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श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज

सरकारबाट संविधान दिवसको

उपलक्ष्यमा आयोजित

समारोहमा बक्सेको

भाषण

षौष १, २०२१

श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज सरकारबाट
संविधान दिवसको उपलक्ष्यमा
आयोजित समारोहमा
बक्सेको भाषण

उपस्थित महिला तथा सज्जनवृन्द,

आज संविधान दिवसको उपलक्ष्यमा यस भेलालाई यसरी संबोधन गर्न पाउँदा मलाई अत्यन्त हर्ष लागेको छ । जन इच्छानुकूल अपनाइएको पञ्चायत व्यवस्थाले आज जनतामा चेतना र जागृतिको लहर फैली वास्तविक प्रजातन्त्रको लक्ष्य हासिल गर्ने नेपालीमात्रको आकांक्षा बिस्तारै फलिभूत हुँदै गइरहेको देख्दा मलाई र देशभक्त सबै नेपालीहरूलाई खुशी लाग्नु स्वाभाविक हो । ४ वर्षको अवधि देशको निमित्त साह्रै थोरै भए तापनि यस अवधिको प्रत्यावलोकन गर्दा पर्याप्त सन्तोष मात्रै आधार पनि पाउन सकिन्छ । यस छोटो अवधिमा

देशको आवश्यकता र आकांक्षाको अनुरूप पञ्चायत व्यवस्थाले बिस्तारै बलियो जरो पनि हाल्दै आएको छ । कुनै नयाँ व्यवस्था यति छोटो समयमा जनजीवनमा भिज्न सक्नु निश्चय नै हर्षको कुरा हो र यो सफलताको द्योतक पनि हो । यस व्यवस्थाले गर्दा देशवासीहरूमा, देशको हितलाई अगाडि राखी आफ्नो स्वार्थका लागि गुटबन्दी कम गर्ने, देशको विकासका लागि मानवीय र भौतिक साधनहरूको स्वेच्छाले इमान्दारीपूर्वक परिचालन गर्ने, विभिन्न समस्याहरूलाई शान्तिपूर्ण ढङ्गले पारस्परिक छलफल र आदान-प्रदानद्वारा निर्णय गर्ने इत्यादि देशलाई सवल र प्रगतिशील बनाउन चाहिने नयाँ र स्वस्थ परम्पराहरूको जग बस्न थालिरहेको छ । अनेकौँ समस्या र कठिनाइहरू हुँदाहुँदै पनि स्थानीय स्तरमा पञ्चायतहरूले देखाएको उत्साह, जागृति र आफूमा भरपर्ने बानी प्रशंसनीय हुँदै आएको छ र यही देशको स्थायी प्रगतिको आधार पनि बन्दै गइरहेको छ भन्न पाउँदा ज्यादै खुशी लाग्दछ । मानवीय साधनहरूको विकास नै देशको प्रगतिको स्थायी आधार हुन सक्दछ । अनुशासित मानव समाजको विकास विना केवल देशमा भौतिक साधनहरूको मात्र बृद्धि भयो भने, त्यसलाई न त प्रगति गरेको भन्न सकिन्छ, न त त्यो स्थायी नै हुन सक्दछ । गत चार वर्षमा देशवासीहरूमा उत्पन्न भएको राष्ट्रियता, एकता, देशभक्ति, आफूमा भरपर्ने र अगाडि बढ्ने दृढता निश्चय नै प्रेरणादायक भएको छ र नेपाल र नेपालीको निमित्त गत चार वर्षको अमूल्य उपलब्धि पनि यिनै हुन् । तथापि, यस छोटो अवधिमा देशले विभिन्न क्षेत्रमा गरेको भौतिक प्रगति पनि प्रत्येक विवेकशील

नेपालीको सामू छँदैछ ।

केही नयाँ उद्योगहरूको स्थापना, सिचाई र विद्युत् उत्पादन, शिक्षाको बढी विकास, स्वास्थ्य सेवा र सुबिधाहरूको विकास इत्यादिले गर्दा देशको उत्पादनमा पनि केही बृद्धि भएको छ र जनताको जीवनस्तर पनि बिस्तारै उठेको छ । यसै गरी विकासको मूल आधारस्वरूप रहेको प्रशासन व्यवस्था र तालीमको क्षेत्रमा पनि बिस्तारै प्रगतिको साथै स्थिरता बढेको छ । यसै प्रकारले विकासका लागि चाहिने अन्य आवश्यक व्यवस्थाहरूको जग पनि बिस्तारै बस्दै गइरहेको छ । यति हुँदाहुँदै पनि देशमा विभिन्न समस्या नभएको होइन । दुर्भाग्यवश हामी नेपाली आजको उन्नतशील संसारको दाँजोमा यति पछाडि परेका छौं कि आज प्रत्येक नेपालीले चौबीसै घण्टा मरिमेटी देश र समाजको विकासको निमित्त काम गरे तापनि अरूको दाँजोमा पुगी विश्राम गर्न हामी सबै नेपालीलाई अझै वर्षौं लाग्दछ । यस्तो अवस्थामा, अझै थप, हामीले सर्वसाधारण जनताको निमित्त नभई नहुने विभिन्न दैनिक उपभोगको वस्तुको निमित्त समेत अर्काको मुख ताक्नु परेकै छ, आफ्नो देशमा खाद्यान्न जस्तो वस्तुको अभाव नहुँदा नहुँदै पनि महँगोको मार खानु परिरहेछ । यातायातको कमीले नै हामीले आफ्नो सामान आफैले चाहेको बेलामा चाहेको ठाउँमा पुऱ्याउन सक्तैनौं । यतिमात्र नभई आज हजारौं देशभक्त नेपालीहरूले अर्काको मुलुकमा बसी जीविका गर्नु परेको टुलुटुलु हेरिरहनु परेको छ । तर यस्तो समयै समस्याले भरिएको बेलामा पनि आज हामी कुनै पनि नेपालीले अझै सानुतिनो स्वार्थमै अल्मलिन थाल्यौं,

