

The Governments are Bequeathing the Community and Personal Lands of the People to the Exploiting classes in the Name of Development

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In the perception of capitalist model of development, land will not be viewed as fixed and invaluable productive resource for the existence of human kind but has been seen as a marketable commodity which yields more and more profits at the global as well as at the national level. Therefore, the rulers in power always behave like realtors in the case of land. The Telangana Sarkar which became so powerful and strong after the emergence of geographical Telangana State, has started selling of public/ government lands with an accelerated speed as if it is a hardened real estate broker. The highest yield of Rs. 100 cr. per acre in recent Kokapet lands auction is a stunning news in the nation. Telangana government is appreciating itself by stating that this highest price is the indicator of Telangana development and Hyderabad became Global City (Viswa Nagaram). Further, it is insulting and humiliating neighbouring States on the basis of their land prices. The sale of lands by identifying government lands by forcible encroachment of people's lands to corporate giants is termed by the rulers as development is really a cruel contradiction.

The sustained continuation of this trend in the long term destroys the lives of Telangana people who are already living in critical conditions with no livelihood for the youth and no guarantee to get jobs in future. With despire, youth are forced to commit suicides. The recent suicide of Pravalika is a glaring example. On the other hand, farmers' suicides became a daily activity and public education, public health and public transportation, the basic needs of people are declining. All these sectors are in the exclusive control of monopoly capital. Consequently, they are denied to the common people. This is the real scenario of Telangana. The status of almost all the States as well as our Nation has been no way different from this. By stating it as development, the Telangana government is cheating the people.

Why did the Telangana government intensified the sale of lands? Elections are coming. To get into power again, some how, they should create illusions and bubbles to deceive the people. This requires more allocations to welfare schemes. This appears to be normal because the present model of economic development excludes majority from the fruits of development. They are forced to depend on welfare programmes for their survival. Without any sustainable development programmes to generate decent employment opportunities to youth, the Telangana government immersed in excessive debts. The sale of lands for welfare programmes itself is a shameful activity. What will be the future of Telangana and its people without lands?

The land sales are aggressively accentuated by identifying unused lands in various departments and by forceful encroachment of farmers' lands through extra - legal tactics, abolishing various laws that hinder this process.

The land is the basis for the very existence of human kind. Its value is immeasurable. It is seriously unscientific to measure its value by comparing with the present limited productivity. The lives of all the people collectively associated with the common land. The modern investment fails to understand this aspect and simply views it as an individual property. The land is limited in supply. It is collective property of people and therefore, it should be used by all. They should apply their labour power on land freely and independently because, it is the problem of people as a whole. "Land to the Tiller" is a scientific slogan. Contrastingly, the slogan "More crop with less land" forwarded by green revolution aims to transfer entire land to monopoly capital.

The people put a lot of hard work for generations to make the land usable by removing stones etc. Now, the aim of exploitative forces is to appropriate crores of acres of lands which possess excessive productivity to convert it for their investment. By stating, more lands is unnecessary for agriculture, the green revolution could transfer the lands to industrial forces successfully. The people who humiliate the slogan of "Land to the Tiller", favours exploitative forces.

In fact, the government lands and common properties must be used for the collective and long run benefits of all the people. It is not the property of government which is elected for 5 years. It is people's property. The government should not have any right to sell people's property for revenue. This must be protested seriously. Any programme connected to the people surely needs government/ public lands. What will happen in future, if entire lands are transferred to monopoly capital on the name of sales by driving out majority from lands?

Telangana as a Model for Land Loot

In the regimes of Chandrababu Naidu, who intends to derive more benefits from globalisation with Vision 2020, and with Y.S Rajasekhar Reddy, the sale of government lands reached its peak. They handed over lands cheaply to neo - rich class. Everyone knows about the encroachment of highly valuable lands near Hitech City by Chandrababu Naidu and his coterie. In the YSR regime thousands of acres of land appropriated forcefully from helpless farmers and handed over to corporate forces on the name of industries. He used the HMDA, APIIC and AP Housing Board for this process. He has established, a government Corporation "Deccan Infrastructure Ltd -DIL" to look after this activity. It could appropriate 7,000 acres of land around Hyderabad by 2012. The succeeding Congress rulers continued to loot strongly.

