

## **DEMOCRACY IS YET TO REACH THE COMMON PEOPLE**

Although India is regarded as the largest democratic country of the world, democracy in true sense is yet to reach the doorsteps of the common people of this country. We are no doubt enjoying adult franchise, but still a large number of the electorates are refraining from participation in the elections. Lack of literacy or civil and political consciousness may be its apparent reason, but the other major reasons lie elsewhere. The hard-pressed socio-economic conditions in which our millions of poor electorates are put in are mainly responsible for pushing them outside the main stream of the society and this causes their mental aberration for participation in democratic processes like elections. This is a major factor for non-functioning of democracy in true sense. We are fascinated to speak loudly about the magnitude of our democracy, but actually it has become a democracy without the participation of majority of our population. The fruits of this democracy are not reaching the aam admi -- millions of our poor people. We, therefore, strongly demand Democracy for the people, Democracy of the people.

We can not remain unconcerned about the fact that the majority of our public bodies, particularly our Parliament and many of our state Assemblies do not represent the opinions and aspirations of the majority of our population. During the last 15th Lok Sabha election (2009) hardly 30 crores, out of 70 crores, of electorates, have cast their vote. During the just concluded Maharashtra Assembly election (13 October 2009), Mumbai has recovered the lowest voter turn out at 43 percent. It shows how our people is being alienated from the government-making process. Moreover, the money and the muscle power are mostly influencing the voting pattern. Money is overpowering the poor people, and as such, mostly the rich are managing to win the elections. This is the fallacy of our democracy, where the people's voice can not be heard under the pressure of money power. It is regrettably noted that a good number of billionaires have made their entry in the new 15th Lok Sabha. Average worth of an M.P., in this 15th Lok Sabha is Rs. 51 million; do they really represent the aam admi of our country? Can the ruling party, in such a case, ensure inclusive growth'?

As the democratic values have not been developed in the proper way, corruptions are rising and inequity in society are increasing day by day. In view of wide-spread fissures in our democratic structure, benefits of democracy are not reaching millions of our poor people. We, therefore, call for a united fight to put our democracy on a people-oriented strong foundation. With the success of this on-going struggle only, it will be possible to achieve our desired success of democracy.