

Brief report of the State Level Seminar on...

“Land Acquisition Vs Bhoodan”

Remembering the first individual Satyagrahi of freedom movement Acharya Vinoba Bhave, the moral heir of Mahatma Gandhi, On his 116th birth anniversary and on the occasion to observe 60 years of his great Bhoodan Andolan [Land Gift Movement] on 11 September 2011, Vinoba Seva Pratisthan[VSP] organized a mass meeting at Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



After formal welcome by Ms Kshyamashree and requested the Secretary of VSP Mr Manoj Jena to preside over the meeting. Before the discussion commenced, deep tribute paid to Gandhiji and Vinobaji with garlanding the photo and lightening the lamp by the invited guests. Sarvadharmā prathana[om tat sat], Bisnava Janato tene kahiye and Jai Jagat sung by eminent singer Soma Prusty, Saneeta pati and Doli Apa.

Mr Jena introduced all guest speakers and spoke the objectives of the meeting. The day is very specific not only the birthday of Vinobaji but also keeps importance as Swami Vivekananda recognized India after his Chicago speech on the very day. The day is being celebrated universal brotherhood day also Gandhiji initiated his first satyagraha in South Africa on the same day besides the day also observe as World Grand parents day.

Vinoba started Boodan Andolan [Land gift movement] in the year 1951 from Pancham Pali village in Telengana region of Andra Pradesh. He took 13 years to move by foot in each and every parts of India and convinced the Zamidars[land owners] to share few acres of their land for the landless. It is said near about 50 lakh acres of land collected through Bhoodan and 1lakh 60 thousand villages through Gramdan and roughly 30 district as Zilla dan[district gift] said the secretary of Pratisthan.



The very intention was that the collected lands were distributed among the landless mostly dalit, tribal people who couldn't ensure their livelihood because of land the Nuxal movement spread quickly throughout the county.

The present union govt. is bringing the “Land Acquisitions bill which needs to be debated. The philosophy behind Bhoodan was to acquire land through non violent means that the govt. should keep in mind when it tables such type of bill.

The following invited guest who spoke narrative on the subject is being extracted the key points..

Mr.AV Swami, *Sarvodaya Leader and member State Planning Board*

- He joined with Vinobaji through Bhoodan padyatra in Koraput district
- The ultimate aim of Bhoodan was Gram Swaraj
- The R&R compensations are to be monitored by a committee of the Civil Society, affected people and district administration and everything should be in the Public Domain.



Mr. Rabi Das, *Senior Journalist*

- Land is the most important productive assets
- Land grabbing is another form of land acquisition
- Poor, dalit and tribal peoples are victimized through land acquisition
- The Govt. acts as broker between land giver and corporate
- The PESA act is not implemented fully
- Equity Share for each affected families

Mrs Krishna Mohanty, *eminent sarvodaya worker [daughter of former chief minister of Odisha Nabakrushna Choudhry and Malati Devi]*



- The govt. acts as agent of corporate
- The root cause of insurgency is due to land
- The police used an oppressive force against the villagers who denying of giving their land to big companies
- Land for land

Prof. Kailash Acharya, *Sarvoday Worker*

- Vinoba used the force of love
- Tribals worship land as mother for that they think it is disrespect to acquire jami patta[land record] that the govt. should keep in mind
- Initiated economic revolution through Bhoodan Kranti
- An Autonomous Rehabilitation Commission should be established at the national level having the jurisdiction over both Centre and

States/UTs as the final appellate authority in respect of any matter concerning land acquisition by the Government. The penal powers over any person or authority violating any provision of the Act should be vested with the said Commission.

Justice RK Patra , *chairperson, Odisha Human Rights Commission*

- Land acquisition should be always for public purpose
- The Govt. should speed the trial of land cases in different courts of the state through setting of first track court

Mr. Braja Kishore Tripathy, Former *Union Minister*

- The Supreme Court's historic verdict to scarp the Land Acquisition act immediately is praiseworthy.
- The present LA bill is reflects of our weak mentality
- People will not resist if land truly acquired for public utility
- The county will face serious food crisis if such acquisition trend continues
- Tribal land grabbed by non-tribal
- The Bhoodan lands are yet to distributed in the State.

From participants who shared their views were Bijay Pradhan, Ekta Parishad, Prof Dhiren Kumar Roy, former chairman, Odisha Power Regulating Authority, Mr Bijay Parida, Land Rights Activist. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the coordinator of VSP Mr Sandeep Mohanty.