

Political Science

Chapter - 1

PROBLEMS OF INDIA AND THEIR REMEDIES

We learn about the following in this chapter:

- *Communalism*
- *Status of Women*
- *Over - population*
- *Prefiteering*
- *Corruption*
- *Illitracy*
- *Economic inequality*
- *Poverty*
- *Regionalism*
- *Smuggling*

Since 1947 we have been facing a number of problems both internally and externally. Those problems have to be solved through proper planning and good governance. In our democratic system people have to co-operate the Government-at central, state and local levels in-order to find with solutions to these problems.

As such, is it not our ardent duty to know the problems of our Country? Of course, we must be aware of those national issues and find out suitable remedies also. Most of these problems are man-made issues and national hazards. Hence, we have to seek proper humanitarian solutions. Proper legislative reforms, able administration impartial judicial system and popular support are essential to find out remedies for these ills. Let us learn about these problems.

1. Communalism : Communalism is one of biggest evils of Indian society. It refers to the split of the whole national community on the basis of religion and it refers to the strong feeling that their group identities and interests are opposed to each other. Communalism glorifies religious division of society resulting in mutual distrust and threat. In other words, it manifests itself in social groupism, economic antagonism and even political rivalry. In short communalism in India is a menace which is capable to disrupt the very unity and integrity of our nation. Communalism propagates hate-philosophy among religious groups. It leads to social

unrest and even the ruin of life and property. Communalism spreads with unwarranted mutual accusation, insult and even physical combat among the religion groups.

The 'Divide and rule policy' of the British Government has sown the seeds of modern Communalism in India. Even after partition and independence, this policy has been nurtured for political gains especially during elections. Communalism keeps the interests of religious groups above national interest. This hampers the unity and the very strength of the nation. Communal harmony is vitiated due to this philosophy as it spreads hostile atmosphere.

So proper precaution has to be taken to curb communalism. Uniform legal system, equal treatment of all citizens, practice of secularism in all aspects of public life, furtherance of national feeling above the sectarian thoughts, are very essential to combat communalism. 'Vote-Bank', appeasement attitudes etc, politics will in the long run jeopardize the very unity and integrity. The division of national society on the basis of religion and preferential socio-economic treatment will aggravate the situation. On the other hand common and healthy national identities are to be developed among all religious groups in India. Religious fundamentalism should not be allowed to harm the national interests and Indian nationalism. Proper secular education to children can positively help to restrain communalism. Public awareness, political determination, administrative fairness, sound legal system, strong nationalistic ideology, healthy media all will have combined effect to combat communalism in India.

2. Regionalism : Regionalism means the strong feeling of people in favour of the local area in which they live. A vast country like India naturally faces the problem of regional identities. To certain reasonable limit, this regionalism is considered tolerable. It helps the people to take initiative for the all-round progress of the local areas. But, many a time this extreme regionalism harms national unity and interests. Locally centered emotional attachment must be conducive to overall national growth.

It is quite natural that regional historical background, social system, economic considerations, cultural diversities and geographical aspects- all have combined effect to promote regionalism in India. Linguistic fanaticism too leads to regionalism against Indian nationalism. Glorification of parochialism or regionalism hampers the unity of the nation. The recent regional struggle in the Telangana part of Andhra Pradesh can be viewed against this statement. The regional struggles going on in various parts of the country too hamper the development of the nation.

To counter this regionalism our Indian Constitution provides many remedial measures. It emphasizes national Unity and integrity by upholding single national citizenship. But, at the same time it provides enough space for regional development within the federal structure. The Preamble of our Constitution declares "We the people of India" and thereby stresses Indian nationalism. Reorganization of India on linguistic basis in 1956 should help to achieve progress of the states but it should not to lead to rivalry. among the states. If extreme regionalism among the states are allowed to continue, it will cause serious inter state-border disputes, river water disputes etc. This type of parochialism based on regionalism acts against national interests. Our Constitution provides proper platform for unity in diversity. Thus, healthy regionalism has to be developed along with the strong nationalism in our Country. Parochialism exists even within a state. Special importance has been given in our state to remove any regional imbalance. Committees like Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa Committee, Malenadu Development Committee, Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Committee have been formed to achieve regional balance. The Union Government too has made attempts to curb parochialism by launching many projects for the development of the North-East States.

