



REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Indian party system is inimitable. It does not fit into any kind of arrangement that is generally used to categorise the party systems. Regional politics in India is the off-shoot of caste, economic and environment factors. The pattern of party system, however, varies from state to state as it is largely shaped by the socio-economic environment of a particular society. If we talk about regional political parties with all the quarters, they always turn on the centre is on the park, they always presses the centre to meet his needs. This paper analyses the policies and effectiveness between regional parties and centre government in ensuring checks and balances in Indian federalism in the changing political and economic contexts. In particular, it identifies the major relations such as DMK, AIADMK, AD, TDP and JKNC in the implementation of policies and effectiveness of institutions particularly in striking Centre-State and inter-state bargains and resolving conflicts.

Keywords: AIADMK, Centre-State, Elections, India, Regional Parties.

Introduction

The Constitution of India envisages a federal structure with unitary bias. The word federalism appeared nowhere in the Indian Constitution despite the presence of substantial provisions. According to Dr. BR Ambedkar, "Although the Constitution is a federal Constitution as much as it established what may be called as dual polity which will consist of the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery, each endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them repetitively by the Constitution yet the Constitution has avoided the tight mould of federalism and could be both unitary and federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances." In this way uncertainty cause of various tensions, divergence, debates and argument increasing with the real working of the political system in India. Article 1 of the Indian Constitution declares that "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States" it is thus a federation while in setting up a federation we have in great confusion the normal process of federalism.

Historical evolution of a federation shows that small independent states closely situated and needing a well-built Union to survive in a fiercely competitive comity of nations shed part of their sovereignty in favour of a new Union to be an arranged. The Indian Act of 1935, which visualize a merger of the princely state for the first time conceived India to be a federation. The Indian National Congress (INC) played crucial role in freedom struggle swept the pools and the Centre-States were ruled by the same political party. No nervousness was able to be seen between Centre and the states. But after the appearance of coalition era at the state level in 1961 as well as at the Central level in 1977, the conception of multi-party system and regionalism, pattern of Centre-State relations has changed to a certain extent.

Seventy one years of independence have witnessed tremendous changes and reforms and there is an immediate need to have a fresh look in an introspective spirit at the Centre-State relation both in the context of various recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission (June 1983), National Commission to review the working of the Constitution and formations more new states, besides mounting demands for some more separate states, in recent years. Regional political parties demanded during 16th century of restructuring for the Centre-State relations. It is because that many regional parties came into existence in different states. After the 1983 Assembly Elections a Centre-State relation has been experienced new trends. The Indian National Congress was voted out of power in two Southern states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Telugu Desham has emerged as the ruling new party has come on a surprise. N. T. Rama Rao became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He took major steps in his leadership and calls all the Non-Congress political parties to discuss about the Centre-State relation.

The regional party Shiromani Akali Dal, the main representative body of the Sikhs in the Punjab. In 1973 the resolution was adopted. This resolution demanded greater state autonomy and wanted to leave very little with the Centre. According to it, Centre's power should be confined only to defence, foreign relation, communications, railways, currency and the entire residuary powers be vested in the states.



Rajmanner Committee was appointed in Tamil Nadu government in 1969 to set off on enquiry of Centre-State relations. The report was submitted by Committee on 1971. The following recommendations was made by Committee included (a) readjustment in scheduled VII of the Constitution to transfer residuary powers to the states (b) modification of Article 252 (c) repeal of Article 249 (d) repeal of Article 200 and 201 (e) reorganisation of Finance Commission and Planning Commission.

Objectives of The Study

- [1] To study historically the evolution of regional political parties in India.
- [2] To study the programmes the policies of regional political parties.
- [3] To analyse the regional parties in India and its relations with centre.

