



PRAYAAS

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Editorial

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Dear Colleagues,

As, you hold this June issue of PRAYAAS, the state would be hoping for a good Monsoon this year, which is so important for the farmers. We have had less than normal rainfall during the last two years in succession.

As in the previous issues, the current issue contains valuable contributions from some of our retired seniors. Besides, there is a well-researched and documented paper on Sardar Sarovar Project, which brings to light the complex issues of development with minimum displacement and damage to environment.

We are trying to make the issues of PRAYAAS more comprehensively meaningful and stimulating.

(Arvind Kumar Chaudhary)

Maner Sharif

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All views and opinions expressed in the contributions are of their authors.





सच हुआ सपना, घर बना अपना
सहज करें अब आपके सपनों को सच कर दें

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EXPAND AND RE-ORIENT NREGA*

- P. S. Appu

The recession is a promising moment to expand NREGA with greater emphasis on building social capital in a big way.

Soon after assuming office, the first UPA government took an impressive step for the alleviation of rural poverty by launching the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It was, indeed, a wise move to insulate the programme from the vicissitudes of electoral politics by enacting the National Rural

E m p l o y m e n t
G u a r a n t e e
A c t
(NREGA). The implementation of the programme has been uneven. A large number of articles have appeared in the press pointing out the defects in implementation. On September 19, *The Hindu* published an

article by Professor Jean Drèze, "E m p l o y m e n t

guarantee or slave labour?" It reveals a sorry state of affairs. Every effort should be made to remove the shortcomings and ensure better implementation. Despite all its failings, the NREGA has proved to be a boon to the rural poor. It is now necessary to expand and re-orient the NREGA. That is the theme of this article.

The NREGA evolved into its present shape by building on past experience in designing and executing schemes for providing employment.

The new programme is an improvement on its predecessors. There is greater flexibility and the implementing agencies have freedom to start new works according to necessity. Though the main emphasis is on providing employment, the law also aims at the creation of durable productive assets. The present recession is a promising moment to expand the programme with greater emphasis on the second objective of building social capital in a big way.



Rural Development : Workers laying road in Thirukannurpatii Village in Thanjavur District under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Photo : M. Srinath

Great scope for building social capital on a massive scale.

More than half a century ago, Ragnar Nurkse, the distinguished Cambridge economist, had pointed out that capital starved over-populated countries could build social capital in a big way by

employing the surplus labour on a variety of projects. He had listed schemes concerning irrigation, drainage, roads, railways, housing, etc. In his view, the only danger was the onset of inflation caused by the increased demand for food and other wage goods. Though the Indian planners were aware of Nurkse's prescription, they could not have implemented the idea in the pre-Green Revolution era of precarious food supply. Now we have ample stocks of food grains. And our industry will welcome the

*Earlier published in *The Hindu*, October 14, 2009

enhanced demand for consumer goods. We can, therefore, employ the surplus labour for building social capital in a big way without incurring any risk.

National Rural Development Board. There is considerable scope for absorbing vast quantities of human labour in well planned projects of soil and water conservation, rain water harvesting, irrigation and drainage works, flood control, watershed development, de-silting and maintenance of numerous water bodies, both manmade and natural, and an ambitious programme of afforestation aimed at restoring green cover throughout the country. In that enormous programme, governments' efforts should be supplemented by suitable NGOs, co-operative societies, joint stock companies and so on. The present ad hoc approach aimed at providing immediate employment should yield place to a systematic, well planned, well co-ordinated effort.

Such an ambitious programme would necessitate the setting up of a National Rural Development Board clothed with adequate statutory powers. It should be a lean organisation responsible for policy and overall guidance. Under the Board there should be a well staffed regional office for each major river basin to handle planning, formulation of projects, co-ordination between major watersheds, technical guidance and supervision, maintenance of the assets created and so on. The valley of a big river will naturally include a number of major watersheds. Every major watershed should have a small office for coordinating and supervising the work within that watershed. The Panchayati Raj set up should handle the work within the district. The expanded programme will generate employment on a large scale, both for skilled and unskilled hands. The afforestation project will absorb a large number of rural workers, many on

a permanent basis.

Two basic suggestions for better implementation: The fatal weakness of NREGA is poor implementation. The main reasons for shoddy execution are the decline and degeneration of the administration at all levels, particularly at the block level, and the lukewarm, half-hearted approach to democratic decentralisation. As I am out of touch with field conditions, I am unable to present a comprehensive proposal for setting things right. However, as a Collector in North Bihar five decades ago I had closely observed the robust functioning of the block administration. In 1981-82, I had occasion to see the sorry state of the block set up in several States that I visited as Director of the National Academy. As far as the Panchayati Raj is concerned, I had the privilege of serving on the review committees set up by two States, Karnataka and Kerala. Relying on these slight exposures I have mustered the courage to make the following radical suggestions:-

Induct Block Development Officers of a higher calibre. The responsibility of the BDO is so onerous that it should be held by an officer of a much higher calibre. I suggest that after the completion of their training, all IAS officers should serve as BDOs for at least three years. The implementation of this suggestion will provide only about 300 officers. The country would need some 6000 bright young men and women to work as BDOs.

I put forward three suggestions for getting the required number of officers. The annual recruitment to the All India and Central Services may be stepped up by 50 per cent. After six months' training, the new recruits should serve as BDOs for two years. Thereafter the required number may be allotted to the different services on the basis of their performance, aptitude and choice. The rest may continue as BDOs. A two-

year stint as BDO will prove to be an invaluable experience even for those joining the foreign service.

The second suggestion is that short term contracts may be offered to the products of IITs, Regional Engineering Colleges, national law schools and so on. They could be posted as BDOs after being trained for six months. At the end of the contract some may be absorbed in government service and the others may move on to jobs of their choice elsewhere. Companies in the public and private sectors may be persuaded to offer them suitable employment giving credit for their service in the Block.

A third possibility is to depute young officers from the State services and public sector banks to work as BDOs for fixed periods after a short orientation course. The matter, of course, calls for a more thorough consideration.

The District Officer to be the Chief Executive of the District Panchayat. Thorough going democratic decentralisation is the only way in which this sprawling country of great diversity can be governed efficiently. The Seventy Third Amendment to the Constitution providing for the creation of panchayats at the district, intermediate and village levels was a giant step forward. The State governments have, however, been reluctant to empower the panchayats. Their approach has been half-hearted and lukewarm. Even so, in the larger public interest, the States should be persuaded to delegate adequate powers to the panchayats.

After considerable introspection, I have come to the conclusion that the District Officer, variously designated as Collector, Collector and District Magistrate, or Deputy Commissioner, should be the Chief Executive of the district panchayat. This single step will go a long way in strengthening the Panchayati Raj. The District Officer should, of

course, have under him at least four senior officers to handle work relating to law and order, land revenue, development and Panchayati Raj. Initially there will be many hitches and irritants. A sub-clause should be added in Article 243-C of the Constitution spelling out the powers of the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

Such a clear demarcation of powers and responsibilities will hopefully reduce friction and promote mutual respect, understanding and cooperation between the two functionaries. Furthermore, hand-picked officers of 10-12 years of service should be appointed District Officers and the Chairmen should be seasoned public persons. I hope that in due course, the relationship between the Chairperson and the Chief Executive will settle down to resemble that between the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary. In the initial stages, however, the relationship could be like that between the non-executive chairman and the managing director of a large company. I know that this proposal is highly controversial. It will be opposed both by politicians and bureaucrats. However, in my considered view, this radical step will facilitate the better implementation of the re-oriented NREGA.

The massive effort in building social capital outlined in this essay could trigger higher productivity of land and labour, diversification of agriculture and faster industrial growth. It would also mitigate the suffering inflicted by chronic drought and flash floods.

What I have presented is not an action plan or a project report for reorienting NREGA. It is only the rough outline of a fond vision I have been nursing for a long time. I shall be happy if this article provokes purposeful discussion.

(P.S. Appu is a former Chief Secretary of Bihar and former Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. He can be reached at: psappu@hotmail.com)

DAM, DEVELOPMENT AND DISPLACEMENT - A CASE STUDY OF NARMADA DAMS

- Vyas Mishra

It was during March/April, 2006 that the issue relating to resettlement and rehabilitation of the families affected by the raising of the height of Sardar Sarovar dam was getting splashed all around in print and electronic media of this country. Almost daily, the issue was hitting the headlines then. In fact, it was the period during which the National Capital, Delhi, was rocked by the sit-in and indefinite hunger strike by Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activists, its supporters and sympathisers. One morning when I was passing through Jantar Mantar in Delhi, I could see scores of known and unknown faces of social activists, academicians, students, trade unionists, sections of intelligentsia and even politicians squatting on the pavement close to the activists fasting beneath a small tree. The curiosity brought me there, and I could see Ms Medha Patkar, the leader of NBA, along with host of tribal men and women sitting on the fast. The banners and posters highlighting the issue were splattered all around the place; the people inhabiting the submergence zone of the dam were crying for due and just entitlements, and the fast was the resonance of that cry raging in the Narmada valley.

Some more interesting events unfolded after few days in Delhi. Ms Medha Patkar was arrested in dead of night along with her comrades and companions. However, the fast did not come to an end after the arrests, and even continued with more vigour and enthusiasm with academicians and students taking on the baton there from. The

Supreme Court intervened, the Prime Minister intervened and high powered Group of Ministers and an officially constituted Oversight Group was deputed to visit Narmada valley to get a first hand information of the status of resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected persons. However, a more interesting event was unfolding in distant Ahmedabad, the capital of the Indian State of Gujarat; the Chief Minister of Gujarat, along with large number of citizens including some saffron-clad swamis, decided to sit on fast and dharna protesting against the hunger strike being undertaken at Jantar Mantar by NBA and their supporters. The media made us to believe that the events at Ahmedabad were pre-emptive in nature; the beneficiary State of Gujarat was to be adversely affected in the event of raising of the dam height getting stopped because of the pressure mounted by the NBA activists and others in Delhi, and so the Chief Minister of the State played a master stroke by persuading himself to lead the fast and dharna (sit-in). However, the raising of the dam height was not stopped and the Chief Minister was persuaded to end his fast the next day.

I was astounded. There was a dam, a symbol of development, and there were people, mostly tribal and marginalised, facing spectre of displacement if dam height was raised; their houses and fields and everything they had was going to be submerged. A thought process brewed in my mind; how can a development process be adversary to the tribal and

marginalized people? What does development mean to poor and marginalized? Whom does the development benefit? Why do poor and marginalized suffer due to displacement when development happens?

Post –independent India had faced the formidable task of building a nation out of a fragmented, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural but a highly backward society in economic terms, caused mostly on account of the colonial rule and consequent plundering of its resources. The political executive of that time considered that the prerequisite for the path of development, which India would pursue, was accumulation of investible surplus as the engine of economic growth and creation of a secular society based on the principles of preservation and respect to its rich cultural plurality; the path of development quintessentially was capitalistic with huge doses of public investment for developing social and economic infrastructure. Using the most touted Nehru-Mahalonobis model, the planning strategy was focused on investment in the capital goods and heavy industry to attain self-sufficiency in a short time; the approach was 'to grow fast and trickle down would bring distributive justice'. However, the growth was not that fast but slow and limited, and it hardly trickled down leaving a vast pauperized population. After a bad monsoon and failing agriculture in late 1960s', the need for accelerating growth in the agriculture sector became urgent with a view to feed the burgeoning population and increase opportunities of employment in the predominantly rural economy. The strategy for agricultural growth focused on augmenting cultivable land mass, increasing irrigation facilities, bringing technological changes in agriculture sector and stressed on identifying the factors that determined the

technological changes. These views emerged from the growing recognition that different sectors of the economy are interdependent, and understanding the determinants of growth in agricultural output was essential, if this sector has to play its role in economic development.

Construction of big dams on perennial rivers, called the river-valley projects, for flood control, irrigation and generation of power, increased agricultural production and industrial growth was recognized as a part of an overall strategy for development. The big dams are constructed at the upstream of rivers which usually happen to be abode of the tribal and other marginalized sections of population. This creates a paradoxical situation in the development process; development also brings displacement of the tribal and the marginalized living in the submergence areas of such dams from their native habitations. This is a situation which has raged acrimonious discourse and debates world around about the desirability of constructing big dams and the policy of resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected population. The environmentalists also oppose big dams on the grounds of such dams affecting the environment adversely, destroying the bio- diversity of submergence area and posing serious threats to the means of livelihood of the affected people. India is no exception to this paradox and it has been estimated that more than one million tribal population has been affected by such dams and projects.

