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APPROPRIATING ANIMAL RESOURCES : GODHAN NYAY YOJNA OF CHHATISGARH Dr. Ramesh Kumar

Acting Principal & Assoc. Prof. (Deptt. of Political Science), Shyamlal College (Eve.), Delhi University. Abstract The Godhan Nyay Yojna is a flagship program launched in July 2020 by the Government of Chattisgarh in order to achieve good governance popularly called suraji Yojna. It is to promote and appropriate Cattle capital and its product mainly cow dung for various purposes as like income and employment generation especially among common man in tribal dominated state. The scheme of cow- dung-to-cash is becoming very popular in the state of Chhtisgarh and may acquire National stature in time to come. The program, therefore, needs serious academic introspection Keywords: Godhan, NGGB, Garuba, Guruba Introduction:

The relationship between human being and animal has been historical . They have grown together at different stages of civilization .Man had initially domesticated ,dogs, goats , horses ,cows and oxen for security ,farming ,food ,travelling and trading purposes. In ancient days cows had been status symbol and their products were used ,as sacred food and religious rituals like worship etc. The kamdhenu has been respectable goddess cattle popularly called Gomata. Swami Ramdeo and in our Ayurveda cow products like its milk, ghee,dung and urine are publicised as important medicine potentially capable of curing chronic diseases like cough ,asthama cancer and to an extent corona etc. Presently branded dairy products like Motherdairy ,Amul,Paras and NamasteIndia are selling cow milk brand as their popular products .Milk giving animals had been promoted as source of income and self employment generation through various rural development programmes like IRDP related dairy and animal husbandry schemes i,e cow ,bufalow ,poultry and piggery constituting Godhan means animal resources or wealth. The godhan has also been used and misused for politically divisive purpose as piggery against muslims and cows against hindus. The dietary politics of beef ban, pink trade discouragement , strict slaughter shelters laws and mob lynching against animal traders like Pahlukhan had been new godhan discourse during Modi' s regime. The gaushala (animal shelters) has also been politicised and became integral part of partisan politics of the right .So gaushala, gau trade and gau promotion has become Gaupolitics. This politics has acquired high competitive dimension in North Indian cow belt hindi - heartland states. In competitive gau politics ,the state of Chhatisgarh has also launched a new programme of GODHAN NYAY YOJNA among other thing . The Chattisgarh Godhan Nyaya Yojna : As stated above that the Godhan or cattle capital is important wealth of the country .This issue has become very significant and highly politicised today especially after coming of BJP-NDA in power under leadership of Narendra Damodar Das Modi. This has triggered competitive politics of cow and other cattle from religious –cultural and may be from economic point of view. Series of mob lynching against cattle traders ,butchers , raid and public attack on slaughter houses hot up the issues and gave it a communal colour . The cow and cattle protection is need of the hour since these are assets for us ,our economy and also for our environment .It ,therefore ,does not need to be politicised and promoted nationally for health ,nutrition ,economy

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ecological purposes . This initiative of Chhattisgarh Government should be seen and analysed from these positive and productive perspective only The fact of the matter is that India even after 75 year of independence is still agricultural and village dominated .Rural India is still home of 70% of the population. As per 2011 Census approximately 800 million people live in around 600,000 villages .it would not be out of context to mention that cattle rearing is source of livelihood of the poor people in villages whose monthly income is bare minimum .Apart from highly lucrative cattle product trade for rich ,it is also a catalyst source in survival of what Mahatma Gandhi calls antimjan. This Godhan yojna is hardly one year old programme .It was launched by the Government of Chattisgarh headed by its Hon'ble chief minister Sh Bhupesh Baghel

on 21st July 2020. It was indeed an innovative programme for making organic manure out of collected cow dung. Under this state will provide financial aid to people willing to build cowsheds on the basis of applications. Besides state,

