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CHAPTER THREE

ROLE OF PHALTAN STATE AFTER INDEPENDENCE

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### CHAPTER - III

#### ROLE OF PHALTAN STATE AFTER INDEPENDENCE

After independence of Indian, the major problem which the nation had to face was integration of the Native States. The sovereignty of the British Empire in India came to an end. All the Native States became sovereign in their respective. It was a dangerous development for independent India and a major threat to the very nation building process. India had already suffered under the British rule, and after great sacrifice, the day of independence had dawned, the movement India achieved her objective; she had to face the challenge of the Native States. It was exactly during this period the ' Deccan States Federation ' was formed and Gandhiji was totally opposed to this very formation; as Gandhi felt that peoples power should be restored to them by the Native Chiefs on their own.

#### DECCAN STATES FEDERATION :

The idea of federation of state was new for the Deccan States. It had gained itself in 1926. This had the support of British Government, Congress as well as the Praja Parishad. British ruler's interest was that if it is small

state whose revenue resources were under 50 Lacs<sup>6</sup> Ruppes, such state should be merged in a large state of British India. This was to help them in the governing of the country. This was suggested right in 1926 by viceroy. Lord Linlithgo. He was the first to introduce this concept, and as the Native Chief's were interested in retaining their identify they liked this idea.

Congress leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Pattabhi Sitaramya supported this idea because they thought Hindustan would in due course would become a Union of State. The fragmentary indigenous small states had been an obstacle in the way of integration of India because of the British. Besides this the idea of merging small states would also help the economic development and avoid expenditure in small states.

In Maharashtra the Congress leaders like Shankarrao Deo lunched this movement. He pointed that " In Every Ten Thousand Sq. Miles there existed 18 independent states, which are had same culture, race, language and similar many other factors. Then what purpose did it serve to have as many as 18 separate states,"<sup>1</sup> in a small area. He supported that they should be merged and larger states should be formed.

The idea of States federation came into practice within a short period, after India was declared Independent. The Deccan States tried to form the federation. " They formed a constitutional committee for framing a Federal Constitution. The plan of Federal Constitution was put before Mahatma Gandhi, who rejected this plan and said that whether a state would merge in Hindustan or not it is to be decided by the people. He questioned the right of Princess in the context and further stated that it is the people who have to decide; the people are sovereign and it is the duty of the Chief of State to transfer more and more powers to the people and establish a democratic form of Government." <sup>2</sup> In this way Mahatma Gandhi was opposed to the very idea of forming the Deccan States Federation. It was his foresight which made him to resist this very idea of forming a States Federation in the development of a democratic state.

Nevertheless the states without heeding to Gandhi's objection went ahead with the idea of forming a Constitution of a Federation, which consisted of 12 states e.g.

- |              |                  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1) Sangli    | 2) Aundh         | 3) Miraj Sr.     |
| 4) Miraj Jr. | 5) Jamkhandi     | 6) Bhor          |
| 7) Jat       | 8) Kurundwad Sr. | 9) Kurundwad Jr. |
| 10) Savanur  | 11) Phaltan      | 12) Ramdurg.     |

FORMATION OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION :

The constitutional committee consisted of 30 members and, their representation was based on the basis of the population i.e. one representative for every one lakh people but at least 2 members from each state.

The constitutional committee thus was as follows :

Sr. No.	Representative of State	Members
1.	Sangli	6
2.	Aundh	2
3.	Miraj Sr.	1
4.	Miraj Jr.	1
5.	Jamkhandi	3
6.	Bhor	3
7.	Jath	2
8.	Kurundwad Sr.	2
9.	Kurundwad Jr.	2
10.	Savanur	2
11.	Phaltan	2
12.	Ramdurg	2

The two other representatives from Backward classes and Muslim for the protection of their interest,<sup>3</sup> were also given representation.

The Constitutional Committee would also send one member on All India Constitutional Committee; to represent the interests of the Federation.