Narmada, the fifth largest river of the Indian peninsula, is the largest west-flowing river of the country. It originates from Amarkantak plateau in Maikada hills of satpura range in Shahdol district of the state of Madhya Pradesh. Traversing a

distance of 1312 km in a generally westerly direction through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the river falls into the Gulf of Khambhat in the Arabian Sea. Narmada offers tremendous developmental potential; several multipurpose river valley projects were planned to harness this potential of the river across the States, notably in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It is believed that when completed, these projects would become unique symbols of development in the world and prove boon to the water starved western regions of the country. However, concrete steps towards harnessing Narmada, because of long history of Inter-state controversy, had to wait until final award by the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT), which was given in 1979.

Amongst the 30 large dams planned on the Narmada, the Sardar Sarovar dam is the largest. The dam is located on the Narmada River in Gujarat, 170 kilometers upstream from where the river flows into the Gulf of Khambhat. With a 1210 meter (3970 feet) long wall and proposed height of 136.5 meter (455 feet), nationally and globally the project has invoked considerable debate and emotions. The Government claims that the multi-purpose Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) would irrigate more than 1.8 million hectares of land spread over three States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra; provide domestic water to over 2.35 million people in water-deficient 8215 villages and 135 towns of Gujarat; provide electricity benefits with total installed capacity of 1450 MW (since completed) and provide flood protection to riverine reaches measuring 30,000 ha covering 210 villages and Bharuch city and a population of 4 lakh in Gujarat in addition to other

benefits.¹ Thus, for the proponents of the SSP, it epitomizes the very symbol of development; a lifeline meeting the ever increasing demand and need of energy, water and food.

These claims are, however, countered by those who oppose construction of big dams and stand for an alternative and less painful paradigm of development. They argue that this project hides the social and environmental cost and overestimates its benefits, and is nothing but an environmental disaster. They argue that, to the contrary, the project would displace more than 3,20,000 people, affect the livelihood of thousands of others and pose insurmountable environmental threats to the ecology of the area and even to the very existence of the river Narmada; overall, due to related displacements by the canal system and other allied projects, at least 1 million people are expected to be affected if the project is completed.

Following a writ petition² by the NBA calling for a comprehensive review of the project to take into consideration all the concerns raised, the Supreme Court of India halted construction of the dam in 1995 at a height of 80.3m. However, in an interim order in February 1999, the Supreme Court gave the go ahead for the dam's height to be raised to a height of 88m (85m + 3m of "humps"). It was contended by NBA that the resultant increased flooding in the monsoon season of 1999 can potentially drown the homes and lands of as many as 2000 tribal families in about 50 villages.

On October 18, 2000, the Supreme Court delivered its judgment³ on the Sardar Sarovar

¹Source: www.sardarsarovardam.org

²No 319 Of 1994

³Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India, (2000) 10 SCC 664

Project. In a 2 to 1 majority judgment, it allowed immediate construction on the dam up to a height of 90m. Further, the judgment authorized construction up to the originally planned height of 138m in 5-meter increments subject to receiving approval from the Relief and Rehabilitation Subgroup of the Narmada Control Authority. As regards resettlement and rehabilitation of the oustees, the Supreme Court was satisfied with the affidavits filed by the appropriate Governments and directed that increase of the dam height beyond would also depend on implementation of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award.⁴ The Award mandates, inter alia, that land should be made available to the oustees at least a year in advance before submergence.

When this project was mooted, India had no national resettlement policy or law; it has none today. The matter is treated as the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, the NWDT Award was a break from the past: for the first time the persons displaced by the large-scale development projects were to receive benefits that amounted to availing an opportunity for economic and social progress. In terms of the Award, the project affected persons falling under the submergence zone were to be given land to replace the land they were losing, house sites, and short-term financial protection.

The Award not only provides cash compensation for property lost, but also monetary indemnification through rehabilitation grants and grants-in-aid, civic amenities in new or existing villages where those displaced are to relocate, house plots and, most important of all,

agricultural land of equal size for every displaced family losing more than 25 % of its' holding, subject to land ceiling laws, with a minimum of two hectares (5 acres) for each family. Another important aspect of the Award is that the major sons would also receive compensation benefits in their own rights.

It may be pertinent to point out that the Award focused on the oustees of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, but did not specify the resettlement and rehabilitation rights of the oustees of Gujarat itself which is the major beneficiary of the project. Perhaps, the NWDT while ordering the Award was more concerned with protecting the oustees of these two states since most of those who stand to lose (around 85 percent) belong to these states. The Award, therefore, stipulated that land for Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra oustees willing to settle in Gujarat, be made available in Gujarat, and the Gujarat should pay the costs of resettlement and rehabilitation for all oustees.

The Award also stipulated that within two years of its' coming into force, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra would obtain the preferences of the oustees as to whether they would be willing to settle in Gujarat or their home states, and that Gujarat would acquire land for setting up "rehabilitation villages" in Gujarat itself in the command area of SSP.

The Award, however, fails to meet the aspiration of the encroachers; to this extent it ignored the customary usages of tribal people using encroached land for cultivation or grazing purposes. It also ignored the rights of the canal affected, colony affected and compulsory

⁴Source: www.narmada.org

afforestation affected people for getting land for the land they would lose or the project; they would be entitled to get cash compensation only as per the Land Acquisition Act because they do not reside in the submergence area though they would lose substantial amount of their holding.

The respective State Governments argue, therefore, that only those persons who have legal rights to own land in the submergence area that would be acquired for the project under the Land Acquisition Act are to be treated as the landed oustees for getting replacement land in accordance with the Award. Since occupation of land by encroachers is treated illegal under eyes of law and it is next to impossible for the tribal people to procure legal documents to prove their customary rights over the encroached piece of land, there would be no need for the States to acquire the land under the Act which tribal claim they were cultivating under customary rights; the encroachers must therefore be classified as landless oustees, without entitlement of land under the Award, the State Governments argue.

In addition, large number of displaced people like fishing communities, people dependent on community resources, such as, forest produce etc and self-dependent people have been classified as landless oustees under the Award with little entitlement, though they would be uprooted from their source of livelihood which was available to them before displacement and would face greater hardships.

Though “Major sons” were to be treated as separate units and entitled to get full resettlement and rehabilitation benefits, the wording of the Award complicated the problem and the states were not willing to treat them so until the matter

was raised by NBA and some affected families before the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No 328 of 2002 which settled the issue in 2005 only!! Before the issue was settled the states were committing non-compliance of this provision of the Award in the garb of interpretation with impunity notwithstanding the existence of a plethora of implementation mechanisms!!! Similar was the case with temporary and permanent submergence. Though the Award was quite explicit and considered persons affected by both kinds of submergence as the “oustees”, the states' had different interpretation and ultimately the matter came before the Supreme Court which ruled in favour of the intervener-affected persons in the aforesaid Writ Petition in May 2005!!

It goes to the credit of NWDT that it provided for the first time in India land –based resettlement and rehabilitation package for the landed oustees. But, it gave a limited definition of “oustees” including therein only those who were likely to be affected by the submergence. The number of oustees arrived in the Award was a huge underestimation as has been proved by the latter day events. It made an attempt to estimate the number of oustees families in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra which came to 6630; this estimate was based not on any field survey and without consultation with the people likely to be affected by submergence. To day, the best estimate for these states together exceeds 45,000.

The Governments and specially constituted Grievance Redressal Authorities are still struggling with the exact number of the oustees. The civil society organizations supporting the cause of the displaced populations put the figure

of affected persons to about a million which includes all those whose livelihood have been hit by the project and whose lands have been acquired directly or indirectly for the project.

The completion of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) has been vexed by the issue of the relief and rehabilitation of lakhs of mainly poor, largely backward and middle class people. There has always been a debate about (a) the actual number of the displaced people, (b) the rehabilitation required by law, and (c) the relative value given to the interest of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) as opposed to the four States who demand priority for their perceived developmental needs, especially irrigation and power.

It is widely believed that resettlement and rehabilitation of those affected by SSP have been given a short shrift. But what has been important for the State and Union Governments is the completion of the project within stipulated time notwithstanding the ongoing agitation for securing a just kind of resettlement and rehabilitation of the PAFs; it is noteworthy that the start of the construction was delayed on account of inter-state water dispute between the riparian states themselves, and way for it was paved only after the dispute was settled by the NWDT Award. The States are under obligation to follow the comprehensive framework for resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected persons mandated by the Award. However, it is distressing to note that conflicting claims and counter claims regarding the actual status of the R&R of the affected families are made by the respective States on the one hand and the PAFs

including NBA on the other, and the issue has been dragged several times in the apex Court and on the streets.

One of the reasons for these claims and counter claims and resultant acrimony may be traced to the absence of a Central Act on displacement and rehabilitation even after more than five decades of independence; the policy guidelines on rehabilitation of Project Affected Families of all upcoming Narmada projects issued by the Union Government in 2003⁵ can not be a substitute of a legally binding comprehensive Central legislation dealing with all kinds of displacements. In the absence of a Central Act on displacement and rehabilitation, the whole process of dealing with the issue of displacement has remained ad hoc and piece meal; what we have today, except in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, are the Government Orders or resolutions varying from State to State, and in some cases, project to project within the same State, in the name of meeting the exigencies of the local situations. It may be pointed out that in case of SSP affected persons Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are offering much less than what is being offered in Gujarat; it was argued in the Supreme Court that Madhya Pradesh was making effort to ensure that the oustees of that State accept the package offered by Gujarat and move there, thus absolving itself from the accountability in the matter of resettlement and rehabilitation. The apex Court has acknowledged this fact and tersely commented on this factual position.

The issue of resettlement and rehabilitation does not seem to be finally resolved and the agitation for proper resettlement and rehabilitation of the

⁵Source: www.nvda.nic.in

project affected families is still raging in the Narmada Valley and beyond. Several studies and surveys conducted in the valley suggest that rehabilitation of the project affected persons falls short of the provisions of the NWDTA and Supreme Court judgments.

As observed by the Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on October 18, 2000 in the Narmada Bachao Andolan's case⁶, in course of the process of development of the kind being pursued through big dams the specter of resolving "conflicting interests" would confront, nay even haunt, the Indian State time and again, unless the benefits of the intended development are perceived and seen by the affected and displaced people as being distributed equitably and without prejudicially affecting the interests of any section of the Indian society; development process should be such as its' intended outcome is not detrimental to the interests of the tribal and other marginalized communities who get uprooted from their homes, community life, livelihood and culture to make the same intended development happen. The process of development, therefore, should not alienate the affected section of Indian citizenry from its' outcome; the consequent resettlement and rehabilitation measures should be conceived and implemented in such a manner as to be seen as just entitlements by the affected persons and people: resettlement should not be confused with re-housing.

Rehabilitation Package under NWDT Award⁷

Gujarat Policy⁸

The population of the submergence area in

Gujarat is pre-dominantly tribal; over 90 percent people are tribal, composed of Tadvī, Bhil, and Rathwa. The distribution of these tribal groups largely follows the course of the river: the Tadvī villages are closest to the dam site; the Bhil villages lie farther upstream in the remotest part of the Gujarat submergence area; while the Rathwas are concentrated in villages nearest the Madhya Pradesh border.

Although the construction of the Sardar sarovar dam did not begin in earnest until 1987, it was in the 1960s that work on infrastructure of the project at Kevadia village and near the dam site began to affect a significant number of families (most of whom were Tadvīs). Others were displaced by the first stages of construction of the headworks of the canal system in the early 1980s. This was the time when Gujarats Resettlement & Rehabilitation policy was limited, and was based on cash compensation to landed oustees who were left to buy replacement land on their own. The amount of compensation was not adequate enough to enable the affected to purchase the replacement land.

When the NWDT Award was pronounced in 1979, Gujarat refused to implement the measures of rehabilitation prescribed therein to its own oustees. It was only in 1987-1988 that Gujarat developed a policy for its SSP oustees; this policy, it is said, was an outcome of intense protests registered by some Gujarat based non-government organizations, such as, Arch-Vahini and Anand Niketan Ashram, and Word Bank Missions. This policy has also been hailed as among the most progressive packages of measures ever devised for securing long term

⁶See: Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India, (2000) 10 SCC 664

⁷Source: www.narmada.org and Morse Commission Report

⁸Source: Morse Commission Report

rehabilitation of people affected by large-scale development projects.

