

COMMENT

## RSS Matters

The humiliating electoral defeat continues to dog the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In quick succession a lot of things are happening, old pillars are crumbling, earlier cracks are on display with bigger clarity and those who joined the party in the hope of basking in the glory of power are deserting. In the process a lot of things which were slightly hidden are becoming glaringly obvious.

After Jaswant Singh was expelled from the party he talked about certain incidents which show the true nature of the party and the major political personalities involved. Later some of these points were confirmed by Arun Shourie, Brajesh Mishra and others. The first point which strikes an observer is that it is the nature of people who have come out with statements. First in the row was Yashwant Sinha. then Jaswant Singh, followed by Arun Shourie, another one, Sudheendra Kulkarni. was prompt enough to leave the party. What is common about them is that they all are not having Rashtriya Sanyamsevak Sangh (RSS) background. Most of BJP leaders, trained in RSS shakhas kept mum on the reasons for defeat and state of disarray in the party. Sushma Swaraj is an exception anyway, as women are not allowed to be members of RSS. Some of the beans which were spilled during the process are very revealing.

Now despite the fact that the BJP is in tatters, it will not die. The reason is, BJP has been a mere political arm of RSS. Also, like the communist party it is a cadre-based party. At most of the crucial junctures RSS has been controlling BJP from behind the scene. The only difference is that now all is in the open. To begin with majority of BJP workers, leaders are from RSS background, totally indoctrinated in the ideology of 'Hate Minorities', in the ideology of Hindu nation. The statement of Shourie that RSS should take over BJP is a bit complex. Shourie must know that as a BJP member he is mostly amidst RSS workers, barring few. On the top of that RSS always keeps a watchful eye on what its subordinate organizations are doing and keeps coordinating their activities. Its agenda is clear, to bring in Hindu Rashtra over a period of time.

Since the electoral debacle, many a commentator said that BJP can give up Hindutva and survive as a rightwing opposition. Such a suggestion has no place in the real politic, as BJP is nothing but a political child of RSS. It has autonomy to work in the given framework, the framework laid out by RSS. While the current RSS Sarsanghchalak says that BJP will decide its own policies that statement is merely something from the World of make-believe. As things are becoming clearer RSS has taken a total and direct charge of the tottering party. □ *[Contributed]*