

Editorial

Friday, June 28, 2019

The crisis: Some Legislators will surely face the music

The crisis for change of Chief Minister in the BJP led state government is deepening. As some newspaper reported - the Chair of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is even shakier than the earlier move by BJP dissidents.

It is co-incident that the Governor of the state Dr. Najma Heptulla has to leave the state handing over the charge to Nagaland Governor PB Acharya. Acharya before becoming the governor was an active BJP leader who was architect for strengthening of the BJP in North East, particularly in the state of Manipur. It would be no wrong to say that PB Acharya had dedicated most of his political life to groom almost every hardliner BJP karyakarta of the state.

On the other hand Dr. Najma Heptulla, the one time MP of BJP and now the governor of the state did not cross her limit and seemed to stay away from any politics of any political party. Except for the part that she invited BJP which got only 21 seat instead of Congress Party which got 28 seats, her presence as the governor of the state was neutral and everything she did was for the people of the state. For example, when the state government remained quiet, at the time when Manipur University remain crippled for almost 3 months, the governor Najma Heptulla spoke in favour of justice and did not side with the man supported by the government. Her love for the state's rich traditional heritage is well known to everyone.

She is on leave for one month on personal reasons. After all she is also a human being and need to visit her family and daughter.

But what is interesting is that her leave coincided with the crisis grooming in the BJP led government over the demand by some BJP legislators for change of Chief Minister.

Archarya, having experienced in this kind of practice in politics in Manipur will do the needful and settle the crisis in an amicable way, but not in the capacity of being the governor. This is just a presumption.

Well, one thing that needed to be reminded is that, it was not the peoples' mandate that a BJP led government was formed, but it was rather the government at the centre that made BJP to form a government in the state. Critics always maintain that the present BJP led government in the state is unconstitutional. And why not? 8 Congress MLAs who had defected the Congress party and joined the BJP are still not officially BJP. They sit among the opposition as they are not officially recognized. Cases for disqualification of them are pending with the Speaker's tribunal. Having said so everything is possible in politics, particularly in Indian democracy.

Well, the uproar of some of BJP MLA for replacing the Chief Minister is going to last for some time. The Central BJP leaders are no fools and everybody knows that all those legislators of the BJP in the Manipur Legislative Assembly chose BJP and joined it for power by leaving their original parties. The Chief Minister is from the Congress who joined the BJP, the rival Minister including Th. Bishwajit got elected as TMC in the last assembly election and later joined the BJP. Except for the first time legislators like Th Radheshyam, all have started their career at some political party of different ideology and later joined the BJP that too only when BJP came to power at the centre.

Well the crisis which has been giving headache to almost all the Ministers including the bureaucrats is for change of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Question that people are asking is why some BJP Ministers and MLAs are revolting for change of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Has there been any scam that involved him? Has there been any report of anti people activities committed by him? (Except his controversial speech at Gujarat at which he bridged the state with the Gujarat). Or is there any uprising against his action in the state?

In two and half years of his rule, he had made democracy meaningful by introducing many programmes to make sure almost all section of the people participate in the running of the government. Introduction of CMHT, organizing of meeting with all the people with the government every month, bridging of the gap between Hill and Plain people, these are some of the things which he did. He surely has used power for the benefit of the people. Besides, it is him and his colleague Legislators which made the 'impossible', 'POSSIBLE' in forming the BJP led government by getting support from the MLAs of the opposition.

Well, the revolt of some of the BJP legislator appeared more about power hungry. Of now who is the leader of the dissidents who can replace N. Biren Singh. Except for some speculation no one has openly come up saying that "I have full support of the BJP MLAs to replace N. Biren Singh". It is even reported that the same dissident MLAs had a secret pact with Congress party during MP election time to form Congress led govt in Manipur in case BJP loses power at Centre.

As mentioned in our earlier editorial, BJP being the most disciplined political party in the country, it will not easily deal this issue. They will think and act for strengthening the party. And if the dissidents continue, the central BJP leaders will leave no option but to recommend President's Rule by keeping the assembly under animated suspension. That will be the time when people started voicing their anger against the dissidents & BJP.

