

Cheran Singh

Cheran Singh M.L.A.

Supp-63

34, Mall Avenue,
LUCKNOW.

20 February 1969.

Dear Mr. Pandit,

We are not personally acquainted with each other but I write to you because I have been greatly pained over the remarks that you have made about me in one of your articles published recently in the 'Indian Express' and in an interview you gave or a speech you made, over the television. You have said that BKD is a 'Jat-dominated' institution and that I am these days 'riding on the shoulders of the Jats.' You are a responsible journalist. I think I will not be sermonising when I say that people in your position have to weigh every word that they utter or write. May I know how you consider BKD to be a Jat-dominated institution? I shall be obliged if you can quote facts and figures to prove your allegation. I may tell you for your information that BKD set up only 16 Jat candidates out of 405. If that amounts to domination of Jats, what would you like to say about the Congress which fielded 116 Brahmin candidates out of the 423? Out of some 90 presidents and general secretaries of our district units, roughly 20 were Rajputs, 17 Brahmans, 15 Yadavs, 8 Jats and 7 each of Vaish, Kurmi and Kayastha.

I enclose an extract from a letter that I wrote to one of the Congress leaders in 1966 which will show that it was Jat-baiting by certain sections of our co-religionists who considered themselves superior to them that led to creation of Pakistan and, latterly, to creation of a Punjabi State. Shall we, the Hindus, ever learn any lesson from history or not? You have been misled into making the above-said painful remarks against me by the propaganda of those Congressmen who themselves are saturated with feelings born out of caste. They can possibly say nothing against me as regards my conduct or record and, Hindu society being what it is, my birth in a particular caste which consists of illiterate peasants, comes very handy to them, to beat me with. I would like you or any of your informants to kindly let me know a single act of mine in my long public career which might have tended to accentuate caste feelings or might go to prove that I am actuated by caste considerations. I ask for this information so that, if necessary, I may correct myself.

In the end I would like you to pay a visit to my constituency which lies along the Jamuna and is so near to Delhi or to other parts of Meerut or any other district that you may please, to enquire whether you can find anything to substantiate your opinion. I may also tell you that the Vaishes and the Brahmans as a class have consistently voted against me in every general election since 1952. My main canvassers have been two friends of mine who are fortunate enough to belong to the Vaish community: I have never been able to give more than three days to my constituency. Let any Brahmin or Vaish voter of my constituency point out a single act which justifies this behaviour of theirs and I will plead guilty. You cannot possibly realise the anguish that I have been suffering from, on this account, for the last 17 years.



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Perhaps, it will not also be out of place to point out here that I have been doing my best to see that, if the caste-system based on birth is not abolished, atleast its strangle-hold is loosened, but none of the Congress leaders would listen. They would not even agree to elimination of the name of caste from the name of educational institutions receiving governmental help. I do not know whether you remember that it was the first act of the SVD Government when it took over on 6th April 1967 when we decided to withhold financial grants from all those institutions which bore the name of a caste. I enclose a copy of a letter which I wrote to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru making a very radical proposal, but he would not agree.

I may also draw your attention to an article published in the 'Times of India', dated 19th February 1969 under the caption of "Changing West U.P. — BKD changes political face of region" which, incidentally, gives the lie to some of the allegations against me.

With regards,

I am,
Yours

Sri CS Pandit,
C/O Editor,
'Indian Express'
NEW DELHI.



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