

Hunger Deaths are the Stark Reality of the Modern India

Our India is supposed to be a modern country which attained its 'independence' from the British colonial rule of exploitation and plunder 71 years back.

Our rulers boast that ours is a world's fastest growing economy, and proudly proclaim that we got landmark achievements by showing GDP figures that say that our country is ahead of France etc. Our rulers travel citing the distinction awarded to them by the World Bank-an imperialist financial organization-for creating a best atmosphere to do easy business for the corporate world.

For all these 71 years our rulers from Nehru to the present day Modi have been talking about alleviation of poverty of the people and launching many a schemes. We have witnessed the programmes like '*Garibi hatao*', '*Aam Admi*' and schemes like M.N.R.E.G.A. supposed to be intended to help the poor in alleviating their poverty and hunger. We have also witnessed the 'great technological-digital' advanced Aadhar drive which is supposed to be instrumental in fetching all the social-welfare entitlements to the door of the poor. We are also aware that a so-called 'food security act' was enacted with much fan-fare and propaganda. We are also aware of the fact that the production of food in India has reached to 27.5 crore tones, surpassing the actual need of food to the people of India 23 crore tonnes as has been estimated by the World Economic Forum.

But all these claims and so-called achievements prove to be of no help, when it comes to the experience of the common people particularly to the population below the poverty line. Claims that crores of people were lifted out of poverty according to 'undisputed' official figures are in no way a solace to the poor people who suffer with hunger and malnutrition and under-nourishment.

Neither the GDP numbers tell the story of the plight of the poor nor the distinction in ease of doing business reveals whether the lives of the people are ever improved or not.

The world hunger index released last year shows at the 100th place of the list of 119 countries listed in the world. Our position is far worse than Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal our neighbouring under developed countries.

According to the U.N. Human Development Index, India slipped by one rank to 131 among 188 countries.

But our rulers incessantly make efforts, to make believe the people that our country is developing and progressing and reaching to the level of a 'super power'. With such false propaganda they are playing the electoral game of entering in to and keeping up of the governmental power without caring about the well-being of the people of this country.

'However the recent horren-dous hunger-deaths of 3 children in the very Indian capital Delhi and some other reported hunger death in Jharkand state near Rayaghad shatters the myth of well-being propagated by the rulers, shaming us and our country. In fact such incidents are neither rare nor uncommon in India. Social activists claim that hunger deaths are a common every-day feature in India, which fact cannot be ignored. Such hunger-deaths galore in rural India which are not reported attracting the media.

The above mentioned hunger deaths reveal the sardonic fact that even after possessing the glorified "all encompassing "Aadhar Cards", the victims of hunger were made ineligible for a ration card and its benefits!

Not surprisingly as usual the administration argues that they are not hunger-deaths but deaths of illness even against the clear proof of autopsies conducted twice on the children that revealed that they had neither food nor water in their bodies.

On the other hand between the centre and state governments a typical blame game is being enacted, diverting the attention from the stark reality of hunger deaths- a perpetuity in India.

We all should be ashamed about this sorry and tragic state of our country and for allowing it to continue unchecked.

In fact the horrendous story of hunger-deaths is not limited and belongs to those particular families. On the contrary it is the story of all the families of "India's vast unorganized sector that faced a series of economic shocks with no systematic support" as has been rightly opined by Ms Geetanjali Krishna, who accompanied the fact-finding commission on the hunger deaths of the children instituted by the Right to Food campaign and Centre for Equity Studies, Delhi.

The neo-liberal economic policies implemented in our country at the behest of imperialism, had pushed the agricultural sector of our country in to a deep all round crisis resulting in untold rural distress forcing the rural poor to migrate in to cities and urban areas even at far distant places from their native states to eke out a living. These distressed rural poor are working in the unorganized sector without any entitlements for social security and are being made ineligible to such meager entitle-ments on flimsy legalistic technicalities costing their lives, leading to hunger deaths or deaths in industrial accidents as orphans having no one to come to their rescue including the so-called democratically elected govern-ments which are supposed for their rule.

Such has been the stark reality of hunger-deaths in our country. These hunger-deaths shame our society that is incapable of protecting its members from the death-knell of hunger!