However, Gujarat has never enacted legislation that lays out policy for rehabilitation of the people affected by its development projects; Gujarat policy has been created by a series of Government Resolutions beginning in 1979. The 1979 resolution was applicable to the persons displaced by “major and medium projects”, and echoed the Tribunal Award so far as definition of oustees and land allotment to the landed oustees was concerned. There is no one document, however, that sets out a comprehensive policy position. In 1984, a Government Resolution established a land purchase committee “to arrange for private land at reasonable prices for the oustees of SSP who are not interested in the allotted land”. On November 1, 1985, Gujarat by a separate Government Resolution adopted the policy objectives: oustees were to be enabled to “improve or at least regain the standard of living they were enjoying prior to displacement”; they had to have a right to be relocated as village units or families according to their preferences; “the plan for resettlement and rehabilitation of the oustees shall ensure adequate participation by the oustees”; and it was established that landed oustees shall be allotted no less than two hectares of irrigable land, whereas the landless shall be “entitled to stable means of livelihood”.

However, by the end of December 1987, vide Government Resolution, it was decided to accord full benefits, i.e., two hectares of land, to all the landless, giving as its' rationale the fact that “ninety percent of them are tribal; whose main occupation has been agriculture and collection of

forest products”. Thereafter, vide a Government Resolution dated May 30, 1988, the whole benefit package, including the minimum of two hectares of irrigable land, was extended to “major sons of the landed, landless and encroacher oustee family”. This was followed with a guarantee of irrigation by well or tube well if no irrigation system is possible, and in the event that this can not be provided “the displaced family would be allotted a minimum of 4 hectares of land instead of 2 hectares.....”. Since 1988 Gujarat policy has not changed in any major respect.

But Gujarat has time and again refused to operationalize the policy for SSP oustees retrospectively, leaving the oustees from villages impacted by SSP infrastructure before the 1987-1988 policy high and dry; the Kevadia colony affected villagers demand for oustee or project affected person status has been persistently rejected. The oustees of “rock- filled dyke villages” were little less unfortunate than the aforesaid Kevadia colony affected villages in the sense that they received benefits under 1979 policy, and after repeated pleas by the NGO Arch Vahini and pressures from World Bank, some of the displaced got benefits of the Government Resolutions of 1985 to 1988; those relocated earlier could not get the benefits due to their dispersal to several sites where sufficient agriculture land was not available.

Maharashtra Policy⁹

The submergence area of Maharashtra lies in Satpura Mountains. Manibeli is the submergence village closest to the dam site, immediately adjacent to the Gujarat Border. All of the villages

⁹Source: Morse Commission Report

in these hills are tribal. Their economy depend on a wide range of local resources, including forest and river products, and extensive grazing. Much of the forest land is harvested and grazed on a community basis, while many agricultural plots are encroached.

The NWDT Award did not take the social and economic factors existing in these tribal villages into account while making provision for the Maharashtra oustees. However, pressure has been, and continues to be, exerted on these oustees to move on to Gujarat side to take benefits of the relatively liberalized provisions.

The most comprehensive statement of policy was articulated by Maharashtra in its 1991 Master Plan named as “Sardar Sarovar Project: Master Plan for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons of Maharashtra State”. The policy objectives seek to substantially improve the living conditions of the project affected persons while causing minimum disturbance to their social and ethnic conditions. It has been stated in the objectives that the project affected persons must:

- i) Improve or atleast regain the standard of living they were enjoying prior to their displacement.
- ii) Be relocated as Village units, village sections or families in accordance with their preference, as far as possible.
- iii) Be fully integrated in the community in which they are resettled.

- iv) Be provided with the appropriate compensation and adequate social and physical infrastructure including the community services and the other facilities which are normally available under the various development schemes.

The specific provisions designed to achieve these policy imperatives were set out in two Government Resolutions of 29 June, 1989 and 26 February, 1992. Under the updated policy of 1992, benefits are allocated according to whether oustees are classified as “landed” or “landless.” “Landed” oustees include those who own land “in occupancy rights” and encroachers who encroached prior to 31 March, 1978 and whose encroachments were regularized. The landed oustees are to be allotted a minimum of two hectares of land, as are all joint holders. “Landless” oustees include major sons and major unmarried daughters of landed oustees (except those recorded as joint holders), encroachers who encroached after 31 March, 1978 and encroachers whose encroachment was not regularized, landless agriculture laborers, village artisans, and persons engaged in non-agricultural trade and callings. All these are entitled to be allotted on a “first come- first served basis” a maximum of one hectare of land if it is available near the relocation site and if the landless oustee moves with other oustees to that site. For those landless oustees unable to obtain land under this system, a grant-in- aid is offered “to ensure that they acquire stable means of livelihood so as to improve or at least regain the standard of living that they had prior to their displacement”.

The 1992 resolution established a committee to handle disputes arising under the resolution and made all oustees eligible for an interest-free house –building loan. The 1991 Master Plan also outlines an elaborate package of developmental programs. On the basis of these measures, the Maharashtra Plan expresses its confidence that:” The resettlement policy in Maharashtra....amply ensures the raising of standard of living of all categories of project affected persons....”

However, the available evidence suggests that the distinction between landed and landless oustees is artificial and meaningless in the tribal setting of the submergence villages and the policy is adversely affecting the interests of the displaced persons. The studies by Tata Institute of Social Sciences show that even in the less remotely located communities of Akkalkuwa there is, in reality, almost no such thing as landlessness. Those who do not hold revenue land are cultivating encroached plots of similar size and making the same use of grazing and other forest resource as those who do have revenue land. Major sons of the “landless” still have no status as either “landed” or “landless” and hence do not qualify for any land.

Whatever realities of landlessness are on the ground, one hectare, even of irrigated land, is a non-viable agricultural holding, and would leave the majority of those defined as landless worse off than they were before, especially if they are denied access to river and forest products. Furthermore, there is no certainty that every landless so defined would be able to get this one hectare near the relocation sites because no

policy imperative makes it mandatory to develop relocation sites with sufficient amount of land for this purpose. Maharashtra Government has lost sight of the fact that there is no more effective rehabilitation for the tribal people than providing land as the source of livelihood.

Madhya Pradesh Policy¹⁰

The Sardar Sarovar reservoir potentially affects two different regions of Madhya Pradesh: the plains of Nimad and the hills of Vidhya range. The plains of Nimad consist of comparatively well off villages inhabited by many caste and tribal groups whereas the hills of Vindhya Range have been the isolated lands of Bhil and Bhilala communities. The difference in the geographical and cultural settings of these two regions has many implications for resettlement and rehabilitation. However, these implications were not considered by policy makers or the implementers: the people likely to be affected by the submergence were neither informed of the fate befalling on them nor were consulted ever about their rehabilitation by the project planners.

In 1985, the M.P. Government enacted its own legislation for the resettlement of people displaced by any public utility project: Madhya Pradesh Project Displaced Persons (Resettlement) Act. By combining the terms of this Act with the requirements of NWDT Award, a policy package for the oustees of Narmada Projects was devised. In 1987 a policy for Narmada Sagar oustees was approved. In 1989 this was revised and extended to the SSP oustees in Madhya Pradesh which was subsequently included, with some amendments,

¹⁰Source: Morse Commission Report

in the Action Plan of January 1992. The policy aims to ensure that the living conditions of all displaced persons should improve or at least remain at the level of their earlier standard after relocation and resettlement.

However, the definition of “displaced person” in the policy is more restrictive than the NWDT Awards' definition of “oustee”: in order to qualify as a displaced person an oustee must have cultivated land for at least three years prior to notification under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, rather than one year as specified in the Tribunals' Award. The policy defines “landless” as only those who have no land for agriculture, meaning thereby that encroacher and major sons are not “landless”.

These definitions, however, are misleading in the sense that as per this policy the encroachers and major sons are not entitled to the same benefits as the revenue land holders. It is only revenue landholders who are entitled to land on resettlement. The policy further provides that encroachers prior to April 4, 1987, will receive compensation for the land acquired from them and will be allotted a minimum of one hectare and a maximum of two hectares of land, even if more than two hectares was acquired from the encroacher. No mention is made of irrigation or of the means of establishing the date of encroachment. The policy further stipulates that land will not be allotted to major sons, encroachers who encroached after 1987, or the “landless” oustees. However, special benefits for the “landless” (to which major sons are also entitled) has been stipulated which include occupational training and a three-year income supplement grant.

The overall effect of this policy is that encroachers and major sons, who are agriculturalists on lands they regard as their own, are threatened with dispossession. In isolated tribal areas, where some 40 Madhya Pradesh submergence villages are situated, encroachers' rights are therefore a matter of central importance.

In general, policy distinctions of the kind made in the Tribunal's award and the Madhya Pradesh provisions rely heavily on the accuracy and appropriateness of revenue records. Yet in Madhya Pradesh, as elsewhere, these records of ownership tend to be out of date and provide an inadequate picture of current land ownership. Several years can elapse between change of actual ownership and the recording of such change at the patwari (record keeper and revenue assessor) level. Also, recorded transfers tend to pertain to land sales, whereas in the villages themselves, land changes hands between generations or is partitioned among members of extended families. These are transfers that sometimes go unrecorded, often for generations. Moreover, in particularly remote regions (for example, in the hills of Alirajpur tehsil of Madhya Pradesh) fields beyond easy traveling distance have simply gone unregistered. This stark ground reality has been ignored completely by the project planners as well as the implementers. The policy has also not taken note of this reality leading to a broad section of oustees being put to a helpless situation.

International Convention and Displacement of Tribal People

Since World War II, developed and developing

countries have built high dams in rural, forest and frontier regions of the world. Usually this has resulted in incursion on the lands of indigenous or tribal people. It was the special situation of the indigenous and tribal people that first gave rise to measures to protect the human and other rights of the displaced persons.

There is International Labor Organization Convention 107 (ILO 107), adopted in 1957 as a “convention concerning the Protection and Integration of Indigenous and other Tribal and Semi-Tribal populations in Independent Countries.” India was one of the first countries to ratify ILO 107 on September 29, 1958.

Some of the pertinent provisions contained in the Convention are as follows:

Article 11

The right of ownership, collective or individual, of the members of the population concerned over the lands which these populations traditionally occupy shall be recognized.

Article 12

(1): The populations concerned shall not be removed without their free consent from their habitual territories except in accordance with national laws and regulations for reasons relating to national security, or in the interest of national economic development or of the health of the said populations.

(2): When in such cases removal of these populations is necessary as an exceptional measure, they shall be provided with lands of

quality at least equal to that of lands previously occupied by them, and suitable to provide for their present needs and future development. In cases where chances of alternative employment exist and where the populations concerned prefer to have compensation in money or kind, they shall be so compensated under appropriate guarantees.

(3): Persons thus removed shall be fully compensated for any resulting loss or injury.

There are three important things to notice about the ILO107 Convention. First, it affirms the right of tribal peoples to their traditional lands. Second, it underscores the causes for which they may be removed from their habitations: national security, national economic development, and the health of these populations. Third, it provides that the displaced tribal populations shall be “provided with lands of quality at least equal to that of the lands previously occupied by them, suitable to provide for their present needs and future development.” The main idea underlying ILO 107 is that the resettlers should be at least as well off after resettlement as before.

These themes lie at the heart of the dispute over resettlement and rehabilitation of the Sardar Srovar Project oustees.

Judicial Interventions

A number of PILs had been filed in the Supreme Court praying, inter alia, to pass specific directions to the Union of India and the party States to implement the resettlement and rehabilitation as provided in the NWDT Award, and stay the raising of the height of the dam till the

project affected families are duly rehabilitated. In one of the PIL questions were raised on the construction of such a big dam from environmental angle and it was contended that the costs would overrun the presumed benefits; the very basis of continuing with the construction of Sadar Sarovar Project was questioned. In some of these cases, the Supreme Court has delivered its judgment whereas some are pending at various stages of consideration. Through its judgments, the Supreme Court has concurred with the contention of the proponents of the project that the SSP is a project of national importance and should be expeditiously completed. However, it has also recognized the constitutional rights of the displaced persons to receive the relief and rehabilitation packages as provided under the NWDT Award, and directed that further raising of the dam height will be only pari passu with the implementation of the relief and rehabilitation measures and on the clearance of the Relief and Rehabilitation Subgroup of the Narmada Control Authority.

