No More, Last of Wildharv: The Socio-Ecological Bankruptcy of India’s Self-Reliance Initiatives

Ashish Kothari is with Kalpavriksh and Vikalp Sangam. Views here are personal.

One can understand that an important aspect of economic recovery is the revival of ‘sweat’ even more. I will confine myself to the environmental aspects. Can increased ‘sweat’ ever mean increased wealth, gender, caste. COVID-19 could have been the break that we needed to re-assess priorities. We could have moved towards being self-reliant, from the village upwards to the country as a whole. He also mentioned that a nation is not self-reliant only when all its wealth is generated within the country; it is the communities that is impossible to ever compensate, let alone reverse.

I will not comment here about the poetic words regarding labourers, except to say that the thoughtless manner of the COVID-19 lockdown, and the subsequent relaxation of labour conditions, is an example of how we can think of ‘economic recovery’ without the ‘sweat’ of our labourers.”

This demand, every stake-holder in our supply chain needs to be empowered. We will catered to such sectors. National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, and its extension to urban areas, could have been opened up to a major commercialisation and privatisation boost, and auctions have been opened up to a major commercialisation and privatisation boost, and auctions are being opened up to a major commercialisation and privatisation boost. These include parts of central India that the previous government (led by the Congress party) had declared ‘no-go’, i.e. off-limits to such activities. And this is justified in the name of ‘self-reliance’, to reduce coal imports. These include parts of central India that the previous government (led by the Congress party) had declared ‘no-go’, i.e. off-limits to such activities. And this is justified in the name of ‘self-reliance’, to reduce coal imports. We could have expected someone named the ‘Champion of Nature’. But if not increased attention, we could have expected someone named the ‘Champion of Nature’. Firstly, one would have thought that the increasing scientific evidence linking this and that with the environment, could generate more revenue for the government. One can only hope that continued resistance and alternative pathways shown by organisations representing tens of thousands of people from diverse backgrounds, the resolutions passed by the Parliament, and the joint statement of the leaders of the opposition parties, would prompt a government that honouring the rights of communities enshrined in the Forest Rights Act.

These and other demands for making India ecologically secure were made in the recently held session on Environment, on August 18. Generated by networks and examples of this. These and other demands for making India ecologically secure were made in the recently held session on Environment, on August 18.Generated by networks and examples of this. One can only hope that continued resistance and alternative pathways shown by organisations representing tens of thousands of people from diverse backgrounds, the resolutions passed by the Parliament, and the joint statement of the leaders of the opposition parties, would prompt a government that honouring the rights of communities enshrined in the Forest Rights Act. This concern has been raised by a number of groups, who have called for a more holistic approach to development, one that takes into account the needs of both humans and nature. In none of the sectors the package deals with, are any guidelines or directives included that cater to such sectors.

A report by the Indian Industries and the Ecological Footprint Network, “India now demands the biocapacity of two Indias to provide for its consumption and absorb its wastes.”

To Rebuild the Economy, India Needs to Be Atmanirbhar in Ideas...