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RESEARCH ARTICLE

WELFARE SCHEMES AND PUBLIC WORKS IN KAMARAJ

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Abstract

Kamaraj, the mass leader and the man of Democratic Socialism was born in 1930 in a poor family at Virudhunagar. After gaining little education he works in a shop at virudhunagar and Trivandrum. By his devoted mentality and eager for public service, he joined as a volunteer in the congress party. He participated in the Vaikam Satyagraha and salt Satyagraha. His keen interest in nationalist activities and social reform led him to jail more than six times. At Vellore jail he came into contact with other leaders like Satyamoorthy. In 1940, he became the president of Tamilnadu committee. The decisive role that he played in the elevation of Prakasam Pantulu, Ramasamy Reddiar, kumarasamy raja and Rajagopalachariar and Prime Ministers Lal Bahdur Sastri and India Gandhi to power earned him the title King Maker. In 1954, he became the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and continued till 1963. As the Chief Minister he aimed to create a stable, efficient and liberal administration. It was his objective to promote agriculture industry, maintain peace, removal of ignorance, poverty and the establishment of Socialism.

Keywords: Kamaraj, Rajaji, Democratic socialism, Liberal administration, Kumarasamy Raja

Introduction

India is a welfare state. This was clearly mentioned in part –IV of our Constitution. The administration of Kamaraj fully followed this provision. All his efforts concentrated on the welfare of people and improve their status in society. For that

special attention was given to the following schemes and works.

National Employment Organisation

In Madras State, the 13 District Employment Offices are existed on 31st December 1958 and continued to function during the period under report. A District Employment Office was newly opened at

the Collectorate, Madras, on 24th November, 1959 to deal exclusively with applicants who were unskilled labourers. The total number of applicants registered by the District Employment Offices in the State was 204,891 (173,278) and the total number of applicants waiting for employment on the registers of District Employment offices at the end of the year was 126,195. District Employment Advisory Committee were formed in all the districts of the State, except Thanjavur and Kanyakumari. Half-yearly meetings of these committees were held. A State Employment Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for labour and Industries was constituted and the first meeting was held on 3rd April 1959.

A special recruitment drive to recruit drivers to the City Service Unit of the Madras State Transport was launched in the southern district of Madurai, Ramanathapuram. Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari and selections were held at Nagercoil. Half – yearly inspection of the District Employment Offices have been conducted by the officers of the Directorate of National Employment Service, publicity and Employees to use the National Employment Service in a greater measure.

Expansion of Employment Service:

An employment office, newly set up at Neyveli, functioned during the last two months of the year to cater to the special requirement during the last two months of the year to cater to the special requirements of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The two Employment Information, and Assistance Bureaux functioning, one at the Paramakudi Block of Ramanathapuram district , for disseminating information on careers and. Employment avenues to the residents of rural areas interviewed and counseled 2,116 applicants and effected 1,547 renewals during the period under review.

Collection of employment market information:

The scheme for the collection of employment market information envisages a continuing study of the employment market envisages a continuing study of the employment marker on a district in the state by collecting date at quarterly intervals on the actual supply demand for man- power in various and sector

in all the district except the Coimbatore district where the private sector as also covered. Initially Coimbatore district was chosen for intensive study but later in was proposed to extent the programme to cover the private sector in other district as well by stages.

Rural Reconstruction and Miscellaneous

A sum of RS.17,198.65 was received from the Record Offices as final settlement of the accounts of 548 ex- servicemen. Out of this a sum of Rs. 15 451.81 was disbursed during the period under review Eighty Tuberculosis and 5 leprous patients were admitted for treatment in the various sanatoria. Besides, 1.12 persons were treated in the nearby military hospitals. There hundred and thirty ex-servicemen were treated in the government Headquarters Hospitals for various other ailments. Then cases were recommended to the Artificial Limb Centre, Poona, for the supply of new or old artificial limbs.

