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Reeta Yadav

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Taranagar Colony
Chhittupur, BHU, Varanasi
www.jigyasabhu.blogspot.com
E-mail : jigyasabhu@gmail.com
Mob. 9415390515, 9336473737

Role of Political Leaders in the Stability of Governments in Jharkhand

*Indukant Dixit **

Objectives : The politicians and the media have an important role in the development and doom of the Jharkhand state. Most of the politicians are playing destructive role in the state. Their approach is mostly greedy and self focused. Media is also playing mostly a partisan role. Both of them are working for their vested interest. We will like to study as to why this is so in Jharkhand and how can be the role of Political leaders in Jharkhand more constructive.

Summary : In our study we tried to find out the real role of the politicians and the media in the development of the Jharkhand state. How far they have been constructive and how far not! How much they have been instrumental in shaping the polity and the govt of the state. We tried to know the cause of the political instability and backwardness of the state.

The research examined the role of politicians and political parties in the development, administration, awareness and education of the people of Jharkhand and their role if any in ruining the fate of the state.

The research also examined the role of media in the development, administration, awareness and education of the people of Jharkhand.

Analysing the media behaviour of different target groups such as tribal women, children and youth, the research explored the areas for responsibility of media. It will be useful for researchers, students of media and anthropology, policy makers and media men. Communication has become part of the life of mankind and not a day passes without it. The media brings the people together and helping for the globalization process in the modern scientific era. We believe that most of the problems of the world are communication problems and most of the problems in this world can be solved by more and better communication. Similarly most of the political problems and problem of unity and integration can be solved with appropriate and effective mode of communication.

* Principal State Correspondent, The Press Trust of India, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

There is no significant study on the topic. Our research studied this important issue and has come up with new facts and findings.

Background : In the last about 13 years, Jharkhand has not had any government which has managed to complete its term. This is because of the fundamental change that the tribal identity is undergoing. Earlier, the great unifying factor was the 'foreigner' (diku), the non-tribal. Jharkhand tribals resisted efforts by the Mughal dynasty and the British to overcome their rich land and luxuriant forests. The tribals were marginalised when Hindu traders and Muslim farmers moved in and modern law and administration were established -- primarily for them. The British authority and its accompanying array of devices hastened the pauperisation of the tribals. The administration was manned by dikus and the introduction of paper currency was alien to the tribals. Their villages went to principally Muslim landlords who wanted access to the forests and the communities that lived there as cheap labour. All this had one inevitable result: armed resistance.

Independent India offered little that was better. Missionaries stayed behind and the tribals continued to resist efforts to subvert their own variant of Hinduism and Gods -- which were modelled on living tribal leaders. This led to the realisation that their lot would not improve until their identity was recognised as unique: for this they needed self-governance and their own province. Then the JMM was started in 1973 by a young man just out of his teens, Shibu Soren.

Till such time as there was a diku, the tribal identity was carved out in juxtaposition to it. But gradually, younger tribals realised that it was more profitable to side with the diku than to oppose him. One fallout from this process is Madhu Koda and the mining-lease scandal. And there is reason to believe that the same issues -- who should be given mining licences -- are at the bottom of the current political instability in Jharkhand as well.

Whether it is Arjun Munda, Hemant Soren or anyone else, instability in the mineral-rich state is likely to continue. Nor is President's rule the answer (a past spell of President's rule saw, for the first time in India's history, a case being lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation against the aides of the governor). India has to come to terms with the fact that greed is an important motive for politics in Jharkhand. The rest follows.

Probably this is the reason that in the last about 13 years of its creation Jharkhand has seen 13 governments consisting of

nine political governments and four times President Rules through Governor Rules.

Nine governments in 13 years in Jharkhand : Since its inception in November 2000, government formation has been a game of musical chairs for the BJP and JMM. As a matter of fact, things spun so much out of any party's control in 2006 that independent MLA Madhu Koda managed to grab the chief minister's chair. Koda was in jail for over three years on a slew of corruption charges.

In the last about 13 years, Jharkhand has seen nine governments and four stints of President's rule i.e. total of thirteen regimes. The longest serving government lasted two-and-a-half years and the shortest 11 days. If one takes out the first CM Babulal Marandi and the present Hemant Soren, the son of Shibu Soren, power has shuffled mainly between JMM president Shibu Soren and BJP's Arjun Munda.

The political shenanigans began after 2003 when the first NDA government led by Marandi fell no sooner it rejected its alliance partner JD(U)'s demand of a change of chief minister. Power-hungry politicians have kept the state constantly on tenterhooks.

Munda and Soren have both been dethroned thrice by each other. In 2006, Madhu Koda, a former BJP minister, brought down the Munda government with the Congress's and JMM's support.

With Soren never really having given up his ambition for the CM's chair, the earlier BJP-JMM-AJSU-JDU coalition was always unstable. Incidentally, Soren has never managed to retain power for more than six months. While Munda has averaged better at two-and-a-half years.

