

WRONG PRESCRIPTION

## 'Charity' Won't Work

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The neo-liberal policy of the Congress government has resulted in a polarization in economic prosperity. The resource owner capitalists are creating more and more billionaires while the number of marginalized, deprived section of people is ever increasing. There is a clear and definite trend towards concentration of wealth and power.

So just so that it can come to power next time and will not be a victim of the wrath of the people because of its anti-people or anti-mass economic system the government has resorted to a few welfare schemes which make the people dependent on the government. The Congress leaders very well know that the people who cannot earn their livelihood rightfully with dignity, will at least be pacified by the mercy the government shows by selling rice at a subsidized price of 2 Rs a kg. No doubt the policy helps the poor but that can hardly certify it as an inclusive growth policy as claimed by the economist prime minister. Since it is only GDP growth with income concentration and thus power concentration and just so that its ugly face can be hidden, it shows charity by transferring part of the income of the rich through the government subsidy programs.

The economic policy of the prime minister is certainly pro-mega industrialists and pro-American military-hardware complex and Indians exist to serve and create employment for the rich country's weapon producing industries.

A question arises, why can India not have an economic system where, the people participate in the economy with dignity, and retaining their independence and work with initiative where there is opportunity for them to earn a decent living through their own effort! Why can they not have this minimal power over their own lives? Why do they have to depend on the goodwill and good heart of the moody "babus" who have the discriminating power of choosing the beneficiary of the welfare schemes.

At best this policy of the Government is apologetic in character. Since it cannot empower the people with control over their destiny, it pampers them with charity. And what the prime minister so cleverly tries to put as inclusive growth is nothing but deprivation and subsequent display of mercy the whole thing in disguise of various rights like right to education, right to food etc., which should not have been required, had the economic policies were correct. That economic policy should have empowered the people to earn their food, their health, and their qualification through their own initiative and effort.

If it is a question of power, the government guarantee of fulfilling the needs of the people, only makes them subservient to the government and not the makers of their own destiny. So it is only the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises if given a boost, which can create employment with affordable investment by the people themselves, may be with relevant credit facilities, which can empower the people. The mega industries are only supportive if they provide raw material and support to these smaller enterprises.

The government should be busy making people self-reliant and should impart them with the requisite skills so that they can take charge of their destiny. That is the only way to empower them. Welfare schemes are at best repair works of a devil who, has destroyed the system and is trying to escape the blame. These are neither sustainable nor good in their

current form. Welfare schemes should be only temporary till the people become capable enough to take care of themselves. While government service should be expanded, one must keep in mind that, a person deprived and rendered useless even if fed does not enjoy his life and lives a passive, uncreative and purposeless pursuit.

The systemic faults of the economic policies cannot be hidden by charitable activities of the government. □□□