



RAM MANOHAR LOHIA AND HIS THEORY OF SOCIALISM: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT :

Ram Manohar Lohia (1910--1967) a revolutionary Indian socialist, prominent political thinker and a great visionary. His contribution to the nation is ever rememberable. He was an excellent orator and writer, he preserved his life for the development of the nation. He struggled against injustice. Indeed he was a man of equality and thought of action, in other words he was champion in order to concern downtrodden. This president paper aims at presenting Lohia's scrupulous struggle about injustice, discrimination, inequality, freedom. He had strong enough organizational strength. He always thought about the country abundantly and he was purely innovative thinker. His organization power was mysterious. As a socialist who contributed a lot regarding the development of the nation. Today's living world and our life style is not really favorable. Of such great thinker, visionary, economist, man of liberty like Abraham Lincoln or a few only took initiation to make welfare of the mankind, Lohia was one of them. The American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The greatest man is not the one who changes things, but the greatest man is the one who changes the state of my mind ". It is very meaningful, Lohia was a great genius, it definitely enriched many more dreamers. Lohia is one of them. Paradoxically today we are forgetting the importance of such great dedication of personalities.



KEY WORDS: Lohia, Socialism, democracy, equality, freedom, individual liberty and discrimination.

INTRODUCTION:

Today the world pays much attention for entertainment rather than crucial thinking but really there is a great value for the thinking about the life and its purpose and it's only possible through the inspiration or guidance of great visionaries such Lohia. His main fruitful idea or idealism of Lohia is socio-economic transformation. Lohia was a man of action and progressive thinker. Of course, he was an economic hero rather than a political hero. Lohia remained as bachelor, he is an architect of Socialism. Now really it's great achievement or development in many areas even though we failed because we have forgotten and neglected the practice of progressive thoughts paved the way by the ancient exponents and which have been acquired. It's a big burden to the country.

Lohia was a freedom fighter. Always he raised his voice against injustice so he was jailed many times there he was much cruelly harassed or punished inhumanly sometimes he was not served meals that was, indeed, intolerable but he had tolerated it for the cause of nation. His vision was absolutely obvious: his first priority of the nation was to get independence ; and his strong argument "independent nation must have essentially established of liberal society basis on equality". Lohia is an in-born revolutionary man and throughout his life who journeyed width and breadth for the construction of

Socialism . He was strong enough against injustice. He never ever agreed with Nehru. A real history is nothing but biographies of great men such of Lohia. It's not exaggeration to say that he is champion of liberalism and very sensitively he attacked not only capitalism but also Communists. His theory of Socialism fully helped a lot in real sense. Meanwhile his purpose of introducing the theory of Socialism was to remove the poverty of India because India was and is land of poverty. Certainly it is tragedy of India that Indian property was and is within a few people in what way it's expected to improve the socio-economic view. On the one hand Lohia was a significant contributor on the field of socio-political thought in India. On the other hand he was much interested and emphasized on Gandhian ideas and ideals in the combination of socio-economic elements. He believed that the concept of democratic Socialism would have obviously help and develop the economy of India. At a genuine point Lohia was a sincere and committed man who explored and understood the problems of India keenly. His strong argument is that India was remained backward due its socio-economic and political discrimination for which Lohia had struggled a lot against it and tried immensely to subvert it as much as possible so India had and has been suffering economically, Lohia argues in his books discrimination is evil or disease to the country. The way, discrimination, India had practiced since the Mahabharata, made worse condition, it killed basis on its fixed identity Lohia observed it very sensitively and particularly. Undoubtedly Indians were deeply exploited on the account of discrimination, in other words it had loosened the confidence and by which humans were separated and exploited, who were identified differently and therefore different elites were established various sects and clutched in hands of the system.

