

PREFACE

'Socialism' or for that matter 'Socialist Leadership' has always been a very fascinating study for the scholars all-over the globe ever since the emergence of the ideology. This has been the case with the western developed societies - where in some countries, the ideal of socialism has a deep-rooted setting. This is evident from the course of the history of socialism in these countries.

Needless to mention, the ideals of socialism has acquired many meanings, dimensions and manifestations in different countries, depending on the particular social economic and political imperatives. But whatever may be the differences in these aspects, the single concept which dominated the thought process was the same : placing more importance on societal control of resources of the nation as against concentration of the same in few individual hands. In other words, it seeks to bring about all round development of the individual and the society.

The situations as well as the compulsions of the countries with a long colonial past provide a better ground for accepting this ideal. This is very much true in a country like India which had undergone the subjugation of British Imperialism for more than two centuries. It is generally believed that British imperialism had two kinds of effects on India society - destructive and regenerative. So far as the destructive part is concerned, history is full of records how the imperialist power had exploited the Indian Society, economy and polity to their national advantage. At the same time the regenerative impact on Indian society is also worth-noting. The coming into contact of the Indian people with the western liberal education had not only been able to remove a number of social evils but also broadened the outlook by incorporating scientific insight into the minds of the people to accept liberal values and ideals.

The leaders like Lohia, and J.P. could realise better than many of their contemporaries the value of such ideals. They had embraced the ideals of socialism in their own ways, with the sole purpose of bringing about changes in the Indian society.

It may not be out of place here to mention that two important factors had contributed tremendously in the course of nationalist freedom struggle in India — the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 and emergence of Gandhi as the undisputed mass Leader during 1920's. One may find many areas of further research through which many new ideas may be highlighted. But for the present study, it is clear that both Lohia and J.P., although belonged to a period which was marked by a number of events, were not free from the impact of those two developments.

But inspite of these, they had their own ways of looking at the problem both in the national and global perspectives. It is clear that they had differences in their attitudes, value-preferences, determination of means and fixation of goals, but they had, within themselves, the common concern for the people of India as a whole.

Thus, the present study, while taking into account these factors, seeks to analyse their view points by situating them in the proper perspectives within the general framework of leadership question. It will be clear that much depends, on the capability of a leader and both Lohia and J.P. had been able to provide genuine leadership at a period when the Indian nation had confronted many conflicting and divergent problems.

With this view in mind, the dissertation has been divided into six broad Chapters, covering the specific dimensions of the study. Chapter I has been arranged with an introduction of the nature of the problem with broad theoretical framework - meaning and implications of leadership and socialism, specific objectives of the study and an overview of surveyed literature on the subject of research.

Chapter II analyses the background of the national and left movements in India especially, socialist movement, genesis and growth of the Congress Socialist Party.

Chapter III deals with the Socio-economic and educational background of Jayaprakash Narayan and Rammanohar Lohia and the process of their recruitment to the socialist leadership.

Chapter IV analyses the ideological position of Jayaprakash Narayan as a socialist leader, his role and contribution in the propagation of socialist ideas and promotion of socialist movement, with his attitude towards the national movement, anti-imperialist struggle and socio-economic reconstruction of the Indian polity.

Chapter V analyses the ideological position of Rammanohar Lohia as a Socialist Leader, his role and contribution in the propagation of socialist ideas and promotion of socialist movement, with his attitude towards the national movement, anti-imperialist struggle and socio-economic reconstruction of Indian polity.

Chapter VI, the concluding chapter analyses the leadership qualities of Jayaprakash Narayan and Rammanohar Lohia with an assessment of their leadership in a comparative perspective.