

**Speech of Sri Nara Chandra babu Naidu, President ,TDP in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Integration Council meeting at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 23-09-13.**

Respected Chairman and other dignitaries,

The communal violence in Mujaffar nagar and other parts of the country are a matter of great concern and need serious attention to prevent recurrence of such incidents. I am pained that several lives were lost in these incidents. I wish that NIC meetings are held more regularly instead of holding such meetings as a reaction to certain unfortunate episodes after they occur. The last meeting was held about two years ago. Even earlier, holding such meetings has not been regular. It is a pity that such an important meeting is not taken seriously and the note does not mention any thing as to the decisions taken in the previous meeting and the action taken report on these decisions.

The foundation of our national unity is common citizenship, unity in diversity, freedom of religions, secularism, equality, justice – social, economic and political, and fraternity among all communities. Every Indian citizen feels proud that it is a country of unity in diversity. It has diversity of regions, religions, castes, languages, crops, forests, wild life, foods and festivals. India shall have to adhere to its tradition of “Vasudhaika Kutumbam” and treat people of all religions and castes as human beings and treat women with respect. It is stated in our scriptures that where ever women are respected Gods will be happy. But, unfortunately, we have drifted away from our historical and cultural ethos and the country is at cross roads now.

Now, I present my views on the agenda slated in today’s meeting. .

***Agenda Item 1. Communal Harmony. Measures to promote communal harmony, measures to prevent communal disturbances, role of social networking sites to promote national integration, tackling hate propaganda.***

**Agenda Item 2. Confidence building measures to tackle communal disturbances, tackling communal situations taking help from all sections of society in removing communal tension.**

I would like to recall our experience in handling the communal violence in Andhra Pradesh in general and Hyderabad in particular. Hyderabad and some parts of Andhra Pradesh were having the history of violence and communal tensions and curfews were very common in Hyderabad before TDP came to power. After the TDP came to power, it handled the communal riots with an iron hand by giving full support to the police to enforce Law and Order. I am happy to mention that during the entire period of TDP rule, there was not even a single day when curfew was imposed. This proves the point that a strong political will is necessary to ensure law and order and peace.

On the other hand, after the Congress came to power in Andhra Pradesh, the episodes of communal violence and religious tensions are recurring. This is because the Governments of the day started interfering in the law enforcing machinery by succumbing to the pressures exerted by certain political parties. Therefore, a strong political will to enforce law and order is the fundamental need of the hour.

**Don't blame the social media for communal violence.**

The basic reason for the communal violence is the unrest and frustration among the youth due to the problems of illiteracy, poverty and unemployment. Despite tall talk, the educational achievements and economic development particularly among minorities is much less than desired. If youth receive quality education and are gainfully employed, youth will not get involved in any violence. The government, instead of addressing the issues of unemployment of youth, is trying to link violence with social media which is unfortunate. In fact, social media has many positive features and needs to be promoted as is happening all over the world. Instead of implementing the reports of various committees appointed for the welfare of minorities, blaming the social media for communal violence is not based on any rationale.

**Agenda Item 3 :Safety and security of Women.**

Though embarrassing to mention, a 2011 survey by the Thomson and Reuter Foundation listed India as the fourth-worst place in the world to be a woman. It is unfortunate that violence against women is on increase. Delhi has the highest

number of sexual assault ; the attacks doubled in the first six months of the year. In response to the public fury about the Delhi gang rape, the government toughened the laws on sexual assault, stalking and voyeurism, and provided for capital punishment. Unfortunately, even this law has failed to reduce the crime Therefore, it is not enough to bring laws but to implement the laws with a strong determination devoid of political interference.

### **Why did Government keep the women's bill in cold storage?**

It is logical that passage of women's bill in Parliament could lead to many progressive legislations in the country in addition to giving enhanced confidence to women through the cascading effect. The GOI has deliberately sent the bill to cold storage. This attitude of government is a clear indicator that Congress party is trying to play to the gallery on the eve of elections. It is not serious about women's welfare. Further, it is also shameful that some elected representatives including some ministers are associated with cases of assault and sexual harassment against women .The laws should be amended to disqualify such people automatically from the elected positions if they are charge sheeted in such cases to create a demonstrative effect on others.