As Gandhiji had rejected the plan, the federation in consultation with the All India Paraja Parishad; the Federal Constitutional Committee had been formed. In the above committee the representatives represented the general interest of the citizens.

Regarding the composition of this committee a very interesting question which emerged was, as to who would be the President of the committee, when all the 12 states got merged under the federal constitution. As a solution it was decided as follows.

There would be a Rajamandal, from which a President would be elected. The election of the President had not been prescribed but it was accepted that Presidentship would be based on rotation. The second major question which arose was of the financial administration of the Native States and their status. Special rights, as a solution to this problem,

it was decided to form a Tribunal. This Tribunal consisted of members like Pattabhi Sitaramaya, the President of All India Lok Sabha, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of All India Constitutional Committee and Shankarrao Deo the Executive member of the Congress party and two other members from the member states.

" This Tribunal was to look into the expenditure aspect which did not permit or accorded sanction to the individual or private expenditure incurred by the Native States. This was not permitted by the Tribunal," <sup>4</sup> so as to maintain the economic of the states, and besides avoid jealousy and heart burring amongst the Native States.

SKETCH OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION OF DECCAN STATE

Composition -----

Raj Mandal

President --- ( Rotations System )

State Representative		Muslim	Backward Class
( Per Lakh one representative and minimum two from each state )		1	2
----- Nominated -----			
Aundh 2	Miraj Jr. 2	Kurundwad Jr. 2	Ramdung 2
Sangli 6	Miraj Sr. 2	Jath 2	Kurundwad Sr. 2
	Bhor 3		Savanur 2
	Jamkhandi 3		
	Phaltan 2		



The Constitutional Committee was to send one member to All India Constitutional Committee." But this plan did not work for long period under the constitution of Deccan States, because individual states, started merging with the union, and the union was the center of power like executive and legislative judicial. In the Legislative Council of the Union, the representation of each state was based on the proportion of the population. The Phaltan State got two representatives elected Late Kee V. S. Zirpe and Shri S. R. Bhosale represented the Phaltan State. Praja Parishad of the merged states was an elected majority party in the Legislative Council of the Union. Shri Kore from Sangli was elected as the leader. He submitted a list of councillors to be approved and to be appointed as ministers. The Chairman of Rajamandal, the Late Balasaheb Pant Raja of Aundh, approved of the list. Shri S. R. Bhosale was chosen as a minister, second in rank and as Precedent having the portfolio of Home. The approved list of ministers was published but for reasons beyond their control the Union did not work and broke down because of the resolution passed by the Rajamandal dissolving the Union."<sup>5</sup>

The Deccan States Union federation was rejected by Deccan State Lok Sabha or Praja Parishad as well as by Mahatma Gandhi. At the same time the Deccan State Union / Federations

session was held at Miraj under the Presidentship of Kee Dr. Pattabhi Sittaramaya. The meeting of 10-12 states Rajamandal was held in Sangli. Shrimant Malojirao Naik - Nimbalkar was present, and in his speech he said " I had to try a lot to make Deccan States Federation workable, but I am was unsuccessful. This Federation will not govern the people and Princess in a proper way, so I wish to dissolve this Federation."<sup>6</sup> Perhaps Gandhi's rejection had be felt on this federation.

On the opening day of the federation ( 20-12-1947) and on the second day this Federation was dissloved with the approval of Chiefs of the Phaltan, Aundh, Sangli, Miraj, Ramdurg, Kurundwad States.

The main reason for this development was, on 15th August 1947, India became independent. For a short period the states became independent or sovereign, Malojiraje said " that this period is not a period of dictatorship but it is a democratic period. For the last seven hundred years, untill the independence of India, Naik - Nimbalkar's family had been ruling. In 1929 the Phaltan State introduced responsible government in the state administration spontaneously and on its own. So I would like to merg my state in India and help Bombay Government which is been governed on democratic principle." <sup>7</sup>

