

NOTE

MONEY TALKS

Divakar N writes :

The recent Political developments in Karnataka has necessitated the need for a political code of conduct for the legislators. Time and again legal and constitutional experts have been harping upon the idea of having some constitutional binding upon the elected representatives , who have, over the years taken the people's mandate for granted. The permutation-combination of the political parties, to grab the seats of power has made a mockery of democratic structure and egalitarian credentials of Independent India.

The present Karnataka legislature came into action in 2004 with a fractured mandate. The Congress and JDS formed a coalition, to keep BJP away, assuring the people of Karnataka of a 5-year-governance with an understanding that the CM's post would be shared between the two parties. But after 20 months the JDS on some pretexts, not clear even to date, withdrew its support to Congress to join hands with BJP and formed a government for rest of the term. Kumar Swamy, the erstwhile CM was to handover the power to Yediyurappa on October 2nd, but that was not to be. The JDS refused to extend their coalition with BJP and President's rule was imposed in the state. After several manouvres to form an alternative government with Congress, the JDS again, for fear of a split in the party, brought back BJP to the centre stage and both the parties held a parade in front of President of India to confirm formation of a stable government. Yediyurappa of BJP assumed the role of CM and was to prove majority on 19th November in the assembly. Despite its written assurance to support BJP, the JDS again backtracked and a president rule again.

While the debutant MLAs were eager to hang on to power irrespective of the party they wanted to support, the senior politicians were after plump posts and ministries like Mining, Town planning etc. The entire state politics is hovering around Mining industry in Bellary and huge investments are coming into the state through Real estate and other sectors. The BJP could set its foothold in the state mainly due to the Mining mafia of Bellary and huge capital inflow from the neighbouring state in the agricultural sector of Bellary-Raichur region. Despite its poor infrastructure and backward condition, this region is the hub of Capital in the state in recent months, and the whole state politics is after it, as was evident from 150 crore Mining scam involving Janardhan Reddy, a BJP MLA. Besides, with too many SEZs, 60 to be precise, being approved for the state, and many satellite townships coming up around Bangalore and Mysore, foreign capital is flowing into the state and political parties cannot wish away the hidden profits. While this remains the precise reason for the fight for power and pelf, on the other hand, the electorate have become mute spectators and hapless in this sordid political drama. The people at large are feeling the heat of instability with crisis looming large in all sectors of economy. □□□