

Now, Laloo makes an anticipatory jail plea

Patna, December 22

APPARENTLY CONCERNED by the frequent remands to custody, Laloo Prasad Yadav today petitioned the designated CBI judge SK Mishra to take him into custody in yet another conspiracy angle case of the fodder scam in view of the CBI's affidavit in the Supreme Court though he is yet to be chargesheeted in the case.

Yadav, who was taken to Patna from Ranchi yesterday, was produced before the court of Mishra this afternoon in connection with the disproportionate assets case.

Yadav's counsel PN Pandey urged the court to take him into judicial custody in case No. RC 63 (a)/96 in which the CBI had already shown his involvement in an affidavit in the apex court on December 11 when the agency opposed Yadav's plea for bail in another case RC 47 (a)/96 of the scam. The CBI is yet to submit charge-sheet in RC 63 (a)/96 relating to fraudulent withdrawals of lakhs of rupees from Bhagalpur treasury.

Replying to Pandey's submission, CBI standing counsel L Ansari told the court that he would explain the agency's position on taking Yadav into judicial custody in the case No RC 63 (a)/96 only after seeking instructions from the CBI SP in Ranchi.

Mishra fixed December 24 as the next date for hearing and asked the CBI to submit its position the same day.



Film star Sadashiv Amrapurkar walks out of Patna's Beur Jail after meeting Laloo Prasad Yadav on Saturday.

The RJD chief, who was released on bail by the court of designate CBI judge HC Mishra in Ranchi in view of the apex court's order on December 19, was remanded in judicial custody next day by another special court in Ranchi when he surrendered before it in case No RC 68 (a)/96

relating to fraudulent withdrawals of over Rs 37 crore from Chaibasa treasury by the Bihar Animal Husbandry Department officials through fake and forged bills.

Yadav is at present lodged in Beur Jail.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

23 DEC 2001

Laloo shifted to Beur

Statesman News Service

PATNA, Dec 3. — Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav was flown here today from Ranchi under controversial circumstances and was shifted to the newly-built women's ward of Beur central jail.

He is supposed to be produced before the CBI designated court here in connection with a disproportionate assets case on 6 December. He has been sent here on a Bihar government aircraft three days ahead of the scheduled date.

This has embarrassed CBI officials here. "What was the need to bring him to Patna three days in advance?" asked a Patna-based CBI officer dealing with the fodder scam. "It's illegal and unethical", he said, adding that the accused should have been given only a transit time.

After the CBI designated court here asked for the production of Mr Yadav on 6 December in the DA case (5A/96), the agency's special court in Ranchi allowed the Jharkhand administration to take him for "production wherever he was needed to be produced".

The special court al-

so asked the government to ensure that he was brought before the court in Ranchi on 10 December.

But it didn't ask the Jharkhand administration to shift him to Patna three days before hearing. Mr Yadav is also supposed to surrender before the Dumka CBI court in the CBI's regular case (38A/96) relating to the fodder scam, on 6 December.

He is scheduled to surrender before the Ranchi CBI court in connection with the RC-20A/96 on 7 December and again before the Dumka court in connection with the RC-64A/96 on 12 December.



Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav in Beur jail on Monday. — PTI

"Shifting Mr Yadav to Patna today was an administrative decision", said a senior official of the Jharkhand Government. He was shifted on the orders of the Chief Minister, Mr Babulal Marandi, official sources said. The Jharkhand administration requisitioned an aircraft from the Bihar Government.

The Samata Party, an NDA constituent, has criticised the transfer. The illegal manner in which Mr Yadav was flown to Patna reveals a nexus between the RJD chief and the Jharkhand Chief Minister, alleged the Samata general secretary, Mr Lallan Singh.

THE STATESMAN

4 DEC 2001

Naxalite strike on big guns' assets

FROM G.S. RADHAKRISHNA

Hyderabad, Nov. 30: Naxalites took their war into chief minister Chandrababu Naidu's turf, blowing up a factory owned by his family in a series of daring raids in the state late last night.

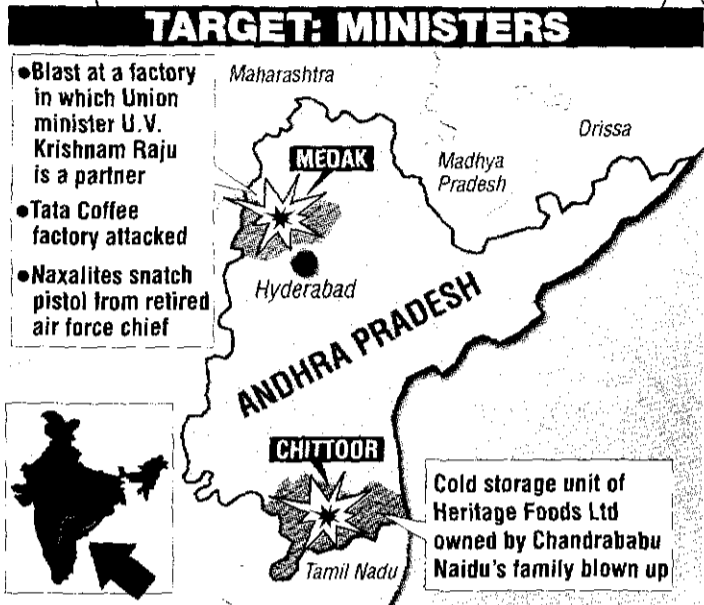
A factory owned by a Union minister and a packaging unit of Tata Coffee were also attacked not far from Hyderabad.

Less than a month after Naidu demanded a terrorist tag for the People's War Group (PWG), about 40 rebels in olive uniform struck at the cold-storage plant of Heritage Foods Limited in Chittoor. They drove out the security staff at gunpoint and set off landmines hidden in steel tiffin carriers.

The chief minister's wife, N. Bhuvaneshwari Devi, is executive director of the company in which the family owns 27 per cent stock. Cold-storage tanks worth Rs 25 lakh were blown up at the Pileri plant, the first unit of Heritage Foods.

Naidu said the main milk chilling plant at Shantinagaram, about 40 km away, was not affected.

Around the same time, Naxalites struck at a granite factory at Medak near Hyderabad in which



minister of state for external affairs U.V. Krishnam Raju is a partner.

Heavy cranes and an imported stone-cutting machine were destroyed at Gopikrishna Granites. Some vehicles parked in the complex were set ablaze.

In the same district, a coffee packaging plant of the Tata

group, earlier called Asian Coffee, came under attack around midnight. Machinery and electrical installations were damaged in the blast at the plant. About 30 guerrillas were involved in the two strikes.

Two hours later, Naxalites swooped down on a farmhouse near the Tata factory owned by re-

tired Air Chief Marshal La Fontaine and took away his pistol.

"They said they wanted to fight the state government and I had to give up my pistol," the 65-year-old Fontaine said. The .9 mm pistol and 12 cartridges were gifted to Fontaine by a visiting Hungarian defence minister in 1987 when he was in service. The rebels took away the cartridges too.

PWG provincial secretary Jampanna claimed responsibility for the attacks and hinted that more strikes are planned in the first week of December when the People's Guerrilla Army, a more militant wing of the group, has its first anniversary.

State home minister T. Deven-der Gowd said it was unfortunate that the PWG was attacking industrial units and obstructing development.

"The PWG and other factions always demanded donations from industrial units and had a sort of understanding so far. Now they are resorting to destruction of the units that do not bow to their dictates," he said.

The PWG had earlier blown up a part of the Coca-Cola factory at Guntur in protest against the US war on Afghanistan.

Beatle's love affair with India continues even in death

THE TELEGRAPH

- 1 DEC 2001

Laloo leaves for jail with salvo

Patna, November 25

RJD PRESIDENT and former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav today charged the Centre with 'misusing' the CBI to settle scores against its political adversaries.

Before leaving for Ranchi to surrender at the court of designated CBI judge tomorrow in a conspiracy angle case of the fodder scam following a recent Supreme Court directive, the RJD supremo alleged the CBI was harassing him by showing the same set of evidences in different cases of the fodder scam.

The CBI was being misused by the Centre as its gameplan was to "settle scores against its political adversaries," Yadav told newsmen at the official residence of Chief Minister Rabri Devi shortly before leaving for Ranchi in a large convoy. However "We believe in democracy and judiciary and I am sure that I will get justice when I surrender," the former Bihar Chief Minister added.

Asked whether his Chief Minister wife Rabri Devi would not have difficulty in his absence, Yadav said "She has become quite mature as I have visited jail thrice in the past." Ruling out any threat to the Rabri Devi ministry in his absence, he said the State Government's functioning won't be affected.

The RJD leader will surrender in case no RC 47A/96, relating to fraudulent withdrawal of more



Laloo Yadav gestures to his supporters at Patna as he leaves on a bus for Ranchi to surrender before a court in connection with the fodder scam.

than Rs 137 crore by some state animal husbandry department officials with fake bills. Rabri Devi, daughters including Misha, and son Tej Pratap bid a tearful farewell to the former Chief Minister, as he boarded a party 'rath'. A cheerful Yadav then climbed

on the vehicle's roof to wave at the assembled crowd of party supporters. Several state ministers Shivanand Tiwari, Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Ramashray Sahni, Shakuni Choudhury besides RJD MLAs and MLCs accompanied Yadav to Ranchi. Of the 64 cases

of the fodder scam, the CBI has filed chargesheets in 52. Yadav's involvement has been shown by the investigative agency in seven conspiracy angle cases of the multi-crore scam of which he has secured bail in four cases.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

26 AUG 2001

Demand for Telangana rattles Naidu

B.S. NAGARAJ
NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

IT'S not often that you see Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on the defensive. But for once, his actions betray those of a man rattled. The agitation for a separate Telangana state is gathering momentum and seems to have got to him.

The first casualty has been his four-day trip to Geneva for an International Labour Organisation meet scheduled to commence from June 12. "Compelling engagements" is the official reason cited for mixing his overseas visit. But the TDP chief actually stayed back to counter the rising tide in favour of a separate Telangana.

For a change, Naidu is looking desperate. Just before the Prime Minister left for Mum-

bai on Wednesday, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister sent Yerran Naidu, his troubleshooter in Delhi, on a mission to Vajpayee. He wanted a categorical assurance from Vajpayee that the BJP leadership would not side with its Andhra Pradesh unit which is supporting the demand for a separate Telangana.

Not only did Yerran Naidu go to the Prime Minister, he went calling on Home Minister L.K. Advani and BJP president Janta Krishnamurthy as well.

It was promptly conveyed to the press that none of them supports the demand for a separate state combining the nine Telangana districts.

The movement for a separate Telangana vote, two states" before the Lok Sabha elec-

is not new. But it got a fresh lease of life when Andhra Deputy Speaker K. Chandrashekharao quit the TDP and floated the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) some two months back with several politicians from the major parties expressing their support for it. Reports say that the TRS rallies have always been very well attended.

A big section of the state Congress has also come out openly in its favour. The BJP too supports the demand, but is unable to go beyond a point for fear of ruffling Naidu whose party is a key prop for the Vajpayee Government at the Centre. In 1998, the state BJP in its manifesto supported a separate Telangana and even coined the slogan "one

tions.

