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MASS MOBILIZATION MOVEMENT FOR SEPARATE TELANGANA STATE FROM 2010-2014

Lavudya Sujatha

Department of Political Science
Kakatiya University
Hanumkonda, Telangana State, India

Abstract

The demand for separate statehood from the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh state has been raised mainly on the ground of underdevelopment of the region. The demand for separate statehood for Telangana region from Andhra Pradesh was the role of TJAC under the guidance of Prof. Kodanda Ram and participation of students and people irrespective of status to a great extent led to realization of separate state of Telangana started in 1969 by Dr. M. Chenna Reddy. Mrs. Gandhi solved the problem during her premiership.

Keywords: Participation, Irrespective, Extent.

Introduction

Telangana issue was raised on the reasons of economic backwardness, underdevelopment and injustice in budget, resources allocation to this region and distribution of water while providing job opportunities to unemployed youth and other schemes of development ever since the formation of Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, violation of all the agreements and promises which were made in favour of Telangana region and continuous betrayal of leaders from Seemandhra regionⁱ.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi party has submitted a report in the form of letter to Sri Krishna committee over issue of Telangana in 2010. It is clearly stated that people from Telangana region then felt uncertain about merging of Telangana with Andhra was due to the fear of injustice, exploitation and neglect in the united state of Andhra Pradesh meanwhile they are not willing to continue at present because of the real experience of the same thing as noted. The joining of Telangana with Andhra was the result of manipulative politics. Though it was provided various promises and constitutional safeguards at several times as a protection to the people of Telangana in view of preventing exploitation.

Non-Cooperation Movement

As part of the intensified movement of Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC), the Government employees of Telangana region declared non-cooperation to the government all the departments including revenue, registration, electricity, education and transport except Police department joined in the non-cooperation in the month of February, 2011. This movement was started with participation around 30,000 government employees which continued for 16 days. As a result, 8 billion revenue losses per day were occurred to the governmentⁱⁱ.

The Government functioning was badly affected and public life got disturbed. The revenues of the government especially the registration have gone down adversely affecting the state income. The Assembly session was refused to participate for weeks in the Month of February and March while representatives interrupted the parliament session for several days from the functioning.

Million March

The Million March was organized by Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC) on 10th March, 2010 in Hyderabadⁱⁱⁱ. In view of interrupting the march, the police have arrested about thousand activists across the region and stopped the entry of people into Hyderabad city through preventing certain transport services and distracting traffic direction. However, around 50,000 people had reached the venue of the march i.e. Tank Bund through diverting the police force by their tricks. Moreover, some of the activists from Telangana region have damaged about 16 statues of personalities who are representing Telugu culture and language from Seemandhra region.

Sakala Janula Samme -All People's Strike-2011

Under the banner of Telangana political Joint Action Committee a mass movement called "Sakala Janula Samme (All people's strike) was declared on 13th September, 2011. Telangana people irrespective of the status of employment, political affiliation joined in the movement and paralyzed the government functioning of transport, electricity generation and coal mining." Lawyers started boycotting courts and joined in the strike^{iv}. Almost 450 movie theaters in Telangana region were closed at the call given by



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Telangana chamber on 14th September, 2011. Moreover, government teachers joined the strike meanwhile APSRTC employees and State Electricity board employees were joined on 19th September 2011 in an indefinite strike and supported the movement of Telangana for separate statehood. The strike continued for 42 days ending on 25th October, 2011. All the transport (APSRTC) buses work at in the Bus depots without playing even a single day affecting public transport and revenues of the Corporation^v. Similarly Rail connection were delinked between South and North India. Lakhs of Telangana people demonstrated, Dharnas, Rallies, Picketing, Jowl barrows, Road blockade and total bandhs. Thousands of Telangana leaders, students and employees got arrested, cases were booked against the Telangana militants^{vi}.