Financial assistance

A statement of cases considered for grant of aid from the various Army Benevolent Funds are given below: Two Sewing machines were from the Ex- Service Women's Welfare Fund for resettling two ex- members of the W.A.C (I) A sum of Rs.7,968-8-0 was received from the Record Officers as final settlement of the accounts of 305 ex- servicemen. Out of this, Rs 6,413-7-0 were disbursed during the period under review.

Medical assistance

One hundred and nineteen tuberculosis patients and nine leprosy patients were admitted for treatment in various sanatoria in the state at the cost of the post war services reconstruction fund. Besides this 494 ex-servicemen were treated in the Government Headquarters Hospital for other diseases.

- Nine cases were recommended to the artificial Limb Centre, Poona, for the supply of new or repairs to old artificial limbs.
- Two hundred and fifty pension photographs were attested and sent to the Treasury Officers

concerned for incorporating them in their descriptive rolls.

Pensions

Thirty-nine cases of service pensions, 884 cases for disability pensions and 561 cases for family pensions were initiated. Out of the outstanding claim, 21 life pensions, 352 disability pensions and 103 family pensions were sanctioned. Three service pensions, 230 disability pensions and 56 family pension claims, were rejected by the sanctioning authorities. For the remaining claims, the decision was waiting for the approval of the sanctioning authorities.

Training

Sixty- two disabled ex-servicemen were recommended for admission into the Q.M.T. School at Kirkee learn a trade for eking out their livelihood.

Special assistance

Employment finding during the period, 12,090 ex-servicemen women were registered at the Employment Exchanges in the state and the employment officers placed 2,420 ex-servicemen/women in employment.

Flag Day celebrations

Due to special efforts made by the Government of Madras, a sum of Rs.56,502-10-0 was raised and a sum of Rs.59,135-11(i.e., Balance of 1954 plus 1955 collections up to 31st march 1956 was remitted to the Central Flag Day Fund Committee, New Delhi.

The Central Flag Day Committee, New Delhi, allotted a sum of Rs.25 being the share of this state from 1954 collection which sum has been merged with the Madras State, Ex-Services Personnel Benevolent Fund.

Women's Welfare Department

The department seeks to cover all the important aspects of welfare work, namely, economic, social cultural, family welfare, etc. To improve the conditions of literacy of literacy, health recreation,

etc., in so far as they are related to women and children the department endeavours to achieve these objectives by providing field work, maternity and child-welfare, Community Service Centres. It has sought to promote unity and understanding by infusing the spirit of service and crating civic consciousness.

Family Welfare:

The house to house visits form, the most important part of the work of the Women's Organizer as these regular visits help her in winning the confidence of the women. During these visits advice is given in a friendly manner on the women. During these visits advice is given in a friendly manner on the importance of keeping the houses and the surrounding clean and how to adjust the family expenditure within the income and also advice regarding maternity and child.

Mather Sangams:

To enlist the co- operation and assistance of the local women, a number of Mather have been started in each, district. There are at present 106 Mather sangams started by the Women's Welfare Organisers. These sangams provide an opportunity for the village women to discuss problems of their village and thus try to find a solution for them at their meetings.

Women's Welfare Journal:

On the educative side about the aims and activities of the department, the journal Sowbhagyam is published every month in Tamil containing many interesting articles, short stories, various cooking recipes, simple remedies for common ailments, etc. During the year under report, a sum of Rs.1.395 was realized by way of subscription, Rs.1,120-11 by way of sale proceeds of journal and Rs.165 by way of advertisement.

Women's Welfare Department

Out of the 61 branches of the Department of Women's Welfare, 8 branches in Malabar district were transferred to Kerala State and 2 branches in South kanara district were transferred to Mysore state on 1st

November 1956. In order to co-ordinate the activities of the Women's welfare Department with the Community Development Programme, the Government ordered the Women's Welfare Centres located in Community Development Blocks be taken over by the Community the Women's Welfare Department in areas not covered by the Community Development and National Extension Centre Areas. During the year a branch was opened at Sholur in the Nilgiris district for the benefit the kota Tribes.

