

CONSTITUTION 123rd AMENDMENT BILL STATES LOSE RIGHTS

-Dr. Justice A.K. Rajan

On 16th August 1932, Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald, gave the Communal Award, by which seats in the Indian Council were distributed among the various Religious and communal groups. Thus the Scheduled Castes were given the reservation in the Central Legislative Body. This was brought into force by The Government of India Act 1935. Therefore a list of Scheduled Castes was prepared. This list was included in the 195 Act as a Schedule. Thus the name Scheduled Castes was given to those castes included in that list. That list continues to be in force with very few inclusions, after The Constitution of India came in to force. Thus the Scheduled Castes were exhaustively counted and determined more than a century ago. Therefore there is no difficulty in identifying the people of the Scheduled Castes. The identification of SC and ST was complete as early as 1935.

2. But there was no such enumeration of the 'Backward Castes'. There is no exhaustive list of Backward Castes in any of the States.. Further there are thousands of Backward Castes in India; and hundreds of backward castes in each State. Under Art 15(4) reservation cannot be made, for the Backward Castes. It can be made only for the citizens of "Socially and Educationally Backward Classes"[SEBC].

3. Since the Constitution of India did not define the term SEBC, and since there was great difficulty for such identification, The Supreme Court of India, in the MANDAL judgment, directed The Government of India to appoint a National Backward Classes Commission, for identifying SEBC for the purposes of appointment in the posts under the Government of India and in the other authorities of the GOI and in the 'Authorities Under the Control of GOI'.

4. The Supreme Court also directed that Each of the States in India, shall also appoint a 'State Backward Class Commission' for identifying the SEBCs in the States for the purposes of appointment in the posts under the State and in the posts of other authorities of the State or the authorities under the control of the States.

5. In view of the fact that such exercises of identification of the SEBC require a judicial decision, the Supreme Court also directed that the Chairman of such Commissions shall be a sitting or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court.

6. Further, a person belonging to any caste that is included in the Schedule is considered as a Scheduled Caste person in the whole of India. But, a person included in the list of SEBC prepared by one of the State Commissions for SEBC may not be included in the list maintained by the National Commission for Backward Classes and also by other State Commissions. Even within a State, in some cases, persons from some of the districts only are considered as SEBC.

7. Therefore, the act of inclusion or exclusion from the list of SEBC for the purposes of reservation in any State can be effectively done only by a State Backward Class Commission for extending any benefit of reservation within that State. That cannot be done by the NCBC. In Tamil Nadu within SEBC there is a sub classification as Most Backward classes [MBC]; in some other States SEBC is divided into four categories. Only because of that such a Scheme was framed by the Supreme Court. That is NCBC can identify the SEBC only for the purposes of Reservations made by the Government of India or under any other authority of GOI or authorities under the control of the GOI. In other words, NCBC cannot identify the SEBC for the benefit or Reservation given by any State or State Authority.

8. The NCSC or NCST has not made any sub classification within the SC or ST. In spite of the fact that some of the SC are very much backward vis a vis others. Tamil Nadu made a sub classification for Arunthathiyars (madigas). That is now under challenge before the Supreme Court. Though there is a demand for making separate reservation for Madigas for many years in many States that could not be done by the National Commission.

9. When the NCBC was established it was noticed that the NCBC had no powers, except to include or exclude a classes within the SEBC. For effective enforcement it had to refer the matter to NCSC. Therefore there was a demand for conferment of similar Constitutional powers on the NCBC also. There was a demand to amend the constitution and to add a new provision similar to Article 338. But that was misunderstood by the Union Government.

10. The GOI introduced the 123rd Constitution Amendment, by which a new Article 338B was to be included. It reads identical with Article 338 (NCSC) and 338A (NCST), except sub clause (5) (c). That clause reads in both the cases of SC and ST as "to participate and advise on the planning process of socio – economic development of the Scheduled Castes".[Scheduled Tribes]. But in 338B (NCBC) the words used are "to advise on the socio-economic development of socially and educationally backward classes". **This appears to be a deliberate but a very vital omission.** Therefore, the powers of the proposed NCBC are not the same as that of NCSC or NCST.