देश र समाजको सामूहिक हितलाई बिर्सेर, बहुसंख्यक जनताको भलाइ गर्न ढिला गर्न थाल्यौं अथवा अनुशासन भङ्ग गर्ने, नैतिक आचरण ठीक नराख्ने मानसिक वा बौद्धिक सुधारको बदला भौतिक तथा क्षणिक स्वार्थ र सुखभोगमै लागेर बढी खर्ची, फेशनको तमासे मात्र भई सच्चा दिलले सेवा भावना बिर्सेर, रीस-इवी र ईर्ष्या वा स्वार्थको लागि मात्र अनर्गल हल्ला, बेमतलबको गफ, बेइमानी र आलस्यमा अलमलिने बानीलाई नै प्रोत्साहन दिन छोडेनौं भने हामीले हात्रो देश र समाजलाई फेरि कहिले साथि पुन्याउन सक्ने हुन्छौं, अवश्य सोचेर विचारेर अधिसर्नु पर्ने बेला छ । आज यस्ता कुराहरू नबुझ्ने नेपालीहरू पनि नेपालमा कम भइसकेकै ठानेको छु भन्न पाउँदा जति हर्ष लाग्दछ उत्तिकै जानी बुझी बुझपचाउने अथवा आफ्नो स्वार्थ-पूर्तिको लागि मात्र सबै कुरा बिर्सेर आफ्नै देशलाई अर्काको पेवा बनाउन चाहने वा आफ्नै दाजु-भाइलाई ठग्न खोज्ने पनि अझै कोही छन् भने त्यस्ताप्रति पनि मेरो उत्तिकै खेद छ ।

हुन ता प्रत्येक व्यक्तिको जिन्दगीमा समस्या पाइन्छ र जिन्दगी नै समस्या हो । त्यस्तै, जुनसुकै बेलामा पनि चलिरहेको समाजमा कुनै किसिमको नयाँ प्रगतिशील परिवर्तन कुरा पर्ने आएमा अवश्य असुबिधा पनि हुन सक्दछ । तापनि खराब कुराबाट असल कुरालर्फ प्रगति हुन्छ भने त्यस्तो बेलामा आजसम्म कहिल्यै कुनै इतिहास रोकिएको छैन जस्तो लाग्दछ । देश र बहुसंख्यक जनताको हितको लागि हामी सबैले कहिले काहीं सानुतिनु वा अल्पसंख्यक जनताको स्वार्थलाई अवश्य बिर्सन सक्नु पनि पर्दछ, नत्रभने इतिहास रोकिनेछ, प्रगति बन्द

हुनेछ, जीवन निरर्थक हुन जानेछ र हामी सधैं पछाडि नै परि-
रहने छौं ।

आज विभिन्न समस्या हामी नेपाली सबैको सामुन्ने भए
तापनि आजसम्म हाम्रो देशमा कुनै नेपालीले फुटपाथमा
सुत्नु परेको छैन, एक छाकै खाएर पनि खान नपाई मर्नु परेको
छैन र इतिहास साक्षी छ - कुनै बेला पनि देश र समाजको
हित र उन्नतिको लागि नेपाली कहिल्यै पछि हटेको पनि छैन भन्न
पाउनु न नेपालीमात्रको गौरव ठान्दछु । यो अवश्य पनि सौभाग्य-
को कुरो हो । यसउसले आज हामी सबैले संकुचित वा प्रतिशोधको
भावनाले होइन, छाती फुकाएर, आफ्नो स्वतन्त्र प्यारो देश र
देशवासीको भलाइमा निडर भई विद्वान्, विद्यार्थी, व्यापारी वा
धनी, गरीब प्रत्येक नेपालीले मिलीजुली इमान्दारीपूर्वक नेपाल र
नेपालीको हितको लागि अघि लम्कनु परेको छ, पछि हट्ने बेला
गयो । आज हामी नेपालभित्रका नेपाली मात्र होइनौं, ती प्रत्येक
नेपाली जो आज संसारका जुनसुकै कुनामा रहेका छन् ती सबैको
समेत भलोलाई प्रत्येक नेपालीले आफ्नो भलो सम्झेर समान र
सामूहिक विकासमा लाग्नु परेकोले नै हामी सबैले आफ्नै निमित्त
आफ्नै खुट्टामा उभिएर भूमिसुधार योजनामा हात हाल्नु
परेको हो ।

