

1. Give an account of the multipronged approach adopted by the government in Naxal affected areas. Also discuss whether Naxalism has been on the wane in the past few years.

(12.5 Marks)

Answer:

Government has formulated National Policy and Action Plan for LWE areas and adopted four pronged strategy in areas of - security, development, ensuring rights & entitlement of local communities and management of public perception. Various initiatives taken by the government include:

- The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) and Road Requirement Plan (RRP-II), are two major developmental schemes, which focus specifically on LWE affected districts.
- Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)-Part of Modernization of Police Forces.
- GIS Mapping- For mapping of financial services, school, post offices, health facilities, mobile towers,
- PDS services, Road and security features etc. in time bound manner. Helps informed decision on developmental and security related issues.
- Mobile Towers to increase mobile connectivity. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) supported Scheme of Mobile Services.
- Unified Command has been set up in states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- Centre is implementing a scheme to assist states in construction/strengthening of 400 Fortified Police Stations in affected districts.
- Surrender-Cum Rehabilitation policy for Naxalites in affected areas to end violence and promote peace and development in the region.
- Affected States have been asked to effectively implement provisions of PESA, 1996 on priority, which categorically assigns rights over minor forest produce to Gram Sabhas.
- Civic Action Programme (CAP)- Funds are provided to CAPFs (CRPF, BSF, ITBP and SSB) for conducting welfare activities in their deployment areas in LWE affected States. This is a very successful scheme to bridge gap between Security Forces and locals.
- Skill Development related Schemes- 'ROSHNI' for training and placement of rural poor youth in LWE areas. Skill Development in 34 Districts affected by Left Wing Extremism' to establish one ITI and two Skill Development centers each in 34 LWE affected districts of 09 States.
- Opening of residential schools has been effective in retaining children in schools in affected areas.
- Centre has also sanctioned special training for drop outs or never enrolled children.

Decline in LWE related incidents

There has been a decrease in violent incidents and number of deaths in recent years. Also, a number of districts which witnessed some form of LWE activities have been decreasing.

Multi-pronged approach of government seems to have paid dividends. Added to it killing of top leaders in encounters with security forces, arrests, shortage of funds, arms and ammunitions, surrender and rehabilitation programme and initiatives like the Aaswar project in Bihar have led to considerable decline in Maoist activities.

The government has also been considering the redrawing of red corridor and reduce the number of Maoist affected districts by about a fifth. However, rebel activity in Bastar forest of Chhattisgarh is a matter of concern, while in Odisha districts abutting Andhra Pradesh, hold of Naxalism continues to be unhindered.

Centre and states should continue with their coordinated efforts without complacency. It should be dovetailed with considerate treatment of prisoners, efficient rehabilitation, people awareness and outreach, and inclusive developmental programmes to eradicate LWE from India.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions (250 Words)

(12.5 Marks)

1. The new political articulation of the Dalits is a matter of concern for those forces which are divisive and polarising. Discuss critically source, inspiration and consequences of new Dalit assertion in India.
2. The draft of Assam's National Register of Citizens is said to be a first step towards addressing Assam's immigration problem, but it opens up concerns and faces many challenges. Discuss these concerns and challenges.