In *B.D.Sharma V. Union of India*¹¹ case the Supreme Court by its' Order dated August 9, 1991 gave a direction to activate the Committee headed by Secretary (Welfare), Government of India, constituted earlier as a Sub-Committee under Narmada Control Authority, so as to ensure rehabilitation of the SSP oustees. The Court while clarifying that it was not its' intention to hold up the progress of the work directed the said Committee to move in the areas where there was rehabilitation to be undertaken and directly ensure that rehabilitative process was undertaken. The Court further directed that

rehabilitation should be so done that at least six months before the area is likely to be submerged, rehabilitation should be complete and should be in respect of homestead substitution of agricultural property and such other arrangements which are contemplated under the rehabilitation scheme. By order dated 24th October, 1994, the Court observed that all the directions issued by the Court from time to time have been complied with and nothing more be done in the petition and the petition was disposed off.

In *Narmada Bachao Andolan vrs Union of India & Others*¹² case, the Court delivered its' judgment on October 18, 2000 by a majority of 2:1. Mr. Justice Bharucha delivered a separate judgment disagreeing with the main judgment. While delivering the judgment, the Court observed a couple of important points. Some of these are as follows:

(I) Conflicting rights had to be considered. If for one set of people namely those of Gujarat, there was only one solution, namely, construction of a dam, the same would have an adverse effect on another set of people whose houses and agricultural land would be submerged in water. It is because of this conflicting interest that considerable time was taken before the project was finally cleared in 1987. Perhaps the need for giving the green signal was that for the people of Gujarat, there was no other solution but to provide them with water from Narmada. But the hardships of oustees from Madhya Pradesh have to be mitigated by providing them with alternative lands, sites and compensation. In

¹¹Writ Petition (civil) No 1201/1990, 1992 Supp (3) SCC 93

¹²Writ Petition (civil) No 319/1994, (2000) 10 SCC 664

governance of the State, such decisions have to be taken where there are conflicting interests.

(ii) Since long the people of India have been deriving the benefits of the river valley projects. At the time of independence, food-grain was being imported into India but with the passage of time and the construction of more dams, the position has been reversed. The large-scale river valley projects *per se* all over country have made India more than self-sufficient in food. Famines which used to occur have now become a thing of the past. Considering the benefits which have been reaped by the people all over India with the construction of the dams, the Government cannot be faulted with deciding to construct the high dam on the river Narmada with a view to provide water not only to the scarcity areas of Gujarat but also to the small areas of the State of Rajasthan where the shortage of water has been there since the time immemorial.

(iii) Displacement of people living on the proposed sites and the areas to be submerged is an important issue. Realizing the fact that displacement of these people would disconnect them from their past, culture, custom and traditions, the moment any village is earmarked for take over for dam or any other developmental activity, the project implementing authorities have to implement R&R programs. The R&R plans are required to be specially drafted and implemented to mitigate problems whatsoever relating to all, whether rich or poor, land owner or encroacher, farmer or tenant, employee or employer, tribal or non-tribal. A properly drafted R&R plan would improve living standards of

displaced persons after displacement. In the present case, the R&R packages of the States, especially of Gujarat, are such that the living conditions of the oustees will be much better than what they had in their tribal hamlets.

(iv) The Award of the Tribunal is binding on the States concerned. The said Award also envisages the relief and rehabilitation measures which are to be undertaken. If for any reason, any of the State Governments involved lag behind in providing adequate relief and rehabilitation then the proper course, for a Court to take, would be to direct the Award's implementation and not to stop the execution of the project. This Court, as a Federal Court of the country especially in a case of inter-State river dispute where an Award had been made, has to ensure that the binding Award is implemented.

The supreme Court while issuing directions in this case, emphasized that two conditions have to be kept in mind, (i) the completion of project at the earliest and (ii) ensuring compliance with conditions on which clearance of the project was given including completion of relief and rehabilitation work and taking of ameliorative and compensatory measures for environmental protection in compliance with the scheme framed by the Government thereby protecting the rights under Article 21 of the Constitution.

In this case¹³ the jurisdiction of the Court was invoked in a defining manner: anti-dam protesters had challenged the very rationale of the construction of the Sadar Sarovar dam from environmental angle and on the

¹³Re: Writ Petition (civil) No 319/1994, (2000) 10 SCC 664

grounds that displacement of tribal people caused due to submergence was violative of the fundamental right of life guaranteed in the Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and against ILO Convention 107 to which India was a signatory.

The Court heard all the contentions raised by the parties at length and gave due consideration to all the relevant issues; it considered the desirability or otherwise of the big dams, the question pertaining to the scarcity of water and measures taken to reach water in the parched fields and throats by harnessing the River water, the “conflicting interests” of people inhabiting near the river side and beyond and how the conflict can be resolved in a best possible manner, and the question relating to the “eminent domain” of the Government of the day in taking policy decisions and limited role the Courts have to play in questioning the wisdom of the Governments to take such decisions. And the way the issues were considered, emerged a landmark judgment which is like a treatise on the subject delivered by the best minds of the Country; superb intellectual discourse.

Though, anti-dam protesters are obviously not happy with direction to expedite the construction of the dam and complete the project, the judgment was not so rosy for those in the respondent Governments who believed in fudging the figures of resettlement and rehabilitation and castigating the concerned people pointing

fingers at them for not giving serious attention to the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of the PAFs. The Court directed that raising of the dam height would be only *pari passu* with the implementation of the R&R measures and on the clearance by the Relief and Rehabilitation Subgroup of NCA. Thus, the Court has reined the states and cast on them a legal duty to take prescribed R&R measures to rehabilitate the oustees before proceeding to raise the dam height, and that too on the clearance of a monitoring mechanism which is expected to take an independent and objective view in the matter.

It was the decisive intervention of the Court in favor of the project affected people. This intervention is so assuring that anti-dam protesters are choosing the podium of the Court anytime and every time the recalcitrant implementers fail to provide desired R&R measures.

Conclusion

Of course, people may be displaced by political upheavals or natural calamities. At the time of Indian Independence, millions of persons in Punjab and West Bengal had to be resettled and re-housed on account of the partition of the country. Earth quakes and floods may require resettlement of large number of affected persons. But from the viewpoint of displaced, however, a dam that will submerge their land and habitation is not an inevitable natural calamity, but a man –made catastrophe and for them, therefore, resettlement and rehabilitation should create a condition under which their life and

existence does not become worse than what it was before.

Since Independence, the construction of high dams and the irrigation structures that usually go along with them has been the greatest cause of involuntary resettlement in India. Millions have been displaced to make way for such projects; their lives have been uprooted to serve what is normally described as the greater good. It is not, however, simply a question of weighing the numbers on each side, and not a question of statistical relativism, but a simple and straight question of protecting the human rights of the affected persons.

There is example galore, both in the developed as well as developing world, that when high dams have been built, the people occupying land in the submergence area have often been evicted without proper compensation, often without due process. Compensation, in such cases, did not usually include cash compensation, payable under conventional expropriation statutes, and the cash was more often than not inadequate, rarely if ever sufficient to buy replacement land. Other people affected by the loss of employment, access to fisheries, or other sources of livelihood, have usually been ignored.

More than 60 million tribal peoples live in India; they are designated as Scheduled Tribes as per the Constitution of India. Although many of them have been assimilated into what is generally believed as mainstream Indian culture, others maintain a traditional way of life quite distinct

from the populations surrounding them. Along the river Narmada, as elsewhere in India, many of the tribal people of the forest villages are said to be “encroaching” on the government land, even though they may be cultivating the land for generations pursuant to their customary usage, though without formal title. Though many of such tribal families have been displaced on account of the Sardar Sarovar Project, no special provision has been made for their resettlement and rehabilitation.

The Indian State must understand that the era of liberalization and globalization has brought immense hardships to the poor and marginalized in spite of the claims made to the contrary. The very premise of liberalization and globalization is “greed” and full play of the “invisible hand” of market forces. The greed of the privileged and market forces can never make the lives of the poor better unless State intervenes decisively in their favor. The development process should not be blind to the expectation and aspirations of those who get uprooted on account of such development: development should have a human face. Narmada dams and consequent displacement of tribal population have brought the urgency of development with a human face in the lexicon of contemporary development discourse.

[Sri Vyas Mishra, I.A.S. (1982), Principal Secretary to Govt. of Bihar, Dept. of Labour, also holding additional Charge as Principal Secretary, Disaster Management]

दूर दृष्टि-नेतृत्व की पहचान

— जियालाल आर्य

कुछ वर्ष हो गये जब मुझे श्री रामचन्द्र सिन्हा, अध्यक्ष, सेवा निवृत्त आई.ए.एस. एसोसिएशन का पत्र मिला था, जिसमें अपनी संस्मृतियों को लिपिबद्ध करके देने का अनुरोध था। पत्र को पढ़ते-पढ़ते अतीत के पृष्ठ स्वतः खुलकर सामने दृष्टिगत होने लगे। मेरा प्रशासनिक जीवन ऐसी बहुत-सी घटनाओं का केन्द्र बिन्दु रहा है, जिसका सम्बन्ध किसी के जीवन के साथ जुड़ सकता है और उनसे प्रेरणा और मार्गदर्शन मिल सकता है। इन्हीं घटनाओं में से कुछ का उद्घाटन यहाँ करना चाहता हूँ।

मेरी प्रथम नियुक्ति अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी, दानापुर, पटना के रूप में हुई। मैंने सितम्बर, 1971 में योगदान दिया। दूसरे दिन भारत-पाकिस्तान का युद्ध प्रारंभ हो गया, जिसकी परिणति बांग्ला देश के एक स्वतंत्र देश के रूप में हुई। बिहटा हवाई अड्डा इस युद्ध में आपूर्ति केन्द्र बना, जिससे प्रशासनिक तौर पर मेरा जुड़ाव था। परन्तु यहाँ पर मैं इस संबंध में और नहीं लिखने जा रहा हूँ। समय बीता। जून माह का आगमन हुआ। 'दीरघ दाघ निदाघ' के साथ सरकारी राजस्व की वसूली का प्रयास गर्म हो गया। सहकारिता सहयोग समितियों से ऋण की अदायगी का अनुरोध किया गया। ऋण की वसूली के लिए सहकारिता पर्यवेक्षक को दण्डाधिकारी की शक्ति देकर एक दस्ते का निर्माण किया गया, जिसके सहायतार्थ एक आरक्षी हवलदार के नेतृत्व में चार गृह रक्षक दिये गये। दस्ते का अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ा। लम्बित ऋण की वसूली में गति आई। एक दिन शाम को मैं बंगले पर बैठा कुछ काम कर रहा था। वसूली दल घबराया हुआ आया। मेरे प्रश्न के पूर्व ही उन्होंने बताया कि ऋण की वसूली हेतु उनका दल को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के सचिव के पास पहुँचा। जैसे ही ऋण अदायगी की बात की, घर के अन्दर से सोसाइटी

का सचिव गोली मार देने का धौंस देता हुआ निकला और देशी कट्टा तानकर बोला, "तुम लोगों की हिम्मत कैसे हुई मेरे दरवाजे पर आकर ऋण वसूली की बात करने की? तुम्हें पता नहीं मैं ऋण वसूलता हूँ, पर सरकारी खजाने में जमा नहीं करता। वह मेरी मेहनत की मजदूरी है। यहाँ से भाग जाओ अन्यथा गोली मार दूंगा। तुम जैसे कितने इंस्पेक्टर यहाँ से मार खाकर चले गये।" मैं उससे आगे कुछ बात करता कि उसका कट्टा मेरी ओर तन गया। मेरे एक सिपाही ने गोली चला दी। हम लोग किसी तरह जान बचाकर आ पाये हैं।

मैंने शांत भाव से उनकी बातों को सुना। चपरासी को चाय-पानी लाने का निर्देश देकर उन्हें शांति से बैठाया और आश्वस्त किया कि आप लोग निश्चिन्त रहें, गाँव वालों पर विधि सम्मत कार्रवाई की जायेगी। मैंने दानापुर थाने पर फोन किया। थाना प्रभारी को निर्देश दिया कि को-ऑपरेटिव इंस्पेक्टर जा रहे हैं, इनकी प्राथमिकी अंकित करें और दोषियों को गिरफ्तार करें। थाना प्रभारी ने फोन पर ही सूचित किया कि कुछ लोग एक मृतक यादव की लाश लेकर थाना पर आये हैं और कह रहे हैं कि एक गृह रक्षक ने गोली मारी है।

