

Editorial

Friday August 10, 2018

Think over legitimacy of remaining to power

The uncertainty over the impasse continues without diminishing though Prof. W. Vishwanath has assumed the office of Vice Chancellor in charge in principle with effect from 3rd August 2018. But there was not much public knowledge, including the university community, about his assuming charge. This is evident when the university community represented by MUSA, MUSU and MUTA resolved to reaffirm the demand for reinstitution of an independent high power committee under the Commission of Enquiry Act 1952, and also further resolving to appeal Prof. Vishwanath to assume the charge of vice-chancellor only if he could fulfil the preconditions placed before him by the University community. His letter, dated 8th August 2018, addressed to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, Gol also requested for 'resolving the present crisis of the university'. The letter also expressed the unpredictable shocker when Prof. AP Pandey who has been on leave was found performing as the Manipur University outside the state of Manipur. His letter also categorically stated that it not only hampered the entire teaching learning process of the university but also for the 93 colleges affiliated to it. While insisting the HRD Ministry to reconstitute the enquiry under Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 and also to link the leave granted to Prof AP Pandey with the enquiry, it also expressed his inability to perform his duty fully pending the constitution of the high power committee.

In fact V. Vishwanth, while respecting the sentiments and concerns of the University Community has at the same time shown the audacity of assuming the office of VC in charge in principle. But the HRD ministry is yet to respond to his letter though he has given two days time. It would be pertinent to recall that HRD Ministry under Narendra Modi Government, in earlier charges of irregularities and financial misappropriation by the VCs, opted for constituting a Visitorial Inquiry through UGC as per orders of the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor. This happened in the case of Jamia Millia Islamia, N. Delhi; Tripura Central University, Agartala; Delhi University; Visva-Bharati Calcutta; Puducherry University; Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University; Aligarh Muslim University, and Allahabad University. The charges labelled against VC Pande are quite vast and enormous both in times of variety and volume comparing with those incumbent VCs who faced visitorial enquiry. And why in-house fact finding committee with two members subordinate to the rank of VC for AP Pandey which is very much lower in stature in comparison to the Visitorial Enquiry. It doesn't need any further mention, as everyone is familiar, even to the extent of getting fed up, with the charges labelled against VC Pandey. His proximity with the power corridors, in the state and as well as the centre's, is also well known. In the early phase of the agitation, MUTA took the stand of not accepting VC in charge by any of its members. Considering it, Prof. Vishwanath accepting the VC in charge, even though in principle and the university community's readiness to accept him to the fulfilment of their demand for enquiry under Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 and also to link the leave granted to Prof AP Pandey with the enquiry is quite a tone down from their earlier stand.

The ongoing impasse is in stark contrast with the vision of the Modi Government of a new India by 2022 by providing new directions to the youths by building up the country's educational infrastructure both in terms of human material as well as human resources. How this impasse is greatly demoralising to the youths in this part of the country doesn't need any further mention. It was learned leading civil society organisations in the state also already have a joint discussion with the aggrieved agitating university community more than a couple of times or so. Yesterday only, Bihar social welfare minister Manju Verma resigned over the allegations of her husband having links with the alleged mastermind of the shelter home scandal. We are not asking for the resignation of our Chief Minister, Ministers or any of the legislatures on this issue of ongoing University impasse. But their efforts towards restoring normalcy by addressing the impasse still seems wanting. The University community should also be sensitive to the contesting voice that their act of continuing agitation amounts to 'burning the house to smoke out a rat', which in our local parlance runs very much like '*Uchi kallak yum mei thaba*'. Their voices also cannot be illegitimate as not genuine. The agitating university community may have enough reasons for their apprehensions from their past experiences with the outcome of the initiatives by the state government. But that should not be reason enough for not having any further engagement with the state government.

Carelessness of the government in handling MU issue was easily noticed yesterday. The MU community have to decline Chief Minister's invitation due to pre engagement with the governor.

The outcome would have been more fruitful if the issue is deliberated and discussed at the presence of both the Governor and the Chief Minister. If the state government which has the same party ruling the centre could not convince the MHRD, Gol to resolve the present crisis of the university VC, along the line of suggestions made by the present VC in charge, people at large will have a very poor opinion about the performance of the Government even questioning the legitimacy of their remaining to power if ever there is public hearing over the issue.

INTERLOCUTORS

with reference to NSCN(IM) Movement

By - B. Angousana Sharma

An Interlocutor should not determine to decision of the two stake holders; indeed, has to have the area to place opinion as intermediary institution, is not SHAKTIMAN, who should not try to act independently. Despite, inactions over closure of NSCN (IM) peace talk by three previous Interlocutors like Shri Swaraj Kaushal, Administrator designated, K.Padmanavaiah onward Shri Pandey upto R.N. Ravi are Interlocutors designated have been consecutively inducting to administer the NSCN (IM) and to communicate/coordinate the Govt. of India for the peace talk for decades; but Shri Ravi, present Interlocutor is trying to act himself able, smart and clever bureaucrat of a Minister. He (Rabi) is not in conscious about the difference of a bureaucrat of a Minister and an Interlocutor of a commission.