Cooperative Banks too will be helpful in

constructing cowsheds. It would promote cattle rearing and would also discourage animal killing. Even those old animals without milk too would be giving dung and that dung would be purchased by the state agencies. Presently the dung is purchased at the rate of Rs2 per kilo gram under Chhattisgarh Twilight Justice Scheme. Although the scheme is new but has done wonders. As per one Survey Report it has increased income of cattle ranchers and improved their life styles. There are nearly 5000 cowsheds built and more than 80 lakh quintals of dung have been purchased by the state. The scheme has received wider public response. Thousands and thousands of people have been given grants to enter into this trade. The first instalment of grant has been transferred into bank accounts of beneficiaries through registered Cooperative banks. More and more people are in pipeline since state Government is receiving applications especially from tribal dominated areas of dense forest southern region of Chhattisgarh state. The tribals are traditionally trained cattle carers and ranchers living largely in forest areas full of fodder support of grass, plants, leaves etc. They depend for their livelihood on their livestock resources and therefore animal husbandry has been primary source of income support from the beginning. The relationship between tribals and cattle rearing is as old as human civilization. The state of Chhattisgarh is a tribal dominated state like Jharkhand and this scheme is in tandem with local needs and tradition and that needs to be modernised and appropriated in present post-globalised digitalised market centric economy. This scheme of Godhan Nyay rightly aims to modernise tribal state and tribal economy and link it with modern markets. The cow dung based organic manure would promote compost biogas – biomass production. This organic manure based farming is fashionable and highly paid as a substitute to chemical products today. Thus this dung products would link producers /suppliers tribes to sale and earn better price to end their poverty with help of their cattle products. The cowsheds would end and at least reduce problem of stray animals in rural, semi –urban and urban areas. Precisely, this Godhan Scheme is a well designed scheme aiming to promote cattle economy, economic empowerment of rural Chhattisgarh, tribal modernisation, increasing nutritional food supplement. It would not and should not be wonder if another Anand of Gujarat type company emerges in state like Chhattisgarh, which is full of potential territorially and resource wise. This is India's tenth largest state and accommodate seventieth largest population. It is surrounded by the state of Uttar Pradesh from northern side, state of Parental Madhya Pradesh from north west, Orissa and Jharkhand from north east, Maharashtra from west and state of Telangana from the southern side. The state of Chhattisgarh has to compete with these developing and developed neighbouring Indian states in terms of development of all of its 27 districts including backward tribal region of Bastar and Jagdalpur. This new Godhan Nyaya Yojna, which is one of the major components of NGGB i.e. Narba(Nala-Dams water bodies management), Garuba(cattle day care,

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etc), Guruba(cattle waste dung management, through pit for compost purposes) & Badi (Organic vegetable production in residential garden) These mega schemes have been launched by the government of Chhattisgarh with big fan fare to achieve target of good governance (Suraaj) in the state as stated by the Hon'ble Chief minister Sh Bhupesh Baghel. This is a nodal project at present. But it is expected that this scheme would prove catalyst in over all

increase in income

of the people which is one of the major indices of development. Animal Husbandry and Rural Economy After Independence : The animal husbandry has been integrally linked with rural economy through the ages since beginning of human civilization for food, fuel, exchange, trade and transport etc. India even today is one of the largest reserve of livestock population. The Government has been announcing animal population promotion programmes from time to time. Opening of veterinary hospitals, medicines for cattle, veterinary doctors and other hybrid breeding schemes after independence. As a result India successfully reached to achieve Operation flood in very short time. A series of Censuses has been done in India from 1919. A lot of steps has been taken to improve breed of animals especially of milk giving. Gradually result came and quantity-quality improved. Presently as per 2019-20 Survey of the Department of Animal Husbandry under Ministry of Fisheries, Govt of India, Country's cattle inventory is about 3.3 million and above. World cattle population is over 987 million. India in 2020 had the highest cattle population followed by Brazil, U.S.A and China. The

state of Chattisgarh share in cattle population is about one crore (99,83,954) in total out of which 46,32,008 is male and 53,51,946 is female. There has been unexpected improvement in quality of milk giving animals like Murrah buffalo , harianvi and Saiwal cows especially in Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India has been encouraging State and UTs governments to incentivise people to enter in cattle rearing and begin dairying business. Besides , there are other areas and items for trading like meat , eggs ,wool and leather related to animals that help in generating employment and income. Central government has been repeatedly disbursing grants to state governments to promote and popularise cattle rearing and its related trade . State governments too are trying hard to attract more and more people towards cattle economy . Provisions for different types of loan and financial assistance are being made to make it more competitive and lucrative. Pancayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been assigned accountabilities to handle animal husbandry activities in villages . Panchayats and Pashupalan : After 73 rd Amendment Act ,1992,Panchats had been made legal bodies with mandatory election after interval of five years .It was made applicable throughout India except in state of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. Since then elections have been held in almost all the states. As per latest information available in National Directory of Panchyts , there are nearly 2,60 ,000 Grampanchyats in India .During last 28 years since 1992 ,Panchayats are performing reasonably well in development of periphery and poor people including people below poverty line. The panchyats in Chattisgarh are also not behind in all 27 districts of the state. There are approximately 20,000 Grampanchayats state with 40%of tribal population primarily linked with animal economy. The Pachyati Raj Act (243G) makes many provisions for agriculture, animal husbandry , grassland ,fodder ,veterinary hospitals and other related infrastructure ,breeding etc as one of the major assignments under the law and these are to be undertaken by Gram panchyats at village level and by intermediary pachyats at block /prakhand /janpad level. As per assessment about 1,27 crore rural families depend on pashupalan of various type like cow, buffalo, goats ,pigs ,poultry and fisheries etc in Chattisgarh.. The infrastructural growth like for building of cowsheds , making of poultry shades and digging of ponds for fisheries generate employment opportunities for wage workers under MNREGA. Many cooperative and other banks are engaged in cattle rearing subsidies disbursement

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among willing benificeries . Gram Panchayats heads like sarpanches and block heads like pramukhs along with their officials pachayat secretaries and Block Development Officers (BDOs)are working tirelessly to make this a successful scheme of the state. It would be quite seminal to mention that this pasudhan has been very helpful for poor people in their survival during recession and critically crunch days of pandemic during Covid-19 prevalent for the last over one year and likely to revisit with new variant.