The very interest of Lohia was to mobilise the importance of the Socialism and bring to the main stream of neglected unnecessarily. He opined that India's internal oscillation of caste and class injured the nation so people had no enough strength or alternate way to come out from deeply exploited routes or conditions . The structure of socio-economic and political immensely disturbed so Lohia had taken many projects in order to change. By virtue of knowledge he knew that nation is nothing but people, it's welfare of them so that he ever thought of bringing changes. Therefore his main concern was to decentralize the power in the point of socialism. As far as his consideration of small machines, co-operative labour and village government, operating as democratic forces against capitalistic forces. As much as possible he tried to decolonize orthodox and organized structure in socio-economic and political point, for a dead doctrine and a dying organization, he focused on dynamic only.

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia was born at Akbarpur in U.P. on March 23, 1910 and died on 1967. As regards Dr Lohia's background, he received primary education at Akbarpur ,High school from Mumbai at first class, Intermediate from Varanasi, and graduated from Calcutta University in 1929 first class also, he was distinguished and studious student whatever it's but fate is very different that his mother died when he was two years old. Lohia restlessly struggled for his concept of socialism up to his last breath of life he lived only fifty seven years. There is a memorable or unforgettable event that Lohia's keenest observation when he was student at Geneva in Germany there a great conference in 1931 "League of Nation" was held in which Representatives participated across the world. King of Bikaner ,as representative of India, and he expressed about British in this manner that he had appreciated British administration colourfully, he highlighted that Indians were happy with British administration. This madness of the king raged Lohia. There Lohia participated as spectator who could not tolerate it all of sudden he stood up and interpreted that British had exploited India hugely, stolen fundamental rights, while India's condemning British dominancy in most aspects, this immature king became slave of British and appropriated them madly when Lohia strongly condemned it the whole auditorium was become silent but on the contrary immediately Lohia was dismissed, but his voice reached to India. Indians were surprised about this revolutionary young one. And then he rebelled against British and gave call regional languages had to be given first priority instead of English. And then he established socialism, criticized Nehru when who was very dominant at the time. Having had different opinions with Gandhi Lohia was a good companion of Gandhi up to the end and Ram Manohar Lohia was recognized as a famous thinker as well as straitforward person. He had mastery over english language. Once upon a time, to study in London, was symbol of the honesty but Lohia opposed the British

government since his childhood, on the contrary actually Lohia had no interest to get higher education in London, for he was already formed as nationalist. Once Lohia was in the library of London he was introduced a librarian and while talking with him Lohia was much interested about a new ideology and intellectual freedom so he decided to leave London and it was suitable to go to the city of Berlin. In Germany in 1929 he did complete Master's degree and there obtained the doctorate degree in Economics on "Economics of Salt Satyagraha" from Humboldt(Berlin) University under the guidance of Late Prof. Warner Sombart a noted economist. This was absolutely an important issue which led to Gandhi's historical march to Dandi. He much emphasized on Gandhi's socio-economic theory. Lohia's education in Germany formed a significant part in his ideological evolution. The experience in Berlin widen his understanding and perception.

In 1930 Gandhi started "Salt Satyagraha", entire India came forward to break the law of British under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Hugely supported to this Dandi March so that British government tried much to prevent that movement. As result of this huge patriots were punished black and white, police tortured mercilessly, patriots were jailed. His father's team was also attacked and much tortured. By such worst conditions India was frustrated so Lohia raged about much more suffering of the country.

Contribution to the Indian National Movement

His arrival to India in 1933 Lohia joined the freedom movement at a young age. He involved fully in the national movement led by the Indian National Congress. He also joined the socialist movement as one of the founders of the Congress Socialist Party. He was considered as one of its pillars. There were stalwarts like Acharya Narendra Dev, Jaya Prakash Narayana, Achyut Patwardhan, Ashok Mehta, and Minoo Manasani formed Congress Socialist Party (CSP) in 1934. The purpose of these leaders was to build a nation for the majority of toiling people. They put extra effort to strengthen the national movement by organizing workers and peasants. It had declared socialism as its objective. It started that only Marxism could guide the anti-imperialist forces to their destiny, and thus emphasized of democratizing the organizational structure of the Congress. Lohia, as a man of activist and action participated in the national movement, and played major role in the underground Quit India Movement of 1942. For his activism he was jailed several times. The Socialist Party had formed as a major opposition party in post independence India. At this point, Lohia emerged not only as its first ranked leader but he also played a key role in the formation of it. Within short span of time Lohia absorbed Indian condition and his voracious reading, intellectual richness about the outside world, arrival of Hitler, almost all Lohia observed keenly. He also perceived India's phenomenon sensitively.

