

KATHIAWAD POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Archana R. Bansod

M. A., Ph.D., NET & SET (History), Assistant Professor & Director I/c (Centre for Studies & Research on Life & Works of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (CERLIP) Vallabh Vidya Nagar, Anand, Gujarat.

INTRODUCTION

Entire region of Saurashtra was administrated by princely states before independence i.e. no single political power was controlling on entire region. Princely states were divided into so many divisions at the establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association'. Bhavnagar, Gondal, Morabi, Rajkot, Vakaner, Wadhwan and Jasdan states were of first or second division, and were immerged as developed states while states like Junagadj, Jamnagar, Dhangandhra, Porbandar and Limbdi were facing social disorder. There was no enthusiasm for change in this states which were of third or fourth division states. In short, contradictory attitude of these states played of decisive base for establishment of Kathiawad Political Association.

Factors for originating and Establishment of Kathiawad Political Association:

Establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association' was just like a turning point in the history of Saurashtra of 26th century because it was a foundation stone of new era in political life of Saurashtra. It had totally covered political life of Saurashtra by its resolution and creative works by various conferences. Conference of Kathiawad Political Association were as under:

VARIOUS CONFERENCES OF KATHIAWAD POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

Sr. No.	No. of conferences	Date	Place	President of Association	President of Conference
1	first	27 to 30 March 1921	Rajkot	Vitthalbhai Z. Patel	Liladhar Amrutlal Mehata
2	Special	8-9 July, 1922	Mumbai	Faizi Badurddin Taiyabji	Girijashankar Bhavanji Trevedi
3	Second	11-13 November. 1922	Wadhwan	Abbas Varteji Taiyabji	Mohanlal Pitambards Sanghvi
4	third	8-9 January	Bhawnagar	Mohanlal Karamchand Gandhi	Ratilal Kuvarji Modi
5	Special	10-11 October	Rajkot	DBhagwanji Shuklaalpatram	Liladhar Amrutlal Mehata
6	Fourth	20-22 JUNE 1928	Porbandhar	Amrutlal V. Thakkar	Ummarbai Haziamad Zaveri
7	Fifth	30 March to 1 April, 1929	Morbi	Vallabhbhai Z. Patel	Revashankar Jagjivandas Zaveri
8	Sixth	6-8 November 1937	Rajkot	Gopaldas Ambavishidas Desai	Uchangrai Navalshankar Dhebar
9	Seventh	2-7 November, 1946	Dhangandhra	Gopaldas Ambavishidas Desai	Motilal Mulchand Sheth

FACTORS AFFECTED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF KATHIAWAD POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

2.1 DESPOTISM OF BRITISHERS:

Various public movements were happened at different times against British government in India like 1. Bang bhang Movement (1905-1911) 2.Home Rule Movement (1916) 3. Kheda Satyagrah (1917) 4. Oppose against Rolet Act (1919) 5. Khilafat movement (1920) 6. Non-co-operation movement (1920-1921). British had taken cruel and merciless steps to crush down there movements.

Meetings, processions, strikes and movements were happened in some developed princely states in support of above cited struggles and movements. Some foremost leaders of Saurashtra obtained inspiration due to cruel steps taken by British officers to establish an organization which can strongly manage to oppose dictatorship of British. [1] A platform was prepared to originate 'Kathiawad Political Association'.

ADVENT OF GANDHIJI:

A new turn was obtained to national movement for freedom of India after advent of Gandhiji on 9th January 1915. An inspiration was happened in people of princely states of Saurashtra who were till enduring dumbly intolerable tyranny of kings of princely states after advent of Gandhiji. Gandhiji experienced enthusiasm of people during his travelling of Saurashtra Gandhiji had referred an episode of Shri Motibhai Darji (Motibhai Purushottamdas Parmar, 1888-1918) [2] in his autobiography 'Experiments of Truth'. [3] Leaders of Saurashtra were experiencing an essentiality of such active organization which can voice of awareness of people. Tries of freedom fighters of Saurashtra like Shri Manshukhbhai Ravjibhai Mehta, Shri Bhagwanjibhai Anopchand Mehta and Shri Amrutlal Sheth etc. formed an organization like Kathiawad Political Association to give voice of problems of people. Who were suffering of British Leaders of this Association played an important role due to advent of Gandhiji in Saurashtra. In this way advent of Gandhiji inspired for establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association'.

2.3 CONTRIBUTION OF FORMER ORGANIZATIONS:

Establishment of Kutch, Kathiawad Association was done in Mumbai in 1917 A.D. [4] This was a first political organization established with the aim of to give voice of tries of people of Saurashtra. But its activities were happened limited due to not support given by Gandhiji. [5] Then 'Kathiawad Hitvardhak Sabha' was come into existence in the main center of British Agency, Rajkot on 10 November 1920. [6] This organization was trying to solve social problems and faithful to British rulers. [7] There former organizations had also inspired for awareness in political atmosphere of Saurashtra. Which made a pre-stage for origin and establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association' moreover, establishment of 'Gujarat Political Association' was happened in August, 1917. [8] 'Gujarat Political Association' obtained a notable success in various movements of short span of four years. Considering this success leaders of this region were ready and eager to give velocity to creative programmes and various movements in Saurashtra. This engrosses gave birth to 'Kathiawad Political Association'. In this way, Gujarat Political Association established out of Saurashtra had also inspired for establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association'.

