

1. **Recent reports of Maoist leaders having amassed huge assets in property and cash underlines the significance of probing the funding network as part of counter-terrorism efforts. Discuss.**

Answer :

Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has been defined as the gravest national security challenge for the country. In this context, finance is an important aspect in both sustaining as well as credibly uprooting the menace. Recently, the Enforcement Directorate attached properties worth crores of rupees of top Naxal (Maoist) leaders in Bihar.

The principal sources of income for the Maoists are:

- Mining industry, PWD works and collection of tendu leaves.
- Besides, the Maoists have been able to put in place a well-organized mechanism to extort money on a regular basis and devised ingenious ways to store money and ensure its safety.
- It is estimated that the Maoists have been collecting not less than Rs 140 crore annually.

The seriousness of probing funding network is also attested by constitution of a multi-disciplinary group (comprising representatives from the Intelligence Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence etc.) to initiate action to choke funding sources of Maoists and succeed in counterterrorism efforts.

In this context the following measures can be put forward :

- Closely monitoring known sources of finance as well as its conduits/front men. This requires a separate wing within the intelligence apparatus in each State to exclusively monitor the flow of money.
- Registering criminal cases against sources of finance, irrespective of their social/economic standing.
- Encouraging the victims to inform the security forces when extortion notices are served, and, through example, instill confidence in the state machinery.
- Crack-down on illegal mining, timber felling etc.
- Rectifying and updating Mines, forests, land revenue records.
- Ensuring photographic evidence of the completion of development works and conducting on-the spot inspections.
- Strengthening the social audit mechanism and tightening the Public Distribution System (PDS) to halt leakages to the Maoists.
- Promoting entrepreneurship among tribals to wean them away from the Maoists.

Thus, restricting the flow of money to LWE by following a proactive multi-pronged strategy in probing and suppressing their sources of finances would go a long way in combating this menace.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Not only do services MSMEs contribute mightily to the overall GDP growth, they have a powerful, multiplier impact on the local economies as well. Elaborating on the statement, highlight the problems faced by service sector MSMEs. How can the government make it easier for MSMEs to start and grow a business ?

(150 words)

2. Contract Farming has many advantages, however it suffers from market failures. Elaborate. What can the government do to correct problems that lead to contract failures? Also, discuss whether the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 is a step in the right direction.

(150 words)