

The Lobbying Factor for Bhojpuri Diaspora

Diasporas are often called unofficial ambassadors of the country of origin in the host-lands, and they form a lobby for their rights as well as for the policies of the country of origin. Their demands are for a foreign policy which suits them the best, often doing the duty of negotiator between the host country and the homeland. Diaspora's contributions to the homeland country are through investment, lobbying for the particular policy with the host land, and most importantly the wealth. Diaspora have history of supporting democratic regimes and fighting against the authoritarian regimes owing to which they have sometimes faced exodus, as in Uganda and Fiji. Diasporas broadcast the assessment of pluralism and democracy to their home countries. They have the expertise and entrepreneurial spirit, which their home countries are short of. In western countries, the Indians Diaspora are appointed to highly paid jobs. Due to this, one can argue that India can return to PIOs at the time of crisis, a scenario that was best witnessed during the economic crisis in 1990s. There are many linkages between the Indian Diaspora and India. It is of significance to know about the India's relations and policies towards its Diaspora. But Indian missions abroad must be trained and equipped with to help Diaspora during their crisis. However during 2014 PBD event the Diaspora raised the inefficiency of the Government and Missions abroad to deal with the issue of PIO card holders. Diaspora argued that Government of India must not consider its Diaspora as a mere tool of economic opportunity. Diaspora gave emphasis that India should see them as its own citizens and help them at the time of need. Not only they could invest in India but they could also influence International public opinion. The government of India should address the problems and difficulties faced by the Bhojpuri speaking people abroad. One delegate said that "the sun never sets on Indian Diaspora hence it is for India how to in cash it". The Bhojpuri people, especially from Mauritius and Suriname, were disappointed when they did not find the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh at the conference where chief ministers from other states present. They signed the MOU's and offered other lucrative investment opportunity for them (Diaspora). Hence it is duty of not only the Federal government but also of State governments to have a strong bond with its Diaspora for a healthy relationship. Government of India should respect and honour the Bhojpuri Diaspora because they have not forgotten their cultural uniqueness despite the series of historical odds they faced in the past. Due to miscellaneous reasons, people migrated to far off places and settled there enduringly. Government of India should understand the fact that our

ethnic affinity is more important than the economic gain. PIOs in many countries may not be well off to help India. But it is duty of India to help them at the times of crisis. There are arguments that Diasporas in some countries did not dynamically link themselves with India in the past but this cannot be the ground to deny or deprive them of dual citizenship. In the earlier times the communication was not as good as it is today, neither was the modes of transportation or the social networking, hence to argue that diasporas had forgotten us would be a mistake. Rather we need to look at our own policy which had neglected the Indians abroad and looked towards them only when the Indian Economy was at bankruptcy. There are growing resentment regarding voting rights and dual citizenship, the Government of India should look into the matter before it is too late. The government policies towards the Bhojpuri Diaspora have changed in the recent times. The government of India has taken interest to know and understand the problems and difficulties of Bhojpuri Diaspora around the world, especially in Mauritius. Studying Mauritius is also interesting because the movement of Indian people to Mauritius was essentially a new form of slavery started by ill-minded British Government. However those slaves are now the masters of the region, powerfully occupying the political positions. It would not be wrong to say that they have moved from 'Girmittya to Government'. "To conclude the best strategy would be that the destinies of India and the Indian Diaspora are intertwined. It is in the interest of both to develop a mutually beneficial affiliation. Diaspora is an important resource in India's aspirations to be a developed country and knowledge superpower by 2020".