Political leaders from different parties in the state including TDP and Congress have also joined in Sakala Janula Samme, almost all MP's except Jaipal Reddy (Cabinet Minister in Indian Union) have submitted their resignations to the speaker of Lok Sabha but not accepted. Similarly, MLA's from TDP party and Congress party have also submitted their resignations to the speaker of Legislative Assembly. However, the speaker also rejected their resignations with a remark that the resignations are emotionally submitted. Hence that cannot be accepted.

Political leaders from all parties played an artificial role explicitly pretending that they are supporting Telangana. However, their affiliation and liability to the high command and party leadership was not weakened. The Congress party leaders used a baled statement in favour of Telangana but could not mould the opinion of leadership in favour of Telangana. Telangana Congress leaders always try to get benefit out of the movement of Telangana, some of them have got ministerial births like Deputy Chief Ministers. Advocate generals in the High Court, Telugu Desam party leaders also played a dual role confusing the people of Telangana. As a matter of fact Andhra political leadership from both Congress and TDP party have agreed in all party meeting convinced by Chief Minister, Rosaiah, to pass a resolution recommending to the centre for Telangana statehood. But Andhra leadership has changed their earlier stand, 5th & 7th on December and submitted all their resignations (MP's and MLA's) to the speaker of the Indian Parliament and state Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh. With this aggressive behaviors' of Andhra leadership the High command has reversed their statements regarding state formation process. Mr. Chidambaram, the Union Home Minister has declared that the Telangana state formation process would be initiated only after consensus is arrived among the national and regional parties participating in election of the state.

Telangana as a part of erstwhile Nizam was subjected for suppression, oppression and remained as backward region for more than 300 years. Telangana Armed struggle (1946-48) took place for liberation and ultimately Hyderabad state was created on 17th September, 1948. Similarly, Andhra state was carved in 1953. Both Telangana and Andhra states were merged with certain safeguards for Telangana region. People from Telangana region after 13 years merger, felt that they are discriminated in the field of education, employment and a movement was initiated for separate statehood in 1969.

However, with the Supreme Court judgment on Mulki Rules, the Jai Andhra Movement demanding separate Andhra was also initiated by Andhra political leaders. With Six Point formula, the movement was diluted. Again, the Six Point formula was violated and Telangana region suffered in all fronts including employment. The movement for separate Telangana again picked up in the late 1990's and the issue has become agenda for political parties during 2004, and 2009 general elections. But the separate state of Telangana was not created, consequently an indefinite hunger strike was initiated by K. Chandrasekhar Rao, rocked the state of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, Mr. Chidambaram, the Home Minister of India had announced that process of Telangana state formation would be started on 9th December 2009. However, the centre retracted on 23rd January, 2010. Moreover, the central government was appointed a committee under the headship of Sri Krishna, a retired Judge of Supreme Court to look into issue of Telangana and conditions of Andhra Pradesh and give report before 31st December, 2010. The committee after careful study on various issues submitted a report with a solution and measures for a long pending issue of separate state of Telangana.

Telangana March-2012

T-JAC (Telangana Joint Action Committee) has prepared to restart the separate Telangana movement. It has threatened the Centre through setting a deadline of 30th September to declare the formation of Telangana state meanwhile organized the Telangana March on the lines of Dandi March in Hyderabad^{vii}. It was expected that violence might occurred and possibility of attack over the properties of Seemandhra people. At the beginning Police department was refused to give permission to the march which was planned to conduct on 29th September on the eve of Ganesh Nimmajjan and Unite Nations conference on 1st October on Biodiversity. The Police were started inspecting the buses and trains which coming into the city and students are prevented from entering into city to participate in the protest meanwhile certain students and supporting activists of Telangana and trouble makers have got arrested in every part of the Telangana region.