An Interlocutor involves parties in favour of the convenience of the people of the state in which public grievances prevailed. But Shri Ravi is trying to hold the hot rod of Article 371-A of the constitution while dealing with Article 371-C; contradicting the application of two states of Nagaland and Manipur, which also trying to muffle the stream of constitution in two different states.

Shri Ravi must scare of consistently denying proposal of the literatures cooked by the previous bureaucrats in favour of NSCN (IM). No. of phrases, subjects, predicates, indications, proposals, suggestions in favour of extension of Naga nomenclature which sermonizing, indoctrinating by the proto Naga fabrics in the state of Manipur. Central bureaucrats loomed Naga intention to impress

Naga movement by stressing the phrases of "South Nagaland; Greater Nagaland; Supra State Status; Single umbrella Administration for Naga Settled areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. But central administrator, rather political leaders are not ready to feel the real determination of Naga nomenclature, but attempting to accomplish the goal of talk, by-hook or by-crook; whereas centre has neglected the states of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

To institution a peace talk must have taken share the opinions from the political and social intrigues, which have long been appearing. Simply listening the report of a single Interlocutor would not bring a wise decision. If the Govt. of India has nearly intention to conclude the problem a group of Interlocutors consisting of 5 (five) members from Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh must be appointed from politician, Technocrats, Administrators and Historians for proper dealing of the commissions. Otherwise, simply irritating the people of the region by disturbing the Article 371-C with the attempt to override the constitutional positions of the state of Manipur is nothing but the intention of the present Interlocutor is in indirect attack upon the existing administration of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, which shows preemptive tradition obtained by Shri Ravi to damage the territorial neighbourhood, with the leading implication which own with the impemention of Article 371-A for Manipur which is unconstitutional on the part of constitution, is

"An Interlocutor should not act like a game changer; indeed, must better to transcribe interactions of two, to loom a peaceful environment, whereas, Naga Integration should not forcefully induce in Manipur"

highly, inflammable. Because, Governance of Article 371-C shall be weakening by Article 371-A; as Shri Ravi would be trying to put to extrapolate the peace talk by muffling the central and state Governments. However Shri Ravi must know that many lambs and deaf have been enlightened with the faulty administration. Therefore, the Frame work Agreement smelt like the above mentioned information provided by the constitutional stream would not welcome in Manipur.

Therefore, it is of the opinion that, Shri R.N. Ravi's visit in Manipur must be restricted with the point of view of his intention to break the nerves of the small communities, is not healthy to the administration of Manipur.

It is therefore, further appeal to all CSO'S of Manipur to keep active to Boy-Cott Shri. R.N. Ravi in Manipur. Because, his visit to Manipur is not advisable as per his act of disintegrational activities in the communities found to be irreparably damaging the state.

Since 2001, 18th June episode the cease fire agreement has been limited to Nagaland; not beyond Nagaland. Therefore, Shri Ravi's visit in Manipur would not be advisable appeared like attempt to install designated camp at Shirui (a 15 days stand-off) which was a high time alert of Assam Rifles and Army which had intervened the un-constitutional, rather out of box threat, forceful

encroachment into the boundary of Manipur by NSCN (IM) was showing instantaneous instruction from the neighbouring state, more or so, existence of unlawful activities beyond Nagaland. But denied by the administration; as because of unlawful act Assam Rifle and Army could push back the force to Nagaland.

Not merely conspiracies in the top echelon of the Govt. and NSCN(IM), there were unlimited incidents took place in Manipur, in the hills like; extortion, loot, invisible tax collection on NH-2 are also frequently happening which gives more inconveniences and hindrances to the normal lives of the people of Manipur; for long seven decades.

Therefore, people of Manipur as well as the Govt. of Manipur have to keep eyes and ears open to meet the unlawful circumstances; would be likely inquiry through immature agencies working in the region with the aim to achieve own goal, but not to solve the problem of the Govt.

At the same time, the immediate reaction upon the Frame work Agreement custodying with the Interlocutor Shri R.N. Ravi must acknowledge to the people of Manipur before table to the Govt. for final resolve; so that, the people of Manipur would confident that the Agreement shall not confuse about the territorial integrity of Manipur in future. Because, Manipur is victim of misleaders since long decades.

Constitutional development of Manipur in a nutshell

By - Rajkumar Maipaksana

Contd. from yesterday

Manipur was a state during the

British rule:

Though Manipur was under the British paramountcy (Supreme Power) the name 'state' was conferred on it. But the then state did not connote a sovereign nation as defined in the Political Science but one of the 563 Native States of India subordinate to the British Crown.