3. Illiteracy : In India illiteracy is a big problem. We are yet to achieve full literacy in our Country. Poverty, migration, child labour, child marriage, assignment of responsibility of baby care elderly children, lack of interests to give education to children are reasons

for illiteracy. Education is important for national progress. In democracy every one should understand one's duties and responsibilities. So that we can solve the problem of illiteracy.

There was 12% literates in India at the time of Independence. It has been enhanced to 66% in 2001. By 2011 it has increased to 74%. Still about 26% are illiterates. Hence Government has taken up many steps to eradicate this problem. 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' has been launched in 2001 to provide free education for children of 6-14 years. It provides education to girls and physically challenged. In 1988 'National Literacy Mission' has also been established by Government of India to make illiterates literates. 'Sakshara Bharath' programme has been launched to eradicate illiteracy.

Recently through Article 21 of our Constitution Right to Education-2009 has been guaranteed. Compulsory free education has been implemented for the children between 6 and 14 years.

4. Corruption : Corruption is one of major problems of public life of our nation. Practically it is rampant in every walk of life and at every level. Corruption means an inducement to do wrong by bribery or other unlawful means. It is a departure from what is right and legally correct. It refers to improper and selfish exercise of power and influence attached to our public life. It is abuse of power for personal gains setting aside all rules and regulations. It is like an epidemic of public life.

Do you know this :

"Democracy is only giving the opportunity to development of skills in equal".
Dr. S.Radhakrishna

*Millennium Announcement
Compulsory primary Education
and Gender equality.*

Activity:

Imagine as a chairman of a Grama Panchayat and prepare plan and discuss about eradicating illiteracy in your panchayat area.

Do you know this :

Lokayukta Institution :

Karnataka Lokayukta Act was introduced in 1986. It was headed by Lokayukta and Sub-Lokayukta. If corruption, unnecessary delay in work, then lodge the complaint there.

The negative consequences of corruption are many. It adversely affects the social, economic and political system of our country. In other words, it is anti-social and anti-economic. Corruption is politically unsound and ethically wrong. The level of corruption largely depends upon 3 aspects, i) Individual sense of values; ii) The set of socially accepted values as a whole ;iii) the system of Governance or administration. Bribery, nepotism, casteism, Red-tapism- all come under corrupt practices. It can be noticed that at the time of election itself unwanted corrupt activities start creeping into public life in India.

Political corruption also leads to organized crimes. It may take shape of the white collared crime or public welfare offences. Even crimes like tax-evasion, hoarding, smuggling, misappropriation, fraud, violation of rules of foreign exchanges, professional misconduct come under corruption practices.

Mere cynical view of living with corruption does not improve the situation. Strong moral urge at individual as well as society level is needed to restrain corruption. Many a time, human weakness like selfishness, calculation of risk factors, personal gain do prompt the people to resort to corrupt practices. Lack of strict vigilance, and weak legal system give way for corruption. As such, in order to eradicate corruption, strong political will as well as public support are essential. In other words, good political leadership, sound bureaucracy and politically matured citizens with civic sense have to struggle jointly to control the menace of corruption. The offices of Lokpal and Lok Ayukta too have got corrective utility to control corruption. Educational Institutions, and Social leaders also have got their positive role in tackling these problems. Strict punitive measures have to be adopted while dealing with corruption at all levels in our country.

5. Status of Women : We could recognize the achievements of women even in Pre-Independence era. We remember Jhansi

Activity :

Discusses with your teacher about eradication of the corruption.

Discuss :

“You can understand the problem of a country by getting to know the status of women there”.

Pt.J. Nehru.

