

## Earthquake In Nepal - I KTM Metro Reporter

April 25, 2015: At 11.54 a magnitude of 7.8 (US Geological record) earthquake hit Nepal today. The epicenter of the quake was somewhere in Lamjung at the 11 km depth. More than 20 aftershocks magnitude between 4.4 and 4.6 felt repeatedly.

More than one thousands people have been confirmed dead. The death toll might be a number of times higher because reports from the rural areas have to come, yet. In Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur and in other towns, people have been out in the open areas fearing the aftershocks. Rains with thunderstorms are anticipated adding misery to already suffering people.

The damages done might be in hundreds of billions of rupees. The historically important buildings such as the famous Kasthamandap, nine-storey ancient palace, and temples of Narayan mandir, Jasidewal, and other temples in Kathmandu had been totally damaged. Surprisingly, the five-storey temple in Bhaktapur stood the quakes. A number of historical buildings collapsed in Lalitpur but the famous Krishna Mandir made of only stones withstood the quakes.

The high magnitude quakes shook the Mount Everest. It caused an avalanche. Eight climbers became the victims of the avalanche. Some of the climbers could save their lives. At the base camp, climbers faced a chaotic situation.

Prime minister Narendra Modi of India has pledged to help Nepal. The Indian army has sent three army aircrafts with medical and medicinal supplies to immediately treat the injured. Thousands of injured people have been treated on the open areas at different hospitals in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

The government of Nepal had deposited Rs 500 millions in the prime minister's emergency fund for the expenses of treating the injured. Some people said that the amount might not be sufficient but the government might add any amount required. The international community would also help the affected people.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala was in Indonesia for a visit. He cut short the visit and flew to Bangkok on the way to Nepal but he could not fly to Nepal. The airport in Kathmandu was closed. The government of Nepal has declared a state of emergency. Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda and its leader Baburam Bhattarai called on the cadres to help the people.

## Earthquake In Nepal – II KTM Metro Reporter

April 26, 2015: the powerful aftershock sent the prime minister and his ministers fleeing to the safe open space at the Secretariat in Kathmandu today morning. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and his ministers were at the cabinet when the aftershock hit Kathmandu and surrounding areas.

A government office at the Baluwatar area was reported to fall down killing some officials working there. Rescue operators were prompt to save some others. Other buildings weakened by the so many aftershocks have been crumbling, other buildings apparently standing firmly have been shaken to the foundations. Nobody knew how many of them in line to fall down.

Frightened by the repeatedly occurring aftershocks, people have taken shelter at the open spaces to keep away from the buildings that might fall down any time after the powerful aftershocks shake them mercilessly. The nature had been so cruel heavy rains might down pour any time today. People living in the open spaces might get soaked in rain waters down to the underwear whereas some of the survivals under the building debris might end their lives.

Power has gone out. Nobody knew when the Nepal Electricity Authority would restore the power. In turn, water supply has been cut off, too. When the Water Authority would be able to pump up the water is anybody's guess. People have been without water and power. Both the authorities must be working hard to put the power and water supply back to regular.

The regular flights have been disrupted at the international airport in Kathmandu. Tower operators rushed down to open space for safety. Planes could not land or take off without the tower operators functioning. Incoming and outgoing passengers have been stranded at the airports.

Hotels needed to evacuate the guests often. Aftershocks have been causing the tourists to wreaking havoc. They have nothing to see in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur except the debris of the artistic temples. All the carved wooden beams and pillars have been debris. Buses could not be run regularly. Some roads have been split at several places. Driving on such roads has been hazardous.

The Everest climbers have been in trouble, too. Aftershocks have shaken the mighty tallest mountain and other mountains to shed the snow causing avalanches. Seventeen climbers and their assistants have lost the lives, and many more injured in the avalanches. The base camp suffered the heavy loss of supplies.

Reports from rural areas have to come, yet. Nobody knew how villages have been destroyed. A aerial view report of the two pilots posted on <http://annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10921> said that some of the villages had been wiped out. Survivors have been wandering in search of shelter and help.

To rescue the victims of the repeated aftershocks from rains and cold and wind, they needed strong tents that could withstand the heavy wind and rains, and hot sun, too. They needed water, and foods, and makeshift toilets. Disaster-mitigating teams needed to work immediately. The government needed to make the rescue operations easy to launch and execute.

Earthquake In Nepal – III  
KTM Metro Reporter

April 27, 2015: Some philanthropic Indian organizations have been sending thousands of food packets to Nepal for feeding the earthquake victims, US, Chinese, German rescue teams and even the prime minister of Bhutan came with a team to help Nepalese.

Obviously, all these teams have been in Kathmandu. Even the rural areas of the Kathmandu valley have been on their own not to mention hundreds of thousands of rural people without homes and any foodstuffs and water to drink. Members of the international teams needed to reach those people in need the most.

The government of Nepal must be overwhelmed by the massive scale of the need for managing the mitigation of the disaster, and providing the disaster-affected people with

relief materials. So, every international team needs to take actions on its own to reach the people out of Kathmandu without delay.

#### Earthquake In Nepal–IV

April 28, 2015: After shocks have been considerably reduced. The US Geological Survey has predicted that two major aftershocks might occur on May 3 and 31, 2015. Nepalese have to be careful on these days, and keep them as safe as possible, and keep the loved ones not far from each other in case of aftershocks come.

Lives in the quake-affected areas have been coming to normal but for the people that have lost the loved ones, homes and in them any assets, lives are not certainly normal. Quick and immediate assistance for them is the immediate requirement. The international community and the government of Nepal have been doing everything possible. In such a massive scale of disaster, to reach immediately to everybody in need might not be possible but efforts are being made.

For those people that have not lost anything, have the earthquake picnics even though they are scared to death to lose anything and anybody. Aftershocks have been terrifying. People have been in terror days and nights. To add to the misery of the quake terrors, heavy rains have been causing another problem to the already heavily suffered people.

China has complained that the Indian air force aircrafts have entered the Chinese air space in the name of rescue flights, according to the Nepalese media website. That might be true because the aircrafts must have gone to see what have happened to the northern villages in Nepal. Those remote areas have no communications with the Kathmandu and other parts of Nepal so only the aerial views could tell what had happened in those northern border areas.

Another media website has it that the Indian aircrafts have been so crowded in the Kathmandu international airports, twenty Chinese helicopters could not land there. It might be a bit exaggeration. Helicopters did not need many spaces to land or they could wait until the Indian aircrafts leave. Let us be friendly than to be unfriendly. Let us all work in cooperation to cope with this unthinkable disaster.

The news in the websites are in Nepalese language”  
<http://www.annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10972>  
<http://www.khabardabali.com/2015/04/16130/>  
<http://medianp.com/2015/04/56372.html>

#### Earthquake In Nepal: Houses Fallen Apart

Everybody rushed to safety at the airport after the quake hit Kathmandu. Nobody was at the airport tower. Taking the risk, Siddharath and I (Cap Bibek Khadka) took off on a helicopter.

First we flew in the sky over Bhaktapur. We saw the old houses made of mud and bricks falling apart. Some of the houses have roofs falling down, and some have been down the first floor, and others have been down to the ground.

Dust has been rising from the fallen houses. People are rushing everywhere for safety. Some have been gathering at the open places. Some others have already started off looking for the persons buried under the debris of fallen houses.

After Bhaktapur, we flew over Lalitpur. We saw old houses crumbling down. We also saw the ancient temples coming down at Mangal Bazaar. Some roofs have been sitting on their houses.

While flying over Kathmandu, we saw the Dharahara tower fallen down. People were rushing to the Tundikhel: open space for safety. Vehicles were sitting on the roads not being able to move anywhere. The ancient historically important palace at Basantpur was falling down blowing up smoke of dust in the air. We saw the apartment building developing cracks at Dhapasi. One of the temples at Svoyambhu was falling to pieces.

While flying over Panauti in the Kavre district, we saw the old houses falling down. Some houses have the roofs fallen down.

Thereafter, we flew to the Langtang area in the Rasuwa district for a rescue operation. On the way we saw a number of landslides holding back the Trishuli River at various places. At different areas, the road from the Trishul Bazaar to Dhunche has been damaged. On the way from Syabrubesi to Ghoda-tabela area, some villages were swept away by the landslides others were entirely buried under landslides and looked like deserts.

On the bare hills, some people were moving around, and waved us for rescuing them. Unfortunately, the bad weather did not permit us to reach and rescue them. The Langtang village was totally buried under debris. The Langtang National Reservation Area was full of fallen trees.

While flying back from Rasuwa along the Trishuli River, houses in the villages of both sides of the river have fallen apart. People have been homeless.

We have been continuously reporting to the Tribhuvan Airport tower what we have seen on our flight. We also have reported our findings to other concerned agencies.

We have escorted some planes flying to Kathmandu to land at the airport while the airport tower has nobody to guide the planes. As the planes approached, checking the status of the runway for safe landing we advised the pilots to land.

Presented by Isvorkaji Khaiju

Translated from Nepalese news report titled "Langtang Village Fully Buried Due to Earthquake" posted on annapurnapost.com.

<http://annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10921>

Earthquake In Nepal-V

April 29, 2015: thousands of Nepalese are leaving Kathmandu for fear of possible epidemic in the aftermath of the deadly quakes. They feared that not properly cremated corpses, and corpses still lying under debris might cause disease. Thousands of people have been waiting for buses and any other sorts of vehicles.

One vehicle operator has been checking the buses charging more than the regular bus fares. He was doing so to keep the reputation of honesty of the transport operators. On camera he said that even five members of his family had to pay three hundred additional rupees while on the way. So, he was checking the buses how much they have charging the passengers. The minister of home has issued the notice of taking strong actions against the

buses charging more than the regular fares. Obviously, transporter operators have been taking the advantage of the exodus of the people from Kathmandu.

Most of the people leaving Kathmandu must have lost the rented houses. So, they needed to go home. Others must have been going back to the families to say they are well. Even more people must have left the town for fear of aftershocks and certainly of diseases. Basic-need supplies might be soon in short. Regular life has been disarray for some time even though it has been coming back to normal. Businesses were closed. All these reasons pushed the people out of Kathmandu.

Impatient people have shouted slogans against the government for not providing them with the vehicles for the free ride as promised. The government has announced that five hundred vehicles including school buses would be provide for the free ride to different destinations. People waiting for such buses since 3:00 am morning have lost their patience and shouted slogans against the government.

Some injured people at the government-run hospitals complained to the visiting prime minister about the lackluster treatment. They said that they have not received even water according to the Nepalese media. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala made visits to the army hospital, and the teaching hospital at Maharajgunj. He also visited the Basantapur: downtown Kathmandu to check the damages done to the historical buildings. People have shouted against the prime minister making so delayed visit after five days of the quake, the news on ratopati.com stated.

People accused the State administration of irregularities in distributing the relief materials to the victims of the quakes. People demonstrated at the Bhaktapur and Charikot district administration offices against the biased distribution of the relief materials, the news on ratopati.com stated. People in other parts of the country have been denied of any relief materials so far. It was understandable that the government could not reach the victims immediately but if the government were not able to reach the victims even after five days then there must be something wrong. The government needed to let the aid agencies to directly distribute the relief materials to the quake victims.

Israel and Pakistan have set up field hospitals to provide the injured with immediate relief in the Kathmandu Valley. Other agencies have sent medical supplies and medics. Most of them have to reach the quake victims outside the Kathmandu Valley, yet. Probably, efforts have been made to reach the people outside Kathmandu.

Mountaineers have started to rebuild the track to the Mt Everest to continue the climbing. The April 25 quake had triggered avalanches that had destroyed anything on their way. Even the base camp was severely affected. Eighteen climbers have lost the lives to the avalanches, others were injured but they are keeping up to their scaling the tallest mountain in the world.

So many international rescue teams wanted to come down to Nepal the government of Nepal had to say, "No more, help teams or rescue teams." The government of Nepal is accepting assistances from all the nations except for Taiwan, the BBC NEWS stated. The government has clearly followed the one-China policy. Following this policy, the government recognizes Tibet and Taiwan are the integral parts of China.

Many Nepalese agencies have been depositing huge amounts of money in the prime ministerial relief fund for the benefits of the quake victims. Non-resident Nepalese also have been mobilizing resources for helping the quake victims. The government also deposited

one billion rupees in this fund. The government had deposited Rs 500 millions immediately after the quake.

"The UN has launched a \$415m (£270m) appeal for Nepal-quake victims. The UN said it wanted to support government efforts to provide emergency relief over the next three months. The UN says more than eight million people have been affected and some 70,000 houses have been destroyed. Riot police have clashed with people trying to leave the capital Kathmandu, and there are reports of villagers blocking trucks carrying supplies," stated the BBC NEWS.

#### Earthquake In Nepal-VI: Lost Opportunity

May 1, 2015: The Saturday earthquake gave a great opportunity to the government and the political leaders to demonstrate their smartness and efficiency in serving the nation means the common folks in general but none of the political leaders including the prime minister, and his home minister: the most accountable elected officials did show up only after five days of the earthquake.

Obviously, these political guys have been good-for-nothing people. The leader called KP Oli had often roared like a lion but during the earthquake, he probably must have gone to hide in a mouse hole to save him from the cruel and merciless quake. When Mr. Oli talked he gave an impression that he could even lift the mountain but his hiding in a mouse hole demonstrated that he was no more than a little mouse when the nation needed a leader of great courage and determination to serve the people.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had been always a mouse-like. When the quake hit the nation he was somewhere in Indonesia. He managed to come back to Nepal only to hide in a secretariat. When the aftershocks hit Nepal he was scared to death; he ran for life. How could he save the lives of the millions of the quake victims when Mr. Koirala did not know how to save him?

Home minister Bamdev Gautam was the most accountable elected official to save the lives and the property of the common folks but nobody knew where he had been hiding to save his lives for four days before appearing in the public. He must be somewhere in a mouse hole to save him and his family from the quake and the aftershocks or having a quake picnic in the tent donated for the quake victims. He might justify having the tent saying he also was a quake victim. Certainly, he was too no doubt about that.

These mouse-like prime minister and ministers could see the daylight after four days of the quake and aftershocks when they were sure that aftershocks would not harm their families and them, too. By that time, the quake had sent thousands of Nepalese to their final destinations; many invaluable cultural heritages had been turned into rubbles and debris. Thousands of people have been sleeping under the open skies under the heavy rains. But these political rodents did not give a fig to the situation of the nation.

Not only these political rodents but also the political creatures that claimed to be the nationalists serving the nation did dare to come out of their hiding spaces to serve the people means the nation. They could shout more than any ferocious dogs could bark at the political rallies and at the interviews on TVs or radios but they could do nothing to the people at the time of disaster. They also could fight for a bone any dogs could do but when serving the nation they were nowhere to find.

Prachanda and Baburam did call on their party cadres to go and work for the quake victims. Thereafter, nothing came out in the media whether the cadres actually went to work or not

or whether they were having the earthquake picnics in the luxury tents when hundreds of thousands have lost not only their houses and everything in them but also their loved ones to the quake.

Deadly scared Prachanda and Baburam appeared in Kirtipur. The party-diehard followers escorted them. They went to such a secured area that they knew that nobody could harm them. Rodent politicians could not think what those shrewd politicians of a new breed had done. Prime Minister got jeered at Basnatapur area: the core area of the old Kathmandu town when he visited the area on the fifth day of the quake to see the magnitude of the destruction done to the ancient culturally invaluable buildings. Home Minister Bamdev Gautam was almost beaten by the crowd. Thanks to the security, Mr. Gautam could save his life not damaged by the quake.