11. Article 341 confers power on the President to specify the Scheduled Castes and Article 342 confers power on the President to specify the Scheduled Tribes. A similar provision 342A is proposed to be included

conferring powers on the President to specify the "**socially and educationally backward classes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be socially and educationally backward classes in relation to that State.....**". This provision may appear innocuous. But this provision, if comes into force, will cause irreparable damage to the cause of the SCBC and it will be detrimental to the cause of OBCs.

12. There is also an amendment to Article 366. A new sub clause 26(C) is added as follows:-

'(26C) "socially and educationally backward classes" means the backward classes as are deemed under article 342A for the purposes of this Constitution'

A combined reading articles 342A and 366(26C) would make it clear that after the 123rd amendment only the Union Government would have the power to determine if any class is a SEBC or not. The States will lose that power; that power vested with the States is taken away by the union Government. This is an affront on the federal structure of India. The States will become helpless to alleviate any redress to its own people even for any justifiable cause, even if there is an absolute necessity.

13. In the proposed Article 338B, Clause (2) provides as follows:-

"Subject to the provisions of **any law made** in this behalf by **Parliament**, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the **President may by rule determine**". The first part of this compound sentence mandates that a law is required for determining the structure of the Commission. That is, since the qualification for appointment of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other members are specified in this Article 338B, a law for that purpose is necessary. Such a law, The National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993{Act 27 of 1993}, under which a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, as per the direction of the Supreme Court in the Mandal judgment, has been repealed by Bill No 70 of 2017. That Act need not have been repealed in its entirety; Chapter III, Powers and Functions of the Commission alone could have been repealed. Obviously the Union Government wants not to appoint a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court as the Chairperson. Such an appointment would be against the direction of the Supreme Court.

14. Article 342A takes away all the powers vested and were exercised by the States all along. If and when this article comes into force the States cannot declare or delete any SEBC from the list of OBCs in the States. That power can be exercised only by the Union Government. This article 342A(1) provides that "President may specify" the SEBC which shall "**for the purposes of this Constitution**" deemed to be SEBC in relation to that State. Instead Article 342A(1) may be modified as follows:-

"The President with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, on the request made by the governor thereof, by public notification specify the socially and educationally backward classes which shall for the purposes of making provisions for reservation of posts under Government of India or under any other authority of government of India or under the control of the government of India or seats in the central govt educational institutions".

Article 342A(2) may be modified as follows:-

" President may, on the advise of the National Commission for Backward Classes include or exclude from the Central list of socially and educationally Backward Classes specified in a notification issued under clause (1)."

Article 342A(3) may be added as follows:-

"The Governor of a State, by public notification specify the socially and educationally backward classes which shall for the purposes of making provisions for reservation of posts under that State or under any other authority of the State or under the control of the State; or seats in the educational institutions within that State".

Article 342A(4) shall be added as follows:-

" The governor may, on the advise of the State Commission for Backward Classes include or exclude from the State list of socially and educationally Backward Classes specified in a notification issued under clause (3)."

15. Only such an amendment would be in consonance with the concept of federalism. It must be remembered that India is not a unitary country but a Union of States. Respecting the powers of the States is one of the important things which will go long way to improve the Unity and Integrity of India.

Conclusion:

16. The Constitution 123rd amendment Bill if becomes law of the land the States will be deprived of their power to declare any class as socially and educationally backward class in the State. The proposed amendment goes against the direction given by the Supreme Court in the Mandal Judgment. Article 342A, as proposed would be violating the concept of federalism. Unless the States are vigilant and protect their rights they would be stripped of their powers.

Chennai 16th April 2017.