The then, TRS leaders KTR and Harish Rao seriously protested the auctions of land around Hyderabad by YSR government during 2004-09 which was the peak period of Separate Telangana Movement. They criticised that the government itself became real estate broker.

They condemned CM, Kiran Kumar Reddy in 2012. In Congress regime, the sale of Telangana lands reached to the tune of 88,000 acres. Therefore, "Stop Sale of Telangana Lands" became a powerful slogan in 2012. The TRS party opposed the proposal of HMDA to get Rs. 355 cr. revenue through the sale of government lands and plots in 2012-13 budget.

What happened in Separate Telangana State since 2014?

It is surprising to notice that immediately after the formation of Telangana State, in November 2015, they released auction declaration of sale of 25 parcels of land belongs to Rayadurgam, Manikonda and Kokapet. The Aurabindo Pharma Limited purchased 5 acres of land at Rs. 29.8 cr. per acre. Many companies have no real estate background. This process indicates the appropriation of land by powerful corporate forces. Within one year of Formation of Telangana, they have identified government lands to be auctioned. The TRS, which strongly protested earlier government in regard to land sales, auctioned government lands widely and perfectly when it came into power. All the mainstream political parties will loot the Nation's and State's properties when they are in power, hand over them to monopoly capital and make the lives of people miserable.

The Telangana rulers wanted to appropriate the lands of Osmania University in 2015 which has 100 years of history. The CM questioned that why does Osmania University need thousands of acres. This is seriously protested by the students and opposition parties.

For the purpose of Pharma City in Hyderabad 19,000 acres of fertile agriculture land is appropriated in 2013. This trend has been widely continued by the Separate Telangana rulers. As many as 800 farmers protested and decided not to give their lands and filed a case in High Court. Recently, High court stopped it and gave judgement that the compensation should be equivalent to present market price. No one thinks about the fate of farmers after being seperated from land.

It became normal to register land on other's names instead of its owners who are cultivating the land for the past 5 decades, since the establishment of Dharani Portal, in 2020 and those lands are being transferred to TSIIIC. This is a form of land encroachment by the government. The farmers' who lost lands are moving around offices for justice.

At the time of dividing Telangana into 33 districts, it is stated that the government has plans to sell 33,000 acres, 1000 acres from each district. The auction process halted in 2020 due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Again, it has started with an accelerated speed in 2021. In 2021, they recognised the unused government and assigned lands given to landless farmers almost 3 decades ago for their livelihood. For this, the "Land Allotment Policy" has been amended. Contrarily, the government says that the sale is only to protect the land from encroachment.

In Telangana, the land mobilisation on the name of "Land Bank" started in 2015. They identified 1.5 lakh acres of land by 2021 and transferred to TSIIIC.

The people responsible for Waqf board lamenting that the government encroached 50,000 acres of Waqf land and transferred it to industries. The Congress leaders say that the lands of Warangal Central Jail is mortgaged. The merger of RTC in government is only to appropriate its thousands of acres of lands. In fact, the RTC is developed and expanded with the labour of its workers and money of people. The merger of aided educational institutions is also part of this programme.

The revenue department identified 2080 acres of land with DIL. Out of which 382 acres of land parcels belong to Khanamet, Budvel handed over to TSICC in 2020 to sell it.

In 1996, the GO 111 has been introduced to stop constructions which pollute catchment areas of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar. With this, it is impossible to make constructions in 2 lakh acres of land of 84 villages. The Telangana Cabinet abolished this GO in May 2023. Now, they can sell 1.34 lakh acres of land in South Hyderabad. Experts warned the government that this will adversely affect Fauna and Flora and raises temperature. Still, the government is bent on selling the lands.

They amended Telangana Lands (Prohibition of Transfer) Act in 2018 to encroach assigned land and sell. On September 7, 2023 High Court sent notices to the government. AP government is faster than Telangana government in this regard.

