

A NEW NOTE ON THE RISE, FALL AND CONSPICUOUS ACHIVEMENTS OF JUSTICE PARTY

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Abstract

The Justice party wrought for the upheaval of the non-Brahmin people. The Justice Party demanded the Government to proposal equal chance in education protracted to all people and to reform Hinduism, dropping the highhandedness of the Brahmins. In 1920 election out of 98 seats the Justice Party gaining victory in 63 seats. The Justice party formed the Government, Subbarayulu Reddiyar as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in December 1920. Therefore, the Justice party formed the Government. Again, the Justice Party in 1923, 1926 and 1930 formed the Ministries. The internal quarrel among the Party affected the Subsequent elections unpleasantly. Though this Justice Party weakened, no one can under reckoning its results to create awakening among the non-Brahmins. This paper traces the rise, fall and conspicuous achievements of justice party.

Keywords: Non-Brahmins, Meston Award, Adi-Dravidas and Musclemans.

Introduction

The Brahmins held a supreme status in Tamil society even from the ancient Period. They are experienced in Sanskrit. Therefore, they set aside politics, religion and education under their control. When the British occupied, they influenced high administrative encouragement and they were held in high administrative posts under the English Government.¹ The Brahmins had high political influence in the Madras Presidency at the beginning of 20th century. During the election held in 1914 the Brahmins gained 11 seats out of 14 seats. In the Madras municipal election of 1919, The Brahmins obtained additional seats.

Thus, The Brahmins held more influence in politics as well as in the society. The non-Brahmin people were needy of their chances of inflowing in to Madras Presidency politics. The non- Brahmins were not assumed chances in training themselves for offering governmental affairs. Moreover, they were measured to be unrealistic by Brahmins. Based on the political influence, they were held high posts in medicine, education, revenue and judiciary. The Census Report of 1911 and the Madras University report of 1918 clearly established this fact. The social and economic variances and caste differences between the people, who lived in Madras Presidency intricate the rational thought of great thinkers. Hence several organizations were intended to do away with the differences in politics, social background and to convey about co-operation among various non-brahmin communities and planed to met at Madras in 1916 and to cried out for liberty, equality and justice non-brahmins.

Here it is essential to understand the development of Justice Party in Tamil Nadu. The Justice party wrought for the upheaval of the down trodden people. The Justice Party promoted a series of demands to the Government accenting the importance of education towards social welfare. The Justice Party demanded the Government to proposal equal chance in education protracted to all people and to reform Hinduism, dropping the highhandedness of the Brahmins. Moreover, it criticized the Voting Right on the basis of education and property and requested

the Government to offer Voting Right based on community. The leaders of this party strained without a break to blowout their doctrines among the common people and collected party fund of rupees one lakh within a year. They conducted conferences in all the important places of the State and started several branches of the party in all the towns and villages. Hereafter, within very short period the Justice party turn out to be popular and procurement the support of the large number of non- Brahmin people.

In this connection it is interesting to know the Meston Award. The preparation of the electoral roll preparing in 1918 for the election to be conducted in 1920. The Justice Party mandatory the Voting Right and the roll to be equipped on the basis of castes and communities. This demand of Voting Right on the basis of castes and communities was forbidden by the electoral committee. The electoral committee comprised of V.S. Srinivasa Sastri and S.N. Baneiji.² The rejection of the electoral committee made the Justice Party not to accept the recommendations of the committee. In the electoral committee meeting held in London all the Parties including Justice Party directed their representatives namely T.M. Nair as its leader. The unexpected death of T.M. Nair made K.V. Reddy the representative of Justice Party K.V. Reddy clarified the racial conflict found in Madras Presidency and requested the electoral committee to make the electoral roll on the basis of caste and community.

After looking the requests of all Tamil representatives, Lord Wellington offered 50% of the seats to Justice Party. Justice Party demanded 55% of the seats on the basis of population.³ Finally, Under Mr. Meston. The electoral committee succumbed its report to the Government. More representations were given to backward class people and more backward class people were given Voting Rights as per the above electoral committee report. The Justice party accepted this electoral committee report and made arrangements for the subsequent election. However, the electoral committee report gave satisfaction to the Justice party and it elucidated this report as the "Meston Award".

At this juncture it is worthwhile to assess the Justice Party and the Formation of Government. As per the electoral committee report of Meston, elections took place in 1920.⁴ As this electoral committee report dissatisfied by the Congress party. Therefore, the Congress Party did not contest in the election. With the view to remove the supremacy of the Brahmins and obtain necessary concessions from the Government, the Justice Party obvious to give co-operation to the British and contested in the election. Out of 98 seats the Justice Party gaining victory in 63 seats. Therefore, the Justice party formed the Government. Lord Wellington appointed Subbarayulu Reddiyar as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in December 1920. The Government was the first one formed on the basis of diarchy.

Procurement by the great support of the Tamils during their three years of administration the Justice Party contested again in the 1923 election. The party secured only 48 seats out of 98 seats. As the party decided to proceed in co-operation with the British to the council, so that they might obtained the majority. The party came to power for the second time in Tamil Nadu with T.N. Sivagnanam Pillai as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who was a retired R.D.O., served as the president of the Tirunelveli District Board.⁵

In the election held in 1926 the Justice Party uttered with absolute failure, this happened due to the internal conflict of the party and the withdrawal of the support of Adi-Dravidas and Musclemans. This contemporary situation led to the victory of Swarajya Party, which contested the election with utmost co-operation.⁶ They did not come forward to form the Ministry. Instead, the Swarajya Party supported the Ministry of independent candidate A. Subburayan. Justice Party, which disastrous in the election of 1926 wired it in different ways and contested the election of 1930. The Justice Party became victorious in the election as the Congress Party and Swarajya Party did not contest. Again the Justice Party formed the Ministry with B.Muniswamy Naidu as Chief Minister of Tamil Nādu.