For the time being the BJP has put the demand on the backburner, but the party will find it difficult to keep silent if the movement continues to gain strength. And when that happens, it will pose a big problem both for Naidu and Vajpayee.

Several TDP leaders too, like those in the Congress and the BJP, want to go public with their support for a separate Telangana. But Naidu has so far been able to rein them in. With the pro-Telangana movement gaining momentum, the TDP chief has been displaying unusual urgency in announcing developmental schemes. During his latest visit to Delhi, a desperate Naidu got the Centre to clear long-forgotten irrigation projects for the region. At the party level too, Naidu for the first time packed the TDP politburo with leaders like former Union minister K. Veni-



INDIAN EXPRESS

3 JUN 2001

LALOO IN TROUBLE AGAIN ^{NO 12} ¹⁹⁹⁵

THE ARREST WARRANT issued by a CBI court in Ranchi against Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav (along with Mr. Jagannath Mishra) may seem, on the face of it, to be just one more case against the RJD chief. Mr. Yadav, after all, is already facing trial in at least a couple of cases related to the multi-crore fodder scam in Patna even otherwise. Mr. Yadav has even spent several months in the Beur Central jail in Patna and had to step down as Chief Minister for the very same reason. But then, Mr. Yadav was able to "manage" the affairs of his party and the State Government too from inside prison as long as he was detained within Bihar. The significance of the fresh chargesheet, now taken cognisance of by the CBI court in Ranchi (in neighbouring Jharkhand), arises out of this. Mr. Yadav will have to stay out of Patna every now and then even if the Special Court, in the normal course, enlarges the accused on bail. Mr. Yadav's plight will be worsened if the CBI pleads before the Special Court for his detention (in custody) and in the event of such a plea being sanctioned by the Special Judge, it could be bad news for the RJD as a party. A possible detention in some jail in Jharkhand is bound to keep Mr. Yadav far away from Patna. And this certainly will provide the rebels within the RJD the cutting edge in their efforts to take a good number of the party legislators with them.

It is in this context that one cannot but see a political game behind the CBI's decision to open a new front against Mr. Yadav and implicate him in a fresh chargesheet filed before the Special Judge in Ranchi. The timing of this, just when Mr. Ranjan Prasad Yadav and others of his ilk agreed to make common cause with the BJP-Samata-Janata Dal(U)-Lok Janshakti combine in their "war" against the Rabri Devi dispensation, is certainly not a mere coincidence. After

having worked in the past couple of months to organise a revolt against Ms. Rabri Devi from within the RJD Legislature Party, Mr. Ranjan Prasad Yadav was left with only a few MPs to go with him when Mr. Laloo Yadav chose to strike.

This, however, had a lot to do with Mr. Laloo Yadav's ability to ensure the loyalty of his MLAs and was not any indication of any opposition to Mr. Ranjan Yadav and his "remove-Rabri" campaign among the party's MLAs. It is in this context that the moves to ensure Mr. Laloo Yadav's absence from Patna for a period of time assumes significance, for it could then be a different ball game. And given the fact that the political leadership of the NDA has shown such sense of purpose in "letting" the CBI pursue the cases against Mr. Laloo Yadav, there seems to be a lot more to the developments in the CBI Special Court in Ranchi than just the law taking its course.

Be that as it may, Mr. Laloo Yadav has only himself to blame for all his woes. Apart from the fact that he stands accused for permitting the loot of the State's treasury for several years when he was the Chief Minister (between 1990 and 1995 when the fodder scam came to light) Mr. Laloo Yadav had reduced the Janata Dal and the RJD to a family fiefdom. The banner of revolt that Mr. Ranjan Yadav — his trusted aide for years — has raised is certainly a fallout of the brazen means that Mr. Laloo Yadav had adopted — including Ms. Rabri Devi's choice as Chief Minister — to run the party and its affairs. And the RJD president cannot blame the opposition combine for hatching a conspiracy against him and the forces of social justice he claims to represent — a rhetoric that Mr. Yadav is so fond of every time he is in trouble — for letting things come to such a pass. Mr. Yadav, indeed, is paying the price for his own ways.

THE HINDU

30 MAY 2001

SPLITTING IMAGE

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9-8 mlw 9-10

With the *panchayat* elections having run their predictably bloody course in Bihar, the goings on within the Rashtriya Janata Dal are again back in focus. But the sense of an imminent upheaval seems to have gone somewhat flat. Is the party moving through dissidence towards a radical inner transformation, or will this be yet another occasion for the party chief to stage another robust triumph? Both Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav and the new rebel leader, Mr Ranjan Yadav, have come up with certain definite actions and achievements. The build-up to Mr Ranjan Yadav's expulsion seems to have led to the split in the party's Lok Sabha wing. But, there is much uncertainty regarding who will end up backing Mr Ranjan Yadav's rebellion at both the parliamentary and legislatorial levels. There are even a few missing rebels, whose final allegiances are far from predictable. But what looms over Mr Laloo Yadav is the shadow of imprisonment. Normally, that would not have been a problem at all. Mr Yadav's governance adapts itself marvellously to the rigours of Beur jail. The problem, this time, is in the possibility of his incarceration in Jharkhand, from where his ability to control state and party is going to be seriously constrained — not least because Jharkhand happens to be enemy territory. The Bharatiya Janata Party would definitely have an upper hand over Mr Yadav on such a terrain.

The person to be most adversely affected in such a situation will be the chief minister, Ms Rabri Devi. Being at the helm of a vertically split party without the guidance of her husband will not place her in an enviable position. Her colleagues had never been comfortable with the idea of a female chief minister, and the caste configurations within the RJD are far from simple. The Yadavs are themselves vertically differentiated (with Mr Ranjan Yadav lower in the chain of being) and there is an emergent upper-caste element in the party, headed by its national spokesperson, Mr Shivanand Tiwari. Both these factions could claim a bigger stake in the party. Although the NDA's stance with the new rebel RJD (Democratic) is not entirely unwelcoming, Mr Ranjan Yadav would perhaps not opt to be part of a coalition in which Mr Nitish Kumar and Mr Ram Vilas Paswan could well queer his pitch. But ousting Ms Rabri Devi and returning to an internally transformed RJD is perhaps now a dimly visualizable possibility for Mr Ranjan Yadav. But such a party will never enjoy the same sort of support base as that over which Mr Laloo Yadav has repeatedly proved his command. So a purged RJD will also mean a party considerably depleted of its electoral strength. This is why Mr Ranjan Yadav's dissidence is still difficult to envisage as running its course to an effective and successful end. Mr Laloo Yadav may be temporarily put away in Jharkhand, but Mr Ranjan Yadav would have to work very hard indeed to tot up eight more lives to match his adversary's formidable resilience.

THE TELEGRAPH

4 MAY 2001

ANDHRA SERIAL BLAST ACCUSED

Centre slaps year-long ban on Deendar Anjuman

HT Correspondent
Hyderabad, May 3

THE CENTRE has banned Deendar Anjuman, a city-based organisation, allegedly responsible for a series of blasts at religious places in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in May-June last year.

The Deendar, headquartered at Asifnagar in the city, has been outlawed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for a year.

The ban orders had been notified in the Central gazette on April 29, official sources said. Deendar Anjuman, however, did not receive the ban orders till late this afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Zone) Umesh Sharaf disclaimed any knowledge of the matter. "We have no intimation so far. I cannot make any further comment. The question of follow-up action would not arise till we receive the relevant orders," he told *Hindustan Times*.

Deendar Anjuman shot into limelight when its activists reportedly detonated or planted bombs at religious meetings and places of worship as part of its suspected plans to spark communal flare-ups across the country and turn the international Christian community against India. The police said that Deendar activists had the backing of Pakistan's ISI and worked under the leadership of Khaliq-uz-Zaman, a Pakistan-trained activist from Nuzvid in Andhra Pradesh. Deendar, however, steadfastly denied any role in the violent incidents.

It claimed to be a sect practising and preaching Islam to bring together people of all faiths. Its followers even recited sanskrit

slokas from Hindu scriptures, it said. The police charged the Deendar activists with involvement in 21 offences in the State, including seven incidents of blasts, one of them at a Christian congregation at Machilipatnam, and some others at churches at Vikarabad, Medak, Ongole and Tadepalligudem, a temple at Vijayawada and a mosque at Guntur.

The CID has already filed chargesheets in 12 cases after examining 447 witnesses. As many as 300 documents were filed in the special court constituted for trial of these offences.

Of the 50 accused, seven are Pakistani, 37 from Andhra Pradesh, five from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra. Two of the accused died while travelling in a Maruti van after planting explosives at a religious place in Bangalore while three others are absconding.

Andhra Pradesh police arrested 29 accused, while Karnataka police nabbed nine others.

Nine of the accused were in government services, including a former warrant officer in the Indian Air Force. One of the accused is a doctor and another, an engineer. Of those arrested, 18 had visited Pakistan and were trained in the use of explosives, according to a CID probe.

During investigation, huge quantities of explosive materials, improvised timer devices, incriminating documents, CDs and floppies were seized.

The outfit, which was trying to spread its network in the southern States, was collecting funds and donations from its members.

Deendar was founded by Syed Siddique Hussain in 1924 at Gadag in Karnataka.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 MAY 2003

Laloo expels Ranjan, two others; RJD splits

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, April 28. — Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav today dismissed Mr Ranjan Prasad Yadav and two other MPs from the primary membership of the party for six years for their "anti-party" activities.

Others shown the door are Mr Nagmani, MP from Chatra in Jharkhand, and Mr Bhante Dhammavirio, a Rajya Sabha member. Mr Ranjan Yadav is also a Rajya Sabha member.

(The RJD in the Lok Sabha split tonight, adds PTI from Delhi. Three of the seven party MPs, Mr Nagmani, Mr Anwarul Haq and Mr Sukh Deo Paswan, met the Speaker, Mr GMC Balayogi, late in the night and presented him a letter seeking separate recognition for them as a group by the name RJD (Democratic).

Dissident leaders, Mr Ranjan Prasad Yadav and Kumkum Rai, both Rajya Sabha members, accompanied the three MPs to the Speaker.

Sources in the dissident camp said the Speaker assured them that their request for recognition as a separate group would be considered.)

"Mr Ranjan Yadav, Mr Nagmani and Mr Bhante were playing into the hands of the BJP and communal forces to destabilise the RJD government in Bihar", the RJD chief said, adding "the RJD's executive committee had no option other than dismissing them."

Mr Laloo Yadav said: "Indiscipline in the party can't be tolerated." He said the decision to dismiss Mr Ranjan Yadav and two others was taken "unanimously" by the executive committee of the party.

Mr Ranjan Yadav has been spearheading a campaign to replace the

Rabri Devi government for the past two months. Mr Laloo Yadav had earlier dropped him as the party's working president and party leader in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr Ranjan Yadav said: "I'm feeling liberated. Now I'll not be a party to the destruction that the RJD is going to face. Mr Laloo Yadav had driven a big blow to the politics of social justice. I'll try to unite the forces of social justice and strive my level best to ensure the development of the state." But Mr Ranjan Yadav suffered a blow as his

key supporter and state sports minister, Mr Monajir Hasan, virtually disowned him after his (Mr Ranjan Yadav's) dismissal from the party. "I can't stay with those who are trying to back stab our leader, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav," Mr Hasan said, adding "I'll never support those trying to strengthen the BJP and communal forces."