All the Praja Parishads of Deccan State came together and opposed the formation of Federation of Deccan States. The Congress committee from different states also opposed the idea of Federation. " The Congress Committee and Prajaparishads came forth with the same view, regarding the federation and some Prajaparishads also got converted into the District or Taluka Congress Working Committees, after 15th Aug. 1947. The Phaltan Sansthan Praja Parishad also got converted into Phaltan Taluka Congress Committee. The merger movement was launched under the able leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. So Malojiraje who respected democratic traditions decided to merge his state in the Indian Federation without any waste of time. He was the first Prince amongst the Deccan States, who took the initiative to merge his state on his own. On 8th Feb. 1948 he merged his state, and also donated Rs. 65 Lakhs to Bombay Government, which he had in possession. Other states followed him at a latter stage, but not as quickly as that of Phaltan state. Some of them did not even submit their treasury balance, some of them showed the debit in State treasury. After the merger, Poona Dy. Collector took charge of the Phaltan state. During this period the partition movement was in process, because of which there was instability in India. Mahatma Gandhi approved the partition plan of India. On 30th Jan. 1948; Mahatma Gandhi was murdered

by Nathuram Godse. So there was again a conflict between Bhramin's and non-Bhramins. The repercussions of Gandhis assassination was felt even in remote copners like Phaltan. But Malojiraje successfully checked this movement in his state and saw that their where no problems.

" The second reason of merger of the state was that, Deccan Federation was very short lived. Public opinion and freedom movement was also completly against the Deccan Federation constitution, conflicts where also developing with the Deccan states, and looking at the various developments Malojiraje felt that it is better to merge rather than allow disintegration forces to develop,"<sup>9</sup> With-in the Deccan states. His stand must be appreciated consdering the fate of other states in latter stage. He took a very apt stand in this context.

#### LEADERSHIP OF MALOJIRAJE AFTER 1947 :

##### Malojiraje as a Minister in Bombay Ministry :

After independence of India, Congress party emerged as a ruling party in Bombay State. The ministry was formed under the leadership of Lat. Kee. Balasaheb Kher. Balasaheb Kher was the first Chief Minister of Bombay state. Malojiraje was chosen and appointed as a minister, representing the merged Deccan state in the year 1949. He was made a minister of the Local-Self-Government. His inclusion in the ministry

was because of his approach and administrative abilities during the early period as a Native Chief. His acquainting with the rural problems yielded more results when he became the minister. He utilised this opportunity for the development of rural lot in Maharashtra.

Besides Malojiraje had a great faith in and sympathy for the freedom movement of the Congress Party. " He had great honour for the freedom fighters of Satara. Rajesaheb's sacrifice was greater than that of freedom fighters. At the emotional level and his patriotic a sentiment of freedom fighter. He had affinity towards them, so many the freedom - fighters of the 1942 movement came to Phaltan State for his guidance. Rajesaheb was in touch with all details of the freedom-fighters in Phaltan state. Had Rajesaheb not advanced his helping hand to these freedom fighter, they could not have achieved what they actually achieved." <sup>10</sup> " Some opponent people criticised Malojiraje when Y. B. Chavan was arrested in Phaltan. But it was only to blame R<sub>a</sub>jesahebs which had no proofs."<sup>11</sup> " It could be proved that Maloji was not involved in or was not responsible for the arrest of Y. B. Chavan. It was a fact that he was arrested by the British police when Y. B. Chavan came to meet his ill wife at Phaltan." <sup>12</sup> But this incidence was used to tranish the image of Malojiraje.

" When Malojiraje became a minister Y. B. Chavan helped him in his work."<sup>13</sup> Malojiraje had also introduced responsible government in his state under Act 1929, 1931 and 1939 of Phaltan. He did not behave like a Sovereign despot or monarch though he had all the rights to do so, as he firmly believed that " First I am the servant of my subject. He was known for his service to his subject and so he got the benefit of it and was absorbed in the ministry."<sup>14</sup>

" All his qualities, liberalism, faith in the Congress Movement and democratic beliefs, were aptly rewarded by his inclusion in the Kher ministry. Besides he was also very close to Balasaheb Kher, and Shankarrao Deo who was his great admirer. He was also supported by Veekundhabai Metha to be included in the ministry."<sup>15</sup>

Besides the above reasons for his entry in the ministry of Bombay, he was also a honest and ideal king, a clear administrator and a sympathiser of public opinion who took keen interest in the welfare of the state. He was also a good friend of some Congress leaders like - Morarji Desai, Balasaheb Kher, Y. B. Chavan, Shankarrao Devo. The above reason helped him to be included in Bombay minister.

