

INDIA IS BROKEN

“A PEOPLE BETRAYED, INDEPENDENCE TO TODAY” Written by Ashoka Mody)

-Komarayya

For the last few months prime minister Modi has been grandly claiming on various international forum platforms like G-20 that 'India is the mother of democracy' and that in India the elections are being conducted regularly, as if conducting elections regularly itself is democracy.

On the other hand, Modi is boasting that by 2047 India would be developed in to a \$30 trillion economy making India third biggest country of economy without spelling to whose benefit such a biggest economy would be developed.

Now once again the general election will be taking place in our country to 'elect' the leadership for the government. For attaining governmental power once again, Modi and his party BJP are turning every stone making vague, false and empty promises to the voters. Moreover, they are making false claims as if they are the saviours of Indian economy, which was on the verge of collapse. The finance minister, Mrs. Nirmala Seetharaman, talking about the 'white paper' presented recently in the parliament stated that "... Entire India's youth should know what effort it took for a Prime Minister with a vision to restore India to its glory"; without specifying about which glory of India has been restored by the BJP?

Whatever might be the claims of BJP and PM Modi, now after 75 years of independence claimed to have been attained, definitely the entire youth, particularly the educated middle-class youth have to know and learn about, what happened in all these years in our country and the part-played by successive governments and rulers of the ruling parties and the economic policies pursued by them, that have broken India, people betrayed, independence reduced in to 'electoral autocracy'.

Ashoka Mody provides us a chance to read the modern Indian history for the past 75 years of independent India, by analysing its economy through the book 'India is Broken'. He analysed Indian economy with an approach of the discipline learned by him as an international servant worked for 25 years in IMF and put before us the book 'INDIA IS BROKEN'.

In this connection we cannot but remember that the veteran Marxist-Leninist communist revolutionary leader Com. Tarimela Nagi Reddy had already analysed the Indian economy after 25 years of Indian economy in detail and explained its trajectory and its path in which direction they were leading foretelling the impending consequences with a scientific approach through his famous court statement 'INDIA MORTGAGED'.

But no one has heeded the warnings of Com T.N. that Indian economy is dis-integrating and made no effort to save the situation. Today the Indian economy is entirely-disintegrated, and the efforts including of PM Modi as claimed by Mrs. Nirmala Seetharaman had not restored the glory of India leave alone the resurrection of the great glory of the Indian people and the Indian nation. It is the bitter truth and reality of today.

Ashoka Mody who had given up his Indian citizenship to become a US citizen, who was an international servant, with the learning of discipline of neo-liberal approach towards the analysis of the economic history of India, with an 'Indian heart', after 50 years of Com. T.N's India Mortgaged, too had come to the same conclusions and assertions made by Com. T.N. after a detailed research of India's economy and also key political events of the era from independence till today; in his "INDIA IS BROKEN".

Ashoka Mody has vividly narrated the history and economic policies adopted by the rulers are their consequences in a detailed form touching almost all the key events occurred in India barring a few, probably due to oversight. He does not regard the regular elections the peaceful transfer of power as sufficient indicators of health of democracy. His analysis of economy and history is not based on the concept that the leaders ruling the Indian government are the representatives of bourgeoisie and landlord ruling classes. The central thread of the book is that the Indian leaders and policy makers had one task above all: to create jobs to vast number of people. He believes and emphasizes that the public goods essential for good jobs and human welfare are: education, health, a fair judicial system and a clean environment. He is of the strong opinion that the public goods make an economy more productive and create the basis for the growth that benefits all. He is also of the opinion that representative democracies do not function, since the wealthy and privileged use their money and power to influence election outcomes in a manner that advances their narrow goal, that neglect and undermine the interests of the majority, and that charismatic politicians bypass normal accountability checks allowing them to use natural resources for their favoured purposes. With such an out-look Ashoka Mody, wrote the voluminous book "INDIA IS BROKEN" enumerated, his conclusions for such a state of affairs.

The essence is presented here briefly:

To record post-independence history in Nehru to Modi era, at the start of this seventy-five years journey, India faced three challenges: breathe new life in to the agricultural sector, provide good urban jobs and compete in the international market.

India began as an unequal society. Inequality rose and the Gulf between India's rich and poor increased horrifically. Indian poverty when defined by more humane standard of contemporary living, 60 percent of Indians are poor, when defined only by the most frugal standards, Indian poverty, fell for about two and a half decades starting in the late 1980s. The economic aspirations of millions of Indian citizens and the country's democracy no longer protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of Indians. A blanket violence is falling over the nation. The norms of equality, tolerance and shared progress have disappeared.

India started with hope. But can India deliver hope? Or is it too late to repair country's broken economy and democracy?

Such is indictment pronounced by ASHOKA MODY after analysing the 75 years of Indian economy and its consequences. He is of the firm opinion that though many commentators seeking to bypass the difficult long-term policy changes, place their hope on modern technology to help to a brighter future, he insists technology is not a substitute for fiscal resources and social action and that more nefariously, when norms are broken, technology itself can be mis-used or subverted for illegal purposes.

In making this analysis in a large and detailed form, he had not mentioned about the key events. 1) Janata party during its rule had attempted to amend and change industrial disputes act to the benefit of industrialists. One met with serious resistance of workers. 2) Formation of landlord militia like Ranabir Sena in Bihar 3) Modi's government codifying 44 labour laws into 4 labour codes negating the constitutional rights won by workers of India through bitter struggles from the time of British colonial rule itself. Probably this could have occurred due to over-sight.

On the whole it is particularly noteworthy of this analysis, that is agreed and confirmed the assertions made by Com. T.N, in 'India Mortgaged' in his own way that India was becoming more and more dependent on foreign capital and foreign debts. That India was exploited by the U.S. AID and the aid of other western countries. That India was forced and pressurised to adopt economic policies and plan budgets as directed by World Bank, IMF and international investors and imperialist USA government and its rulers. That the PL-480 of USA and the 'green revolution' aid to India was not to benefit India's agricultural interests but of USA's and other foreign investors benefits. That India was humiliated by USA's President Jhonson to approve said aid to India to suit his country's interests. That people of India and their aspirations and hope of progress were betrayed by the rulers of India.

Ashoka Mehata though had not defined in specific terms he described how India from the state of dependency on foreign capital had, after these 75 years of independence stepped in to bondage of international (imperialist) investors of foreign direct investments and ruined the prospects of progress of people of all sections barring a few big-capitalist-businessmen; to a point of no returns.

Com T.N. showed how our rulers and ruling classes have sold the country's resources lock-stock and barrel for tens of years to come to foreign financial interests and proclaimed that:

Any citizen with a grain of patriotism in him should by nature revolt against such a degrading state of affairs to resurrect the great glory of the Indian people and the Indian nations.

Ashoka Mody represented a fair picture of present-day Indian situation before the readers, through his analysis.

This book will definitely help the youth of this country to properly understand the country's economic history and its consequences on the Indian society as a whole, to make correct assessment and to act on proper lines with a zeal and sincere patriotic way. Particularly at this juncture of general election in 2024, reading this book, will inculcate a proper vision and understanding.