



REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL

SILENT QUESTIONS ON REPUBLIC DAY?

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India is going to celebrate its 59th Republic Day this time. Independent India had started following its Constitution 58 years ago. In this Constitution, along with equal opportunities for development, each citizen has also been guaranteed social, religious, economic development and democratic rights. After being buried and crushed by foreign rule for so long, this Constitution was nothing less of a miracle for the Indian people. This is exactly the Constitution that is needed for a country with so many languages, communities, castes, creeds, classes, etc. The Constitutional Assembly used a lot of understanding, organization, planning, foresightedness and capability in writing this Constitution. This Constitution has provided a lot of relief to an India that has been trapped in injustice, poverty, autocracy, illiteracy, and inequality.

It is a thing of great glory for us that our country which was called the land of snakes is now known as the land of software. Our scientists, doctors and engineers are sought after all over the globe. This country of famine has now become capable of removing hunger in other nations. With the help of the Five Year plans, India's economy has become comparable with the best economies of the world. It has also become a nuclear nation. With the successful trip to the moon, our scientists have shown that we are no less than the top powers. Now India is one among the select group of six countries that have set foot on the moon. The country, in which even a needle had to be imported, is capable of building ships, aircraft and rockets today! The Indian armed forces is counted among the top three armies of the world. There is a web of railway lines, roads, airports, power generation houses, factories, schools and colleges, panchayats, hospitals, dairies, etc. India has also taken a big leap in the field of media and broadcasting. However, despite this bright scenario, there are a number of dumb question that arise on this republic day, that pose a challenge to the Indian Constitution, that challenges the rightness of our independence, that shakes us up and shows the vanity of legislation, administration, courts and media. Who will answer these dumb questions? and when?

To lead a complete life, people has the following seven basic requirements: food, clothes, a roof over one's head, education, security, medical care, and justice. However, despite having all provisions, one-third of India's population still does have these facilities due to faulty distribution channels and weak organization. To develop a healthy, prosperous and developed society, it is necessary to be free from communalism, casteism, intoxication, corruption, economic dominance, and inequality. Has India been able to acquire this ideal level? The answer is negative. Because of lack of spiritual consciousness, feeling of nationalism, social obligations and duties, the governors and helmsmen of the nation today seems so unconscious, incapable, and hopeless that it is impossible to have any hope or desire that they will bring about development in these areas. In the economic sector, if the common or average man is helpless, weak or distressed, then he will not be able to carry out his social or religious duties with integrity. In a democracy, the character of the political leaders decides the direction of the entire country and the society, and today this character is eclipsed. Corruption and irresponsibility has this character in their grip. In the approximately 60 years of independence, there is nothing but feelings of doubt, non-belief, unsatisfaction, and hatred for the politicians and administrators. It goes to the credit of the courts and media that they have managed to keep some control over them.

While selecting candidates for elections, the main criteria are which area he is from, his language, his caste or community, his adeptness in political maneuverings, his economic capability to campaign for and win the election and his ability to collect money. There is not a single candidate who has reached the Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha after having followed the rules set by the election commission with full integrity and honesty. There is not a single party which comes down on elections without alcohol mafia, tobacco mafia, land mafia, and the support of thieves, contractors and industrialists, or which does not look after their well-being after the elections.

There is another aspect to the picture of shining India and that is the higher India has risen in the material

world, the lower it has fallen on ethical and moral grounds. On an average, the personal and national character of our political leaders has fallen down to miserable depths. Despite our Constitution, our country has seen one scam after another. The leaders involved in these scams have also been seen taking the oath of ministers. When a country's parliamentarian takes money for asking questions in parliament, stays in five star hotels singing the song of socialism, and when allegations of exchange of money are raised during parliamentary discussion, then how can we hope that the ordinary worker of village pradhan, police, health, social development departments will honestly perform the duties? When justice becomes a worshipper of time and money then it no longer remains justice. We have all seen what has been happening to the issues of the national language i.e. Hindi, cow protection, and alcohol prohibition for the past sixty years. The Indian farmer who removes hunger and nakedness, is not getting his due price whereas his investment is increasing with the adoption of modern agricultural equipment, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Thousands of farmers have been forced to commit suicide due to inability to repay debts. Due to chemical fertilizers, consumers are getting poison in the form of pulses, fruit, rice and wheat, vegetables and milk. Despite the fact that the Indian farmer has an alternative to this in the form of organic farming, the Indian government does not want to encourage this because it cannot overlook the fertilizer mafia, tractor mafia, bank mafia, market mafia. This is the same situation faced by Ayurveda against the allopathic lobby. Apart from this, the interest Indians have towards Pepsi, Coca Cola, tea or coffee is much greater than that towards buttermilk, satt, bel sherbet, and mango, apple, orange, carrot, sweet lime juices. These products of every foreign brand represent better value to most Indians at cheaper prices. This mentality will continue till such a time when we quit going to gyms and start practicing ashtang yoga of the great sage, Patanjali, and till the time when those of us who respect our great rivers Ganga and Yamuna take up the resolution to protect them from all efforts of pollution. A number of projects have been set up to clean Ganga and Yamuna at the cost of crores of rupees and have been sacrificed at the altar of corruption. Till when will such state of affairs continue?

The interest of the Indian government has not been so much in the green and white revolution as is seen in the blue revolution (prawn, fish, chicken and rabbit rearing). Thousands of new and modern butcheries have

been established after independence while cows, buffaloes and goats are disappearing even from villages. The price of a good buffalo has reached Rs 40,000-50,000. This is not all—alcohol distilleries have come up alongside each sugarcane mill. A number of independent distilleries have also come up where alcohol is produced 12 months in a year. There is a new saying that here milk is becoming more expensive while alcohol is becoming cheaper. In this way alcohol is being encouraged. The argument is that this provides the highest tax money. It is to be kept in mind that alcohol and meat both encourage criminal mindset and weakness. Till when will such things continue in the country of non-violent worshippers such as Buddha, Mahavir, Nanak, Dayanand and Gandhi? What kind of stupid joke is this that smoking in public places has been prohibited from 2 October 2008 but cigarette and 'bidi' factories, which are the roots of this problem, have not been closed or reduced? The business of intoxication is flourishing in the form of marijuana, hemp, drugs, etc. Drug money is the main financial strength of the terrorists groups that are increasingly haunting India.

The souls of uncountable martyrs including Khudiram Bose, Pandit Ramprasad Bismil, Rajendra Lohia, Roshan Singh, Maniram Dewan, Asphak Ullah, Bhagat Singh ask today's political leaders this question: Is this the India for which we have happily kissed the hangman's noose and put it around our necks? Has Rachindra Sanyal, Manmthnath Gupta, Rachindra Bakshi, Vishnu Charan Dubalis, Suresh Chandra Bhattacharya, Yogesh Chatterjee, et al. sacrificed their youth languishing for years in prison and Kalapani for this India? The soul of the Mahatma is crying out—will those who have divided India in the name of religion now cut her into pieces in the name of state and language?

The administrators of this nation will have to find the answers to these questions on this republic day and will have to search for solutions to such burning social issues with strong will power and passion and by carrying out their political duties and responsibilities with honesty and integrity. Otherwise not only will the ninety years of freedom struggle be completely wasted, even the independence of the nation will become meaningless. The nation's independence will then become limited and a prisoner in the fists of a handful of big shots. If this is not a child's rattle that diverts the attention of the innocent minds of the common man, then what is it? Should we sit quietly and be content with what we have, thinking this to be the fallout of democracy or the decision of nature?