SMAYUKTA MAHARASHTRA MOVEMENT AND MALOJIRAJE :

After independence many problems arose i.e. Partition of India, religious conflicts, regionalism as well as linguistic questions. The problem of state reorganisation was as serious as the partition problem of India and besides Smayukta Maharashtra Movement was launched in Maharashtra, and similar movements Gujarat and Karanatk.

Before independence, Congress party had supported linguistic reorganisation of state. In 1940 August, Mahavidharbha Sabha was established to meet the demand of Vidharbha state. On 28th July 1946 the Samyukt Maharashtra Samati was formed which demanded Samyukta Maharashtra merging Bombay, Vidharbha and Marathwada. The first meeting was held at Bombay under the Presidentship of S. K. Patil. In June 1948, 'Dar ' Commission was appointed by the Government of India to study and solve the problem. The Commission recommended that " Bombay is cultural center of various regions. It should be isolated from Maharashtra. In December 1948 J.V.P. Commission was appointed for the same of which the recommendations were not different from that of Dar Commission. On 28th Sept. 1953, ' Nagpur Pact ' took place in which some decisions were taken. In this agreement Vidharbha got some facilities and included in

Sanyukta Maharashtra. The first general election of 1952 was declared and the Congress party promised a solution of Sanyukta Maharashtra. So on 29th Dec. the Central Government appointed State Reorganisation Commission. The Commission consisted of following members Fajal Ali as a President, Pandit Kuzaru and Sardar Pannikar. Before the report of this commission came out the leaders of Gujarath were under the impression that our interest in Bombay would be safe. But when they came to know the real situation that the Bombay would be included in Sanyukta Maharashtra, Morarji Desai called a meeting of Gujarath leaders at the Desai's Bungalow on 3rd June 1955. They decided that Bombay city should be kept as a Bi-linguistic state." 16

VIEWS OF GUJARATH LEADERS ON SANYUKTA MAHARASHTRA :

Gujarathi leaders like Morarji Desai and Dherebai tried to protect Gujarathi interest in Bombay city. Gujarathi trader's had invested more capital in Bombay city on important industries. They could not transfer these industries to Gujarath. They did not feel that Bombay should be included in Sanyukta Maharashtra. So senior Congress leaders like Morarji always tried to protect their interest in Bombay by including Bombay in Gujrath state. He brought pressure on the Congress Party leaders who were his friends colleagues and relatives.



VIEWS OF SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA SAMITTEE LEADERS :

In 1946 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime - Minister of rising India. From 1930 Non-Brahmin leaders came under the Congress flag. Congress had strong support from the non-Brahmin leaders like Y. B. Chavan, Malojiraje Naik-Nimbalkar, Balasaheb, Morarji Desai, Kashwantrao Mohite, Kisan Veer from Satara District. They were senior leaders supporting the Congress Party. Lokmanya Tilak had also strong support from the leaders of Satara District. In Satara District Satya Sodhak Movement was launched, in which non-Brahmin leaders like Bhaskarrao Soman, Bhai Chitale, Atmaram Patil, Ramanand Bharati, Nana Patil, Babuji Patankar, G. D. Lad, Naganath Nayakwadi etc., were actively involved. These leaders supported Congress Party, but in 1948 the internal conflict in Congress party became the reason for establishing the Shetkari Kamgar Party. The leader of peasants and workers came out the Congress party and formed S.K.P. accepting the principle of Communist party. In Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement S.K.P. was the main party.