आज हामी कसैले पनि देशबाट के फाइदा उठाउन सक्दछौं
भन्ने होइन, बरु हामी प्रत्येक नेपालीले देशको लागि के
फाइदा गर्न सक्दछौं त्यो गर्ने बेला आएको छ । तर कुनै पनि
देशको वास्तविक बल त्यस देशका असल नागरिकहरू नै
हुन्छन् । नागरिकहरूकै चेतना र विकासबाट नै देशको राजनी-

तिक, आर्थिक, धार्मिक र सामाजिक विकास सम्भव हुन्छ । यसो भएमा मात्र देशमा दलविहीन पञ्चायत प्रजातान्त्रिक र प्रगतिशील समाजको स्थापना हुन्छ । हाम्रो देशमा ६० प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी जनता किसान छन् । तसर्थ आज यिनै किसानलाई जीवित र जागृत गर्ने, यिनीहरूमा आफ्नो अधिकार र कर्त्तव्यको चेतना उत्पन्न गर्ने, यिनीहरूलाई सयकडौं वर्षदेखि थिचिरहेको गरीबीबाट छुटकारा दिने यही नै आज सबभन्दा बढी आवश्यक र महत्त्वपूर्ण काम हुन आएको छ । आज यिनै किसानलाई बिउँझाई देशको शासन व्यवस्थामा यिनीहरूलाई बढी सम्मिलित गर्नु परेको छ र देशनिर्माणको महान् कार्यमा यिनीहरूलाई नै बढी इच्छुक सहयोगीको रूपमा सम्मिलित गर्नु गराउनु परेको छ । यसो गर्नका लागि नै यिनीहरूलाई आजीवन बाँधेको आर्थिक र सामाजिक बन्धनबाट मुक्त गर्नु नितान्त आवश्यक भएको छ । बन्धनबाट मुक्त भएपछि यिनीहरूले पनि आफ्नो र देशको उत्पादन बढाउन बढी सहयोग दिनुपरेको छ । यसै उद्देश्यले मेरो सरकारले हालै भूमिसुधार कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ गरेको हो । देशका केही जिल्लाहरूमा यो कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ भइसकेको र बिस्तार-बिस्तार यसको प्रगति सन्तोषजनक ढङ्गले भइरहेको पनि समाचार प्राप्त हुँदैछ ।

मेरो सरकारले प्रारम्भ गरेको भूमिसुधार कार्यक्रमका मूल लक्ष्यहरू यी हुन्:-

- १) किसानहरूलाई अहिलेको निष्क्रिय अवस्थाबाट जागृत गरी तथा उनीहरूको वर्तमान गरीबी अवस्थामा सुधार ल्याई उनीहरूलाई समाजको सक्रिय र गतिशील

अङ्ग बनाई विकसित दलविहीन पञ्चायत व्यवस्थाको लक्ष्य हासिल गर्नु ।

- २) माटोलाई पसिनाले पगाल्ने परिश्रमी किसानलाई आफ्नो परिश्रमको समुचित फल उपलब्ध गराएर सामाजिक न्यायमा आधारित प्रगतिशील समाजको स्थापना गर्नु ।
- ३) देशमा कृषि उत्पादन बढाई देशको सर्वाङ्गीण आर्थिक विकासमा हार्दिक सहायता गर्नु गराउनु, र
- ४) नेपाली मात्रको लागि घातक भइरहेको आर्थिक विषमता हटाई सबै वर्ग तथा तहका देशवासीहरूमा समयको हाँकको सफल सामना गर्न सक्ने किसिमसंग आपसी सहयोग र सद्भावना बढाउनु ।

यो निर्विवाद छ कि कृषिको प्राधान्य भएको हाँको यस देशमा राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, सामाजिक प्रत्येक दृष्टिकोणबाट किसान केन्द्र-विन्दुको रूपमा रहेको छ। आज त्यस्ता नेपाली किसानलाई बिर्सियो भने राष्ट्रनिर्माणको कुनै पनि योजना सफल हुन सक्दैन । त्यसैले अब देशमा बन्ने सबै योजनाहरू पनि यसै आधारमा बनाइनेछन् र आज समस्त देशप्रेमी नेपालीहरूले पनि यसै दृष्टिकोणलाई अपनाउनु परेको छ । हाँको जस्तो पिछडिएको देशको लागि आज जग्गाधनीहरूले पनि यस कुरालाई बुझ्नु परेको छ कि भूमिसुधार कार्यक्रम समयको माँग हो । समयको गति चिनेर सो अनुसार चलनु नै हामी सबैको निमित्त बुद्धिमानी हुनेछ । आज नेपाली सबैले “यो मेरो हितका लागि यो तेरो हितका लागि” भन्ने आफ्नो-आफ्नो कुरालाई बिर्सि