Voters have posted a banner "Where is our elected representative Dhyana govinda?" at the secretariat building in Kathmandu. The poor member of the legislature must have been hiding in a mouse hole or having a lavish quake picnic with the family and relatives somewhere in the safest space where even a nine-magnitude quake could not split the ground. The quake has taken the soul of one lawmaker. The most unfortunate lawmaker neither could have a quake picnic nor have a mouse hole to hide.

The president of the rodent politicians has called the session of the parliament on May 7, 2015. Obviously, the president was safe and alive. His home was still in one piece and standing. He also has no empathy and deeds as other political mammals did not have for the people and for the victims of the quake at the time of writing this article on May 1, 2015. The president must have believed that he had no role to play in the politics except for putting his seal of approval on the bills passed by the parliament. So, why should the president be concern for the quake victims? The people did not elect him. The lawmakers elected by the voters elected him.

The government of Sushil Koirala came out strongly to cut off the helping hands reaching out to the quake victims in the Sindhupalchok district: the most quake-affected area. Probably, Home Minister Bamdev Gautam wanted to show off how powerful he could be to the people that had chased him from the area he went to inspect the quake-damaged buildings. He ordered to centralize the distribution of the relief materials.

The first victim of the centralization of the distribution of the relief materials has been the Shesh Ghale and his team working in the Sindhupalchok district. Talking to the anchor of the Kantipur TV, Ghale said, "I don't know whether I am in North Korea or Nepal? I have tons of relief materials coming from Hong Kong. The government of Nepal has ordered centralization of the relief materials. We don't get the materials from Hong Kong even after months. We could not do anything with our bare hands. We have fifteen doctors working in the Sindhupalchok district."

Home Minister Gautam should have same spirit dealing with the Chinese and Indian rescue-and-assist teams, too. The government of Nepal said that it would not accept the assistance from Taiwan. It was clearly bowing down to the highly venerable god-like Chinese leaders. Similarly, the Indian copters have been flying everywhere even beyond the Nepalese borders to the north but Home Minister Gautam has been almost like a little mouse between these mammoth neighbors.

Nepal-visiting Indian yoga guru in Kathmandu even said that the Pakistani foods intended for the quake victims might be contaminated with beef. Home Minister Gautam had nothing to say about such an irresponsible comment by such a highly venerable guru. Pakistan has duly denied any contamination of the foods sent to Nepal. Nothing was uneatable than the

beef for Hindus. Yoga guru wanted Nepalese to boycott any food coming from Pakistan. I could not imagine that yoga guru could be so naïve. So, it was not a surprise that the government of India had forcibly removed such a naïve guru from the makeshift yoga camp he set up in New Delhi when he had stubbornly demanded the end of corruption in the Indian administration a few years ago.

On May 1, 2015, the Nepal Rastra Bank: the central bank of Nepal called on all organizations and individuals to deposit their donations or other relief materials in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, and also called on organizations or individuals that have collected or been collecting donations or other materials to deposit the collected donations and materials in the same fund.

<http://setopati.net/society/6392/Deposit-relief-in-PM's-Disaster-Relief-Fund:-Rastra-Bank/>

Deputy Chairman of Terai Madheshi Democratic Party Hriday Tripathi said that his party had deposited the relief materials in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for providing the flood victims of the far western region last year but the materials have not reached the victims, yet; so, this year his party would not deposit anything in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, the news on the ratopati.com stated.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/01/230461.html>

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has been sitting on more than three billion rupees deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for distributing it to the victims of the floods and landslides occurred in 2014. This time, the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for the quake victims might swell to hundreds of billions. How could such a lousy prime minister manage such a huge fund for the quake victims could be anybody's guess.

Donor nations would surely opt to rebuild any fallen temples or pagodas or to provide the quake victims with anything directly than channeling through the popularly known corrupt administration of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala. Japan has already declared it. Other countries might soon follow suit.

Bhutanese prime minister has been trekking through the rough foot treks in the quake-affected rural areas in Nepal to see the magnitude of damages done by the disastrous earthquake occurred in Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Nepalese ministers including prime minister and leaders could not dare to come out of their hiding mouse holes. Chairman of CPN-UML honorable PhD holder (see his CV on face-book) KP Oli frankly told that it was not the job of leaders to go to the rural areas, the news on dcnepal.com stated.

<http://dcnepal.com/news/news.php?nid=149232>

Dr KP Oli did not appreciate how the Bhutanese prime minister has been walking around rural areas to see the quake-affected areas and provide the victims with relief materials. Other political leaders of NC, UCPN-Maoist, and RPP-Nepal have been going around villages with relief materials since May 2, 2015.

The Nepal army, the armed police force and the Nepal police have been doing highly commendable job of digging the quake victims out of debris and rubbles since the high magnitude quake hit the country. They have continued to do so. Heavy equipment operators also have been doing a great job in clearing the debris and removing the rubbles to clear the way for finding out the buried quake victims. The State needed to make the special recognition of their high-risk jobs done by these respectable guys at the time of disaster.

The government and the political parties have failed disastrously in serving the nation at the time of the need. The government has even stopped the aid teams from performing their duty on helping the quake victims in the Sindhupalchok district. For example, the team of

Shesh Ghale came from Australia has the problem of getting the relief materials from Hong Kong after the government of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Home Minister Bamdev Gautam ordered to channel the relief materials through the State bureaucracy that has been infamous for widespread corruption and deadly inefficiency.

Nepalese political leaders needed to forget about their political difference and join the hands to reach out the quake victims and do something. Stupid would be the most appropriate word for using it for an adjective to these politicians. They needed to keep the politics aside for some time and do some humanitarian work. These political guys could spend millions of rupees on holding rallies and enforcing the Nepal shutdown in protest but they hardly could spend anything on assisting the quake victims. Not helping the quake victims has brought shame on those political leaders.

Nepal earthquake spin-off is tens of if not hundreds of donation collectors. But nobody knows how many of these collectors would reach out the victims of the incredible and destructive quake. Some of these donation collectors have collected millions; others have billions; many more have collected in hundreds of thousands.

Nepal Rastra Bank: central bank of Nepal has requested the public to deposit the donations in the Prime Disaster Relief Fund. Some political parties including the NC have declared to deposit their donations in millions in the fund. Other politicians have been reluctant to deposit the donations in the fund because the prime minister has been sitting on the huge money he has collected for the victims of the floods and landslides happened in 2014.

The non-actions of the political leaders and the corrupt actions of the government of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Home Minister Bamdev Gautam have alienated and even angered the people. Nepalese felt that the political leaders and ministers including the prime minister were the fellow creatures on this planet with the least concern for the people. They were corrupt and shameless and unaccountable leaders and ministers. They were parasites thriving on the sweats and bloods of the voters and common folks. They were like leeches that would suck the people to death.

The government of Nepal through the circular notice sent by the central bank of Nepal: Nepal Rastra Bank following the section 79 of the Nepal Rastra Bank Act of 2002 has scared the organizations collecting donations for the quake victims of the money deposited in their accounts at various banks in Nepal might be automatically transferred to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Foreign non-governmental agencies and donation collectors have been reluctant to deposit the donations in the fund. They knew that the government was so much corrupt and irregular in doing businesses.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/01/top-story/govt-to-take-all-bank-deposits-meant-for-disaster-relief/404711.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/nepal/11577706/Nepal-aid-donors-may-halt-fundraising-amid-fears-government-will-seize-donations.html>

May 2, 2015

Earthquake In Nepal–VII: Relief Supplies/Customs Clearance/PM Disaster Relief Fund

"We have received things like tuna fish and mayonnaise. What good are those things for us? We need grains, salt and sugar," BBC News quoted Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat. Dr Mahat has ignored that Nepalese people buy and eat tuna fish and mayonnaise. These

foodstuffs are available in the Kathmandu market. Dr Mahat also did not realize that these food items are ready to eat at any time. These were the foodstuffs quake victims could immediately eat at any place at any time. Thank god Dr Mahat did not say that he would sell those relief supplies and buy food grains, salt and sugar as the then panchayat government of king Birendra said in 1980s.

Dr Mahat's statement reminded me the incident happened about 30 years ago when I was working at the then SATA (Swiss Association for Technical Assistance) in Nepal. At that time, SATA purchased 10 tons of rice in Thailand and shipped it to Nepal for the drought-hit Nepalese. I was the program officer and directly helping the director of SATA. He sent me to see what had happened to the rice SATA provided. I went to the home ministry. The home ministry official told me that the ministry sent the rice to the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC): the State-run corporation for purchase and sale of foodstuffs. Obviously, the ministry sold the rice to the NFC. I went to the NFC, and met with the concerned official. I asked him, "Has the rice SATA provided gone to the target people?" He said, "The rice is high quality. We will sell the rice in the Kathmandu market, then we will buy corn and send it to the drought-stricken people." I did not know whether the rice reached the target people or not.

The next trouble the aid providers had been encountering was the delay in the customs clearance of the relief stuffs sent to Nepal for the quake victims. In the name of checking the relief stuffs the customs officials have been taking time. Everybody knows that customs officials are rent-seeking creatures. Delaying the customs clearance means they are seeking something. If anybody greases the palm of customs officials every thing gets out of the customs. So, it has been easy to smuggle gold or anything anybody likes out of the Nepal customs. But the customs officials delaying the customs clearance of the stuffs intended for the quake victims means they are abusing the authority. The Commission on Investigation into Abuse of Authority (CIAA) needed to get the picture of what has been happening at the customs office in the Kathmandu international airport. The immediate customs clearance of the relief stuffs was vital otherwise the unscrupulous actions of the customs officials would cost the quake victims many lives.

The UN has said that relief supplies arrived at the Kathmandu airport for the quake victims have been held in the name of the customs clearance. On Saturday, May 2, 2015, UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said Nepal had a duty to provide faster customs clearance for relief supplies, the BBC NEWS stated. Baroness Amos drew the attention of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to the agreement Nepal had signed with the UN in 2007 for fast customs clearance for relief aid in a disaster. "The Nepalese government should not be using peacetime customs methodology," the BBC NEWS quoted Jamie McGoldrick: UN representative in Nepal.

For the public information on the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and how it works, a short write-up is posted on [directionkathmandu.com](http://directionkathmandu.com) under the title of "What is the PM's Disaster Relief Fund and What it is not?" The prime minister has its name only in the fund but he has nothing to do with the fund if we believe in the write-up. Vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission is the coordinator and eight secretaries to the different ministers are the members of the committee to manage this fund. They make the decisions unanimously.

One thing is clear that the prime minister is not on the committee managing the fund but his persons are on it. The prime minister could dictate the Vice-chairperson and the secretaries what to do and what not, too. They are the pets of the prime minister he has appointed. So, the statement of the prime minister is not on the committee does not make sense. The prime minister could do anything he wants using those people on the committee. That must be the reason why Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has been sitting on the huge sum of money collected for the floods-and-landslide victims in 2014. Why those Vice-chairperson

and eight secretaries did not do anything with the money collected for the floods-and-landslide victims. Are they accountable to managing the fund collected for the victims? If so, the question is why the floods-and-landslide victims have not received those resources collected for them, yet. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala might think that the victims have forgotten it but I have not and some other people also have not.

If the donations collected for the quake victims were to deposit in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala should guarantee that the money would be sent to the benefits of the target people without delay. Then, it would make sense that the government is surely for helping the quake victims. But we have seen that the prime minister has not been accountable to the floods-and-landslide victims. So, he has been keeping the money in the fund in his name, and let the victims suffer from the loss of their property perpetually.

The international community needed to understand this situation of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in the historical background. Donors would take a long time to withdraw the money from the fund. That is for sure. The victims might suffer from the loss of property forever once the donations landed in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. No matter what the prime minister would say and others on his behalf, Prime Minister Koirala had been a very lousy decision maker in the past. So, his persons on the committee and Prime Minister Koirala might take indefinite time to use the money in the fund for the quake victims.

May 3, 2015

#### Earthquake In Nepal–VIII: Second Round Of Quake

May 12, 2015: Again at the mid day, one of the major quakes has hit the central Nepal panicking the innocent people that have thought the aftershocks have been fading away but it is not so the major quakes have been back again to tear down the already weakened buildings by the first quake.

The parliamentary session was going on at the conventional hall when the second round quake hit Nepal. It shook the conventional hall at Nayabanesvor in Kathmandu. The man at the dais speaking to the lawmakers was shaking. Lawmakers ran for their lives leaving their seats. The Speaker adjourned the meeting, the Nepal TV said.

The second round of destruction has been in the Kathmandu Valley and in the areas hit by the second quake. It was daytime when the second major quake hit so people managed to run for their lives and save them from falling houses, and rocks and anything coming down. The 7.3 magnitude quake sent Nepalese to take a shelter at the safe and open areas again on May 12, 2015. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless once more.

The death toll reported in the Nepalese media has reached more than 40 but it might increase, as the news of destruction and death would reach the home ministry in Kathmandu. More than one thousand folks have been injured. Those victims had been mainly the unsuspected people working to salvage anything possible from the quake wreckages, and the people in the regular business.

Academic institutions had been still closed otherwise thousands of school children and college students might be the victims of the severe quake. Wisely, the academic institutions would remain closed for another two weeks as reported in the media. They were supposed to reopen on the coming Friday.

People gone for work have had hard time to be with their loved ones after the second devastating quake. The ring road in Kathmandu has been packed with the vehicles.

Everybody rushed to the loves ones taking any possible means of transportation. Unfortunately, the Internet and cell phone snapped for a brief time causing panic to the common folks.

The first quake on April 25, 2015 did not leave any cultural heritage for the second quake to tear down on May 12, 2015. So, no news about destruction of any temple or building of cultural heritage has been online at the time of writing this news. The tall temples that withstood the first quake continued to stand. They shook but did not come down.

Most of the mundane buildings fell down were with the red marks the engineers had put on them after the first quake. Those buildings were not fit for residing without major repair. The buildings had no humans to crush in them. The second-quake toll might not be so high as had been of the first one.

This time the most fortunate thing had been the rescue teams and medics were at the sites. Most of the damages had been done in the first quake. So, not many human structures were left for the second quake to tear down. However, some hills gave in to the quake falling down to the rivers. The high mountains shook off the snow from their bodies causing avalanches challenging the climbers. Even the tallest and apparently mightiest Mt Everest had to tremble from the quake and send the snow falling down to the base camp.

The administration of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had been too slow to react to the quake. Former minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani wrote in the ratopati.com that he had advised Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to buy 400,000 tents on the second day of the first quake. Communication Minister Rijal complained a few days ago, the government had managed to procure 49,000 tents against the need of 400,000.

I could not imagine what stopped the ministers and the prime minister to buy or procure the tents even though the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" had sufficient fund, and numerous well wishers were ready to provide the government of Nepal with whatever stuffs it needed even at the short notice.

One Nepalese blogger diligently went through the working style of the administration and reported that the administration had assigned ten ministers with different jobs to do immediately after the first quake but none of them had done anything to that end. Why did they take the assignments if they were not to do anything?

It was understandable some of the ministers were panicked, too. Most of them have lost their homes. They had been as homeless as the common folks living in the tents at the Tundikhel in Kathmandu. It did not mean that they should stop working as ministers and enforcing the laws, and doing everything possible to bring back the lives of the people to normal. The ministers including prime minister had demonstrated that they were not fit for the jobs they had been holding. What these ministers had been doing was to recycle their commitments that they never kept.

Consequently, the international airport in Kathmandu had been chaotic. Some of the aircraft carrying the relief materials had to turn back because the airport had been crowded with aircrafts. Some of the aircrafts flew unnecessarily near the northern borders. The Indian and Nepalese media went wild. They wrote unbelievable things. The quake victims continued to suffer from the lack of tents, water and foods not to mention other human requirements such as clothing. These were all the consequences of the ministers including the prime minister not working, as they should.

