

# Nathwani offers to bring Naxals to talk table

B Vijay Murty

• [bjmurty@hindustantimes.com](mailto:bjmurty@hindustantimes.com)

**RANCHI:** The man who successfully led the Reliance group in acquiring more than 20,000 acres of land without any confrontation and turned the protesters into land givers of their own volition in Gujarat, is ready to put to use his persuading powers to befriend the Maoists in Jharkhand.

"I am ready to talk to the Maoists if the government is seriously considering to form a committee and include me in it

**Maoists, like many of us amongst us, who need to be heard in a proper way**

PARIMAL NATHWANI  
Raya Sabha MP

for mediation," Parimal Nathwani, Raya Sabha MP and Reliance group president (corporate services) told the *Hindustan Times*. He said he

would show his interest to the state government shortly.

All the 24 districts of Jharkhand are affected by Naxalism. In 2010, 776 people had died in Naxal-related violence in the state. A home ministry report reads that Jharkhand accounts for around 48 percent of the total Maoist-related incidents in India.

Elected from Jharkhand to the upper house, the man armed with progressive thinking from Gujarat, is currently on an austerity drive building roads, bridges, parks and hospitals in

Ranchi, large parts of which are still under the grip of poverty.

Nathwani said without industrial development, Jharkhand cannot think of eliminating poverty. "And for that you need to bring the rebels into the mainstream."

"Maoists, like many of us amongst us, who need to be heard in a proper way," he added, stressing on the need for sincere initiatives from the government for holding talks with them to end rebellion and usher in development in the rural areas.

"Only dialogue, not guns, is the solution to contain left-wing extremism." The MP finds no reason as to why Jharkhand, with its abundant mineral resources, cannot compete with Gujarat in terms of development. The state, however, finds little sense in holding talks with the ultras using ceasefire to indulge in strengthening their organisations, and continuing with their wanton killings despite the state going soft on them on several occasions previously.

"The Maoist problem is not

restricted to one or two states," director general of police (DGP) G S Rath said. "The Andhra Pradesh government tried to hold talks with them, but they never responded positively. As long as they continue to defy the law of the land, the state cannot afford to restrain from checking their advancements."

Rath added dialogue has a big role to play to end violence, but when it comes to the Maoists they have to show total commitment first. "So far, they have showed up for talks only when pushed to the wall."



• Rath feels dialogue has a big role to play to end violence.  
FILE PHOTO