Akali Dal and Centre-State Relations

The Akali Dal is both a regional and communal political party, regional because it is confined to the Punjab and communal because its membership is restricted to the members of the Sikh community. While the Akali Dal was first formed as a reform party to bring the Sikh shrines of Gurudwaras under unified Sikh control, a goal it succeeded in achieving way back in 1925. However, the demand for an independent Sikhistan made at the time of partition of the Indian sub-continent was modified in the early fifties into the demand for a Punjabi speaking state of Punjabi Saba in which the Sikhs would be in majority. The Punjab state reorganisation bill was enacted in September 1966, under which the state was trifurcated into Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The new state of Punjab, thus, created had a population of 54% Sikh and 44% Hindus. The Akalis achieved their long cherished goal of a Sikh majority in the Punjab. The Sikh majority, they believed, would provide the essential security for the maintenance of the Sikh communal entity, and also the possibility of the Akali Dal emerging as a governing party in the province. Akali Dal since the beginning has been faction ridden and its various factions have taken divergent stands in respect of collaboration, not excluding merger with the Congress party.

Shiromani Akali Dal has been in the forefront of the demand for the autonomy of Punjab and often took a confrontationist position towards an extremist end of the spectrum. A valid analysis of Akali Dal's concept of state autonomy must take cognizance of the

party's commitment to the preservation of distinct Sikh identity, the achievement of an independent political status for the community, its perception as integral with the panth and as a political arm of religious body. Hence, the creation of Punjabi speaking state of Punjab was undoubtedly a major land mark in Akali Dal's pursuit of its political goal. From 1947-1966, the Akali Dal had to fight for power in two simultaneously operating and mutually antagonistic political systems in the Punjab. The Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) was the focal point of one of this political system. Sikhs alone being legally entitled to participate in this, the Akali Dal managed to capture power and has retained a monopolistic control over it and this has given the party a powerful communication channel to the community and legitimacy of its claim to be the champion and sole spokesman of the Panth. Akali Dal had to compete with the Congress which operated from a very much broader regional and social base. In a virtual bipolar political competition, the Akali-Dal was at the losing end and most of the time failed to achieve a share of political power commensurate with the support it enjoyed among the Sikh masses. However, with the establishment of Punjabi speaking state, the Akali's found it necessary to redefine their political objectives and strategies. The party's interest in the federal question found a new focus particularly with regard to the quantum of state autonomy. The two groups in which Akali's had split (one led by Sant Fateh Singh and other by Master Tara Singh) revealed sharp differences of their demand on the question of state autonomy. The Akali Dal led by Master Tara Singh (who spoke for the minorities of Akali's continued to assert that there was no alternative for the Sikhs in the interest of self preservation than to frame their demand for a self determined political status within the Republic of the Union of India. However, reiterating the charge of the centre's discrimination against the Punjab, the Akali Dal led by Sant Fateh Singh who claimed the allegiance of overwhelming majorities of the Akalis merely asked for more powers to provinces.

The moderate stance taken by the Sant Fateh Singh led Akali Dal on the question of state autonomy was reflected declared, in the Batala resolution of September 1968. The Shiromani Akali Dal demands that the constitution of India should be on a correct federal basis and the state should have greater autonomy. The Shiromani Akali Dal feels that the Central government's interference in the internal



affairs of the states and the obstacles it places in the proper functioning of the state machinery are detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country. Therefore, this conference demands from the Central government that necessary changes should be brought in this constitution and it also appeals to the state governments to raise their voice to protect and safeguard their right, so that the country may go smoothly on the federal system.

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference And Centre-State Relations

The National Conference had its origin in the 30s as 'a reading room party'. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was the leader of the political discussions of this small group. The reading room party soon turned itself into the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference. Under the influence of Jawaharlal Nehru, the working committee of the conference adopted a bold resolution in June 1938. The organisation renamed itself the All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference opening its doors formally to all the communities in the states.

Only Article 1 and Article 370 of the Indian Constitution were made applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Thus Article 370 is main subject which deals with relationship between the state of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Government.

"Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution

(i) The provision of article 238 shall not apply in relation to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. (ii) The power of Parliament to make laws for the said state shall be limited to (a) those matters in the Union list and Concurrent list, which in consultation with the government of the state are declared by the President to correspond to matters specified in the Instrument of Accession (IOA) governing the accession of the states the dominion legislature may make laws for the state: and Such other matters in the said list as with the concurrence of the government of the state, the President may by order specify"

The Delhi agreement between National Conference government and Centre government 1952 its main points were:

- Commitment to Article 370;
- Kashmiris would be citizens of India, but the state Legislature would be empowered to confer the special rights on State Subjects won in the struggles of 1927 and 1932;

- The President of India would be the head of state of the whole of India, including Kashmir;
- Kashmir would be allowed its own Flag, but not as a rival to the tricolour, which would be supreme;
- The Sadr-i-Riyasat (Governor of the state), although elected by the state legislature rather than nominated by the Centre, could not assume office without the consent of the President of India.
- The Supreme Court would, "for the time being," have only appellate jurisdiction in Jammu and Kashmir;
- An internal emergency could only be applied with the concurrence of the State Legislature.

The Reports of Regional Autonomy Committee and State Autonomy Committee, set up by the state government, were presented on April 13, 1990. These Committees were set up by the state government in order to give autonomy to different regions of the state and also to restore the maximum autonomy for the state. This Committee feels that there is dire urgency of defining the regions province in the state to achieve the twin objective of self-governance and rapid social development. The committee is of the opinion that the prevailing classifications of provinces /Divisions are hampering the processes of social/ human development. The Committee is also of the view that this arrangement is coming in the way of democratic participation at the grass-roots level within the state. Thus, in view of historical, social, ethnic and development factors, this Committee recommends that the existing two Provinces/ Division of Jammu and Kashmir should be classified into 8 new regions/provinces.

Dmk, Aiadm and Centre- State Relations

The D.M.K. with the abandoning of its demand for Dravidstan concentrated on fighting the imposition of Hindi in the South by the central government. When Hindi became the official language of the union on 26th Jan 1965, the D.M.K. proposed a day of mourning and display of black flags to protest the Centre's decision. However, the fourth general election in 1967 was a landmark for the D.M.K. because it wrested power from Congress Party on the platform of the anti- Hindi campaign, state autonomy and cultural nationalism to preserve the Dravida culture. The D.M.K. manifesto at the time of 1967 general election emphasized the need for the preservation of state rights without infringement by the Centre i.e. insisted on uniform economic



development in all the states. Specifically, it demanded that the constitution be amendment to vest the residuary powers in the states. The focus was more powers for the states was sharp and clear in the D.M.K. manifesto but it didn't provide a detailed program of action.

However, the first D.M.K. government under the Chief Ministership of C.N. Annadurai, on different occasions, pursued the demand for change in the Centre-State relations. Dr. Annadurai while presenting the Tamil Nadu's budget 1967-68, pleaded against the financial dependence of states on the Centre, he Said, We have clearly had to require note of the constraints below that the state governments need to perform in our federal established power and allocation of help for set up has been like to cause bitterness. It's become associate pressing necessity to eliminate this bitterness and evolve ways that and suggests that for promoting fruitful relations between centre and state.

The AIADMK is the creation of M. G. Ramachandran who was the treasurer of the DMK and was expelled from it for asking for the account of the party. Originally the small party of dissidents, though with a vest admiring mass base, the AIADMK soon appeared on the electoral scene winning the two by Elections in 1973-74 not so much based on any ideological or policy difference.

Since the formation of the BJP-led coalition in March, 1998, the AIADMK supremo late Jayalality remains a constant headache for A.B Vajpayee. Jayalaliths one-point is the ouster of the DMK government a tall order which the Prime Minister finds it difficult to carry out in the absence of any substantive probe of a breakdown of law and order in Tamil Nadu. Instead of spending much time and gestures of appeasing the coalition partners for a bagful of demands for accommodation, adjustment, compromises and quick delivery, the BJP stalwarts are facing threats from their own party people and comrades in the Sangh 'Pariver' have shattered the myth about the BJP being a highly disciplined party.

Talugu Desham Party (TDP) and Centre-State Relations

Talugu Desham Party also called Telugu Land (TDP) could be a regional organisation active within the Southern States of province and Telangana. The party was supported by N.T. Rama Rao on twenty nine March 1982. Since 1995, the party is headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu, the incumbent Chief Minister

of province.

