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FIRST PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTION IN NORTH SRI LANKA

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Abstract:-South Asia is world's most populated subcontinent. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives include in this sub continent. Regional, Religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity we can see together, which can not be seen any part of the world.

Keywords: Democracy remained , Council Election , History , communicative language.

INTRODUCTION:

In South Asia Democracy remained constantly only in India and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is divided into nine Provinces. There are 25 Districts.(www.gov.lk). The administration is based on District level as the country is small. In North Sri Lanka, Jaffana, Mannar ,Vavuniya , Mullaitivu, Killinochchi and at East shore Trincomalee , Batticaloa, Ampara Districts Tamils are major and they are demanding for independent "Tamil Eelam". In other Districts Sinhalese are having majority. But in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya Indian Tamils are more at Tea Plantations. In Sri Lanka except North region, there is Democratic government since last 25 years. But they don't have any authority. The administration of this region is under Rajpakshe's ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party. On 21 September 2013, Provincial Council elections were conducted in North region, first time after 25 years. History:

In an attempt to end the Sri Lankan Civil War the Indo-Lanka Accord was signed on 29 July 1987. One of the requirements of the accord was that the Sri Lankan government to devolve powers to the provinces. Accordingly on 14 November 1987 the Sri Lankan Parliament passed the 13th Amendment to the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act No 42 of 1987. According to this amendment, Province was created also ,Tamil language got the status of Official language & English as a communicative language.

It was also decided to uniform the Northern and Eastern Province. Conduct the elections after Five years, establishment of Provincial High Courts, distribution of power between Provincial and Central govt. On 3 February 1988 nine Provincial councils were created by order The first elections for provincial councils took place on 28 April 1988 in North Central, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva provinces. On 2 June 1988 elections were held for provincial councils for Central, Southern and Western provinces. The United National Party (UNP), which was in power nationally, won control of all seven provincial councils. (www.govt.lk).

There was strong appose for this amendment in Sri Lankan Parliament as well as in the country. According to Sinhalese people. There was lack of political will power and many errors does not allowed this amendment to come in an action. Even Tamil groups also apposed it. In 1988 the Northern-Eastern Province was uniformed. But pm 16th oct.2006, The Supreme Court decreed it so on 1st January 2007 both regions again divided. The apposition of Tamils and Sinhali's as well as Government the amendment still not came in the action.

The first Election of North-East Province. According to this agreement it was essential to conduct the elections. It was great challenge for the City Chief to conduct the elections, because there was great apposition of LTTE for these elections. Yet Indian Peace Keeping Force decided to conduct the elections. Some Indian officers help also was taken. After the election, North-East regional organization was established. E.P.R.L.F. leader Vardharaj Perumal was the first Chief Minister.

The Government recommended to dissolve the North-East Government on 28 February 1990. But Perumal strongly denied for that and the next day Provincial Committee held the meeting Chief Minister Perumal insisted that instead of dissolving the council of ministers it should be converted into Constituent Assembly to create constitution for "Republic of Tamil Eelam" from 1st March1990. By the way Perumal had given surprise shock to LTTE, Sri Lanka Government and Government of India at the same time.

Mohan Chougule, "FIRST PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTION IN NORTH SRI LANKA", Golden Research Thoughts | Volume 3 | Issue 8 | Feb 2014 | Online & Print

The Election of 2013:

On 21 September 2013 voting had taken place at Jaffna, killinochchi, Mannar , Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, the Tamil majority Districts in North province. In this first election for North province the voting was for 38 Seats in this province, In which Tamil National Alliance got 78.48% votes and won 30 seats, where as President Mahinda Rajpakshe's ruling party "United Peoples Freedom Alliance" got only 18.38% votes and won only seven seats. Sri Lanka Muslim Congress got 1.50% votes and won only one seat. This recent election indicates that the rift between Tamils and Sinhali's in Sri Lanka is as it was in the past. It is also essential that there should be differentiate between expectations of Tamils and unlimited demands of LTTE. After this election Tamil National Alliance emerged as biggest party in North Province, In the past it was considered the supporter of LTTE.

