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LIFTING THE VEIL ON CHAPTER 8 by Gautam Pingle

The Judgment regarding the Secret Chapter 8 of the Sri Krishna Committee Report was delivered today and strikes a splendid blow at the absurd and dangerous secrecy that the SKC has utilized to defame and detract the Telangana movement.

What is worse is the extraordinary hypocrisy and plain deceit that the SKC has indulged in writing this Chapter. The extracts of the Secret Chapter 8 as cited in the Judgment are so outrageous that even a hardened observer of bad government would be astounded. Wikileaks is civilized by comparison!

It is best to let the Secret Chapter/Note and Judgment speak for themselves.

Coal and Energy

“ Telangana region is dependent on coal reserves for its power generation while Seemadhra region, though dependent on coal reserves, is rapidly expanding its energy sources, viz., gas, wind solar and nuclear. Thus energy deficiencies (in Telangana) may lead to migration of population imbalance in employment opportunities, which may become a cause for social unrest”

“Since Telangana region energy sources are largely coal based thermal power plants, any economic imbalance may lead to energy starvation of small and marginal farmers which will adversely affect the productivity of the land. This can cause decline in their earning which may result in distress sale of lands and their migration to the industrial belt in Hyderabad city.”

About Muslims

“There is a certain sense of mutual suspicion between the two communities who are living in the above mentioned areas. If communal passions become an additional factor in an atmosphere where unemployment, social unrest etc., exists it may give rise to birth of militant , Jihadi elements...”

About Hindus

“ ...Telangana has a large number of Muslim pockets and to counter Muslim influence , Hindu fundamentalists may compete with them and try and polarize the Hindu populations...”

Rayala Telaganga Option

“Since the BJP has a strong presence, it may try to consolidate in Telangana and further extend its base. AIMIM may try to expand in Rayalaseema region resulting in birth of militant communalism in certain pockets”.

Advice to Congress

“ There is need for ensuring unity among the leaders of the ruling party in the state. There is also a need for providing strong and firm political leadership and placement of representatives of Telangana in key positions (maybe CM/Dy.CM)(Since done. This aspect was discussed with FM and HM in September 2010).....Inputs indicate that the agitation can be tackled if Congress leaders do not give an impression indicating any covert/overt support to it. Hence the Congress MPs/MLAs may need to be taken into confidence and asked not to lend any form of support to the agitation. The Congress High Command must sensitize its on MPs and MLAs and educate them about the wisdom of arriving at an acceptable and workable solution. With the ruling party and the main opposition party (TDP) (for the Telangana demand being brought on the same page, the supporting mechanism have a higher probability of being successful.”

Softening up the TRS

“ Action also needs to be initiated for softening the TRS to the extent possible, especially in the context of the fact that TRS has threatened to launch a civil disobedience movement after December 31 and also initiate a “Maha Yuddam” (a Massive war) if the Center does not announce a Separate Telangana. “Gaddar’s TPF (Telangana Praja Front) who had parted company with TRS have again joined hands with TRS.”

Media Management

“ Andhra Pradesh has got about 13 electronic channels and major local newspapers which are in the forefront of molding public opinion. Except for two channels (Raj News and HMTV) the rest of them are supporters of a united Andhra Pradesh. The equity owners of the channels except the above two and the entire print media are with the Seemandhra people. The main editors / resident and sub-editors , the film world etc are dominated by Seemandhra peoples. A coordinated action on their part has the potential of shaping the perception of the common man....Most of the editors except Andhra Jyothi are pro-united A.P.....The editorial opinions , the banner headlines ,the regional content, the district editions need to be managed to be realistic and should give only coverage to separate Telangana agitations”

Villain of the Piece

Going by this extract below it seems to be Duggal:

“The likely troubled spots (eg., Osmania Kakatiya, Krishnadeva Raya Universities) and the trouble creators in the three regions must be identified in advance and suitable action plan prepared. In my discussion with the Chief Secretary and DGP, the kind of equipment and weaponry to be used were also discussed and it was agreed that weaponry used should be such as not to cause fatal injuries, while at the same time effective enough to bring the agitationists quickly under control.”

What the Judgment Says

“He (the Attorney General) submitted that the respondent (Ministry of Home Affairs) has taken a conscious and well-informed decision, not to make the note public ...”

“However, the note which was handed over to the Union of India in a sealed cover, was directed to be kept secret by the committee itself. This is evident from the fact that, on every page of it, the word “secret” was written.”

“After a great deal of study, an in-depth pondering over, and after weighing the factors, such as propriety, this Court opinions not a matter of choice, that the objective in preparing a separate note and delivering it to the respondent (MHA) was more, an effort to persuade the Union of India to desist from showing any inclination towards Option No: 5 i.e., formation of Telangana State. In a way, it can be said that, whatever positive was said in support of Option No: 5 was just neutralized through the note, even at the cost of several contradictions.”

“According to it (the note), most of the major infrastructure in Telangana region in the fields of education, industries etc., is owned by “Seemandra people” and the formation of the State would be detrimental to such establishments”

“Fissures in caste lines were also projected. The note suggest that Maoists will extend their activities to various districts of Telangana; spread Maoist violence, and that Maoists are trying to make a combat through Telangana region”

The Judgment sums up thus:

“One can easily find the difference of approach of the Committee, as reflected in the report, on one hand, and on the note, on the other.”

“If there is any doubt about the hidden opposition of the Committee for the formation of Telangana, that stands removed with this note. It suggests that, barring a minuscule exception, the rest of the print and electronic media are dominated by people from one region of the state and they are in a position to mould the public opinion. The Committee opined that it is only the

“beat journalist” from Telangana area that are creating media hype of Osmania University Students agitation, self immolations etc”

“It is rather unfortunate that the Committee did not even make a mention about the fact tat about 600 persons, mostly students committed suicide during the agitation, spread over one year.”

Finally, the Court says:

“The maneuver suggested by the Committee in its secret supplementary note poses an open challenge, if not threat, to the very system of democracy. If the source of inputs that gave rise to this is the Government, it (the Government) owes an explanation to the citizens. If on the other hand, the origin of the inputs is elsewhere, the Government must move in the right earnest to pluck and eradicate such foul source and thereby prove its respect for, and confidence in, the democracy.”

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