

The Destruction of **SIKKIM**



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THE PLUNDER OF THE NATION - I



India looted by alien and “elected” rulers

India’s quadrillion rupees, clandestinely stashed abroad, has debunked the sanctimonious cant of holy frauds perpetrated by bureaucrats, technocrats, plutocrats, “some judges”, our own elected rulers, the so-called democrats, and others, by abusing their power and contravening India’s Constitution and the Law with impunity since independence. In no “democratic country” anywhere in the world, and at no stage of history, have there been any such exploitative people, devoid of any moral turpitude and any sense of justice, compassion and humanity, as we have witnessed in India.

“Before 1947, only successful professionals like lawyers, doctors and academics entered politics and they did so not to make money. After 1947, however, most of the people who entered politics ostensibly had no other means of livelihood”.¹ Indeed, “Politics has become the last refuge of the scoundrels” in our country; which has clearly manifested itself by an unending succession of unprecedented “scams”. In corroboration of Vittal, my experience suggests that school drop-outs, unemployables, and politicians with inborn criminal bent of mind, prosper in Indian politics. There are, however, some exceptions and the Republic has, so far, managed to move on with tottering steps.

Tax havens of the world.

The illegal deposits of our money in alien lands are attributable

¹N. Vittal: *ENDING CORRUPTION? How to Clean Up India*, 2012, Penguin Viking, New Delhi. Page 102 Born on 31 January, 1938, and appointed to the IAS on 16 May, 1960, Vittal, was India’s Central Vigilance Commissioner, 1998-2002; and his words are authoritative and authentic.

to Indians' innate mania for gargantuan swag and the monetary policies of financial institutions in tax havens. "U.S. tax officials admit that the United States may be considered a tax haven. The case for arguing that U.K. is a tax haven is stronger²"

"Available data show with striking consistency that approximately 30% of all foreign direct investment (FDI) is invested, or at the very least passes, through tax havens. UNCTAD data show a slight increase in FDI flows through tax havens since the mid 1990s". [PMC Page 52]. UNCTAD is United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a permanent organ of the UN General Assembly, "instituted to promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development". But in practice, it has made the economy of the third world countries subservient to the interest of the industrialized first world countries.

10 Indians with accounts abroad

Among others, as of 2006, an amount of Rs. 6,000 crore in the names of around 700 people had been parked in the Geneva branch of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund since 5 July, 2011, was the French Finance Minister, 19 June, 2007-29 June, 2011(CL). In 2010, CL handed over the information relating to the 700 accounts to Greece. The information came to be known as the "Lagarde List".

In the first week of November, 2012, "a Greek magazine published the list, which contained several prominent names and the controversy is raging in that country now³"

The Lagarde List "was handed over to the Indian Government in a compact disc in 2011 by (CL) the then French finance minister". [T.T]

The Central government has also another list – given by the German government. "Whistleblowers are suspected to have given or sold the data to the two foreign governments".[T.T]

On 9 November, 2012, Arvind Kejriwal, along with other

²Ronen Palan, Richard Murphy, and Christian Chavagneux: 2010, *TAX HAVENS How Globalization Really Works*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, (PMC), Page 38

³*The Telegraph*, Calcutta, 10 Nov., 2012 (TT)

members of *India Against Corruption*. [AK], referred to the aforementioned “Le Garde” list. AK also released a list of 10 names: Mukesh and Anil Ambani with Rs. 100 crore each; Ms Anu Tandon and her late husband, Sandeep, Rs.125 crore each; Jet Airways chairman, Naresh Goyal, Rs. 80 crore; three Burman brothers, who own Dabur, having Rs. 25 crore each. The 9th and 10th accounts in the name of Yashovardhan Birla and Kokila Dhirubhai Ambani, however, had no balance (TT). It is believed that they had transferred the “booty” to a safer haven.

Immediately after the crowded press conference in New Delhi, Rashid Alvi, Congress Party spokesman, asked AK to submit his evidence for an official inquiry instead of simply addressing the media.

All the account-holders, however, forthwith denied the allegations.

