clarify some contradictions in their statements. **TOI**