[Justice A.K.Rajan]

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Thiru.**Narendra Modi**
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Respected Sir,

CAT, Madras Bench judgement on Creamy layer

We submit to state that in a historic judgement dated 12.1.2017, CAT, Madras Bench headed by Hon'ble Justice A.Arumugaswamy and Hon'ble R.Ramanujam have directed the DoPT to withdraw the clarification in para 9 of the OM 36033/5/2004-Estt.(Res) dated 14.10.2004 to the extent it is made applicable to II-C and to reformulate it appropriately in the light of the observations made in the Judgement within a period of three months.

1. The case relates to non-allocation of service to two OBC applicants by wrong interpretation of creamy layer guidelines by DoPT in 2012. Both these candidates would have got the services in IFS and IPS as per their OBC status. But DoPT did not allocate service to them citing their parents salary income, who are working in PSUs.
2. The Judgement clearly states that OM dated 8.9.1993 brought out by DoPT based on 9 Judges Bench of Indra Sawhney v. Union of India and had been upheld by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Ashok Kumar Thakur vs. State of Bihar & Ors. (Reported in 1995(5) SCC 403).
3. The OM dated 8.9.1993 does not discriminate between salaried employees of Govt. and Public Sector /Private Sector employees and clearly states that income from Salary and Agriculture should not be taken into account for identifying creamy layer.
4. On the contrary, clear discrimination is brought about by paras 9 and 10 of the 'clarificatory' OM dated 14.10.2004, among the salaried class of Govt. employees vs. PSU/Private sector employees, which is certainly not inherent in the OM dated 8.9.1993, points out Judges.
5. The judgement states that "we are of the view that a needless and hostile discrimination has been introduced in the OM dated 14.10.2004 between Government servants and persons working in Public Undertakings and Private Sector in the manner of discrimination of their OBC/Creamy layer status and such discrimination is not based on any rational or intelligible differentia. Such discrimination does not flow from the OM dated 8.9.1993 and therefore, the contention that it has been upheld by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Ashok Kumar Thakur cited supra cannot validate the 'clarificatory' OM dated 14.10.2004."
6. Hence the Hon'ble Judges have directed DoPT to withdraw the

clarification in para 9 of the OM dated 14.10.2004 which is discriminatory and further directed DoPT to reallocate the service of two applicants on the basis of their OBC status within a period of three months from the date of this order (12.1.2017).

7. During the year 2016 also, some OBC candidates were denied service allocation by DoPT citing the same clarification in OM dated 14.10.2004 and still they have not given service allocation by DoPT.

In conclusion, we would like to state that, the OM dated 8.9.1993 specifies guidelines for application of creamy layer status to OBCs. It states that apart from Group A and B posts, for other categories in Government services, income should be taken but excluding salary income and agricultural income.

For Public sector employees, till their comparable post with Govt. department is identified, income should be taken but excluding salary income and agricultural income.

This is what the OM dated 8.9.1993 is all about.

But DoPT in the name of clarification issued a OM dated 14.10.2004, where they have interpreted in para 9 of the OM, that for public sector and private sector employees, their income includes Salary income. This is gross violation of the OM dated 8.9.1993.

The CAT, Madras Bench judgement clearly says that clarificatory OM cannot supercede the OM dated 8.9.1993 that has been upheld in Apex Court.

This discriminatory approach of DoPT has put lot of OBC candidates who have been successful in Civil Services Examination in non allocation of services, in the guise of creamy layer status. Even though, these candidates have produced valid OBC certificate and verified by UPSC, DoPT has ignored them citing para 9 of the clarificatory OM dated 14.10.2004.

Every year, few OBC candidates have been affected and the above candidates selected in 2012 could get justice only in 2017. How many of the other OBC candidates can move legally?

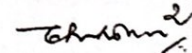
In 2016 also, lot of OBC candidates whose parents are working in PSUs, were denied service allocation by DoPT citing the same clarificatory OM dated 14.10.2004 and they are still waiting for service allocation.

