

Comments on the Commentary

The dynamism of the concept of 'Cooperation' is well established when we speak about it as a 'Movement'. It is also suggestive of a law flexible enough to suit to its purpose. As a 'system' otherwise, it can be regarded only a subject of a rigid codification which comes out from a basic distrust in human nature in the context of his behaviour in society. Cooperation is also taught and prescribed as a 'way of life' since long and the recognition of an outside social behaviour of an individual is well built in it. The need of a common liberal code is therefore the right option before the framers of law.

Cooperation as a policy and system has been recognised and adopted for long in our Country. It has been a successful vehicle for the implementation of many governmental schemes and plans. Both the Central as well as the state governments have made huge investments in the evolution and growth of the cooperatives and still depend largely on these institutions for carrying out many prestigious programmes. But the context is changing at a very rapid pace. Long before the liberalisation and globalisation of our economic policies took the present turn, Planning Commission had recognised the necessity of a 'Model Act' drafted by Chaudhari Brahm Prakash Committee for cooperatives in 1990. The Amendment of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act in 2002 has been carried out much later and some states opted for a parallel liberal law worked out in 1995 in the form of The Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act. The Madhya Pradesh Swayatta Sahakarita Adhiniyam 1999 is only an improved version of this thought process.

I got the opportunity to have an in depth study of this legislation in my previous tenure as the Chief Secretary of the State. The cooperative leaders and various government officers about whom Mr Mishra makes a mention in his 'Inside' really did a marvellous job in evolving a law, which was passed unanimously by the State Legislative Assembly.

Apart from being new, this Law is still in an experimental phase. Mr Mishra correctly observes that the two shall be getting merged one day. Logically enough, when the natural and vibrant cooperatives get growing out of their self-sufficiency, the governmental control should automatically cease and the new generation law evolve for this movement to continue.

This Commentary with analytical notes by Shri P D Mishra provides an interesting study of the process of the making of this law in the State. He was surely well equipped with the material and experience for the onerous task. He has earnestly and in his own right brought out some deeper intents of this law for the use and application of it, which could not have been possible for an outsider. I also wish to thank him for making the book interesting as a theory and also practice of cooperation for the readers and the co-operators working in the field.

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