### **Economic empowerment is the key for women's protection.**

Economic empowerment can be the strongest weapon we can give to women to protect themselves. The most successful experience of SHG movement started during my tenure as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is the best example through which even illiterate women could defend themselves from a variety of attacks on them. Economic and social empowerment provides enormous self confidence to women which ultimately helps them to face any adversity in life with courage and protect themselves against any violence.

### **Reservation for women in employment and elected positions.**

Property rights were endowed on women long back in AP which has given security to women and the esteem of women has gone up because of this initiative. Reservation for women in employment and elected positions has been introduced long back in AP during the TDP government. We have also introduced 33 percent

reservation to women and we could induct women as bus conductors perhaps first time in India. Now as many as fifty percent of sarpanches in AP are women. Education and employment bring social transformation by eliminating the evil of dowry which is a major cause of violence against women. Similar initiatives in other states would add to the confidence levels of women which will have its bearing on women's empowerment. Therefore, such path breaking mega initiatives would eliminate the discrimination against women and the women are empowered against atrocities.

#### **Agenda item no 4.**

***Measures to tackle crimes against SC/STs , positive intervention and proper implementation of development schemes laws relating to SCs/STs, associating all sections of society in removing inter caste tension.***

The statistics shown in the note indicate that still a large number of cases against SC/STs are being registered . It is matter of deep concern that even after 60 years of Independence , we have such large number of cases against the SCs/STs. A critical analysis of the root causes for such large number of cases still occurring in the society shall be made and suitable strategies and resources to eliminate the social discrimination and atrocities against the SCs/ST s need to be provided. Secondly, an examination of the statistics reveals that certain states are still recording more cases than others. There appears to some correlation between the literacy levels and poverty and the number of atrocities against SCs/STs. We need to have an in-depth analysis of this relationship and take special efforts to bring down the cases in such areas. Thirdly, though the percentage of cases ending in conviction is less than 25%. The reasons for such low rate of conviction have to be examined and suitable remedial action is needed.

However, the major focus should be educational and economic development of the SCs and STs. Mostly, it is the poverty which makes poor vulnerable to atrocities. Welfare of SCs and STs is a constitutional responsibility of the government and the Constitution has even provided special plans for the development of SCs and STs. Unfortunately, though Congress party was in power for more than 50 years in Government , it has miserably failed in improving the lot of SCs and STs. What

action has the government taken when Congress governments failed to use the funds meant for the SCs and STs and diverted for non SCs? It has no sincerity in uplifting the SCs. The present discussion in this forum is an election eve gimmick played by the Congress party. Two successive governments of Congress party have impoverished the people due to the fall of rupee value in international market and steep increase of prices.

Now, I would like you to focus on the following major issues relating to the National Integration.

### **1 Why is that the ongoing agitations in AP not proposed in the agenda of NIC today?**

As you are aware, the developments in 2009 and thereafter have led to series of agitations in Telangana in which hundreds of youth have committed suicides. The employees and various sections have participated in the name of 'Sakalajanula Samme' for 42 days in Telangana Region. Now, the Seemandra people from all walks of life have been organizing protests and the NGOs are on an indefinite strike paralyzing the administration for the last 55 days. All educational institutions, government offices, public transport and all the public services have been closed. The employees of Seemandhra in Secretariat and various Heads of the Departments in Hyderabad have also joined strike. There is an uneasy calm in the Secretariat, Heads of the Offices and other major departments and this situation may spoil the working relationship among them which is not at all desirable.

In view of the precarious developments in the state, I have written two letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013 and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013 requesting him to resolve the issue amicably by building reconciliation between the agitating groups. But there is no tangible action from Government of India so far. When the people of the state are going through the trauma and agony should this subject be not discussed in such an important body? How do you ensure National Integration if ten crore Telugu people all over the country develop hatred among themselves.