Sir, the representation of OBCs in Group A and B posts is less than 10% and in some of the Ministries, there representation is ZERO.

If this discriminatory approach is continued by DoPT, we can undoubtedly say that the representation of OBCs in Group A and B posts will not exceed 10% even after a century of implementation of 27% reservation to OBCs.

We therefore request you to kindly direct the DoPT not to take further legal steps but to withdraw the discriminatory clarification in para 9 of the OM dated 14.10.2004 and to allocate service to our OBC candidates based on their OBC certificate.
With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,



(G.KARUNANIDHY)
GENERAL SECRETARY



अखिल भारतीय यूनियन बैंक अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग कर्मचारी कल्याण संघ की
28 अगस्त 2016 को मुम्बई में आयोजित आम सभा में नयी कार्यकारिणी चुनी गयी

क्रम	पद नाम	नाम	स्थान	सम्पर्क
1	अध्यक्ष	जी0 करुणानिधि	चेन्नई	9381007998
2	कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष	रवीन्द्र राम	सेवा शाखा, पटना	9430829411
3	उपाध्यक्ष	रतनलाल सिरवी	शरदपुरा, राजस्थान	7665578222
4		नवीन कुमार	सेवा शाखा, लखनऊ	9415517017
5		बिनोद प्रसाद शर्मा	कचहरी रोड, गाजीपुर	9918502055
6	महासचिव	जी0 मलारकोडी	अन्ना नगर, चेन्नई	9444993844
7	संगठन सचिव	डॉ0 अमृतांशु	अंचलीय कार्यालय, वाराणसी	9918306777
8	कोषाध्यक्ष	टी0 रविकुमार	सेवा शाखा, चेन्नई	9940669385
9	सचिव	प्रकाश मजुमदार	कलकत्ता	8348833100
10		ए.आर.नरसिंह राव	IFB हैदराबाद	9701901717
11		विजय कुइतरकर	CMS मुम्बई	9869414914
12		गोपीचंद परिहार	बेवार, राजस्थान	9414449555

केन्द्रीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्य

क्रम	नाम	पदस्थी	क्षेत्र	सम्पर्क
1	पी0 नागेश्वर राव	पट्टाभिपुरम् गुंटुर	विजयवाड़ा	9959311965
2	अली नवीन कुमार	हैदराबाद	हैदराबाद	9676630567
3	भारत भूषण	राजाबाजार	पटना	9939640135
4	अभय कुमार	मनेर	पटना	9431004842
5	रंजीत कुमार रंजन	समस्तीपुर मुख्य शाखा	समस्तीपुर	9430620740
6	पवन कुमार	एस.के. नगर, पटना	पटना	9835623573
7	सुशील कुमार	क्षे0का0, समस्तीपुर	समस्तीपुर	8578842323
8	राधेश्याम यादव	मायापुरी	नार्थ दिल्ली	9910739321
9	बी.एस.राजेश बाबू	अर्टीगल	त्रिवेन्द्रम	9447970435
10	एन. बाबू	मल्लेशवरम	बंगालुरु	9741787510
11	ब्रज किशोर परडिया	क्षे0का0 भुवनेश्वर	भुवनेश्वर	9078082288
12	पांडुरंग डी भंगाले	न्यू उसमानपुरा कॉलोनी	नासिक	9175888556
13	स्वाति भंगाले	नासिक सिटी	नासिक	8275053337
14	हिम्मत गोलमारे	सरल, पुणे	पुणे	9881060754
15	उदय डांगरे	यूएलपी, कांदिवली	मुम्बई	9892373258
16	एस0 नटराजन	तिरुवरूर	मदुरई	9789940100
17	पी0 बालासुब्रमण्यम	क्षे0का0 सेलम	सेलम	9787740125
18	एन0 दुरई	वेल्लौर	सेलम	9843957530
19	जी0 पलनी कुमार	कोचाडी	मदुरई	7598243463
20	पी0 सतीश कुमार	नमाक्कल	सेलम	9655889637
21	एस0 सत्यामुर्ति	कोलातूर	चेन्नई	9445172814
22	मो0 जलालुद्दीन	चेतगंज	वाराणसी	9918301336
23	धर्मवीर सिंह	सेवा शाखा मेरठ	मेरठ	9412082765
24	अभिषेक सचान	क्षे0 का0 लखनऊ	लखनऊ	9918702015
25	राजीव रंजन	रौजा शाखा, गाजीपुर	गाजीपुर	9918501935
26	जितेन्द्र कुमार	मिलकीपुर	आजमगढ़	9532117625
27	लक्ष्मण सिंह संखला	बसनी	जोधपुर	9269309344
28	नौसद्व अली अंसारी	आर0ए0के0रोड शाखा	कलकत्ता	9836800645
29	सजल कुमार दत्ता	बालीगंज	कलकत्ता	9831848642
30	ज्योति वर्धन	डी0बी0पारा शाखा	सिलिगुड़ी	9775801032
31	जनम राय	गैंगटॉक	सिक्किम	9734902869