राष्ट्रको हितका लागि के हो भन्ने पत्ता लगाई सोही अनुसार आफ्नो गतिविधि र आचरण निश्चित गर्नु पर्दछ । यो कार्यक्रम जग्गावालाहरू वा अरु कसैको विरुद्ध चालिएको होइन, देशको सामूहिक आर्थिक विकासको निमित्त, नेपाली समाजको निमित्त र किसानहरूको हितका लागि नै हो भन्ने कुरा सबैले राम्ररी बुझिदिनु परेको छ । एउटा वर्गको अहित गरेर अर्को वर्गको हित गर्ने दृष्टिबाट भूमिसुधार प्रारम्भ गरिएको होइन । यसको आधार वर्गसंघर्ष होइन, वर्गसमन्वय हो । आजको जमानामा देशका धेरैजसो जनता भोका-नाङ्गा र गरीब हुनु देशको शान्ति-सुरक्षा एवं स्वतन्त्रताको लागि मात्र नभई धनी वा जग्गावालाहरूकै लागि पनि खरतरनाक हुनेहुन्छ । यसउसले भूमिसुधार गर्ने निधो गर्दा गरीब किसानहरूको हितलाई जत्तिकै भूमिपतिहरूको हितलाई पनि ध्यानमा राखिएको छ भन्ने कुरा भूमिपतिहरूले पनि बुझ्नु परेको छ । देशलाई वास्तवमा गतिशील तथा उन्नत बनाउने हो भने आज नेपाली सबैले आफ्नो पसिना आफैले बगाएर आफ्नो जीविका आर्जन गर्न पाउनु पर्दछ । अरुको भरमा आफ्नो निर्वाह गर्ने बानी अब हामी सबैले बिस्तारै अन्त गर्नु पर्दछ । अनि मात्र हामी आफ्नो समाजको आधुनीकरण गर्न सक्नेहुन्छौं, अनि मात्र हामी उन्नत र प्रगतिशील हुन सक्नेछौं, अनि मात्र हामी नेपाली सबै वास्तविक आर्थिक विकास गर्न सक्ने अवस्थामा पुग्नेछौं । यिनै कुराहरूको आधारमा नै सवल, आधुनिक, उन्नत र गतिशील नयाँ नेपालको निर्माण गर्न सकिने हुन्छ । सामाजिक न्याय र आर्थिक प्रगतिको साथ कहिल्यै पनि छुट्न सक्दैन । यी दुवै कुराहरूको विकास र प्रगति एकसाथ

हुन सकेन भने देशमा आर्थिक विषमता उत्पन्न भई भर्खरै हुर्कन थालेको पञ्चायत व्यवस्थाको महान् लक्ष्यमा हामी कदापि पुग्न सक्नेछैनौं ।

अतः आज जमीनमा मेहनत गर्न सक्ने र खेतीको राम्रो संगठन गर्न सक्ने तथा जमीनसंग अविच्छेद्य सम्बन्ध हुनेहरूले मात्र जमीनमाथि आश्रित हुनुपर्दछ । स्वयं कुनै परिश्रम नगरी जमीनलाई आम्रदानीको एउटा स्रोत मात्र बनाएर निष्क्रिय भई बस्ने बानी अब हामी कसैको निमित्त हितकर हुँदैन । यस प्रकारका पुग्ने जग्गाधनीहरूले जमीनमा निष्क्रिय रहेको आफ्नो पूंजी छ भने पनि त्यसलाई नयाँ उद्योगहरूको स्थापना र विकासकार्यमा लगाउनु पर्दछ । यसका लागि मेरो सरकारले यस्ता व्यक्तिहरूलाई हरसम्भव सहयोग गर्नेछ । आज देशको सर्वाङ्गीण विकासका लागि यही आवश्यक परेको छ । यसो हुन सकोस् भन्नाका लागि मात्र जग्गाको अधिकतम हदवन्दी पनि लागू गरिएको हो । हदवन्दीभन्दा बढी भएको जग्गालाई मेरो सरकारले प्राप्त गरी आफ्नै श्रमबाट खेती गर्न सक्ने किसान-हरूलाई विक्री गर्नेछ । साथै, जग्गा किन्न नसक्ने तर जग्गा जोतिरहेका किसानलाई पनि आफूले कमाएको जग्गामा सुरक्षित गरी उसलाई आर्थिक र सामाजिक दबावबाट मुक्त गरिने योजना छ । यस प्रकार हमेशा आज एक ठाउँ, भोलि अर्को ठाउँ भएर हिंड्न बाध्य भइरहेका तथा कुनै किसिमको स्थायी आधार नभएका किसानहरूले एउटा ठोस आधारमा उभिन पाउने हुन्छन् ।