May 12, 2015

## Earthquake In Nepal-IX: Profound Dismay

May 13, 2015: to the profound dismay of everybody, the Nepalese members of parliament have shamelessly fought for getting the tents intended for the earthquake victims. Certainly, these brazen and callous parliamentarians also had been the victims of the earthquake but they had been enjoying the luxurious lives even in the tents. Then, why did they need the tents sent for the common folks? The greed made them inhuman and heartless.

Tent distribution: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/13/233299.html>

The chief minister of West Bengal, India Mamata Banerjee had sent thousands of tents for the earthquake victims that had been living in either under the sizzling sun or heavy rains. Some of the victims had nothing left after the heavy quakes except for the clothing they had been wearing.

The unashamed lawmakers fought for the tents. To stop the fiery fights of the members of the parliament for a tent, the Speaker ordered to stop distributing the tents. Some parliamentarians feeling the unworthy fight for getting a tent returned the tents while the lawmakers belonging to the UCPN-Maoist sent the tents they had received to Dolakha, according to the news on the ratopati.com.

MPs taking tents: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/13/233324.html>

Without having any concern for the homeless earthquake victims, the good-for-nothing government of the NC, the CPN-UML, the RPP and other minor parties headed by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala blatantly ignoring even the little ethic of compassion for the sufferings boldly distributed the tents received for the earthquake victims to the parliamentarians. Now, the question is whether Prime Minister Koirala would let his yeomen properly use the billions of rupees deposited in the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" for the earthquake victims. If the parliamentarians looting the tents were to be any guide for the future use of the relief materials intended for the earthquake, the money from the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" would fill out the pockets of the parliamentarians and the trunks of the prime minister and his ministers. Then, what's use of depositing the charity in the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund"? Certainly, it is no use if we are to see the proper use of the charity.

Nobody could believe in the assurances of the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala that he would build houses for the homeless after the monsoon. At one of the visits to the earthquake victims, Mr. Koirala said, "I would not like to make an unrealistic promise to build houses for you now but I would surely build houses after the monsoon," according to one of the Nepalese online newspapers. I doubt very much that Mr. Koirala would keep his commitment. He might not even have the memory of what he had said to the folks. He had the good habit of forgetting his commitments.

Now, the Home Minister Bamdev Gautam said in the parliament on May 13, 2015 that the government would distribute the tin sheets to the earthquake victims before the monsoon set in, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. Nobody would like to see even a single sheet going to any parliamentarian. That is one thing another thing is Mr. Gautam needs to keep his commitment. However, these ministers have the habit of recycling their commitments but never keeping them. He could use the money from the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" for buying the tin sheets. The tin sheets should be on the way to Nepal if Mr. Gautam were to keep his commitment. Pre-monsoon rains have been already pouring in. The monsoon is already at the porch.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6602/Corrugated-sheets-before-monsoon:-Home-Minister/#sthash.DLXX2kPs.dpuf>

Foreign donors have a little faith in the Koirala administration that it would do the job, as it should. So, more than often they funneled the charity through the multi-lateral agencies or UN agencies or INGOs to Nepal rather than turning over the money directly to the morally bankrupt Koirala administration. So, it is not a surprise that "the government of Japan has provided one million US dollars to the UNFPA to support girls and women affected by the earthquake; UNFPA Nepal Representative Giulia Vallese has stated the funds will be used strategically and efficiently to ensure maximum reach in the districts worst hit by the quake," said the RSS news on the setopati.net. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the support for the earthquake victims on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 providing through the UNFPA appreciating the work it has done in Nepal.

See more at: [http://setopati.net/society/6600/Japan-provides-\\$1-m-to-UNFPA-for-quake-hit-Nepali-women/#sthash.gJE1ONXD.dpuf](http://setopati.net/society/6600/Japan-provides-$1-m-to-UNFPA-for-quake-hit-Nepali-women/#sthash.gJE1ONXD.dpuf)

It has been more than two weeks since the first deadly earthquake hit Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015 but the parliament has passed the resolution only on May 13, 2015 directing the government to conduct the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction as a national campaign activating all the State agencies; to provide the families that had lost the loved ones in the earthquakes with the suitable compensation, and provide the injured folks with the free treatment, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. Anybody could imagine what the parliament had been doing during the last seventeen days nothing to mitigate the sufferings of the earthquake victims.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6597/Parliament-passes-common-resolution-proposal/#sthash.bk5GtPVG.dpuf>

The parliament also set up a 73-member National Disaster Management Monitoring and Directive Special Committee on May 13, 2015 with the mandate to hold detailed assessment of the damages done by the April 25 earthquake, to run the rescue and relief operation, and to make the resettlement of the victims following the assessment, and to make recommendations to the government for taking the necessary steps, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly (CA) serves as the ex-officio Chair of the committee, the Vice-Chair as the ex-officio Vice-Chair. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, DPM Bamdev Gautam and Minister for Law, Justice, CA, and Parliamentary Affairs Narahari Acharya sit on the committee as the ex-officio members.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6603/House-forms-73-member-committee-to-assess-quake-damages/#sthash.wJGJlu15.dpuf>

We have seen that none of the ten ministers assigned to perform certain jobs immediately after the first quake on April 25, 2015 did nothing. We could not anticipate that these non-performing ministers including the prime minister, and members of the parliament would do anything for the people except for looting the things provide for the earthquake victims. The high profile National Disaster Management Monitoring and Directive Special Committee would be nothing but the committee of the good-for-nothing guys.

May 13, 2015

#### Earthquake In Nepal–X: Disastrous Delay In Delivery Of Relief Materials

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala was so unaware of the field conditions of the quake victims that he got surprised to the question of a foreign reporter that his government has been a totally failure in delivering the relief materials to the victims of the devastating quakes started off on April 25, 2015, and continuing even today: May 17, 2015. He claimed that his government absolutely unprepared for such a dreadful event has done a remarkable job of rescuing and providing the quake victims with everything needed, the news posted on ratopation.com on May 17, 2015 stated.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/234060.html>

Obviously, Koirala has no idea of what has been happening in the field. He also did not bother to go and see how the victims have been doing without water, foods, hygiene, disposal of human feces, and even the tents. Certainly, the Nepal army, the armed police force and the regular police had done a marvelous job of rescuing the trapped quake victims. However, relief-material distribution has been much to be desired.

Many people have not received tents, yet. Those living in the tents have the problem of having water, foods, and disposal of waste not to mention the space to cook and eat foods. Probably, Mr. Koirala had not even thought of the most urgent need for managing the quake-victim camps. What Koirala must have thought that his government had distributed a few thousand tents against the need for hundreds of thousands, and some thousands of food packets against the need for millions; and that was what he must have thought that his marvelous achievement in rescuing the victims, and providing the relief materials to the quake victims had been?

The CNN news agency reported that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said on Friday, May 15, 2015 that the international community has met only 14% of the humanitarian aid sought by the UN for the relief effort in Nepal; and it was only the fraction of the aid the country needed, and the international community has committed. "We are not out of the emergency situation yet," said Leszek Barczak, public information officer for the OCHA. "Some 500,000 to 600,000 families have lost their homes in the two earthquakes. Shelter is the minimum for the people to get on with their lives."

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/15/asia/nepal-earthquake/>

The government had announced that it would take stock of the damages done to every house and then provide the householders with the compensation. That was the immense job for the government of Mr. Koirala if not almost impossible to do. Some victims have not even touched their fallen houses in anticipation of the government coming to inspect the damages done to their houses else the government would not pay them the compensation.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/233990.html>

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in Nepal has taken up the job of delivering the relief materials to the quake victims in the four districts such as Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Dolkha, and Khotang through the District Disaster Relief Committee except for Dolkha. They purchased tents, mattresses, linen, and water purifying tablets, and sent those stuffs via Biratnagar to the districts. Helicopters were used for transporting the relief materials to the remote areas. The relief materials have reached the 21,000 quake victims in those four districts, the news posted on np.karobardaily.com on May 17, 2015 stated.

<http://np.karobardaily.com/2015/05/53954/>

More than two and a half billions of rupees have been accumulated in the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund as of May 17, 2015. It has been more than 20 days since the first ruinous quake hit in Nepal destroying hundreds of thousands of houses and making millions of people homeless and forcing them to sleep in the open at the time when the sun has been sizzling hot and the pre-monsoon rain and thunderstorms have been the every-day events. Mr. Koirala has not said, yet how much money for what purposes have been spent from the fund. His deputy Bamdev Gautam said that buying a large quantity of tin sheets was the urgent need but such things had been limited to the speeches while millions of quake victims continued to live hazardously.

Saying that his government had made a success in dealing with the disaster even though his government was unprepared for it, Prime Minister Koirala simply ignored the fact that

the experts have been officially warning the public that any quake might cause a great loss to the lives and property of the people at any time. Such quakes were anticipated but Koirala was fully unprepared for them. Is it not a shame on Koirala to saying his government was absolutely unprepared for, and then claiming whatever a little thing was done a great achievement?

For the information of Koirala, anybody watching the TVs and reading the news online and on the print media know that some quake victims have managed to procure tents or build makeshift shelters on their own. Hundreds of philanthropic organizations and individuals have delivered the tents, tarpaulins and foods to the quake victims immediately after the quake hit the country. If Koirala had kept up-to-date news of the conditions of the quake victims he would have known that some individuals have spent millions of rupees on providing immediate relief materials to the quake victims.

Bipinbahadur Karmacharya: a social worker residing at Kalimati in Kathmandu distributed relief materials to the quake victims in Panauti at his personal expenses, the news on ratopati.com stated on May 14, 2015. The government has been for following the disgusting one-window policy to pass through even such individuals' efforts on assisting the quake victims at the time of so desperately needed help. The government even if it works it has been too slow to reach the people. So, one-window policy is nothing but to have everything in the pockets of the people in the Koirala administration.

Bipinbahadur Karmacharya relief materials:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/14/233590.html>

But the government has been thinking to funnel all the resources through a single window to the victims when millions of windows are necessary to the needy victims of the quakes. The useless pitiless and heartless Finance minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat has been telling the donor agencies to give all the resources to his government to pass on to the victims. Does Dr Mahat believe in the donors trusting him, surely not but he is still talking about it. Donors know how the corrupt government uses the resources intended for the victims.

If Dr Mahat has been sincerely willing to help the victims then he would have told the donors to go and deliver what the quake victims needed without delaying even a single minute. He would have allocated different areas to the different donors for going to the areas for the immediate relief of the quake victims. What he wanted were all donors to put their money in his pocket. Will Dr Mahat distribute the money to the victims once it is in his pocket? Only the most stupid persons or his sycophants would say, yes.

At the meeting with the donors in Kathmandu on May 15, 2015, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance Suman Sharma proudly said, "The government needs a reliable amount of international assistance to manage resources for Reconstruction and Recovery (R&R) for next year's budget and beyond, in absence of early announcement of a comprehensive R&R plan, unplanned sporadic interventions are being announced by individuals and agencies and this should be controlled immediately and one door policy should be adopted," according to the news posted on myrepublica.com. See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/t20/item/20992-one-door-policy-must-for-reconstruction-work-mahat-tells-donors.html#sthash.hxGoDud9.dpuf>

"One door policy should be adopted" is the disaster one could think of; such thing happened during the previous regime. This is the unwise thing to do but this is what one of the top bureaucrats of the Koirala administration has shamelessly said to the donors to do. This man wanted to stop even the individuals and agencies from helping the helpless at the time of the great need. This is the government of Nepal headed by the most inefficient man called Sushil Koirala.

It is no surprise that some politicians have been talking about a national government to manage the national disaster properly. One thing is clear that such a government will be another national debacle. Chairman of the Madheshi People's Rights Forum-democratic Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar said that the nation would have a national government within ten days. Leader of UCPN-Maoist Dr Baburam Bhattarai said that the country needed a new government to tackle the overwhelming damages caused by the quakes. Chairman of CPN-UML has been busy with talking to the leaders of other political parties to form a new government. Mr. Oli has been meeting with Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda twice a day for forming a new government, according to the information posted on the social media by Kapil Shrestha: Human rights activist. Mr. Oli even met with the Indian envoy in Kathmandu seeking the support for his future government. Some NC leaders have been busy with apparently forming a government of all political parties. So, Mr. Koirala needed to take the account of all these things happening under his noses before claiming that his government has done a perfect job of providing the quake victims with what they needed.

News on Oli meeting with the Indian ambassador Ranjit Ray:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/233947.html>

The Legislature has set up National Disaster Management, Monitoring And Guiding Special Committee. It has published a notice in the state-run newspaper 'gorkhapatra' calling for informing it about whether the quake victims have received the relief materials or not. It has been nothing but ridiculing the victims. This legislative committee has the ample information on the status of the quake victims from the media. Every day the TVs, and newspapers online and on print, and FM radios have been telling the disastrous state of the quake victims, and their untold sufferings from the lack of everything needed for a life. What else the legislative committee needed for what purposes? The committee pretended not to know anything about the status of the quake victims from the media.

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/epaper/showimage?img=uploads/epaper/2015-05-15/62e818762f67732c593d0ec68cf81ce8.jpg>

If we take a look at the relief material distribution published on the ratopati.com on May 6, 2015 then the relief materials have been nothing more than a drop in the bucket of the requirement. The government has published a long list of a number of items the State has delivered to the quake victims but the relief materials are nothing compared to the requirements to mitigate the sufferings of the victims.

Information on relief material distribution:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/06/231811.html>

The British Chinook helicopters have been staying in India for about three weeks waiting for the permission from the Koirala administration to fly in for helping to airlift the relief materials for delivering to the sufferers and transporting any injured to the better equipped hospitals for treatment of the quake victims in Nepal but Prime minister Koirala did not approve it obviously giving in to the pressure of the neighbors. "The British government announced on Friday that the aircraft would now head back to the UK, unused," the news on news.sky.com on May 18, 2015 stated. The British government had paid for keeping the Chinooks so long in India from the taxpayers' money. The most incompetent government of Prime Minister Koirala had no guts to let the Chinooks work in Nepal for helping the quake victims, and relieving them from the acute need for survival.

<http://news.sky.com/story/1485914/nepals-pm-ban-on-raf-chinooks-is-not-politics>

Chairman of CPN-UML KP Oli had shown his concern for the quake victims at least in words. He said to the party people at his party office Balkhu on May 14, 2015 that at least two millions tin sheets were needed to build temporary shelters for hundreds of thousands of

the quake victims rendered to homeless. Mr. Oli bashed the Koirala government for not delivering the relief materials to the quake victims expeditiously. He also told his party people that discrimination had been in distributing the relief materials, the news on myrepublica.com stated on May 14, 2015.

See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/politics/item/20942-2-million-corrugated-sheets-needed-promptly-oli.html#sthash.S3du6QFQ.dpuf>

The worst possible decision the government made was to suspend the construction of new houses until mid July 2015. On whose advice the government had made the most stupid decision was not know, yet. What the government thinks could do suspending the construction of houses for the next couple of months. Instead of encouraging the people and assisting them in reconstructing their houses and homes, the government had bound the hands of the people for building their houses.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6669/Limit-buildings-to-two-stories:-Govt/#sthash.yYFU7yvsp.dpuf>

May 18, 2015

#### Earthquake In Nepal–XI: Adverse Impact of Earthquakes On Economy

The state-owned Dairy Development Corporation reported that the milk demand has been reduced considerably in Kathmandu. The vegetable market has been down, too. The poultry producers' association has decreased the price of egg from around Rs 13 to Rs 8 per egg. House owners have lost the revenue from renting out their houses. Either their houses have fallen down or the tenants have left Kathmandu for the safer areas.