The Effects of 2013 Elections:

In 2009 there was an end of Bloody civil violence in Sri Lanka. After 1988 first time the elections were conducted in war affected and Tamil majority Province under the pressure of Sri Lankan Government. International Observers and Tamil representatives compliant about the unlimited interference of Sri Lankan army. Actually the pressure at the International level was responsible to conduct the election. Rajpkashe's biggest worry is the criticism at International level. Sri Lankan economy is completely depend upon tourism and foreign investment in that Sri Lanka is going to be host for Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting, . So Rajpakshe is in hurry to conduct the election.

Human Rights Organizations insisted the leaders of the CHOGM should boycott. this meeting to pressurize the government to maintain communal peace and to notice the government about 40 thousand people lost their lives in last communal war.

The CHOGM is indicates that life of the people is coming on the track which as been violated in communal struggle since last 30 years. Sri Lankan Tamil people promised to the president Rajpakshe that they have faith on Tamil National Alliance and discuss with our representatives to give us Constitutional rights. By the victory of TNA Tamil people given clear message to the president. In the north province there is no any Democratic government so there was no discussion about political and administrative rights of Tamil people till today also the problems are according to give basic facilities in this area, informed by the Foreign Minister Gemini Ganeshan. Now on the provincial Council Democratic Government is existing and Chief Minister of this province is retired Judge C.V. Vigneshwaran so the Sri Lankan Government cannot give any reason for the implementation of 13th amendment.

T.N.A.'s head Rajvirothigam Sampathan and Chief Minister C.V.Vigneshwaran demanded that the government should give constitutional Power to the provincial Council without any delay.

Even T.N.A. got the success but their journey is not so easy. They have to cross the series of problems such as army of this area, land, rights, lack of jobs and transformation of the power.

T.N.A.'s political aim will be to acquire sovereignty. In their declaration they told Sovereignty can speak lie to the public but not to the nation. They have faith on it. Public has the right to govern us not the government .But because of Tamil peoples this attitude it is possible there will be struggle with Sri Lankan government in the future. The politics of vote bank destroyed the unity of this community "We are major so we have control on Nation" this wrong definition of Democracy and Nationalism created the problems almost every nation. So Mahatma Gandhiji apposed to the dictatorship of majority in his book "Hind Swaraj" because he was knowing the dangers behind it.

After this ethnic struggle if the Sinhali's will give rights to the Tamils and will give recognition to Tamil language and Government jobs, education and entry in security force then only pains will relief. Prema Kantak, the Gandhian philosopher expressed in his book 'Mahabharata' that war is dangerous But the reasons beyond the wars can be more dangerous. These are the fruits of deep injustice and discrimination in the society .

The militants like Prabhakaran can emerge from such kind situation. The cruelty and violence of Prabhakaran should be checked in the matter of injustice treatment given to the Tamil people. Even the Prabhakaran has been defeated, if the injustice and discrimination—will continue then the people like Prabhakaran will born again. Because, 'It is not useful to kill the rebellion if the reason beyond the revolt remains then new rebellion will—take birth. So the reason behind—the revolt should be vanished' suggested by Kautilya. The problem of Tamil struggle in Sri Lanka seems as violent at the end after peaceful movement. So now it is time to think. How it can be organized again on the way of Ahimsa and How it can be used to create political package.

Sri Lankan government always denying to give constitutional rights to Tamils and given dual treatment. Because of this treatment the youngster of Sri Lankan Tamil and world wide Tamil society will take arms once again and such kind of situation can arise again. Before the 36 years happened the same thing. Tamil United Liberation Front had won the election under the leadership of Appapillai Amrutalingam . But he was not successful in earning the rights of Tamil citizens . So the groups of Tamil militants were created. Prabhakaran's L.T.T.E. was one of them. This organization has struggled around 30 years around 20 thousand people lost their lives. Governments expend millions of dollars on Government property, basic needs, protection.

So Rajpakshe should come out to give the rights of Tamil people as early as possible otherwise it will create the same situation in the past. So the Tamils around the world are waiting for the steps of the President Rajpakshe.

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