Ironically, Mr Hasan was the most vocal among the dissidents demanding

replacement of Mrs Rabri Devi by Mr Ranjan Yadav. A proverbial somersault by the sports minister must have come as a bolt from the blue to Mr Ranjan Yadav.

Earlier, the RJD's executive committee described the Vajpayee government as the "most corrupt and inefficient in the annals of Indian politics."

Briefing reporters at the end of the first day's meeting, the party spokesman, Mr Shivanand Tiwary said: "The RJD will join hands with secular parties in its endeavour to form a secular alternative to the communal BJP. The executive committee has resolved to carry out a nationwide stir against the Vajpayee government."



Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav

Seven killed in Bihar poll violence

Patna, April 27

HC-9
28/4

IN A wave of poll violence seven people, including a Mukhiya candidate, were killed and several others injured during the fifth phase of panchayat poll in Bihar today. An estimated 65 to 70 per cent voters cast their votes.

The State's DGP, R R Prasad, told that one Mukhiya candidate, Ahilya Devi, was killed in the intervening night of April 26 and 27 by the rival group at Nandlalpur village under Mufasil police station of Munger district. He said in another incident, Vijay Shah was killed in a group clash at Nabinagar village in Jamui district this morning.

Prasad said that Sunder Paswan and Chandreshwar Paswan were killed and another injured when they were making bombs near Bochaha village in Muzaffarpur district.

Two persons were killed in bomb explosion at Ararani village under Khanpur police station in Samastipur district, Prasad said.

Angry voters beat a miscreant fatally who made an attempt to rig the poll at Dena Fatepur village under Khijersarai police station in Gaya district. Prasad said that the police fired several rounds at 11 places in Patna, Samastipur and Rohtas districts to disperse booth-grabbers.

The police recovered eight rifles, six regular guns, 46 country-made weapons, 171 rounds of ammunition and 27 bombs besides two and a half kg of explosives during raids to ensure a free and fair poll.

Prasad said around 800 people were taken into custody from various places.

Police sources said that one polling magistrate, Gandhi



Villagers carry the body of Ram Yadav who was killed by booth looters during panchayat polls in Punpun, Bihar, on Friday.

Paswan, received gun shot injuries when anti-socials fired at him at Mubarakpur village under Harnaut block of Nalanda district, the police said.

One presiding officer, Deep

Narayan Singh, was arrested for indulging in electoral malpractices at booth number 139 of Ghanshyampur block of Darbhanga district.

The police opened fire at booth

number 181 at Nanhauri village under Dhanarua block of Patna district to thwart attempts at booth grabbing. No one was injured in the police firing, the police said.

Over 60 people had lost their lives in poll violence that took place during the first four phases of panchayat poll on April 17, 18, 19 and 23.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIME

28 APR 2001

54 rescued from home run by IPS officer's wife

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, April 26. — Fifty-four more infants, 51 girls and three boys, were rescued from an adoption home, Precious Moments, run by Mrs Anita Sen, wife of senior IPS officer, Mr Swaranjit Sen. The children were moved to the state-run home, Sishu Vihar this evening in three ambulances.

A criminal case will be filed against Mrs Sen. Seven other children between the age group of (3-15) years have also been rescued. Five of them are boys, two are girls. Seven infants suffering with high fever and are being shifted to the Niloufer Children's Hospital.

Five other girls, all infants,

were rescued from another adoption home in Sishu Gruha in Mahboobnagar district. This adoption home was run by an NGO, official sources said.

The two-member team from the Central Adoption Resource Agency found prima facie evidence of large-scale irregularities in Precious Moments's functioning. The team has been deputed to peruse the functioning of the adoption homes in Andhra Pradesh and submit its report to the Union ministry social justice and empowerment against the backdrop of the adoption racket that has shaken Andhra Pradesh.

Project director, Ms Udaylaxmi, who supervised the rescue operations, said she would ask

ANOTHER ADOPTION RACKET BUSTED

foreign childless couples through Indian Council for Social Welfare, run by former Congress minister Mrs Roda Mistry. CARA team inspected this institute's records and official sources say they would scarp its licence too.

The CARA team arrived at Precious Moments in Miyapur on Wednesday amidst high drama. Mrs Sen vociferously resisted any attempts to remove the children. She claimed she had a valid licence but failed to furnish it. The keys of a locked room were with a pastor in Guntur, Mrs Sen said. She was gathering the babies from villages around

the city and routing them for a fee with the ICSW, sources explained.

At 9.30 p.m., the director, women and child welfare department, Mrs Shalini Mishra asked the Rangareddy collector, Mr Ajay Jain to shift the babies immediately. They were not shifted because the authorities chose not to disturb their sleep at that hour.

Surprisingly Mrs Sen did not come to the orphanage the whole day. There, however, is no official reason on why there was such huge delay in moving the children especially when the decision was taken last night. Official sources said senior government officials resisted the move to shift the babies.

The babies were to be moved at around 8 a.m. and child welfare department officials were waiting for the ambulances the whole day. The ambulances arrived around 4.30 p.m.

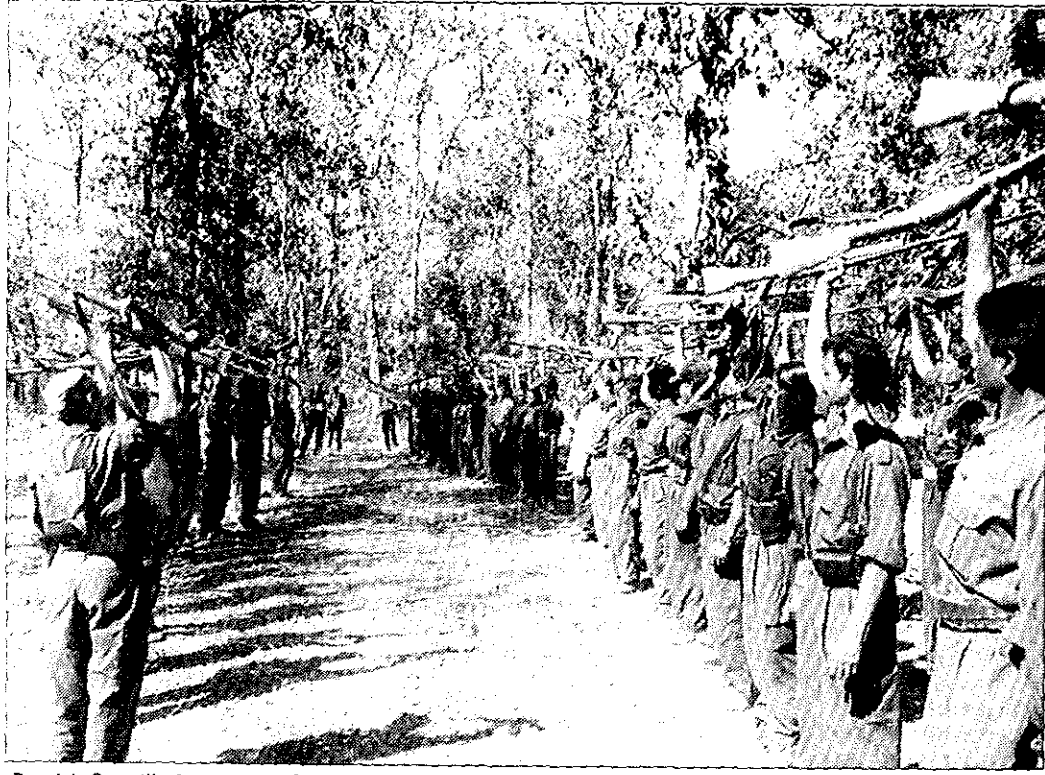
Meanwhile the director of Tanners Abraham Bethany Home, Savithri was also an orphan, reports said. She inherited the orphanage from her foster father who was running it by the name Kokila in 1970.

Savithri was arrested in 1994 along with another child trafficker, Peter Subbaiah on similar charges. A Karnataka police posse arrived at her home on 16 April to nab her. She escaped through the rear entrance

■ See HOME: page 8

THE STATESMAN

APR 2001



People's Guerrilla Army conducting their exercises in a forest region; A *dalam* sentry (below) on night vigil outside a PWG training camp; PWG's female cadres displaying the party flag. In northern Telengana - Pix courtesy: Vaartha.

In the name of revolution

The game being played out between the People's War Group and the Andhra Pradesh police is bound by two books on guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare. The means to stop the other from achieving the end is all important, no matter what, writes STANLEY THEODORE

THE dance of death between the People's War Group, the largest and most ferocious Left-wing extremist group in the sub-continent, and the Andhra Pradesh police is bound by two compelling books on guerrilla and counter guerrilla warfare. The manner in which each is playing by their respective strategies of deception, attack and counter-attack is turning the dance into a game called *The Winning of the Hearts and Minds* (Wham). The deployment of specific strategies of counter-revolutionary war was last played to devastating effect by the South African regime in the 1980s, against the anti-Apartheid struggle. The game is articulated in the 35-year-old, 400-page book authored by American Colonel John J McCuen called *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War*. The game is played in the name of the people and for the people. There are no rules and no morals. The end, however, is clear. For the PWG, it is when its People's Guerrilla Army marches into Hyderabad to seize power. For the police, it is to liquidate the evolution of any such force for the protection of the state and the sanctity of democracy. The means to stop the other from achieving the end is all important, no matter what.

The freak death of PWG renegade Kattula Samaiah on 16 April after he jumped from a smoking Airbus at Colombo airport has brought to the fore the issue of the states' counter-revolutionary war. The episode showed that Andhra Pradesh is perfecting the art of covert operations after four years of building a reliable informant network, apparently based on McCuen's strategy. Vietnam war veteran McCuen had realised that the success of Ho Chi Minh's spirited guerrillas was due to their religious adherence to a 2,500-year-old book, *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu. The simple and short principles of this best-known military treatise have been circled among the outlawed PWG cadres who consider it their Bible. On the other hand, though not so widely circulated among the police ranks, *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War* is regarded by the top brass, elite anti-Naxalite force, the Greyhounds, and a special intelligence force as their Bible. For them, McCuen widens the means to help safeguard the state and democracy from the revolutionaries. McCuen's *modus operandi*

EXCERPTS

The Art of War

WHEN able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must seem inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near. Hold out baits to entice the enemy. Feign disorder, and crush him. If he is secure at all points, be prepared for him. If he is in superior strength, evade him. If he is taking his ease, give him no rest. If his forces are united, separate them. Attack him where he is unprepared, appear where you are not expected. In battle, there are not more than two methods of attack - the direct and the indirect; yet these two in combination give rise to an endless series of manoeuvres. If the enemy is taking his ease, harass him; if well supplied with food, starve him out; if quietly encamped, force him to move. Let your rapidity be that of the wind, your compactness that of the forest. In raiding and plundering be like fire, in immovability like a mountain. Rapidity is the essence of war: take advantage of the enemy's unreadiness, make your way by unexpected routes, and attack unguarded spots. Let your plans be dark and impenetrable as night, and when you move, fall like a thunderbolt. The skillful tactician may be likened to the shuai-yan. Now the shuai-yan is a snake that is found in the Chung Mountains. Strike at its head, and you will be attacked by its tail; strike at its tail, and you will be attacked by its head; strike at its middle, and you will be attacked by head and tail both.

