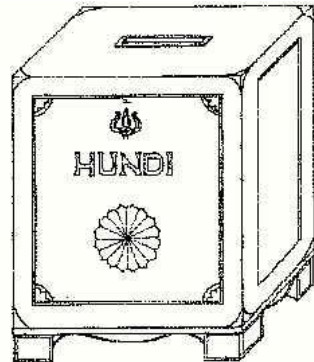


Temples share a strange relationship with its guardians

Temple Lands,
Jewelry, money



Government, Politicians,
Endowments department



Technique - 1

- 1) A politician encroaches temple land.
- 2) Government notifies that the land is encroached (He gets it done using his contacts)
- 3) Government claims that as the land is encroached, it would regularize the land and deposit the money in a bank and use the interest for temple maintenance.
- 4) Government regularizes the land to the politician at a nominal price.
- 5) Within a short span, even that money in bank is withdrawn in the name of 'expenses/development work'.

Case study: Technique 1

In a recent survey in East Godavari district, 66% of the bank deposits from such 'sales' are missing or spent

Technique - 2

- 1) Politician encroaches the land
- 2) The Government 'mysteriously loses the records'
- 3) Or The Government just doesn't act forever

Case Study: Technique 2

- In fertile rich West Godavari District, temples own 12,000 acres of land. The land is encroached and the Government records are 'missing'.
- 900 acres owned by Bhadrachalam Rama temple is encroached. There is no action by Government.
- 220 acres of Vijayawada Kanaka Durga temple is encroached. Government doesn't act.
- 33% of land owned by Simhachalam temple, Visakhapatnam is encroached. Government doesn't bother to question.

Technique - 2 contd.....

- In Anantapur, temples own 29,000 acres but endowments department doesn't have any information on these.
- Most of the land owned by Sri kurmam and Arasavalli, Srikakulam are encroached.
- Most of the temple lands in East and West Godavari districts turned in illegal prawn ponds.

Technique - 3

- Government leases the lands to Politicians almost for free.
- In most of the places, the lease value Government gets for temple land ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 40/year whereas the market value in those areas runs into thousands and lakhs.

Case Study : Technique 3

- In fertile rich East Godavari, Government collects a lease of Rs. 140/acre/year whereas the market value of land in those areas is Rs. 3,00,000/acre
- An ex-MLA pays about Rs. 5/acre for hundreds of acres owned by Antarvedi temple.

Technique - 4

- Government takes over the land in the name of development work at a price far below the prevailing market rate.
- In most of the cases, Government never paid.

Case Study: Technique 4

- FAB city: Government takeover 850 acres of temple land at Rs.40,000/acre which is 0.4% of the prevailing market rate of Rs. 1 crore.
- Imliban bus stand: Government never deposited the money for the temple land over in the heart of Hyderabad
- In Guntur, 12 acres of property worth 12 crores has been sold for Rs. 36 lakh

Technique – 5

- Government borrows money from rich temples but never pays them back
- Government uses temple money for non-temple activities

Case Study – Technique 5

- Government borrows money from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) but never paid neither the Principal nor the interest.
- TTD money is used to pay for a hockey tournament in memory of a popular politician's parents.

Technique - 6

- Scams in sale of temple jewelry, sarees etc.
- Endowments officials periodically sell off temple offerings such as Jewelry, Silver articles and sarees **'officially'** at throwaway prices while taking private payments from store owners.