

ENERGY EMERGENCY AND DEVELOPMENTAL URGENCY

Energy Emergency and Developmental Urgency are India's current desiderata. We must preserve the best in our vintage heritage but incorporate, as part of our modern march, the finer values of industrial marvel the West has scientifically discovered, without violating the innocence of egalitarian humanism which is the soul of our democratic culture. Mahatma Gandhi, whom Schumacher once described as the greatest economist of the century, was the visionary ideologist of appropriate technology. 'He rejected Development as an idea that aimed primarily at the creation of material wealth or the satisfaction of insatiable, endlessly multiplied needs. He saw the grave dangers and terrorist dimensions of crazy cities which demolished the charming simplicity and tension-free rural humanity. So far as we make modern materialist greed our goal, so far are we going downhill in the path of progress'. (Third World Tomorrow P-19 Paul Harrison: Penguin Books).

It is fundamental to define Development. The Cocoyoc Declaration (U.N) affirms 'The purpose of development should not be to develop things, but to develop Man'. The avaricious sector of the West has brain-washed the world into a cerebral thralldom of progress as a mad race of societies for more concrete skyscrapers, sophisticated

lifestyles, speed-monster, cars, five star hotels, fashionable shopping complexes, flesh-free sexes, dazzling, gold and diamond palaces, luxury bazaars, freebooters and pick-pockets centers, pleasure clubs and bars. The alcoholic affluence, the mafia culture abound and expensive extravagance aggravated by luxurious technology, geared to amassing wealth makes Big Business a major mission of capitalist competition pursued with a passion uninhibited by criminal law, good morals and sensitive justice. This is the ubiquitous terrorism which is the basic structure of our glossy way of life culture polluting the moderation of the middle class, tempting with lascivious and lucrative opportunities the lesser classes, with, of course, the few billionaires controlling ministers and other State authorities. We have thus a society of glamour, of exotic investments, of hi-tech factories and big business houses. To sustain such a specious, sensuous social order we need escalating energy expensive power. Then alone this spiral of philistine buoyancy can reach and purchase palaces of pleasure. Money matters, man does not. In such an intoxicated world order, globalization, liberalisation, privatization, marketisation, phoney-spiritual deception—these bizarre cravings, pampered by the lavish life-style can persist. This addiction demands more high voltage energy in the shape of electricity and competitive cupidity. Even a battle for more,

ever more appetises our crazy demands. Thus, the immoderate consumerism, multi-polar rivalry and invasive occupation of Indian Industry make massive generation of electricity through additional sources like nuclear power whatever the cost, a reckless fascination for the richer classes. Opulent ostentation, luminous publicity blitz, ultra-comfortable air-conditioning, high voltage coloured lights on hoardings and so on involve energy expenditure beyond the State's power estate. Austerity, as an extreme necessity, must be enforced not only in public institutions and places but also in all private enterprises, feasts, festive celebrations, theatres of popular performances, like sports centres, cinemas and other artistic entertainments. Consumption of energy must be controlled by severe legal discipline and their violation made punishable.

One ancient culture, regardless of religion, had insisted on humility, happiness, harmony, clean surroundings and green milieu. This is the necessitous austerity, not obstinate abdication of profitable activities.

The survival of our nation demands a revolutionary resurrection of our moral ethos and moderate economy. The command of the zeitgeist is a stern energy discipline, a sound power constraint, realistic electricity plan, as an integral part of the current energy emergency which makes Development a sensitive project. Let the country practice a

wise policy by maximizing diverse sources of power generation and minimising extravagance and waste of electrical energy consistently with the compulsions of life's civilized survival. Brothers and sisters of the Bar, rise above mercenary privatization, ascent to high levels of social justice to Indian humanity—Sale never; Service ever!

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