Community Welfare Centres:

After the reorganization of the states, there were 102 centers functioning in Madras States. Out of these 52 centers were conducted for the poor and lower middle-class families, 40 centres for the Harijan colonies and 10 centres exclusively for ex-criminal and Hill tribes. A large variety of crafts were taught at these centres. The Women's Welfare Department was intended to give all assistance to the backward women members of the society on the social, cultural and educational aspects of their life. Its various activities were conducting of community Service Centers. Mather Sangams, Pre basic classes, teaching of cottage industries family welfare Social Education, etc. were the important programmers in the Second Five Year plan entirely run from the State funds. A sum of Rs. 1.580 lakh was provided for in the Budget Estimate for the financial year 1960-61 in respect of the following schemes.

- Construction of holdings for the Service Home.
- Starting of an Industrial section in the section in the Service Home.
- Starting of work Centers in the districts, and
- Increasing the strength of the service house

Besides the above, a sum of Rs. 0.720 lakh was financed from the Harijan Welfare Department for the year 1960-61 for the welfare of the scheduled Tribes and Denotified Tribes for starting 8 cottage Industries work centres for the Scheduled Tribes women and 2 works centers for Denotified Tribes.

Special schemes:

- Provision of house-sites and grant of subsidies for the construction of house

Apart from the forgoing plan schemes, the following special schemes were taken up for execution with from the Central Social Welfare Board or the Government of India:

Integrated child welfare scheme (Pilot Project) to be implemented with the aid from the Central Social Welfare Board. Expanded Nutrition Programme: Sponsored by F.A.O. of the United Nations through the Government of India to be implemented in the seven Rural Extension Training Centres in the State. These two schemes were in the initial stages of investigation at the Survey and formulation department, at the end of 1961.

Community Development Programmes

A change was recently introduced on an All-India basis in the execution of the Community Development Programme, the pattern of development of any selected area now involves two stages, namely Stage I and Stage II. Each stage has five years duration. During the Stage I period, the area selected will be under intensive development (previously styled as community Development stage) while during stage II, the area will be under the post-intensive phase. The new system was brought into force with effect from 1st APRIL 1958. It has also been decided that in view of the renewed emphasis on agricultural production, each block, from April 1959, should have had a one-year period of pre-extension activity exclusively in the field of agriculture. Each such block was manned by a Block Development Officer, an Agriculture Extension Officer and five fully trained Gramasevaks.

Social Services and Welfare

Harija Welfare Department

The activities of the Harijan Welfare Department from the pivot of a welfare state. The ameliorative work for the communities eligible for help by Harijan Welfare Department thus progress continued to be carried out under the following heads in this state.

- Maintenance of schools where there no conversation of Harijans.

- Grant of scholarships, stipends, bounding grants, book money and examination fess
- Running of hostels and disconcerted of lump-sum grants to private institution running hostels for Harijians.
- Supply of mid-day meals to all pupils reading in Harijan Welfare schools.
- Grant of subsidies to Harijan agriculturalists for sinking irrigation wells and for purchase of plough bullus and seeds.

The state Harijan Welfare committee was reconstituted during the year with strength of 22 non-official members and one additional member was later appointed increasing the strength to 23 non-official members during the year only one meeting was continued to function with the respective District Collectors as Chairman during the year. The Backward class Advisory as Committees during the year.

Conclusion

Kamaraj, the mass leader and the man of Democratic Socialism was born in 1930 in a poor family at Virudhunagar. After gaining little education he works in a shop at virudhunagar and Trivandrum. By his devoted mentality and eager for public service, he joined as a volunteer in the congress party. He participated in the Vaikam Satyagraha and salt Satyagraha. His keen interest in nationalist activities and social reform led him to jail more than six times. At Vellore jail he came into contact with other leaders

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