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Red rebels attack forest beat house in Nuapada

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BHUBANESWAR: A group of Maoists on Saturday night attacked and ransacked a forest beat house inside the Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary in Nuapada district bordering Chhattisgarh. No forest staff was present during the attack.

Police sources said around 20 Maoists, including some women cadres, came in two tractors and went on the rampage, destroying the furniture and documents at Soseng, about 70 km from the district headquarters town of Nuapada, inside the sanctuary area. They reportedly went on the offensive after holding a meeting in a nearby area.

It may be recalled that on June 22 ultras had attacked a guest house and checkgate under Sunabeda forest range burnt down all official papers and furniture in the guest house and took away about Rs 60,000, a walkie talkie, mobile phones from the staff. They however had not harmed any forest staff. The red radicals have of late been launching attacks on forests offices in the state, with the Similipal wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district suffering a series of Maoist offensives within the last few months, compelling the government to ban entry of tourists inside.

Police said the Maoists involved in the latest attack inside Sunabeda were conversing in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi and are suspected to have sneaked in from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. "We have launched a combing operation in the area to catch the Maoist guerrillas," said DIG, south-western range, Sanjeeb Panda. The cop added that the Maoists broke the gate of the beat house to enter inside but no official was present in the building at that time.

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