For so many centuries man had been forming many theories, concepts and relevant thoughts for leading his peaceful life in the organized society. These are as results of suitable forms for its time, nation and situation. Usually forces of time inspired to get new thoughts. The term 'society' is also a thought of equality or the way of life. At this point, after the question of the existence of God and then the most debatable, interpretation in this world is the theory of Socialism. When civilization was evolutionized man turned towards individuality. Therefore he had concept of having individual property. Gradually this concept of individual property created fighting for having property between man and man. Ultimately this contest became the main seed of inequality. And initially it was only in the form between animals. Later it appeared in the form of land obviously. Therefore it resulted as feudalism and Zamindar, these two classes were created gradually. This system was gradually formed as master-Purohit-slave classes. As result of this state was born for the protection for the property and for the protection of the Master. Since then master had been in a good position, Purohit or priest became head of religion and protected to the master. But slave became the servant of both classes. The culture of hegemony started to control over them. The concept of equal society was established due to the process of inequality and exploitation but equality remained as an ideal one. Further this ideal was called "Utopia" especially in 18th century the impact of the industrial revolution appeared apparently. As a result of this people migrated from village to city in search of jobs. But unfortunately labourers were exploited due to the greediness of the industrial owners. In such a critical condition, Rousseau,

France thinker, wrote an essay about 'unequality' in which he not only identified the reasons for inequality like concept of property, desire for benefit but provided the motivational aspects to create a new society basic on equality, freedom, brotherhood. Later the thought of Rousseau was formed as the milestone of Socialism. At this point, people of France were much inspired by Rousseau and revolution happened in 1789. And then people started revolution in order to free from immense poverty and exploitation, the influence of Rousseau paved the way for having reality. French Revolution is usually called mother of all revolutions by which blood shed happened.

Lohiya was an exponent of Socialism who advocated Indian socialism, which adapted to the situation. There was a group of socialists who established the Congress Samajwadi Party under the congress and announced their draft policy of building a socialist society with a dictatorship of peasants and workers holding state power through elections on this occasion. Lohiya demanded that along with the goal of building a socialist society, the goal of complete self-government should also be incorporated in the party's policy. The socialist announced the creation of a secular, gender-and-caste free society, loan waiver that farmers and labourers, land reform, abolition of monarchy, nationalization of industries etc as their party programs. On the other hand socialist of India believed in the Gandhian path. A revolution based on violence was not a role model. Thus he aimed to make the national movement an opportunity to build an egalitarian society. Another crucial point is that Lohiya who was the editor of the Congress Socialist magazine, elaborated his socialist thought through articles. Lohiya's highly and scrupulous point that he operated the underground 'Congress Radio station'. Lohiya was arrested in May 1944 in Mumbai and sent to the most notorious Lahore Fort Jail. He had to undergo the worst type of torture in jail.

Lohiya formulates his Indian thought of Socialism thus

- (1) Large machines demand more capital and thus lead to capitalism. Thus a decent modest life style is based on the technology. Of small machines units that can help in production using human skills without requiring much capital.
- (2) Non-cooperation Satyagraha model of struggle instead of class struggle model based on non-violence.
- (3) Nationalization of economic activities necessary to achieve maximum equality.
- (4) Decentralized democratic national government
- (5) A government that enables equality among nations.

While Marxism analyses human history as a history of class struggle. Lohiya analyses human history as an internal struggle between class and caste and an external struggle of civilization representing maximum efficiency. Because of this, a country can go from high to low in one case. Then efficiency rises by assimilation; this process is as Marx said one-sided, instead says that it moves like a wheel. In this, context, he opines that human society is self, instead of for maximum efficiency. For this he asserts the urgent need for decarbonization .

