

Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru M.K. Stalin at All India Federation of Social
Justice

I welcome you all to the first national conference of All India Federation for Social Justice.

I thank our party MP Thiru. Wilson for initiating this virtual conference on behalf of AIFSJ.

Mr. Wilson is more concerned about social justice initiatives more than political activities. That is why he has organised this as an All-India Conference. Leaders from all over India have joined via internet. We are all united for the cause of Social Justice. Chief Ministers, National Party leaders, State Party leaders, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Retired Judges, Senior Advocates are all part of this meet. We all have the responsibility of protecting social justice. That is why we are together.

The struggle for attainment of Social Justice is not an issue of a single state. It is not an issue of a set of few states. It is an issue concerning all states, and it is associated with the structure of Indian Society.

There might be differences in the degree of problems along caste and class lines in each state. But the core of the issue is the same. That is gross discrimination!

Wherever there is discrimination - exclusion - untouchability - slavery - injustice, the medicine that can cure of these poisons is Social Justice.

Like how the toxin of the snake is treated with anti-toxin prepared with the same snake toxin, people discriminated by caste are uplifted by the same caste. That is the social justice ideal of reservations!

The success and benefit of Social Justice ideal depend on who handles it for what purpose. Social Justice is nothing but uplifting those who were denied opportunities socially and educationally. Socially and educationally backward is the constitutional definition for social justice.

It is clearly termed in Article 340 of the constitution. The same has been upheld in the first amendment as well. The constitution defines the social justice measure of reservation as an uplifting tool for the socially and economically backward. It was the then Madras Presidency that paved way for this constitutional amendment. Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna were the leaders who led to this amendment.

“Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of Article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the

advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes” is the first amendment made to our constitution’s article 15 (4).

The then Prime Minister Nehru declared in Parliament that ‘happenings in Madras’ to be the reason for this amendment. That’s why we are keen in achieving social justice.

The Union BJP Govt has cunningly added ‘economically’ along with socially and educationally. They have already given reservation on the basis of economic status. It is not a static criterion though. One who is poor today can become rich tomorrow and vice versa. A few can even conceal the amount they possess. Hence it is not right to have this criterion for reservation.

BJP implements EWS on the pretext of poor among forward castes. This is not social justice. We do not prevent any financial help for the poor and needy. It is economic justice and not social justice. If something is for the poor, should not it be for poor among all castes? Why the exception for forward castes? Is it not injustice to push the poor oppressed caste people out of the EWS ambit? This is the reason we oppose EWS.

It is the ploy of the BJP Government to give 10% reservation for the forward castes under EWS. Those who said

reservation is against merit are supporting EWS reservation alone. I don't want to further explain the agenda behind this. It is their grudge that reservation paves way for the upward mobility for all communities which make them speak against reservation. What is their logic to support 10% EWS reservation then? Is it not against merit?

They are trying to take us back in time when only the so-called high castes could study. It should be stopped at all costs.

You may be well aware of the recent actions in Karnataka that were done in the name of Social Justice. The 4% quota for Muslims has been scrapped. They have been added to EWS instead. The quota scrapped for Muslims have been given to other two communities there by setting the ground for enmity between the groups concerned. The Scheduled Castes are also discriminated. They have done this keeping the upcoming elections in kind. People have been discriminated based on a notion of who vote for BJP and who do not. Social Justice has been murdered so blatantly in Karnataka.

The reservation should be given in a proper manner to the SC, OBC and minority population. Reservation should be implemented in Judiciary. OBC Reservation should be followed in promotions too. Union Government shall conduct caste-based census and release the data.

It should be monitored all over India as well as in the states. It should be monitored with the lens of social justice.

As soon as Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam ascended to power, we formed the SC and ST Commission. We also established Social Justice monitoring committee. This committee will monitor whether the yardstick of social justice is being followed in education, employment, appointments and promotions and would guide for the implementation of the same. If not implemented properly, it will recommend the government to take due action. The committee has government officials, academicians and legal experts.

Such committees should be established in all the states. I appeal to political leaders in all states to take up this initiative. We should collectively spearhead the resolutions to be passed in this meeting.

On behalf of DMK, we have been running Study Circles to teach the history of social justice to the younger generation. I request the leaders from various states taking part in this conference to start similar study circles in their respective states in the name of social reformers like Thanthai Periyar, Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule to create an understanding and awareness about social justice among youngsters.

We should raise our voice to establish the principles of Federalism, State Autonomy, Secularism, Equality, Fraternity, Socialism and Social Justice all over India. It should not be a lone voice. It should not be different individual voices either. It shall be collective voice in unison.

However idealistic an ideology may be, for it to succeed, the unity among the parties which has accepted the ideology is of great importance. Such a unity is not enough, if it is in only few states. It has to happen in every state. It has to be for the whole of India. It is for that unity, federations like this will serve as the foundation. Let's fight together to create an India of Social Justice, an India of Equal Justice and an India of Brotherhood.

Nanri, Vanakkam.

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