यसैगरी, किसानलाई पुस्तौं देखि थिचिरहेको ऋणबाट मुक्त गर्नको निमित्त तथा उत्पादन बढाउन मद्दत गर्न अवश्य समय र पूँजीको आवश्यकता पर्दछ । भूमिसुधार अहिले लागू भएका जिल्लाहरूमा मात्र किसानहरूलाई चाहिने ऋणको संख्या पनि लगभग ६ करोड रुपैयाँ हुने अनुमान गरिएको छ । यो पूँजी आज हामीले हाम्रो आन्तरिक साधनहरूबाट प्राप्त गर्नु परेको छ । देशका लागि अत्यधिक महत्त्व भएको यस्ता कार्य-क्रमहरूका लागि आज हामीले अरुमाथि भर नपरी आफ्नै सामर्थ्य-मा अड्नु परेको छ । यसका लागि सबैले अवश्य केही न केही त्याग पनि गर्नु पर्ने हुन्छ । तसर्थ देशका प्रत्येक नागरिक, जग्गाधनी वा किसानले बचत गर्नु परेको छ । व्यापारीवर्गले पनि इमान धर्म सम्झिदिनु परेको छ । यस्तो बचत पछि आफ्नै वा आफ्नो भावी सन्तानको निमित्त उपयोगी हुनको साथै अहिलेलाई राष्ट्रनिर्माणको महान् कार्यमा पनि सहायक हुनेछ । अतः भूमि सम्बन्धी ऐन-नियम अनुसार गर्नुपर्ने बचत गरी आफ्नो-आफ्नो वार्ड समितिमा बुझाइदिनु आज सबैको कर्तव्य भएको छ । हुन सक्तछ यस्ता विभिन्न कुराबाट नयाँ बानी लगाउनु पर्दा विभिन्न व्यक्तिगत असुबिधाहरू पनि पर्न जाला, तापनि राष्ट्रहितका लागि आज हामी सबैले कम्मर कस्ने समय पनि आएको छ । सबैले यस प्रकारको बचत गरी उक्त रकम कृषि उत्पादनमा बृद्धि हुने कार्य तथा अन्य विकास कार्यमा लगाएर नेपालीले आत्म-विश्वासमा अगाडि बढ्ने दृढता देखाउनु परेको छ । राष्ट्रको निमित्त र आफ्नै सर्वोच्च भलाइको निमित्त एकता, दृढता र क्षमताको जाँचको बेला यही आएको छ र मलाई विश्वास छ

कि मौकामा देशको निमित्त सँधैको जस्तै अहिले पनि प्रत्येक नेपाली सच्चा नै निस्कनेछन्, डट्नेछन्, कदापि पछि सर्ने छैनन् ।

आज नेपालीलाई प्राविधिक सल्लाह, तालीम र मेशीनरी इत्यादिका क्षेत्रमा विभिन्न मित्रराष्ट्रहरूको सहायताको ठूलो आवश्यकता छ । यस प्रकारका विभिन्न किसिमका सहायता विभिन्न मित्रराष्ट्रहरूबाट प्राप्त भइरहेको पनि छ र भई पनि रहने नै छ र यसको निमित्त विभिन्न मित्रराष्ट्रप्रति हामी आभारी पनि छौं । जेसुकै भए पनि आज हामीलाई झन्-झन् आफ्नो भरमा बाँच्न सिकनु परेको छ । हामीले आज क्षणिक असुबिधा सहन परे तापनि, त्याग गर्नु परे तापनि, जस्तोसुकै कठिनाइको सामना गर्नु परे तापनि हिम्मत बाँधेर बिस्तारै परावलम्बी हुनु अवश्य छोड्नु पर्दछ । यस्ता कुरा हामीले सदैव धैर्यपूर्वक गर्नु पर्दछ र यसो गर्न सकेनौं भने पनि हामी सदैव पछाडि पर्नेछौं, पछुताउनेछौं । आज २०१७ साल मात्र होइन, अब २०२१ साल पनि सफलतापूर्वक पार गर्दैछौं । यस बेला स्वयं कटिवद्ध र प्रयत्नशील नभई केवल अरूको भरमा संसारमा कुनै मुलुकले पनि उन्नति र प्रगति गर्न सकेको छैन भन्ने कुरा हामी कसैले कदापि बिर्सनु हुँदैन ।

देशको प्रत्येक नेपाली नागरिकले आफ्-आफ्नो कर्तव्य, जिम्मेदारी र अधिकारप्रति इमान्दारीपूर्वक हमेशा जागरुक नभई देशको शासनको सञ्चालन वास्तविक लोकसम्मतिको आधारमा हुन सक्तैन । त्यस्तै, देशबाट सामाजिक असमानता र आर्थिक विषमता नहटाई कुनै देशले पनि यो बीसौं शताब्दीमा