आम सभा का समापन संगठन सचिव डॉ. अमृतांशु के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के साथ हुआ - अध्यक्ष



“सब मुझसे सहमत नहीं होंगे। पत्थर पर लकीर खींचने में नहीं आया। मैं केवल इतना करूँगा। अपना सच कहूँगा। वक्त को न्याय करने दूँगा।”

हर साल नई किताबें छपती हैं। हर साल नये पढ़ने वाले आते हैं। संस्कृति का यह ऐसा सातत्य है जो विद्या, विनय, मनुष्यता, संवेदना और विवेक को हर साल कुछ कदम आगे ले जाता है।

इतिहास में अभागे

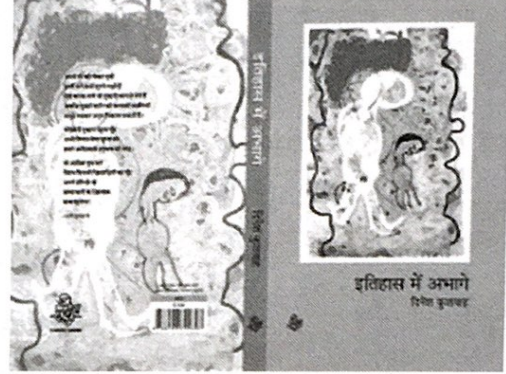
इतिहास के नाम पर मुझे सबसे पहले याद आते हैं वे अभागे जो बोलना जानते थे जिनके खून से लिखा गया इतिहास जो श्रीमंतों के हाथियों के पैरों तले कुचल दिए गए जिनके चीत्कार में डूब गया हाथियों का चचाड़ना

वे अभागे कहीं नहीं हैं इतिहास में जिनके पसीने से जोड़ी गयी भव्य प्राचीरों की एक-एक ईंट पर अभी भी हैं मस्जिद के परिमण्डि चीन की दीवार और ताजमहल।

सारे महायुद्धों के आयुध जिनकी हड्डियों से बने वे अभागे कहीं भी नहीं हैं इतिहास में।

पुरातत्ववेत्ता जानते हैं जिनकी पीठ पर बने बकघिम पैलेस जैसे महल वे अभागे भूत-प्रेत-जनिन कुछ भी नहीं हुए इतिहास के।

इतिहास के नाम पर मुझे याद आते हैं वे अभागे बच्चे जो पाठशालाओं में पढ़ने गए और इस जुर्म में टांग दिए गए भालों की नोक पर।



इतिहास के नाम पर मुझे याद आती हैं वे अभागी बच्चियाँ जो राजे-रजवाड़ों के धायघरों में पाली गयीं और जिनकी कोख को कूड़ेदान बना दिया गया।