2.4 INJUSTICE ATTITUDE OF PRINCELY STATES:

Attitude and approach of kings, chief executives and administration of princely states were against people. Rulers of these princely states had put welfare

works of people on roof to make happy British rulers, and shown, total negligence and unconcernedness. As a result, absence of enthusiasm and awareness was clearly seen among people of princely states. Intelligent and wise persons of Saurashtra felt need to start such an organization which can give velocity to people. This need had made easy, for establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association'.

2.5 FRUSTRATION AMONG PEOPLE:

Bodies of people of Saurashtra are just like without soul due to tyrannical and obstructive approach of rulers of princely states and managers of British Agency. There was nothing without frustration in people. As a result, leaders of Saurashtra thought to start an organization which can do work of awakening and inspiration among people. This thought and frustration spread among people gave birth to 'Kathiawad Political Association.'

2.6 ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS AND WRITERS:

News papers and writers also did work of awakening from deep sleep of people of Saurashtra. Shri Mansukhbhai Mehta was remaining active in problems of Saurashtra. He started to write 'Letters of Kathiawad' in 'Hindustan' weekly' which was published from Mumbai. [9] Series of these letters made thoughtful to leaders of people regarding problems of people who were suffering from dual slavery of princely states. He also put a plan with the aim of to measure problems of Saurashtra. [10] Support of Shri Amrutlal Dalpatram Sheth (1891-1954) was obtained to these tries of Shri Mansukhbhai Mehta; Shri Sheth was judge of Limbdi state, even though he started to print letters of Saurashtra silently. [11]

Moreover, he started a weekly named 'Saurashtra' in 1920 A.D. Newspapers like 'Kathiawad Opinion', 'Kathiawad Times', and 'Kathiawad' were published from Gondal. [12]

Furthermore monthly like 'Sarsangrah' and 'Tattvasangrah' from Limbdi and 'Saurashtra Darpan' from Junagadh were doing work of mass-awareness by their writings.

Total cooperation was obtained to these newspapers and weekly from expert writers and dedicated leaders like Mansukhbhai Ravjibhai Mehta, Zaverchand Meghani, Gunvantrai Acharya, Kakkaldas Kothari, Mohanlal Mehta (sopan), and Bhimjibhai Shushil. A new inspiration was happened in political atmosphere of Saurashtra due to developing thoughts and support of these leaders.

News of Authoritative ruling, unjust administration, authoritative behaviour and tyranny of people etc. of princely states were started to publish in there newspapers. These writers and thinkers of this time, made people awakened regarding their writes by ironically writings, and making people fearless and brave which contributed in establishing 'Kathiawad Political Association' and then in making its activities speedy.

2.6 IMPRESSION OF NATIONAL STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM:

Some moderate leaders of Hindi Rashtriya Mahasabha presented their demands constitutionally during 1885 A.D. to 1905 A.D. But there was no result of their demands. So extremists' had taken revolutionary way during 1905 A.D. to 1920 A.D. Their violative activities got some succeed also. Rashtriya Congress played an important role in all these struggles. As a result, leaders of Saurashtra decided to start

an organization which can do fair, organized and systematic, constitutional and co-ordinated activities in Saurashtra region, which can be fought under the flag of association. In short, national freedom fighting struggles have also played a role in establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association' indirectly.

2.7 CONTRIBUTION OF PATRIATIC WORKERS:

Shri Mansukhbhai Ravjibhai Mehta had given maximum and important contribution in originating of 'Kathiawad political Association.' He wrote articles describing authoritative and tyrannical steps in princely states of Saurashtra in 'Hindustan.' He took untiring hard work as a torch bearer to bring awakenings of people who were sub-pressed under tyranny of princely states for days and nights. [13]

Amrutlal Dalpatram Sheth, Devchand Uttamchand Parekh, Ramjibhai Gordhanbhai, Saubhagyachand Modi, Chandulal Bechardas Patel etc. were included in giving cooperation to Shri Mansukhbhai Mehta. Due to hard work and regard of these patriotic workers establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association' was became possible.

3. Conclusion:

It can be said while concluding this discussion that, velocity that came in national movements for Indian freedom after advent of Gandhiji, its responses were happened on Saurashtra (Kathiawad). As a result, a new organization named 'Kathiawad Political Association' was originated, in which kings, and chief executives of princely states and leaders of people like Mansukhbhai Ravjibhai Mehta, Amrutlal Dalpatram Sheth, Chandulal Bechardas Patel, Devchand Uttamchand Parekh, Ramjibhai Gordhanbhai, Saubhagyachand Modi, Fulchand Kasturchand Shah etc. played an important role. Due to hard work of all these leaders systematic establishment of 'Kathiawad Political Association' was happened in a meeting held under the president ship of Kalyanram Jethabhai Baxi in Alfred High School on 5th December 1920.

In this way, a platform was arranged for political awareness due to establishment of Kathiawad Political Association. 'Kathiawad Political Association' has done the same work, in Saurashtra, which was done by congress-Mahasabha at national level, which became an inspirator towards national awareness to people. May the conferences of Kathiawad Political Association be not upto the mark of desire of people of princely states, and result oriented of problems, let it be less succeeded in proportion, even though, they proved significantly successful in pouring national strength and power and political awareness among people of Saurashtra region.

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