જીફોશ મેવાણી

ધારાસભ્ય, ૧૧-વડગામ

JIGNESH MEVANI MLA, 11-VADGAM, Rujarat



મણિભદ્ર કોમ્પલેક્ષ, રિલાયન્સ પેટ્રોલ પંપની બાજુમાં, કોલેજ રોડ, વડગામ, **%.: अनासकांठा-३८५४९०**

M.: 78019 00180 97731 80114

06/11/2024

To. Honorable President of India

Respected Hon'ble Ma'am

I write this letter to seek your constructive intervention in what, I believe, is among the most disturbing, appalling and deplorable behavior and use of language by an officer of the Indian Administrative Services, Ms. Neha Kumari, presently posted as Collector of Mahisagar District of Gujarat.

Ms. Neha Kumari exhibited immensely deplorable and unacceptable behavior, including her use of objectionable unparliamentary casteist words in her Office, which is a Government/public space, and the whole discussion was caught on camera. The remarks are made by Ms. Neha Kumari during the "Taluka Swagat Karyakram", when a bereaved person - Vijay Parmar, a member of the SC community - visits the Office of the Collector to request for an addressal of his grievances. The conversation is recorded by Vijay Parmar.

- In her comments, Mr. Neha Kumari has used words which are extremely casteist, patriarchal and derogatory of the dignity of a common citizen of India, particularly the most marginal sections, namely Dalits and Adivasis, including women.
- Ms. Neha Kumari has said that Dalits use the Atrocities Act as an instrument of blackmail against PIs belonging to the General Caste category; that 90% of cases filed under the Atrocities Act are blackmail; her words are "yeh tarika hai in logon ka - blackmail".
- Ms. Neha Kumari goes on to make similarly objectionable comments on Article 498 (A), which provides for adequate punishment for any cruelty afflicted on a married woman by her husband and his family. (Please find attached the Pendrive of the footage for your perusal)

It must be mentioned that while making these statements, the Collector and Mamlatdar (Tehsildhar) order one of their subordinates to snatch the mobile from Vijay Parmar, alleging that he may be recording. Why are Bureaucrats afraid of recordings; what is it

જીફોશ મેવા**ણી**

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that they say that perturbs them. It is pertinent to mention that when the proceedings of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court have been made available for and accessible to the public, why are bureaucrats still insisting on a code of secrecy, especially when they are using absolutely rude, casteist and unparliamentary language. More importantly, there are no government guideline prohibiting the recording of a meeting with a bureaucrat.

Honorable President, may I mention that

- Dalits and Adivasis have suffered centuries of oppression, violence and discrimination, and as a correction to such experiences, the Constitution of India and Criminal Jurisprudence has offered measures like positive discrimination and the Atrocities Act. Similarly, in its attempt to stop the rampant and routine experiences of domestic violence against women, the Government of India introduced and implemented Article 498(A). These and many such laws are our genuine attempts to make Indian society free of violence, discrimination and oppression.
- Bureaucrats are obliged to ensure that these laws are implemented and enforced; in
 fact, they are responsible for making the citizen aware of the availability and
 utility of such provisions. When a bureaucrat, occupying such a senior position,
 makes such objectionable comments in her Office, in such a commanding yet
 callous manner, it tells how she would be handling and dealing with complaints
 which are brought to her notice by marginal sections of the society under these
 acts/provisions.
- Ms. Neha Kumari, by referring to Dalits and Adivasis as "in log", reveals her casteist bias and prejudice. Her statements not only smack of an utter arrogance of power, they reflect her intentions to divide the society on caste and class considerations as well as continue to look in a denigrative manner at the marginal sections of society. The Constitution of India, drafted under the stewardship of Dr B R Ambedkar, opens with the words "We the People", suggesting that we are all same and similar in terms of status, dignity and freedom. By referring to Dalits and Adivasis as "in log" Ms. Neha Kumari has forfeited her right to continue to occupy a Constitutionally guaranteed office; she has violated her oath to uphold the Constitution; and she has employed unparliamentary and divisive language against the People of India.