Rani Laxmi Bai, Rani Chennamma, Anne Besent, Kasturba Gandhi etc. In these days women work as teachers, engineers, doctors, pilots, astronauts, police, politicians, defence personnel and so on. Still the status of women has to be improved further. Social system, poverty, illiteracy are the reasons for this backwardness. This poses problem to the national progress also.

Activity :

Have an interview with the women members of your local panchayati about the status of women.

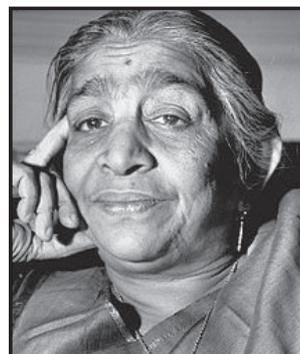
To improve women's education and development government has started Women and Children Development Department. Through this health; education and social status of women are improved. Women education, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Dowry Prohibition Act etc., are there for the empowerment of women. Government of Karnataka has implemented 'Stree Shakti' programme for the development of rural women. There is a programme of loan and subsidy for women self-employment. Mahila Mandalas, Yuvathi Mandalas, Stree Shakti Organisations, Self-help groups and Women Co-operatives help for the all round progress of women. Women Commission at national and State level have been constituted to enquire the cases of women and impart justice to them. There is an effort to have the Reservation for women from Panchayat to Parliament. In Karnataka already 33% reservation has been implemented for women in local governments. Even in jobs women reservation has been provided.



Indira Gandhi
First women
Prime Minister



Prathibha Singh Patil
First women
President



Sarojini Naidu
First Women
Governor



Suchetha Krupalani
First women
Chief Minister

In India Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister and Prathibha Singh Patil became President. A good number of women discharged

duties as Governors, Chief Ministers, Ambassadors, and occupy many such high positions to day.

6. Economic Inequality : Increasing economic inequality has been a point

of growing concern of India. It refers to the widening of the gap between the poor and the rich sections of the society. Even this inequality phenomenon is more and more significant between rural and urban sections. It has been observed that the rich and urban society is reaping more benefits of our national economic development. The poor are often disillusioned since the benefits of Governmental programmes do not properly reach the doorsteps of the poor masses. Even the high salary syndrome in the private sectors, the operation of multinational companies, the increasing segment of white collar jobs, profiteering, corruption- all have their combined effect to widen the gap between the 'haves' and 'havenots' in India.

It is the primary duty of the Government to take steps for the bridging of gaps between the rich and the poor people. Planning in India should be inclusive and give proper attention to minimize these disparities. The poor and tribals should be made partners rather than victims of development. Many a time they are displaced from their land and dwelling places for establishing industries and constructing dams etc. At that time proper care has to be taken for their suitable rehabilitation and earning opportunities.

Proper economic reforms, careful fiscal policies, healthy taxation system coupled with small scale and rural based industries would go a long way to remove this economic inequality. Growth of large industrial houses, monopolies are to be properly regulated. So that fruits of national growth can never be unequally distributed. Land reforms, labour oriented policies, social securities etc. too have positive role in minimizing this economic gap.

Activity :

Collect the information about Govt of India's employment guarantee scheme. List out the advantages.

7. Over-Population : India is the second most populous country in the world. India possesses about 2.4% of the total land area of the world. During the decade of 1991-2001, population grew from 84 million to 102.7 million. As per 2011 Census the total population of India has reached to 121 crores. The growth rate of about 19% during the past decade. Increasing birth rate, decreasing death rate, raise of long lively period, decrease of infant mortality are the factors leading towards the over population in India.

Discuss :

Population is supportive to country development and also dangarous.

Family planning and Family Welfare activities like Mother and child Health Care Progammes are effectively launched in all parts of India. Of course, families especially middle and upper socio-economic classes have mostly adopted the Family Planning. Rapid population growth has created problems such as unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, beggary, housing, health, water scarcity etc. Moreover population of India is not equally distributed among all states. Even urbanization is taking place at a greater speed in India. Effective national population policies are to be implemented to tackle these problems.