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The Telangana Joint Action Committee leaders have given a guarantee to the government in the form of letter that the agitation would be organized in a calm and non-violent manner at Necklace Road on 30th September but they have violated the time deadline and denied the request to go away from the venue till the government announced a declaration on separate Telangana^{viii}. As a result of the intensity of movement, Police firstly utilized water cannons and then tear gas shells on the group of people and the stage in view of vacate the protestors from the venue. Subsequently, the police have filed cases against TJAC Chairman Prof. Kodand Ram and other people for organizing the march and the creation of violence as well^{ix}. Moreover, Police department has booked cases against the student leaders of Telangana State Joint Action Committee (TSJAC), students from Osmania University, Activists from Telangana Vidyarti Parishad and few leaders of Telangana Vidyavantula Vedika. Though, this strike has got little reaction in the Hyderabad city and impact of this general strike has spread to some extent across the districts of Telangana region^x.

Chalo Assembly-2013

The year 2013 has noticed more protests through the agitations of Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC) activists including closing the road of 7th National Highway in the District of Mahaboobnagar in order to stop people and goods from coming in or out and also public property was also destroyed. The several leaders from various political parties have taken part together in support of Telangana movement for separate statehood with TRS party.

The TJAC had designed the protest plans of Chalo Hyderabad in view of surround the state legislative Assembly on 14th June 2013 in Hyderabad as a part of the demand for formation of Telangana. But the government refused to give permission to the march kept in mind the information about anti-social activities might happen and create violence and disruption like previous event of Million March, Where violence had occurred even though promises were made by the TJAC^{xi}.

The government of Andhra Pradesh has effectively used both the central government and state security forces around 25,000 policemen to maintain law and order. The TJAC leaders stated that the government has been utilizing dictatorial actions in view of suppress them from expressing wishes of Telangana people. Moreover, holidays have been declared to educational institutions in Hyderabad city. Though restrictions were implemented, the police could not able to completely prevent the people from participating and surrounded assembly to raise their voice. Consequently, a large number of people have got arrested such as members of state legislature, the TJAC Chairman Professor Kodanda Ram and some other leaders across the Hyderabad city. The campus of Osmania University had become a battle ground because the police has closed the campus gate to prevent the students from leaving the campus and also to control the rally the police recourse tear gas when students started throwing stones over them. Then, the TJAC Chairman commented that their aim of emphasizing the need of separate statehood at Assembly got fulfilled.

After the extensive negotiations the Congress High Command finalized to grant the separate Telangana with all parties from AP and the suitable bills was sketch in CWC meeting. The bill was forwarded and introduced in the house. The state assembly passed the bill with mujuvani vote and sent to Parliament here also passed with mujuvani vote and finally Telangana Bifurcated in June 2, 2014 as 29th state of India. As the saying goes, much water has flown in the Musi since late 2013. Maybe with an eye on the 2014 elections both to the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly/Assemblies, the UPA government finally completed all formalities for creation of a separate state of Telangana before elections came into being. However, the Congress Party very badly failed in the elections. In the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, the party has faced defeat and opposition from the people for the division of the state. In the Telangana region, the voters came forward to support and give full recognition for creation of the new state to the TRS party. Thus, as in most other states, the Congress has faced difficult situation while facing elections.

Conclusion

Telangana movement was initially reached to the peak level in 1969 where TPS party was played a major role in highlighting the issue of Telangana under the leadership of Marri Chenna Reddy. But, the movement got troubled due to manipulative politics. Thereafter, the BJP party's direction has brought the issue of states reorganization once again with the creation three new states in 2000 and given opportunity to raise other demands as well particularly, formation of TRS party in case of Telangana. There are two leaders like Marri Chenna Reddy who had diluted the movement over political opportunism and N.T. Rama Rao has also repressed the Telangana demand in the name of Telugu unity and pride. Though, the movement was suppressed frequently but aspirations of the people and their problems were never resolved which has been continuously given fuel to the Telangana movement. Further, the political void created after sudden demise of Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy has provided favourable conditions to carry out the Telangana movement and the initiative of the KCR at right point of time has spread the movement in a speed way across the region of entire Telangana. Moreover, the role of TJAC under the guidance of Prof. Kodanda Ram and participation of students and people irrespective of status to a great extent led to realization of separate state of Telangana.



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