Nepal Egg Production Association has reduced the price of eggs to Rs 8 per egg in view of the protein requirement for the quake victims, the news on the ratopati.com stated. The price of eggs had been around Rs 13 per egg. Nepalese have been helping each other. Such cooperation and goodwill among the Nepalese has been the age-old tradition. Nepalese have been considerate of all humans.

Price of egg reduced: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/18/234187.html>

The low price of eggs would increase the consumption of eggs. It would directly help the poultry industry to keep up with the business even in such a national disastrous time. The government relief agencies and philanthropic organizations needed to give preference to the local products for distributing the foods to the quake victims. It would help both the victims and the local industries making the double help.

The state-owned dairy company called Dairy Development Corporation has said that the milk demand in Kathmandu has decreased from 140,000 liters per day to 95,000 liters per day. The company has said that it has been sending the surplus milk to the milk-powder-making plant in Biratnagar at the high cost of transportation to convert the liquid milk into powder, the news on the ratopati.com on May 18, 2015 stated.

Milk demand reduced in Kathmandu says DDC:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/18/234276.html>

Most probably, the milk producers might not be affected so much from the lack of demand for milk but the state-run dairy company would suffer from the heavy loss until the demand for milk bounced back. One thing the company could do is to distribute the surplus milk to the quake victims that have been staying in the temporary sheds elsewhere or sell the milk to the government to distribute it to the quake victims. Thus, the government could save the dairy industry and keep the quake victims healthy with increased inputs of the

nutritional food. The Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund has already 2.5 billion rupees. Prime Minister Koirala needed not to wait for anything to use the fund for saving the lives of the millions of homeless people.

Vegetable farmers in Chitwan have the problem of selling the fresh vegetables, the news on [thehimalayantimes.com](http://thehimalayantimes.com) on May 18, 2015 stated. The farmers have been selling about 40% of their vegetables in Kathmandu, Gorkha, Lamjung, Dhading, and Nuwakot. The devastating quakes have hit all those districts mercilessly causing untold sufferings to the inhabitants. After the disastrous quake on April 25, 2015, the sale of the Chitwan vegetables have suffered drastically.

See <http://thehimalayantimes.com/printNepaliNews.php?id=455199>

It is time for the government relief workers and other social and philanthropic organizations working on helping the quake victims to buy the vegetables from Chitwan and send the vegetables to the quake victims elsewhere. It would save both the vegetable farmers from going to bankrupt and the quake victims from the vitamin deficiency. Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat needed to talk to the donors' community about helping both the quake victims and the vegetable farmers buying the vegetables grown in Chitwan. It would keep our national economy intact even during the national disaster.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has stated that the earthquakes had damaged its property worth of billions of rupees. It has estimated the cost of repairing distribution network, substations equipment and office buildings fallen down during the quakes at Rs 10.68 billion; all the power plants in the quake-hit districts except for the Sunkoshi Hydropower plant in Sindhupalchowk have resumed power generation; the Sunkoshi Hydropower plant has been under the reconstruction after the Jure landslide damaged it last year, the news on [Myrepublica.com](http://myrepublica.com) on May 18, 2015 stated. See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/economy/item/21140-nea-seeks-rs-10-86b-for-repair-of-power-plants-distribution-system.html#sthash.1J4VEcpU.dpuf>

Some hydropower experts think that the Sunkoshi dam built for the hydropower plant needed to be watched to see whether it has been damaged by the quakes or not. If the water level has been depleting fast in the dam area or muddy water is seen flowing after the dam, then the dam might have been broken. Immediate actions needed to be taken to save the dam from the total destruction.

The news on the [ratopati.com](http://www.ratopati.com) on May 18, 2015 stated that most of the star-hotels in Kathmandu withstood the quakes. Only a few hotels needed major repair. Obviously, all the hotel buildings were well built that could stand even such devastating quakes.

Hotels not affected by quakes: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/18/234252.html>

However, the hotel buildings at Nagarkot: the scenic site for the visitors to watch the sunrise, and even to see the mighty Mt Everest through a binocular were totally damaged. Visitors could not stay there overnight. That was a great loss to the hotel entrepreneurs and the staffers working there, and to the State, too. Most of the hotel staffers have suffered from both the loss of their houses and their jobs, too. They became homeless and jobless, too. The State has lost the revenue from the tourism industry.

Ninety percent of visitors planned to visit Nepal has cancelled their bookings, one media report stated. The tourism industry has been hit hard by the quakes. Hundreds of thousands of workers depending on the tourism industry must have lost their means of livelihood. The Nepalese media needed to keep the visitors informed about the real status of the areas visitors usually visited. Most of the trekking routes have not been affected by the quakes.

All star-hotels are intact. All national parks were untouched by the quakes. Only some of the ancient cultural heritages have been fallen down in the Kathmandu Valley.

Most of the houses given for rents have been either came down due to the heavy ground tremors or the tenants have left the houses in Kathmandu for the fear of quakes. People living on the house rents must have been homeless and rent less. They might have no means to live on.

However, the demands for the construction materials and the construction workers would be tremendously high in the coming months and years. The reconstruction of the quake-affected areas would create the huge demands for almost everything contributing to the poultry industry, dairy industry, vegetable farming, and surely to the construction material industries. If the government were to use the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund properly and sincerely, it would immediately help the revival of the industries dwindled by the quakes.

May 19, 2015

#### Earthquake In Nepal–XII: Relief Material Distribution

The overwhelming emotional government could not oversee the 'search and rescue' of the people buried in the masses of debris left by the disastrous quakes. The catastrophic events had left the government in the complete impotent to do anything immediately. So many helicopters, and airplanes with the teams and relief materials flew into Nepal after the devastating quakes on April 25, 2015 that the Kathmandu international airport could not cope with the air traffic; soon the airport had no space to park those helicopters. Apparently, Chinese helicopters with relief materials had to fly back. British helicopters with the relief materials stood by in Chandigarh, India awaiting the approval of flying into Nepal for three weeks before flying back to UK without having a chance to work in Nepal for the relief of the quake victims. Later on, the Nepalese media revealed that the government of Sushil Koirala on the advice of the Nepal Army had been reluctant to accept the British offer in retaliation to the British reluctance to release the Nepalese army colonel Kumar Lama held in the UK for the atrocities committed in Nepal during the Maoists' rebellion.

The unusually disturbing government could not equally manage the immediate settlement of the homeless people in the makeshift shades and tents. Victims managed to procure tents and other items to make temporary shelters at any open spaces available. They had the problem of managing the human defecation, and of the trashes. Soon, the makeshift settlements became chaotic. The presence of the government had been nowhere to be seen.

Distressing victims have the problem of finding their loved ones trapped in debris, and some others have the problem of finding the whereabouts of their loved ones. Millions of Nepalese laborers working in foreign countries spent sleepless nights not knowing what happened to the loved ones in Nepal after the devastating quakes. The telephones companies have generously provide the services of five-minute free calling on any telephone lines to and from abroad.

After a month of the quakes, the government of Sushil Koirala came to the sense of the need for providing something to the quake victims and decided to provide Rs 15,000 to each family of the quake victims. This amount of money would buy two bundles of tin sheets even from the government account. What about other materials required for making a temporary shades to live in for the time they could rebuild their fallen houses, the government obviously did not think about it. Some quake victims came out opposing to

accept such a meager relief amount. Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda demanded the government provide the quake victims with at least Rs 50,000.

The already confused prime minister had to face the regime change. Some leaders such as Dr Baburam Bhattarai had been publicly telling the need for a national government at the time of the national distress. He did not bother to elaborate what the national government meant. Probably, the government of all political parties represented in the legislature. He did not say who should be behind the wheel of the new vehicle. The most ambitious leader of CPN-UML KP Oli saw the good opportunity of being a prime minister. Another equally ambitious leader of NC Sher Bahadur Deuba also felt the opportunity of leading a new so-called national government. However, the vice-president of NC Ramchandra Poudel did not see his chance of being a prime minister. So, he opposed the regime change.

At the same time, Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat has been working to funnel all the donations coming to Nepal for the quake victims to the Prime Minister's Disastrous Relief Fund. The Central Bank of Nepal called Nepal Rastra Bank sent a circular notice to the state-owned and private banks stating all the donations collected by the NGOs, any philanthropic organizations in any names or in individual names must be automatically deposited in the Prime Minister's Disastrous Relief Fund. It had put a tremendous brake on collecting donations in the quake victim's names. None of the donor agencies except for the Asian Development Bank had put any money in the fund. Only Nepalese individuals and agencies have been turning over checks to the prime minister on cameras.

The Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund has already more than Rs 10 billions as of May 30, 2015, according to the State media report. Most of the Nepalese organizations, individuals and non-resident Nepalese have contributed their donations to this fund. One father had turned over the check for Rs 200,000 saved for the wedding of his daughter to the Prime minister Koirala on camera. That was a nice publicity but we did not know where the money would go or to whose pockets.

Apparently, the government had sent a message to the donor agencies through a person posting an <http://directionkathmandu.com/information/what-is-the-pms-disaster-relief-fund-and-what-it-is-not/>. It said that the a nine-member committee coordinated by the Vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal manages the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund; the prime minister has nothing to do with the fund even though the name is derived from the position.

The news on the following two websites: How the Finance Minister pocketed the relief money: <http://merolagani.com/NewsDetail.aspx?newsID=13749>, and Monopoly of the finance minister on distribution of relief money: <http://bikashnews.com/राहत-वितरणमा-अर्थमन्त्री/> stated that Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat had released the money from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to his constituency called Nuwakot to the maximum whereas the districts such as Sindhupalchok, Kathmandu and Dhading that suffered the most from the quakes received considerably less money.

Two Deputy Prime Ministers had exchanged harsh words concerning the distribution of the relief materials. They charged each other of misusing the relief materials provided to the quake victims. DPM Prakashman Singh blamed DPM Bamdev Gautam for distributing the relief materials to the CPN-UML cadres only while DPM Gautam charged DPM Sing of claiming the relief materials sent by the government as his own. We must trust both of them because they spoke truth whenever they argued against each other.

Quake victims have practically looted the relief materials from some of the NC leaders. Apparently, the so generous government of Sushil Koirala had provided the different leaders of his party with the relief materials intended for the quake victims. Those very smart leaders but with very poor mind if not mindless in turn distributed the relief materials to the NC cadres. Real quake victims went into a rage, broke the stores and took out the relief materials for them. I did not know whether the NC leaders had deliberately passed on the relief materials to their cadres or the cadres simply happened to be the quake victims, too.

Most of the political parties have set teams to help the quake victims in building their lives back to normal. Prachanda and his colleague Dr Baburam Bhattarai have been persistently on the media helping the quake victims on camera in different areas. Similarly, NC leader Gagan Thapa had been saying that he would build a few hundred shelters. KP Oli and his colleague rather rival Madhav Nepal rarely showed in the media for assisting the quake victims. Former Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal had completely disappeared from the media. He must be sick.

We did not know whereabouts of the supply minister Sunil Bahadur Thapa and his deputy Giri Bahadur KC at the time when their presence was the most needed. They needed to procure in other words buy or receive relief materials from the donor agencies for providing the quake victims. Similarly, their bosses Pashupati Shumsher Rana and Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani did not show up at the time of the national disaster. However, their rival party leader Kamal Thapa had been showing his presence in the media talking everything without meanings.

The helpless quake victims having nothing from the government so far have helped themselves. Some of them have received a few things from the NGOs and other philanthropic organizations but those were unnecessary exaggerated in the media reports. The quake victims have been helping themselves retrieving any usable construction materials from the debris left by the quakes. They have started off building the house with the mud and the leftover construction materials. They have also started off plowing the land and sowing the seeds for the next crops.

The very sensible government of Sushil Koirala had made probably the most arguable announcement of settling the hill quake victims to the Madhesh areas. The current government would not do it if its past performances were any guide. The government had demonstrated so much of impotency to do anything aftermath of the quakes, people would hardly believe in it except for the so-called messiah of the Madheshi people Dr CK Raut that had warned the coalition government of NC, CPN-UML, RPP, CPN-ML and so on led by the mindless Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of a civil war if the government were to resettle the quake victims in the Madhesh. Probably, Dr CK Raut had thought that the Madhesh was the dowry of his mother that he labeled it as the land of the women of having the traditional profession of prostitution. We did not know whether Dr CK Raut was born of one of these women or of a mother other than them. However, he managed to have some followers.

The Nepal police had been playing a hide-seek game with Dr Raut. The police arrested Dr Raut in the morning only to deliver him to his family in the evening. NC leader Khum Bahadur Khadka that had served a jail term for corruption said that either the government declared Dr Raut insane or take actions against him, one of the Nepalese media stated. The head police said that he would take appropriate actions against Dr Raut that had insulted the women in general even putting his job at the risk. This policeman turned out to be equally unforgiving but doing nothing. Some investigative journalists had claimed that the government had been playing the game with Dr Raut to defame the Madheshi people and leaders. I did not know how the government had found some time to play such a dirty politics when the government had been in a national trauma.

May 30, 2015

## Earthquakes In Nepal: Selling The Relief Supplies And Distributing Substandard Materials

Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat was speaking at the Reporters' Club' in Kathmandu and was saying that the government would adopt a new model of reconstruction in the aftermath of the devastating quakes while his Personal Secretary was diverting the tin sheets sent to Nuwakot for the quake victims. He also said that the quake-wreck government had planned a donors' meeting obviously for begging resources in the names of the quake victims. Those ministers including the prime minister have the beggars' mindset, and they have been hungry for cash no matter in whose names they get. The quake disaster was the most opportune moment for them to collect a huge sum of money and then stash away in the foreign banks.

Speaking at the reporters' Club in Kathmandu on May 30, 2015, Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat said that the government would follow a new strategy of rebuilding the structures tore down by the quakes. He also said that the government would make available Rs 200,000 loan to each family for rebuilding quake-resistant houses following the drawings the government would provide. He also said that the government was holding a donors' meeting on June 25, 2015 to mobilize resources for rebuilding the quake-devastated country, the news on ratopati.com stated on May 30, 2015.

FM reconstruction in a new model:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/30/237074.html>

While Finance Minister Dr Mahat was speaking at the Reporters' Club in Kathmandu and saying that the government would do everything so generously for the quake victims, his personal secretary Ramesh Mahat faced the challenges from the local quake victims in Nuwakot to returning the tin sheets with the label of the Nepal Investment Bank intended for the quake victims back to Kathmandu. The local people stopped the trucks carrying the tin sheets and turning back to Kathmandu on the way. The locals also charged the personal secretary to Finance Minister Dr Mahat with taking the tin sheets back to Kathmandu for selling. The tin sheets worth Rs 4.5 millions

Irregularities in distribution of tin sheets:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/30/236951.html>

FM sending his PA to sell the relief materials:

<http://dainiknepal.com/2015/63843.html>

Of course Personal Secretary Ramesh Mahat denied his intention to selling the tin sheets. He even questioned how he could sell the tin sheets with the label of the Nepal Investment Bank. However, he could not answer why he was taking the tin sheets back to Kathmandu from Nuwakot. Those tin sheets were sent for the roofs of temporary shelters to be made for the quake victims. He even boasted that he had so much of the ancestral property he could not manage them. Here again he missed to explain why he was taking the job of the personal secretary to the finance minister if he were really so rich.

Now the question was whether the money also sent by Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat to the different districts including his constituency Nuwakot had reached those districts or not whether those checks had been bounced back to the pocket of the ministers or not. Surely, Dr Mahat alone would not dare to pocket such a huge amount of money. All the cabinet ministers would have share in it. He had released more than a billion rupees to his constituency Nuwakot alone.