India can conveniently convert these vast human resources as potential element of national growth. Our nation is having abundant natural resources. Planning at the national level should utilize harmoniously both natural and human resources. The Central Education Department is now called as Human Resource Development Ministry. The spread of literacy, technical training, agricultural development, industrial growth, export promotion, creation of employment opportunities both at rural and urban sectors are some of the means to tackle over-population. Nowadays, we can even observe a trend of dirth of labourers for agriculture, unskilled and even skilled work. This leads to migration of workers from one place to another. Economic growth has to involve more and more human potentialities. So that the problem of over-

population will be solved within a decade in India. There are every possibilities that our human power can rightly be deemed as an asset and not as a liability with proper planning.

Activity :

Make a list of the programmes undertaken by the Govt of Karnataka to eradicate poverty.

8. Poverty : Poverty is one of the foremost problems of India. It is the most widespread socio-economic problem of our Country. Poverty exists when people are not able to get sufficient food, clothing, housing and other basic necessities of life. Both in rural and urban areas in India poverty still exists.

Since independence many programmes have been launched both by the Central and State Governments to eradicate poverty. BPL cards are issued to the poor families. Five year plans in India are directed to eradicate poverty and increase percapita income. Jawahar Rozgar yojana, Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojanas are some of the schemes undertaken to reduce poverty. Ours is a country with vast natural as well as human resources. Proper utilization of these resources on productive lines could reduce poverty in our country. Increase in production and proper distribution of wealth can be achieved by economic reforms.

Discuss :

Sometimes the price of Onion soars to Rs 80/- Per Kg and dips to Rs 20/- Per Kg Why?

9. Profiteering : Profiteering means the excess profits earning trend at the cost of general public or consumers. This refers to the gaining of huge money by easy method in business. This easy money corrupts society. It creates economic inequality and enhances poverty. It even encourages crimes in society. In economic front profiteering is the result of unethical practices of trade.

Continuous rise in prices results in inflation. This significantly erodes large chunk of the income of the masses. Unchecked price-rise is the main cause of undue profiteering. Increase in profit margin of producers and especially of distributors have paved the

path for profiteering . This trend has to be properly regulated by the State authority. This necessitates stabilization of price level. Monopoly of business houses, spread of multi national companies, unhealthy market practices, hoarding, black marketing, lack of proper price monitoring by commercial authorities are some of the factors which lead to profiteering.

Proper governmental regulations, control of price index, expansion of cooperative marketing sector, proper taxation policy are some of the remedial measures to check the proffering.

10. Smuggling : Smuggling harms the national economic interests. Domestic industries and market suffer by the unsound practice of smuggling. It adversely affects the national economy and market conditions. Smuggling can be checked effectively by encouraging import substitutions. Suitable modulations of domestic market prices, proper export-import policy (Exim) strict coastal vigilance service, punitive measures, and inter-state trade agreements are the main remedies to check smuggling. Proper awareness among the citizens has to be created that smuggling is an anti-national and economically a crime. Social boycott of smuggled goods have an effect on checking smuggling.

Indian citizens should not sit back thinking that the responsibility of eradicating the above-mentioned ills lies solely with the Government. Trying to tackle the problems at the individual level will lead to good results.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

- 1 Developing deep attachment with the place of living is called _____ .
- 2 Linguistic states have been created in _____ in India.
- 3 In Karnataka, there is _____ to curb corruption.

- 4 Population of India has crossed _____ crores as per 2011 census.
- 5 Getting more profits from consumers is called as _____.

II. Discuss in groups and answer.

- 1 Communalism is harmful to national progress. How ?
- 2 Regionalism is against national development - Discuss.
- 3 What are the measures to spread literacy ?
- 4 What are the suggestions to improve the position of women?
- 5 Population is deemed as human resources - Explain.
- 6 What are the plans to eradicate poverty? Explain.
- 7 What is meant by smuggling? What are your suggestions to control it?
- 8 "Profiteering brings loss both for producer and consumer" Explain this.

III. Activity:

- 1 Visit and understand why prices for the commodities are fluctuating in the nearby shops?
- 2 Conduct a debate about regionalism against national integrity.