दारोगा की बात सुनकर मैं थोड़ी देर के लिए अवाक्-सा हो गया, फिर मैंने कहा "ठीक है, गाँव वालों की रिपोर्ट दर्ज कर लें और इन लोगों की भी प्राथमिकी दर्ज करें। अन्वेषण से जैसा होगा विधिवत् कार्रवाई होगी।"

बाद में मालूम हुआ कि दियारा क्षेत्र में कुछ को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी ऐसी हैं, जिनके सदस्य सरकारी ऋण लेते हैं और समय पर भुगतान कर देते हैं। को-ऑपरेटिव ऋण की वसूली सोसाइटी के सचिव करते हैं, परन्तु वसूली गई

राशि वे कोषागार में जमा नहीं करते हैं। ऐसे सचिव प्रायः स्थानीय नेता होते हैं। ऋण की वसूली मांगने पर मार-पीट करते हैं। ऐसे ही को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के सचिव की मृत्यु आत्मरक्षार्थ चलाई गई गोली से हो गयी थी।

बिहार विधान सभा का सत्र चालू था। विधान सभा में इस घटना को लेकर शोर-शराबा होने लगा और कहा गया कि अनुमंडलाधिकारी ने मरवा दिया। दिनभर की घटना की सूचना अनुमंडल आरक्षी पदाधिकारी श्री बबन सिंह के एक मित्र विधान सभा सदस्य दिया करते थे। तीन-चार दिन लगातार पुलिस फायरिंग पर बहस होती रही और अंत में निर्णय हुआ कि इसकी जाँच पटना सेन्ट्रल रेंज के डी.आई.जी. से कराई जायेगी।

श्री रामलखन सिंह यादव, पालीगंज से प्रभावशाली विधायक थे और न्यायप्रिय थे। क्षेत्रीय विधायक होने के नाते उनसे प्रायः विचार-विनिमय होता था और वे भी मुझे एक निष्पक्ष एवं योग्य पदाधिकारी मानते थे। विधान सभा में किसी न किसी रूप में मेरा नाम आ जाता था और उसे दियारा क्षेत्र गोली कांड से जोडा दिया जाता था। मैंने इसकी चर्चा यादव जी से की। दूसरे दिन सुबह वे मेरे निवास पर आए और अनुभवजन्य बातों से आश्वस्त किया कि घटना की मुझे पूरी जानकारी है। कुछ माननीय सदस्यों की भड़ास निकल गई है, अब यह मामला विधान सभा में नहीं उठेगा। आप अपना काम करते रहिये। जनता को आपसे कोई शिकायत नहीं है।

डी.आई.जी. सेन्ट्रल रेंज ने घटना की जाँच की। उन्होंने, पता नहीं किस परिस्थिति में, ग्रामीणों के केस को सही ठहराया और गृह रक्षकों के केस में अंतिम रिपोर्ट लगाने का निर्देश दिया।

उन दिनों दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता का संशोधन नहीं हुआ था। आपराधिक मामलों में संज्ञान लेने का अधिकार अनुमंडल

दण्डाधिकारी में निहित था। पुलिस ने ग्रामीणों के केस में आरोप पत्र दायर किया और अधिकारियों के केस में अंतिम प्रतिवेदन। मैंने अवर प्रमण्डल दण्डाधिकारी के रूप में पुलिस की अंतिम रिपोर्ट को मैजेस्ट्रियल (दण्डाधिकारी) जाँच के लिए दे दिया।

समय बीता। मेरा स्थानान्तरण पटना सचिवालय में हो गया। 1974 के जून में जिला दण्डाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर में पदस्थापित हुआ। एक दिन शाम को चपरासी ने कागज का एक पुर्जा देते हुए कहा कि चार-पाँच आदमी मिलने आये हैं। मैंने उन्हें बुलाया। उनलोगों ने मेरा चरण स्पर्श किया और बोले कि सर, आपको याद होगा, दानापुर के दियारा क्षेत्र में एक फायरिंग हुई थी। हमलोगों के द्वारा आत्मरक्षार्थ चलाई गई गोली को सही मानकर माननीय न्यायालय ने हम सब को आरोप मुक्त कर दिया है। यदि आपने हमारे केस को दण्डाधिकारी की जाँच में नहीं दिया होता तो एक तरफा कार्रवाई होती और हम लोग अपने को नहीं बचा पाते। “उनके मनोबल को देखकर हमें प्रसन्नता हुई और जॉन मैक्सवेल का कथन स्मरण हो आया कि “लीडर के रूप में मेरी जिम्मेदारी अपने साथ काम करने वाले सभी लोगों की मदद करना है।”

2 और 3 जनवरी, 1975 को समस्तीपुर रेलवे प्लेटफार्म पर एक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना घटी। समस्तीपुर-मुजफ्फरपुर बड़ी लाईन के उद्घाटन का अवसर था। रेलमंत्री श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र निर्धारित समय से करीब एक घंटा विलम्ब से आए। अंधियारे की चादर फैल चुकी थी। मंत्री महोदय ने जैसे ही विधिवत् उद्घाटन की घोषणा की, डायस पर एक आवाज के साथ अफरा-तफरी मच गई। डायस पर खड़े हुए लोग गिरने लगे। सुरक्षा कर्मी मंत्री जी को गाड़ी के सैलून में ले आए। रेंज डी.आई.जी. श्री ब्रजनन्दन प्रसाद, जो डायस पर थे, मेरे सामने गिर गए थे। आरक्षी अधीक्षक श्री ध्रुव प्रसाद ओझा और प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त डॉ. जे.सी. कुन्द्रा और मैं डायस के नीचे मंत्री महोदय की अगवानी के लिए सीढ़ी के पास खड़े थे। श्री प्रसाद व

अन्य घायलों को अस्पताल पहुँचाया गया। मंत्री जी को सैलून में रेलवे के डाक्टरों ने परीक्षण किया। मंत्री जी ने दानापुर रेलवे अस्पताल जाने की इच्छा व्यक्त की। कारण, कुछ माह पूर्व रेलवे में एक अभूतपूर्व स्ट्राइक हुई थी। जे.पी. आन्दोलन की धूल पूरी तरह बैठी नहीं थी। सरकारी डॉक्टर भी हड़ताल पर थे।

यहाँ पर एक बात स्पष्ट कर दूँ कि जिला में विधि—व्यवस्था और अमन—चैन रखना, जिलाधिकारी का दायित्व है। विशेषकर महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों की व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा आरक्षी अधीक्षक का दायित्व होता है। व्यक्ति विशेष की सुरक्षा के निर्देश इसीलिए केवल आरक्षी अधीक्षक को भेजे जाते हैं। रेल मंत्री के आगमन पर विधि व्यवस्था एवं जन—सुरक्षा के लिए जिला आदेश निर्गत किया गया था, जिसमें सदर अनुमंडलाधिकारी और आरक्षी उपाधीक्षक को जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गयी थी।

समस्तीपुर रेल प्लेटफार्म पर बम काण्ड के पश्चात् दहशत का वातावरण पसर गया था। पुलिस बल डेमोरेलाइज्ड हो गया था। दण्डाधिकारियों का मनोबल हिल गया था। ऐसे वातावरण को मिटाने के लिए नेतृत्व की आवश्यकता थी। एस.पी. के साथ मैं पुलिस लाईन गया। पुलिस को मैंने सम्बोधित किया। मैंने स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहा कि आप लोगों ने अपने दायित्व का निर्वहन किया। फिर भी ऐसी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना हो गई। इसका मतलब है व्यवस्था में कहीं न कहीं कमजोरी। जो भी कमजोरी हुई होगी, उसकी पूरी जिम्मेदारी जिलाधिकारी के रूप में, मैं लेता हूँ। आप लोगों को चिन्ता करने और मनोबल को कमजोर करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। जहाँ तक दण्डाधिकारियों के कर्तव्य पालन की बात है, उन्होंने कहीं कोई कमजोरी नहीं दिखाई। आपको जो भी दायित्व दिये गये थे उन्हें अंगीकार करने में, यदि कोई कठिनाई हो, तो उसे मैं स्वीकार करूँगा। आप लोग अपना काम निर्भीकता और विश्वास के साथ करें।

यह सर्व विदित है कि इस काण्ड के परिणाम स्वरूप घायल रेल मंत्री का निधन हो गया था। सरकार ने माननीय न्यायमूर्ति के. के. मैथ्यु की अध्यक्षता में जाँच आयोग गठित किया और पूरे मामले का अन्वेषण कार्य केन्द्रीय जाँच ब्यूरो को सौंप दिया गया। इस काण्ड और अन्वेषण की बारिकियों में जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। जाँच आयोग के समक्ष जिला प्रशासन की ओर से मेरे द्वारा शपथ पत्र दायर किया गया। मैंने विधि—व्यवस्था और मंत्री की सुरक्षा की पूरी जिम्मेदारी अपने ऊपर ले ली। कारण, यदि उस समय मंत्री की सुरक्षा, जिसका दायित्व नियमतः केवल आरक्षी अधीक्षक का था, को मैं स्वीकार नहीं करता तो जनता में यह संवाद जाता कि जिलाधिकारी ने पुलिस को चक्रव्यूह में डाल दिया और स्वयं निकल गये। लोगों को नियम की जानकारी नहीं होती है। वे इतना जानते हैं कि जिले में हर चीज का दायित्व जिलाधिकारी का ही होता है। मैं उनके इस विश्वास को टूटने नहीं देना चाहता था।

परिणामतः जनसहयोग और जनता का विश्वास जिला प्रशासन में प्रगाढ़तर हो गया। इसका परीक्षण इस बात से हुआ कि इस काण्ड के पश्चात् डॉ. जगन्नाथ मिश्र मुख्यमंत्री बन गये। उनकी ससुराल समस्तीपुर में है। जिला प्रशासन के विरोध में अनेक प्रयासों के बाद एक भी शपथ—पत्र जनता की ओर से नहीं दायर हुआ। लोगों की मान्यता थी कि जिला प्रशासन ने कोई गलती नहीं की है। एक मात्र शपथ—पत्र इस काण्ड में घायल श्री रमाकान्त झा ने दिया, जिसमें अंकित बातें स्वतः गलत साबित हो गईं।

न्यायमूर्ति के. के. मैथ्यु आयोग के समक्ष जिला प्रशासन के तथ्यों को रखने के लिए पटना उच्च न्यायालय के वरीय अधिवक्ता श्री बलभद्र प्रसाद की सेवाएँ सरकार ने दी। सहायक के रूप में दरभंगा जनपद के लोक अभियोजक श्री कन्हैया प्रसाद सिंह रखे गये। सरकार के पक्ष को रखने के लिए तत्कालीन महाधिवक्ता श्री के. डी. चटर्जी

को लगाया गया था। मिश्र परिवार का पक्ष रखने के लिए श्री के. पी. वर्मा और श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद जैसे दिग्गज अधिवक्ताओं को नियोजित किया। उच्चतम न्यायालय के कुछ अधिवक्ता भी कतिपय पक्षों की ओर से थे।

डॉ. मिश्र के मुख्यमंत्री बनने के बाद जिला प्रशासन से श्री बलभद्र प्रसाद और के.डी.चटर्जी की सेवाएँ वापस ले ली गईं। मात्र श्री के. पी. सिंह रह गये। परन्तु मुझे यह कहने में प्रसन्नता होती है कि श्री के. पी. सिंह, जो मैथु आयोग के समक्ष कनीयतम अधिवक्ता थे, ने जिला प्रशासन के तथ्यों को सही परिप्रेक्ष्य में प्रस्तुत किया। इस काण्ड के परिणाम से सभी अवगत हैं। जिला प्रशासन के सभी अधिकारी बेदाग रहे। प्रशासनिक नेता को अपने दायित्वों के सफल निर्वाह के लिए औरों से ऊपर होना चाहिए। वारे आर. आस्टिन ने 'यू.एन.वर्ल्ड' में कहा था, "अगर आप मुझे ऊपर खींचना चाहें, तो आप को ज्यादा ऊँची जगह पर होना चाहिए।"