At Congress Party Session of 1954 held at ' Awadi ' the Congress party accepted the principles of democratic socialism. The linguistic reorganisation problem continued and remained, So S.K.P. with its allies launched the movement of

Sanyukta Maharashtra. These leaders were of view that

- 1) Bombay essentially should be in Maharashtra.
- 2) There is no need of Bi-Linguistic States. It was felt that all Marathi speaking areas should be brought together and the Gujarathi speaking should be also brought together and these two states should be first created. The question of boundaries can be resolved latter on. It was during this period, there took place an agreement between the leaders of Maharashtra and Karnatak on the question of Karnatak - Maharashtra boundary; which remains a ridde. And hence the border dispute between Karnatak and Maharashtra remains unresolved.<sup>17</sup>
- 3) When Pandit Nehru suggested the idea of Bi-linguistic state the senior leaders of Congress party in Maharashtra Shankarrao Devo resigned and challanged the Marathi linguistic leaders to resign their post from the Congress. But Malojiraje Naik-Nimbalkar strongly opposed this . He said that Shankarrao Devo when not a member of the Congress party, cannot order us to resign the post of minister. Once when he had resigned from the Congress party; he had no moral right to say so.<sup>18</sup>

- 4) " Opposition leaders viewed that Bombay was an egg giving hen, and Bombays Patil and Talati belonged to backward communities, when it <sup>is</sup> so, why should Bombay be given to Gujarath. Maharashtra could not afford to loose Bombay." <sup>19</sup>
- 5) The other question was why we should break the regional integration by giving Bombay to Gujarath.
- 6) Krantishina Nana Patil argued that when Nehru accepted Bi-linguistic State plan it was based on a certain principals but he suggested " Two alternative plans
- i) Bombay as union territory
  - ii) Maharashtra Gujarath Bi-state expect Vidharbha." <sup>20</sup>

The situation had its impact on the general election of 1957 in Maharashtra. In this election Congress hardly got majority many senior Congress leaders were defeated. Malojiraje Naik-Nimbalkar, G. D. Tapase from Phaltan - Khandala constituency, respectively were defeated in Western Maharashtra. But Congress got good response in Vidharbha. Other leaders i.e. Dadasaheb Alatekar, Kanawade Patil, Moropant Joshi also got defeated. " In this election only Y. B. Chavan was elected

from Karad constituency with marginal majority. Y. B. Chavan became the Chief Minister of Samyukta Maharashtra,"<sup>21</sup> and started dominating Maharashtra Congress politics. Malojiraje always supported Y. B. Chavan. After the general elections of 1957 Malojiraje became the President of Maharashtra Congress Party. " Y. B. Chavan reorganised Maharashtra Congress party with Malojirao's advice, Y.B. Chavan also captured power in Maharashtra Congress with the help of Malojiraje." <sup>22</sup>

This is how Malojiraje has contributed to the growth of Congress movement as well as to the Congress Party in Maharashtra. His Presidentship of the Congress Organisation established the required structure and imbibed the organisation with spirit and discipline. Congress Party perhaps took firm roots in Maharashtra during this period.

#### VIEW OF CONGRESS LEADERS ON SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA :

Before India achieved freedom ' Rashtriya Sabha ' supported the idea of Linguistic Re-organisation, because of which in 1946 Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti was established. Congress leader's and other leaders were also included in this Samiti. In 1955 with the declaration of linguistic re-organisation report the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement opposed this report. The Congress leadership had to face various problems

during this period. Kisan Veer was the President of Satara District Congress Committee. " Kisan Veer, Y. B. Chavan and Malojiraje Naik-Nimbalkar organised the historical Congress meeting on 1st Dec. 1955, at Phaltan in Manmohan Rajwada on the other hand the Communist Party, and other opposition leaders launched strikes, Morchas, against this meeting. In this meeting Y. B. Chavan expressed his view for the first time about the composite state. In this period Shankarrao Devo asked Marathi leaders to resign from the ministry. But Malojiraje and other Congress leaders strongly faced this challenge. Due to this commitment Malojiraje, Tapase became the subject of criticism of opposition parties."<sup>23</sup> Especially communist leader Haribhau Naik-Nimbalkar was criticised a great deal.

