

## **Report of Meeting with CEO on Security of AIR & DD Stations**

In view of the attack on Doordarshan's Transmitter in Jagdalpur (Chattisgarh), and killing of three armed guards by Naxalites on 12<sup>th</sup> May at around 2 AM in the morning, ARTEE had a meeting with Sh. Jawhar Sircar, CEO on 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was brought to his notice that the safety and security aspect of AIR and DD installations is not being accorded due importance.

ARTEE has been taking up the issue with Prasar Bharati in the past as well, but the manner in which Prasar Bharati is handling the matter doesn't bode well for the health of the organization. When we took up the matter with Prasar Bharati earlier, we were told that the security of offices in Delhi will be entrusted to CISF in the first stage, and CRPF will be approached for deployment in disturbed and border areas. In fact, CISF had also carried out surveys for the deployment of their personnel in Akashvani & Doordarshan Bhawan accordingly. But it appears no further action has been taken on the matter so far. Result is this type of murderous attack on Doordarshan Jagdalpur.

In today's meeting CEO was informed about how ARTEE has been highlighting the matter. Sh. Sircar informed that he is in regular touch with state government officials and Union home ministry officials on the matter. It was also told that, to have a first-hand account on the incident he has sent DG (DD) and E-in-C (DD) to Jagdalpur. We were assured that the security of AIR and DD establishments will be taken up on priority. It was also told that a detailed proposal has already been prepared with inputs from experts in related fields. This proposal is now to be taken up with the Ministry on priority.

In fact, while we were discussing the issue, Doordarshan officials were in Jagdalpur and it was pointed out that DG(DD) is busy only issuing statement in his local TV interviews, stating that 'he is in Jagdalpur to boost the morale of our staff', without even interacting with the staff. It is worthwhile here to point out that Sh. Praveen Meshram, SEA was

within DD premises during the Naxalite attack and when he heard gunshots at 2 AM, and saw the Naxalites, he locked all doors of entry into transmitter hall and called up Local police and administrative officials. As a result further police enforcement teams arrived soon at the transmitter and started returning the fire. The gunfire continued for about two hours and Naxalites were forced to flee. This saved us from further losses. ARTEE salutes the martyrdom of three state police officials and prays for sooner recovery of the fourth policeman. Sh. Meshram appeared quite shaken while narrating the incident to us. But it is sad that a person who saved the DD establishment from Naxalites and was in need of some words of consolation, DG(DD) did not think it fit even to pat his back. What is really unfortunate that even after being directed by the CEO to talk to Praveen Meshram about the incident, Sh. Tripurari Sharan considered it below his dignity and did not talk to Praveen. ARTEE commends the presence of mind shown by Sh. Praveen Meshram. We'd like to call upon our members that despite such demotivators from some officials, let us remain prepared to face adverse circumstances in order to safeguard our establishments, and remain optimistic that better sense will surely prevail in due course. We are determined to ensure that the matter is resolved in the interest of organization and its people. The meeting was attended by S/Sh. Umesh Chandra, Anilkumar S., Sudhir Nayyer, Shailendra Shah, G.M. Tyagi, Prakash Chandra Thapliyal, Naveen Mahajan, and M. P. Chaudhary.