कदापि प्रगति गर्न सक्दैन । यसैकारण जनताको आकांक्षा अनुरूप दलविहीन पञ्चायत व्यवस्थाको प्रारम्भ गर्नुपऱ्यो । यसैको लागि नयाँ मुलुकी ऐन जस्ता विभिन्न ऐन जारी गर्नुपऱ्यो । आज यसै उद्देश्यलाई अझै अगाडि बढाउन भूमिसुधार कार्यक्रमको आरम्भ भएको हो । भूमिसुधार आज सामाजिक न्याय, राजनीतिक आवश्यकता र आर्थिक औचित्यको माँगको रूपमा छ । यस्तो उचित माँगप्रति कुनै हालतमा पनि देश तथा देशवासी उदासीन रहन सक्दैन, जुन कुरा आज प्रगतिशील विवेकी प्रत्येक नेपालीले नबुझेका पनि होइनन् र कुनै पनि नेपालीबाट भूमिसुधार हुन हुँदैन भन्ने शब्द ननिस्कनु नै यस योजनाको सफल भविष्यको सूचक पनि भएको छ, यो सबै नेपालीबाट पाएको अत्यन्त उत्साहवर्द्धक सहयोग पनि हो ।

वीर नेपाली सदैव समयको माँग चिन्दछ र सो अनुसार हिँड्न जान्दछ । आफ्नो समाजलाई अगाडि बढाउने तथा आधुनिक औद्योगिक देश बनाउने दिशातर्फ नेपालीहरू सधैं अग्रसर हुँदै जानेछन् र छिटै संसारका प्रगतिशील राष्ट्रहरूको पंक्तिमा आफ्नो स्थान लिनेछन् भन्ने मलाई पूर्ण विश्वास छ ।

अन्त्यमा यस समारोह सम्बन्धित सबैलाई हार्दिक धन्यवाद दिँदै श्री पशुपतिनाथले हामी सबैलाई आफ्नो असल लक्ष्य हासिल गर्न सदैव मद्दत गरून्, यही मेरो उपस्थित सबैलाई मङ्गलमय कामना छ ।

काठमाडौं.

जय नेपाल !

२०२१।१।१३



**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS
MAJESTY AT A FUNCTION
ORGANISED TO CELE-
BRATE THE CONS-
TITUTION DAY.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to have this opportunity to address a few words to this gathering on the occasion of the Constitution Day to-day. It is but natural that I and all other patriotic Nepalese should feel joy at the sight of the wishes of all the Nepalese for achieving the aims of real democracy being gradually fulfilled as a result of the wave of consciousness and awakening surging up among the people **under** the Panchayat System which has been

adopted in accordance with the Popular Will. Four years is a brief span of time in the life of a nation; yet, when we look back, we can find adequate grounds for gratification. Within this short period, the Panchayat System has been slowly taking strong roots in response to the need and aspirations of the country. Indeed, it is a matter of great pleasure that a new system should become a part of popular life within so short a time. This is also a sign of success. This system has also started laying the foundation for such new and healthy traditions as are deemed essential to make the country strong and progressive, namely, to keep the country's interest above everything else rather than indulge in groupisms to promote one's own interest, to mobilise honestly and voluntarily the human and material resources for the development of the country, to settle the different questions in a peaceful manner through mutual discussion and exchange of views, and the like. The enthusiasm, vigilance and self-reliance which the Panchayats have shown at the local levels in face of untold problems and difficulties have become more and more praise-worthy and I am happy to state that this has been furnishing the basis for the stable progress of the country. The develop-

ment of human resources only can provide a stable basis for the progress of the country. Development of material resources only without the parallel development of the disciplined human society can neither be described as progress nor will it get any stable foundation. The spirit of nationalism, solidarity, patriotism, the habit of relying on oneself and the firm determination to move ahead—these attributes which have been in evidence within the past four years have certainly proved a great source of inspiration. These may indeed be considered as a priceless achievement of the past four years for Nepal and Nepalese. Nevertheless, the material progress that the country has been able to achieve in different fields within this short period of time lies before every dispassionate Nepali.

Establishment of some new industries, provision of irrigation facilities, generation of electric power, extension of educational facilities, expansion of health services and facilities and the like have to a certain extent added to the national output. They have also helped to raise the standard of living of the people. Similarly, the administrative system and the training projects, which supply the backbone to all development activities, have registered a steady

progress along with stability. This is also true of other infra-structures for development. They too are standing on strong and well-laid foundations. But this is not to say that the country is faced with no problem. Unfortunately for us, the Nepalese people lag so far behind other progressive countries that even if each and every Nepali is to engage himself day and night to the last ounce of his energy in the task of national and social development, we would still have to wait for years and years before we can rest on our oars with the happy thought that we are now at par with others. Moreover, under such circumstances, we have to look to others for the supply of various articles of daily consumption so essential to the people at large. Although we do not suffer from short supply of such things as food stuffs, we have to fall a prey to dearness. It is chiefly due to the inadequacy of the means of transport and communications that we are unable to transport in time what we have to places where they are needed. Furthermore, we are forced to watch with our eyes the spectacle of thousands and thousands of patriotic Nepalese earning their livelihood in foreign lands. But times like this demand that we give up our petty interests, that we bear in mind the collective

interest of the country and society, that we lose no time in serving the cause of the majority of the people, that we maintain discipline, moral rectitude and intellectual progress rather than spend time and money in material, therefore, transitory pursuits and passions, that we keep alive in our heart the spirit of service, that we give up the habit of indulging in baseless rumours, pointless talks and dishonesty and indolence actuated by envy or spite or selfishness. If we fail to do that, there is the danger that we may not get a second chance to lift up the country and society. We have to guide our every step in full awareness of this danger and challenge. The pleasure I have when I say that there are, I think, not many Nepalese left in Nepal who have not understood this fact is matched by my regret for them who see nothing but their self-interest and are willing to make the country a hanger-on of others or who seek to cheat their own brothers, if there be any such left even now.

