

## **Excerpts from the Transcript – 1**

### **Excerpts from the address of Mr. M.L. Babbar :**

*“..... it is disheartening to note that despite the most commendable role of the private sector in promoting education for the children at preschool, primary, secondary level, the private sector has not received the due acknowledgement, support and appreciation from the government of state level as well as the national level. It is universally accepted that for creating a healthy educational system in the country, autonomy, both administrative and academic, is one of the key factors. The autonomy for the curricular development, evaluation system, recruitment of staff, fixation of fees and provision for more research and development facilities to allow and promote innovative practices are absolutely necessary.”*

*“On account for provision of the 25% seats for EWS category, around 1 crore children from the general category will be deprived from the benefit of getting quality education in private unaided schools. It is suggested that the societies should be given incentives in the form of heavily subsidized rate for land for opening more schools so that the capacity in these schools is augmented and balance between the general category and the EWS category is maintained.”*

### **Excerpts from the address of Mr. Harpal Singh :**

*“If I may say that’s probably be the agenda of education, the agenda that will probably go down when we reflect on this particular period in the country’s history as the most important movement of our times. It’s the movement on which global recognition, global significance and big and great nations will be divided on the way they deal with the educational agenda of the country. I was told by one of our Organizing Committee members that recently when asked Tony Blair, what are your three points agenda for the future and he said education, education and education.”*

*“The citizen of this country needs choice. Citizens of this country, parents of this country, need choice in the arena of education. And I suspect that some*

*provisions I'm working very carefully, some provisions of the Right to education Act are destroying the opportunity for choice to a certain extent."*

*"..... that does not mean that there are no black sheep. If there are some black sheep in the non-govt sector, there are many black sheep in the govt. Sector as well. But you don't make policy on the premise of black sheep. You make some degrees of control that they don't go out of hand. National policy must be a positive policy. For quality, it is absolutely imperative that we actually give autonomy to the schools."*

*"Why are we eliminating the very things that produce quality? That little elbow room that we had in the way we did things. Why are we eliminating that little elbowroom? "*

*"Might I say We wish no subsidy at all, none. When govt. gives me, land at institutional price it is not the subsidized price and let that be absolutely clear. When you build great urban centers, you make great urban centers, you make parks, you make schools, you make hospitals, you make commercial areas, you make residential areas, for each one of those areas there's what is called a competitive price, the institutional price is a competitive price, that is not a subsidy. And I think that's something that we need to hit hard and say please do not put this heavy sword hanging on us all the time we've given you a subsidy. The nation has given govt' schools a subsidy; nobody seems to be holding them accountable."*

**Excerpts from the address of Mr. Salman Khurshid :**

*"..... which says education should not be commercial but we also have in our neighbourhood in Bangladesh, an example of social business. Now I would have been happy if the supreme court said it should not be commercial, it may not be charity, but of course we are happy if its charity but there's also another model that is available to you and that is social business model. In a social business model, it's a sophisticated version of combination of equity and excellence. It's a*

*combination of doing something in a business like manner without necessarily doing it entirely for profit.”*

*“its particularly important for education that there has to be an exposition and an explanation of what we believe we are doing, what is our purpose, what is our objective and therefore what is the best methodology for achieving it. I certainly think there’s a need for much more debate, discussion and dialogue between stakeholders in the field of education. We should not think that simply because we have legislated we don’t now need any further dialogue.”*

**Excerpts from the address of Mr. Y.P. Purang :**

*“Govt. insists that the 25% students should go to the public schools and public schools should give free education to them. What happens to those 25% whose seats have been deprived by these 25% students?”*

*“You ask somebody where would you like your son to go or where a child would like to study, the simple answer that I would like to go to a public school.”*

*“When I cannot, as a govt., control my own schools.”*

**Excerpts from the address of Prof. Bhattacharya :**

*“..... as of 2009 statistics, only 7% of Indian population have passed high school, this is the stark reality of India emerging as one of the greatest nations. This 7% is the one that is contributing, some of the recent papers that I published in my capacity as the president of the Indian Economic Association I highlighted this point. The entire growth story of the country is this 7%; of this 7% only 3% are graduate in some manner. About 1.5% are actually professionally qualified, they are the one contributing all the fast growth.*