### **2 .Corruption and National integration.**

. As you might know that as result of economic reforms poor were expected to be benefited through inclusive growth. With this perspective, I have supported economic reforms and implemented them in true spirit. I could demonstrate in AP that higher growth can be achieved and jobs can be created through careful implementation of second generation reforms. But, unfortunately, the Government of India has lost focus on ensuring that the public assets are used for the common good of the people. Instead, it has deliberately allowed a few individuals or companies loot the nation's wealth. Be it 2G spectrum case, Coal gate scam or Commonwealth games scam, the illegal mining cases in Karnataka or the massive corruption cases during congress government of dr. Y .S Rajasekhar Reddy, the Government of India had been a mute spectator or active collaborator of the plundering of public resources. In Coal gate scam, which is being investigated by the CBI under the directions of Supreme Court , the files have deliberately been stolen to subvert the CBI enquiry. It is paradoxical that the same CBI has to find out the thieves of the stolen files. There cannot be a greater shame to the country than the Prime minister of the country had to answer for the missing of files in his own office? If he cannot ensure even protection of the files on which CBI enquiry is going in his own office that too under the direct supervision of Supreme Court how do we expect that this Prime Minister would protect the Nation? This attitude is primarily responsible for the plundering of nations resources by a few and ultimately the courts had to intervene to protect public interest. Had the reforms been properly implemented and jobs generated the youth would not join the destructive elements responsible for communal violence. Corruption cases are not taken seriously even after they are brought to the specific notice of the government may be because of coalition dharma. Should the government be answerable to 1.20 crore people of India or to the coalition dharma ? How do you answer the nation which has unequivocally responded to Anna Hazare movement against corruption ? Why is that government did nothing so far to confiscate the ill gotten monies from the corrupt? Corruption cases should also be enquired with in a time bound manner to punish the guilty. Establishing special fast track courts would speed up the trial and guilty can be punished in a time bound manner. Therefore, if National Integration has to be ensured the country should be freed from corruption.

### **3.Failure of diplomatic relations and threat to National Integration.**

Similarly, on the external front, we have not been able to display the required diplomatic initiatives to establish cordial relations with our neighbours. Porous borders and illegal immigration from Bangladesh have been disturbing the peace in the north eastern parts of the country. The recent episodes of border incursions into India by China is a matter threatening National integration. Despite having the most efficient and highly patriotic army, India is keeping quite in retaliating such misadventures by China. It is matter of shame that the Defence Minister tries to justify the incursions stating that the boundaries are not yet even after 60 years of independence and sovereignty. The frequent transgression of Pakistani armies into our land and beheading the Jawans is a grave crime against our nation's integration. The GOI is not able to maintain rapport and get support even from small neighbouring countries due inept handling of diplomatic affairs. Why was these serious items not included in today's agenda? Therefore, a comprehensive approach is needed to achieve national integration and the agenda does not touch upon many critical areas of intervention needed to protect the integration of the country.

#### **4. Liberation of the investigation agencies from government clutches and retaining the independence of Judiciary.**

The CBI and ED should be the liberated from the government controls. Even after the Supreme Court had admonished, the GOI does not want to make CBI independent. Instead, it wants to use the CBI and ED for taking political vendetta against the parties opposed to them. It is sad that the present Government wants to poke it nose even in the matters relating to the appointment of even the Supreme Court judges by disturbing the age old procedure only to sub serve its interest. All these are matters of grave concern which will further cause transparency and accountability in public service which will have a bearing on the National integration.

#### **5.Failure of intelligence and law enforcing agencies.**

The episodes various bomb blasts in the country had always links to cross boarder terrorism. Without containing such ingressions into the Indian territory effectively and without demonstrating that such aggression will be dealt with a strong hand, it may not be possible to prevent communal disturbances engineered by the cross border agencies. In such situations, coordination between the GOI and the state governments needs improvement. In most of the cases, the GOI says that they have sent advisories

and intelligence inputs and the states do not act on them. On the other hand states mention that the intelligence inputs are too vague and not useful for them to act precisely. Therefore, the intelligence inputs given by the GOI should be specific and the GOI shall have a monitoring mechanism to ensure that the advisories are acted upon.

I request all the participants to kindly ponder over the points mentioned by me and support the initiatives for building a resilient and stronger India free from corruption, illiteracy , poverty, hunger disease ,discrimination and communal tensions.

Jai hind!!!

Nara Chandra babu Naidu.