















# VOICE OF BUDDHA

Publisher : Dr. UDIK RAJ (RAM RAJ), Chairman - Justice Publications, T-22, Atul Grove Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Tel: 23354841-42

● Year : 17

● Issue 12

● Fortnightly

● Bi-lingual

● 1 to 15 May, 2014

## Who Has Humiliated Dalits?

**Dr. Udit Raj**

If Baba Ram Dev had unintentionally made some undesirable remarks against Dalits, then he would also restore their honour and respect by making commendable remarks in favour of the community. On the 26th April, 2014, he had said that Rahul Gandhi visits Harijan Bastis for celebrating honeymoon. Baba Ram Dev's intention was only to criticize Rahul Gandhi's style of functioning but the word "honeymoon" was given a totally different twist. The word "honeymoon" in the normal sense is used when a couple visits a tourist spot like Nainital, Mussoorie or Kashmir etc. to spend sometime together but in the present, it would be taken as a taboo by the residents of these tourist spots. Ram Dev Ji had not said that Rahul Gandhi visits Dalit Bastis to celebrate honeymoon with Dalit women but he had simply said that he visits Dalit Bastis. As an allegory, it could also be used when two or more persons spend some good time together or when there is a coalition between two political parties. Baba Ram Dev had expressed his regret over his unintentional remarks. Ms Mayawati and some other Dalit leaders suddenly became hyper active by making statements that Dalits had been greatly humiliated and an emotionally blackmailed Dalit community for political gains. They roped in Bhartiya Janata Party in this controversy. Baba Ram Dev is definitely a BJP supporter but he has his own distinct standing in the society and sometimes he has been found to be dis-satisfied with BJP policies. Baba Ram Dev is neither a member of Bhartiya Janata Party nor a spokesperson of the party. I have also not supported these remarks of Baba Ram Dev. Why does Ms Mayawati not take up the real issues concerning Dalits like their rights, education, health, employment etc as strongly

as she has pounced upon BJP on "honeymoon" remarks made by Baba Ram Dev? Unfortunately, people of Dalit community are just swayed by emotions and do not bother to see things in proper perspective. Why don't they become aggressive and more vocal on the rights and their share in governance in different fields just as they have shown their anger on Baba Ram Dev's statement?

I feel very sad at the attitude of all the members of Dalit community who are swayed by emotions. On 23rd March, 2014, four Dalit girls were raped at Bhagana village of Hisar district in Haryana. These girls were raped for the simple reason that in the year 2012, dominant caste had boycotted Dalits who had then left the village. Since 21.5.2012, these Dalits are living in the open near Mini Secretariat of Hisar. Despite this boycott, about 95 Dalit families were living in the village and just to punish them for this, 4 Dalit girls were kidnapped and then gangraped for two days. Names of none of the accused persons has been mentioned in the FIR and they are still roaming scot free. These four victims with a large number of their relatives and friends are sitting on dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, since 16.4.2014, for seeking justice. Does Mayawati take this brutal rape of 4 Dalit girls as an act of honour for Dalit community? If not, why is she keeping silent on this issue and creating such a hue and cry on Baba Ram Dev's statement? Some Dalits have also tried to put me in the dock as to why I am keeping silent on Baba Ramdev's statement. I would like to clarify that I am not at all silent on this issue and wherever I am given opportunity, I shall continue to struggle for the rights of Dalits and shall never compromise on Dalit issues. I have spent nearly 17 precious years of my life struggling for the rights,



honour and prestige of Dalits. Where are those Dalit revolutionaries who never hesitate to put me in the dock but never pick the courage to criticize Mayawati who maintains stoic silence on the issue of rapes of Dalit girls. This is indeed a brazen attack on the honour and prestige of Dalits on which Mayawati is keeping silent. The Congress Party is taking the support of Mayawati by showing her CBI stick. As the Congress Party is in power in Haryana, it is for this reason that the recent heinous crime of gangrape of four Dalit girls in Haryana does not appear to be an act of humiliation for Dalits in the eyes of Mayawati. The Reservation Bill was presented in the Rajya Sabha in 2004 and even after 10 years, it has not been passed. Reservation in Promotions Bill has also been pending in the Parliament. Did Mayawati ever criticize the Congress Party against this delay in passing the Bills? It is here that the real honour and prestige of Dalits are at stake.

I am not supporting Baba Ram Dev in the matter

of his statement but the fact is that he has literally washed the feet of Dalit women and has also made donations for them. He has given employment to Dalits in his organizations. Is Bahujan Party is no more Bahujan in its approach when it has launched an attack on the people of his caste? A Brahmin can sit by the side of Mayawati on a public platform but Dalits are never given that honour. In a highly planned way, Mayawati has demolished the entire structure of Dalit leadership. Dalit leadership cannot emerge in BSP under Mayawati either at national, state, district or even block level. Can there be anything more humiliating and insulting than this for Dalits? The right for reservation in promotions which I had secured after a long struggle was taken away by Lucknow High Court during the tenure of Ms Mayawati's Chief Ministership as she had not followed up this case properly. In 2007, Mayawati had diluted the provisions of the SC/ST Atrocities Act by issuing a circular against which I filed a petition in Allahabad High Court and this

circular was set aside by the Court. Can any BSP worker discuss these issues with BSP Supremo Mayawati?

With the rise of BSP, a new economic policy was announced which gave raise to all avenues of trade, employment and income. Did anybody protest against this new economic policy or ensure a suitable share for Dalits in governance. None of these objectives could be achieved. All Dalits consider BSP as their sole protector but Mayawati treats them with scorn. Why Mayawati is having so many expectations from the upper caste people when herself is not giving them respect? BSP's workers are selfish and cowards and they do not have the courage to discuss these issues with Mayawati, what to talk of taking any decision on such issues. She does not hold moral basis to question upper castes that why they are not treating dalits well in their home when she is not doing that at her level. Other dalit leaders can raise voice against such onslaughts but not Mayawati.