यह आलेख बड़ा होता जा रहा है अतः एक और घटना का उल्लेख करके इसका समापन करूँगा। 1970 के दशक में भूमि सुधार अधिशेष भूमि अधिनियम को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू करने को सरकार उद्धत थी। समस्तीपुर के उजियारपुर प्रखण्ड के एक जमींदार पर यह अधिनियम लागू किया गया। उनके पास कई सौ एकड़ जमीन अधिशेष हो रही थी। लैंड सीलिंग अधिनियम से बचने के लिए भूमिपति ने अनेक हथकण्डे अपनाये। इसी क्रम में उन्होंने अपनी अधिशेष भूमि को बिहार भू-अर्जन अधिनियम के अंतर्गत अधिग्रहीत करने के लिए सरकार से अनुरोध किया।

एक दिन डाक में राजस्व सचिव का पत्र मिला। लिखा था कि "सरकार ने बर्मा रिपैट्रियाट्स को बसाने के लिए उजियारपुर प्रखण्ड में ऊपर संदर्भित जमीन को अधिग्रहीत करने का निर्णय लिया है। कृपया अधिग्रहण

की कार्रवाई प्रारंभ करें और सरकार को प्रस्ताव भेजें।"

मैंने सरकार को उत्तर भेजा कि संदर्भित जमींदार की अधिशेष भूमि पर बिहार अधिशेष भूमि अधिनियम के अंतर्गत कार्रवाई चल रही है। अधिनियम के प्रावधानानुसार जिस जमीन पर बिहार अधिशेष अधिनियम लागू हो जाता है, उस पर और कोई भी कानून नहीं लागू होगा। जहाँ तक बर्मा से आए लोगों को पुनर्वासित करने की बात है, उन्हें अधिशेष भूमि सीमा अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत प्राप्त होने वाली जमीन पर पुनर्वासित किया जा सकता है।

सरकार मेरे उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं हुई। मंत्री राजस्व ने मुझे पटना बुलाया और कहा कि सरकार का निर्णय है कि बर्मा से आए लोगों को उजियारपुर प्रखण्ड में संदर्भित जमीन का भू-अर्जन कर उस पर बसाया जाय। मैंने अपने पूर्व के सुझाव को मंत्री जी के समक्ष रखा, पर वे संतुष्ट नजर नहीं आए। मैं समस्तीपुर वापस आ गया।

दो सप्ताह बाद सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग का पत्र मिला, जिसके साथ मंत्रिमंडल का निर्णय संलग्न था कि समस्तीपुर जिला के उजियारपुर अंचल की संदर्भित जमीन का अर्जन कर उस पर बर्मा से आए लोगों को बसाने के प्रस्ताव पर स्वीकृति दी जाती है। मैंने इस मामले की जड़ तक जाने का प्रयास किया।

सीलिंग एक्ट के अंतर्गत अधिशेष जमीन का मुआवजा संबंधित जमीन की कैटेगरी का शायद 150 रुपया प्रति एकड़ था जबकि वैसी जमीन का मुआवजा बिहार भू-अर्जन अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत एक हजार रुपये प्रति एकड़ था। दोनों के मुआवजे में करीब साढ़े आठ सौ रुपया प्रति एकड़ का अंतर था। इस अंतर की राशि में संलग्न लोगों का स्वार्थ निहित होना स्वाभाविक था।

मैंने पुनः सरकार को लिखा कि मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत प्रस्ताव की जमीन पर बिहार सीलिंग अधिनियम के अंतर्गत अधिग्रहण की कार्यवाही प्रगति पर है। इस पर अब कोई भी दूसरा अधिनियम नहीं लागू होगा। मुझे लगता है कि इस तथ्य को मंत्रिमंडल के समक्ष विचाराधीन प्रस्ताव में नहीं रखा गया। अतः सरकार इस पर पुनः विचार करे।

संयोग से एक दिन मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. जगन्नाथ मिश्र के ससुर से समस्तीपुर में मुलाकात हो गयी। मैं उनका सम्मान करता था, और उनका प्यार मुझे मिलता था। उन्होंने अपनत्व दिखाते हुए कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री जी आपसे प्रसन्न नहीं लगते हैं। आपने सरकार के आदेश का पालन नहीं किया। इस पर आप दण्डित हो सकते हैं। मैंने उन्हें सम्पूर्ण तथ्य की जानकारी दी और कहा कि आप मुख्यमंत्री जी को बता दें कि यदि सरकार इस प्रस्ताव पर अमल करेगी तो बहुत बड़े भूमि-घोटाले में फँस जायेगी। भविष्य में यदि कोई जाँच सरकार के विरुद्ध हुई तो सरकार को कटघरे में खड़ा करने वाली यह प्रथम संचिका होगी। मुख्यमंत्री जी को आप सलाह दें कि वे पूरी संचिका स्वयं देख लें। उसके बाद जो निर्णय होगा, उसका अनुपालन होगा।

कुछ दिनों बाद आर्यावर्त समाचार-पत्र के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर शीर्ष समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ कि सरकार ने जिलाधिकारी के सुझाव को मान लिया।

संस्मरण तो बहुत से हैं, परन्तु उन सबको यहाँ लिपिबद्ध करना संभव नहीं है। फिर भी एक ऐसी घटना का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ जिसे सब स्वीकार नहीं करें। जनता दल की सरकार, लालू प्रसाद के नेतृत्व में बनी। श्री लालू प्रसाद ने कमजोर और शोषित वर्ग के कल्याण की, जे. पी. के सिद्धांतों पर चलने और बिहार के विकास की सौगन्ध

खाई। प्रारंभ में इनका अनुपालन भी किया। पटना के एक सुप्रसिद्ध डॉक्टर ने मुझे बताया कि विभागीय मंत्री उनकी संस्था की मान्यता के लिए पाँच लाख रुपया मुख्यमंत्री के नाम पर माँग रहे हैं। मैंने उनकी जानकारी मुख्यमंत्री को दी। उन्होंने विश्वास नहीं किया और कहा कि क्या वह डॉक्टर मेरे समक्ष कह सकेगा। मैंने कहा पूछकर सूचित करूँगा। डॉक्टर तैयार हो गया और राजकीय अतिथिशाला में हम तीनों बैठे। डॉक्टर ने पूरी बात बता दी। एक सप्ताह के अन्दर मुख्यमंत्री ने ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा कर दी, कि उस मंत्री को अपने पद से त्याग-पत्र देना पड़ गया। मैंने लालू प्रसाद को बहुत निकट से देखा था। उनमें एक विशेषता थी कि उचित समय पर सही सलाह को स्वीकार करते थे। पर 1995 के चुनाव की सफलता के पश्चात् वे वैसे नहीं रह सके।

भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के अधिकारियों का विजन बड़ा होना चाहिए। यहाँ पर मैं एक कहानी का उद्धरण देना चाहता हूँ। एक बीहड़ जंगल से गुजरते हुए एक यात्री ने अपने भारतीय गाइड से पूछा, “आप किस तरह इन नुकीली चोटियों के ऊपर, इन खतरनाक रास्तों से अपना रास्ता चुन लेते हैं और इसके बाद भी आप दिशा चुनने में भूल नहीं करते?”

गाइड ने उत्तर दिया, “मेरे पास नजदीक की दृष्टि भी है और दूर की दृष्टि भी। एक से मैं वह देखता हूँ, जो ठीक मेरे सामने हैं, दूसरी से मैं सितारों से अपनी दिशा निर्धारित करता हूँ।”

[जियालाल आर्य, भा.प्र.से., (अवकाशप्राप्त)]

THE TAPES RADIA

- R. J. M. Pillai

TILL the 1970s, I had heard of Radios. As a schoolboy I do remember a Philips radio set kept atop an almirah in the house. Occasionally this descended for minor tinkering, changing valves, soldering and dad appeared to be the expert on this. Later, while I had joined College, this was replaced with a BUSH set. As on date, whether the company exists or not, I wouldn't know. This also required occasional banging to be brought back to life. Come Saturdays, and after the traditional 9 pm news, a 15 mins programme of old English songs was what I looked forward to—Cliff Richards oh—'Someone else is in your arms tonight'.

In the 70s taperecorders had entered the market, were a bit expensive, fairly large when compared to today's benchmarks [ipods]. I do recall with fond memory the set I had procured as a SDO at Purnia in 1976. The cassette [some still around] were tapes used to record songs and you play them with the tape recorder. Today DVDs, VCDs, CDs, USBs, Pendrives and Screwdrives have replaced all these. Even these would become obsolete in no time. We are now into cloud computing and all data, including voice, music, will be stored somewhere in the clouds. Back to history, long, long ago Kalidasa was adept in sending messages thru clouds in his 'MEGHADOOTAM'.

In the late 70s Personal Computers had invaded the homes, we joined a little late; the old 386,486; you can still find them in Government offices-no takers even if one wants to gift. Data storage and retrieval are key words and Information Technology is the buzzword. By 80s IT was in several Govt. Offices more so in GOI. NIC was roped in to train officers and I do recall having

attended vertical and horizontal trainings at NIC, CMC etc.

Along with microprocessors [dualcore etal] and adjunct technology, data transfer and voice protocols underwent a paradigm shift-Alvin Tofflers Power shift. By early 90s mobile telephony had made way into this realm and today its 2G and 3G and not to forget CWG.

Information collection or knowledge gathering has historical parallels. All Rulers Romans, Moguls, British and many others were involved in this. Earlier it was physical even pigeons were sent on errands more so to send letters conveying love and they had a unique sense of direction and delivery. Modern day SMSs can misfire, one wrong click and things can go haywire. Information highways [internet] do have gateways watched-beware.

Telephone tapping is an euphemism, since the whole is recorded, but is it still on tapes; is pure guesswork. With storage devices available, it can be placed anywhere and you can be tapped—physical, ethical and unethical. I am leaving out hacking for the time being.

Having started with Radios it will not be in the fitness of things if I don't mention Radia. How can one sidetrack contemporary issues? Radia tapes are everywhere. In the newspapers, in judicial proceedings, in corporate gossip, coffee tables and stables. Why is it still being referred as tapes is something beyond me. It could have been radia DVDs, Radia VCDs, Radia MMS, Radia drives etc, but then it's better to go with the crowd. Consultants roles have always had an ambiguity. Its job description, when and for what they can be deployed has remained a grey area. Consultancy

is the in thing in recent times. An uppish lot, who can mobilize the Queen's language differently much of which is meant not to be understood, and who sell our wares as theirs, without us realizing what struck us. The bolt is realized when you pay up front and down under.

Now to the RADIA tapes. Oh, the poor thing. Being a consultant for a number of MNCs and local corporate houses requires a lot of multitasking skills and added to that you are interrogated for bringing parties together and leaving them there. What has the poor consultant to do with the follow up or fallout?

What conversation takes place between any two entities may be interesting only when it treads on forbidden subjects. If a bureaucrat is involved in mudslinging, he must be blissfully unaware that the reciprocal is also truer. If a businessman / corporate head is involved in finding out the

choice of a political head for a given ministry, where is the harm. The system in place is doing the same, day in and day out including shuffling, reshuffling and of course appointing CVC. Fortunately now this post doesn't prescribe for someone with impeccable integrity as the Govt. has taken a stand on it.

Very soon, we will have Nadia tapes and the current subject [radia] will be consigned to the museums of antiquity. With 3G around, 2G will be forgotten-thanks to public memory, turning into oblivion. With the next games CWG will be past. But we still have CNG and LPG Waiting.

Back to my favourite radio. My wife still can't remain without her two in one Philips tape recorder. With old songs in old tapes, blissfully, she goes back and forth in time.

[Sri R. J. M. Pillai, I.A.S. (Rtd.)]

WAVES & RIPPLES

Sri V. K. Verma, 76

Principal Secretary, Mining & Geology Department.

Sri Alok Kumar Sinha, 79

Additional Charge : Chairman, Bihar Staff Selection Commission.

Sri C. Lalsota, 81

Principal Secretary, Art Culture and Youth Affairs Department.

Sri Amitabh Verma, 82

Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Bihar.

Sri K. P. Ramaiah, 86

Commissioner, Patna Division.

Smt. Anshuli Arya, 89

Additional Charge: Managing Director, Bihar State Women Development Cooperation and Secretary, Bihar State Child Right Conservation Commission.

Sri C. K. Anil, 91

Advisor, Bihar State Planning Board.

Sri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, 95

Additional Charge : State Mission Director, SRLM cum Commissioner Self Employment Rural Development Department.