Lohiya presents India's agricultural policy in the context of social thinking.

- (1) Abolition of Zamindari system. Land belongs to the tiller.
- (2) control over land Expropriation.
- (3) Distribution of land.
- (4) Ownership of three times the land that a family of five can manage without the help of lived labour or machinery.
- (5) Coordination of prices of agricultural products with prices of industrial products.

Lohiya remained not only a socialist thinker but also an activist. Thus he organized "JatiVishana"conference which were necessary for building a socialist society and "AngrejiHathao" conference against the English language which was a tool for political exploitation. Lohiya was in favor of women's equality. He said that this equality is not enough it's in law only, it should be in practice.

His Political Thought

Anyway he never accepted any of the given ideologies in totality. Having influenced of Gandhi and Marxism he had criticized their ideologies because he was original thinker, his innovative thinking always alerted him as Phoenix bird. He had not accepted anything without questioning. He re-examined Gandhi's political ideas. He actively participated in "Quit India Movement" in which he was a moving spirit behind it and a leading light along with others. He was very specific that he operated the underground "Congress Radio Station". Indeed he emphasized on Decentralization, constructive programmers, non-violent protests and Satyagraha. He also paid much attention on the socialist party should focus on vote(Ballot), agitation (jail) and constructive work. His main political idea was that democratic decentralization and power and economy should also be equally shared. He studied and analyzed deeply and questioned and criticized them. He was faith in non-violence and he advocated constructive tendencies and tolerable person. He enriched non-violence with his active programmes. On the other hand Lohia strongly criticized capitalism, British colonial rule exploited people hugely. Having joined national movement he struggled against British imperialism in 1934. He always keenly observed deplorable conditions of Indian people and he was a hero of people and he knew that nation is nothing but people. His strong argument during the second world War that India should not give any support to British rule. He was keenly aware of Indian poverty. He ever supported to the farmers and immediately he used to organized movements and addressed to the people. He initiated farmers marches and struggles.

His Socialism

At this point he empowered his new concept of indian socialism with his greater perception and followed the traditional sense. With his rejection of Marxism and Communist totalitarianism he attempted the Indian socialist movement in the liberal way. He was champion of equality and Prosperity or influenced much more in this sense. Meanwhile he was famous for his seven revolutions which are 1) civil disobedience against violent revolutions; 2) economic equality; 3) Abolition of caste; 4) emancipation of women; 5) national independence; 6) an end to colour discrimination; 7) the individual's freedom of thought through which he wanted to build a new nation.

He contributed a lot to the development of Socialist thought with his rejection of superstitions, prejudices and backwardness, he fully highlighted ideological problems of the Socialist movement in India. He did not accept any ideas or thoughts blindly even Gandhi's also in which he argued to re-examine and reconsider. Most prominently Lohia was famous for his Four Pillar State concept like village, district, province and central government which are excellent policies for making welfare of the nation. In his book on Marx, Gandhi and Socialism Lohia discussed elements of democratic Socialism as an absolute philosophy in order to make good functions and it is a way for economic development and democratic policies.

His main another fruitful attention of equality was Lohia's aim of Socialism. He rejected capitalism and imperialism, he only wished to establish harmonious relationship between the material and moral needs of man. His much concern of democracy and Socialism and these were not separated or two sides of the same coin. He idealized it that whatever it is answerable only through democracy. Therefore he focused on democracy, freedom and individual liberty. And his belief equality is root of this trilogy.

Conclusion

Such a genius man Ram Manohar Lohia is milestone in the history of modern Indian intellectual and political ways. He was a significant contributor, one of a few thinkers of modern Indian. He tried to simply difficult things to build his socialist thought through greater struggle he was man of genius. He attempted to liberate social doctrine from its traditional atmosphere. He inspired and attracted many leaders who followed Lohia's philosophy and practiced in political life, they became hero, Lohia inspired across the Indian specifically on trilogy like liberalism, equality and freedom. He was a noted figure with his original thoughts and actions. Thus he is a memorable leader of modern Indian.

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