

## **Some points of consideration regarding The Govt. of Jharkhand to be constituted soon**

-By Saryu Roy, MLC

1. After the presidential assent of the Bihar Reorganisation Bill 2000 fixation of a suitable and appropriate appointed day for commencement of the new state and its Govt. now rests upon the G.O.I.
2. The moot question is whether the administration and work culture of the newly carved state will be a carbon copy of the parent state or to fulfill the aspirations and expectations of the people and with an eye on its rich natural resources and acutely diverse and volatile social, economic, cultural, demographic, ethnic realities at grassroots level the meaningful changes in it may be made at very outset.
3. Expectation level of the people from the Govt. in waiting is all time high. If expectation levels are met by effective performance and good work culture clearly perceived to be different from that of the erstwhile Bihar, the new state will very soon become one of the best developed states of the country.
4. Otherwise, it will result into acute frustration and provide operational space for mafia groups, status quoists forces, extremist outfits and other disgruntled elements already waiting to arouse and exploit internal social conflicts like Hindu vs. Christian, Hindu vs. Muslim, Tribal vs. Non-tribal, insiders vs. outsiders, Industrialist vs. Workers etc.

Keeping in view the factors above the following points may be worth consideration :

- a. Bihar has a gigantic administrative structure with large number of Govt. departments and directorates at apex level and sprawling zigzag structure transgressing and encompassing each other domain at field level. Restructuring the Govt. departments, directorates and field level administrative as well as development structures is a must for smooth and proper functioning of the Govt.
- b. At present in Bihar the functions of secretariat and the directorates are situated in the main secretariat building at Patna. In Jharkhand state different directorates may be placed at different places such as the directorates of Mines at Dhanbad, Industries at Jamshedpur, Welfare at Chaibasa, Education at Dumka, Agriculture at Hazaribagh, Health at Daltonganj etc.
- c. A branch secretariat or RDC office may be opened at Dumka considering the locational disadvantages of 5 districts of the Santhal Pargana due to location of capital at Ranchi on the pattern of Ranchi branch secretariat under the erstwhile Bihar State.
- d. The offices of the H.O.D. of different works departments too may be located at different towns in the same fashion.
- e. Unlike in erstwhile Bihar an effective Chief Minister office (CMO) be constituted with at least 4 or 5 wings such as Infrastructure, Revenue generation, Agriculture, Industries and Institutional Finance to monitor, supervise and guide the functioning of the Govt.

- f. Govt. structure at field level may be strengthen and made coherent, specific and exclusive; Decision regarding adoption of same existing structure at field for Block/MESO/ICDS/ Engineering, Medical, Welfare etc. for making suitable changes in it must be taken before the appointed day.
- g. It is easiest to adopt the existing rules and procedures for the new state too but then it will not be possible to create an altogether different work culture from that of Bihar. Hence a fresh look on existing rules and procedures including rules of Executive Business, Bihar Financial Rules, Bihar Treasury Code, Bihar PWD Code, other miscellaneous rules and compendium of existing executive orders etc, and necessary revisions/amendments in it seems must for making a sound beginning.
- h. As per levels of hierarchies' locations of departments, directorates and house etc, must be firmly decided and communicated clearly in advance to all concerned before the appointed day otherwise a chaos may be created and grabbing of offices and houses like in Bihar may start.
- i. Entire Bureaucracy would come with work culture of erstwhile Bihar Govt. hence bold and clear message of relearning for Bureaucracy would have to be taken at very outset that no longer one can delay decisions and play safe, cost of delay of decisions would be calculated. Necessary provisions will have to be incorporated in relevant rules.
- j. The present system of the "empowered committee" which acts as more powerful than even the legislature and the Govt. must be abolished forthwith.
- k. Identification of important projects/schemes be made and self of such projects / schemes be prepared which could be implemented within 4 to 6 months of the appointed day to address the key expectation areas.
- l. During fixation of norms of division of Bihar cadre of All India Services adequate precautions should be taken.
- m. The existing patterns of hierarchies of the Bihar administrative service officials must be re-examined and suitable changes may be made keeping in view the healthy practices of other states.
- n. Some local traditional patterns of administration existing in certain pockets of Jharkhand along with the recommendation of Bhuria committee, provisions of scheduled Areas Regulation Act and Panchayat Raj Act etc. may be studied and suitable changes in this context may be made in related rules/procedures soon.
- o. A fresh look will have to be given with regard to existing rules for meaningful utilization of welfare grants, central assistance funds vis a vis education, health, youth and culture affairs etc. it may need exclusive changes in related rules and procedures.
- p. Assessment of the potentials of trouble shooter groups and negative forces such as Extremists, Mafioso, Middlemen, Contractors, Exploiters, status quoists is made and adequate prevention be taken before the appointment date to contain them.

Keeping in view the points above it is suggested that the Govt. of India should form a committee under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary with such senior officers of Bihar cadre as members who are presently on deputation with G.O.I. and who have served in the Jharkhand region in various capacities and have close acquaintance with the area. Among others the elected people representative such as M.Ps., MLAs, MLCs and Public administrative experts too be included in the committee. The committee be directed to submit its report within a month regarding suitable administrative structure and development visions for Jharkhand Govt. and suitable changes / revision in the existing rules / procedure etc. so that it may be effected from the very appointed day.

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**Note:- This memo was submitted to the Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani and the erstwhile Cabinet Secretary to the Govt. of India Shri Prabhat Kumar soon after Presidential assent to the Bihar Reorganization Bill 2000)**