Advantages of the Appropriation of Animal Resources: Undoubtedly pasudhan has been an integral part of our economy pasupalan has been one of pristine profession prevalent from ancient times .It has been very helpful in our day- to -day life .It has class character . For rich and well to do ,it has been symbol of status and means for farming and fuel etc .For traders ,animal has been source of carrier of goods from home to market and vice versa. Even today one can easily notice fruit and vegetable sellers keep carrying their products on moving bullock carts from door to door and selling their products of routine consumption. For poor people, it has always been main source of employment and income generation to maintain their families and manage occasional events like medical treatment and marriages of their sons – daughters etc by selling their pasudhan . Pasudhan has also been source of food supplement of high protein diet for poor people constituting majority of Indian population in the peripheries specially among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It has been common practice in management of what new nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee calls poor economy. In present era of globalization and world trade ,animal products and its trade constitute significant part of export-import business of Indian economy .The so called pink trade of animal , meat, pork ,chicken ,fish and beef etc are major trading export items that earn huge foreign exchange for government of India. Another animal product is leather .This leather too is significant source of foreign reserves .Besides export materials ,these products are of equal importance for internal marketing and trade .These products provide source of survival for many since these items have large marketing and industrial potential .Highly processed protein have created demand among Gim goers and body building fashionables. Animal products are used as organic raw source of high protein food products .Besides , Animal excreta are acquiring new marketing material status. Earlier cow dung etc were used for fuel and casually unprocessed organic fertilisers for fields and farming .Now animal wastages are being systematically and scientifically processed as biogas and biomass compost manure .These products are healthy substitute to chemical fertilisers based products that has high demand in markets even at the higher price. Some of the so called Swadweshi brands of health products Ayurvedic like Paatanjali claim cow-

urine carrying potential of curing chronic cancer .Precisely cattle rearing ,its protection and promotion has multiple significance both for common man mundane use, their socio-economic survival ,cultural continuity of country and export-import economy in present globalised and post –globalised world . Problems involved with Animal Husbandry : Notwithstanding our fourth largest land of cattle population after Brazil, USA and China , we are running short of infrastructure and other facilities to protect and promote cattle rearing .If compare per capita consumption of dairy products for nutritional intake per Indian, it is dismal and quite low in comparison to developed countries. As per Global Hunger Report , India is one of the top ranking malnutrition countries of the world. The high death rate among children in India is mainly due to malnutrition among other thing. The growing urbanisation is resulting into shrinking of grassland , deforestation and pressure for cash crop adversely affecting food and fodder production for animals . The wholesome lack of veterinary personnel ,hospitals and medicinal facilities are other problems associated with it .Proper shedding for animals are not available in urban areas and therefore stray animal on roads and residential areas has emerged as a major problem in cities. Cattle quality and number both need social and political attention. The favouritism

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disbursement for dairy set up and corruption has also been reported in this project especially at Panchyat and Block level .The dung management is not scientifically cared to get its optimum benefits .Precisely animal husbandry is besieged with multiple problems that need to be addressed to catch and match with rest of the world. Conclusions The Godhan Nyaya Yojna is a unique cow- dung –to cash scheme launched by the Government of Chhattisgarh that received wider appreciation in media and general public domain . The project is no doubt in its infancy but will certainly attain its maturity in time to come. It has been brought in pandemic time that can probe catalyst in helping poor migrant and newly returned to villages after loss of jobs due to demonetisation and lockdowns. The survey reports also confirm the same since 80% of the respondents in a survey agreed that the scheme benefitted rural poor during pandemic times. The cow dung collection ,if properly managed like garbage collection from door to door ,has potential to do wonders both in hygiene and vermin compost production as an organic alternative to chemical fertilizers .The scheme godhan can turned out to be great source of employment and income generation for common men in general and tribal men in particular .It has special significance for tribal dominated state of Chattisgarh. The Scheme would also cool the politics of gorakshak (Self styled cow protectors 'gang) and mob lynching in the name of cow protection on communal lines and violence with cow traders in cow belt. This is a great socio-economic and ecologically fruitful popular project. The central government can popularise this pilot state project in to other states and Union Territories as GOI projects in forthcoming planning periods. The project has great potential of improvement in livestock population and also as a catalyst in overall upliftment of common men in rural areas where 70% of our population still reside even after 75 years of what is popularly called independence.

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