The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War

A GOVERNING power can defeat any revolutionary movement if it adopts the revolutionary strategy and principles and applies them in reverse to defeat the revolutionaries with their own weapons on their own battlefield. To protect oneself against the methodical, crushing body blows of the revolutionaries and to be able to strike them in their most vital parts, it is necessary to fight them on their own battlefields - in their own media. It is necessary to parry the revolutionary weapons, adopt them, and then turn them against the revolutionaries. The counter-revolutionary objectives should be to exploit any advantage gained by maintaining contact, retaining the initiative, and rolling back the revolutionary organization. That is, the counter revolutionaries must follow the rebels from base to base and from phase to phase with operations designed to keep defeating them in their own media until the revolutionary organization has been destroyed. The governing power first stop the revolutionaries in whatever phase they have reached and then drive them back through the proceeding phases: mobile warfare to guerrilla warfare to terrorism to organization. The government must first establish those populations and areas still under its control into firm strategic bases or base areas on which it can rely for carrying out its strategic tasks as well as for achieving the goals of preserving and expanding oneself and annihilating or expelling the enemy.

It is to use the strategies of the revolutionary organisation and apply it in reverse against them on the battlefield. He had identified terrorism and intimidation as important revolutionary weapons in revolutionary strategy. The head of the Sociology department at Witwatersrand University in South Africa, Jacklyn Cock, had said at a seminar on violence in state security strategies in 1989 that the principle of reversal implied that the governing power was committed to these methods as well. The first counter-revolutionary

tactic employed was in 1990, when the PWG kidnapped two constables from the Hasanabad sub-division, demanding the release of some of their comrades in prison. A civil liberties leader, Balagopal, who is known for his PWG leanings, was kidnapped at Kothagudem by an organisation allegedly floated by the police, Praja Bandhu. It made clear that if the constables were killed, Balagopal would be killed; if they were released, Balagopal would be released. The PWG immediately freed the constables and late that

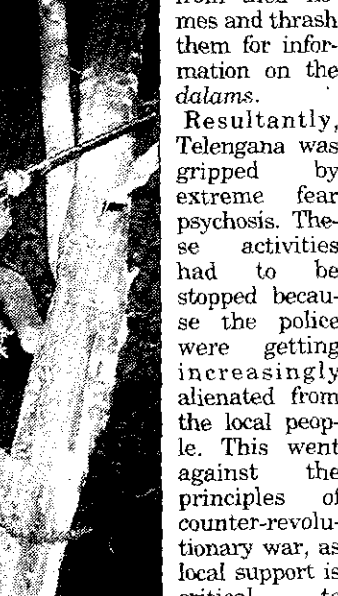
night, Balagopal was brought blindfolded to Hyderabad and let off near Tank Bund. The plan was allegedly masterminded by officer K S Vyas. Police-men admired his courage and for having restored a sense of pride in the forces at a time when the PWG was running amok. On a wintry evening in January 1993, when he was jogging inside the Lal Bahadur Stadium, Samaiah and his comrades shot him dead at point-blank range. This was the biggest name the PWG had targeted till then. In 1994, Samaiah used his automatic weapon to kill three of his Huzurabad *dalam* (armed squad) comrades in their sleep to later surrender to the police. The stated purpose was to avenge the sexual harassment his wife Shoba was being subjected to by his commander Bhupati. One version is that Samaiah

wanted to surrender, but the police lured him to go for the kill from within and then come back for a safe surrender. In 1997, Sonia Naik killed five of his *dalam* comrades in Nalgonda and a year earlier, the Peddapalli squad member, Jadhala Nagaraju, killed two of his comrades in a similar fashion to later surrender. Nagaraju's act is alleged to have been scripted by the then district superintendent of police, Umesh Chandra. In September 1999, he was shot dead when he stopped at a traffic signal near his Hyderabad home while driving to work. With the Nagaraju incident, the police discovered their ability to infiltrate the underground cadres, lure them with money and safety in return for precise underground information. But a classic, text-book style, covert operation was not seen till November 1999, when Operation Bangalore was launched. The anti-Naxalite intelligence wing befriended Govind Reddy, PWG's den keeper in Bangalore and lured him to lead them to the very leadership. Govind Reddy then provided specific information on when members of the PWG's apex central committee would be there. The police allegedly picked up Nalla Adi Reddy, Seelam Nares and Santosh Reddy - the principle characters in militarising the organisation - from their homes brought them to Koyyuru forests in Karimnagar where they were killed in an encounter in December that year. This insider information caused the biggest ever strike by the state police and created a vacuum in the heart of the PWG leadership.

But it was squared off by making the state pay dearly when minister A Madhav Reddy was killed in a landmine blast in March 2000. Despite this, there are reports that the PWG is yet to avenge the loss totally, and its special action teams are lying in wait for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Director-General of Police H J Dora, or any high-profile elected representative or police official in Hyderabad.

Violence comes naturally to the PWG, given its philosophy of protracted armed struggle. The point is that the police have imbibed this quality. Importantly, this had the verbal approval of successive governments of the day. In 1994 and 1995, the period when N T Rama Rao took over from the Congress, both the governments knew of lift-and-kill and cordon-and-search operations in Naxalite strongholds. During cordon-and-search operations, a large police contingent would encircle a village, often at night, drive out people from their homes and thrash them for information on the *dalam*s.

Resultantly, Telengana was gripped by extreme fear psychosis. These activities had to be stopped because the police were getting increasingly alienated from the local people. This went against the principles of counter-revolutionary war, as local support is critical to enemy information. Thereafter, police refined the approach to targeting real underground functionaries by planting moles, luring PWG sympathisers and infiltrating the underground structure. This entailed a degree of proximity between police operatives and PWG elements, with some of the surrendered extremists resorting to settling disputes mafia-style. In the process, some police operatives attached to them were tempted with easy money. This side



effect is a threat insofar that it is a threat to the highest level, and to be so feared against the state, as was by the PWG, is an extraordinary situation needing extraordinary methods. The state agencies have to indulge in covert and illegal methods to the edge and retain it, especially when its a bush hat with a secret, underground and violent organization. It is ridiculous to ask any agency in the world to function transparently on the intelligence front. But what is

use of terrorism by government forces, to be decided at the highest level, and to be so applied that it did not boom-orang. In Andhra Pradesh, official sources revealed that policies involving the killing of underground cadres or the lift-and-kill operations or inducements were carried out with the full knowledge of those in power. The state has specialised units to deal with Left-wing warfare, though, it has not raised counter-revolutionary units like South Africa's Inkatha. The use of former revolutionaries, through an organisation called Vlakplaas for infiltration and information on the African National Congress, is seen here, if not in an organised format. The police here are in favour of having special laws, though an attempt to give them sweeping powers in 1988 was jettisoned after adverse media reaction.

Yet, they would like to have one like South Africa's Indemnity Act that protects them from civil or criminal proceedings for their

actions as they were in good faith and in the interest of the state. From the revolutionary point of view, ANC guerrillas used landmines but halted such operations as they lacked the lethal precision the PWG perfected. The end of this strange war is not in sight and the truth is not known. The government or police will never own up a covert operation or a counter-revolutionary tactic or give details of an encounter death. The South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission, formed after the establishment of majority rule, went into the tragic wave of political violence, state-sponsored terrorism and extra judicial killings that cost over 25,000 lives in the 1980s. Howard Varney, head of the Independent Task Force, in a report to the commission in August 1997 made points that Mr Naidu or his police force cannot afford to pass by.

He wrote that the process of the counter-revolutionary war was not just in criminal offences like murders, but the cover up of the crimes by senior politicians and police officers. He said there was no dispute that the overall aim of all sides of the conflict, apart from respective political objectives, was to protect their supporters from attack and oppression - a point that can be fully applied to the Wham game in the state. Varney wrote that webs of deceit and half-truths spun by those responsible for the violence did great disservice to the nation and retarded the process of South Africa reconciling itself with its past. This, too, is pertinent, as Telengana's traumatic past over statehood is still warm in memory and is part of the PWG's political campaign. Varney's most significant observation should find full echo in Andhra Pradesh and in other Naxalite-affected states directed by the Centre to follow the Andhra Pradesh model.

Most role players have chosen to rely on the unlikelihood of an inadequate and over-stretched prosecutorial service ever getting its act together to bring through an effective prosecution, he wrote. Truth has a strange but certain way of coming out. And when it does, it assures those responsible for 30 years of oppression and terrorism a funeral that reflects the 5,000 lives that have been lost in this war game. (The author is *The Statesman's* Hyderabad-based correspondent.)

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10 killed in Bihar poll violence

HT-9
29/4

Patna, April 23

TEN PERSONS, including a Mukhiya candidate, were killed in the fourth phase poll in Bihar's violence-scarred 1472 panchayats polls.

Two executive magistrates were among several others injured. Spread over 83 blocks the polling witnessed a 65 to 70 per cent turnout.

Official sources said Jamui district reported four deaths, Darbhanga two, Madhepura, Sheikhpura, Saran, and Buxay accounted for one each. Three persons were killed when bombs planted at a field went off near Devpura village under Khaira block in Jamui district.

Another person was killed in a group clash near Chuan village under the same block. Hundred bombs were recovered from the possession of the person who lost his life near Chuan village, the sources said.

Inspector general of police (Operation), Neelmani told that a candidate for the post of Mukhiya of Saraikala panchayat, Nagendra Singh was killed when two rival groups clashed with bows and arrows at a booth near Kumarkhand in Mahdepura district. Another person was killed in crossfire between two rival groups at Rajaura in Sheikhpura district, he said.

Earlier 48 persons had lost their lives in widespread violence during the first three phase polls on April 11, 15 and 19. According to an official report, a relative of a candidate for Mukhiya of Jayghat panchayat was killed in an exchange of fire between two groups at Semra in Buxar district.

Reports reaching the State headquarters here said two persons were killed and six others injured in an explosion when

they were manufacturing bombs at Nagma in Darbhanga district. In a similar incident, two persons were injured when crude bombs went off in Sitamarhi district, reports said.

Neelmani said one person was killed in armed clash between rival groups at a booth in Masrakh of Saran district.

Police opened fire at more than five places in Saharsa, Naubatpur and Saran districts in which seven persons were injured, he said, adding that police succeeded in defusing a landmine planted by the Naxalites, who have called for a boycott of the polls, at Armawan village in Jamui district.

In an encounter between police and criminals, four persons, including a homeguard were injured near Fatehpur in Gaya district, Neelmani said.

Director general of police, R R Prasad said police took into custody nearly 1,000 people from various places for creating disturbances. Thirty-one countrymade weapons, over 300 rounds of ammunition and 145 bombs were recovered during the poll.