Creation of Manipur State

Durbar:

During the time when Raja Churachand Singh was a minor the administration of the state was carried out by the British Political Agent (namely major Maxwell) from 1891 up to 1906. In 1906 the young Raja became major, the administration was handed over to Churachand Singh with a Durbar on the 15th May 1907.

Composition and functions of the

Durbar:

The Raja would be responsible for the administration of the state. He would be assisted by i Durbar, which would consist of an officer specially selected by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam who would be styled as Vice-President and of at least three Manipuri members who might hold charge of departments and should be called Ordinary members. Three other additional members might be appointed who, while not holding charge of any department might attend all meetings of the Durbar and might speak and vote equally with the other members.

Raja's Powers:

The Raja should be the President of the Manipur State Durbar and would preside over the meetings of the Durbar. The Durbar would submit

copies of its proceedings to His Highness who might (1) approve these or (2) refer any matter back to the Durbar for further discussion or (3) veto and resolution.

After His Highness had passed the orders, copies of the proceedings and orders, would be submitted to the Political Agent. The Vice-President would have charges of Revenue and Finance. His Highness would on consultation with Political Agent arrange for the distribution of work between himself and the ordinary members. No bills on the treasury would be cashed nor any payments made without the signature of the Vice-President to draft the annual budget and submit it to hi' Highness, who would forward it to the Durbar for consideration. The Raja's approval was after the budget would be sent to submission to the government.

The Political Agent enjoyed some other powers. He might (a) refer to the Local Government any matter brought to his notice regarding Rules 6 and 9, (b) submit to the Local Government for orders any criminal case under which it appears that justice had not been done.

The ordinary Members of the Durbar were entrusted with other departments of the state, though the additional members did not hold charge of any department. They were responsible to the Raja for the proper administration of their respective departments.

The Durbar was the highest criminal court in the state and tried all cases beyond the jurisdiction of Chirap (Cheirap) except as regard Hill tribes.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FIRST DURBAR

The first meeting of the first Manipur State Durbar was held at Imphal on the 17th May, 1907. The then Raja of Manipur Churachand Singh who was the President of the Durbar Presided over the meeting. The other persons who attended the meeting were the Vice-President Mr. W.A. Cosgrave Esq. ICS, three ordinary Members of the Durbar namely Rajkumar Dumbra Singh, Senapati Ningthoujam Gokul Singh, Naharup Lakpa and Saogajiam Ibunga Chouba and three Additional Members of the Durbar namely Bindu Madhop Shastri (father of the Lalitmadhob Sharma), Ningombam Ningthouba, Yaiskul Lakpa and Maibia Tamra Singh. The persons were the members of the first Manipur State Durbar.

The most important item of business transacted on that historic day was the distribution of portfolios among the members of the Durbar. The Raja would hold the charges of the state works and Medical, Rajkumar Dumbra Singh, the charge of Judicial, N. Gokul Singh, the charge of Police, S. Ibunga Chouba in charge of Jail and Education.

Charges in the structure of the Durbar:

The Raja Churachand Singh had been presiding over the meeting of the Durbar from 1907 to 1916.

Raja's power increased

His Highness in consultation with the Political Agent would appoint the ordinary and additional members of the Durbar. No member would be removed without the expressed consent of the Political Agent in writing. The President of the Durbar and each of the members would be responsible to his Highness for the proper administration of their portfolios. His Highness would

appoint all the title holders and officials drawing pay of more than fifteen rupees a month and the members of the Chairap and Panchayat courts. Other officials would be appointed by the member in charge of the Department. His Highness in consultation with the Political Agent would arrange for distribution of works between himself and the ordinary members.

But in 1916 the Raja abstained himself from holding the President ship of the Durbar and vested it with the Vice-President though he retained the supervisory control over the Durbar. The Durbar became the highest original and appeal late court for both Civil and Criminal Cases. Subsequently such kinds of arrangement continued till the 1st July, 1947. The Durbar changed to council: From the 1st July 1947 the name of the Manipur State Durbar was changed as Manipur State Council and the name of the erstwhile Members of the Durbar to that of the Ministers of the council from that time. Instead of the President of the Manipur State Durbar (P.M.S.D. in short the incumbent became to be called the Chief Minister of Manipur). It will be interesting to note that the then president of Manipur State Durbar Mr. F.F. Pearson became the 1st Chief Minister and held it from the 1st July, 1947 to the 14th August 1947.

Constitutionally speaking the Manipur State Durbar with the Maharaja (after 1918 Churachand was conferred with the title of Maharaja and C.B.F., K.C.S.I. etc.) had exercised the powers of the legislature, the executive and judiciary during the British rule in Manipur.

(... to be contd.)