The life of every man is riddled with problems. Indeed, life itself is a problem. So, the emergence of any new progressive change in the current social set-up may occasion inconveniences. But if the change represents a progression from bad to good, no history has, I think,

ever been halted at such times. There are occasions when all of us must develop the capacity to overlook the small or minority interests in deference to the good of the country and the bulk of the population. Otherwise, history will come to a stop, progress will end up in a blind alley, life will be divested of all meanings and we shall be pushed to the rear for ever.

True it is that we Nepalese are faced with different problems. But it is also true that so far no Nepalese has been forced to sleep on the footpath. He may have to make do with one meal a day but no Nepalese has yet died of starvation and as history is our witness, the Nepalese have never faltered a single step when they are called upon to make sacrifices for the greater good of the country and society. This I feel is a matter of pride for all Nepalese. This certainly is a matter of good fortune. It is for this reason that now we scholars or students, rich or poor, have to march ahead unitedly, honestly, fearlessly and proudly, without yielding to meanness or spirit of revenge, so that the interest of Nepal and Nepalese may be safeguarded in advance and so that our dear and independent country and countrymen may rise ever higher. To-day we have to engage in equal

and collective development of all parts of our country in the belief that in the good of not only those Nepalese who live within Nepal but also of those Nepalese who live in whatever part of the world lies our own good. Thus it is for the good of all of us that we have to engage ourselves in our land reforms programme.

The time is not for us to ask what good we can derive from the country. It is rather for us to ask what we can do for the good of the country. The real power of any country is, however, inherent in the good citizens of that country. It is through the awareness and development of the citizens that the political, economic, religious and social development of the country becomes possible. It is thus that the establishment of partyless panchayat democracy and progressive society becomes possible in the country. Peasants form ninety per cent of our population. Therefore, the most essential and significant task facing us to-day is to make those peasants alive and alert, to inculcate in them a proper sense of their rights and duties and to liberate them from the poverty that has been weighing down on them through centuries untold. To-day we have to awaken these very peasants from their slumber and

associate them more and more with the administrative set-up of the country. We also have to enlist them as willing partners in the great task of nation-building. To this end, it has become imperative to release them from the socio-economic shackles that have been their life-long lot. When they are redeemed from that bondage, they too should render greater co-operation in the task of raising the productivity of the country and their own. For this purpose, my Government has recently initiated the land reforms programme. Certain parts of the country have already been brought within its purview and reports are coming in that it is making steady headway in a satisfactory manner.

The main objectives of the land reforms programme launched by my Government are as follows:-

- 1) To put an end to the present state of somnolence of the peasants and to remove their present state of poverty in order that they might form an active and dynamic part of the society and thereby to achieve the objective of developed partyless Panchayat set-up,
- 2) To make available to the industrious

peasants an equitable share in the outcome of their own sweat so that a progressive society based on social justice may become a living reality,

- 3) To extend cordial co-operation to the all-round economic development of the country through increased agricultural output and
- 4) to do away with the economic disparities that have proved a bane to the Nepalese as a whole and to foster mutual goodwill and co-operation among all sections and levels of people so that they may succeed in meeting the challenge of the times.

There is no gainsaying the fact that in a predominantly agricultural country such as ours the peasant occupies the focal point of any and every political, economic or social approach. If the cause of the Nepalese peasantry is overlooked, no nation-building programme can attain success. For this reason, all future development plans of the country will be solidly based on this foundation. And this also should form or condition the basic approach of all patriotic Nepalese. The land-owning people also would do well to realise that in a backward country like ours the land reforms programme

is the demand of our times. Wisdom lies in understanding the trend of the times and acting accordingly. To-day all the Nepalese should set aside such considerations as this is to my benefit and that is to his benefit. Let us rather try to find out what lies at the root of the country's good and lay down our conduct and course of life accordingly. The present land reforms programme is not directed against the interest of landholders or any other section of the population. What we have to understand is the simple fact that it has been devised for the collective economic development of the country, for the good of the Nepalese society and for the good of the peasant. It has not been taken in hand with a view to promoting the interest of one section at the expense of another. The driving force behind it is not class conflict, but class coordination. In the present-day conditions, prevalence of hunger, nakedness and poverty among most of the people of the country is fraught with danger not only to the peace, security and independence of the country but to the rich or landowning class as well. Therefore, when decision to launch the land reforms was taken, due attention had been directed as much to the interests of the landowners as to those of the

peasantry. This is a fact which the land-owners too should clearly understand. If we are to make the country dynamic and advanced in the real sense of the term, all the Nepalese should have the right to earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow. All of us have now to renounce the habit of living a parasite's life. Only then shall we be able to modernise our society; only then we shall succeed in becoming advanced and progressive, only then we shall reach a stage where we can attain real economic development. It is on the basis of things like these that the creation of a new Nepal—strong, modern, prosperous and dynamic—becomes possible. Social justice and economic progress can never march out of time. Failure to achieve simultaneous progress on both these fronts is bound to lead to economic inequalities and we shall never be able to fulfil the great aims of the nascent Panchayat System.