Nevertheless, Ashok Mitra writes: “Money lying in the vaults of Swiss banks has been paid in as much by business tycoons as by politicians, along with remittances from other specimens. Each species knows fairly well what amount which of the other species has stacked up in Mauritius or Cayman Islands or Zurich; some judges too have of late joined the fraternity”.

Moreover, “India tops the black money chart, dwarfing countries like Russia & the UK. Figures in \$ bn. India 1456, Russia 470, UK 390, Ukraine 100, China 96”.⁴

Also, “The reported holdings of Indian citizens in numbered accounts in Swiss banks in 2006 - close to \$1500 billion - is roughly 1.8 times the size of the country’s gross domestic product that year. Economic historians have done their research and have tentatively estimated British exploitation of India over the two centuries from Plassey [1757] till independence [1947] to be around 5 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product. Post-colonial exploitation - of Indians by Indians, as revealed by the data from Swiss banks - would appear to be of a no less impressive order.”⁵

Besides Switzerland, India has black money in Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Liechtenstein, and Mauritius. However, only the amount

⁴*The Times of India, Kolkata, 8 June, 2011*

⁵*Ashok Mitra: The Telegraph, Calcutta, 16 January, 2009.*

of \$1456 billions in Switzerland is known, which may not be the entire black money in that country. If our black money in the remaining 90 locations is revealed, there may, perhaps, be more illegal Indian rupees in the world than the stars in the cosmos.

India informed Bank & depositors but not Parliament and people

AK said: "The Centre refused to put the [Lagarde] list in the public domain but shared it with the Ambanis and HSBC, allowing the bank to send an apology note to the Ambanis and 600-odd others warning them they should 'please take care of themselves'" (*T T*). If a government in a western democracy had acted in the same manner as our Finance Ministry did, it would be booted out immediately and an investigation ordered into, among others, why and how the Legislature and then the nation were not taken into confidence regarding the black money scam, which, as stated later, is "A Plunder of the Nation". India's Finance Minister (1982-85, and 24 January, 2009-26 June, 2012), Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, individually, and the government of India, with Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister (since 22 May, 2004), collectively, miserably failed to protect our interests. The twosome, unfortunately, protected the interest of HSBC and its clientele. P Chidambaram, Finance Minister, May 2004-November 2008 and from 31 July 2012 onwards, has also continued to shield HSBC and its black money depositors. Interestingly, based on official records, the Anna Team in 2012 wanted a Special Investigation Team to probe allegations of corruption against FIFTEEN Ministers of UPA Government starting with Manmohan Singh and Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Prime Minister and Finance Minister respectively.

India "ruled by thieves"

The preceding alleged professional criminal misconduct of India's omnipotent triumvirate is unfortunate. Without any compunction, I feel constrained to quote H. Parshuram, Mumbai: "The US Administration must be applauded for issuing an ultimatum to Swiss banks to disclose names of Americans who have clandestinely stashed money there. For the US, nation comes first, not individuals. But in India, as Ram Jethmalani rightly pointed out, We are ruled by thieves. So how

can we set a thief to catch a thief?"⁶.

“Absolutely honest” rulers in China.

On the other hand, China is ruled by “absolutely honest” men . “The administration of the country is carried on by men who live under strict discipline, whether civilian or military. Many are paid no salaries, but are given only board and lodging, a bare minimum of clothing, some cigarettes, free education for their children and medical attention. Selfless young Chinese have returned from abroad to lead hard and austere lives. ‘The administration is absolutely honest’, writes a recently expelled Catholic priest who warned against underestimating the strength of the Peking Government. ‘I imagine that under the present regime it would be more difficult to buy a Chinese official than an official in the Western countries’. Where salaries are paid, they are extremely low. Mao Tse-tung is said to receive less than the equivalent of \$150 a month, And the earnings of his subordinates are proportionately lower. An awed Indian official once said to me, ‘Mao himself has only one suit, and his wife works for a weekly wage’⁷”.

As quoted above, a man of God who was “recently expelled” from China expressed the view that the Chinese “administration is absolutely honest”. Bowles also quoted “an awed Indian official” who told him how simple the then ruler of one-fourth of mankind was. I have, therefore, no reason to disbelieve any argument against the “absolute honesty of Chinese leaders” at the relevant time, in the light of the writings of a man who loved India more than many of the Indians themselves.

