

# **Chasi Mulia Sangh, Odisha Demands**

**In the context of upholding the Odisha High Court's judgment by Honorable Supreme Court on the matter of Vedanta University and slapping fine on the Vedanta University authorities and also reprimanding Odisha Government.**

1. We all know that the Odisha government signed an MOU with Mr. Anil Agrawal's Vedanta University Private Ltd. in June 2006. Both BJD and BJP had a coalition government in power at that time. Important portfolios like Revenue, Law, and Education were with BJP. So to implement this illegal agreement, both political parties are responsible. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his government should apologize to the people of Odisha and especially to the people of Beladala and Baisi Mauza of Puri in view of the Supreme Court's strong remarks against the government in Vedanta land issue. The then Revenue Minister and today's BJP's State Unit President should also publicly apologize as BJP is also equally responsible for illegal land grabbing deal.

2. The State Govt. should withdraw all the criminal cases filed against the people of Beladala and Baisi Mouza during the period of the agitation against Vedanta University i.e. from July 2006 to 2011 January. These criminal cases have caused immense mental and physical pain and agony to the local people and also drain out financial resources towards legal expenditures. So the state government should give compensation for that.

3. All the land illegally handed over to the Vedanta University should be re-titled in the name of original landholders; immediate legal steps should be taken for this propose.

4. Matha lands which were transferred to the Vedanta University, and compensations were also given for these same should be settled in the name of the tenant farmers who have been cultivated these for generations. They should have given legal titles of these land.

5. It is clear from Supreme Court's verdict in the Vedanta issue that the Odisha government has knowingly trampled upon various laws including environmental laws of the country to hand over water, forest land and minerals to hundreds of foreign/Indian private capitalist. Recently, the high court's verdict in the case of transferring forest land in Dhinkia Charidesa to Jindal Company (JSW) further clarified this. Similarly, in nullifying the staged managed 'public hearing' conducted by the police and administration in Koraput Mali Parbat, the High court has given an order to conduct a fresh public hearing. On the coastal area of Sipasarubali Mouza near Puri, lands are being acquired to build hotel projects and airport which openly violates the land reforms act and the coastal zone regulation. Local people have been opposing these projects. The leader of this movement

Batakrushna Swain is booked under the National Security Act and other false cases; now he has been in jail for nearly two years.

From this, it is clear that in today's time, we suspect illegal activities are taking place to hand over natural resources for various projects openly undermining various laws and regulations. So, we demand that the government should respect the voices of the people against these projects and constitute a public scrutiny committee of veteran journalists, lawyers, and social activists to verify all these deals being signed to hand over our valuable natural resources including land, forest, and minerals; and to take steps to rethink these projects.

Chasi Mulia Sangh (AIKMKS) Leaders Srikant Mahanty and Basudev Das