

SOCIAL LEGISLATIONS IN TAMIL NADU (1977-1988)**G.Karihalan**

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– 625014**Abstract**

Most commonly known by the famous three letters 'M.G.R.', he was the most charismatic leader who founded the party AIADMK in 1972 and was catapulted to power. He became the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu in 1977 and remained in power till December 24, 1987. He made his film debut in 1936, and by the end of 1940, he had risen to the top of the acting ladder. MGR has been an admirer and supporter of Annadurai, the founder of the DMK Party, and has worked closely with him in all of his political endeavors. His charismatic appeal was crucial to the growth of the DMK party as well as his own political image. After untimely death of Annadurai in 1969, he was succeeded by M. Karunanidhi. He became the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and the leader of the DMK party in 1969. Soon after, disagreements arose between him and the then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. Following his expulsion from the DMK, MGR formed a new party in the year 1972. The political climate in Tamilnadu had become so charged by a series of events that MGR was determined to run in the general election in 1977. His archrival, the DMK, was defeated in the election. He emerged as the state's most successful leader and assumed the position of Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu. After a brief spell, his government was removed from power by the Union government for four months, but he still led the AIADMK party to victory in 1980 and 1984 elections. M.G.R., has been widely acknowledged as the most spectacular and charismatic figures not only in celluloid world of Tamilnadu at also its vibrant political scenario. this article discussed about various schemes,projectes,programs of mgr government and we try to find out the ratio of beneficiaries.

Keywords Dalits, Welfare Scheme, Women's program.**Introduction**

Due to a variety of factors, MGR and DMK leader Karunanidhi had sharp disagreements on a number of issues, both personal and political and consequently he was expelled from the DMK party in 1972. Following his dismissal, he has gone to extend of establishing a new political party, known as the Anna DravidaMunnetraKazhagam. He was accepted not only as its leader, but unanimously chosen as the General Secretary of the party. Subsequently the very nomenclature of the party was changed as AIADMK (All India Anna DravidaMunnetraKazhagam). The ADMK party under the leadership MGR Ramachandran contested the General election in 1977. It was a sort of four corner contest. The AIADMK party

and its alliance won 144 of 234 seats in the elections. Following this massive mandate M.G.R. assumed office of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on June 30, 1977. He held this position until his death in 1987. In my article let's see how many welfare schemes he provided while in power.

Welfare Schools for Harijans

The Harijan and Tribal Welfare Department operated Harijan Welfare Schools. During the year 1976–1977, there were 942 schools meant for the benefit of those communities. According to available statistics around seventeen lakhs boys and girls attended these schools. Further it is noticed that during the year 1986–1987 the Harijan and Tribal Welfare department managed around 963 Adi-Dravidar Welfare Schools, including 17 secondary schools, 51 high schools, 51 middle schools, and 844 elementary schools. There are 1,24,503 males and 1,04,018 females in these schools for a total of 2,28,521 students.

Supply of Uniforms and Dresses

One of the most humanitarian services rendered to the school children was the supply of school uniforms free of cost for those studying the 1st to 8th standard. Two sets of dresses, one for Deepavali and one for Pongal, were provided at no cost to all girl students enrolled in schools or residing in government hostels, regardless of their community. Two sets of uniforms were distributed to all the children in the beginning of the academic year 1986–1987 (from 1st to 8th standard) in all the schools as well as those residing in the Government boarding hostels.

Approximately for the distribution of free uniforms, around 14 crores of rupees were set aside during the budget period 1986–1987. This apart, all the student studying in the 1st to 5th standard received free slates, while students in grades six through twelve received free note books and textbooks. Also Government has arranged for the award of a number of scholarships to all the students belonging to SC/ST communities, which includes both pre and post matriculation scholarship. To approximately 5.50 million students, merit-based and loan-based scholarships were awarded. Students from these communities were awarded the Gandhi Memorial Award and the Bright Students Award, among others. The government awarded a cash prize of Rs. 300 for every student of this category who scored at least sixty percent in their SSLC (tenth grade) examinations.

Adi-Dravidar Welfare Hostels

To accommodate the Adi-Dravidar students, hostel buildings were constructed at a cost of 212 crores of rupees during the year 1986–1987. Since the state had already running seven forty three hostels for them and around forty eight thousand inmates were admitted. There were separate hostels for college students (48 hostels) and eight hostels for industrial students. Each year, 15 new hostels are constructed to meet the growing demand in South Carolina. In addition, there was a programme that provided free tools and appliances to SCs with technical credentials.

TAHDCO

TAHDCO was the main government organisation in charge of building and giving out homes for Adi-Dravidar communities. The Government has earmarked fund allocation which scheme goes as follows : In 1977-1978, a home in the plains was constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,000, with a built up area of around 210 square feet. Subsequently, the cost of them was increased to Rs.6,000. Around 1987-1988, TAHDCO had constructed around 61,000 homes. For this purpose the amount was raised from Rs. 6,000 to Rs.10,000 due to rising construction costs.