Y. B. Chavan did not oppose Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti he planned in a different way to gain Bombay.<sup>24</sup> In this context he states " that the decision of Congress executive committee on Samyukta Maharashtra must be honoured."<sup>25</sup> He was of the opinion that the Congress as a national organisation would do justice to the question of Bombay.

Y. B. Chavan again said, if I have to choose between Nehru and Samyukta Maharashtra I shall be for Nehru.<sup>26</sup> Y. B. Chavan felt that the demand of Samyukta Maharashtra in context of Bombay would be better achieved from the Congress party

itself. This opinion of Y. B. Chavan clarifies that he was not against Samyukta Maharashtra but he gave preference to the legal method to achieve the aim; rather than to adopt aggressive methods.

Pandit Nehru felt that Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka are part of Hindustan, as well as Bombay is part of Maharashtra. Geography will give the answer of Bombay's location. No body will reject this natural truth. Pandit Nehru also accepted this truth. In English Y. B. Chavan said that " History may mislead certain things but Geography can't " as per this meaning Bombay had been and should be in Maharashtra." 27

#### VIEW OF MALOJIRAJE ON SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA :

From the beginning itself Malojiraje always advocated the National interest. He believed in unity and peace among the people. He was not for struggle. He was for progress for his state. He had great faith in and great respect for the Congress Party as mentioned earlier. He always remained with the Congress party. He always respected the orders of the party high command as a part of discipline.

Malojiraje accepted the view of Congress party on Samyukta Maharashtra movement's issue. The historic Congress

meeting was held at Phaltan on 1st Dec. 1955. Y. B. Chavan G. D. Tapase and Malojiraje and other senior congress leaders were also present. They approved of the decision of All India Congress Executive. Malojiraje became the target of criticism of opposition leaders. In reply to this he said the senior Congress leaders decision is right " we should think of independent India. We should have a broad view of it. We should care for the power of Maharashtra Government, which is the pillar of Indian democracy. The opposition leaders are thinking of spreading anarchy "<sup>28</sup> by advocating aggressive methods.

The development of Maharashtra depends upon the income of Bombay revenues. Gujarath Merchants and traders had their hold on Bombay. They had invested their capital in Bombay; because of which they never felt that Bombay was part and parcel of Maharashtra. And hence the problem required a careful and peaceful method. In this connection Malojiraje said that " we should accept Big Bi-linguistic Bombay state for our own interest which will not result to great loses. Then why should we the agitate or attack. The opposition leaders are only opposing the Congress party rather than looking it from right angle."<sup>29</sup> He put forth his views in a democratic manner.

Malojiraje expressed his views on boundary conflict between Maharashtra and Karanatak in Poona. " The boundary conflict should be sloved with negotiation and the decisions between the leaders of two state. In resolving this problem we should look at the integrity of a village, taking into account lingustic element, and the public opinion. The Congress is going to use the constitutional methods to solve all these problems and hence we should give support to the congress wishes." <sup>30</sup>

Malojiraje had great confidence in senior Congress leaders and their good attitude towards Maharashtra. So on 27th Aug. 1959 he said it openly, " That Congress leaders and parliment should take the decision about Maharashtra problem with <sup>N</sup>ational interest and the state interest within few days. People should accept the democratic principle and give support to Congress Party,"<sup>31</sup> and should accept what ever would be the out come.

Rajesaheb also tried for t he establishment of Maharashtra on 28th Aug. 1959 he tried to bring an agreement between Vidharbha and remaining of Maharashtra. So Vidharbha leaders Dr. Anne and other Congress leaders arranged a meeting at Nagpur in which Rajesahabe also took initiative in it.<sup>32</sup>



Rajesaheb was not against Samyukta Maharashtra Movement but he was against the way the Samiti chosed, were not good. Rajesaheb wanted that " This problem should be sloved through the democratic procedure and support<sup>with</sup> the national interest." 33

In brief we can say that he gave first preference to national interest and then to state. We also see this auuitude before independent of India and also Chief of State. There are hardly any native states who moved on national lines. Under the British rule many of the Native States had became powerful centers of British rule. This was not the case with Malojiraje.