Reports reaching the state headquarters here said two persons were killed and six others injured in an explosion when they were making bombs at Nagma in Darbhanga district. In another related incident, two persons were injured when crude bombs went off in Sitamarhi district, reports said.

Neelmani said three persons were seriously injured when police opened fire to quell a mob trying to capture booths at Bhagwanpur in Saharsa district.

Around 48 persons have been killed in the first three phases of the panchayat polls held on April 11, 15 and 19 in the State, being held after 23 years.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 APR 2001

Another bloody poll day in Bihar claims 19 lives

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, April 15. — At least 19 people were killed and more than 100 injured during the second phase of panchayat elections in Bihar today. Like the first phase the second too was marred by large scale violence, clashes, police firing and looting of ballot papers and ballot boxes.

The Home Commissioner, Mr UN Panjiyar, confirmed the death of nine persons, though he was yet to receive the reports from some districts at the time of reporting.

Mr Panjiyar said that 60 to 65 per cent voters exercised their franchise. He said that the situation was "by and large peaceful" during the polling.

North Bihar's Vaishali district accounted for the maximum number of killings. Five persons

died in this district alone. Two criminal gangs in a bid to capture booths clashed at Hasanpur-Lawapur village in the district's Mahanar block. Four persons died and eight others were injured in the clash.

A woman was killed in a crossfire when police and criminals exchanged fire at a village in Alipur block of Vaishali. Three policemen too were injured.

The police fired on a group trying to capture a booth at Gurua in Gaya district, killing one and injuring another.

Two persons each were killed in East Champaran, Nawada, Purnea and Patna districts and one each in Sheohar, Gaya, Darbhanga, Begusarai, Sewan and Nalanda.

The police fired on a CPI-ML (Peoples War) armed squad, killing one and recovering two

rifles and 200 rounds of cartridges at Hulasganj in Jehanabad district. The PW, along with the MCC, have given a poll boycott call.

Ten rifles, 19 country-made pistols, 24 bombs and two sticks of dynamite have been seized from criminals trying to loot booths.

An MCC squad attacked policemen at Bhitia village in Nawada district. Two policemen were killed and the Naxalites took away four rifles.

However, the Home Commissioner chose to describe the second phase of polling as "relatively peaceful" compared to the first. He even had words of hope and reassurance. The administration, he said, would try its level best to conduct the remaining phases of the panchayat polls in a peaceful, free and fair manner.

THE HINDU

16 APR 2001

Violence mars Bihar panchayat polls, 17 killed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, April 11. — Seventeen people were killed and more than 50 injured in the violence that rocked the first phase of panchayat polls in Bihar.

Polling was held for 1,731 panchayats in 113 blocks and was marred by booth capturing, snatching of ballot papers and boxes. About 60 per cent voters exercised their franchise.

The home commissioner, Mr UN Panjiyar, said he was "satisfied" with the "overall polling situation" despite the violence.

"Some violence was inevitable under the circumstances prevailing here but overall scene was satisfactory."

Three persons were killed and three seriously injured when their car hit a landmine and was blown up near Mahudiar

village in Nawada district. Officials suspect Naxalites to have planted the landmine. Mr Panjiyar, however, said the landmine blast had nothing to do with the polls.

The home commissioner said six people were killed in clashes in and around polling stations in the state.

Armed criminals disrupted polling at 15 stations in Nawada district where polling was suspended, officials said.

Four persons were killed in poll-related violence in Nawada district.

Violence claimed two lives in Siwan. Criminals snatched a rifle from a Home Guard at Barharpur village of Siwan's Pancharukhi block.

Seven people were killed in clashes at polling booths in Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sa-

mastipur, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Vaishali and Gaya districts. Two persons died at two polling stations in Patna district. Two persons were killed when police fired on a mob that torched the Muzaffarpur DSP's jeep at Kurhani.

The mob was protesting against the arrest of a person trying to loot ballots at a polling booth at Kurhani and demanding that the culprit be released.

The home commissioner said he had reports of 61 incidents of violence, booth capturing, clashes and snatching of ballot papers.

"Reports from some districts are yet to come in."

Security forces had a hard time trying to quell violence and stop booth capturing. Armed gangs invaded polling stations, intimidated voters



GO AS YOU LIKE, BIHAR-STYLE: Criminals run away with ballot boxes after snatching them from a panchayat polling booth at Naubatpur village near Patna on Wednesday. Panchayat polls are being held in Bihar after 23 years. — AP/PTI

and polling officials. They stamped ballots openly in favour of their candidates.

Criminals snatched ballot boxes from poll officials at five booths in Madhubani and three in Aurangabad districts.

The state election commissioner, Mr ML Majumdar, too said the "overall situation was satisfactory."

The voters included 50 per cent women. "It suggests the situation was by and large normal."

The election commissioner said re-polling might be ordered in 30 polling booths, including 10 in Aurangabad district.

"This number may change because the commission is yet to receive the complete report from all the districts", Mr Majumdar said.

THE STATESMAN

22 APR 2001

Shoot orders for Bihar panchayat elections

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, April 10. — The first phase of the panchayat polls in Bihar will be held tomorrow amidst shoot orders and tight security arrangements.

Polling will be conducted in 1,731 panchayats spread over 113 blocks during the first phase. The rural areas of the state are very enthusiastic as they are going to witness the democratic exercise at the grassroots level after 23 years.

The state election commissioner, Mr ML Majumdar, claimed that "all the necessary preparations to conduct free and fair polls have been completed."

All the polling stations will have armed forces stationed, he said.

But, the fact remains that at least 40 candidates of Mukhia and other areas are among 50 people who have been killed so far in various pre-poll related violence, according to the reports available with the state election office.

Moreover, the districts infamous for mass killings and Naxalite-related violence are going to the polls in the first phase. They include Gaya, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Bhojpur, Roh-tas and Buxar.

The ultra-Left outfits, the CPI-ML (Peoples' War) and the Maoist Communist Centre, have already given the poll boycott call.

The state DGP, Mr RR Prasad, said about 45,000 people having criminal records have been arrested to avoid violence on the poll day. He said police have unearthed 22 mini gun factories and have seized 546 illegal fire arms.

The DGP said the state police have requisitioned 15,000 rifles from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh governments.

He ruled out the possibility of any large-scale violence during the polls.

Observers, however, feel that the "second line of criminals" have entered the fray in large numbers.

The stake in the panchayat polls is also high because many legislators and ministers have their wards in the fray.

THE STATESMAN

71 APR 2001

BUSES BURNT, CHAOS ON CAPITAL'S ROADS ✓

Delhi Govt. defies S.C. order on CNG issue

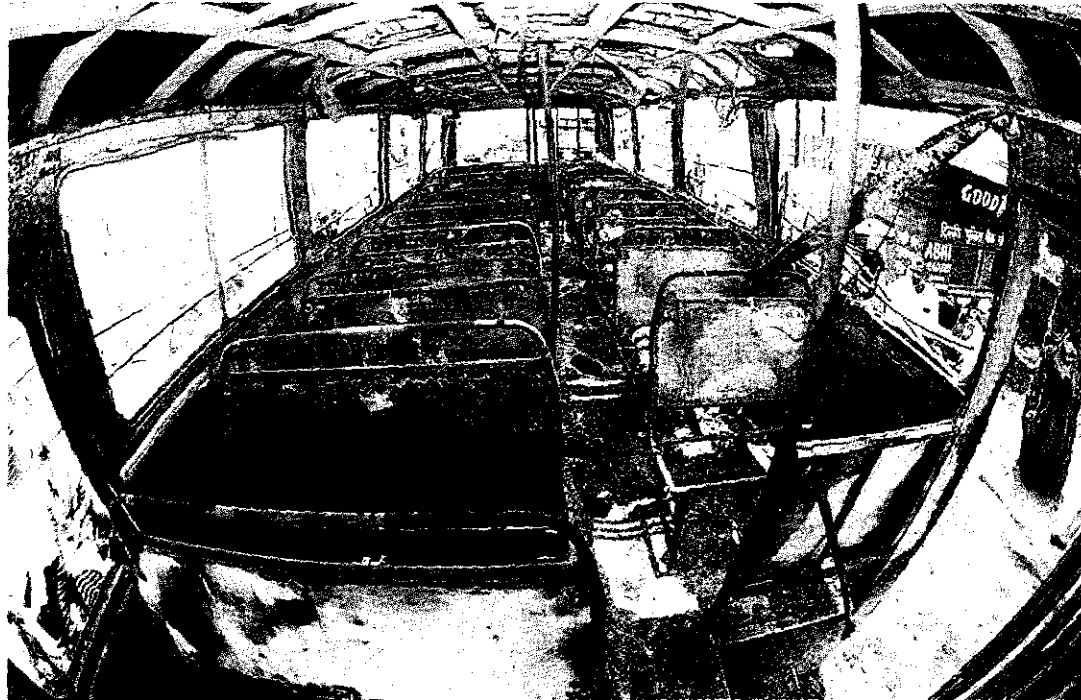
By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, APRIL 3. Amid sporadic incidents of violence, arson and chaos on the Capital's roads, the Delhi Government and the Supreme Court today appeared headed for a confrontation over environment-friendly CNG buses with the Chief Minister, Ms. Sheila Dikshit, declaring that her Government was ready to "face punishment for contempt of court" but would not allow the citizens to suffer.

On a day of rapid developments that saw several buses burnt down by restless commuters and police action to check further trouble, the Delhi Cabinet met and decided to allow all buses possessing CNG conversion booking receipts and photocopies of affidavits filed in the court to ply without the mandatory special permits. This would be in clear violation of the Supreme Court order against plying of diesel-run buses without affixing the special permit on the windscreen.

In reply to a debate on the issue in the Assembly, Ms. Dikshit announced that the State Government would not be in a position to meet the September 30 deadline set by the Supreme Court for phasing out diesel buses and run only CNG vehicles. "This is not a tried and tested technology. The Supreme Court is not aware of the ground realities prevailing in the Capital. It is time the court took a lenient view of the situation in view of what happened on the city roads today."

The Chief Minister said Delhi was the only city in the country where this norm for CNG vehicles and pollution control was being applied. "There are no safety norms in place, heavy expenditure is involved in putting a CNG



A bus which was burnt during the violence at Badarpur in New Delhi on Tuesday. — Photo: Sandeep Saxena

bus on the road, and, to top it all, there is no infrastructure to cater to the needs of CNG vehicles once they hit the road. There are not enough CNG bus manufacturers and there is only one company for conversion from diesel to CNG. All these facts were presented before the Supreme Court but it did not listen to us."

Clearly in a combative mood, Ms. Dikshit declared amid thumping of desks by ruling party members: "If the Supreme Court thinks it is only concerned about pollution in the city then it is living under a wrong notion. The problems of the people should be understood and the Supreme

Court should take a rational view of all issues. The courts have not been listening to the elected government; be it the issue of relocation of unauthorised colonies, or the CNG bus crisis. The court has been taking an indifferent view."

Ms. Dikshit said it was easy to blame the Delhi Government for everything going wrong in the Capital but hard to take and implement decisions.