Smt. N. Vijayalakshmi, 95

Additional Charge: Secretary, Agriculture Department, Patna

Sri Anand Kishor, 96

IG. Prison, Bihar.

Sri Pankaj Kumar, 97

District Magistrate,
Gopalganj.

Sri Rajesh Kumar, 01

Director, Animal Husbandry,
Bihar, Patna.

Additional Charge: Registrar,
Cooperative Societies, Bihar.

Sri Mayank Barbare, 01

District Magistrate, Jamui.

Sri Pankaj Kumar Pal, 02

Joint Secretary,
Agriculture Department, Bihar.

Sri Virendra Prasad Yadav, 04

District Magistrate,
Sheikhpura.

Smt. Palka Sahni, 04

Managing Director, BELTRON.

Sri Manish Kumar, 05

Director, BREDA.

Additional Charge: Commissioner,
NREGA, Rural Development Department.

Sri Dharmendra Singh, 06

District Magistrate,
Khagaria.

Sri Jai Singh, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Nalanda.

Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, West Champaran, Betiah.

Sri Deepak Anand, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Samastipur.

Sri Manoj Kumar, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Patna.

Sri Gopal Meena, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Gaya.

Sri Vinod Singh Gunjiyal, 07

DDC cum Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Muzaffarpur.

Sri Rajeev Roushan, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Darbhanga.

Sri Animesh Kumar Parashar, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Nalanda.

Sri Kaushal Kishore, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Jehanabad.

Sri Kanwal Tanuj, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Gaya.

Sri Krishna Bajpai, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Purnia.

Sri Avneesh Kumar Singh, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
West Champaran (Betiah).

Ms. Rachana Patil, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Bhojpur (Ara).

Sri Chandra Shekhar Singh, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Aurangabad.

Sri Raj Kumar, 10

Assistant Collector cum Magistrate,
Muzaffarpur.

UNINVITED GUESTS

- Paromita Saha

We live in an old English type cottage. Looks wonderful from the outside with a beautiful lawn which enhances the elegance of the cottage with beds of seasonal flowers lacing the lawn. Red tiles cover the roof top while inside we have a false ceiling which covers the projecting red tiles and increases the beauty of the rooms.

Being an old cottage people told me stories of it being haunted which of course I brushed aside. Being a so-called modern woman living in the middle of the town and GHOSTS !! well, one can only laugh. But as few days passed after I entered the house, I heard foot steps on the roof top or was it coming from the in-between space between the tiled roof and the false ceiling???? But these noises and footsteps slowly became a part of my life. I heard this, day in and day out but I began to ignore them or simply overlooked them.

There is an interesting fire-place in my drawing room and a chimney seen projecting out from the roof top. Since I did not light any fire during the winter months my fire place remained unused. What I did was to decorate the fire place with statues of Ganeshji and Buddha Bhagwan which were given to me as gifts and lit the fire-place up with bulbs to make the room cozy.

As time went by the noise which came from the space between the tiled roof and the false ceiling became louder and very obvious. Now I began to hear foot steps in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon and of course the night also had its share of ghostly noises. My olfactory glands work, I think better than most people for I picked up a stale smell of cooked Basmati rice in the

house even when no rice was cooked. Again I overlooked it assuming the smell came from some house nearby.

Days passed and my "haunted" house with all its noise would no longer disturb me for I had begun to live with it. Wonderful law of acceptance. Then came a rude shock.

We had gone out of

station and on our return back home we found some decoration pieces thrown around, a cushion or two lying on the floor. In short, it appeared as if some one had entered the room. I looked for clue in the other rooms but the other rooms were untouched. They seemed absolutely alright, it was only our drawing room which had evidence of it having been tampered with. What was upsetting rather frightening was the fact that all doors and windows were shut and I was sure no one could have entered the house from outside. But this time round I could get the smell of stale cooked basmati rice-the smell was so



zstrong as if everything in the room was radiating of this foul rotten smell.

We searched the rooms looking again for options which could lead us or give us a clue if someone entered the house from some other source. After repeated discussion and weighing all the pros and cons we let the matter rest. Yes, I forgot to mention that we did consider the point that someone could have entered through the fire place but the diameter of the opening of the chimney was only eight to ten inches. So this chapter too was closed and put to rest. Later I even got carpenter to fix a wooden plank to seal the fire place hole. Life continued and so did the noise from my roof.

In July, there was very heavy rainfall. The down pour resulted in creating cracks on my roof and water began to drain down from my false ceiling into my drawing room. I placed a bucket to collect the water draining down from the roof and damaging my false ceiling. These false ceiling tiles were made of paper mache or a thickish card board. Thus these false tiles from where the water was dropping down managed to soak so much water that it collapsed. The rain finally stopped but I had two holes where the water soaked tiles disintegrated. Now we had to replace these two roof tiles for one could see through the holes and see the red tiles on top of the roof. Days passed and when I did complain to my husband he said let the rains stop and we will attend to the false ceiling. However, the red roof tiles were fixed and there was no leakage but the holes from the drenched false ceiling tiles remained like an ugly sore.

One night I was sitting in my drawing room almost underneath the missing tiles on the false ceiling, enjoying a lovely book and waiting for my husband to return from office when suddenly a

thick rope - like thing suddenly came down from the ceiling. I was sure a thief was trying to make an entry from the gap created by the missing tiles, I screamed and shouted and this brought my house guard and other staff staying outside house and we all looked up to find two pairs of sparkling eyes looking down. This pair of eyes was joined by other pairs and soon there were six pairs of sparkling eyes looking down at us. Everyone was screaming and shouting "Bhoot Bhoot" The atmosphere of sheer pandemonium broke through the night. When suddenly something fell through the hole.....it was a WILD CAT locally known as KHATAS. These cats have a reddish brown and greyish appearance with a long thick rope like tail. Then what followed was an unbelievable scene. The whole family Father KHATAS, Mother KHATAS and children KHATAS all come down from the hole in my false ceiling which housed them for so long into my drawing room. While they all looked puzzled and bewildered, all of us men-folk were shouting and screaming with excitement.

We human being, thanks to the intellect god gave us, ran out of the drawing room leaving the KHATAS family to themselves in the drawing room.

Emergency phone calls were made to the director of the Zoo who brought his team and finally rescued the KHATAS family - mother, father and children into a cage and they were taken from my roof top which had been their home for so long into the zoo, their new home.

As and when I visit the zoo I try to go and meet the KHATAS family and wish them lots of luck and in my humble way seek pardon for dislocating them.

[Smt. Paromita Saha is the wife of
Sri K. C. Saha, I.A.S. (1975) Development
Commissioner, Bihar]

जी हाँ, ऐसा होता है कि जिला मुख्यालय वाला पुराना शहर पुराना ही रह जाता है : हाँ सरकार के सारे दफ्तर वहाँ ही होते हैं। डी0एम0/एस0डी0ओ0 और अन्य बड़े पदाधिकारी भी अपने आलिशान कार्यालय एवं आवास के साथ वहाँ रहते हैं, परन्तु ऐसा भी होता है कि इस पुराने शहर से 50–60 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर कोई नया शहर भी विकसित हो जाये। जीतपुर – उस पुराने जिला का नया शहर था— जहाँ आजादी के बाद इस्पात का एक बड़ा कारखाना खुला था। शहर में शहर की सुविधाएँ मौजूद थीं— अच्छी सड़कें, बिजली, शानदार इमारतें, पार्क, क्लब, सिनेमा हॉल आदि। इसी नये शहर के जिला में एक नये डी0सी0 ने योगदान दिया और कार्यभार संभाला। उनका नाम था अमरेन्द्र बहादुर सिंह, राजपूत थे और एक सम्भ्रान्त परिवार से उनकी पहचान थी। कार्यभार संभालने के पश्चात उन्हें एक नई निजी मोटर गाड़ी खरीदने का शौक हुआ। मैं जिस जमाने की बात कर रहा हूँ उस जमाने में डी0सी0 के पास अपनी नई मोटर गाड़ी नहीं होती थी। शहर के गिने-चुने तीन-चार लोगों के पास अपने निजी वाहन होते थे। सरकारी वाहनों की संख्या भी उंगलियों पर गिनी जा सकती थी। डी0सी0 साहब ने कुछ राशि बैंक से ली और एक Chevorlet कार खरीदी – यह कलकत्ता से मँगायी गयी थी क्योंकि कलकत्ता इस जिले से निकट था। जिस दिन कार आयी डी0सी0 आवास पर शहर के गणमान्य व्यक्तियों ने आकर डी0सी0 साहब को बधाई दी, चमचमाती हुई नई लाल रंग की कार की भरपूर प्रशंसा की। एक-दो वरीय पदाधिकारियों ने भी अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज करायी। आपको जानना चाहिए कि उस जमाने में डी0सी0 के आवास पर सबों का पहुँच पाना आसान नहीं था। मिठाई और चाय के दौर के दरम्यान ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने एक प्रस्ताव रखा कि डी0सी0 की नई कार का निबंधन संख्या JRT-1 होना चाहिए क्योंकि जिला के सबसे बड़े हाकिम की कार को कोई और नम्बर शोभा नहीं देता। इस प्रस्ताव का उपस्थित अन्य लोगों ने एक स्वर से अनुमोदन किया। डी0सी0 साहब भी इस प्रस्ताव से सहमत हुए और उन्होंने यह जानना चाहा कि यह JRT-1 नम्बर किस

गाड़ी का है और यह कहाँ है, उसके मालिक कौन हैं। जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी को बुलाने का फरमान हुआ। जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी को जैसे ही सूचना मिली कि उपायुक्त, डी0सी0 साहब ने सलाम भेजा है और आवास पर बुलाया है उनका दिल जोर-जोर से धड़कने लगा। जाने क्या बात हो गयी ? कहीं कोई बड़ी दुर्घटना तो नहीं हो गयी? इन्हीं बातों को सोचते हुए वह डी0सी0 साहब के समक्ष उपस्थित हुए।

सलाम-वंदना के बाद ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी से यह जानना चाहा कि JRT-1 निबंधन संख्या वाला वाहन किस के नाम से है। यह सुनकर जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी की जान में जान आयी कि मामला कुछ ऐसा-वैसा नहीं है जिसके बारे में वह सोच-सोचकर परेशान थे। उन्होंने तुरंत बताया कि JRT-1 कार का नम्बर है, जो जीतपुर कारखाना के सी0एम0डी0 श्री पारेख के नाम से निबंधित है। आप परेशान न हों, उस जमाने में जिले में भी 5–10 ही कारें हुआ करती थीं बल्कि उससे भी कम और जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी तो क्या आम लोगों को भी याद रहता था कि किस नम्बर की गाड़ी/कार किस व्यक्ति की है।

ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने डी0टी0ओ0 को निर्देश दिया कि श्री पारेख, सी0एम0डी0 जीतपुर इस्पात कारखाना को अपनी गाड़ी का नम्बर JRT-1 समर्पण करने का अनुरोध करें और उन्हें कोई और नम्बर आवंटित कर दें – और JRT-1 डी0सी0 के निजी वाहन को आवंटित कर दें। जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी को आदेश हुआ कि वह अगले दिन जीतपुर जाकर श्री पारेख से मिलकर सारी औपचारिकताएँ पूरी करा लें। डी0सी0 ने अपना सिर हिलाकर मानो ए0डी0सी0 के आदेश को अनुमोदित कर दिया।

दूसरे दिन सरकारी जीप से जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी जीतपुर के लिये रवाना हुए। 2 घंटे में वे जीतपुर की 60 किलोमीटर की दूरी तय कर पाए। उस जमाने में सड़कें अच्छी नहीं हुआ करती थीं। फिर उन्होंने इस्पात कारखाना के

सी0एम0डी0 से समय लेकर भेंट की और भेंट करने का उद्देश्य बताया। श्री पारेख हथ्थे से उखड़ गये, थोड़ी ऊँचे स्वर में (क्योंकि वह एक शिष्ट एवं वरीय पदाधिकारी थे और जिला के एक वरीय पदाधिकारी से बात कर रहे थे) उन्होंने JRT-1 नम्बर समर्पण करने से इन्कार किया। जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी ने उन्हें यह समझाने का प्रयास किया कि यह डी0सी0 की खाहिश है – इस बात पर श्री पारेख सख्त नाराज हो गये, अपनी कुर्सी से खड़े हो गये, जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी के निकट आकर इनकी आँखों में देखते हुए कहा – ‘मिस्टर डी0टी0ओ0 आप जानते हैं आप के डी0सी0 को जो तन्खाह पूरे माह में मिलती है वह मुझे एक दिन में मिलती है और आप यह सोचते हैं कि मैं अपनी गाड़ी का नम्बर समर्पण कर दूँ ताकि डी0सी0 की गाड़ी पर वह नम्बर चला जाय? असम्भव! मैं ऐसा कभी नहीं करूँगा।’ डी0टी0ओ0 साहब ने श्री पारेख को एक बार और समझाने का प्रयास किया, परन्तु मामला ज्यों का त्यों रहा।

