

CHAPTER - V

E P I L O U G E

CHAPTER-VEPILOGUE

Yashawantrao Chavan, ex-chief-minister of old Bombay State and then of newly formed Maharashtra State was one of the greatest Statesman politician and a Congressman in true sense. Bombay and then later on newly formed Maharashtra State were made socially and economically progressive during his tenure of Chief Ministership.

Yashawantrao hailed from Karad in Satara district of Maharashtra. He was born in a peasant's family at Deorashtre. After father's death his mother Vithabai stayed at Karad a taluka place and influenced his life. In School days Satyashodhak Samaj and ideology of Manvendra Roy influenced on him. Simultaneously he took interest in political events of India. Mahatma Gandhi's ideology later influenced him and he worked with him in Civil disobedience and quit India movements. He also worked as a true congress worker and an organizer . In 1946's election he was elected from south Karad constituency and entered in B.G.Kher's Ministry as a parliamentary Secretary for the first time. Initially he worked in Home-department of Moraraji Desai then cabinet minister of Bombay State. In this tenure he proved himself as an efficient Secretary and congress organizer. In Assembly he was an observer. He developed his administrative abilities then of there. As a parliamentary Secretary of Home Portfolio he played unique but important role in establishing Home-Guard organisations in Satara district and other districts.

As a true Congress worker he opposed ' Shetakari Kamagar Paksh ' then a strongest opposite force in Maharashtra therefore, he was naturally given as an important position in Congress organisation from the beginning.

In 1952's election he was elected and he was included in Moraraji's cabinet as a supply Minister. Due to second world war and partition of India there was acute shortage of food grains in India and also in Bombay province. There was rationing control on food-grain and other necessary commodities. Shri Yashwantrao Chavan as a supply minister handled this portfolio skillfully and efficiently and removed the controls within two and half years. After the closing of that portfolio he was incharge of local self ministry. As a Local-Self Minister he made certain improvements in the administration of Local-self Government and removed the defects in it.

He also took keen interest in the Samyukta Maharashtra administration. According to him the goal of Samyukta Maharashtra could be achieved if the said is run administratively in a proper way and not by agitations and morchas. He was an able statesman during the formation of linguistic provinces. He relied solely on persuasive methods to establish the Maharashtra State. He obeyed the orders of Congress high-command and administered the decision of Bilingual Bombay State and became the Chief-Minister of it from 1st November, 1956 to 31 April, 1960.

In Bilingual Bombay State he had the responsibility that no section or a geographical part of it should criticise against his policies. Independent India followed the policy of five year plan programme to achieve the development and prosperity of the country. Through the planning programme Bombay State also

achieved its economic progress under the Chief-Ministership of Yashawantrao Chavan.

In second plan programme his Government emphasised on the problem of food-grain and also gave emphasis on increasing food-production. To achieve that goal many irrigation schemes were introduced. Out of them Purna project brought prosperity to Marathawada and the Koyana project dramatically changed the face of western Maharashtra. Land reform policies introduced by the Bombay Government also brought revolutionary changes in the State in many ways. Tenancy Laws and Consolidation fragmentation laws brought a revolutionary change in the rights of owners of land and which stimulated and gave incentives to grow more production in Agriculture.

In Industrial sphere also his government gave encouragement to small entrepreneurs. Electricity programme was launched by him. Co-operative Movement grew-up during his time and took firm foundation in his regime.

As Vidarbha and Marathawada were newly added parts to the State, they were economically backward so there was a need to develop these areas first. In educational field also Marathawada was backward. Yashawantrao's Government gave special facilities to them. The establishment of Marathawada University was a great step in that direction (1958). In Second Five Year Plan more emphasis was given on technical education also.

The goal of Samyukta Maharashtra ' achieved and on 1st May, 1960 new Maharashtra State came into formation. Yashawantrao again was re-elected as a Chief-Minister of the State. It was said that Yashawantrao brought the 'Mangal-Kalash ' of Samyukta

Maharashtra. Those who used to scold him in the beginning remained polite prayers at his feet when he achieved the goal.

His administrative policy also brought intergration in Societal life of the state. One of his most important work was passing of inferior (Mahar) village watan's abolition Act. By passing of this bill the Mahar community was freed from slavery and it certainly was a revolutionary steps that time.