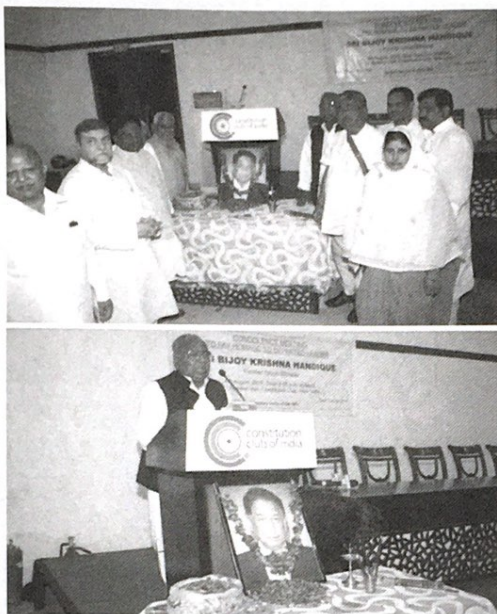
इतिहास के नाम पर मुझे याद आती हैं वे अभागी घसजिरनि तरुणियाँ जिनसे राजकुमारों ने कथिया प्रेम और बाद में उनके सरि के बाल कसी तालाब में सँवार की भाँत तैरते मलि।

इतिहास के नायकों का भरण-पोषण करने वाले इनके अभागे पतिताओं के नाम पर नहीं रखा गया हमारे देश का नाम भारतवर्ष।

हमारी बहुएँ और बेटियाँ जनिहँ अपनी पहली सुहागनि-रात कसी राजा-सामंत या मंदरि के पुजारी के साथ बतिनी पड़ी इस धरती को उनके ललि नहीं कहते भारत माता।

- विभागाध्यक्ष हिन्दी विभाग, ए.पी.एस. विश्वविद्यालय रीवा

अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के कल्याण हेतु संसदीय समिति
के अध्यक्ष श्री बिजोय कृष्णा हांडिक के निधन पर शोकसभा



Photos taken on the occasion of Condolence meeting to pay tributes to departed leader, six times Member of Parliament, former Union Coal Minister and former Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for OBC Mr.B.K.Handique (Assam)

The function was conducted on 6th August 2015 at Dy.Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi by Mr.V.Hanumantha Rao, M.P., Convenor of Parliamentary Forum of OBC MPs.

Few other MPs Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, Devendra Goud, AshkTak Ali, Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, Smt. Kahkashan Perween attended the function.

-G.Karunanidhy
General Secretary

All India Federation of Backward Classes
Employees Associations.

साइमन कमीशन वापस जाओ

साइमन कमीशन भारत में ब्रिटिश हुकुमत द्वारा गठित वह आयोग था जिसे भारत में प्रजातांत्रिक मतदान पद्धति लागू करने से पूर्व भारतीय सामाजिक एवं राजनैतिक स्थिति के अध्ययन के लिए 30 मार्च 1927 को गठित किया गया था। यह रोमांचक सत्य है कि जिस वक्त भारत में बड़े पैमाने पर साइमन कमीशन का विरोध हो रहा था, ठीक उसी वक्त डॉ. भीम राव अम्बेडकर ने अपने सभी दलित, शूद्र भाइयों को सूचित किया कि वे सभी स्थानों पर साइमन कमीशन का स्वागत करें। एक दुर्लभ पत्र जिसे कानपुर से झामलाल अहरेवाल ने लिखा था, आपके सम्मुख प्रस्तुत है-

**Welcome Simon or Parliamentary Commission on Morning
30th November, 1928 at Lucknow**

Our benign British Government has deputed a Parliamentary Commission to India which is touring in throughout the provinces and will reach at Lucknow on Morning 30th November, 1928.