The State Cabinet, she said, had met today and decided to allow immediate operation of vehicles which had filed affidavits and obtained acknowledgments from the Court besides receipts of an-

plications submitted to the State Transport Department. However, all vehicle operators have been asked to obtain permits from the Transport Department before April 15. Similarly, instructions have been issued to the traffic police and enforcement agencies to honour the Government's decision and not challan or impound such vehicles.

Even fitness certificates would now be valid up to September 30. "We are taking these measures for the welfare of the people, and if we are punished for contempt of court in this regard we are ready to face that," the Chief Minister declared.

THE HINDU

4 APR 2001

complain
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3/3

CBI gets Governor's nod to prosecute Laloo

By Our Special Correspondent

PATNA, MARCH 30. The Bihar Governor, Mr. V.C. Pandey, has granted sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to prosecute the former Chief Minister and RJD president, Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav, in a new case related to the multi-crore fodder scam.

The case, RC47A/96, involves fraudulent withdrawal of Rs. 182 crores from the Doranda Treasury in Ranchi district. In all, 176 persons have been named as accused. Besides Mr. Laloo Yadav, the other politicians whose names figure in the case are the former Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, the Congress (I) MP, Mr. Rajo Singh, and two legislators.

According to sources, the CBI is awaiting clearance from the Lok Sabha and the Bihar Assembly Speakers besides the Jharkhand Government with respect to persons under their respective juris-

diction before it could initiate steps beginning with the filing of the chargesheet in the CBI Designated Court.

The agency sought the consent from various authorities amid political turmoil raked up by RJD dissidents who were waiting for the chargesheet to step up their activities.

The RJD spokesman, Mr. Shivanand Tiwari, accused the CBI of indulging in double standards and targeting Mr. Laloo Yadav at the behest of the NDA Government.

PTI reports:

Permission has also been sought to prosecute two former Ministers, Mr. Chandra Deo Prasad Verma and Mr. Vidya Sagar Nishad.

Chargesheet will be filed against two former Chairmen of Public Accounts Committee of the Assembly, Mr. Jagdish Sharma (MLA) and Mr. Dhruv Bhagat, RJD

MLA, Mr. R.K. Rana, and about 30 suppliers, besides three former Animal Husbandry Department Secretaries, Mr. K. Arumugam, Mr. Mahesh Prasad and Mr. Beck Julius, the former Ranchi Development Commissioner, Mr. M.C. Subarno, and retired IAS officer, Mr. Phulchand Singh.

The chargesheet will be filed in the court of special CBI judge in Ranchi.

A former Commissioner of Income Tax, Ranchi, Mr. A.C. Choudhury, also figures in the list of accused.

Mr. Pandey, who examined the papers for 18 days after the CBI made a formal request on March 11, accorded sanction for prosecution on Wednesday, Raj Bhavan sources said today.

The fake and fraudulent withdrawals took place between 1991 and 1996 when Mr. Laloo Yadav was the Chief Minister of undivided Bihar.

THE HINDU

31 MARCH 1996

THE events that unfolded after the nine-hour gunbattle between the police and Md Shahabuddin and his henchmen at Pratappur on 16 March has exposed that state power is subservient to the dons who have gained enough political clout to rule Bihar.

The incident at Shahabuddin's home village in Siwan has also proved that the likes of the controversial Rashtriya Janata Dal MP are likely to remain hot favourites with those reigning in Bihar. And Shahabuddin will stay the "don of Siwan" and the "raja" of his community, be it a regime of Laloo Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi or Ranjan Yadav — currently spearheading the dissidents' campaign in the ruling RJD — that hopes to come to power.

A close look at the events will substantiate this contention. Police raided the house of the MP — accused in several cases of murder, possession of illegal firearms and other crimes — after he and his henchmen thrashed a Deputy Superintendent of Police and his team at an examination centre in Daroga Rai College.

The trigger-happy MP could not be expected to surrender easily. He and his men fired on the police party. The ensuing encounter lasted for nine hours and involved 2,000 rounds of firing from both sides. Eleven people died, including two policemen. The police, frustrated at their failure to nab the MP, fired several rounds on his photograph hanging on the wall of his house.

And what happened since brings to the fore how the ruling party, its dissidents and the Opposition alike are ready to dance to Shahabuddin's tune.

Building construction minister Taslimuddin, sports minister Monajir Hasan and other dissident ministers and legislators who have projected Ranjan Yadav as an alternative to Rabri Devi shouted in chorus: "Police raided the Siwan MP's house as part of a high-level conspiracy to eliminate him."

Ranjan Yadav, too, attacked the "police brutality" at the house of the "honourable MP". He joined his supporters within the RJD, describing the raids as a "conspiracy to eliminate Md Shahabuddin".

BJP leader of the Opposition Sushil Kumar Modi, who did not waste an opportunity in the past to attack Shahabuddin and to describe him as a "gangster in the garb of an MP", refrained from attacking him this time round.

Reason: Mr Modi calculated that Shahabuddin's support would come in handy for Ranjan Yadav, who is trying to oust the Rabri ministry with the support of National Democratic

Dons are here to stay and rule

The police firing in Siwan, in which innocent villagers were killed, was guided more by their fury and the puncturing of their super ego rather than any genuine concern to bring a law-breaker to book. The likes of Shahabuddin are products of the rot that has set in in the political, administrative and police system of Bihar, says NALIN VERMA



POLITICIANS' BLUE-EYED BOY: Siwan MP Md Shahabuddin.— Deepak Kumar.

Alliance constituents.

Bihar's minister of state for welfare Ejajul Haque had resigned in protest against the "mishandling" of the Pratappur incident by the government. He expressed his opposition to the judicial inquiry ordered by the government to probe the incident. Laloo Prasad Yadav, known for his adroitness in handling political crises, soon embarked on an exercise to thwart the attempts of the dissidents and the Opposition to hijack the "Siwan strongman" from his bandwagon.

Ten days after the fierce gunbattle, the RJD supremo visited Pratappur, heaped praise on the MP and criticised the police. "Having met the people of Pratappur, I have no reason to justify the police raids on the MP's house. The police have killed innocent

people on the pretext of an encounter," he claimed, adding: "I will appear as witness before the judicial commission to say that the police killed innocent people at Pratappur." Mr Yadav said Shahabuddin was his *chhota bhai* (younger brother) and a strong pillar of the party.

Understandably, Mr Yadav was under pressure from the Muslim lobby, the dissidents and the Opposition to justify Shahabuddin and condemn the police.

Moreover, Mr Yadav derives his strength from the "M-Y (Muslim-Yadav) combination" which helped establish him as the most potent political force in the state.

Shahabuddin emerged as a "hero" for almost all political parties and their leaders in Bihar. Mr Yadav did eventually succeed in keeping

Shahabuddin in his fold.

The Siwan MP, who lambasted the RJD supremo after the police raids on his house, turned soft towards him after his Pratappur visit. "The people of my village welcomed Laloogi who is our supreme leader. I will not side with anyone who tries to break the party and join hands with other parties (read BJP)," Shahabuddin said. And Mr Haque has withdrawn his resignation.

Leaders of all the parties forgot that it was the same Shahabuddin who allegedly got the former president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, Chandra Shekhar, killed.

He had also waylaid the then Siwan Superintendent of Police, SK Singhal, and fired on him in 1996, when the latter in a flight of fancy tried

to arrest him.

The "spineless" Bihar police have not played any lesser role in establishing Shahabuddin as the "don of Siwan". Till 16 March, the Siwan police virtually worked in keeping with the "dictates" of the "don".

They rarely pursued criminal cases against the MP. They as good as slept on every complaint lodged by those allegedly assaulted or humiliated by the MP or his men.

What hurt the ego of the khaki-clad guardians of the law most was the assault on a Deputy Superintendent of Police and other policemen at the examination centre on 15 March.

The angry policemen went berserk, setting ablaze several vehicles in the Siwan collectorate and damaging furniture in the district magistrate's chamber, in protest against the incident.

The policemen were guided more by their fury and the puncturing of their super ego rather than any genuine concern to bring a law-breaker to book. By firing on the MP's picture, they themselves took the law in their own hands.

Reports from Pratappur suggest that police gunned down six innocent villagers, including children, whose only offence was that they lived in the same village as the Siwan MP.

The attack on a senior police officer and his men was a criminal act. But the way the police reacted at Pratappur could not be justified either.

The likes of Shahabuddin are products of the rot that has set in in the political, administrative and police system of the state. And the way things are shaping up, men like Shahabuddin are here to lord over the withering state.

(The author is The Statesman's Pina-based correspondent.)

THE STATESMAN

30 MAR 2001

HD-15
25/3

A law unto themselves

MR. MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN is not the only man above the law in Bihar. The case of the RJD MP from Siwan typifies the growing infatuation of politicians with criminals, the dilemma of the bureaucracy, including the police, and the lawlessness created thereof. Criminals have come to control political parties, without exception, and the Government making a mockery of the rule of law in Bihar.

It was no surprise then that the Rabri Devi Government brazenly came out in support of Mr. Shahabuddin and penalised the officials who dared to enforce the law against him. From his experience so far, Mr. Shahabuddin might not have expected the police to react after he had assaulted a DSP at an examination centre. The fact that the police did is why the politicians are now out in strength backing Mr. Shahabuddin.

In Bihar, politics is totally dependent on criminals. Things have been so for some time now and more so after the machinations for Government formation after the Assembly elections last year and the electoral race itself before that.

Mr. Shahabuddin is now being courted by the Opposition in view of the fluid political situation what with the rebels in the ruling RJD raising their heads. The BJP-led NDA is desperate to separate him from the RJD supremo, Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav, for the simple reason that he is the strongest don in the State.

Another darling of the Opposition leaders is Mr. Annirudh Prasad, alias Sadhu Yadav, brother of the Chief Minister, Mrs. Rabri Devi. They hope his loud-mouthed statements against his brother-in-law will one day take a crucial turn. In his case too, they are only too keen to condone his antics and extra-constitutional behaviour. The absence of even a name-sake watchdog body and the Opposition's desperation allows the ruling party to exploit the situation to its advantage. The rule of law is the casualty.

Like in Mr. Shahabuddin's constituency, you do not see opposition posters in the

Mohammed Shahabuddin is not the only man above the law in Bihar.
K. BALCHAND writes that criminals have come to control political parties, without exception, and the Government.

and leaving his hospital bed to make his presence felt in the market place was threatened that he would be hauled up before the privileges committee of the Assembly.

The police have been at the receiving end. They could do little in ensuring the arrest of a former Minister who tortured a Dalit truck driver; he surrendered on his own. A Union Minister paid a visit to the house of a don cooling his heels in jail. And, in a bizarre case, the police failed to arrest a notorious criminal from the

DGP and the police which led to the two sides filing cases against each other. The cases were silently withdrawn though.

The point is, the civil administration and the police lack coordination and those who cannot defend themselves cannot be expected to defend the law. In an earlier instance, an SP of Siwan at whom Mr. Shahabuddin had allegedly fired withdrew his complaint to that effect.