The reasons behind the fall of governments have always been very trivial. The first government formed by Marandi fell after JD(U)'s Lalchand Mahato wanted the CM to remove the then power board chairman Rajib Ranjan. After the 2005 election, Soren insisted he could prove his party's majority on the floor of the house, but failed.

In 2006, just when things appeared to be smooth, Koda pulled down the Munda government after the latter had not been attentive to his demand for repairing the Haat Ghamaria Road in West Singhbhum under his constituency.

Soren again came to power in 2008 after bringing down Koda and then losing to political novice Gopal Krishna Patar in the 2009 Tamar by-election. After 2009, when nothing concrete appeared

to be working for any party, arch rivals BJP and JMM joined hands and Shibu Soren took oath as the 7th Chief Minister of the state on December 30, 2009. His government could not complete its six months and had to resign on May 31, 2010 as its main ally BJP withdrew its support sighting the reason that Shibu himself voted as a Lok Sabha MP in favour of Congress led UPA government at the Centre on a cut motion of BJP on the budget.

Again after a President Rule of 102 days, from June 01, 2010 to Sept 10, 2010, BJP formed a new government in the state with the support of the same allies including JMM under the leadership of Arjun Munda.

On January 08, 2013 the Arjun Munda government resigned as the JMM once again pulled the rug demanding swap of leadership of the government. Once again the state was put under the President rule on January 18, 2013 and it continued till July 12, 2013 as JMM's Hemant Soren, the son of Shibu Soren took over as the ninth Chief Minister of the state and still he is continuing but on a tumultuous ground. The Congress which has supported his government with Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janta Dal has entered into a deal of fighting the Lok Sabha elections 2014 together, on a formula of Congress fighting 10 and JMM only on four seats of the 14 seats of Jharkhand. But once again the JMM supremo has voiced his unhappiness over the deal after his son has got the CM's seat.

Once again the results are there for all to see. Yet again, the political netas are calling for fresh elections.

Work plan/Methodology : Survey based on a questionnaire. We prepared a comprehensive questionnaire which was in two parts. The first part contained the personal data of the source and the second part contained the questions about the research.

Sample Size : The sample size was 200 in all. This included 100 each from politicians of the capital and all the other 23 districts and 100 media personnel from the major media houses.

Geographical Area of work : We will include the entire state of Jharkhand for our study.

Travel Plan : For the study we went across the state and visited all the districts and conducted a survey of 100 top politicians and the 100 media personnel of the districts.

Results/Findings : The survey has revealed the following-

1. Most of the Politicians and Media people have agreed that the political instability in Jharkhand is because of politicians. Over 90 percent of the respondents said that the greed and personal

interests of the politicians have been the main reason of instability in the state.

2. The instability is because of the smaller political parties and groups. More than 60 percent respondent said that it was the main reason of the instability in the state.
3. The political instability in the state is because of the weakness of the national political parties like Congress and BJP. Over 50 percent of the respondents are of this view.
4. The political instability is because of lack of good and visionary leadership in the state and even in the political parties. Over 70 percent of the respondents are of this view.
5. The political instability in the state is because of its abundant natural resources and the greed to control them. Over 75 percent of the respondents are of this view.
6. The political instability in the state is because of the law and order problems. Over 60 percent of the respondents support this view.
7. The political instability in the state is because of the lack of all round development of the state and its people. Over 70 percent of the respondents have supported this view.
8. The instability in the state is also because of the deep rift between the tribal and non-tribal population and exploitation of this rift. Over 85 percent of the respondents are of this view.
9. The instability in the state is also because of the rift among the different groups of the tribes. Over 40 percent of the respondents support this view.
10. The instability in the state is because of the top bureaucrats. Over 40 percent of the respondents have supported this view.
11. The instability in the state is because of the lack of a clear mandate from the people to the political parties. Over 80 percent of the respondents are of this view and they say that the people of the state themselves are to be blamed for their state of affairs as they have not given a clear mandate to rule to anyone.

Conclusion : It is a matter of further research that how states like Delhi, Sikkim, Goa, Pondicherry, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chattisgarh and others have more or less stabilized their polity in India and Jharkhand could not do so.

In Jharkhand several leaders say that the number of Assembly seats should be increased from 81 elected and 01 nominated to around 150 seats, which will give stability to the state government. As, it will prevent fractured mandate, in the State Assembly.

The Jharkhand has always thrown hung Assemblies since its formation on Nov 15, 2000, which has resulted into defections open or latent thereby creating political instability. On the other hand Delhi with 70 Assembly seats, Pondicherry 30, Uttarakhand 70, Tripura 60, Sikkim 32, Nagaland 60, Mizoram 40, Meghalaya and Manipur 60 each, Jammu and Kashmir 87, Himachal Pradesh 68, Haryana 90, Goa 40, Chattisgarh 90 and Arunachal Pradesh with 60 Assembly seats have given more political stability in their states.

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