The irony is that any one of the State agencies had not reached Tajigaon: one of the remote villages in the Nuwakot, yet even after 25 days of the first quake, the news on the ratopati.com stated on May 21, 2015. The State officials had reached the area to collect the information on the quake-damaged village but the Finance Minister Dr Mahat had failed in sending anything to that village. An organization called Sampna Village Social Impact located in Sauraha: a tourist town in Chitwan went to the Tajigaon village and distributed some relief supplies to the villagers, the news on the ratopati.com stated on May 21, 2015 <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/21/234893.html>

So, Dr Mahat had neglected even the village of his constituency. Probably, he had done so because the village had not sufficient voters or the voters were not in his favor or the number of voters was considerably small to warrant his attention. If Dr Mahat were to neglect the certain areas of his constituency whether he would indiscriminately distribute the relief supplies or money from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to the victims in other quake-affected areas. That was the most valid question to ask. He had put his integrity at risk not properly managing the relief fund.

The government gave four billion rupees to the Ministry of Home to buy tin sheets for immediately providing the quake victims, the news on myrepublica.com stated on May 21, 2015. What the deputy Prime Minister Bamdev Gautam holding the portfolio of the home Ministry was doing with that money was unknown. Two billion rupees was released from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund following the cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 to provide each family with Rs 15,000 for buying tin sheets for roofs.

- See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/economy/item/21246-govt-releases-rs-4b-to-moha-to-build-temporary-settlements.html#sthash.yo0aFj9S.dpuf>

The quake victims had already rejected Rs 15,000 stating it was too small too late. This cabinet decision on releasing the money from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund once again proved that the nine-member team coordinated by the vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission was to manage the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund; the prime minister has nothing to do with the fund; so misappropriation of the fund was not possible were totally false.

Finance Minister Dr Mahat said at the special committee of the parliament that the lack of correct data on the quake victims had led some family members falsely collecting Rs 5,000 each; the money was supposed to be only for each family. He also said that 400 to 500 officials were sent to collect correct data on the quake victims. The government had held up distributing Rs 15,000 waiting for the correct data on the quake victims, the news on the ratopati.com stated on May 27, 2015.

No accurate date on the sufferers for distributing relief materials:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/27/236296.html>

Obviously, Finance Minister Dr Mahat had not read the news on the raopati.com that former governor Dipendra Bahadur Chhetri found 87 houses-damaged in the Mustang district but his team had carried relief supplies only for 70 following the official data. So, Dr Mahat needed to take into account of the validity of the official data rather than charging the locals with falsely collecting the grant money of Rs 5,000 the government had provided.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/30/237054.html>

The government was concerned very much with the misappropriation of as small as Rs 5,000. That concern was correct very much, too. But the public concern was the misappropriation of billions rupees at the State level. Widespread reports on the irregularities in the purchase of relief supplies had been business as usual for the ministers

and the State officials. The amount of the misappropriated money was alarmingly high every year. To this misappropriated amount, ministers including prime minister were accountable.

The Ministry of Urban Development purchased tarpaulins for Rs 700 million but the 90% of them were low quality some of the tarpaulins were so small they were just large enough to cover motorcycles, the news on the setopati.com stated on May 31, 2015. Everybody could clearly see how the ministry people make money out of the purchases. Why the Commission on Investigation into Abuse of Authority (CIAA) did not do anything? It was an open secret. Irregularities in purchasing tarpaulin: <http://setopati.com/raajneeti/28659/>

The international organization such as World Food Program of the UN, and the national NGO Nepal Red Cross have been involved in distributing not usable relief supplies. The quake victims had complained about the inedible rice distributed by the Nepal Red Cross received from the World Food Program. Some children even got sick after eating the rice meals, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. The leader of the NHRC monitoring team Mohana Ansari found the rice stored at Mahadevsthan Samaj Sewa building in Kavrepalanchowk for the distribution to the quake victims was uneatable. So, the NHRC recommended the government to take legal actions against World Food Program (WFP) and Nepal Red Cross for distributing substandard rice to the quake victims, the news on setoati.net stated on May 27, 2015.

- See more at: <http://setopati.net/society/6787/NHRC-asks-govt-to-take-action-against-WFP,-Nepal-Red-Cross/#sthash.xKQH893o.dpuf>

The Social Welfare Council had purchased rice, tarpaulins and other relief supplies for Rs 29 millions for the quake victims. The monitoring unit of the Department of Commerce found both the rice and tarpaulins were of low qualities and not usable, the news on the ratopati.com stated on May 27, 2015.

Social Welfare Council: low quality relief materials:  
<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/27/236507.html>

Both the sellers and buyers of the relief supplies had been the beneficiaries whereas the quake victims continued to suffer from losing everything to the devastating quakes. Those sellers and buyers of the low quality not usable relief supplies were the culprits in the real meaning of the word, and would have been put to behind bars in the countries that have the rule of law. In Nepal where the ministers including prime minister were involved in worst irregularities in purchases than the reported ones, who could put them behind bars?

The local leader of CPN-UML had held up the distribution of the relief supplies to the quake victims in the remote Salmechaur village in the Kavre district. The Red Cross Society Kavre Branch had sent the relief supplies to the village but those supplies had been held up in the store for four days. The local CPN-UML Shekhar Lama wanted to distribute the relief supplies as he wanted, the news on ratopati.com stated on May 27, 2015.

CPN-UML obstructed the relief distribution:  
<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/27/236465.html>

Local CPN-UML leader Shekhar Lama must be smart enough to put the relief supplies in the hands of his loved ones or of the CPN-UML cadres only or might be the both, leaving the real quake victims high and dry. Apparently, the Red Cross Society was not for that. So, Mr. Lama had simply held up the relief supplies from distribution. Mr. Lama was a fly in the ointment, no doubt about that. He was handling a considerably small quantity of supplies compared to his bosses at the center such as Chairman of CPN-UML KP Oli and his favorite Mahesh Basnet that could hold up billions of rupees worth of supplies.

Not only in the remote areas, political leaders have held up the relief supplies but also in the Kathmandu area, too. The locals of Chunikhel in the Buddhanilkanta area seized the supplies stored in the houses of the local NC leaders. The local people charged the NC local leaders with giving away the relief supplies only to the NC cadres, the news on the nepalsandesh.com stated on May 16, 2015.

Relief materials with NC leaders:

<http://www.nepalsandesh.com/2015/05/16/133845.html>

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and his cabinet ministers were having fun at the cultural heritage site Hanumandhoka in Kathmandu on May 29, 2015 for two hours clearing the debris left by the quakes. Prime Minister Koirala and his ministers wearing the construction-safety helmets and dust masks lined up to shift a few broken bricks from one place to another. The locals said that the ministers had done nothing except for shifting the debris they had already cleared off, it was the waste of time and money rather the ministers needed to think about how to protect the remaining cultural heritage from the soon-coming monsoon, the news on myrepublica.com stated on May 30, 2015.

- See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/politics/item/21774-pm-ministers-clear-quake-debris-at-heritage-sites.html#sthash.Aw1KYCSS.dpuf>

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) in conjunction with Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) and Nepal Mountaineering Association have provided the quake victims with relief supplies in the inaccessible villages in the six most-quake-affected districts such as Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha. The government agencies and other organizations have not reached the remote quake-affected areas, the news posted on the ekantipur.com stated on May 27, 2015.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/27/top-story/wfp-joins-hands-with-taan-nma-to-supply-relief-to-remote-villages/405774.html>

The international organization such as WFP and the national organizations such as TAAN and NMA distributing the relief supplies has been the challenge to the Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat's doctrine of funneling all the relief supplies through the government agencies. Evidently, relief supplies would never reach the inaccessible areas if the only government agencies were to distribute the relief supplies. The government agencies would certainly follow the political parties' directives in distributing the relief supplies.

The special committee of the parliament had instructed the government to provide the quake victims with Rs 50,000 including the grant of Rs 15,000 immediately keeping the balance of Rs 165,000 to be paid later on making Rs 200,000 the government previously committed to provide the victims as a loan. The parliamentary committee had to direct the government to do so following the Finance Minister Dr Mahat firmly sticking to his earlier decision on paying only the grant of Rs 15,000, the news on the stopati.net stated on May 27, 2015.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6800/House-committee-directs-govt-to-provide-50000-to-build-temporary-houses/#sthash.BKO6h5P8.dpuf>

Finance Minister Dr Mahat wanted to keep the State money as his pocket money while keeping the quake victims without roofs and at the mercy of the sun and rains. Would the Nepalese people and the donor agencies believe in such a finance minister properly managing the State treasury for the benefits of the people in general? Certainly not, that was one of the reasons why the donor agencies had been reluctant to deposit any money in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

May 31, 2015

## Earthquakes In Nepal-XIV: Prime Minister Koirala's Messy Commitments Siddhi B Ranjitkar

Every time Prime Minister Sushil Koirala received the checks for any amounts for the quake victims on camera to be deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, he repeated his commitment to punish anybody misusing the money intended for the relief of the quake victims. His government also announced that anybody using the shortage of goods and services in the aftermath of the quakes for the advantage of increasing the prices would be punished. The government would funnel all the donations collected by anybody or organizations through the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to the quake victims. In other words, it is the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's business not of anybody to help the quake victims.

It was fine if the government were to do everything, or able to do so. Like it or not Mr. Prime Minister, quake victims would have been worst off if all compassionate individuals and philanthropic organizations were not in the field to help the quake victims immediately after the quakes, and if they were to wait for the government's green signal for going to act then thousands of victims would have remained without roofs over their heads even temporarily, and thousands might have been dead without medical services and supplies. That was the fact Mr. Prime Minister.

It does not mean that the government has been totally inept. Prime Minister Koirala had been very smart to deny the entry of the British helicopters with relief supplies, and to keep them in Chandigarh, India waiting for about a month before sending them back home. Why the prime minister did not want the British aircrafts with the relief supplies because the British Government did not release the Nepal Army colonel Kumar Lama held in Britain for his callous treatment of rebels during the civil war in Nepal. Ah! Then it was not the prime minister but the army that did not want the British helicopters in Nepal. The Nepal army must be very happy taking a revenge on the British but the suffers had been the quake victims not the callous and incompetent prime minister and the thickheaded Nepal Army officials.

The government also had started off the handout of Rs 15,000 to each family of the quake victims to buy tin sheets to cover the makeshift shelters. With the money provided by the District Disaster Relief Committee, the Dhading quake victims rushed to buy tin sheets in the nearby store only to find the store had no tin sheets. Then they moved on to the next store farther away no tin sheets were available there, too. Thus, they went from one store to another only to find that tin sheets were not available.

<http://myrepublica.com/politics/item/21931-govt-steps-up-cash-handouts-for-temporary-shelter.html#sthash.C5gW7Zax.dpuf>

At the same time, the Hulas Steels Company had shipped drastically less tin sheets to the Dhading district than used to be according to the media reports. The company also increased the price of tin sheets. Probably, Prime Minister Koirala did not have much time to read newspapers not to mention the online news and watch the TV news. He must be very busy with receiving one check after another from the generous donors to be deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund and posing with the donors for photo shots.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/03/business/quake-victims-scramble-for-scarce-zinc-sheets/406055.html>

Minister for Industry Mahesh Basnet of the Koirala government said that the government would set the prices of construction materials such as brick, sand, aggregates and tin sheets. Minister Basnet was certainly not an economist otherwise he would never say so rather he would be busy with increasing the supplies of those materials to control the prices.

Any sensible economist would never say that the government would be successful to control the price of any goods or service. It would rather corrupt the price and supply chain at the cost of the consumers. So, Prime Minister Koirala needed to alert the industry minister to this fact if Mr. Koirala were really for helping the quake victims.

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/3899>

The government apparently knew that the parallel market had been flourishing. So, the government said that any such activity would be strictly brought under control but we have seen how the quake victims had faced the difficulty in buying the tin sheets at the hardware stores even at the higher prices. The company had increased the prices of tin sheets. The government had been deaf to all these realities.

The quake victims in the Sindhupalchok district had been still waiting for the government handout even after more than a month the devastating quakes had led them to homeless. The District Disaster Relief Committee had no idea how to distribute the handout of Rs 15,000 to the quake victims. The district leader of the NC had even complained about the conflict and the contradiction he had been facing with the quake victims. The district had received Rs 200 million for handing out to the quake victims, the news on Myrepublica.com stated on June 3, 2015.

<http://myrepublica.com/society/item/22063-sindhupalchowk-locals-decry-delay-in-distribution-of-cash-relief.html#sthash.LMxUhlxa.dpuf>

The Special Parliamentary Committee had instructed the Koirala administration to include the tenants on the lists of the quake victims making them eligible for the government handouts after the lawmakers found only the homeowners received the relief supplies in the field. The parliament had set up a Special National Committee for Disaster Management, Monitoring and Direction. This committee in turn set up various sub-committees to monitor how the administration had been providing the relief supplies to the quake victims. The lawmakers on these sub-committees made field visits, their report on the field visit had been the ground for the parliament to instruct the government, the news on myrepublica.com stated on June 4, 2015.

See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/politics/item/22067-parliamentary-panel-directs-govt-to-provide-relief-to-tenants.html#sthash.zSDFR2VJ.dpuf>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) went one step farther for urging the government to manage relief supplies to the quake victims coordinating all the State agencies before the onset of the monsoon. It was the clear indication that the government had been unable to manage the relief supplies. How could the government coordinate all NGOs and INGOs if the State agencies were not able to coordinate among themselves?

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/03/top-story/nhrc-urges-govt-to-manage-shelter-for-quake-survivors-before-monsoon/406079.html>

Another truth the prime minister needed to take into account was that the government alone would not be able to do everything to rehabilitate the quake-destroyed cultural heritage, buildings and other public enterprises. The government needed to unbind the hands of the public to work freely and comfortably without the shackles of the undue government control. The government needed to ease the people's misery of doing their businesses properly, honestly, and rightly following the laws.

That was not all. Prime Minister Koirala did not give a fig for the scandalous news about the attempt of the personal secretary of Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat to divert the tin sheets intended for the quake victims in Nuwakot back to Katmandu so widely reported in the Nepalese media. O! It was his dear finance minister doing it probably not for himself but for the party. It would be the matter of Rs 4.5 millions if the attempt were successful. The

personal secretary called Ramesh Mahat had to lose his political reputation and it cost him even his job. He would not go hungry because he had sufficient ancestral property to live on.

The next thing the prime minister announced was that all the money collected by any individuals or organizations for the quake victims would be automatically deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. The prime minister was saying it was not the business of anybody but of his own to collect the money for the quake victims. The prime minister also announced that no individual or organization would do anything for the relief of the quake victims without the approval of the government. It was nice to have everything in the pocket for the prime minister.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/01/top-story/relief--reconstruction-only-through-govt-channel/405983.html>

Everybody was stunned with such an announcement of the government of the country hard hit by the tremendous quakes that tore down thousands of houses in a matter of a minute. No foreign donors dropped even a dime into the piggy bank of the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for the obvious reason: the money would not reach the intended people.

The recent news on the Nepalese media has it that Prime Minister Koirala could not keep his head up under the tremendous pressure of the foreign donors. He had given in to the pressure, and he had to forget about the one-door policy of channeling all the resources collected for the quake victims through the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Mr. Koirala bowed down to the pressure and let the Jesuits use the money they had collected for the quake victims. The only condition the prime minister could set was the Jesuits would first inform the concerned Disaster Management Committee and then submit a report after the completion of its work, the news on ekantipur.com on June 4, 2015 stated.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/04/top-story/pmo-allows-jesuits-to-spend-relief-money-on-its-own/406127.html>

On June 1, 2015, the Koirala government had issued seventeen-point directives to the NGOs and INGOs that they have to follow the norms and standards set by the line ministries for the specific geographical areas on a par with the international humanitarian aid. The NGOs and INGOs have to sign agreements with the government for implementing the programs or projects. They have to show detailed program or project costs, and then they have to start off the programs or projects within a week of signing off such deals. Breach of any conditions would mean automatic termination of the deals and the government would seize the project assets. Any activity of the NGOs and INGOs causing the threat to the national integrity, sovereignty, national security or religious, ethnic and social harmony would be the violation of the deals.

