

BOOK REVIEW “MADHU KODA LOOT RAJ”

The State of Jharkhand, despite being blessed with rich and abundant natural resources in terms of water, mineral deposits, as well as vegetation, still remains the most backward State in India regarding progress and development. Why ?

This book, supported extensively by facts and figures, written by Sri Saryu Roy, a seasoned politician, a ‘*Paryavaran Mitra*’ (Friend of the Environment) & a crusader against corruption, provides an in-depth answer to this question, telling the reader as to how, the natural resources of the state of Jharkhand, iron ore in particular, apart from huge amounts of money belonging to the state’s exchequer, under the chief ministership of Sri Madhu Koda (2006-2008) in particular, was looted mercilessly by him in connivance with his associates (consisting of politicians, bureaucrats, government servants, mining mafia, hawala operators, industrialists and middlemen) for their personal benefit.

The tentacles of ‘Koda & Team’ were not only limited to the state of Jharkhand but had also reached other states of India, apart from several countries of the world like China, Thailand, Singapore, Dubai (UAE), Liberia, Sweden and Ghana. Had the amount looted by Koda and his team (amounting to more than 4,000 crores of rupees according to investigating agencies like the Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation) been used for the benefit of the masses, Jharkhand, too, would have developed further like Uttarakhand & Chattisgarh, which were created alongwith it on 15th November, 2000. It is due to the intense and courageous efforts of Sri Saryu Roy, that the case of disproportionate assets alongwith money laundering against Sri Madhu Koda and team has seen the light of the day, with some of them cooling their heels in jail at the moment.

The book is an eye-opener for people who wish to go the ‘Koda way’, while encouraging all right-minded persons who want to serve the nation selflessly, to stand up against corrupt people, whosoever they may be. The importance of the book can be gauged by the fact that its ‘*Foreward*’ has been written by none other than Sri Pratyush Sinha, former Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), Govt. of India, who has recommended people to read this book, which is first of its kind on Jharkhand.

Sri Roy’s book is a ‘must read’ for people belonging to all sections of our society – be it politicians, bureaucrats, industrialists or the common man – not only in Jharkhand, but throughout our nation. On reading this book, I am reminded of the following maxims from Saint Thiruvalluvar’s immortal work *Thirukkural*, composed by him in Tamil more than 2000 years ago wherein he says, “***Wealth, richness of yield, happiness of the people, immunity from diseases and safety from invasions – these five are the ornaments of a kingdom. Yet, even if a country has all these blessings, it is worth nothing if it is not blessed with a good ruler***” and “***The fruits of evil deeds follow their doer, even as his shadow follows him wherever he goes***”.

This book sends home the message that “the nation is bigger than any individual, party or organisation” and, for our state and nation to prosper, we must become enlightened citizens with value system, cutting across the barriers of caste, region and religion, not falling prey to the disease called “corruption” which is eating into the entails of our society every day.

‘**Madhu Koda Loot Raj**’ in my opinion, is a kind of research work in itself which can be treated as a classic ‘case study’ on corruption & sends home the message that it is possible for people to combat corruption, if they have the necessary will & commitment to do so.

Prabhat Prakashan, one of the leading publishing houses of India, also needs to be thanked immensely for giving a wonderful shape to this excellent book.

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