

"M.C. RAJAH: PIONEERING THE MODERN SUBALTERN MOVEMENTS IN MADRAS AND BEYOND"

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Abstract

Rao Bahadur MC. Mailai Chinnathambi Pillai Raja (17th June 1883 – 20th August 1943), popularly known as Raja, was a Scheduled Caste politician and social activist from Tamil Nadu. Even before Ambedkar, he worked for the welfare and progress of Scheduled Caste (SC) people all over India. In the list of activists who have worked for the welfare of the grassroots and to establish equality, M.C. Rajah has the most significant role of in India. It is a matter for everyone to ponder whether is fulfilled. This study is to describe information about M.C Rajah who gave ideas like Ambedkar's contribution to social progress.

Key Words: *Dalit, Madras, Colonial, Ambedkar*

Introduction

The Subaltern Studies Group (SSG) or Subaltern Studies Collective is a group of South Asian scholars interested in the postcolonial and post-imperial societies. The term Subaltern Studies is sometimes also applied more broadly to others who share many of their views and they are often considered to be "exemplary of postcolonial studies" and as one of the most influential movements in the field. Their anti-essentialist approach is one of history from below, focused more on what happens among the masses at the base levels of society than among the elite. Raja was born in 1883 in Parangimalai, Madras to a lower-class family. His father Mayilai Chinnathambi worked as a manager at the Lawrence Conservatory. Studied at Wesley Mission School, Royapettah. Then he studied at Uwesuli College. He completed his graduation from Chennai Christian College and started his career as a school teacher. Raja, who entered politics at a young age, was elected as Chengalpattu District Board President. In 1916, he became the secretary of the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha. He was one of the founders of the South Indian Liberation

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Federation. He was also a member of it. In November 1920, he won the first Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly election on behalf of Justice Party.

Political contributions of M.C. Rajah

He was elected as the Vice-President of the Justice Party in the Assembly. Raja was the first list community member to be elected to the Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly. In 1922 Paraiyar brought a resolution that the word Adi Dravidar should be used officially instead of the words Panchamar. In 1921, Panaganti Ramarayananar Judiciary introduced reservation for backward classes in government jobs. No concessions are given to Scheduled Castes. Dissatisfied with this, Raja led a protest group which insisted on the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Caste people as well and opposed the reservation given only to the backward classes. The Justice Party did not budge at all for those protests. On the contrary, the top leaders of the Justice Party opined that the reason for the riots in Pulianthop that year was the British government's decision to pacify the Parayas. As a result, M.C. Raja resigned from the Justice Party in 1923. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly till 1926. In 1928, he founded the Anathindia Depressed Society and became its president. He was a member of the Indian Parliament from 1926 to 1937

Authorization through education

MC Raja was the son of Mailai Chinnathambi Pillai, one of the early administrators of the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sangam. Born in St. Thomas Mount, Madras. MC Raja completed his studies at Wesley Mission School, Rayapetta and Chennai Christian College, then worked as a teacher in the same places. Logic Text book written by M. C. Raja for teachers on simple method of teaching is considered to be the pioneer book published in Tamil on teaching method. He has written small grammar books and legal books for students. Along with R. Ranganayake Ammal. He published a nursery rhyme book titled 'Kindergarten Room'. He started night schools and hostels in many places in Chennai to show the importance of education for Dalit emancipation. 'Through education Dalits can see development in life; Can gain political power. Therefore, he requested the rulers to allow our people to get free education. He fought for the right to education by participating in several committees like Elementary Education Committee in 1917, Drafting Committee for

Elementary Education Bill in 1919, Higher Education Reorganization Committee, Madras University Senate.

Adi Dravidian identity

MC Raja, who became active in politics in the 1910s, revived Ayodhya's Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha. In 1916, he took over as its secretary and devised a plan of action for branches spread not only in Tamil Nadu but also in cities including Bengaluru, Mumbai and Sri Lanka. He met Montague in 1917 and Chelmsford in 1919 and petitioned for political rights for the oppressed. Subsequently, he was appointed as a member of the Madras Provincial Legislature. He also raised his voice in the legislature for various issues like abolition of untouchability, temple entry, Anglo-Indian schools, right to mother tongue education, social justice in education policy, land and work for ex-servicemen, protection of minorities, representation of the oppressed. In 1922, the Paraiyars, the original inhabitants, brought a resolution to officially refer to Panchamara as 'Adi Dravidas, Adi Andhras'. Scheduled castes are still referred to by the identity given by MC Raja.

Dalit National Leader

In 1923 he met Lord Wellington, Governor of Madras, Lord Reading, Governor General and Lord Goschen in 1925 to demand political representation for the downtrodden throughout the country. For this purpose, he went to Delhi and held more than 500 public meetings and more than 100 conferences to unite the oppressed. MC Raja published the book 'The Oppressed Hindus', demanding social rights, voting rights and political empowerment for the oppressed. This book brings out his deep knowledge and field experience in history and literature. It showed the true face of Indian caste society to the ruler. In 1928, MC Raja, who founded the All India Oppressed Organization, went to London and argued, "It is unfortunate that even after 130 years of British rule in India, we, the downtrodden, are still in the same position.

M.C. Raja associated with Ambedkar

MC Raja was initially at odds with Ambedkar. The arrival of the great personality Ambedkar created a great resonance not only on the Dalit side but also at the national level. In 1930, he fell out with Ambedkar when he missed the chance to participate in the Round Table Conference. Thus, history put M.C. Raja against Ambedkar in some issues like Pune Agreement, Ambedkar's declaration of renunciation of Hinduism. Such

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contradictions can be seen continuing from the early days of Dalit political groups. M.C. Raja quickly realized Ambedkar's righteous struggle and changed his stance. M. C. Raja regretted that he had made such a mistake in the Pune Agreement issue that he could not forgive himself and shouted, "Ambedkar is our representative".

M.C. Rajah a traitor?

M.C. Rajah Along with Dr. PS Moonje of the Indian National Congress, he agreed with Jadhav. For patronage given by the king, Moonche reserved seats for the downtrodden. While fighting for a separate constituency for the downtrodden on an all-India level, M.C.Rajah became the leader of the downtrodden. What the king undertook was more treachery than slippage. That is why, because of his betrayal of Ambedkar, his earlier actions were discredited as a result of the Pune pact. Hence, the Self-Esteem Movement criticized King harshly. A fact must be understood here; He worked with Justice Party during its inception and did not strongly criticize Justice Party and Thyagarayar when he left Justice Party. But when - in 1932 Ambedkar's actions, contrary to thoughts, Ambedkar – Irratimalai Srinivasan is our representative at the All India Down caste Conference - the king who said, "Don't trust Gandhi," sacrificed the living principle of separate constituency for Dalits and struck a pact with Moonje.

Conclusion

M.C. Rajah died on August 20, 1943. Not after his death but in his time. MC Raja, who participated in Ambedkar's birthday meeting in Pune in the year 1942, had a heart-to-heart talk with him. Thereafter, Cripps worked with Ambedkar in the group. M.C. Rajah took such a decision because he wanted to give political rights to his people through his own efforts. Late Dalit scholar Anbu Ponnoviyam mentions in his magazine 'Aravurai' that two great personalities cannot approach a particular moment of history in the same way. Here, complete historical books have not been written about M.C. Raja, who made his mark not only in Tamil Nadu but also in Indian politics. His Legislature Speeches, Parliamentary Speeches, Conference Resolutions, Reports, Contributions are not exhaustively compiled.

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