We instruct our Achhut Shudra Community-being termed as Depressed Class, that if the community desires to have the full liberty, the rights and claims in the future constitution of India as gentlemen of Higher Classes have proposed and expressed their desirability of co-operation with the Simon Commission, the Achhut Community of U.P. must welcome the Commission with hope and certainty that the rights of 7 million of Achhuts will be sufficiently safeguarded thereby. In order to break legally the terrible laws of Manusmiriti and to break the chain of Slavery we appeal our Community to welcome the Commission and try your best to make the Simon Commission a great success.

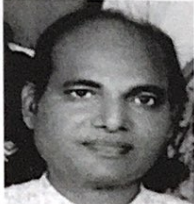
JHAMLAL AHERWAR,

Proprietor : ADI HINDU SABHA

Proprietor : MONRO LEATHER MARKET

Phulgalli Anwarganj, Cawnpore

(साभार : पुस्तक-पूना पैक्ट, क्यों, क्या और किसके लिए)



सम्राट प्रियदर्शी अशोक का विलक्षण व्यक्तित्व

इस वर्ष हम चैत्र शुक्ल अष्टमी यानी 5 अप्रैल 2017 को सम्राट अशोक का जन्म दिवस मना रहे हैं। सम्राट अशोक इस देश के ही नहीं, बल्कि विश्व के उन महानतम शासकों में से एक हैं जिनकी शासन प्रणाली आज भी अनुकरणीय है। अपने समय का महान योद्धा अशोक कलिंग युद्ध से अभिभूत होने के स्थान पर मर्माहत होकर किस प्रकार भगवान बुद्ध की शरण में जाता है, यह आज के शासकों के लिए उदाहरण है।

अशोक ने बौद्ध दर्शन पर आधारित एक ऐसी शासन व्यवस्था का कियान्वयन किया, जिसमें मनुष्य ही नहीं, पशु-पक्षियों, जीव-जन्तुओं, जल, जंगल, जमीन सबको बराबर महत्व दिया गया। अशोक ने पूरे भारत को एक सूत्र में जोड़कर जिस संघवाद की स्थापना की, उसमें पूर्ण स्वायत्तता के साथ-साथ एक केन्द्रीय संप्रभुता की भी व्यवस्था थी। अशोक एक कुशल प्रशासक थे। मानवतावादी शासक थे। कलिंग के शिलालेख में उन्होंने प्रजा को पुत्र कहा और स्वयं को पिता। एक पिता की तरह ही वे अपनी प्रजा की भलाई सोचते थे। यही कारण है कि शिलालेखों में अशोक प्रियदर्शी अथवा देवानाम् प्रिय नामों का उल्लेख मिलता है।

अशोक का उद्देश्य धार्मिक सम्प्रदायों के बीच द्वेषभाव मिटाकर धर्म की एकता स्थापित करना था। इतिहास में हम पढ़ते हैं कि उन्होंने धर्म महापात्रों की नियुक्ति की। गुणी ब्राह्मणों एवं अन्य सम्प्रदाय के सन्यासियों को खुलकर दान दिए। जन कल्याण के लिए चिकित्सालयों, पाठशालाओं और सड़कों का निर्माण करवाया। धम्म प्रचार के लिए धर्मोपदेशकों की व्यवस्था की, धम्म यात्राओं का प्रबंध किया। साथ ही साथ राजकीय पदाधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करके शासन को चुस्त-दुरुस्त रखा।

