

I have never met Chhatradhar: Kishenji

Kolkata [October 4, 2009]: Maoist leader Kishenji on Sunday claimed he had never met tribal leader Chhatradhar Mahato amid police claims that there were evidence of his meeting Mahato.

"Chhatradhar is a tribal leader fighting for the rights of people and though we operate from the same zone, our motive and goal are totally different and there is no reason for me to meet Chhatradhar," Kishenji told PTI over phone from an undisclosed location.

West Bengal DGP Vupinder Singh today said Chhatradhar not only had Maoist links, but he had contacts with city intellectuals.

"Chhatradhar was in constant touch with some city-based intellectuals and we have proof that at least two city-based NGOs provided financial assistance to the PCPA-led tribal movement at Lalgarh," Singh said.

"Chhatradhar even bought a vehicle worth Rs 1.45 lakh and thousands of rupees were spent on food and liquor in the rallies and meetings of PCPA," Singh said.

Meanwhile, PCPA treasurer Sukhshati Baske was being brought to the state police headquarters at Bhawani Bhawan so that the police can interrogate Chhatradhar and Baske face to face, Singh said.

Kishenji claimed that PCPA was suffering from a financial crunch and that it couldn't even pay bills incurred by the vehicles.

Asked if the Lalgarh movement will stop after the arrest of Chhatradhar, Kishenji said, "The movement in Lalgarh will be even more forceful and stronger. The arrest of Chhatradhar is a setback, but that will give the people inspiration to fight more."

On whether the Maoists will take over control of the movement after the arrest, Kishenji said, "They have a strong central committee of 120 people and they will decide who will hold the mantle to carry forward the movement."

Bureau Report

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