Drinking Water Supply

Efforts were made and schemes were devised to provide potable drinking water to all the Dalit colonies in Tamilnadu. For this purpose where ever necessary and required new wells were dug and the old ones were repaired. In 1977–1978, when drinking water wells were installed in approximately 23,311 out of 25,000 colonies, the maximum cost per well was set at Rs 6,000. This apart to supplement the scheme, over-head tanks and ground-level reservoirs were created. Drinking water walls were dug at a cost of Rs.7,500 per well. Also the ground-level water reservoirs were created at a cost of Rs.15,000 during the year 1987-1988. In order to extent necessary support and to facilitate the students belonging to the Depressed classes efforts were made.

Accordingly it is understood that around 53,106 students got enrolled in the different category of schools. Also it is noticed that financial support was extended to students of postgraduate studies in the form of scholarship. The CMNMS Nutritious meal scheme was also extended to all the schools meant for denotified community, which benefited around 50,000 students. This apart, the department's hostels admitted students from denotified communities and backward classes whose parents' annual income did not exceed Rs. 5,000. The department altogether managed 558 hostels exclusively for the benefit of them. Government statistics inform that there are eighty six hostels for denotified communities and around four seventy hostels for the backward classes. These hostels accommodated around 33,000 students as inmates. Similarly, 73,000 students benefited from the distribution of two dress sets to all high school hostel residents over the course of one year.

Every year, the BC/DC students with the best grade point averages at the state level get prizes. For sinking irrigation wells, farmers with less than 2,000 acres of land received a subsidy of Rs.2,500.

Other Welfare Schemes

Other welfare schemes for the downtrodden includes those of barbers and dhobis who received implements free of cost to continue their traditional practices. Similarly to help the washerman, common washing shed called 'Thobikanas' were constructed to continue their

traditional occupation so as to improve their living conditions in urban areas. It must be pointed out that for the construction of the Thobikanas, 75% of the construction was subsidized by the government, with the remaining 20% covered by the local government and 5% by the beneficiaries. In addition to this, efforts were made to extend necessary financial assistance to the four occupational communities for the purchase of home sites, which included the most backward communities like Oddars, Vannars, Navithars, and Narikoravars.

Welfare Programmes for Women

Since he was the natural sympathizer of women, even his movies, dialogues and songs lauded women and motherhood. Hence as the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu he naturally supported the welfare and advancement initiatives for women. In his first year in office, MGR enacted a number of programmes for the advancement of women. During the year 1977–1978, his Government implemented a programme which provided a stipend of Rs.150 per annum to 1,000 poor women between the ages of 16 and 30, to receive certain kinds of training which will help them for self employment in future.

This apart, to help and guide the widows to secure their life insurance benefits and provident funds, exclusive guidance bureaus were established at different centers like Chennai, Coimbatore, Thanjavur, and Madurai. Also these guidance bureaus advised them in matters relating to education, job opportunities etc,. Further the Government has implemented certain programmes through which the children of the widows were benefited. Similarly, cash incentives were granted for the school children of the widows pursuing education at different levels of school education from 1978-1979.

Since this scheme was so much helpful for so many, it was further expanded till the year 1981-1982. Approximately it benefited around 2,200 children studying in higher secondary schools. As per the available Government statistics it is understood that to begin with financial aid was provided to 1,500 elementary school students, 900 middle school students, and 600 high school students during the financial year 1983-1984.

Yet another scheme of humanitarian assistance, especially for the destitute widows was implemented to help their daughters given in marriage. This scheme was implemented from 1981 – 1982 onwards. According to this scheme necessary financial assistance was extended to them, who are in the age group of 18 to 30 years. Thousands of women were benefited annually because of this scheme. The Scheme for Widows' Remarriage aimed to help widows get back on their feet by giving both the husband and wife Rs. 5,000 in National Savings Certificates that would be held in trust for seven years.

Supply of Sewing Machines to Widows

To extend the necessary assistance to widows for self sustenance the Government of Tamilnadu devised a scheme of free distribution of sewing machines for the destitute widows who were in the age group of 20 to 40. Necessary tailoring training was provided either at the Government or recognized private institutions between the years 1977 and 1988. Approximately 15,000 women were benefited from this programme. Similarly for the rehabilitation of deserted women, the Government has established women training centers and institutes which are non-profit rehabilitation homes. The very purpose of this initiative was to make these helpless women to stand eventually on their own.

