

JITNA ABADI, UTNA HAQ?

No, this is not a political post and I am not trying to wade into a political controversy. Just trying to understand what this means. As much right as the population size – would that be a correct translation? Add to this the ominous threat that there would be a detailed economic and financial survey - the word X ray was used - to determine what each one of us are having. That is where the Mangalsutra came in. Frankly, I am not interested in this political slugfest. Let them battle it out – after all this is election season.

There was this declaration that after determining “kiske paas kya hai” – some revolutionary steps would be taken. Does this “revolution” have Marxist connotations? What is this? Communism in a new Avatar? Redistribution? Take it from those who have and give it to those who do not have, on the basis of their numbers? If this is indeed the case, consider the fact that the Jain (0.4% of population) and Parsi (0.06% of population) are the wealthiest communities in India. Both of them combined are not even half percent of Abadi. So, is their wealth going to be taken from them and given to those whose numbers are large but are poor? Their only qualification being their numbers? Robbing Peter to pay Paul? The Government as Robin Hood? Seriously?? Wow! Karl Marx must be smiling in his grave! Or maybe I didn't understand this rightly. Please help me with my confusion.

The current Income Tax rates in this country tell me that the super-rich (having income upwards of Rs.2 crore) are paying 37.5% of their income as Income Tax. And we all are paying GST for every consumption. Money is already being taken by the governments from the haves. But going one step further resorting to daylight robbery?

Yes, I admit that there is a problem of obscene income inequality. That is why all the parties are promising freebies; they feel COMPELLED to offer freebies. And this trend is worldwide because income inequality is a reality. But does the solution lie in robbing the wealth creators? Karl Marx had an intellectual blind spot in his thinking. He couldn't see that wealth has to be created FIRST before it could be redistributed. That is why his Communist empires collapsed all over the world like a house of cards because they ran out of wealth to redistribute. Yes, income inequality needs to be addressed but Robin Hood cannot be the cultural icon for the 21st century.