

RESENTMENT OF CORRUPTION IN INDIA: RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMUNAL SOCIETY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JAIPUR AD AJMER DISTRICTS OF RAJASTHAN

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Abstract:

Corruption Struggle by the conscious people of Jaipur and Ajmer Districts of Rajasthan, Supporting the cause, thousands joined in a candle lit procession in Guwahati on April 8. The citizens of Assam joined the programme, where patriotic songs were played and Tri-colour were waved by the participants. In two separate letters to the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi, the septuagenarian activist appealed for brave actions against corruption. Both, with many other high profile leaders from various political parties, appealed Hazare to withdraw his fasting. Meanwhile, the government had three rounds of discussion with the agitating activist, where finally on April 8, Hazare's emissaries namely Swami Agnivesh and Arvind Kejriwal met the Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal, law minister Veerappa Moily and minority affairs minister Salman Khurshid. Hazare indicated that the discussion was almost successful.

Key words: *Struggle, procession, participants, septuagenarian*

INTRODUCTION

2G spectrum, Commonwealth Games, Adarsh Housing – all have one thing in common, Corruption, scamming, eroding public wealth to fill coffers of some of the wealthiest, corrupt individuals, groups in India.

Excerpt from an internet search about “corruption in India” – For 2010, India was ranked 87th of 178 countries in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index.

According to the data provided by the Swiss Banking Association Report (2006), India has more black money than the rest of the world combined.[12][13] Indian Swiss bank account assets are worth 13 times the country's national debt.[14]

Anna Hazare, has started a „fast unto death“ if his demand for a role for general public in the drafting of the anti-corruption Lokpal bill.

Review of literature

Suddenly India wakes against corruption. The people of the largest democracy in the globe came to the streets, organizes rallies and took pledge to fight against corruption. Living in a corrupt political system for decades, the conscious citizens start demanding more participation in the governance.

In fact, soon after the civil society activist Kisan Bapat Baburao Hazare (Anna Hazare), 72, sat on fasting in the national capital for a stringent law to deal with the social disease, it ignited the media and the civil societies of India. Hence more and more individual and activist groups around the country joined the movement extending their whole hearted support for the cause.

Hazare's mission (India Against Corruption) began on April 5 urging the Union government to take necessary arrangement to introduce Jan Lokpal bill. The fast-unto-death by the Gandhian (follower of Mahatma Gandhi) Hazare at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi already completed fourth day on Friday.

Numerous organizations including National Alliance of People's Movement, led by Medha Patkar, have extended support to Hazare and it has organised rallies, morchas, solidarity fasts, public meetings and other such programmes in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Unao, Itawah, Muzaffarnagar, Delhi, Guwahati and many other places across the country.

NAPM also welcome the larger upsurge in the country and coming out of the millions of people cutting across caste, religion, class and professional boundaries on the street in support of the demand for rooting out the corruption.

“The agitation has given a hope for wider political awakening in the country and hopefully the struggles against the corporate corruption, massive loot of natural resources and larger institutional corruption will gain strength from this,” stated in a release of NAPM.

“Anna Hazare's sitting on indefinite fast in Delhi has galvanized the middle class of India, which is most vocal against corruption but also the one responsible for most corruption in this country. Corruption is a very contentious issue. Our morals tell us to oppose it but for convenience we often make a compromise, always giving ourselves the benefit of doubt,” said Sandeep Pandey, an acclaimed social activist of the country.

Material and method

He also added, “Hazare's campaign has raised very interesting issues. His main demand is that a committee consisting half the members from civil society drafts the Lokpal Bill. Even though the government has been discussing the Lokpal Bill for the past 42 years the people are not happy with various versions of the bill. The civil society has been demanding a much more stringent bill. The government's bill hardly empowers the Lokpal to take any action against the corrupt.”

Many activists have mentioned the initiative as second Freedom (from corruption) Struggle by the conscious people of India. Supporting the cause, thousands joined in a candle lit procession in Guwahati on April 8. The citizens of Assam joined the programme, where patriotic songs were played and Tri- colour were waived by the participants.

In two separate letters to the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi, the septuagenarian activist appealed for brave actions against corruption. Both, with many other high profile leaders from various political parties, appealed Hazare to withdraw his fasting.

Meanwhile, the government had three rounds of discussion with the agitating activist, where finally on April 8, Hazare's emissaries namely Swami Agnivesh and Arvind Kejriwal met the Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal, law minister Veerappa Moily and minority affairs minister Salman Khurshid. Hazare indicated that the discussion was almost successful.

Shri. Kisan Bapat Baburao Hazare, popularly known as Anna Hazare, is a Gandhian and Veteran Social reformer who was awarded the Padma Bhushan for spear leading the development of Ralegan Siddhi, a village in Maharashtra.

“The government is drunk with power and corruption...it is for the people to make it sober” said Anna Hazare, on the third day (April 7, 2011) of his hunger strike. Throngs of People gathered at Jantar Mantar to listen and be moved by his latest address. In Mumbai, students wore caps that said, “I Am Anna Hazare.” The anti-corruption movement has engulfed major cities in India.

