

MGNREGS : A New Proposal

Promise of Inclusion, Power of Love :

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(Averting crises by utilizing social security scheme of any government in the context of shrinking of agricultural land, population explosion and impending food crisis. In way of creating huge jobs in the Agro-industrial Sector by promoting natural farming, mixed farming and exploring huge possibility of making food forest almost in every piece of unutilized or underutilized land.)

MNREGS has been functioning for more than a decade. No doubt it has offered some good results so far. Yet, it is not functioning upto the expectations it generated. A sizeable section of people think that it was devised to put the last nail in the coffin of the small farming and small businesses. Though most of the parties mostly prefer keeping mum about the programme's probable misuse, few other insists on extending it upto 200 days of work. We propose to make it a 365 days' work with the same amount of money spent for 100 days. For doing so we do not need to know clever dexterity, but to have a sheer common sense only along with a love for life.

For this we don't have to make everything of the scheme altogether new. We are to coordinate those few changes that had already taken place sporadically, in the light of a new vision and integrate them, not mechanically, but organically, creatively. For the implementation of the new proposal what we have to do first is to withdraw the direct authority of the administration and the party and extend their indirect supervision more effectively. The actual promoting agency should be a company or an NGO. This indirect supervision system needs a very sincere and sensitive education on the part of the administration and party workers, which is important for the company or the NGO to promote 100 days' work to 365 days' one, while making their own profit.

Work of the company

One of the company's work will be to locate one square kilometer of agricultural land where they can promote self-employment while alleviating world's three major crisis – crisis in environment, agriculture and employment. We have already got to know the gravity of the problems of environment and employment. But we are still in the process of grasping the enormity of the problems emerging from the so called scientific agriculture. There is more science of exploitation than of agriculture in it. The suicides of around 3 lakh people within last two decades is not the only indication of the ferocity of 'scientific agriculture'. The continuous migration from the villages is no less an indication of the hovering crisis. Not only the poor people, exploitation is

devastating the planet also. Whole world is therefore trying to go for the organic, or more correctly, natural farming, which is emerging as one of the prime research domain nowadays. So called scientific agriculture has become degenerative one and it is a fact that regenerative one is the natural farming. We have with us the technology of natural farming in so many varieties. But it's not readily available to the small farmers. Neither can they make it done for themselves so easily. This vacuum can effectively be filled up by a company of a different kind-which is ready to get thrilled for making the adventure of a creative of cooperative, with a view to make its own profit.

A New Three-Shared Movement

The company can evolve a three shared movement in unutilized, under-utilized land and water (such as way-river and canal side along with one side of the farm land or at the corners of it). Where none gets anything everyone is going to get something from there. Three share of the fruits from the trees planted would go to land owners, club cooperative and the promoting NGO. Three share would be 40:40:20 respectively, or something like that.

Where from will they get the initial funding? There are welfare funds for the citizens almost in every country in one form or the other. In our country there is MGNREGA or 100 days' work. One in a family gets the job which means around 15 to 20 % of the villagers are employed thereby. We are not proposing for 200 days work or employment of the 40% of the villagers. We just propose to extend the 100 days' work to 365 days' with the same amount and allowing other 80% of the villagers to get at least twice the amount by making a new kind of green movement through a special mobilization, even though they are not the 100 days workers. It will happen following the "magic" of the three-shared movement. Alike fruits, fishes can also be had from the comparatively lower paddy fields and be distributed likewise.

The club co-operative or the intermediary body will sell off locally around 50% of the shares in a manner the industrial houses sell of shares to the common public. Other family members will be first purchasers by exchanging labour or fees or both. They can get their prospective share purchasers from the towns and cities too, if they earn trust. In this way this movement will not only make a sustainable human chain within the village, but also will develop an added relationship between villages and cities. In the age of Foreign Direct Investment, there will surely emerge possibilities of investment from cities to villages, however small that might appear initially.

Other Works of the Club-cooperative

Production and distribution of natural fertilizer and pest repellent would be second important work of the club-cooperative. Few decades ago there were few cows almost in every household of a village. Today around 80% of the people do not have any. The percentage of cows is much more to those who do have less farmland or do not have any land. That means, profit from animal husbandry is made by someone at the expense of loss of the others. The club cooperative can easily solve this problem along with many others and the help of 100 days work, by making something like child crèche with the straying domestic animal (where goats and cows will be kept mostly in the daytime). Following this work, cow keeping, and much coveted natural and diversified farming can also be boosted to a great extent without spending much additional capital. Natural farming

and diversified farming along with horticulture and pisciculture and animal crèche reduce the problems from attacks of pests and animals greatly. Now there remains the question of probable pilferage. As the proposal describes profit for all, it thus reduces the probable question of pilferage adequately. Even after so many good arrangement the question of human vigilance cannot be eliminated fully, but that too can be done collectively by the club very comfortably by reducing almost 90% of work force. Following all this, production cost will be reduced unimaginably while quality of food will be increased similarly.

Production of fodder for the crèche and supply it for household animals along with supply of good seeds and saplings will be next important work of the club cooperative. The company and the cooperative will jointly select their own areas of marketing as well as making processing units.

NSS and MNREGS

It is said that National Service Scheme is the biggest youth organization of the world, while the MGNREGS is the biggest employment generation scheme run by any government of the world. Our proposal for an applied research for addressing three major problems of the world through self-employment in a most localized manner---needs very careful and sensitive touch. Thus the involvement of schools, colleges and universities is so demanding. (We have already got approval from both the departments of West Bengal - - - Higher Education and Rural Development - - - for allowing NSS and MNREGS to do the research over the proposal). As the proposal involves the welfare of the 100% of a small community, a careful learning of the social as well as inner engineering is important. We should keep it in mind that if the biggest youth organization and the biggest employment generation scheme create a resonance, --the dazzling outcome would be—the appearance of the biggest shareholders of the world, which will take us along the way of creating a sociocratic movement for Greenery for All, for creating a deeper democracy in place of the shallow politics of today.

Actions for Right and Duty to Greens (ARDG)

And

Capital Value of Goodness (CVG)

Apart from problems related to environment and employment, agriculture is going to face more danger than imagined. In the coming 50 years at least 30% of the agricultural land will go off beyond the ambit of agriculture, when there will be an increase of another 200 crore people. That means more crops have to be grown in less land and less water. To face this problems 30-40% of food security can easily be had from horticulture. But in the existing context this cannot be done without making a sound complementarity of right and duty (to greens) in one hand and the indispensability of goodness as an investible capital, on the other. It needs to be clarified further in its due course. It is a fact that it will be very hard for the grassroot workers of all political parties

in general, at least initially, do not have the ability to handle the capital value of goodness, which is very essential for actualizing our creative proposal. But it is also true that far-sighted leaders will surely be able to inspire the party workers towards achieving a greater goal at the time when the mother Earth is so somberly sad, so direly distressed.

Our opinion is that we have so far seen almost the higher levels of the power of science and technology, the power of parties, the power of physical strength. Now we are to see the inner and social power. Explore their endless possibilities. Our call for the experiment of the investibility of goodness, of everything relating to human excellence, is just for that.

Accordingly we propose for the experimentation, if possible, in one square kilometer, in all the districts of our country which can be a part of the 100 days' work. Or the government can make another small pilot project in the name of '*Swami Vivekananda awakening of the rural India scheme*' or something like that. Perhaps, the whole world will breathtakingly see its outcome.