

Left Movement and Party Politics in Maharashtra

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Abstract: -

Left movement in Maharashtra was started by social reformers to create an exploitation free society. This movement has fought to create a Marathi speaking region along with providing justice to the exploited underprivileged community in Maharashtra. After the creation of the united state of Maharashtra, the struggle to give their rights to the farmers, farm laborers, laborers and tribal communities has started. In this regard, efforts are being made to solve the problems of society through elections. Even today this party is doing important work in Nashik Thane district.

Introduction: -

The Left movement in Maharashtra is to create an exploitation free society. Leftist movement is meant to change the established order. Socio-economic political change can be made through this movement. Such optimism is important in the left movement. Therefore, the left parties play an important role in the socio-economic and political field of Maharashtra. In view of the formation of united Maharashtra, the struggle, agitations and the leadership it got, Maharashtra was transformed through the ideological struggle. After 1990, even today, the role of the left party is important in view of the growing problems of Maharashtra tribal's, laborers, agricultural laborers, and workers in organized and unorganized sectors. From that perspective, the left movement is important to study.

Entry of leftist ideas into Maharashtra:-

The foundations of social reform were laid in Maharashtra during the British period. This social foundation seems to be important in further social transformation. British rule, English education

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and western values had a tremendous impact on the educated society of Maharashtra. It brought about social change; social reformers in Maharashtra came forward. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar made many social changes during the Enlightenment (Joshi: 1990; 296). Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Namdar Gopalkrishna Gokhale, philanthropist Gopal Hari Deshmukh, Nyamurthy Mahadev Govind Ranade and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar all contributed to the reformers. He brought up many issues such as male-female disparity, practice of sati, hair loss, child marriage, ban on remarriage, exploitation of women (Sardar: 1986; 7). Mahatma Phule opposed the slavery of women in Bahujan society. From that point of view, he started women's education. Education is not only the monopoly of the upper castes. Bahujan society has no option but education to move forward. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar elaborated the importance of healing tradition and predominance of common sense through Kesari. He expressed his views on how the socio-economic system deteriorates due to religious customs and traditions and how exploitation takes place in the society. Like Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is a social reformer who fought for the Bahujan society. So they burnt her collectively because the caste structure and discrimination in India was considered as a human norm. Because of this, untouchability was getting stronger. This leftist ideology has tried to destroy caste discrimination and untouchability on the basis of law (Kasbe; 2016: 65).

The process of social and economic reforms and the changes suggested accordingly did not happen suddenly. Before the Russian Revolution of 1917, there was an atmosphere conducive to socialism. 1867 Vishnubuwa Brahmachari (1825-1871) in his book Vedokta Dharmaprakash paints a picture of a blissful state. "All the land should be cultivated by all the subjects, the harvest should be shared by all, each should work according to his ability and contribute to the social welfare and give to each according to his need. There should be no private property taxes, the king should be a government official appointed by the people. It should be changed if people want, education should be given to all without regard to caste discrimination, gender discrimination, food should be the same for all, old men and women should be taken care of by the king" (Jog: 1981; 197). Dr. Jog called Vishnubuwa Brahmachari the first socialist of Maharashtra. After that Mahatma Phule's thought was close to socialism. Phule's movements for moneylender loans, agricultural extension, forced recovery, problems of drought victims, oppression of government officials, women's education, women's emancipation, untouchability are all reflected in his socialist views. For the

first time in modern times, the Russian Revolution of 1917 gave a strong foothold to socialist thought against large-scale capitalism. The impact of this global phenomenon was also felt in Maharashtra. This is why the labor movement started taking shape in Maharashtra. And the Communist Party was established. To start the communist movement in Maharashtra, Manvendranath Roy. The Communist Party of India was established in Mumbai in association with Shripad Dange, Mirajkar, Randive (Chandrama: 1990; 302). In 1934, a group of workers was working as a cell of the Communist Party. But he was only working class and in secret situation. After the Jungle Satyagraha of 1930, disaffected youths were working in the Praja Parishad. It was he who established the Vidyarthi Union in the year 1939. A.A. Patil, Santaram Patil, B.A. Patil, Yashwant Chavan branched out of Rashtra Seva Dal. Many of these students were caught and interned (Chausalkar: 2017; 84).

