

EMS Namboodiripad And Education Bill Of 1957

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Abstract:

EMS Namboodiripad, was the leader and foremost theoretician of the Communist movement in India, in addition to being a, an administrator, an economist, an educationalist, an anti-imperialist, a freedom fighter, a historian, a humanist, a prolific writer, and above all the architect of Modern Kerala. He ranks among the top-most political leaders in India. Namboodiripad, the Namboodari Brahmin who became Kerala's First Chief Minister and India's leading 'Left' Communist led his party to power by promising Kerala's impoverished and landless electorate that he would do something to them. In 1957 thus when his party proved its mettle in the election, Namboodiripad's fame among the political leaders of India having an international stature reached second to that Jawaharlal Nehru. He carved out an immortal life for himself in the annals of socio-political movement in Kerala by the radical changes he effected and the sufferings he underwent for the uplift of the people in general and for the lower sections in particular. In 1957 he became the first Chief Minister of Kerala state and then again in 1967-69. As a Chief Minister he done so many reforms for the welfare of society. One among them was Educational Reforms. The education bill was introduced in the Kerala assembly, by professor Joseph Mundasseri, who was the then Education Minister for the First Elected Communist Party of Indian Government. During the 28 months in power the first EMS Govt initiated steps that had lasting beneficiary effects in Kerala's society

key words:

Communism, inspection, undemocratic, illegal, reservation, misconduct.

Introduction

EMS Namboodiripad, was the leader and foremost theoretician of the Communist movement in India, in addition to being a, an administrator, an economist, an educationalist, an anti-imperialist, a freedom fighter, a historian, a humanist, a prolific writer, and above all the architect of Modern Kerala. He ranks among the top-most political leaders in India. Namboodiripad, the Namboodari Brahmin who became Kerala's First Chief Minister and India's leading 'Left' Communist led his party to power by promising Kerala's impoverished and landless electorate that he would do something to them. In 1957 thus when his party proved its mettle in the election, Namboodiripad's fame among the political leaders of India having an international stature reached second to that Jawaharlal Nehru. He carved out an immortal life for himself in the annals of socio-political movement in Kerala by the radical changes he effected and the sufferings he underwent for the uplift of the people in general and for the lower sections in particular. In 1957 he became the first Chief Minister of Kerala state and then again in 1967-69. As a Chief Minister he done so many reforms for the welfare of society. One among them was Educational Reforms. The education bill was introduced in the Kerala assembly, by professor Joseph Mundasseri, who was the then Education Minister for the First Elected Communist Party of Indian Government. During the 28 months in power the first

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Early Career:

Elamkulam Manakkal Sankaran Namboodiripad, popularly known as EMS was an Indian Communist politician and theorist, who served as the First Chief Minister of Kerala state in 1957-59 and then again in 1967-69. EMS was born on 13th June 1909 at Perintalmanna. He was the fourth child of Parameswaran Namboodiripad and Vishnudatta Antharjanam, so that EMS was called as Nalambran. Being born and brought up in an environment of Brahminical orthodoxy, he happened to become a devote Hindu. In the Social Reform Movement EMS Namboodiripad was a participant was meant to reform the society with in the frame work of Hinduism. Gradually he was attracted towards the preaching of Ramaswami Naicker in Tamil Nadu and the group of nationalist in Kerala who subsequently started a Malayalam organ of their own named ' *Yukthivadi*' . These contacts and logic of the left in the social reform and national movements made EMS completely break off from the earlier Brahminical faith and religiosity and EMS came out as a radical in the social, political and ideological fronts. He read several books dealing with social and political problems in addition to a mixed pack of works of great writers like Bernard Shaw, G.D.H

Cole, H.G Wells, H.J Laski and Mc Donald. The first book which EMS read on socialism was written by Mc Donald and on communism by Herold J Laski which taught him rudiments of Socialist communist Doctrines. EMS was affectionately called as Kunju (The little Child). He had his early education in the traditional style. Ullattil Sankarankutty Menon one of the intimate friend of EMS remarked that EMS was a model and a brilliant student in the school. He sat in the front row of the class ready to internalize the words of the teacher. In the school he had the opportunity to meet students and teachers from different socio-religious background and make them his friends. He established contacts with the progressive and radical sections outside the College Campus. As a College student EMS got the opportunity to participate public meetings and processions associated with the freedom struggle picketing of toddy shops and shops selling foreign goods became the part of his activities. He was associated with the politician of Unni Namboodiri and the working of the Namboodiri youth Organisation . During the final year of the Intermediate course that he participated in a huge demonstration to protest against the death sentence passed on Bhagat Singh.

His Entry Into Politics:

EMS Namboodiripad attended the Madras Session of the Indian National Congress while studying the 5th standard. He also became a part and parcel of boycott of Simon Commission regarding the India's freedom struggle. In 1931 EMS met KK Warriar who gave inspiring revolutionary ideas to EMS. It was from KK Warriar and Kesav Dev, EMS acquired basic knowledge about communism.