The movement started due to the resentment because of the serious differences between the draft Lokpal Bill 2010 prepared by the government and the Jan Lokpal Bill prepared by the members of this movement,[15] which has received significant public support.

The government has agreed to the movement’s 2 key demands – the government to introduce a new law to serve against corruption and they want representatives of civil society to be part of the committee that drafts the law.

Discussions have led to the government agreeing to form a joint committee to draft a stronger Lokpal Bill but there was no consensus on who will head it and as to whether it should be notified. Mr. Hazare rejected the government’s offer of an informal committee and said he would not end his protest till the demands were met.

The public is taking the movement to heart. At Jantar Mantar when O P Chautala and Uma Bharati came to show solidarity with Anna but were greeted with shouts of “netagiri nahi chalegi” and shooed off. Bollywood stars – Aamir Khan, Hrithik Roshan et al have shown their support to the cause. Why Jan Lokpal Bill?

Source: <http://www.indiaagainstcorruption.org/>

Justice Santosh Hegde (former Supreme Court Judge and present Lokayukta of Karnataka), Prashant Bhushan (Supreme Court Lawyer) and Arvind Kejriwal (activist) have together drafted a strong anti-corruption law called Jan Lokpal Bill which requires that investigations into any case should be completed within a year and the trial should get over in the next one year so that a corrupt person goes to jail within two years of complaint and his ill-gotten wealth is confiscated.

Salient features of Jan Lokpal Bill

1. An institution called LOKPAL at the center and LOKAYUKTA in each state will be set up
2. Like Supreme Court and Election Commission, they will be completely independent of the governments. No minister or bureaucrat will be able to influence their investigations.

3. Cases against corrupt people will not linger on for years anymore: Investigations in any case will have to be completed in one year. Trial should be completed in next one year so that the corrupt politician, officer or judge is sent to jail within two years.
4. The loss that a corrupt person caused to the government will be recovered at the time of conviction.
5. How will it help a common citizen: If any work of any citizen is not done in prescribed time in any government office, Lokpal will impose financial penalty on guilty officers, which will be given as compensation to the complainant.
6. So, you could approach Lokpal if your ration card or passport or voter card is not being made or if police is not registering your case or any other work is not being done in prescribed time. Lokpal will have to get it done in a month's time. You could also report any case of corruption to Lokpal like ration being siphoned off, poor quality roads been constructed or panchayat funds being siphoned off. Lokpal will have to complete its investigations in a year, trial will be over in next one year and the guilty will go to jail within two years.
7. But won't the government appoint corrupt and weak people as Lokpal members? That won't be possible because its members will be selected by judges, citizens and constitutional authorities and not by politicians, through a completely transparent and participatory process.
8. What if some officer in Lokpal becomes corrupt? The entire functioning of Lokpal/ Lokayukta will be completely transparent. Any complaint against any officer of Lokpal shall be investigated and the officer dismissed within two months.
9. What will happen to existing anti-corruption agencies? CVC, departmental vigilance and anti-corruption branch of CBI will be merged into Lokpal. Lokpal will have complete powers and machinery to independently investigate and prosecute any officer, judge or politician.
10. It will be the duty of the Lokpal to provide protection to those who are being victimized for raising their voice against corruption. Recent news from Japan says that the people in a small city devastated by tsunami are returning the lost and found items and money to the nearest police station. Police stations are overwhelmed with the lost and found items and money and they were only able to give back 10% of it to the real owners. Returning the lost and found items to the police station has not started day after tsunami but that great value was instilled into the mind of the people at very young age, at home. As the wise say, the character becomes a behavior, and behavior becomes a tradition. Indians are pretty good in boasting

about their “arasha bhaaratha sumskaarm”. That is bunch of crap. We are corrupted to the core and every day striving to be the best in it.

As India battle corruption, we know where the problem is but we blame everything on the circumstances we born into. We do not have role models in our society. We do not have home where people are there to teach us the moral values. There are no trustworthy leaders in society. If someone tries to show the true path, the corrupted society Crucify, shoot or kill them saying that the good leaders are the dead leaders. It is very important to introduce an age limit and term limit for the politicians. Some of them are corrupted and old. Unless and until this issue is not addressed, they will manipulate the ordinary Indians and get elected again and again. These rotten people along with the government employees loot the public money and destroyed India. The bridges, roads, rail system, sewage system are all dilapidated. See the rulers and religious crooks doing to the people in Middle East. Mubarak, Gadaffi, King Abdullah along with Mullahs and priests sucked the blood of the people for years and that is what exactly happening in India. Another revolution is needed in India. And we can make Egyptian people our best model.

Conclusion

As Gandhi said, we must learn to keep our friend yard neat. And, if everyone does it, India will be a corruption free country. Just like the people in small village of Japan. The earth quake could not shake the values they got instilled in their mind. I can only bow my head down before them. Shame fellow Indians! Shame fellow Malayalee! Let us ask ourselves. Are we corrupted? Do we long for a society without corruption?

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