Bowles also quoted John Milton Hay (1838-1905), American Secretary of State 1898-1905): “The world’s peace rests with China, and whoever understands China holds the key to world politics during the next five centuries”. (CB 69) Very truly did Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) say: “China - there lies a sleeping giant. Let him sleep, for when he wakes he shall shake the world”⁸

Chester Bliss Bowles (April 5, 1901- May 25, 1986) was American ambassador to India twice: October, 1951-March, 1953 and 1963-

⁶*Sunday Times of India, Kolkata, 11 September, 2011.*

⁷*Chester Bowles: The New Dimensions of Peace, Bantam Books, Montreal, Canada, 1955 (CB) Page 105.*

⁸*Chester Bowles: 67.*

69. A great friend of India, he often pleaded for her. For instance, during his first stint, he supported India on the Kashmir issue: "As Ambassador to India it had been my responsibility to study carefully the legal and political aspects of the Kashmir question. It was my belief that on this issue the Indians have always had a justifiable legal claim"⁹.

Similarly, during his second ambassadorial assignment, he defended Indian Premier, Indira Gandhi's condemnation of US policy in Vietnam: "She issued a statement on 1 July 1966 'deploring' the American bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. Then, during a further visit to the Soviet Union she signed a joint statement with Kosygin (Prime Minister, USSR) condemning 'imperialist aggression' in Vietnam. Lyndon (Baines) Johnson (the 36th. US President) was furious and deliberately delayed food shipments to India. Chester Bowles, the US Ambassador to India, pointed out to Johnson that the UN Secretary General U Thant and the Pope had also condemned American policy in Vietnam; but Johnson retorted that the Pope and U Thant 'do not want our wheat'. Unperturbed, Indira continued to denounce America's involvement in Vietnam"¹⁰. Interestingly, if India's Ambassador to the US had done what Bowles did to the President, the Prime Minister would have forthwith sent the envoy home. Bowles continued in the Indian legation for three more years.

The enormous wealth secreted in the vaults of overseas' banks, at the expense of starving millions of Indians, mournfully reminds me of Thomas Gray's "*Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*" (1751) which deals with the passing away of men and the things they value. I lament over the fate of my fellow countrymen and women, their forefathers and their grand-children who have been perpetually condemned by destiny to plunder at the hands of their rulers.

India's fabulous wealth

"It is India's misfortune to be naturally wealthy; and therefore the political history of India is the history of a succession of invasions. In the past, the rich fertile plains of the north were a standing temptation to the ragged tribes of Central Asia, and the country's

⁹Chester Bowles: Page 15.

¹⁰Katherine Frank, 2001, *INDIRA: The Life of Indira Nehru Gandhi*, Harper Collins, London, Page 299.

fabulous wealth of gold and silver, of diamonds and precious stones, of silks and muslins, invited the attention of professional plunderers from all over the world, to whom Alexander of Macedon had given a lead”¹¹.

The last foreign rule ended in 1947. The people of India, then, heaved a sigh of relief when the British empire became a part of history; and the country was constituted into “a Sovereign Democratic Republic”.

The Indians hoped that the loot of India finally came to an end; and never did they even dream that Indians would loot and exploit the Indians. But their hopes are unfortunately belied.

For, it is sad that our rulers - whether alien or elected – continue to plunder the country with a few exceptions, such as the Buddhist Emperor, Asoka The Great, Harshavardhan, Muhammad Jalaluddin Akbar The Great, Sher Shah, et al. Interestingly, in an overwhelmingly Hindus’ Hindusthan, no Hindu dynasty had any Ruler, called “The Great”.

“A plunder of the nation”

On January 19 2011, as reported by J. Venkatesan, a Bench of Justice B Sudershan Reddy and Justice S S Nijjar of the Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by a former Union Law Minister, Ram Jethmalani and others. Anil Divan, senior counsel, appearing for the petitioners alleged “inaction on the part of the Centre in bringing back black money parked in foreign banks”. The Solicitor-General, Gopal Subramaniam [SG], however, said that “the government was taking all steps to retrieve black money but explained the difficulties in sharing the information. Sharing of information by the countries concerned depended on treaties, otherwise they were not bound to furnish details”¹².