#### MALOJIRAJE AS A PRESIDENT OF MAHARASHTRA PRADESH CONGRESS :

Since 1948 Rajesaheb worked as the President of Congress party. He was induced in ministry with membership of Legislative Assembly. In 1952 general election he was nominated member of Congress party. He won the election with overshelining majority. Then he became Public Work's Department minister in Morarji Desai's ministry. During this period Samyukta Maharashtra movement was launched. The role of the Congress party in the movement became the cause of the defeat. In the General elections of 1957 Malojiraje was a nominated member of Congress party for

Phaltan-Khandal Constituency. This election was won by Communist leader Haribhau Naik-Nimbalkar. The reasons of Malojiraje's defeat were as follows :

- 1) By this time the wave of Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti spread all over Maharashtra. Many senior leaders were defeated in Maharashtra. Malojiraje was one of them. Haribhau Naik-Nimbalkar was supported by Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti.
- 2) In 1957, ' D ' Limitation Committee reconstituted the constituency. In the new constituency Khandala was included where Rajesaheb had not done any work. It was under the strong hold of opposition leaders, and when he contested he was defeated. The opponent of Rajesaheb Shri. S. R. Bhosale argued that " Moraly Rajesaheb won this election because in Phaltan polling center Rajesaheb was on the lead, but not in Khandala polling center."<sup>34</sup> " The same view was expressed by Rajesahebs election opponent Haribhau Naik-Nimbalkar."<sup>35</sup>

Haribhau also argued that the work done in Phaltan Taluka by Rajesaheb could not be equalled by other leaders.<sup>36</sup>

After the defeat in General election of 1957, Rajesaheb was chosen as a President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress. Congress leaders thought that this is a post of great responsibility. So there was a need of capable candidate. So Rajesaheb

became President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Party from 1957 to 1962. Rajesaheb worked hard for the reconstruction and organisation of Congress Party. He did this very sincerely. He gave stability to the Congress Party which was before 1957. In 1959 at Kolhapur " he said that the Congress leaders and ✓ followers should increase the membership. They did this always for the state and Congress." 37

We should support our leadership, Rajesaheb also supported Y. B. Chavan " when Y. B. Chavan was inducted in the ministry of Desai. The leaders from Vidharbha objected to Y. B. Chavan's inclusion because Y. B. Chavan was a unknown personality. Rajesaheb told these leaders that Y.B. Chavan was his relative."<sup>38</sup> Thus he spend his money and used both physical and mental strength to develop, and reorganisation the Congress party. He proposed for the installation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Pratapgad. For this he collected money. Malojiraje and Y. B. Chavan arranged this ceremony. The statue was inaugrated under the Presidentship of Prime-Minister Pandit Nehru in 1957.<sup>39</sup> The opposition created problems and welcomed with black flags. Malojiraje tried to bring a compromise with opposition leaders and settled this issue.<sup>40</sup> He always worked for nationalism.

In the general elections of 1962 again Malojiraje was the given party ticket. This time he again won the election with overwhelming majority. But he was not included in the ministry of Chavan." The Chief Minister Y. B. Chavan did it deliberately so that Malojiraje should not be dominant and outshine Chavan. It was the part of his strategic game of politics." <sup>41</sup> Chavan wanted to get rid of Rajesaheb condemning him as a feudalist leader, from the politics of Maharashtra. With this Malojiraje would understand as how his good work had become a problem for other leaders. Since his outster from congress politics, it can be observed, it was a starting point of ' Groupism ' in Maharashtra's politics. Malojiraje had his own impact. No doubt he was a hurdle to many upcoming politicians, as he belonged to the Aristocratic class.

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