Association With Revolutionaries And Formation Of Congress Socialist Party

During the course of his political activities, EMS was imprisoned in and out of the state at various prisons as a political prisoner. At prison EMS made friendship with revolutionaries from all over India. In the Cannanore Jail he met revolutionaries like Kiran Chandra Das, one of the co-accused in the Lahore conspiracy along with Bhagat Singh. Kiran had helped EMS in establishing contacts with the revolutionaries of Bengal and other Indian provinces and also in drawing him closer to the revolutionary movement. EMS also made contact with Kamal Nath Tiwari another accused in the Lahore conspiracy case. He instilled revolutionary spirit in the minds of EMS in the jail. It was not an exaggeration to say that the seeds of the leftwing Congress, which later became the Congress Socialist Movement in which EMS had played a predominate part were sown in

Cannanore Jail under the revolutionary spell of Kamal Nath Tiwari, Acharya Sengupta and Chakravarthi. Thus left wing of the congress (Congress socialist party) was formed in Kerala from the Cannore Jail. In the Vellore Jail EMS could learn basic lessons of working class movement from Prof. Ramalingam and Mukund Lal Sarkar. From Sarkar EMS got a brief account of the origin and growth of trade union movement alongwith V.T. Bhattathiripad and M.R. Bhattathiripad. EMS took up causes such as widow remarriage and women's education and fought against polygamy and primogeniture. Stories, plays and novels were their tools in the struggle. They staged plays against social abuses and discrimination. EMS organised the staging of plays such as *"from the kitchen to the Arena and the pubescent Girls"* which even led to occasional clashes. They also brought out a journal called Unni Namboodiri. Most of EMS early articles, including the literary ones, appeared in this journal.

Formation Of Communist Party :

The first conference of the Congress Socialist party was held at the Calicut Town Hall on 12 May 1934. During 1934-40 period, the Congress Socialist party broadened its popular base, and captured the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). In the 1935 elections, the Congress Socialist party leaders secured

majority. EMS was elected as the secretary of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee became the editor of Prabatham, the organ of Congress Socialist party . In 1937 EMS became the organizational Secretary of KPCC. In 1938 EMS was elected as the secretary of KPCC. In 1939 the entire left minded people were organised by the Congress Socialist Party and formed the Communist party of India (CPI). EMS Namboodiripad being the leader of the Kerala Congress Socialist party and the Communist party cultivated contacts with the 'Roy Group' and its leaders like Kamala Dev Chathopadhyaya, Sheik Galeeb, Dr. Shetty. Thus EMS emerged as the greatest Marxist theoretician in Kerala. He tried to explain the principles of Marxism to the workers and peasants. EMS wrote "*Keralam Malayalikalude Mathrubhumi*" using the theoretical frame of Marxian historiography. In 1957, a democratically elected Communist Government came to power in Kerala under the leadership of EMS Namboodiripad. Thus EMS Namboodiripad became the first elected Chief Minister of Kerala in the year 1957. The EMS Govt took many revolutionary steps like Agrarian Relations Bill and Education Bill. Those bills passed by EMS ministry made a dramatic change in the society. But the result was the dismissal of state Govt under the article 356 of the constitution.

Kerala Education Bill Of 1957 - Shri Joseph Mundassery:

The Education bill was introduced in the Kerala Assembly by Professor Joseph Mundasseri, who was the then Education minister for the first elected (1957) Communist party of India Govt. EMS Namboodiripad was very particular in placing suitable and efficient person in the respective portfolios. During this time the education field in Kerala was deteriorating day by day with full of the manoeuvring foul play of the management. All abuses and corruption reached their zenith. In the appointment of staff, their salary e.t.c. corruption was rampant. Teachers were appointed not on the basis of qualification and ability, but of the capacity to bribe and pay management. For instance, even though a teacher was paid only Rs 50/-, he had to give a receipt of Rs 80/-. These abuses prompted the communist ministry led by EMS Namboodiripad, to present the Kerala education Bill 1957 in order to wipeout these abuses from the educational field.

Drafting Of The Education Bill Of 1957:

The draft bill on education was first published on the 7th July 1957. It was first presented to the Legislative Assembly on 13th July 1957. The report of the select committee was presented to the Assembly on 24th August 1957 and sent to the President of India for his approval. The President referred the bill to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court expressed its suggestion on 22nd May 1958. The present sent the educational bill back to the

Kerala Government for modification in the light of opinion expressed by the Supreme Court. The Kerala Government made necessary changes and it was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Kerala on 26th Nov 1958.

For the betterment of University Education a new bill was published by the Government of Kerala in the Gazette known as Kerala University Act of 1957. The objects of the bill were :-

- (1) To remove the university from the control of Government.
- (2) Re-organise it as an independent autonomous federal cum-teaching university. EMS's ministry also decided to nationalize all text book except non-detailed texts. On 21st November 1957 the Government appointed various committees to prefer the syllabus for primary and high school classes.

Provisions of the Bill

Majority of the provisions of the bill having a total of 36 clauses. It dealt with the appointment and service conditions of the school teachers. As per this Act, there were provisions which empowered the Government to interfered in the affairs of the non-governmental school. The justification was that both the Government and aid schools were to be uniformly administered with regard to the service conditions of the teachers and the transaction of the curriculum. The bill proposed the preparation of

select list of qualified and trained teachers at the state level at the beginning of academic year applicable to both Govt and private schools. Salary of teachers should be paid directly by the state. The Management of Aided Schools are responsible to protect the interest of students. Provide compulsory free primary education materials to children upto 14 years of age. It also provided for the constitution of State Level Educational Advisory Board and regional Educational authorities. But this bill was criticized by the opposition party.

Thus the Communist Govt under EMS Namboodiripad tried its best to reconstruct the Education front in Kerala. The passing of the Education Bill 1957, was a milestone in the Educational history of Kerala a true achievement of Namboodiripad's ministry.

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