Against such a backdrop, the police action against Mr. Shahabuddin was a real



Some of the victims of the encounter between the police and the RJD MP, Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin (inset), at Pratapur.

constituency of Mr. Suraj Bhan Singh, who supports the NDA. Most of the dons are supposed to be in jail, but that does not cramp their style. The Government never cared to buy jammers to end the use of cellular phones. Attempts to shift them from the Patna Central Jail, Beur, to other prisons have come a cropper; the dons physically resisting the move.

Most of these criminals have now ensconced themselves in hospital. A police officer who dared to nab one of them for taking liberties with the rules

bungalow of another Union Minister because the Delhi police on security duty there refused to cooperate with the Bihar police.

The bureaucrats are only adding to the chaos by not enforcing the rule of the law in the true sense of the term. An IAS officer, who was allegedly forced to sign a transfer order by the Chief Minister's brother, did not file a FIR with the police station concerned but sent a complaint to the SSP. The IAS Officers Association, which sought to make a hue and cry over the issue, confronted the

surprise, particularly to the political class. The police rebelled and forced their superiors to lead the raid in which at least 14 persons including two policemen were killed in a shootout that lasted a good six hours. The Army was called in.

Almost to a man, politicians cried foul charging that the raid was a murderous attack. But the worst part of the raid was that the PAC of Uttar Pradesh participated; an action which infuriated the State Government. The Opposition parties too were annoyed over the development.

THE HINDU

25 MAR 2001

10-12/57

LALOO YADAV'S TROUBLES

WITH THE RESIGNATION of Mr. Shankar Prasad Tekriwal from the Rabri Devi Cabinet in Bihar, the RJD supremo, Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav, can no longer dismiss reports of dissidence in the party as mere tales being planted by his political rivals in the State. That Mr. Tekriwal, among the few who had stood by Mr. Laloo Yadav through the rough and tumble his outfit had to go through (since he took over as Chief Minister in 1990), had decided to quit the Cabinet is, by itself, a serious development. And it reflects the anguish within the party over the manner in which Mr. Laloo Yadav has been making a mockery of all the lofty principles — social justice and responsive governance — that the platform had stood for during the initial years it was in power. Mr. Yadav's brazen approach to the ideal of probity in public life — when he refused to quit as Chief Minister even after the CBI special court had ordered his detention after charges were framed in the multi-crore fodder scam — and the anointment of Ms. Rabri Devi as Chief Minister after he finally agreed to quit the post make a mockery of established canons in public life. It is a fact that Mr. Yadav continued to hold on to the reins of power in the State reducing several senior members of his party to insignificant positions.

The revolt by Mr. Tekriwal (who had been in the Bihar Cabinet for 11 long years) is also an expression of protest by such men of longstanding political experience against Mr. Laloo Yadav's attempt to reduce the party to a family affair. It may be true that Mr. Ranjan Prasad Yadav, around whom the RJD rebels are now gathering, was one of Mr. Laloo Yadav's managers all these years. And in this sense, he too is guilty of all the charges against Mr. Laloo Yadav. And if Mr. Ranjan Yadav is now rallying forces against the Laloo-Rabri regime and organising a revolt against

them within the RJD, it could be only because he anticipates a series of developments in the coming couple of months in the CBI special court. Mr. Ranjan Yadav (whose following in the legislature party continues to remain uncertain and no one is prepared to hazard a guess at this stage) seems to have made up his mind to go the whole hog and bid for power in the State. And Mr. Tekriwal's decision to quit the Cabinet and announce his support to Mr. Ranjan Yadav on grounds that he alone is committed to the development of Bihar could be the beginning of a substantive change in the State's political set-up. With reports of at least a couple of more Ministers in the Rabri Devi Cabinet having associated with Mr. Tekriwal, Mr. Laloo Yadav can no longer gloss over the developments within his party. The slender majority that the ruling coalition consisting of the RJD, the Congress(I) and the left parties enjoy in the State Assembly makes things more difficult for Mr. Laloo Yadav.

Be that as it may, there is another aspect to the goings-on within the RJD that is of concern. And that is the prospect of the RJD rebels making common cause with the NDA or at least with sections within the NDA. That Mr. Ranjan Yadav will have to depend for his survival on sections from within the NDA is a fact. After all, there is no way he can take the entire RJD legislature party with him. And it is this reality that must cause some serious concern. The task of governance, which had taken a beating in Bihar even otherwise, could be the first casualty in the event of any such change as is likely to emerge in Bihar in the given context. Apart from being an unstable coalition brought together on a one-point agenda (to get rid of Mr. Laloo Yadav), any dispensation by the RJD rebels that will depend on groups within the NDA for its very survival can only lead to chaos.

THE HINDU

15 MAR 2001

15 MAR 2001

BIHAR

Laloo blames RJD crisis on NDA

(Continued from page 1)

announced his resignation. Mr Tekriwal said: "I have been threatened thrice on the telephone since I have been speaking against the government. But I damn care. I will keep on speaking against the regime which is averse to undertaking the development of the state." Asked whether it was an "NDA induced" crisis in the RJD, Mr Tekriwal said: "Not at all. It's due to the failure of the regime to carry out development work." Mr Ramdas Rai had fired the first salvo against the Laloo-Rabri regime by resigning as the minister of state for education a couple of months ago.

Mr Tekriwal circulated a six-page document explaining how the government "presided over" the closure of several sugar factories and other industrial units of the state.

The on-going war in the RJD came to the fore during the Holi festival also. Mr Ranjan Yadav arrived in Patna a day ahead of Holi. But he did not meet Mr Laloo Yadav and returned to Delhi. This was the first time that Mr Ranjan Yadav did not visit I-Anne Marg during Holi in the last 11 years.

Mr Ranjan Yadav went to New Delhi yesterday with Mr Nitish Kumar, and the state Opposition leader, Mr Sushil Kumar Modi, in the same flight making it apparent that he has the backing of the NDA to replace the 11-year old regime in the state.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, March 12.— The Bihar finance minister, Mr Shankar Prasad Tekriwal, today resigned deepening the ongoing crisis in the ruling Rashtriya Janata Dal.

"I no longer want to stay in the ministry which has been presiding over the destruction of the state for more than a decade", Mr Tekriwal said after submitting his resignation to the chief minister and the Governor simultaneously.

The 11-year-old Laloo-Rabri regime is in the midst of a crisis with the RJD chief's friend, Mr Ranjan Yadav, spearheading the dissidents' campaign to replace Mrs Rabri Devi as the chief minister.

What might have surprised the RJD chief was that Mr Tekriwal resigned soon after replying to the debate on the budget in the Assembly. Mr Tekriwal presented the state's budget in the House two weeks ago. "I preferred to resign after fulfilling my official obligations", he said.

Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav today held the NDA and foreign multinationals responsible for the crisis in his party. On Mr Tekriwal's resignation, he said: "Mr Tekriwal didn't find anything wrong in 11 years. I'm surprised that today he is

speaking against the government."

The RJD legislature party, at its meeting tonight, authorised the chief minister, Mrs Rabri Devi, to take action on Mr Tekriwal in the wake of his resignation.

Almost all supporters of Mr Ranjan Yadav, who is in the forefront of campaign against the Laloo-Rabri regime, attended the legislature party meeting.

When asked whether he would support the party's working president as the chief minister, Mr Tekriwal said: "Mr Ranjan Yadav has a credential for carrying on development work. I will definitely support him if he comes forward to become the state's new chief minister."

Mr Tekriwal was quite strident in his attack on Mr Laloo Yadav. "Mr Laloo Yadav is such a tree which has not given any fruits in the last 11 years. We are now looking for a tree which could bear fruits. It's known to all that Mr Laloo Yadav is functioning as the chief minister. The state should have a chief minister who functions on his/her own." The party MLA, Mr Dinesh Choudhary, was with Mr Tekriwal when the latter

See BIHAR: page 8

Another minister resigns

THE HINDU

13 MAR 2001

Rattled Raja of Bihar dials dissidents

Rebels want ministers axed

FROM TAPAS CHAKRABORTY

Patna, March 5: A rattled Laloo Prasad Yadav today for the first time sent feelers to "billi" and "kacchua" -- the Rashtriya Janata Dal chief's favourite expression to describe the rebels in his party.

One day after 45 MLAs and four MPs stayed away from Laloo's mega rally at Gandhi Maidan here, the usually unflappable Raja of Bihar met or called up all the ministers and MPs who had played truant.

Laloo even spoke with Ranjan Yadav, the party's working president and architect of the biggest rebellion to hit the RJD since its inception in 1996. The RJD chief was told that he would have to drop some key associates from the Rabri Devi Cabinet before truce talks could begin.

The dissidents want Laloo to drop a Brahmin minister who is very close to him and a Koeri minister who became prominent after switching over from the Samata Party.

But Laloo is not in a hurry to act. He has got hints from the rebel camp that Ranjan is not in a rush either because he first wants to consolidate his position.

The rebels who skipped the grand rally yesterday had threatened to float a new outfit within a fortnight.

Though Ranjan has been silent, his confidant Nagmani announced that an alternative government would be formed with support from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

State BJP president Nandkishore Yadav described Ranjan as a man of action, not words, and said the BJP would extend him unquestioned support if he donned a new mantle.

Asked by loyalists why he was

not axing Ranjan, Laloo shot back: "Kacchua marne ke liye, gardan nikalna chahiye ki nahi?" (If you want to kill a turtle, you have to wait till it sticks its neck out.)

Ranjan, the rallying point of the rebels, has not officially attacked the RJD leadership yet.

The RJD chief told his associates that the best way to avert a crisis is to hide time and "let the turtle relax and stick its neck lazily out".

The Ranjan camp is basking in the success of keeping so many party leaders away from the rally, but plans to push the agenda of development further. "If he is angry, let him hit back and we are ready with a weapon", said an MP in the rebel camp.