<http://myrepublica.com/economy/item/21934-govt-okays-directives-to-streamline-ngo-ingo-aid.html#sthash.f8PYQJIu.dpuf>

Everybody knew how difficult it was to work with the State employees. Moving a file of correspondence from one step to another took time. Bureaucrats at each step sought payoffs. To get programs or projects approved from the State bureaucracy meant to enrich the State employees and to delay the program or project implementation. Clearly, the Koirala administration was to enrich the State employees not to expedite the implementation of programs and projects for the rehabilitation of the quake-damaged country.

Individuals, various organizations and naturally political leaders with vested interest have been calling the Koirala government the most incompetent one; it has not been able to tackle the massive relief measures to be taken. This was the most appropriate time for the

power hungry leaders to act. Naturally, Chairman of CPN-UML KP Oli waiting for such an opportune moment had been active to turn the tables on the prime minister.

Chairman Oli had been busy with meeting the chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda and his colleague Dr Baburam Bhattarai to sound out the possibility of their support for his ascent to the throne of the prime minister of Nepal. If Mr. Oli were to be successful it would be the great advantage to the NC leaders. First, they did not need to eliminate the most unworthy leader from the position of the prime minister then from the position of the president of the party, too. Second, all ills of the Koirala government and his party the public have in their minds would be shifted to the shoulder of Mr. Oli.

The tremendous negative impact of Mr. Oli being the next prime minister would be on the UCPN-Maoist and the CPN-UML. They would be blamed for all the misadventures of Mr. Oli. The Madheshi leaders would never support Mr. Oli for his ascent to the position of the prime minister. They had labeled Mr. Oli as the man needed to be at an asylum rather than at the office of prime minister.

Prime Minister Koirala would be better off not to make many commitments but to keep the commitments he had made. He also needed to ask the donor agencies not more than what actually needed. The government needed to present the correct facts and figures to the donor agencies at the meeting to be held on June 25, 2015.

Prime Minister should state that only 10% building were destroyed in Kathmandu, about 50% in Lalitpur, and almost one hundred percent in Bhaktapur, Sakhu and other villages. Except a few hotels, all hotels were serviceable in Kathmandu and Pokhara; the trekking paths were all services, too except one. Visitors could come and enjoy the unique beauty of Nepal and its cultural heritages.

Certainly hundreds of billions of rupees worth of property were destroyed. Several times more than that amount would be required for reconstruction but the Nepalese in general could contribute most of those sources required in the form of labor, and other resources available in the country. Prime Minister Koirala needed to explain it to the donors at the donors' meeting called on June 25, 2015.

June 5, 2015

Earthquakes In Nepal-XV: Print Money For Quake Victims  
Siddhi B Ranjitkar

It has been already one and a half months since the first major quake hit the central Nepal and shook the south Asia for a minute or so causing massive damages to the central Nepal and minor to other areas. Millions of Nepalese became homeless within a minute. They lost everything to the quake. People all over the world and the philanthropic organizations descended on Nepal to help the quake victims. The quick responses of the international organizations, governments and individuals to the disaster saved thousands of lives. It was a great opportunity for Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to demonstrate how dashing he was but he did not take it. Similarly, his Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat had a good opportunity of showing how generous he was but he too became so stingy. They could have helped the quake victims even printing money.

Immediately after the devastating quake hit Nepal on April 25, 2015, all charity organizations and individuals started off collecting donations from the generous people. Millions probably hundreds of millions of dollars were collected but the rusty mind of Dr Mahat forced Koirala to declare that all money collected should pass through the funnel

called the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Dr Mahat called it a one-door policy. He declared that it was for avoiding the corruption. He pretended that nobody knew how the corruption menace had been plaguing in the Koirala-Mahat administration. The Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund got punished for non-visionary statement of the Koirala government that came from the greedy mind of the finance minister. None of the foreign donations collected for the quake victims was funneled through the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund so far. Thereafter, most of the charity organizations and individuals immediately stopped talking about collecting donations for the quake victims in Nepal.

Previously, Prime Minister Koirala and his government had been for providing the quake victims with some compensation for the loss of lives and homes. Recently, Dr Mahat categorically rejected in public the government providing the quake victims with a penny as compensation. He knew that he did not need to pay from his pockets; he needed not provide the compensations even from the State treasury but he was not even for providing the quake victims with the donated money from the Prime minister's Disaster Relief Fund that the Nepalese people and organizations had so generously deposited their hard earned money for the relief of the unfortunate fellow citizens: quake victims.

Money was not the problem Finance Minister Dr Mahat told in public. He was right. Even with the national donations, the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund had been filled up to more than five billion Nepalese rupees. It was a large sum of money for Nepalese but the mean government and its finance minister did not want to distribute it in the amount the quake victims needed but to make sure that no fake victims would receive whatever the small amount the government had been delivering.

Finance Minister wanted to make sure that no fake quake victims would receive whatever the government was distributing to the quake victims. It was good that Dr Mahat was so concerned with the unscrupulous people getting relief money from the government. But he was not stopping even his beloved personal secretary Ramesh Mahat from returning the tin sheets sent to Nuwakot for sale in Kathmandu. It was understandable that whatever money his personal secretary would make from selling the tin sheets intended for the quake victims would be useful for him to spend on the next elections. That was no doubt about that. Every minister followed this very effective strategy of making easy money.

Any prudent minister would not wait for sorting out the fake victims for delivering the relief materials to the quake victims because while sorting out the crooks the real victims would suffer more than anybody would do. So, such a practical-oriented minister would go on providing the relief materials ignoring the few fake victims to bring the off-the-track lives of the victims to the regular track. The government was not distributing the State revenue but the Nepalese donors' money from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund; surely, the donated money was not supposed to be misused, too.

Money was not the problem again. The government could print as much as it needed to make sure that every quake victims had enough to build his/her life after the destructive quakes had taken away whatever s/he had made in her/his life.

Finance Minister knew it even the printed-paper money could help the victims to build their lives and to boost the national economy. But the finance minister did not want to do so because he had the mentality of the past Rana rulers that believed if the people were not kept poor, illiterate and destitute they could not rule over them, as the better off people would immediately seek their basic human rights. Dr Mahat surely could not stop Nepalese from being educated, he could not make them destitute but he could prevent the quake victims getting something to live on.

If Prime Minister Koirala were to be a wise politician it was a great chance for him to show how generous he was and how smart he was to help the quake victims but his thick head did not permit him to think positively and assist the victims in recouping their lost assets. He wasted the opportunity. He lost the opportunity of being an exceptionally high caliber politician. But he let himself caught in the political controversy of not being able to handle the quake victims. Politicians went on advocating for a so-called national government to cope with the quake disaster the nation had been facing. Instead of becoming an outstanding prime minister, Sushil Koirala became a good-for-nothing prime minister in the eyes of the common folks.

All political parties had been very generous to send their political cadres to rebuild the lives of the quake victims. Most of them built the temporary shelters on camera so that the world could see the politicians had been concerned with the destitute people. It was really an appreciable job they did but they failed to reach the quake victims where cameras could not reach. Naturally, those quake victims had to suffer for more than a month before any charitable organizations or individuals could reach them.

During this time, Prime Minister Koirala continued to receive the generous donations from the Nepalese donors on camera. Some generous people had donated even the money saved for the wedding of their daughters. They gave the check to the prime minister to deposit it in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund and deliver it to the victims smartly.

Each time he collected the donations, Prime Minister Koirala assured the donors of not wasting the donations, and he even told them repeatedly that he would punish anybody misusing the donations. But Mr. Koirala did not realize that he himself was misusing the donations not distributing the donated money, as the donors had wanted not to mention taking actions against the personal secretary to the finance minister that had almost sold the tin sheets sent to the quake victims in Nuwakot. The prime minister had been keeping only one door opened as his finance minister wanted rather than opening the floodgates of many doors to reach the quake victims. Everybody knew that a single opening would not let flow the required amount of money to the needy people. But Mr. Koirala and his penny-pinching finance minister did not want to let pass the donors' money from their control. Surely, one door was easier to close than many.

The Nepalese newspapers online and in print had published the government released billions of rupees for the delivery to the quake victims. The government also reported that the local administration had been facing the problems of delivering the money. Some victims received the Rs 15,000 for the temporary shelters others had hardly received anything. The local political cadres and the vocal people had a better chance of receiving and re-receiving such money distributed. Such small irregularities in distribution even could be tolerated if the relief money were to reach all the quake victims.

Money had been everything for the corruption-menaced ministers. Once the money had been in their control it was very hard to get out of them. That must be one of the reasons why the foreign donors did not drop a single penny in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Ministers including the prime minister did not feel a shame of not having the confidence of the Nepalese in the ministers properly using the donations. Not only the Nepalese people but also the entire international community had lost faith in the Koirala government and his ministers. Who cares, they are corrupt and shameless. If those ministers including the prime minister had an iota of shame they would have quit en masse and let other sincere people run the administration.

Rather the finance minister was holding the donors' meeting on June 25, 2015 to beg the donations to the tune of Rs 660 billions (\$6.6 billions) in the names of the quake victims for

reconstruction. It was not a big money for the donor community provided the Nepalese government would spend it judiciously on rehabilitation of the quake victims. Foreign donors knew that the government had not effectively and rationally used the Nepalese money. The donor community knew that the quake victims had been suffering not only from the loss of everything they had made in their lives but also from not having anything even from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. The donor community had adopted one strategy or another to reach the quake victims.

A recent online newspaper attempted to portray that the foreign governments, international organizations and so on also had over spent on delivering the relief materials to the quake victims stating a huge amount of money spent on hiring helicopters. But the reporter did not bother to understand or did not like to understand that how to reach the quake victims in the areas where the roads had not reached or the landslides triggered by the quakes had blocked the roads. Certainly, a helicopter ride was an expensive business but when one had no option but to use helicopters. Over spending might be when everybody was in a hurry to pull the quake victims out of the misery. Everybody willing to help the quake victims had to use whatever available means to reach the victims.

People could see the pictures posted on the facebook and elsewhere on the Internet how the quake victims had started off building shelters and houses from whatever debris the quakes had left and whatever the materials locally available. They did not wait for the corruption-menaced Koirala government. People also could have the information from the facebook on how local politicians also had been active to keep the relief materials in their depots. If they were to deliver those relief materials they did only to their cadres and the voters they knew that they voted for those politicians and their parties.

Political parties had been the corruption trees that had many branches of corrupt politicians and others, too. The prime minister, ministers, and all the political appointees had been the different branches of the corruption tree. Even the diplomats, and judges have been the parts of such a tree if we were to believe the Nepalese media. If anybody were to benefit from the government then s/he had to be the part of the branche of the corruption tree. S/he could enjoy any sort of benefits and luxury of life in this world becoming the part of the corruption tree. Any sincere person or anybody out of the sphere of such a tree had to go for a foreign job to earn livelihood. Politicians had made the country the haven of the corruption-infected people, and the hell for the sincere and regular people. Thanks to the ministers and the prime minister and other political leaders, Nepal has been in the 126<sup>th</sup> in the corruption index out of 176 of the Transparency International's corruption perception index in 2014. It was a 10-point climb in comparison with 116 in the previous year.

June 14, 2015

#### Earthquakes In Nepal-XVI: Irregularities In Delivery Of Relief Supplies And Money Siddhi B Ranjitkar

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had deliberately or unknowingly lost one great strategic advantage the merciless quake that hit Nepal on April 25, 2015 and the aftershocks continued even today gave him. He could have played a dominant role in delivering the supplies and money to the quake victims but he did not. He could have stamp out the corruption but he again did not. His administration had been facing one of the greatest corruption cases in the aftermath of the quakes particularly in the purchase and distribution of tents.

The quake of April 25, 2015 destroyed hundreds of thousands of houses and led millions of Nepalese homeless but it gave Mr. Koirala the unprecedented opportunity of leading the

people to the new lives with vigor. If Mr. Koirala had shown a little bit of sincerity in running the administration following the rule of law and cutting off the corruption wherever he found and whichever the media reported he would have billions of not rupees but of dollars in his disaster relief fund. But the corruption had been the regular business for the Koirala administration. He pretended that he did not know his finance minister involved in the personal secretary of the finance minister sending the tin sheets back from Nuwakot to Kathmandu but the local people stopped it.

Mr. Koirala set aside the rule of law to follow the advices of his kitchen cabinet. How could we say that Mr. Koirala had followed the rule of law if he were not to do anything with the personal secretary to the finance minister for diverting the tin sheets reached Nuwakot for the quake victims? The chief district officer had also been the opinion of the personal secretary in question had almost succeeded in taking the tin sheets to Kathmandu.

Mr. Koirala was brave enough to be the member on the team of hijacking a plane that carried a load of banknotes of Nepal Bank for Biratnagar to the nearby-unused airport in India in 1960s to make available funding for his political party to fight against the despot Mahendra. Today, where had his courage gone when the country needed it the most? He could have run the administration single handily for rescuing and saving the quake victims. He could have fired the ministers that did not follow his order to assist the quake victims in building the new lives. Rather he made his dismal performances in coping with the quakes the talking subject in the media. He faced the outburst of anger of the people when he visited the historical site destroyed by the quake at Basantapur in Kathmandu after six days of the first quake. People did not want him. He was jeered.

The Nepalese media had come up with the drastic irregularities in the tent purchase and distribution. Based on the report prepared by the National Vigilant Center, the parliamentary committee on public accounts served a subpoena to the Urban Development Minister and the secretary to the ministry to question about it. Everybody knew the responsible minister was of the prime minister's party but it was not the excuse for the minister to misappropriate the billions of rupees Nepalese had so generously donated or the taxpayers had paid. Certainly, the minister must have set aside some money for funding the prime minister's party but again it was not the excuse for the prime minister not to fire such a minister. Prime Minister Koirala not only should fire the minister for but also put him behind bars. But Mr. Koirala was so generous to the ingeniously shams that he simply brushed off such a heinous crime of misusing the people's money or simply he pretended that nothing had happened. As a result, irregularities in delivery of tents to the quake victims became the business as usual.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/06/17/241186.html>

<http://setopati.com/raajneeti/29672/>

For the trickery of the Koirala government, the Nepalese folks in general and the quake victims in particular had been suffering. The quake victims had not received what the government had said to provide them. The government had said that millions of tents had been imported but some quake victims had to receive the tents, yet. The government also said that billions of rupees had been released from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, and from the state treasury, too. But the quake victims had hardly received anything except for the Rs 15,000: ad hoc provision made for buying tin sheets. The quake victims in the interior areas had not received even the Rs 15,000, yet.

The news on the setopati.com stated that various agencies had purchased 3.37 million tents at the price of Rs 1.77 billions according to the records of the custom department under the ministry of finance. The government had exempted the custom duty on those tents imported for the quake victims. Those tents were sufficient for distributing five tents to each

quake-victim family. Some of the victims in the quake-affected districts had not received tents, yet not to mention five tents each quake-victim family receiving.

<http://setopati.com/samaj/29615/>

The news on the thehimalayantimes.com stated that the government had distributed less than 18.50 percent of the money released for distributing to the quake victims.