N. T. Rama Rao became the tenth Chief Minister of province in 1983, among 9 months of the party's formation, so forming the primary non-Congress government in province. TDP was the primary regional party to become the most opposition party in eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989.

Its leader, N. T. Rama Rao made promises including a Union of the Telugu-Speaking people, 'corruption-free government', etc in Andhra Pradesh. It also promises to set up the 'Ram Rajya' in the state. As a part of his economic programme he (NTR) promises to give free Mid-Day Meals Schemes (MMS) to primary school children and supply rice at Rs.2/pkg. It had no party organization worth the name. In the initial days, some thought that the TDP was an aberration in state politics, or at best a transient phenomenon, but it proved to be an enduring one. It went on to become the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha after the 1984 Parliamentary Elections, surpassing all other so called National parties. It lost power in 1989, but regained it in 1994. It introduced Mandal Panchayat (MP) replacing traditional three-tier Panchayat system which broken the ruler stronghold of Congress Party. In March 1989 Mandal Panchayat election were held Telgu Desam Party won them easily. TDP also eradicate traditional village officers like Patel, Patwari an organization powerfully rooted in the upper caste supremacy, which considerably distorted the rural power structure.

In the biggest policy reversal in its 26 year long history, the Telgu Desam Party announced its support to the format of Telengana state by bifurcating Andhra Pradesh. The decision was taken by the party politburo at the end of three day long deliberations chaired by party President Chandrababu Naidu. "The party took the decision after two and half year long exercises and discussions taking in to account the changed circumstance and the strong aspirations of the people of the state". TDP lost power in Andhra Pradesh in 2004 elections. The sympathy factor did not work immediate elections in Andhra Pradesh become a referendum on Chandrababu Naidu's nine year rule. Even though in this elections woman did not vote in large numbers for him as he expected, farmers, backward classes and the youth sided with the Congress more than the TDP.

Methodology



The paper is based on secondary data and information where all data and statistics are collected from several, book, journals, newspaper and related website. The study has made use of the historical-analytical approach to study the origin, development and relations between the centre and state of regional political parties in India.

Conclusion

From the investigation of starting point of the four local political gatherings, we would observe be able to two patterns with respect to the rise of provincial political gatherings in India. In the principal incline incorporates that of the National Meeting, Akali Dal, and DMK and its is classed as old pattern here it is so delegated the old pattern since it contrasts from new pattern, which is winning today in the three cases the gatherings began as same kind of challenge development against the ruling class or gathering in the general public for instance, the National Meeting began as a dissent development against the abusive control of the Dogras of Jammu while the Akali Dal began as a 6th development against the shippers, who were the overwhelming higher class individuals back then. Correspondingly, the DMK began as a development of the weaker and lower class against the overwhelming Brahmin or high society in the express, the Telugu Desham of Andhra Pradesh has a place with the second classification and the gathering started because of finish figment of the general population of the state with the congress which had the foul illicit relationship of the states since autonomy. The congress govern which had remained all un-hindered had moved toward becoming described out in the open life rehash change over the state administration at the command of the gathering high-order into party factionalism and deserting.

The rises of regional parties propose that recognized discourse on Nation and Nation-building is being challenged. The thought of a homogenized Nation and of politics spotless by excluding the local elements are being successfully confronted by the rise of new localities around which much of modern politics is middle point concerned. In additional argue that although regional parties are not self-consciously operational in the direction of rewriting Centre-State relations, this is exactly what will consequence from their attempts to reduce centres' powers over states.

Some of the regional parties want to more autonomy of states. They have gone to an extreme extent in

their demands. The Akali Dal has been insisting on the fulfilment of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973. The Jharkhand has beseeched for the consideration of Tribal Area of Madhya Pradesh (M.P), Bihar, Orissa, and West Banal and into one Jharkhand state. The DMK has been supporter the causes of Tamil Nationalism and there was a time when it was advocating for a separate Dravidian state in the South. This stand was later abandoned in 1962. There mottos posed stern challenges to the federal structure in particular and the unity and integrity of the National in general. The Rajamannar Committee was appointed by DMK government in Tamil Nadu in 1971 to review the federal structure.

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