In the 1930s, new leaders like B.T Ranadive, Dr. Gangadhar Adhikari, Srinivas Sardesai and S. G. Patkar from labor background emerged in Mumbai. In the same period, the Communist Party in the work in the field of labor Narayan Malhar Joshi and also. A policy of cooperation was decided with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. Shyamrao Purulekar and Godatai Purulekar eventually joined the Communist Party (Bedekar:2019;218). Although the CPI was officially opposed to the Chale Jaa movement of 1942, many workers in Maharashtra took personal participation. In the year 1946, the Communist Party of India won 2 seats by contesting the Legislative Assembly elections in Bombay Province like other states. Even after Shripad Amrit Dange and Shivbisal Singh Harpal Singh were elected as MLAs, they continued to oppose the policies of the Congress government. The party actively supported the sailors' revolt in Mumbai. Communist workers in Marathwada participated in the struggle against Nizam rule and Razakar. A group called Maharashtra Parishad was active in Marathwada. They included Chandragupta Chaudhary, VD Deshpande and Habibuddin.

Movement of Communists in Maharashtra Politics:-

In the 1946 elections held in Bombay Province, the Communist Party of India won two seats in the Legislative Assembly. It included Comrade Shripad Amrit Dange and Comrade Shivbisal Singh Harpal Singh. Communist Party of India leader Comrade Dange was emotionally and politically involved in the movement of United Maharashtra, in the general election of the year

1957, the Communist Party of India won 4 seats in the Lok Sabha and 13 seats in the Legislative Assembly from Maharashtra. This time the CPI got a total vote percentage of 3.63 and got 13 assembly seats. At this time, the total vote percentage of CPI was 3.63. Most of these seats were obtained from West Maharashtra and Mumbai. They had never got so many seats before. The Communist Party of India had started large-scale work in the tribal areas of Thane and Nashik districts in the pre-independence period. Also, through the Kisan Sabha, it had entered some places in the rural areas. In this some leaders like Kranti Singh Nana Patil, Kakasaheb Wagh joined the Communist Party of India (Bokil: 2012; 41). In the general election of 1957, four people were elected to the Lok Sabha, namely Dange, Shamrao Purulekar, Kranti Singh Nana Patil and Laxman Mahera. While V. D. Deshpande, S. G. Patkar, Bhai Chitale were elected in the Legislative Assembly. Also in the year 1958, Mr. Mirjekar got the honor of becoming the Mayor of Mumbai. During this period, Madhavrao Gaikwad was elected to the Legislative Council. Also, Lalji Pendse, who has been associated with the party for many years, was elected to the Rajya Sabha. Later on, Prabhakar Vaidya was elected to the Legislative Council and Srinivas Sardesai to the Rajya Sabha. Vamanrao Bapat, a one-time communist and General Bapat's successor, was also elected to the Legislative Council by the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti in the 1960s. In the first Maharashtra state assembly elections held in 1962, the Communist Party of India fielded 56 candidates. Out of them 6 candidates were elected, this time the party got 5.90 percent votes.

In the history of the Communist Party of India, in the year 1964, there was a split in the party over the issue of Chinese invasion. The leaders of Maharashtra Shripad Amrit Dange, Ghate, Sardesai remained in the Communist Party of India while Randive, Godatai Purulekar, S. Leader Y. Kolhatkar joined the newly formed Marxist Communist Party. In the post-partition 1967 assembly elections, the Communist Party of India contested on 41 seats, out of which 10 candidates won, with a vote share of 4.87 percent. While the Marxist Communist Party won 1 seat by fielding 11 candidates, their vote share was 1.08 percent. The impact of the changing situation in the country in the 1970s is visible on the left political parties, during which the electoral settlement of the Congress-CPI in the assembly elections in the state was seen. In the 1972 assembly elections, the Communist Party of India and the Marxist Communist Party contested the election separately (Palshikar: 2007; 150). 44 candidates of Communist Party of India stood in this election. Out of them 2 candidates won and their total vote share was 2.73 percent. The Marxist Communist Party

fielded 20 candidates in this election. Out of them 1 candidate has won. The party got a total of 0.77 percent votes. In the year 1975, the CPI actively supported the Emergency and also strongly opposed the movement of Jayaprakash Narayan. However, while the Communist Party of India was affected by the policy of the Marxist Communist Party and gave positive support to the movement, it is seen that the Marxist Communist Party benefited from it. In the 1978 Maharashtra Assembly elections, the CPI contested the elections independently and the CPI (M) contested with the Janata Party in an alliance. While CPM fielded 12 candidates out of which 9 seats were won. Their vote share was 1.69 percent (Table 1).

