



MAHENDRA JADHAV, OPPOSITION PARTY BASIC PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY

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ABSTRACT

Most Indians speak with great pride as though their country was already a democracy. The foreigners also, when they sit at a dinner table to do diplomatic honor to India, speak of the Great Indian Prime Minister and the Great Indian Democracy. From this, it is held without waiting to argue that where there is a Republic, there must be democracy. It is also supposed that where there is Parliament which is elected by the people on adult suffrage and the laws are made by the People's Representatives in Parliament elected after few years, there is democracy. In other words, democracy is understood to be a political instrument and where this political instrument exists, there is democracy. Is there democracy in India or is there no democracy in India? What is the truth? No positive answer can be given unless the confusion caused by equating democracy with Republic and by equating democracy with Parliamentary Government is removed.

Introduction

According to Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Democracy is quite different from a Republic as well as from Parliamentary Government. He says "The roots of democracy lie not in the form of Government, Parliamentary or otherwise. A democracy is more than a form of Government. It is primarily a mode of associated living. The roots of Democracy are to be searched in the social relationship, in the terms of associated life between the people who form a society." From the above definition we can understand that democracy is to be found in social relationship in terms of associated life. India is known for its divers nature. We have thousands of castes, religions, different races and millions of languages. Despite having so many differences and diversified culture, we are considered to be united nation. And more over a strongest developing democracy of the world.

Here, to make any democratic constitution a successful one, the countrymen must live a harmonious life and loyalty to public ends and mutuality of sympathy and co-operation. The question raises in mind that do we really have the above mentioned qualities in among us? do the countrymen live a harmonious life without any social, political, economic and religious differences? from the ages India consists of an innumerable collection of castes which are exclusive in their life and have no common experience to share and have no bond of sympathy. Given this fact it is not necessary to argue the point since we come across the caste hatred and atrocities in our day to life. The existence of the Caste System is a standing denial of the existence of those ideals of society and therefore of democracy.



Several eminent personalities have defined democracy. The dictionary meaning of the democracy is “government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system”. Walter Bagehot defined democracy as “Government by discussion”. According to Mr. Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government “ of the people, by the people and for the people”. Democracy is indeed the form of government elected by the people for them. But we have to understand that democracy is a set of ideas and principles about freedom. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar defines democracy in a unique way as thus “Democracy is a form and method of government whereby revolutionary changes in the social life are brought about without bloodshed.”

Among the above said few definitions Dr. Ambedkar’s definitions stands apt. the real test of democracy is to be analyzing the change in social life. Democracy is not just a form of government; it is mode of associated living, an essential attitude of respect and reverence towards our fellow men. But we can see that, in our day to day life, due to the different castes, religions, traditions and various faith each caste tends to dislike others just because they belong to different caste. But the greatest contribution of Indian Constitution is despite the differences, India is still going strong without any internal disbursement unlike our neighboring countries!

Let’s turn towards the main topic i.e. Opposition Party: The Basic Pillar of Democracy! in any democracy the opposition party plays a vital role. In politics, the opposition comprises one or more political parties that are against the ruling government. Ideally the opposition party goes against the ruling party in any government.

The main role of the opposition party is to check and question the policies made by the ruling party and draw attention on the real causes of the nation and to stop ruling party from over powering people. It has to question the government of the day and hold them accountable to the public. The opposition is equally responsible in upholding the best interests of the people of the country. They have to ensure that the government does not take any steps which might have negative implications on the people of the country. Basically, the opposition party have to check the excesses of the ruling or dominant party and not to be antagonistic. There are actions of the ruling party which may be beneficial to the masses and oppositions are expected to support them. They should raise immediate protest and voice against the deemed injustice and wrong motions run by the ruling class in the parliament. The leader of opposition should always bear in mind that they are representing the people of India and fighting for justified demands and defending all the unlawful and unfair practices by the ruling classes.

The opposition party has to highlight the failures of the ruling government so convincingly that the common public gets to know the facts behind the failure



and understand that the failures were because of the apathy of the government. In the event of a weak opposition party, the ruling government and its representatives may become complacent and insensitive for duration of their rule. Just have a glance through our history of past 15 parliaments and current one India has seen, we will understand that the strong opposition party is needed to safeguard the rights of the common people and for a strong democracy.

But, unfortunately in India, the ruling class and opposition party have become two sides of the same coin. One loot the country after another and without any morale ! In India, the opposition party is not performing its duty and stands as the People's Voice. Both ruling and opposition parties have joined hands in sucking blood of common man abruptly and unseemingly. Corruptions after Corruptions, scams after scams but nothing has turned legally against any of the person who are involved in multi crore scams. The agitations and uproar is only to mislead the masses and divert the attention so that everything is fixed meticulously. And this has resulted in threat to the very basics of Parliamentary Democracy and Constitution as a whole.

After the Opposition Parties, Media is considered to be the Fourth Pillar of the Democracy. The role of media is to highlight the day to day issues and enlighten people over all the irregularities of the administrative and political branches of the country. These days media is playing very important role in curbing the crimes and wrong doings. Because of technology, people are being aware of all the national and international issues at their very homes. However, what we see that the media has also become the puppet of strong politicians and political parties. Therefore, expecting any news without any undue influence, pressure and impartial and unbiased news is a matter of yesteryears now. The media neither speaks on the issues nor highlight the problems of the common man. I would dare to say that the fourth pillar of democracy has collapsed under the feet of corrupt politicians.

Conclusion

It is evident that, rational authors, writers, social activists, poets have undertaken the social responsibility and portraying the role of opposition party now. They raise voice against injustice from time to time. But then, those so called activists too could not dare to come out of their caste and religious notions. They do speak on the issues aptly, but rarely seen speaking against the real problem of India i.e. Caste and Religious inequalities, Gender Discriminations, Communal genocides which happens almost everyday at all the parts of India. The time has come to understand the spirit of Constitution and importance of parliamentary democracy. As I mentioned in the beginning of this article is democracy is a social unity. Every member of the society should feel the pain of others; every citizen should understand the meaning and importance of fraternity and brotherhood. Then only we can think of a strong democracy and can achieve the goals enshrined in the constitution i.e., Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Justice. If we all perform our duties well then I am sure, India will be a superpower in the days to come.



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