He also gave much importance to industrialization of Maharashtra. He dreamt that his state should be past industrialized. So his Government gave maximum facilities through Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (M.I.D.C.) which helped to increase the number of small scale industries and enterpremuers in the State.

The Maharashtra State occupied important role in co-operative sphere also. Due to Co-operative bill different types of co-operatives were initialted in the State. Co-operative sugar factories made various developmental plans and changed the rural scene of Maharashtra.

In general there was a peace and a progress in Industrial sphere of Maharashtra also. Yashawantrao Chavan made negotiations in advance between workers and mill-owners to avoid critical problems vaised very often.

He gave much stress on technical education. His Government introduced the scheme for economically backward class giving concessions and through it intelligent but poor students changed their destiny. A new generation of educated was folowered up.

The decision of establishment of ' Shivaji University ' was (1962) also of much importance. Higher education spreaded over western Maharashtra through this University.

Yashawantrao had a great love for education. On one occassion he said that I was Chief-Minister of the State and at the centre I occupied various posts but it was may bad luck that I was not an education minister. This statement itself is a self explanahary.

About the education in Maharashtra, Dr. Rajendra Prasad admired thus ' Maharashtra State had done much progress in education through the private Sansthas and no other state made such a progress elsewhere in India.

Due to his work in education, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, founder of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha made him Chairman of his Institution. It was his last will that, Yashawantrao should be Chairman of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. The Chairmanship of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha was a matter of glory on both sides, one from Yashawantrao and the other side Rayat Shikshan Sanstha of Satara Maharashtra.

His important administrative policy of new Maharashtra was the Agro-Industry oriented policy and Decentralisation of Democracy. Yashawantrao Chavan developed the blue print of Agro-Industrial society in Maharashtra. He was of the view that the State could uplift the living standard, of the farmers and poor people by carrying out rural development programme. It was an important step in making of New Maharashtra . Therefore it would be to say in Yashawantrao - ' Maharashtra got a leader to be called as the maker of modern Maharashtra .

Introduction of Decentralisation of Democracy and that of Panchayati Raj System gave the people an opportunity to increase their political involvement because the most of the people in rural areas came into direct contact with practical political decisions. Sense of social responsibility awakened in them. Similarly these institutions have succeeded in sorting out and thereby solving the rural problems effectively and efficiently. The concept of leadership has altogether changed from traditional to new one. The varied factors such as social justice, political aspirations, social services, selfless character, capacity to fulfill the rising expectations of people, affinity towards centre etc. are now considered good qualities for good leadership. Therefore Yashwantrao became an ideal statesman in India.

The Zilla Parishad established by the separate bill in 1962 were democratically elected district councils entrusted with the primary responsibility of implementing the development projects in the district.

As a minister in charge of Home-portfolio he worked dynamically and efficiently. He had great concern to his police force and Home-guard organisation. He solved their problems with all act sympathy.

Thus through his developmental approach and constructive work Maharashtra State speedily advanced towards prosperity. Maharashtra became the premier industrial state in the country and has always stood in the forefront in that regard and naturally the credit as a pioneer of industrial development goes to Shri Yashwantraoji Chavan.

He left deep impressions of his ideas on political and social life of Maharashtra. The initial doubts of the congress high command turned as wrong and on the contrary he came formed as the most successful Chief-Minister in India. Prime Minister Nehru paid public tribute on three occasions to his excellent performance as the Chief-Minister of Bombay.

Congress President U. N. Dhebar, a Gujarati leader said ' The leadership of Chavan has removed all fears, Chavan is an excellent young leader that the Congress has ever got.' The remarks put up by Shri U. N. Dhebar exemplifies the unique characterised great personality of Y. B. Chavan.

K. M. Munshi another national leader from Gujarath and strong critic of congress said about Chavan - ' Leaders like sir Pheroze Shah Mehta, Surendranath Banerjee, Lokamanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi created an impact on the Congress organisation in the country and guided its destinies at different times. In recent times Mehru had ruled it's destinies. Now the future of the Congress lies in the hands of men like Yashwantrao Chavan and I surely feel confident about the future of the Congress organisation, in the hands of leaders like Shri Y. B. Chavan.