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The man who beat cancer 'Six Times'

By : Sakshi Jaiswal Ghaziabad, June 28,

It is time to rephrase the saying 'It is like cancer and there is no cure' by putting an end to the fear of being diagnosed by the dreadful disease. A 67-year-old resident of South Delhi, Mr N K Choudhary, proved that with hope and courage even the deadliest battles can be won by beating cancer - not once or twice - but as many as six times in a period of 13 years. Mr Choudhary was first diagnosed with oral cancer in 2005, followed by recurrence in 2007, 2010, 2014 and twice in 2018. He approached Dr Dinesh Singh, Director - Radiation Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali when his oral cancer was detected for the third time in 2010 and started his treatment under the team. Mr Choudhary, visited Max Vaishali for his radiotherapy treatment for the 5th time.

In 2005, Mr Choudhary was diagnosed for the first time with tongue cancer for which he had undergone laser excision (removal of tumor using laser) and with few lifestyle modification, he was cancer free for two years and then he developed recurrence in the neck again in the year 2007 for which he underwent modified neck dissection for which he underwent adjuvant radiotherapy. And he was cured and was cancer-free for the next three years.

However, in 2010 he developed a new primary cancer in his right tonsil which was treated with concurrent chemo radiotherapy or in this case, re-irradiation as he had undergone radiotherapy earlier as well. And through this procedure he led a cancer free life for the next four years. In 2014, unfortunately again, he was diagnosed with carcinoma of left last end of the tooth plate (retro



molar trigone region) and hence, had to undergo a surgery (Composite resection with PMMC flap reconstruction) followed by an adjuvant radiation making it his third time of ineffective radiotherapy. In February 2018, he again developed a small nodule in his face, lower lip with pus-like discharge. Biopsy from the lip was squamous cell carcinoma.

Dr Arun Goel Director Surgical Oncology Max Hospital Vaishali said that seeing the complexity of the case and the recurrence rate after all possible treatment, an internal tumour board meeting of doctors at Vaishali was scheduled to discuss this complex case and its further treatment. It was finally decided that since the surgery already happened four times in the same location and nearby organs, re-doing the surgery at the same location again for the fifth time would be mutilating and would therefore, lead to a functional defect, it was decided by the tumour board that the cancer would be treated with 'Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy', if feasible.

Post six months, the patient had recurrence in tongue again for the sixth time. Biopsy found out it to be a case of squamous cell carcinoma tongue.

Patient was still under anaesthesia was shifted from OT to brachytherapy room under the radiotherapy department along with all sterilized conditions. For this patient specifically, aseptic corridors were created, and appropriate measures were taken to make sure that even the lift and passages are infection-free. Intraoperative brachytherapy was delivered at high dose of 10 Gy (grey) single sitting wherein, usually, only 2 Gy is given to a patient. The procedure took place for 5 hours, and went successfully and he was free from cancer.

Through his whole journey which was filled with hardships, challenges and bleakness, one person who constantly supported him and stood still through thick and thin, was his wife, Mrs Ganga Choudhary. Cancer is a disease that not only affects one person but the entire community surrounding that person especially the partner.

Speaking on the complexity of the case, Dr Dinesh Singh, Director - Radiation Oncology, Max Super Speciality hospital, Vaishali says, "This case is unique since the patient is a non-smoker and has never used tobacco in his life. Also, from a clinical point of view, administering radiotherapy even for the second time at the same geographical area is a big challenge because the normal surrounding tissues are at a risk of undergoing radiation necrosis. However, those patients who successfully are able to undergo re irradiation get good results. In this particular case, the patient was able to overcome radiotherapy successfully for the 5th time which is extremely rare. It was a very big challenge both for surgical oncology team and radiation oncology team. I could not find any previous reference or case study in which re-radiation was done for 5th time." Six months post radiotherapy, Mr Choudhary is doing well and there are no signs and symptoms of tissue necrosis. His recent PET CT scan has also shown complete resolution with no evidence of disease.

