

Preface

In this M. Phil dissertation an humble attempt has been made to study the role of women legislators in Maharashtra with special references to the life and work of 1) Smt. vimlabai Bagal, 2) Smt. Sarojini Khanjire, 3) Dr. Sarojini Babar, 4) Smt. Prabhavati Zadbuke, 5) Smt' Nirmalaraje Bhosale, 6) Smt. Parwati Malgonda and 7) Dr. Shalinitai Patil ; by using original source material like debates of Bombay and Maharashtra legislative Assemblies, personal records of the concern women and some newspaper files. This topic has been neglected so far. Therefore, I selected this topic for my M. Phil dissertation which is interesting and noteworthy.

The first general election in India under new Consitution of free India took place in the year 1952 all over India. Like other provinces of India, Bombay province had "bicameri l ." houses i.e. legislative Assembly and Legislative council. Very few women got elected as M.L.A. for the state assembly. Subsequent elections were held periodically after every five years. There is no systematic study made by scholar regarding the role of women legislators in Bombay province and Maharashtra state.

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In Maharashtra state legislative Assembly since 1952 the elected women legislator such as Vimlabai Bagal, Sarojini Khanjire, Sarojini Babar, Prabhavati Zadbuke, Nirmalaraje Bhosale, Parvati Malgonda, Shalinitai Patil, Champa Mokal, Susuhila Balaraji, Pratibha Tidke, Pratibha Patil, Prabhavati Sonawane etc. have played important role in understanding and solving the grievances of the people at regional as well as at state level. They remained in political power for the uplift of common man and women as well. They were learned sincere and punctual in attending the assembly sessions. They took active part in the deliberations of the sessions. They not only asked the critical questions and moved the non-official resolutions but also took active part in the debates over official bills which were related with the problems of common people.

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