On this showing, it is quite clear that land should be a source of sustenance only to those who work on it, who can organise agricultural operations, and who are indissolubly bound to it. The habit of treating land as merely a source of idle income without any personal labour whatsoever cannot be of any advantage

to any one of us. Landowners who can afford to live such a life should divert whatever idle capital they have to the establishment and development of new industries. My Government will render all possible help to such individuals. This has assumed the shape of a vital necessity for the allround development of the country. It is only for this reason that ceiling has been fixed on holdings. My Government will acquire such lands as are in excess of the ceiling in order to dispose of them among the peasants who are capable of tilling them by their labour. Besides, tillers of land who are not in a position to buy any are to be given tenancy rights as part of the plan to liberate them from socio-economic pressures. Thus the peasants forced to wander from place to place for lack of a mooring will get a solid basis to stand on their own.

In the same way, time and money are certainly needed if the peasants oppressed by indebtedness through generations are to be relieved of their burden and if productivity is to be stepped up. The amount necessary for distribution as loans among the peasants in those districts where land reforms programme is set afoot is along estimated at Rs. 90 million.

We have to raise this amount through our own internal resources. For the successful implementation of such a programme as this which is of supreme importance to the country, we have to draw upon our own strength rather than depend upon others. This may call for some sort of sacrifice from all of us. All the citizens of the country, whether land-owners or peasants, have to save as much as they can. The businessmen also should pay fair. Such savings will be of use to the present as well as future generations. They will also be of assistance in the great task of nation-building. It has, therefore, become the duty of all to make savings as required by the agrarian laws and rules and deposit them with the Ward Committees. It may be that inculcation of new habits which these various things demand may occasion some personal inconveniences. But it is now high time that we resolve ourselves to do whatever the national interest may demand. The Nepalese have to demonstrate that they are firm in their determination to march ahead with full confidence through the savings that they make and the investment of such savings in raising the farm output or other development activities. We are now passing through a

testing time and our solidarity, steadfastness and dedication to the cause of the country and our greatest good are on trial. I have no doubt that the Nepalese will as before, taking advantage of this opportunity too, take a firm, unflinching stand and prove themselves worthy in every way.

Nepal today stands in particular need of assistance from foreign countries in the fields of technical advice, training and equipment. Such assistance has been and will continue to be forthcoming from the various friendly countries. For that we are deeply indebted to all of them. In any case we have to learn to rely on ourselves more and more. No matter what temporary inconveniences we have to undergo, what sacrifices we have to make, or what difficulties we have to face, we have to build up courage and self-confidence and give up the habit of relying upon others. In this task too, our approach should be one of patient optimism and our failure in this regard will for ever keep us behind, to our deep regret. Not only have we successfully crossed the year 1960-1961 but we are also getting ready to do the same in respect of 1964-1965. At such a time like this, we can forget, only at our peril,

the fact that no country in the world has ever attained progress or prosperity through the help of others only and without determined efforts on its own part.

Unless every Nepali citizen within the country is alert and loyal to his duty, responsibilities and rights, the administration of the country cannot be based on popular consent in actual reality. Much in the same way, no country can ever achieve progress in this twentieth century until social inequalities and economic disparities are banished from it. Considerations like this led to the introduction of the partyless Panchayat System in tune with the wishes of the people. These considerations have also applied in the promulgation of the new Civil Code and various other Acts. And the land reforms programme has now been put on its way to accomplish these very objectives. Agrarian reforms constitute the ultimate ends of social justice, political necessity and economic prosperity. The country and countrymen can under no circumstances remain indifferent to such a vital necessity. Every progressive dispassionate Nepalese has already understood it. And the fact that not a single voice has been raised against the land reforms programme is an indication that it

is destined to be a success. This is also a signal proof of the most encouraging co-operation received from all Nepalese.

The brave Nepalese are fully aware of the demands of the times and they know how to march in step. I have full faith and confidence that the Nepalese will always be prepared to move forth in the task of leading the society and transforming Nepal into a modern industrial state. It is also my belief that as a result of their earnest drive, Nepal will before long occupy the place that is due to her in the comity of progressive countries of the World.

In conclusion, cordially thanking all those connected with this function, I pray to Lord Pashupati Nath that He may bestow on us the strength and will to achieve our great objective. Same be my best wishes to all those assembled here.

Kathmandu.

Jai Nepal !

December 15, 1964.



मुद्रक:- श्री ५ को सरकारको छापाखाना ।