As a result of long and protracted agrarian movements the landless farmers are given small sized lands in the name of assigned lands 5 decades ago. The ownership is not transferable. Still, the powerful local political leaders could pressurise these farmers and appropriated the land at throw away prices. In some cases, on the name of long term lease. The transferred assigned lands are to the tune of 2 lakh acres in Telangana. Out of which, 74,000 acres belong to old Rangareddy district. By January 2023, the HMDA could take these assigned lands as a part of "Land Pooling". The land is developed and the farmer is being given 600 sq yards. The remaining land is auctioned as plots. The district collectors are ordered to prepare relevant guidelines in this regard.

3000 acres of assigned lands are identified in Kurmalguda, Thorrur and Chandanagar etc. The Revenue Department is pressurising farmers to purchase their own assigned lands for market price. Otherwise, the farmers are forced to accept the compensation fixed by the government. In this way, 1,450 acres of assigned lands auctioned for Rs. 350 cr. in Rangareddy and Medchal.

The Real Estate business of government increased aggressively since 2021. The initial target is to get Rs. 20,000 cr. and started identifying the unused lands of various departments. The "Allotment Policies" are amended to encroach land from poor and oppressed as well as to allocate thousands of acres to powerful political leaders in the name of service to the people.

We find the construction of expensive fortified building for CM, allocation of 6 acres in Gopanapally to Brahmins for their resource centre and hostel, transfer of 10 acres at the

price of just one rupee per acre in Budwel to Reddy Hostel and old age home. Similarly, the lands are transferred to Chinna Jeeyar Swamy. All these are few examples only.

The Rajiv Swagruha Scheme is introduced during Congress regime for the middle class. 2,246 incompleated flats are sold in 2016 and ultimate target is to earn revenue to the tune of Rs 1000 cr.

The collusion of government with Real Estate Agents and companies resulted in the spread of rumours that IT hub will come in Budwel, Pocharam, Maheshwaram, Kompally, Kollur etc to create hype so as to raise the land prices excessively which resulted in "Realty Bubble". Consequently, even the middle class cannot purchase flats. No land is available for poor and oppressed. Similar trend can be seen even in our neighbouring state.

What is happening at the National Level?

It is known to all about the formulation of policies and their effective implementation by the Central government for the past 9 years to transfer entire property of the nation to monopoly capital. This took the form of privatisation of PSUs, the transfer of Ports, Airports, Railway systems, Mineral resources and even Space to monopoly capital in the name of sale or lease. In this process, the Asset - Monetisation programme declared in 2021 to construct infrastructure by imposing taxes on people and by taking loans so as to handover them to monopoly capital for 30 years lease. They also concluded that the sale of Central government's lands is appropriate in this regard. As per the Government Land information system, the Central government owns 15,531 sq km land in 72 parcels and out of which, one third is lying idle. They have decided to sell this land. Further, the trials are started to identify common lands in rural India through drones. The Andhra Pradesh is advanced even in this regard.

The government elected for 5 years owns entire land resource of the nation. They sell it as per their will and pleasure. In future we cannot find any government land. On the name of development projects, rural people, farmers, adivasis are sent out from their lands. No lands and no houses in the hands of oppressed. The farmers own no lands for cultivation. This will increase the crisis of cultivation by small and marginal farmers. Tenancy will remain as the only option. If the land is treated as a commercial commodity which yields more and more profits for investment by the government and corporate forces, it will create excessive shortage of food grains. The unsold apartments will be there but not accessible even to the middle class because of their high prices. All this results in the centralisation of lands under the ownership of monopoly capital. The governments will become bankrupt. Majority of people will stand on the roads with their labour.

The so called modern capitalist industrial revolutions are moved around lands only. They broke the hands of labour. The crores of people who are thrown out from their lands became the reserve army of unemployed ready to sell their labour power at any lower price. Simultaneously, the exploitative capital system could create the leisure class to purchase the unnecessary commodities at the prices fixed by the commercial giants. This

is the long term goal of imperialist class. Their goal is to produce the goods that are needed for the luxury of leisure and lazy classes. For this, the exploitative imperialist system will be ready to destroy entire lives of people. The imperialists are selecting the appropriate comprador bourgeoisie governments who works for the faithfully and obediently.

All this throws majority into the dialectic materialist reality where "if you fight, you would not lose anything but your fetters of slavery". The youth should consolidate and unite strongly with this awareness and fight under the leadership and direction of revolutionary forces to build the society which is free from all kinds of exploitation, oppression and violence.