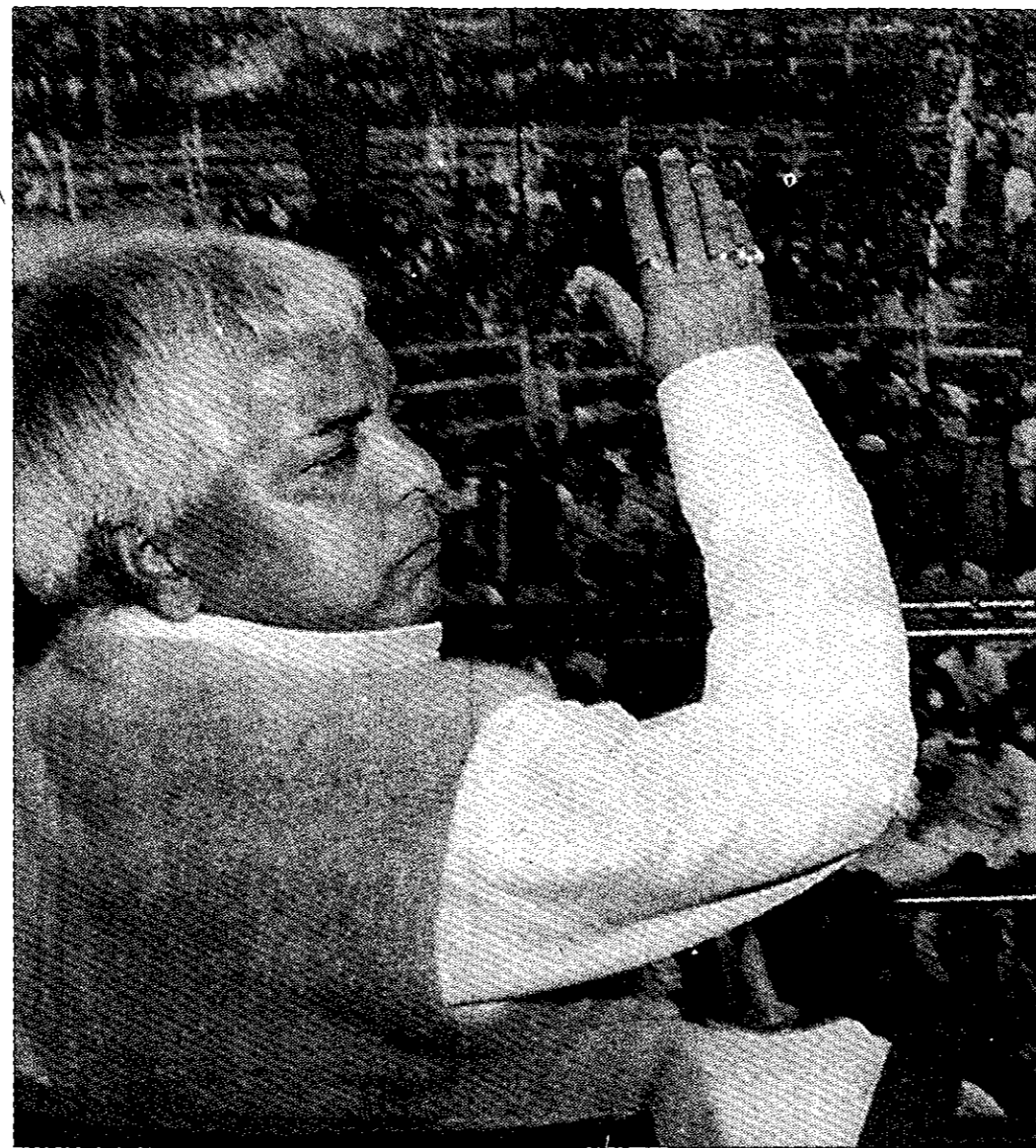
Laloo's argument of the need for unity to fight multinationals during his conversations with the rebels today did not cut any ice.

Finance minister Shankar Prasad Tekriwal sniggered: "First let Bihar bail itself out of the crisis. The question of saving the country from the clutches of multinationals would come later."

Irrigation minister Jagtanand Singh avoided Laloo, claiming he was sick.

"Ap logon ko nazaraandaz nahi na kar rahe hain (We are not ignoring you, are we?)" Laloo asked one of the two Rajput ministers in his wife's government.

Surprised by the rebels' response, the RJD chief was boiling with anger. Classic Lalooesque wit was suspended for some time before he found it again. "Before the battle of Kurukshetra, there have to be the subplots of Abhimanyu and Shikhandi. How can you win the war without these?" he quipped as his supporters looked disoriented.



RJD leader Laloo Prasad Yadav looks at photographers during a rally in Patna. (AFP)

The indomitable Laloo even made a proposal to rename Gandhi Maidan as Kurukshetra maidan.

Addressing supporters at the maidan yesterday, Laloo said in reference to the rebels: "Hamari billi, aur ham se meow (I nurtured them and now they have turned upon me)."

He called Nagmani "a snake without the jewel". "He is just a

snake under the grass," Laloo said, provoking laughter.

But it is clear Laloo does not see the dissidence as a laughing matter this time.

He has instructed a senior minority leader to find out how many legislators from his community, except Shahabuddin, are with Ranjan.

The BJP's offer of support has sent the RJD back to its favourite

whipping boy -- the RSS. "It only proved what our national president was trying to say. An RSS conspiracy. But we want our old leaders to get back to senses," said Shivanand Tiwari, RJD national spokesman.

But the Ranjan camp appears to have reached a point of no return, with the low-profile professor appearing determined to take on the Raja of Bihar.

Samata awaits Centre signal

FROM KAY BENEDICT

New Delhi, March 5: The Samata Party, spearheading the National Democratic Alliance's efforts to split Laloo Yadav's party, is waiting for a signal from Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and home minister L.K. Advani to strike.

Sources said Samata leader and defence minister George Fernandes will discuss the situation with Vajpayee and Advani soon to evolve a strategy. Though state BJP chief Nandkishore Yadav has promised his party's support to any move to topple the Rabri Devi government, the views of the two top leaders are not known.

There is a lurking fear that the BJP top brass and communications minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who recently split the Janata Dal (United) and floated his own party, might not back the move wholeheartedly. However, Paswan today announced unconditional support to the efforts to split the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

The question is whether the BJP, which has 35 MLAs in Bihar, would want to give the political space to a "Mandalised" ally. But Dal(U) and Samata leaders believe that dislodging Laloo is as important for the BJP as it is for the allies.

RJD dissidents, who are being led by party working president Ranjan Yadav, claimed the support of all NDA constituents. "We are waiting for Laloo to take disciplinary action against the rebels to strike, that makes our job easier," a rebel MP said.

The alliance leaders are moving cautiously and a split is unlikely before March 12.

THE TELEGRAPH

6 MAR 2001

Rebels dare Laloo Yadav to take action against them

NEW DELHI: Striking a defiant note, dissident RJD MPs on Tuesday challenged party president Laloo Prasad Yadav to take disciplinary action against them, warning that any such move would lead to a vertical split in the party.

Speaking to mediapersons, M.P. Nagmani said, "It will not take even a second to split the party. The moment Laloo takes any action against us, we will split the party vertically." This, she said, was the response to Mr Yadav's warning that indiscipline would not be tolerated in the party. Despite saying that dissidence would be nipped in the bud, Mr Yadav declined to reveal what action would be taken against those who had boycotted the RJD rally.

Ms Nagmani said the rebels would continue to

hold informal meetings to mount pressure on Mr Yadav to remove Rabri Devi from the post of chief minister. According to her, the party's working president Ranjan Prasad Yadav should replace Rabri Devi. "We are waiting for the festivals to be over. Today is Id-ul-Zuha and two days later, it's Holi. MLAs have gone to their constituencies and will be back on Monday for the final assault," a confident Ms Nagmani said.

Meanwhile, the JD (U) has promised RJD dissidents full support in their effort to form an alternative government. "Laloo and Rabri have forfeited their right to rule Bihar as the poor turnout at the rally has reflected a sharp decline in the RJD's popularity," JD (U) spokesman Mohan Prakash said. (PTI)

PARTY POSITION IN BIHAR ASSEMBLY	
RULING	
RJD	115
Congress	11
BSP	5
KSP	2
Indep.	7
	140
OPPOSITION	
BJP	35
Samata	30
JD (U)	12
Lok Janshakti	6
CPI-ML	5
CPI	2
CPM	2
Indep.	10
Speaker	1
Total	243
Magic Number	122

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 MAR 2001

Laloo ready for talks with rebels

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, March 7. — Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav today said he was not averse to calling a party meeting and discussing the grievances of Mr Ranjan Yadav and others.

The RJD chief said that he had never objected to the party's working president raising the issue of development.

Earlier, Mr Ranjan Yadav told reporters at New Delhi that he had differences with the party leadership on the state's development and he would keep on raising this issue.

Asked whether he was in the race for the state chief minister's post, Mr Ranjan Yadav said that it was for the party legislators to decide. He also criticised the party leadership for not holding a meeting with the party leaders on development related issues.

Mr Ranjan Yadav is in the forefront of the dissidents' cam-



Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav

paign. The dissidents in the RJD have projected him as an alternative to the chief minister, Mrs Rabri Devi.

Reacting to Mr Ranjan Yadav's remarks, the RJD chief said that Mr Ranjan Yadav was in the core committee of MPs from Bihar who demanded a package for the development of the state in the wake of its division.

"I am very much with the de-

mand of the core committee," he said, holding the Centre responsible for the backwardness of Bihar. Mr Ranjan Yadav and other MPs of the core committee should ask the Centre why it had not given the package to the rest of Bihar after carving out Jharkhand, he said.

The RJD chief said that Mr Ranjan Yadav is the working president of the party and he can at any time ask the party's general secretary to convene the meeting. The RJD is a democratic party and it always believes in discussing things with its members.

Mr Ranjan Yadav is scheduled to arrive at Patna tomorrow. When asked whether he will meet him on the occasion of Holi on 10 March, Mr Laloo Yadav said, Mr Ranjan Yadav comes to 1-Anne Marg on Holi every year for the last several years. We will make arrangements to welcome him at 1-Anne Marg as usual.

THE STATESMAN

- 8 MAR 2001

IAS officers beat up inspector in Bihar

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna, Feb. 16: Security guards of some IAS officers assaulted an inspector of the Bihar intelligence bureau outside the office of the IAS Officers' Association near Patna airport late on Thursday night. Later, the inspector, Randhir Kumar, lodged an FIR against three top IAS officers for beating and illegally confining him for four hours.

The three IAS officers named in the FIR were energy secretary P.P. Sharma, industrial development commissioner G.S. Kang and census director Sudhir Kumar Rakesh. The names of their bodyguards are mentioned in the FIR.

The accused have been booked under Section 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 353 (obstruction in discharging government duties) of the Indian Penal Code. All sections are bailable offences.

According to Mr Kumar, the officers, their

bodyguards and drivers forcibly confined him and constable Raj Kumar while they were collecting some information outside the office of the IAS Officers' Association. Mr Kumar said his mobile phone was also snatched from him.

At that time of the assault, 78 IAS officers were holding a meet to decide what action to take in the N.K. Sinha-Sadhu Yadav episode. Chief minister Rabri Devi's brother Sadhu Yadav, an MLA, forcibly procured transfer orders for a transport department employee from the state transport commissioner, Mr N.K. Sinha, an IAS officer.

Trouble started at about 7.30 on Thursday when the IAS officers' bodyguards caught inspector Kumar and constable Raj Kumar jostling down the registration numbers of the cars of the IAS officers at the meeting inside.

Industrial development commissioner Mr Kang said he came out of the meeting and seized the mobile phone from one of them. Mr

Kang said when he asked inspector Kumar for the phone number of inspector-general of his department, he gave the number of Mr Sadhu Yadav. Besides, he was not carrying the identity card. That is why the officers complained to the local police about the incident, he said.

However, Randhir Kumar denied that he was noting the number of cars parked outside the office and that he gave the phone number of Mr Sadhu Yadav.

Incidentally, the FIR has not been lodged against Afzal Amanullah, the president of the IAS Officers' Association, as, according to the police, he did not over-react and was not supportive of the idea of confining the inspector and his constable.

Top police officials are furious with the IAS officers for their action. One official who did not wish to be named said those involved in this incident would not be let off for this criminal offence.

THE ASIAN AGE

17 FEB 2011