Contd. from Yesterday Issue

'Nationalising Losses, Privatising Profits Has Become Govt Policy': BMS President

The claim that you can't retrench workers is false because those who employ less than 100 workers can easily do it if they have valid reasons. Labour laws need not be withdrawn for this purpose. Labour laws are important when there is a dispute between employers and employees regarding employment, wages or dismissal. There should be a system for addressing grievances. If that is withdrawn, then you are going for general law. How else can they settle disputes? Can they settle scores on the streets? Withdrawal of labour laws is an uncivilised demand. In a civilised society, everything should be covered under the law, some guidelines or some rules. What is your view on the falling female labour participation rate? What do you think is the reason that we are seeing a constant decline? Even in the NSSO data, the figure was shocking. Specifically, in the rural areas, there is a massive drop in the participation of rural women in the workforce. If you are opposed to steps like longer working hours, or night shifts for women, what do you think are the alternatives?

The condition of women workers is unfortunate in our country because of various reasons. One is that if they are living in villages, they have a greater role to play in the household. There's also a lack of education. Even if there is a family to look after three or four children, there are other household duties. That has always been there. Why is there such a steep decline now? There should be awareness, that whatever workmen can do, most of them women can also do. For example, in construction, I have seen many areas where women are working as supervisors and masons, they are capable of doing

it. But everywhere you will only see women as helpers. This system has to change. The mindset of employers and workers has to change. Night work is a different thing. Many factories are situated in remote areas. When this Madras high court judgement giving equal status to night work for women came, I was in an industrial area which is in a remote region. After 7 pm, there is no bus also. So, immediately they put a notice board that now onwards all the women workers will work overnight. There was a lot of hue and cry, the women said they'd like to bring their husbands or some male members along. Not many industries provide ample safety and security to enable women working night shifts.

What do you think of the government's push towards FDI and privatisation? We have been opposing it. It is one of the major reasons for the decline in manufacturing. Our micro and small sector are struggling to survive mainly because of FDI. Many manufacturing hubs have been wiped out because of FDI. If we talk about how the future of work is evolving, we also see a lot of platform economy workers, like Uber and Ola drivers, food delivery workers etc. who lack social protection and job security. What needs to be done to protect these workers?

New forms of work are coming up everywhere. The employer may not even know their employees anymore. The nature of work is changing. Ultimately, the laws should protect the human being involved so that

they get decent wages and have protection, social security etc. Trade unions have a role in this to ensure that these people are getting sufficient protection. So, do you think there should be an increased intervention of the government in regulating these sectors?

Definitely. Labour regulation is the job of the government and the trade unions are pressurising the government to bring regulation in all sectors.

But we have seen that this government is very keen on increasing 'ease of doing business', and in doing that they have introduced things like fixed-term employment (FTE) and FDI. How do you reconcile strong protection for workers with the focus on ease of doing business? In ease of doing business, there are about 9-10 criteria and this concept has been adopted from the World Bank. The World Bank previously included labour also as a criterion. They saw labour actions as a hindrance, labour strikes etc. and finally the ILO intervened and said the human factor should not be considered as a hurdle. Unfortunately, even in India, labour also has been included in the ease of doing business. We have successfully talked to the labour ministry that it should be removed. We should not consider labour as a hindrance to industrial growth.

So, there's quite a conflicting view between the BMS and the Modi government then?

Yes, but the plus point of the Modi government is that once they are convinced, they are immediately ready for change. But it has taken more than five years to convince them. Even on the labour codes.

We had a lot of problems in the initial three years, but it has been better in the last two years. Since independence, this government has given the maximum for labour. Only during Ambedkar's period did anyone do so much for labour laws. You have to understand that for the first time during the last 28 years, a policy document has been released (NITI Aayog's 'New India at 75') where they have said that labour welfare should be at the centre of labour law reforms. All the previous documents prepared by Ahluwalia or other experts had 'hire and fire' at the centre of these things. So, this is substantial.

But hire and fire is there even in the labour codes. While the earlier limit to retrench workers without permission from the government was 100 workers, now they are trying to push it to 300 workers. No, those things are all gone. It was there in the draft, but we have talked to the government and they have agreed.

But they haven't officially announced it yet. We have already rejected all those anti-worker portions in the previous drafts. In the first three years, there were a lot of conflicting things but the last two years have been excellent. The government has understood what labour means. Labour welfare has now become the centre of labour law.

What do you think about the scheme workers? Is the BMS actively trying to reach out to the scheme workers like from ASHA, *anganwadi*, the frontline health workers who aren't even recognised as workers?

BMS has been fighting for scheme workers. Our demand is that they should be made government employees. They should have that status.