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## SOCIAL JUSTICE vs. SOCIALISM

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The SWATANTRA PARTY stands for social justice as much as it firmly opposes statism. Social justice is a great and proper aim for all good governments to work for and it is included in the aims of the 1950 Constitution of India. But socialism is a wrongly conceived means to attain social justice. Socialism is the name given to a complex of policies and measures which curb the growth of national production without helping the cause of social justice. Socialism is statism which accelerates the acquisition by the State of total control over citizens and extinguishes the free way of life. Socialism is the word for policies and measures which lead to dictatorship and do not, in the least help social justice. In fact what is called socialism postpones social justice for which increased production is the first essential. Expropriation, 'ceilings' on wealth, heavy taxes, etc., are all of them disincentives for work and greater production, without which social justice measures become impossible. Gandhian ethics forbade immoral or violent means even to achieve good ends. And socialism, which consists of pulling down capitalists, and other measures born out of sheer hatred and envy, is a wholly erroneous way to attain or help social justice. Measures and policies that curb investment and greater production are enemies of social justice. Disincentives for investment and increased production are not the road to achieve social justice. The worse of the errors is heavy taxation which makes increased production not worthwhile for the persons concerned. No Gandhian ethical doctrine is involved here. Just simple arithmetic and practice in the application of it to life and realities unaffected by likes and dislikes are what are required.

We learnt the rule of law and fair judicial trials from the British. We have to learn the rule of arithmetic also from them as ABU points out in his cartoon (reprinted in last week's SWARAJYA from the Indian Express). He rightly asks us in his cartoon to learn a lesson from the cuts in taxation in Britain. When the limit of prudence in taxation is crossed we have to face diminishing returns and great reduction of incentives to work and produce.

When I met Sri Dandekar in Madras last Monday (March 27) he suggested a change in the name of the Swatantra Party as a step to cope with the lie propagated about the fact that it was founded and kept up for the advantage of capitalists and princes and other rich people. I was inclined in favour of his suggestion and wrote about it in last week's SWARAJYA \*. But on further reflection I realized that a change in name will not help. Those who were interested in spreading the lie about the Swatantra Party did not depend for their distortion of the aims and objects of the Swatantra Party on its name. A change in the name of the party will be of no use to meet their interested campaign. They will call

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\* This is what Rajaji wrote in Swarajya of April 1, 1972

People who have voted for Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Congress Party have voted for the Permit-Licence-Raj loot, as against freedom and democracy, and the free way of life our Constitution guaranteed in 1950. Social justice is the aim of the Swatantra Party. What is called socialism is a complex of the means wrongly conceived as leading to social justice. The lie that the Swatantra Party desires to help the rich people and rich corporations persists in spite of repeated and emphatic denials. Perhaps, the situation demands a change in the name of the Swatantra Party so that this persistent lie may be effectively coped with. The Swatantra Party firmly advocates the retention of the guarantees regarding fundamental rights and, at the same time, stands for social justice under democracy.

it a trick to deceive people and ridicule the attempt. We must, therefore, depend on our efforts to explain the truth and tell the people what the party stands for as clearly as we can in our speeches and writings. We should persist in doing our duty, to turn the people against allowing or assisting the Prime Minister and her party to wreck the Constitution, to extinguish democracy and the free way of life and put the people of India under the total power of the State and suffer serfdom as the people do in communist countries.

Every day now we hear about Bills and measures initiated by the State Governments which are all founded on the plan to treat the 1950 Constitution as a mere scrap of paper which is no longer to be respected.

The danger is great of India falling a victim of Communist China's imperialism. The present drift leads to this culmination and even the Indo-Soviet Treaty will then not save us.

Dear Reader Column in Swarajya of April 8, 1972.

India has drifted into communism and without realizing it into its necessary corollary, dictatorship. The free way of life which was guaranteed by the 1950 Constitution is being wrecked as a result of the hold on the permit-licence monopoly held by the Indira Congress. Are we to allow this without any form of resistance? Parliamentary resistance has been rendered impossible. We must depend on other forms of resistance if the people of India must have democracy and are not to be doomed to serve under an unqualified dictatorship which knows how, and has the power, to perpetuate itself.

The mission or swadharma of the Swatantra Party has been made more obvious than before by its failure to make any show in the recent polls. Its duty is to live, not to allow itself to be extinguished, to live purposefully, and save the Constitution. It is the corner-stone of our temple. The more powerful the dictatorship which has established itself, the more necessary is the Swatantra Party for the nation. 'No capitulation' should be our slogan.

The sovereign advice of the Bhagavad Gita is for one to pursue one's mission with equanimity as regards success and failure. This is the yoga of samatvam. If we follow this advice and pursue our Swadharma without capitulating, God's grace will help us to overcome all difficulties. Let us put our trust in the words of Bhagawaan in the Upanishad mantra, Satyam eva jayate.

Let us not fall into the traps in our way and be instruments for communism and irredeemable dictatorship. The Swatantra Party should stand firm and not extinguish itself. To give up one's swadharma is to extinguish oneself. Let us realize our dignity and our importance to the nation as the corner-stone of the temple. Outside the legislatures we can be more powerful than all the abettors of the drift to dictatorship.

I greatly appreciated Sri Dandekar's idea, which he discussed with me when we met recently that while the Swatantra Party's programme and policy should be the difficult task of reviving the respect for moral values, which has so sadly disappeared, the party should, meanwhile, stand guard on at least the external behaviour of the wealthy and support the use of effective penalties to that end. It is very difficult, however, to devise any way to carry out this idea.