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THE FACTS & FALLACIES OF LOK DAL IN BIHAR

To
The Chairman,
All India Lok Dal

With the final cleavage in the Lok Dal, Mr. Charan Singh has come to stay as the most formidable force on the political scene of Bihar - a state with a population of little over 8 crores inhabiting around 7 thousand villages and 150 towns of which 54% still languishing under the poverty line, has presented the Lok Dal in a predicament or "to be or not to be".

EVERYBODY HOLDS MR. CHARAN SINGH HAS A CHARISMA, AN IDEAL AND A LARGE NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS. BUT HIS ACHILLES' HEELS IN BIHAR IS LACK OF AN EFFICIENT POLITICAL ORGANISATION AFTER THE SPLIT. THE PRESENT LOK DAL IS BADLY SHATTERED AND WRONGLY MANNED. IT REQUIRES A RETOUGH. IF DONE IN A PROPER PERSPECTIVE A HUGE NETWORK OF POLITICAL ORGANISATION WILL EMERGE FROM THE ASHES.

WRITER

Mr. Choudhary has successfully trounced the socialists, who so far had the deep roots in the predominantly agricultural rural areas, particularly areas mostly inhabited by socially and educationally exploited classes.

This has been amply demonstrated whenever Mr. Charan Singh visited this state, the turnouts in the meetings even at the odd hours, had been tremendous. It speaks of the volume of respect and affection he commands from the rural peasantry. The ever increasing popularity of Mr. Charan Singh has made the socialists panicky.

More than a decade ago Dr. Lohia with a militant band of dedicated followers and his radical socio-economic views had attracted the rural masses.

But after his death - void created continued till a gandhiate with an ideal of "Gram Swarjya" has adequately filled it up.

Thus making the remnants of radicals redundant and superfluous in context of rural uplift.

The greatest drawback of the socialists was that they were the most vociferous as far as the radicalism was concerned. But when opportunity of action descended, they displayed remarkable hesitation and lack of cohesive action. Led by a team of mediocres the socialists seemed to have consigned Lohite radicalism to political expediency. Thus they betrayed the rural upsurge which had swept them to power.



Their attempt to rehabilitate themselves by raising the caste-phobia will not click, for the injury which the backward classes has been sustaining because of the policy of defective reservation in Bihar.

Mandal commission in the hands of these unscrupulous elements will become more a tool of propaganda than a text of philosophy.

Choudhary's rural base is beyond question. But far more remarkable is his hold on the educated rural youths. For them Choudhary is a mirror of the glorious past and a dream of a future where "every hand will have a work". They find in him a way out of their present day degradation. Choudhary is a price of liberty and Lok Dal a sacred tool.

Unlike U.P., the cadre in Bihar has suffered serious damages due to the recent split. Even today the party is under the tremendous impact and is struggling for its existence.

Constituted mostly of the former socialists who have the tendency to split every three years and for whom party discipline is a matter of convenience. The floor of the Houses have been unduly subjected to political caricature and self-aggrandisement by the so called radicals.

Therefore if the Lok Dal as a political party has to play a role of responsible opposition committed to parliamentary procedures it must shun the unnecessary obstructionism.

The party is in danger of "infiltrators" and "agent provocateurs" So to guard it from within and without, is of paramount importance. For some the split is a palace revolution where one group has succeeded in ousting the other little realising the stakes involved and principles threatened.

Unfortunately our start in moulding an enlightened political party, does not suggest a new trend. The old intrigues and manipulations are still evident.

In matter of formation of the national executive and state executive we failed to take into account the quality and the quantity. The hot-haste in filling up the gaps in the national executive by elements of dubious character suggests lack of foresight and unwholesome trend.

Most of them have not only indulged in antiparty activities but tried to defeat the party candidate in the election when the Lok Dal was one and Mr. Charan Singh was its the most exalted leader of all. They were likely to be eased out. For them, split is a boon. Their quick promotion to the highest body is not only ludicrous but also amounts to rewarding the political adulterer. Such questionable quick promotion should be quickly quashed.

The nominations of various organisations of the party is a sad reflection of preponderance of a particular geographical region for no other justifiable reasons. For example Darbhanga, Madhubani and Saharsa districts have got nearly 60% representation in all the party organs.



Unfortunately this region has no elected representative.

Monghyr which had the maximum number of Lok Dal K.L.As has been completely overlooked. Moreover the tribal region which is 2/5 in area of state with at least 1/4 of population has also been sidetracked.

The most disgusting is the quality of election. Most of dead horses have been rehabilitated from their political wilderness. A few of them are not only physically sick but mentally inert to withstand the onerous jobs they have been assigned. A P.A. to a former minister of state has been drafted whose credit credibility even at the panchayat level is matter of dispute.

In short, the tremendous enthusiasm witnessed at the time of the convention is slowly withering away. Moreover it has failed to induce the fence-sitters to our side. For many it would be harak'ri with this bunch of people in the front. Therefore it would be better to reshuffle whole organisation with an unadulterated stuff to give the party a sound base. I am sure a little bit of courage is required to allow the emergence of the party from the ashes.

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Copies forwarded to all the members of the
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