डी0टी0ओ0 साहब पारेख का इन्कार सुनकर रवाना हुए और इन बातों की जानकारी देने के लिये डी0सी0 साहब से मिलने उनके आवासीय कार्यालय में पहुंचे। डी0सी0 साहब स्थिति की जानकारी मिलते ही गुस्से से आग-बबूला हो गये। अपनी कड़कती हुई आवाज में कहा – ‘उसकी यह मजाल कि डी0सी0 की बात की परवाह नहीं की? उसे तो बताना पड़ेगा कि डी0सी0 क्या होता है।’ गरजती आवाज में उन्होंने स्टेनो को बुलाया और आदेश दिया कि नयी गाड़ी तभी गैरेज से बाहर आयेगी जब इसे नया नम्बर JRT-1 आवंटित होगा। उन्होंने ए0डी0सी0 साहब को जीतपुर के एस0डी0ओ0 को हेडक्वार्टर बुलाने का हुक्म दिया और फिर ए0डी0सी0 साहब से मुखातिब होकर कहा अब तो मैं अपनी कार पर तभी बैदूँगा जब इसका नम्बर JRT-1 होगा। दूसरे दिन एस0डी0ओ0 जीतपुर आये, ए0डी0सी0 साहब, डी0टी0ओ0 साहब तथा डी0सी0 साहब के बीच विचार-विमर्श हुआ। आगे की रणनीति तैयार की गयी। एस0डी0ओ0, जीतपुर आगे की कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वापस जीतपुर गये। उन्होंने शहर थाना प्रभारी को बुलाया और उन्हें आदेश दिया कि पारेख की गतिविधियों पर कड़ी निगाह रखी जाय, निगरानी करायी जाय और प्रतिदिन का रिपोर्ट दिया जाय। एस0डी0ओ0 साहब

लगातार निगरानी की जानकारी प्राप्त करते रहे। तीन दिनों के बाद उन्होंने एक गोपनीय रिपोर्ट ए0डी0सी0 साहब को भेज दिया और ए0डी0सी0 को डी0टी0ओ0 के साथ जीतपुर बुलाया। डी0सी0 ने वाहन चेकिंग का एक Task force बनाया, ए0डी0सी0 के प्रभार में डी0टी0ओ0/एस0डी0ओ0 के साथ वाहनों की गहन जाँच का आदेश निर्गत किया। ए0डी0सी0 अपनी टीम के साथ जीतपुर पहुँचे और आई0बी0 में रुक गये। उसी रात को मून लाइट क्लब की ओर से शहर आने वाली गाड़ियों की चेकिंग आरंभ हुई – करीब 11:30-12:00 बजे रात को क्लब की ओर से एक कार की रोशनी दिखायी दी। थोड़ी देर में एक कार नजर आयी, Ford का मॉडल और निकट आने पर निबंधन संख्या JRT-1 भी दिखने लगा। गश्त कर रहे पुलिस कर्मियों ने गाड़ी को रुकने का संकेत दिया, कार पर एक मर्द, बढ़िया कपड़े पहने बैठा था। पुलिस के हवलदार ने मर्द से उनका परिचय माँगा। ड्राइवर सीट पर बैठे पुरुष ने हैरत से हवलदार की ओर देखते हुए कहा ‘आश्चर्य है, आप मुझे नहीं जानते, मैं जीतपुर इस्पात कारखाना का सी0एम0डी0 पारेख हूँ। हवलदार ने उस पुरुष से कहा—‘हो सकता है आप श्री पारेख हों, परन्तु सर ! आप नशे की हालत में गाड़ी चला रहे हैं जो कानून के अन्तर्गत जुर्म है। फिर जहाँ तक हमारी जानकारी है श्री पारेख कुँवारे हैं, परन्तु महोदय, आपके साथ एक महिला भी मौजूद हैं। इतनी रात को नशे की हालत में एक महिला के साथ सी0एम0डी0 नहीं हो सकते आप। आप की गतिविधि सन्दिग्ध है – आप को थाना चलना होगा, रात में Lock-up में रहना होगा। सुबह पहचान एवं जाँच-पड़ताल के पश्चात अगर आपकी बात सच निकली तो आपको बाइज्जत जाने दिया जायेगा।’ इतना सुनते ही श्री पारेख के होश उड़ गये। उन्होंने हवलदार से अनुरोध किया कि मामला रफा-दफा कर दे। यदि उन्हें हवालात में रहना पड़ा तो सुबह तक यह बात सारे शहर में फैल जायेगी। अखबारों में भी आ जायेगा, बड़ी बदनामी होगी। परन्तु हवलदार टस-से-मस नहीं हुआ। पारेख ने मिन्नत-विनती की कि उन्हें जाने दिया जाय – हवलदार ने उन्हें परामर्श दिया कि निकट के डाकबंगला में थाना प्रभारी रुके हुए हैं उनसे बात कर ली जाय। मरता क्या न करता? श्री पारेख अपनी कार में बैठकर पुलिस जीप के पीछे-पीछे चलकर डाकबंगला पहुंचे। (उनकी गाड़ी में एक पुलिस कर्मी भी बैठा था) पारेख की महिला मित्र

गाड़ी में बैठी रहीं। पारेख साहब डाकबंगला के हॉल में पहुँचे, वहाँ गैस की रोशनी जल रही थी और थाने के थाना प्रभारी ने एक कुर्सी पर बैठने का संकेत दिया। पारेख साहब ने थाना प्रभारी से विनम्रता पूर्वक यह जानना चाहा कि माजरा क्या है। उनके साथ ऐसा सलूक क्यों किया जा रहा है। रात काफी हो चुकी थी, पारेख का नशा खत्म हो गया था, अब उन्हें कल आने वाली मुसीबत के बारे में पूरा ज्ञान होने लगा। उन्होंने थाना प्रभारी से फिर पूछा कि क्या वह उन्हें नहीं पहचानता? अगर पहचानता है तो फिर यह सलूक क्यों? – इतनी बात सुन लेने के पश्चात् थाना प्रभारी ने कहा कि सर, मामला बहुत Simple (सीधा) है – बस JRT-1 नम्बर समर्पण कर दें। पारेख साहब को सारी बात साफ हो गयी। वह समझ गये कि सारी कार्रवाई जिला प्रशासन द्वारा सुनियोजित है – नम्बर समर्पण करने के अलावा कोई चारा नहीं था – पारेख साहब ने एक आखरी दाँव खेला। कहा – ठीक है नम्बर कल समर्पण कर दिया जायेगा – इतनी रात को क्या हो सकता है। थाना प्रभारी डाकबंगला के एक कमरे में गया और फिर उनके साथ ए0डी0सी0/डी0टी0ओ0 और उनके कार्यालय के कर्मी हॉल में आये। ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने श्री पारेख से कहा हुआ! कल किसने देखा है अभी आवेदन दें और अभी के अभी नम्बर समर्पण होगा और आपको नया नम्बर मिल जायेगा। पारेख साहब ने एक बार फिर आश्चर्य से ए0डी0सी0 साहब को देखा मानो कह रहे हो कि हद हो गयी दबंगई की। फिर एक बार सुबह घटने वाली घटना का सोचकर उन्हें पसीना आ गया। उन्हें कोई रास्ता नहीं सूझा। उन्होंने आवेदन लिखने का निर्णय ले लिया और कागज-कलम की माँग की। डी0टी0ओ0 सयाने किस्म के आदमी थे। तुरंत अपने एक सहायक को इशारा किया। उस सहायक ने पूर्व से टाइप किया हुआ आवेदन पत्र पारेख साहब के सामने टेबुल पर रख दिया और कलम भी टेबुल पर रख दी। एक मिनट तक पारेख साहब चुप रहे, फिर उन्होंने आवेदन पत्र को पढ़ा और अपना हस्ताक्षर पद सहित तिथि देकर अंकित कर दिया। ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने आवेदन पत्र अपने हाथ में लिया, पारेख साहब का हस्ताक्षर देखा और आवेदन पत्र का डी0टी0ओ0 ऑफिस के सहायक द्वारा संबंधित पंजियों में इन्द्राज किया गया। डी0टी0ओ0 द्वारा प्रविष्टियों पर हस्ताक्षर किया गया। JRT-1 नम्बर समर्पण हो

गया। श्री पारेख, सी0एम0डी0, इस्पात कारखाना के कार के लिये नया नम्बर आवंटित कर दिया गया। ए0डी0सी0 साहब ने पारेख साहब से कष्ट के लिये क्षमा माँगी, स्थिति स्पष्ट की कि आदेश के पालन के क्रम में ऐसा करना पड़ा। पारेख साहब को कार तक छोड़ने के लिए ए0डी0सी0 स्वयं कार तक आये, डी0टी0ओ0 कार्यालय का कारिन्दा उस समय तक पारेख साहब की गाड़ी से JRT-1 नम्बर प्लेट निकाल चुका था। हल्के जाड़े का मौसम था फिर भी पारेख साहब के माथे पर पसीना था। गाड़ी में पारेख साहब की महिला मित्र घबरायी-सी बैठी थी। एक सिपाही जो कार के साथ आया था कार के बाहर खड़ा था। पारेख साहब को आते देख कर उसने कार का दरवाजा खोल दिया। पारेख साहब भारी कदमों से चलकर कार तक आये और ड्राइविंग सीट पर बैठ गये – गाड़ी स्टार्ट की-सिपाही ने उन्हें एक लम्बा सलाम मारा। कार नये नम्बर के साथ आगे बढ़ गयी।

दूसरे दिन डी0सी0 साहब को नयी कार के लिये नया नम्बर JRT-1 निबंधन पहचान के साथ लेकर ए0डी0सी0 साहब और डी0टी0ओ0 साहब डी0सी0 आवास पहुँचे। डी0सी0 साहब को खबर हुई वे अपने गोपनीय कार्यालय में आये। ए0डी0सी0 साहब को Mission की सफलता के लिये प्रशंसा की और स्टेनो को आदेश दिया कि नये गाड़ी को गैरेज से बाहर कराये, नया नम्बर प्लेट लगाये, मैं आज ही जीतपुर के इस्पात कारखाना के Inspection के लिये इसी गाड़ी से जाऊँगा।... दूर खड़े डी0टी0ओ0 साहब सोच रहे थे कि भले सी0एम0डी0 की एक दिन की तन्खाह डी0सी0 के एक माह की तन्खाह के बराबर हो परन्तु डी0सी0 की शक्तियाँ?.....

नोट : यह कहानी मुझे डी0सी0 साहब के निकट संबंधियों ने सुनाई थी जिनका स्वर्गवास हो चुका है।

नोट : इस डी0सी0 साहब का एक लड़का था जो किसी कॉलेज में प्रोफेसर था। कुछ सालों के बाद उसने अपने पिताजी की गाड़ी JRT-1 औने-पौने भाव में बेच डाली।

[मो0 मसूद हसन, भा0प्र0से0 (अवकाशप्राप्त)]

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| The most beautiful day | - Today |
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| The biggest obstacle | - Fear |
| The gravest error | - give up, to despair |
| The root of all evils | - Egoism |
| The most beautiful occupation | - Work |
| The worst route to follow | - Faintheartedness |
| The best teachers | - Children |
| The first necessity | - To communicate |
| The greatest happiness | - To be useful to others |
| The greatest mystery | - Death |
| The worst defect | - Bad temper |
| The most dangerous being | - The liar' |
| The most wretched feeling | - The grudge |
| The most beautiful gift | - Forgiveness |
| The most indispensable | - Home |
| The quickest way | - The correct one |
| The most comfortable feeling | - Interior peace |
| The most powerful weapon | - The smile |
| The best remedy | - Optimism |
| The greatest satisfaction | - The duty done |
| The most powerful force | - Faith |
| The most needed beings | - The parents |
| The most beautiful of all | - Love |

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