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- Ms. Neha Kumari has also made intensely problematic statements against the fraternity of lawyers -a fraternity, the members of whom have contributed immensely to the freedom movement as well as the drafting, guarding and continued vitality of the Constitution of India; a reason Hon'ble judges of the Supreme Court and High Court refer to lawyers as learned. Towards lawyers, Ms. Neha Kumari says: "padhai likhai kuch hai nahin; kaam dhamm kuch nahin; vakile mein chapal se maar khaane ka kaam karte hai". This is unpardonable.
- But I am ashamed to convey to you, the words used by Ms. Neha Kumari, from the dais of a public function, in public view against a member of the SC community-Vijay Parmar, with a clear intent to intimidate, humiliate and insult. She says "oversmart logon ke kami nahin hai yahan pe, Chapal khol ke marne jaisa hai, haraami saala" a phrase which literally translates as "Bastard".
- Needless to say, that there are several similar objectionable statements that Ms. Neha Kumari has made such as "sarkari job ho to us mein to kaam chori chal jaata hai"; "blackmail kiya ke atrocities dal denge"; and the continuous reference to Dalits and Adivasis as "they" and "yeh log".
- The phrases made by Ms. Neha Kumari (IAS) addressed against a member of the Dalit community, which are:
 - 1. "haraami saala"
 - 2. "Chappal khol ke maarne jaisa hai"
 - 3. 90% cases of atrocities are filed with the intention of blackmail

attract application under Section 3 (1)(r) and Section 3 (1) (s) and other relevant Sections of the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Act, 1989.

In consideration, I request you kindly initiate proceedings for termination of Ms. Neha Kumari from her services under the IAS, as well as recommend the filing of necessary charges against her under the Atrocities Act and ensure her immediate arrest, in order to ensure that members of the Dalit and Tribal community do not continue to be insulted and humiliated by such irresponsible and callous bureaucrats in India.

ઝફોશ મેવાણી

દ્યારાસભ્ય, ૧૧-વડગામ

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It is noteworthy that the District Collector is the chairperson of the District Vigilance Committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of and redressals under the Atrocities Act. In addition, the District Collector heads the court of the District Collectorate on revenue matters as well as is responsible for the effective implementation of government schemes for Dalits and Tribals. As Collector of Mahisagar District, Ms. Neha Kumari holds these and many other related responsibilities. One can imagine the ineffective and biased manner in which she would be holding her office and fulfilling her responsibilities, especially in the light of the attitude and language she exhibits in a public function.

I have, in particular, consistently spoken for and represented the interests and concerns of Dalits and marginalized in Gujarat and India, and specifically on matters of land allocation and acquisition. I have and continue to struggle and move for the just allocation of land to the Dalits, which would contribute immensely to the empowerment, uplift and advancement of their lives and livelihood. Being an elected representative from a reserved SC seat in Gujarat, I see myself as responsible for raising this issue and addressing it in a legally appropriate manner. I am convinced that with this act and the subsequent spread of the video on social media platforms, considerable damage and humiliation has been meted out to members of the SC and ST community, which is clearly unconstitutional. I have and will continue to make all necessary attempts to address and resolve this issue.

In independent India, several judges of the Hon'ble Courts have pointed to the continued discrimination against the SC/ST of India; they have raised concerns on the manner in which some members of the upper castes routinely disparage and humiliate members of the SC/ST. When a member of the bureaucracy, occupying a senior position, behaves in this manner and uses such words, it only seems to justify continued discrimination of lower castes; gives the impression that SC/ST members are framing charges against other sections with false accusations; that SC/ST do not deserve any corrective legal measures; and that any allegation/case filed by SC/ST must be dismissed with a pinch of salt.

In a press conference I made public the unacceptable and deplorable conduct of Ms. Neha Kumari. On 29th October 2024, Ms. Neha Kumari addressed a press conference in an attempt to deny all charges. In doing so, while not mentioning my name she has levelled

ઝફોશ મેવાણી

દ્યારાસભ્ય, ૧૧-વડગામ

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જી.: બનાસકાંઠા-૩૮૫૪૧૦

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easteist intentions on the MLA who has raised objections on her unparliamentary behavior.

Hon'ble Ma'am, as the President of India - who remains the custodian of the Constitution of India, I pray that you kindly initiate disciplinary proceedings against Ms. Neha Kumari. Her continuation in Office as a bureaucrat, holding a senior position, would not only be a violation of the ethical and legal provisions of the Service Manual of the steel frame of India, it would also diminish the guiding principles and guarantees of our Constitution; more importantly, it would deter the marginal sections of the society from approaching the bureaucracy when they are in need, rendering our society devoid of the vision and values of the Constitution.

Ms Neha Kumari must be terminated with immediate effect from her appointment under the IAS; she should be charged with relevant sections under the Atrocities Act; as well as she should be arrested for the crimes she has committed against the Dalits and Tribals as well as the Constitutional Vision of India.

Jignesh Mevani MLA Vadgam-II Gujarat

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