अशोक का महत्व तो और भी बढ़ जाता है, जब हम देखते हैं कि उनके शासन के अनेक चिह्न आज भी हमारे राष्ट्र के प्रतीक के रूप में अंगीकृत हैं। आज भी हम वैश्विक स्तर पर बौद्ध धर्म का विस्तार देख रहे हैं। निस्संदेह सम्राट अशोक का इसमें बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। धम्म के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए उन्होंने अपने पुत्र महेन्द्र एवं पुत्री संधमित्रा को श्रीलंका तक भेजा था। इस प्रचार के प्रतीक स्वरूप बोधिवृक्ष की शाखा अपनी बेटी के हाथों भेजकर अनुराधापुरा में रोपण करवाया। इसके बावजूद सम्राट अशोक किसी अन्य धर्म के प्रति कही से भी पूर्वाग्रह से ग्रसित नहीं थे। उनके शासन काल में सभी धर्म-संप्रदायों के लोगों को सम्मानपूर्वक जीने की स्वतंत्रता थी। भगवान बुद्ध के समता-स्वतन्त्रता एवं बन्धुत्व की भावना को सम्राट अशोक ने अपनी शासन-व्यवस्था में पूरी तरह क्रियान्वित किया था। उनके शासन की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता यह थी कि उन्होंने प्रतिरोध के स्वर का गला कभी नहीं घोंटा। बल्कि, विभिन्न विचारधाराओं को फलने-फूलने का भरपूर अवसर प्रदान किया। इस तरह के विचार-विमर्श में वे स्वयं तथा उनके मंत्री भी हिस्सा लेते थे। निस्संदेह तेईस सौ वर्ष पूर्व जिस शासन-व्यवस्था को अशोक ने जन्म दिया था, वह आज के दौर को देखते हुए एक स्वप्न सरीखा लगता है।

डॉ. अम्बेडकर ने यथासंभव, यथासाध्य भारतीय संविधान को अशोक की शासन-व्यवस्था के अनुरूप रचने का प्रयास किया। इसकी पुष्टि संविधान की प्रस्तावना से तो होती ही है, उन तमाम प्रतीक चिह्नों में भी दिखाई देती है जिन्हें भारत सरकार ने अंगीकृत कर रखा है और जिनका उल्लेख मैं पहले कर चुका हूँ। वह चाहे राष्ट्रीय झण्डे का चक्र हो, चाहे भारतीय मुद्राओं पर अंकित सिंह शीर्षक।

यह हमारे देश का सौभाग्य है कि उसे अंबेडकर जैसे सपूत की प्राप्ति हुई। अंबेडकर ने अपने बारे में ठीक ही कहा था। यह देश उनके महत्त्व को उनके जाने के बाद स्वीकार करेगा। अपनी प्रतिभा के बल पर आज डा. अंबेडकर देश के ही नहीं, बल्कि विश्व के प्रथम पंक्ति के बौद्धिक विभूति के रूप में स्वीकृत हैं। उनके जन्म दिन को संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने विश्व-ज्ञान दिवस घोषित कर हम भारतीयों का गौरव बढ़ाया है।

अशोक आनन्द

यूनियन बैंक अ.पि.व.क.कल्याण संघ, उ० प्र० के प्रान्तीय कार्यालय वाराणसी में बैंक के क्षेत्र
महाप्रबंधक श्रीलाल सिंह द्वारा संगठन के पुस्तकालय का उद्घाटन : 23 अक्टूबर 2016

पुस्तकालय का उद्घाटन यूनियन बैंक के वाराणसी क्षेत्र प्रमुख श्री योगेन्द्र सिंह, अंचलीय कार्यालय के उप महाप्रबंधक श्री कपूर सिंह यादव, उप अंचल प्रमुख श्री गौतम पाठक, सहायक महाप्रबंधक श्री धर्मपाल, राजभाषा मुख्य प्रबंधक श्री अरुण कृष्ण, संगठन के सचिव मो.जलालुद्दीन, आयकर विभाग के श्री पंकज कुमार, श्री महेन्द्र नाथ एवं बैंक के तमाम मित्रों सहित सम्यक समाज के श्री वीरेन्द्र मौर्य एवं सदस्यों की उपस्थिति में महाप्रबंधक श्री लाल सिंह ने किया। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन महामंत्री डॉ. अमृतांशु ने प्रस्तुत किया।