Service Homes

The Government of Tamilnadu has opened service homes at six different places under the control of social welfare department. The very objective of these service homes were to provide vocational training for all the destitute, deserted and poor widows in the age group of 18 to 40 so that they may be able to sustain their own life through self employment. Such training includes those categories like tailoring, dressmaking, embroidery, and weaving.

The maximum time allowed for three inmates to reside in service homes with two or three children was three years. The state Government provided its inmates with free food and shelter and medical care.

Teachers' Training Courses

Teacher training institutes exclusively for women was established by the State Government for those women who had completed their 10th standard of school education. For instance, an institute was established at Tambaram which admitted around 40 students under junior and senior sections. It is noticed from the 1986-1987 budget allocation that a monthly stipend of Rs.75 was given to the trainees for two years of their training period.

Working Women's Hostel

There was a dire and extreme necessity to establish hostels for working women especially from the lower and middle class backgrounds who are residents in the urban areas. Keeping in this mind in the year 1977-1978, at Chennai the first working women hostel was established, which was followed by five more hostels at different locations like Trichy, Madurai and Hosur. The most important point to be brought out here is that the salaries and rentals were met by the Government and the electricity charges were borne by the inmates.

Mahalir Mandrams

The establishment of MahalirMandram was yet another novel concept of the Tamilnadu Government and during the year 1986 – 1987, around 11,520 such mandrams were in existence.

Every panchayat union organize 30 mahalirmandrams through which the rural women are brought together, who were taught to over come several socio economic barriers. It is noticed that these MahalirMandrams participated in a variety of activities. They were given training in several departments like preparation of nutritious food, baby shows etc. To encourage the economic activity of these mandrams, cash incentives and prizes were distributed to the best MahalirMandram.

Child Welfare Programmes

To take care of the child welfare programmes, the Government has appointed Child welfare coordinators. They have been trained to teach in the child welfare centres which were around 4,140 as on 1st July 1982. Nursery education was imparted through them.

Subsequently from 1982 – 1983 onwards young infants were given the facility to receive their pre-school education. In addition to receiving instruction in general information, these students were also encouraged to develop their creativity and good habits. The government authorized the development of nursery schools in 5,000 child welfare centres as a second phase, following phenomenal success of the first 4,140 nursery schools. On average, each nursery school served between 40 and 60 children.

Supply of Footwear and Tooth Powder

Every two years, children have received free footwear since 1987. In 1982, the MGR regime implemented a programme to provide free tooth powder to rural residents. In 21,127 rural centres, the Directorate provided for children between the ages of two and four.

Integrated Child Development Services

The ICDS initiative was a government-funded program. This was implemented in three Tamil Nadu locales between 1975 and 1976. In the subsequent years, 1982–1983, and 1983–1984, it was expanded to 27 places, and a total of nine projects were implemented. Consequently, 39 ICDS initiatives were operational in the state. In addition, about 3,455 anganwadis served approximately 22.3 million beneficiaries through the 39 ICDS projects.

Orphanages

During the reign of MGR from 1977 to 1987, sixteen government orphanages for children ages 5 to 18 were established, with a maximum capacity of 250 per institution. Free food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and education were provided to the children.

Welfare of Senior Citizens

The state Government has implemented several welfare schemes meant for the senior citizens of the state. These schemes include the old age pension programme, physically handicapped destitute, needy widows, and needy agricultural laborers. It must be pointed out that, the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Program was expanded to include senior citizens on January 15, 1983. As on 1984 total number of beneficiaries under this scheme were around 1,99,639 persons. The programme provides a daily nourishing meal to approximately 53,754 beneficiaries. The meal served to them contains 200 grammes of rice, 15 grammes of daal, 10 grammes of oil, 50 grammes of vegetables, and condiments. The Tamilnadu Government has authorized the extension of the Old Age Pensioners' Scheme to 81,273 individuals who are kept on the Old Age Pension waiting list as of August 15, 1984.

Welfare of Ex-Servicemen

As of January 1, 1984, the government has extended the perks and benefits to ex-servicemen and ex-servicemen widows who receive pensions from the Ex-Servicemen Welfare Fund. Then, roughly 112 recipients of this programme enjoyed a nutritious meal in child welfare programme centers.

Conclusion

Many of M.G.R.'s contemporaries considered his rule the best in the nation, even after his death. His rule has drawbacks. During his tenure the state's development rating plummeted from second to tenth. The government reallocated cash from the energy and irrigation businesses to the social and agricultural sectors. Many comment that focusing on "social programmes" like free power for farmers and midday meal programmes diverts resources from poorly benefiting infrastructure development. During his administration, the liquor tax was seen as a regressive tax that hurt the poor. Many blame him for his administrative inefficiencies and corruption. Despite his shortcomings as the state's head of state, his charisma and compassionate humanitarian activities for the oppressed and depressed masses made him the most memorable political leader of Tamilnadu.

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