Thus Yashwantrao Chavan's popularity and prestige grown up and in a natural course of the events Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru picked him up in central ministry as a defence minister (1962) He had got an opportunity to lead the whole country after becoming the defence minister. The whole country was looking at him with great hopes as successful Chief-Minister of Maharashtra and capable personality took over as defence Minister. In central ministry he occupied Home Finance and Foreign

and ministrship. In these portfolios also he made his unique imprints of skill and efficiency and led India towards a progressive direction.

After emergancy in 1974-75 the Congress party went, out of power and Yashwantrao became the leader of opposition in the parliament. But after a gap of few months he secured the second highest position of the country i.e. the Deputy Prime-Ministership of India, but later when as the opposition party lost confidence Charansingh's ministry was fallen down.

Yashwantrao's last political assignment was the Chairman of Eighth Finance Commission. After submitting the report of it, he wrote his autobiography ' Krishnakath'. After his wife's death after one and half year Yashwantrao passed away on 24th November, 1984 .After his death various newspapers paid tributes through their editorials.They are as follows :-

After the death of Y.B.Chavan the Times - of India' Bombay writes : on 27.11.84 as follows :-

' In the sudden passing away of Shri Y.B.Chavan the country has lost a distinguished son and a dedicated patriot of the mother land ' India.

The Indian - Ex-press, Bombay writes on 27.11.84 as -

In the sudden death of Yashwantrao Chavan the country has lost a post-independence stalwart who had roots in the freedom struggle.He will be mourned as a politician who had the good of India at heart and one who tried to serve it to the best of his ability,throughout his life.The whole life of Shri Yashwantrao was a mission,which only thought and sought the welfare of the poor and welfare of Indian-Union.

The Nagpur Times writes on 27.11.84 as follows about his achievement.

' The death of Shri Yashawantrao Balawantrao Chavan one of the illustrious sons of not only Maharashtra, but whole of India, removes from the country's political scene a stalwart and able administrator, litterateur and a statesman.

Although he has passed away, Maharashtra and India will always remember his contribution to the betterment of public life. We on our part pay humble homage to one of the noble sons of the country.

The Free Press Journal Bombay States tribute to Yashawantrao Chavan on 27.11.84 in the following way -

'In the death of Yashawantrao Balawantrao Chavan Maharashtra has lost one of its most outstanding sons and the country a suave and dignified politician. He was described as ' The strong man of Maharashtra ' in the sixties '.

The Daily - Bombay writes on 27.11.84 as following -

' Y.B.Chavan, the lion of Satara, father of Maharashtra a dynamic leader, an ardent socialist and a true nationalist. In his death, the congress(I), Maharashtra and the entire country have lost a great leader.'

According to Sadhana Paper - By the death of Y.B.Chavan Maharashtra lost a pillar of its social democracy.

Nanasaheb Gore - writes ' Yashawantrao Chavan was an eloquent example of an ideal Chief-Minister of democracy.

To recognize the public, Social and Political Service rendered by Yashawantrao Chavan some of the recognized Universities in India conferred on him the following highest honorary degrees :-

Yashawantrao was perhaps the only political leader who had visualised the necessity of modernising the rural areas first and the first to preach and propagate the idea of establishment of an Agro-Industrial society in the country. Not only that he implemented the idea of such a society through the establishment of different co-operatives which have now won a place of pride throughout India. Besides his pivotal role in implementing democratic decentralisation through the Zilla Praishads and his advocacy for bank nationalisation and abolition of privy purses proved that he was a true democrat with a unique social image. In short I may conclude Yashawantrao's life and mission in these Sanskrit words :-

पद्माकर हिंकारो विक्रमं करोति ।
 चन्द्रो विकासयति कैवळकृवाल्म् ।
 नाम्यर्थितो जलधरोऽपि जल ददाति ।
 सन्तः स्वयं परहितेषु कृताभियोगा : ॥ १ ॥

Similar was his mission towards his own life. He lived a life for other and his only goal was to make modern Maharashtra economically strong one and socially happy one, finally to make our nation prosperous one.