Released fund details:

- Released by PM Relief Fund: Rs 12 billion
- Released by Home Ministry: Rs 8.73 billion
- Send to the 60 districts: Rs 3.53 billion

Delivery details

- Construction of temporary shelters: Rs 2.52 billion
- Relief amount given to the families of quake-dead: Rs 604 million
- Additional relief for quake-damaged houses: Rs 372 million.

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/latest/less-than-48pc-relief-rescue-fund-spent/>

Where has gone the rest of the money? Following the media report, it made clear that the government had distribute Rs 3.496 billion out of the total money released was Rs 24.26 billion. Mr. Koirala as the prime minister needed to answer but why he should care about it. He had done the job of receiving the donations on camera, and released the billions of rupees in the name of the quake victims. He was not concerned with where the money has gone. That was the Koirala administration.

Then, why should the foreign donors donate even a dime to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund if the money were to go to the political party of the prime minister or parties of his coalition partners? So, it was not a surprise that even a dime did not go into the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for the relief of the quake victims. For any sincere prime minister it was a great humiliation not to have a single dime in his fund from the foreign donors. S/he would have immediately quit the office for the failure of not being able to secure even a single dollar for the quake victims. But for Mr. Koirala it was a business as usual.

The finance minister in cooperation with the foreign minister of the Koirala administration was holding a donors' meeting on June 25, 2015 to mobilize a huge amount in dollars for rehabilitation of the quake-damaged lives of Nepalese. I did not know how much the donors would be convinced of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the Koirala government and whether they would voluntarily invest in rehabilitating the damaged or destroyed drinking water schemes, hospitals, schools, state buildings, roads, historically and culturally important temples if they had to do through the Koirala administration. The government had been not only smart in misusing the State revenue but also very confident in portraying the damages and requirements a number of times more than the real ones in the past.

The donors would be ready to provide the quake victims with the necessary assistance but they might ask the government to do everything on their own in other words the donors themselves would like to directly reach the quake victims. They might like to rehabilitate the drinking water systems, hospitals, schools, temples and even private houses for the quake-caused homeless people. But the finance minister of the Koirala government was for the one-door policy means everything to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, and then the highly unaccountable ministers and their personal secretaries and official secretaries to the ministries would act on it. This would not surely be to the taste of the donors. The donor community did not want to waste their taxpayers' money.

The Koirala administration had been deliberately or otherwise holding on the permission of rebuilding the houses collapsed, damaged and destroyed during the quakes. The administration had been reluctant to approve the building permits to the people to rebuild the houses even fallen during the quakes. The construction-materials producers, contractors and builders' associations had already complained about the government not permitting the people building houses on their sites they had their houses before the quakes. The government not permitting the quake victims to reconstruct their houses forced them to stay on the temporary shades without the basic amenities of drinking water, cooking places, and defecating sites. This was the Koirala-administration-made disaster. Not permitting rebuilding of houses, the Koirala government had been holding hands of the constructors keeping the millions of labor idle.

The quake had damaged the national economy but the Koirala government had damaged it even more not allowing the post-quake construction. The country could have a new face if the government were not to bind the hands of the people to rebuild their lives after the quakes. Now, the quake victims losing their lifetime earnings and becoming homeless have to stay on in the temporary shelters and wait for the government to give the approval of constructing new houses.

How long the Nepalese would need to wait for the government to give the approval of constructing new houses had not been made clear either. Every person having a bit of knowledge of economy knew that the Nepalese had been losing millions of rupees worth of the economic activities daily due to the government not taking immediate actions on lifting the embargo on building new houses even after almost two months of the first heavily devastating quake hit Nepal.

Prime Minister Koirala had been courageous and smart enough to embargo the building of new houses. On whose advice, the prime minister had been preventing the people to build their lives. Did Koirala believe that binding the hands of people would benefit him? Mr. Koirala must not forget that millions of Nepalese living in temporary shades must be cursing him for not allowing them to build their houses not to mention for not giving resources required for building their lives anew. In such negative actions of not permitting the people work hard on rebuilding their lives, Mr. Koirala had surely sinned.

June 18, 2015

Earthquakes In Nepal-XVII: Cap-In-Hand Meeting  
Siddhi B Ranjitkar

The Government of Nepal was going cap in hand begging for funding for the reconstruction in the aftermath of the heavy quakes that hit Nepal on April 25, 2015. The government had invited a number of countries to participate in the hat-in-hand meeting to be held on June 25, 2015. The government was going to use the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) as a tool to extract money from the donors. The donors had been reluctant to turn over any cash or checks to the government of Nepal even after the distressful quakes. They knew how the government would spend the money. So, the donors would commit to help the Nepalese but would try to bypass the government as much as possible.

The National Planning Commission had prepared the PDNA. The total loss and damages caused by the quakes was estimated at \$ 7,065 billions in the monetary values stated in the PDNA. The loss and damages done to the private sector was \$ 5.404 billions and to the public sector was \$ 1.661, and the loss in the personal incomes was \$ 171 millions.

The PDNA stated, "The total recovery needs of NPR 669 billion or US\$ 6.7 billion take into account the cost of reconstruction with better specifications, equipment, improved governance and risk reduction. While calculating the recovery needs, it does not consider the replacement value, particularly with respect to the housing sector. It specifies a core house with a minimum area as the recovery need, and estimates the total needs on the basis of the cost of construction per square feet." It also stated that the estimated GDP (gross domestic product) growth reduced to 3.0% from 4.6% due to the quakes.

The government had put a great emphasis on mobilizing the resources for rebuilding the quake-destroyed-and-damaged infrastructures, buildings, private houses, and temples. So, the government invited more than 40 nations and organizations, and sent special invitations to China and India for attending the donors' meeting on June 25, 2015. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had made a special telephone call to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealing him to attend the donor's meeting. Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat extended a special invitation to Prime Minister Modi while the finance minister was in India. Prime Minister Modi sent his foreign minister Sushma Swaraj. China also sent its foreign minister to attend the donors' meeting.

China and India had the strategic interest in Nepal but once they were closer to each other the importance of Nepal as a strategic partner diminished. China and India had even signed off the agreement on opening trade route via Lipulek bypassing Nepal. The Nepalese intellectuals in particular and common folks in general had been demanding to scrap the agreement China and India reached on Lipulek. Probably, China and India would not compete for their respective influence on Nepal, as the strategic importance of Nepal had been considerably less than used to be when China and India were at odds.

India had stationed its army at Lipulek in the aftermath of the Chinese invasion of India in 1962. The concerned State agency representative had informed the then absolute King Mahendra about the occupation of Lipulek by the Indian army. The king told the representative to keep quiet. Now, Home Minister Bamdev Gautam said the same thing to the representatives of the civil society that went to submit the memo to him on the agreement China and India had reached on Lipulek ignoring the area belonged to Nepal once China had vehemently endorsed.

Donors had been always empathetic to the Nepalese that the perpetual quality of being very friendly, happy, courteous and generous to everybody even at the time of the national disaster such as the quakes of April 25, 2015. So, the international search-and-rescue teams came in such a large number that the quake-death toll had been at the minimum possible. Most of the quake-injured had the opportunity of living normally again thanks to the quick response of the international search-and-rescue teams to the devastating quakes.

The international community wanted to help such Nepalese folks but the government was not representative of the people in the sense of being sincere to the people. Since the rule of Prithvi Narayan Shah, none of the rulers had been the representative nature of the Nepalese people. Most of the rulers had the criminal background including the current Prime Minister Sushil Koirala involved in hijacking a plane from Nepal to India ransacking the plane for the banknotes it had carried for the Nepal Bank in 1960s.

Donors had been concerned with the money how the government of Nepal would spend. They knew that the political cadres fight for getting the construction contracts awarded by the government agencies for their respective contractors. None could trust such contractors would perform the contract jobs correctly following the contract agreements. Consequently, huge resources had been wasted both by overstating the contract works and under doing

the quality of the contract jobs. Nepalese had lost the opportunity of being better off despite the so much pouring of the foreign assistance to such a small country.

Probably, the international community would commit some assistance to the government of Nepal for being polite but not with whole-heartedly. Even such assistance would be sufficient for rehabilitation of the quake victims provided the government would sincerely and properly use such assistance. The misery to Nepalese had been that the law-enforcement officials from the prime minister, ministers and down to the secretaries to the ministries had been the law-breakers to serve their political, personal, and family gains.

If the immediate past performances of the current government was any guide then we could not anticipate that the ministers and secretaries to the ministries would live up to our expectation of their sincerity. For example, while answering to the questions about irregularities in purchasing and distributing tents and tarpaulins to the quake victims, the secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development bluntly told the members of the parliamentary committee on public accounts that the lawmakers had looted the tents causing the failure of keeping the exact records of the number of tents distributed. Personal secretary to the finance minister had attempted to bring back the tin sheets sent to Nuwakot for the quake victims. Probably, the international community would be hesitant to trust such ministers and secretaries.

Would the international community have confidence in Prime Minister Sushil Koirala that the prime minister would correct the irregularities in managing the relief supplies for rebuilding the quake-damaged economy? Surely, the international community would not be so enthusiastic to trust the prime minister either. They had seen that the prime minister had repeatedly committed to punish the people involved in misusing the relief supplies provided to the quake victims. His commitments had remained in the words not in deeds. So, the personal secretary to the finance minister, and the secretary to the ministry of urban development and the concerned ministers had committed the irregularities with impunity so far.

Nepal had no problem of money, Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat had proudly said recently in public but understandably he failed to say that Nepal had lacked the sincere secretaries and ministers to effectively implement the development projects and complete them within time and the cost. Time overrun and cost overrun had been regular practices in the implementation of the state-run development projects. Where the money went everybody knew it went to the pockets of the ministers, secretaries, political leaders and cadres otherwise how could these Nepalese political leaders spend billions of rupees on maintaining their cadres?

Nepal had been flushed with the funds. Remittances had been increased after the quakes hit Nepal. Nepalese working elsewhere in the world had increased the money sending to Nepal almost by 20% after the quakes, the Nepalese media stated. The World Bank had committed to a half billion dollar for Nepal to help in building the quake-hit economy subject to the approval of its board of director. The rich non-resident Nepalese working in all the contents of the world also had committed to build number of houses for the quake victims but the government had invited none of those millionaire and billionaire non-resident Nepalese to the so-called donors' meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had committed one billion dollars as a soft loan to Nepal when he first visited Nepal in 2014. The government of Nepal could draw such a loan for rebuilding the Nepalese economy. But the government was primarily focused on the rich countries to extract a few billion dollars gratis. Everybody could guess the intention of the politicians and top-level bureaucrats running the Nepalese administration.

I hope the donors' meeting would be one of the successes of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and his Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat and Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey. The finance ministry would take the credit for any success of the meeting. The donors needed to trust the government for its PDNA, and for sincerely using the donors' money for the benefits of the needy Nepalese not absolutely using for the political gains. However, the chance of happening such things in Nepal had been unlikely for some time to come. Ministers, politicians and high-level bureaucrats had successfully earned the merits of being shady.

June 24, 2015

Earthquakes In Nepal-XVIII: Donors' Conference On Reconstruction Mobilization  
Siddhi B Ranjitkar

Speaking to the reporters after the donors' conference held in Kathmandu on June 25, 2015, Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat boasted that the conference was a grand success despite the international community committed only \$4bn against the request for \$6.7bn for the reconstruction of the damaged-and-destroyed structures left by the massive quakes and aftershocks. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala repeated his commitment to punish the persons involved in misusing the resources intended for the reconstruction. Representatives of more than 50 countries and multi-lateral agencies listening to the prime minister, the finance minister and the foreign minister must be wondering what would happen to the money if they were to drop a few millions in the piggy bank set up by the government of Nepal in a hurry ostensibly for the reconstruction of the quakes-damaged-and-destroyed structures declaring the search and rescue operation done so fast, and ending a state of emergency even though the quake victims in the remote areas had not been reached either by the government or by the NGOs and INGOs, yet. The government of Nepal (GON) complained that the international community had lacked the transparency of how they used their resources for the quake victims while ignoring the transparent irregularities in the purchase and distribution of tarpaulins done by the ministry of urban development. The international community and other Nepalese lucky to attend the donors' conference also wondered why the representatives of the quake victims were conspicuously absent in the conference.

My guess I made in my immediate previous writing on the quakes that the government would over estimate the resources required for reconstructions proved to be true following the ecstasy of the finance ministry over \$4bn the donors committed to provide despite the request for \$6.7bn. Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat labeled it 'a grand success' and even went on saying that he got more than what his colleagues and he had anticipated. Stating more than what actually needed, probably, the ministers and the National Planning Commission believed that the international community would drop more dollars in the piggy bank but failed to understand that the international community was smart to have the experiences in dealing with the Nepalese administration that had changed little during the last 50 years despite the political change from the despotic rule to the democratic and ultimately to the republican system.

The international community had advised the government of Nepal not to be in a hurry to the reconstruction while many quake victims were unattended, yet. But the government declared that it had reached every district hit by the quakes and provided the victims with the relief supplies, and the rescue of the victims had been done. The international community knew that the remote areas had been neglected, and the victims had been left on their own without the state support for them to rebuild their lives lost to the quakes. The chief district officer of the Chitwan district said that the quakes had heavily hit the northern nine village development areas of the Chitwan district but the relief supplies had not

reached there, yet, the news posted on ratopati.com revealed it on June 26, 2015. The association of INGOs in Nepal had requested the government to extend the state of emergency for one month more making a three-month emergency so that they could bring in the relief supplies stuck at the custom points. But the responsible government official said that they could bring in the relief supplies without paying custom and taxes on them, and dump them in the state-central warehouse for distribution by the government. How could the international community believe the GON officials in doing a good job when the parliamentary committee on public accounts had been so furious with the minister for the urban development and secretary to this ministry at the gross irregularities in purchasing and distributing tarpaulins and tents to the quake victims, and when the personal secretary to the finance minister attempted to divert the tents taken to the Nuwakot for distribution to the quake victims, and those irresponsible officials committing such irregularities were still free with impunity.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33249184>

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/06/26/243338.html>

While listening to the government speakers at the conference, probably the representatives of various countries and the multi-later agencies had been wondering why the representatives of the quake victims had been missing in the conference, and why the representative of the ministry of urban development had no words to say at the conference. Only the Vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission had been given a chance to speak at the conference. The ethnic Nepalese incidentally happened to be the majority of the quake victims bitterly complained that the government had disregard them to represent at the conference [1]. The question was how could this government be representatives of the people when they ignored the people in whose name the government was begging for such a large sum.

The Koirala government had the mindset of the beggar, some political leaders and the cadres of the party called 'Bibeksheel Nepali' said. The cadres of the 'Bibeksheel Nepali' had protested against the donor's conference demanding not donation but investment but the government sent the police to take them in custody rather than listening to them seriously. Some political leaders particularly of the UCPN-Maoist had written in the Nepalese digital media that the government not having a plan on reconstruction to hold a donors' meeting was the demonstration of the mindset of a beggar. One of the Nepalese intellectuals even questioned how Nepal could be a poor country when its government could not spend fully the annual budget on development. In fact, hundreds of Nepalese youths working elsewhere in the world had been remitting billions of dollars to Nepal annually. The question was why the government could not properly utilize those resources and jumped in begging the international community for the reconstruction of the quake-damaged structures. Naturally, some of the western reporters almost all the time at their opening statements snubbed Nepal as an impoverished country demonstrating their ignorance of the real economic, cultural and generous traits of the common Nepalese.