In the election held in 1934, the Justice Party unsuccessful absolutely. Internal party conflicts and the dissatisfaction of the people were the explanations for this failure. Though the Congress Party got majority seats it was not in favor of forming the Government. Hence, the Justice Party formed the Government in coalition with other parties Again the Justice Party formed the Ministry with B.Muniswamy Naidu⁷ as Chief Minister of Tamil Nādu. During the election of 1937, there was keen opposition between the National Party, such as Congress Party and the State Party namely Justice Party. Just as in the election of 1926 the People's Party and the Muslim league functioned against the Justice Party. The Justice Party Votes were scattered. So, the Congress Party gained

majority by getting 152 seats out of 215 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 26 seats out of 46 seats in the Legislative Council.

As the Administrative Rights was declined to the Ministry, the Congress Party was not for forming the Ministry. Hence, the Justice Party formed an interim Government with K.V. Reddy as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. In 1937 on the basis of the declaration given by the British Government, Congress Party constituted the Ministry with C. Rajagopalachari as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.⁸ The Justice Party, which met with severe criticism of the common people and they became inactive after 1937.

The accomplishment of the Justice party is more useful in this connection. The Justice party during its thirteen years of rule in Tamil Country had attained several measures. Trying to establish justice in the society, the party was able to reduction, the supremacy of the Brahmins in social, political and economy. To uplift the status of the non-Brahmins, the preference given to Brahmins in the public sector was reduced and employment opportunities on the basis of percentage were enhanced to non-Brahmins and the common people.

The Employments Election Committee constituted by the Ministry of Subbarayulu Reddiyar in 1924 was converted into the Government Employment Selection Committee. Until the coming of the ruling of Justice Party, the Munsiffs of the District Courts were appointed by the High Courts and most of them were Brahmins. By the ruling of Justice Party, the Government itself appointed the Munsiffs in the District, thereby giving opportunities to non-Brahmins to become Judges.⁹ From the opening, Brahmins persuaded education and religion. Higher education and entry into temples were declined to non-Brahmins. Assuming the ruling of the state under these circumstances the Justice Party did not drop a moment to take steps to improve the educational status of non-Brahmins. In addition to fee concession and noon meals offered to the educationally backward people, the number of students in the primary schools was improved as per necessity. The Justice Party Government also took steps to reduction the supremacy of Brahmins in Hindu religion. Apart from the restrictions of un-necessary activities, committees were constituted to uphold the properties of the Temples. This helped them to restrict largely the unnecessary intervention of women and its influence in society.

With the advent of British in Madras Presidency, extraordinary changes took place in the society. One among them was the European medical systems; this item led to the neglect of the native indigenous medical system. To re-establish the popularity of indigenous medical system among the people, the Justice Party took uncountable steps. Moreover, steps were taken to intensification the employment chances of down trodden people. As per the Industrial Aid Act of Madras District in 1922 necessary steps were taken to start new industries.¹⁰ The down trodden people of Tamil land did not have land even to construct their huts. The Justice Party Government decided lands to the landless, so that they might build a hut of their own. The clear achievement of the Justice Party was in regard towards the development of higher education. In addition to the approval of the activities of the Madras University, it laid foundation stones to Andhra University in 1929 and Annamalai University in 1929. Today they are flourishing well in India.¹¹

Here it is interesting to portrays the causes for the failure of Justice party. Within a short period of time with the support of the non-Brahmins, the Justice Party was weakened after the elections of 1937. Several reasons could be pointed out for this failure of the Justice Party. When all the Parties were in contradiction of the British rule, the Justice Party came forward to function in co-operation with the British Government. To get support of the British and their policy and schemes, The Justice Party forced to forget their original principles. This attitude of Justice Party was severely condemned by the publics and the Party men and other opposition Parties. The Justice Party claimed on the groundwork of electoral rolls on the basis of caste and religion. It also required to declare non-Brahmins as backward class. Only non-Brahmin Hindus were approved as backward class and the Downtrodden and the Muslims were abandoned. The dissatisfied in the Party, due to this negligence of the Downtrodden and Muslims, quite the Party under the leadership of M.C. Raja.¹²

When the Justice Party came to power, conflict arose among the leaders for obtaining Party posts, particularly, the difference of opinion began to widen among the Tamils and Telugus in the Madras Presidency challenging political supremacy. Steps taken to amalgamate regarding co-operation among these two sects did not yield good result. The results from this quarrel affected the Subsequent elections unpleasantly. Though this Justice Party

weakened, no one can underreckoning its results to create awakening among the non-Brahmins.¹³ The Justice Party materialized to be only a State Party.

The concluding part reveals the fact that socio-political estimation was short sighted. As the leaders of this Party were belonging to different sections of the society, the differences of opinion arose among them could not be resolved easily; this affected the efficient administration of the Party. Moreover, there was no harmony among these sections of the society. The leaders of this Party showed much interest in obtaining power and not in strengthening the Party, they were shellfish motive. Moreover, the Party lacked on energy, imagination, creative leadership and organizational skill. In spite of their flaws, the Justice party determined to reduce the supremacy of the Brahmins, but not the total growth of the land.

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