The Communist Party of India fielded 17 candidates in the central elections of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly held in 1980. Out of them 2 candidates won, their total vote share was 1.31%. The Marxist Communist Party fielded 10 candidates in this election. 2 of their candidates were elected. He got a total of 0.93 percent votes. In the 1985 Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Communist Party of India fielded 31 candidates. Out of them 2 candidates won. His vote share was 0.92%. Also Marxist Communist Party had fielded its 14 candidates in this election and 2 of their candidates won in this election; their total vote share was 0.79. In 1990, the Communist Party of India fielded a total of 16 candidates for the Maharashtra state assembly elections. 2 candidates of Communist Party of India won in this election. In this election, his vote share was 0.74. The Marxist Communist Party fielded 13 candidates in this election. Their 03 candidates won. His overall vote share was 0.87 percent. In the 1995 elections, the Communist Party of India fielded 17 candidates, out of which none of them won, with a total vote share of 0.32%. On the other hand, the Marxist Communist Party had fielded its 18 candidates, out of which 3 candidates won, their vote share was 1 percent. In the 1999 Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections, the Communist Party of India fielded its candidates on 19 seats and failed to win a single seat, with an overall vote share of 0.15 percent. In this election, the Marxist Communist Party fielded its candidates on 23 seats, out of which 2 candidates are seen to have won. Their vote share is 0.64% (Table No.1).

In the assembly elections of 2004, the Communist Party of India fielded 15 candidates out of which none of them won, and their vote share was 0.14 percent. In the assembly elections of 2004, the Marxist Communist Party fielded 16 candidates out of which 3 candidates won. His vote share was 0.62 percent. In the assembly elections of 2009, the Communist Party of India fielded 20 candidates, out of which none of them won, and their vote share was 0.14 percent. In this assembly

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election, Marxist Communist Party fielded 20 candidates out of which 01 candidate won. His vote share was 0.60 percent. In the assembly election 2014, the Communist Party of India fielded 33 candidates out of which none of the candidates won and their vote share was 1.11 percent. In this election, the Marxist Communist Party fielded 20 candidates, out of which 01 candidate won, their total vote share was equal to 5.78 percent (Table No.1).

In the Assembly Election 2019, the Communist Party of India fielded its 16 candidates, out of which none of the candidates won, and their vote share was 1.11 percent. In this assembly election of 2019, Marxist Communist Party fielded 8 candidates out of which 01 candidate won. Their vote share was 14.06 percent (Table No.1).

Conclusion

In short, the role of leftist political parties is important in providing justice to the oppressed underprivileged in the established system of India. Left movement in India has started from that point of view. Worked to provide justice to the exploited underprivileged in the social diversity of India. It has given priority to farmers, agricultural labourers, laborers and tribals. But this element is still in the same situation today. So this movement got a political form. Politically, the Communist Party of India and the Marxist Communist Party have created a distinct position in Indian politics. Although this position is seen at the national and regional level, it is at the local level due to its observance.

Table 1.

Performance of Communist Party in Maharashtra Assembly Elections

NO	Election	parties	Contested	Won	VOTE
1	1957	CPI	32	13	3.63
2	1962	CPI	56	06	5.90
3	1967	CPI	41	10	4.87
		CPM	11	03	1.08
4	1972	CPI	44	02	2.73
		CPM	20	01	0.77
5	1978	CPI	48	01	1.48
		CPM	12	09	1.69
6	1980	CPI	17	02	1.31
		CPM	10	02	0.93

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7	1985	CPI CPM	31 14	02 02	0.92 0.79
8	1990	CPI CPM	16 13	02 03	0.74 0.87
9	1995	CPI CPM	17 18	00 03	0.32 1.00
10	1999	CPI CPM	19 23	00 02	0.15 0.64
11	2004	CPI CPM	15 16	00 03	0.14 0.62
12	2009	CPI CPM	20 20	00 01	0.14 0.60
13	2014	CPI CPM	33 20	00 01	1.11 5.78
14	2019	CPI CPM	16 08	00 01	1.11 14.06

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