[-http://setopati.net/politics/7290/23-Bibeksheel-Nepali-activists-arrested/](http://setopati.net/politics/7290/23-Bibeksheel-Nepali-activists-arrested/)

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/06/24/242862.html>

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/06/25/243097.html>

Nepalese had never been of the poor mentality as the government always had been. Yes, the statistics of the government demonstrated that the annual incomes of the Nepalese were quite small in comparison with the annual incomes of the developed countries but Nepalese were always for helping others even when they needed to go hungry feeding the guests and the needy ones. This was what the world had learned from the media reports on the quake victims in Nepal. So, the current government really in fact all the governments in the past, too did not reflect the traits of the common Nepalese. Nepalese people were

sincere and were always helpful to the needy ones but the government had been taking every opportunity of misappropriating the resources they managed to have. The irony is that even the poor politicians elected in the elections after the people's movement in 1990, that had been wearing flip-flops joined the elite groups of rulers. They think that they are the rulers and the voters are only the people they could easily trick to vote the candidates.

Ministers had been for legalizing administratively the illegally brought in goods. For example, the responsible official had told the international community to bring in the relief supplies stuck at the custom points after the government declared the end of a state of emergency, without paying custom duties and taxes on them, and deposit them in the state warehouse but the international community was not for doing so. This was the recent incident of the attempt on legalizing the illegal things. But if we go back to an incident of a decade ago, a finance minister incidentally replying to me by an email had sincerely wrote me how he had attempted to legalize the smuggled fertilizers but dropped it when it reached the media [2]. In such circumstances, how could we anticipate the prime minister and ministers would punish officials not to mention the ministers for irregularities in doing the state businesses? The prime minister had digested the shame completely repeatedly telling the public that he would punish the officials misusing the relief supplies but doing nothing even when the State sponsored 'National Vigilant Center' found the irregularities in buying and distributing tarpaulins and tents by the officials of the ministry of urban development.

Speaking at the donors' conference on June 25, 2015, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said that the government had already set up a 'National Reconstruction Authority,' and the government had the 'zero tolerance of corruption'. He also said that his government was committed to the rule of law, protection and promotion of human rights. Mr. Koirala made himself a laughingstock stating such noble things but becoming the witness of the widespread corruption committed under his nose by the officials of his ministries such as the urban development and the finance. If Mr. Koirala were to be a real human-rights protector why he sent the police to arrest the cadres of the 'Bibeksheel Nepali' that had protested the donors' conference demanding the investment instead of donations the government requested for. Certainly, denying the rights to peacefully protest against the donors' conference, Mr. Koirala believed that he had protected the human rights of the Nepalese. Surely, Mr. Koirala must have understood the human rights differently than the internationally recognized human rights. Concerning the rule of law Mr. Koirala had committed to follow, Mr. Koirala must have thought whatever his ministers including himself had been committing irregularity in doing the state business was the 'rule of law'. The main irregularity in doing the state business Mr. Koirala committed was not punishing the ministers and officials committing irregularities in the state businesses.

Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat in turn speaking at the donors' conference said that hundreds of thousands of Nepalese fell back to below the poverty after the destructive quakes, \$500m (Nepalese rupees 50bn) worth of production loss had been, revenue shortfall was expected to be 8 percent. He said, "We need \$6.7bn to build back. This was never about a Post Disaster Assessments of Wants/Desires." Why Dr Mahat became so happy when he received only \$4bn instead of \$6.7bn he had vehemently pleaded with the donors to provide. Was not it the trait of the Nepalese ministers to overstate the requirements?

Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey told the donors-conference audience that the government held the "International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction 2015", and then the theme of the conference was "Toward a Resilient Nepal". He also said, "The video shown a while ago demonstrated a cross-sectional presentation of the scale of devastation." The foreign minister said that the field visit made yesterday by the members of the international

community must have given the idea of the magnitude of losses and damages done; then, the PDNA was with them, and the requirement was \$6.7bn.

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/latest/pm-koiralas-speech-at-international-conference-on-nepals-conference/>

Both china and India contributed to the "Reconstruction Fund" at the maximum. Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj delivered a touching speech to the conference audience stating Nepal and India were together in distress and happiness. She also said that India committed one billion dollars to the reconstruction, of which one fourth was the grant and the rest was the soft loan. She said, "For efficient and transparent utilization of funds to achieve the PDNA goals, a robust institutional mechanism and the dedication of an empowered team of officials is required." The funding committed by the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank also, was in soft loan; only some technical assistance was in grant. Chinese foreign minister said that China would provide Nepal with \$760m but China would also provide as and when Nepal needed more.

The government set up "Reconstruction Fund", and "National Reconstruction Authority" through the "Ordinance on Reconstruction of the Structures Affected by Earthquakes 2015," the news on myrepublica.com stated. I called this fund, a "piggy bank" because it was more like such a piggy bank than fund for reconstruction. The news also stated that the government was putting \$2bn to this piggy bank, the government had already transferred \$200m and also the \$55m from the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund to this piggy bank. Thus, the government had switched from the relief to the reconstruction.

<http://myrepublica.com/economy/item/23430-govt-sets-up-fund-to-funnel-all-resources-for-reconstruction.html>

June 26, 2015

[1] Email copy

Tribhuvan Tuladhar

9:01 PM (12 hours ago)

to Kalyan, Himalayan, Dirgha, Cc:, Madan, Basanta, Office, Ex-PM, Ex-PM, Ex, Ex, K.P., US, British, Embassy, Lok, Mohan, Suka, Kishore, Rita, Mahendra, Prakash, Mohan, राष्ट्रिय, Krishna

Take a look at this Declaration from Lahurnip. The Donor Countries conference is ongoing in Kathmandu called by the GON that does not include the majority people of Nepal. Is this a travesty of Justice, or Irony of Faith, for the Indigenous and downtrodden People of Nepal that comprise more than 70% of populace of Nepal?

Lahurnip Nepal

Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples' Conference on the Challenges for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the Earthquake-Affected Areas June 2015 Kathmandu

Expressing our deep sadness over the massive destruction of life and property caused by the 25 April 2015 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks; expressing our heartfelt condolences to the affected families; hoping they are able to achieve recovery in time and worrying to the situation of the displaced peoples,

Considering that the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples, including Tamangsaling/

Tamsaling, Wallo Kirat, Kirat, Tamuwan, and Newa (Nevah) Land were hardest hit by the earthquake; that seventy percent of the victims (8,810 dead and 22,310 injured according to (the) government data as of 7 June 2015) belonged to indigenous groups such as Tamang, Gurung, Newar (Nevah), Ghale, Thami, Sherpa, Hyolmo, Majhi and Sunuwar; that indigenous peoples faced discrimination based on their ethnic identity, language and distinct way of life even at a time when they suffered tremendous economic, cultural, spiritual and psychological damage,

Expressing grave concern over the fact that even days after the earthquake, the government had not begun rescue and relief work in the affected villages with predominantly indigenous population in timely manner; that the government still has not reached some of those areas; that the government's one-door policy hindered rather than aided rescue and relief efforts of individuals and organizations; that the government's response was characterized by confusion, delay, corruption, nepotism, politicization, a failure to coordinate external support, as well as ethnic, gender and other forms of discrimination,

Regretting the fact that the government did not ensure representation and participation of indigenous groups in bodies formed to undertake relief distribution, rehabilitation, and post disaster needs assessment; that it did not consult indigenous groups or seek their prior informed consent or even mention them in its public statements,

Regretting the blatant violation of rights enshrined in international instruments to which Nepal is a party, that includes the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ILO Convention No.169, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Drawing the attention of the government, international communities and donor agencies to the fact that the government's uniform policy and program on settlement development threatens the collective identity, culture and ways of life of indigenous peoples,

Drawing attention to the fact that the conference organized by the government to garner donor support on 25 June 2015 is taking place without the participation of indigenous peoples,

The 23 June 2015 conference of the indigenous peoples of the affected areas, indigenous political leaders, representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society members, and indigenous experts and scholars hereby issues this declaration:

1. This conference honors the courage and the spirit of solidarity demonstrated by the local people in the earthquake-affected areas, who spontaneously came out to lead rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. We also express our commitment to becoming actively involved in rescue and relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in our respective areas.

2. People who face the threat of floods and landslides as a result of the earthquake and are at risk of losing their lives any moment must be immediately resettled with their prior informed consent; it must also be ensured that the resettlement will not have any adverse impact on them.

3. (a) The Reconstruction Corporation, chaired by the prime minister, as well as other state mechanisms for carrying out relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work from the central to local level are controlled by one group (dominant), exclusionary and discriminatory in terms of ethnicity, language, religion, culture, gender and region, and are driven by the

vested interests of a few political parties. All such mechanisms should hence be immediately dissolved and new mechanisms should be built at every level ensuring meaningful participation of the earthquake victims representing indigenous peoples' identity, language, religion, culture, gender and region.

3. (b) The chair of the aforementioned Corporation should be an independent citizen, and vice chair should be from indigenous community.

4. Shelters, homes, settlements, tangible and intangible heritage and other infrastructure must be built in a manner that respects, protects the distinct identity, culture and collective rights of indigenous peoples. Development initiatives should be based on recognition of indigenous peoples' right to self-determine development.

5. Those who have lost their homes and have been displaced by the earthquake should be immediately resettled in safe locations, and arrangements should be made to provide them free education and health services, employment, and sources of livelihood in a manner that protects and promotes indigenous ways of life, culture, identity and traditional ties to land. Many indigenous people who still do not own land should be provided low-interest loans through a simple process.

6. All activities related to rehabilitation and reconstruction including needs assessment, evaluation, decision making, implementation and monitoring should guarantee the human rights enshrined in the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007, ILO Convention No. 169 and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to which Nepal is a state party.

7. A mechanism must be in place to obtain the prior informed consent of indigenous peoples for resettlement and reconstruction activities that directly affect them.

8. Information on relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction should be provided to earthquake victims in their respective mother tongues.

9. A mechanism must be established for channeling national and international resources and support to indigenous peoples, Dalits and other disadvantaged groups in a swift and efficient manner.

10. The government's one-door policy has resulted in the centralization of all resources in government mechanisms, which suffer from irregularities and have failed to distribute the resources to affected families, communities and settlements in an equitable and effective manner. Therefore, such a flawed policy should be immediately scrapped and arrangements should be made to ensure quick and effective delivery of aid through different channels.

11. Classification of victims and estimate of damages must be based on factual information; data disaggregated by ethnicity and gender must be made public; false and duplicated data must be corrected; names of those missing from the list must be added; and updated ethnic and gender disaggregated data on those who have received relief and other kinds of support as well as the amount of support provided should be regularly publicized.

12. The family size of earthquake victims should be determined on the basis of their current situation rather than on the basis of their landownership documents.

13. As the need to produce a citizenship certificate, proof of relationship, photo, etc. has resulted in the exclusion of many affected families from relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programs, the process of obtaining such services must be made simpler.

14. To ensure transparency, effectiveness and accountability, budget for rehabilitation and reconstruction should be prepared during a mass gathering at the community level, and followed by public hearings and timely auditing.

15. The government must act immediately to ensure the protection of indigenous women, disabled persons, and children who have become victims of or face the risk of human trafficking.

Date: 23 June 2015, Kathmandu

[2] From: Madhukar SJB Rana <[madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com](mailto:madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com)>  
To: Siddhi Ranjitkar <[siddhiranjit@gmail.com](mailto:siddhiranjit@gmail.com)>; Kalyan Bhattarai <[kdbhattarai2009@gmail.com](mailto:kdbhattarai2009@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Mohan Lohani <[m\\_p\\_lohani@yahoo.com](mailto:m_p_lohani@yahoo.com)>; The Himalayan Voice <[himalayanvoice@gmail.com](mailto:himalayanvoice@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 6:00 AM  
Subject: BBIN, SAGQ and SASEC

Dear Siddhiji and Kalyanji

I thank you for reading my piece and would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few academic and not so academic points raised.

The point of my article is to show that BBIN, SAGQ and ADBs SASEC, an offshoot of SAGQ process, are all about the same thing: East South Asian sub regional integration. I welcome PM Modi's wise initiative but wish to state that it should address more than trade issues as laid down in the SAGQ Action Plan. That's all.

Now to Siddhiji making a libellous remark that I, as Finance Minister in 2005, was involved in exporting fertiliser to India. Be known Siddhiji that in 2005, as most times for various causes including untimely imports, fertiliser was in acute shortage and farmers in the Hills were suffering.

It was then proposed by the then Minister of Agriculture that substantial quantities of fertilisers were (and continue to be) smuggled from India as our prices were/are much higher. He thus called a meeting of the Home Minister and Finance Minister to allow a certain smuggled stock (lying in Chitwan?) to be transported to the Hills with the businessman paying the necessary income and other taxes (note: there is was no customs duty on fertilisers).

While the Ministers were deliberating on this matter the fertiliser importer got wind of it from the leak made by any of the bureaucrats and further leaked the matter to the Press. And the matter was dropped.

I hope you realise, Siddhiji, that POL products and fertilisers are two of the biggest supplies where graft and corruption are rampant with the businessmen oiling the machinery to the hilt.

How did you get the impression that I was engaged in (re) exporting to India? Does it make sense to sell coal to New Castle, as the saying goes?

Thank you and I hope you will refrain from making such a derogatory remark.

Regards

Madhukar

Comments:

Former Finance Minister Madhukar SJB Rana [madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com](mailto:madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com) has stated the following three things very clearly in his email reply to me:

1. Legalizing the Smuggled fertilizers;
  2. Ministers dropped the matter;
  3. Rampant corruption in dealing fertilizers and POL products
- 
1. Legalizing the Smuggled fertilizers: Madhukar SJB Rana [madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com](mailto:madhukarsjbrana@gmail.com) stated in his email reply to me that the ministries of agriculture, home, and finance sat together to make the stolen fertilizers as legally imported after charging the income and other taxes (custom duty not applicable to the fertilizers as stated by Former Minister Mr Rana) to smugglers (businesspersons with due respect from the finance minister). The very responsible ministries such as the home and the finance attempted to legalize the illegally brought in fertilizers charging some income and other taxes. Is it what the ministers are after? Don't these ministers need to take administrative and even legal actions against the smugglers? Should the smugglers go free with impunity after indulging in the illegal activities? Certainly not, but the Nepalese ministers did not take actions against them for the clear reasons.
  2. Ministers dropped the matter: but once it was leaked to the media by the fertilizer importers, the subject matter of legalizing the smuggled fertilizers was dropped instead of taking administrative and legal actions against the smugglers. How nicely former finance minister Mr. Rana had stated how the ministries had functioned. Everybody having a little bit of knowledge of corruption in Nepal could easily understand why the matter of legalizing the smuggled fertilizes was taken up and then dropped probably under the pressure of the fertilizer importers.
  3. Rampant corruption in dealing POL products and fertilizers: Former Minister Mr. Rana declared the rampant corruption prevalent in dealing the POL products and fertilizers but did not say anything about taking administrative and legal actions against the corrupt bureaucrats, businesspersons, and might be even the ministers.

Now, the questions are whether the smugglers could bring in the fertilizers or any other goods without the support of the custom officials, and of the police. The answer is certainly not. Former Minister Mr. Rana would certainly agree on it. Custom officials are under the Finance ministry and the police under the home ministry if I am not mistaken. Then, everybody could conclude that these two ministries are directly responsible for not stopping the smuggling of fertilizers.

The former finance minister Madhukar Rana also wrote, "graft and corruption are rampant with the businessmen oiling the machinery to the hilt." He must have meant 'machinery' a bureaucratic machinery of the State.

Then, why did these two ministries probably directly involved in such an illegal act of smuggling of fertilizers drop this matter once the public knew it through the leak to the media?

Obviously, the ministries had done nothing to dispel the corruption rather attempted to award the smugglers legalizing the illegally brought in fertilizers but the matter was dropped once it was made public.

June 16, 2015