

‘Kurukshetra’ of Castes in Konaseema, AP

Let us Follow the Class Struggle’s Legacy shown by

Ambedkar’s name has been used again and again in the political gambling played by the ruling and opposition parties, to turn the caste differences between the people into antagonistic divisions and thereby mobilize them as vote banks. They called it “Social Engineering”.

Konaseema district was formed on April 3, 2022 as part of the formation of new districts in Andhra Pradesh. Since then Janasena and TDP have been demanding that the government should declare Konaseema District as Ambedkar Konaseema Dist. So the government of AP gave notification on 19-5-2022 to change the name Konaseema as Ambedkar Konaseema District. There was arson, burning of the houses of Dalit Minister and MLA and torching of buses happened on 24-5-2022.

The local BJP and the RSS are clearly opposed to the government proposal to add the name of Ambedkar to Konaseema district. The BJP, which has long held a position of landlords and rich peasants in Konaseema, now seeks to expand its position by instigating casteism.

Just as the Congress party, which has made nominal reforms to minorities, while surrendering to Hindutva religious fundamentalists, has finally handed over the country to the Hindutva forces. So, the state government and the opposition parties of AP are also going to take the same path as the Congress party.

Konaseema is a rich fertile delta between the Godavari river on three sides and the sea on one side, as an isolated area with outside world, people of toiling masses are being oppressed by landlords by means of feudal exploitation and caste oppression.

In the many class struggles that took place under the leadership of the communist party in 1940-50s, they unified the oppressed classes of oppressed castes into a united struggle. That movement eliminated caste barriers between the Dalit castes, and between the Dalits and the backward castes. One can understand how much that movement has hurt the economic and caste oppression of the landlords since the government imposed severe repression with thousands of policemen. Not only that, although the then Scheduled Caste Federation was born as an alternative concept to the agricultural labour movement, the Communist party anyhow with critical view also stood firm along with scheduled caste federation’s anti caste oppression programmes.

Comrades Kandikatla Naga bhushanam, Penmatsa Anantham, Chintam Satyanarayana Das, Prerepi Mruthum Jayudu, Nanduri Subbarao, Gubbala Venkata Reddy were some of the martyrs of that movement belonging to different castes. The movement

was continued along with the anti landlord struggle by martyrs Kaneti Mohana Rao, Bhupati Narayana Murthy, Saka Venkata Rao and other familiar leaders.

However the movement got setback due to left and right deviations. With this the people had lost the political weapons of class struggle and class consciousness. Gradually the ruling classes took advantage and gained control upon people by means of reforms and maneuverings.

Later the leaders of the caste organizations like Scheduled Caste Federation, who came into existence from oppressed castes, also went into the clutches of ruling class. The Republican Party disappeared due to the deviation from class and democratic consciousness and party political, organisational concept.

The reactionary forces that were defeated especially BJP and Sangh Parivar are now gaining strength. Now all forms of exploitation is rampant in Konaseema. The reactionary forces are trying to curb the rights, democratic and cultural values obtained by the people through the struggles. Some ruling parties who are chanting secularism, united struggles are in real sense marking the pavement for right reactionary forces.

Naming Ambedkar to Konaseema District will not change the plights of Dalits and BCs. Only class struggle and class, democratic consciousness, alone is protecting the oppressed people. Organising into class struggles can finally defeat the RSS and other reactionary forces. Bringing back the class orientation, democratic and secular agitations are need of this hour. This is the warning bell from Amalapuram incidents.