When SG furnished in a sealed cover a list of 26 names who had accounts with Liechtenstein Bank, the Bench was not convinced of the steps taken by the government to get back black money. Justice Reddy, after perusing the list, told the S-G: “This is all the information you have or you have something more ! We are talking about the

¹¹Lester Hutchinson (1937): *THE EMPIRE OF THE NABOBS. a short history of British India*, George Allen & Unwin, London, Page 1.

¹²*The Hindu*, Kolkata, 20 January, 2011 (JV).

huge money. It is a plunder of the Nation. It is a pure and simple theft of the national money. We are talking about mind-boggling crime. We are not on niceties of various treaties". (JV).

“Treaty debars disclosure of account holders” !

Smita Gupta reported: “Sources said that Mr. Mukherjee told the Union Cabinet that the government [of India] had received information about black money accounts in foreign banks on the basis of international treaties that it had signed, and that if such information was made public, no government would share such details in the future.... Mr Mukherjee added that if the Supreme Court so wished, it could reveal the names, as they had been given to the court”¹³. ‘Mr Mukherjee’ refers to Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, who was India’s Finance Minister (1982-85; 2009-26 June, 2012). On 25 July, 2012 he was the first Bengali to become India’s 16th President.

It appears that the Supreme Court did not “reveal the names”. I understand that the Union Finance Minister, who is dependent on votes for his political survival and on donations from corporate houses and other sources for his political party, could be excused for refraining from revealing the names on grounds, however flimsy they may be. The Apex Court, however, stands on a different footing. The failure to reveal the 26 names, referred to above, lends credence to the already quoted statement of Ashok Mitra that

“... some judges too have of late joined the fraternity”.

Nevertheless, immoral and illegal obligations cannot be the object of an international treaty.¹⁴ Therefore, the plea of India’s Finance Minister that treaty debars disclosure of “black money accounts abroad” is untenable.

The Times of India reported that India “cited the confidentiality clause under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention [DTAC] with France which stipulates that information can be used only for tax purposes.” [Kolkata, November 12, 2012].

The DTAC presumes that the financial deal, which generated the money outside India, is according to law and it should not be

¹³*The Hindu*, Kolkata, 21 January, 2011.

¹⁴Lassa Francis Lawrence Oppenheim, (1966), *International Law, Volume I*
Pages 896-7.

subjected to “double taxation” in India and the concerned country. Never, however, was the DTAC meant to protect fraudulent financial transaction in India and the relevant foreign nation. Hence there should not be any legal hurdle in disclosing the names of the 700 accountholders or others in the interest of sound business and banking.

India’s govt. as “the greatest enemies” of India’s democracy.

During a discussion in the House of Commons on Indian Independence Bill, which received the Royal Assent on July 18, 1947 providing for “the transfer of power on August 15, 1947”, Churchill, His Majesty’s Loyal Opposition Leader, averred: “Power will go into the hands of rascals, rogues and freebooters. Not a bottle of water or a loaf of bread shall escape taxation; only the air will be free and the blood of these hungry millions will be on the head of Attlee”.¹⁵

Clement Richard Attlee, 1883-1967, was the Labour Party Prime Minister of Great Britain, [July, 1945-October, 1951], who freed the British colonies which later became India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Whenever and wherever I read or hear about our quadrillion rupees stashed away abroad, the words of Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill and Acharya J B Kripalani, among others, deafeningly reverberate into my ears. Kripalani said on 13 December, 1954, in the Lok Sabha: “It is not the Opposition, it is not the goondas, it is not the black-marketers, it is not even the Communists, it is you (referring to the government) who are the greatest enemies of this infant democracy. If ever this democracy dies, you will be responsible for it. You may live for a day and no more; but this will be the judgment of history to your everlasting shame”. (TS).

¹⁵*The Statesman, Siliguri, 26 January, 2004 (TS).*