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CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIO - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PHALTAN

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Phaltan state was also a progressive state in education. In 1880 English education was started in the Phaltan State with Marathi education. In 1893 separate English School ' Mudhoji English School ' was started. In 1939 Malojiraje build up new building which costed. The cost of the Rs. 60,000/- with all the requirements of furniture and a well settled Labouratory. In opening ceremony of Legislative Council of 1935, Malojiraje said that " Education development should start from the lower level, we should constrate more on Primary Education. The Darbar should have control and supervision on education for better development of education." <sup>1</sup> Rajesaheb as being close to Western Maharashtra ; was much influenced by the Satya Shodhak Movement ; Kamveer Bhaurao Patil who represented and continued the work of Jotiba Phule.

Rajesahab wished that education must be accompanied with physical education so they had introduced compulsory physical education in Phaltan. Physical Education was also introduced as a separate subject for examination. The following games were taught in high school. Cricket, Volley Ball, Foot -

ball for Laides Atapatya, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Lezim, Jamblo, Lathi etc., This shows that Rajesaheb took keen interest in developing sports besides education.

#### WOMEN EDUCATION :

Rajesahab took keen interest in the development of Women Education. Ranisahab herself had started Audit Women Literacy Class in the palace itself. In 1932 Rajesahab and Ranisahab sent their daughter Shrimant Rajkumari Sarojinidevi alias Akkasaheb Maharaj to Mudhoji High School. They thought that other parents will also send their daughters to school ; to follow the example of the royal family. Both Rajesahab and Ranisahab took keen interest in women education ; which points to the progressive outlook of the Native Chief. Besides during this period English education was the only way for other developments i.e. social economic and political. English education had much to do with the British administration. Looking at these needs the Native Chief took keen interest in the development of English Education. In this context " Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve had pointed, ' Maloji Rajesahab was a different type of chief of state compared to other Native Princes. He always realised the needs of the changing time. He had great faith in the ' Hingone Women Education Society and Seva Sadan

Society Poona, Shrimant Sou. Laximidevi Naik Nimbalkar was the President of this Society. They helped the society in economic and other aspects. Rajesaheb also provided a grant of Rs. 600/- per year,"<sup>2</sup> for the welfare of women organisation. As pointed earlier, women had been a neglected lot and it was the desire that they should be provided equal opportunity for their development. He provided free Women Education in his state. The strength increased to 80 students, before independent India; when Women Education was prohibited, and the traditional societies were against education of the women.

Even Karmveer Bhaurao Patil when writing or expressing his view on Malojiraje's efforts to spread education, he pointed " I had criticised his policy many times, because we had some differences in personal and political matters eventhough he had great sympathy about my ( Karmveer Patil ) educational work. He invited me in his state for the Satkar Ceremony ( tactilition ) and announced a donation of Rs. 5,000/- to my institution; and 10½ acers of land and his Banglow of Satara."<sup>3</sup>

This shows his keenness and great faith in the educational development. He worked much for the education of non-Brahamin Class." He sanctioned scholarship to Patane, Shaikh, Bongane, Bhoite M. R. etc."<sup>4</sup> for their higher education. He

desired that the non-Brahmin classes should educate themselves, and without education, there could be no socio-economic progress of the non-Brahmin's as such.

For the development of Non-Brahmin agriculturist's and their children, Rajesaheb established a boarding. It is located to the east of Phaltan Bus Stand, which is converted to Yashwantrao Chavan High School, 10 acare land was donated to this Boarding. Shri S. R. Bhosale took the initiative in the establishment of this Boarding. He was very liberal in release of grants for the education. He always felt that the non-Brahmin masses had to be relieved for the superstitions believes, ignorance. He could realise that the non-Brahmins had been exploited just because they were ignorant and uneducated.

Even today in Phaltan, there are two educational societies. The Phaltan Education Society was found in 1951 and the second Shriram Education Society. These two societies have been well established, and serving the area even to this day.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF PHALTAN EDUCATION SOCIETY :

Each member of Phaltan education society falls into one of the several catogeries depedending upon his contribution. Patrons are those who have donated Rs. 3,000/- or more, fellows Rs. 1,000/- or more, benefactors Rs. 500/- or more, ordinary

member Rs. 100/- or more and sympathizers Rs. 50/- or more. A life member is a qualified teacher who has undertaken to serve the society for more than twenty years. Elections are held to elect the governing council.

The Governing Council consists of twenty-two members. One is President, three Vice-President's and eighteen members. The Governing Council of the Phaltan education society when established, consisted of fifteen members elected for a term of three years. Two Patrons, three fellows, three benefactors five ordinary members and two sympathizers. The council elected a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from among its own members for a term of three years. The Governing Council was responsible for the management of the society. Educational institutions including the appointment of staff for each of its institutions, the council appointed a Supervisory Committee consisting of the head of the institution's<sup>6</sup>

Shrimant Malojirao Naik Nimbalkar Rajesaheb of Phaltan was the permanent member of the Phaltan Education Society, who presided over the meetings of the General Body. He was empowered to call special meetings of the General Body and had a casting vote. Final authority in the society was vested in the General Body.



The General Body is empowered :

- a) To elect three Vice - Presidents ,
- b) To elect the Governing Council,
- c) To consider and approve the General Body and  
and Accounts of Society,
- d) To make and alter bye-laws,
- e) To decide proposals to starts new educational  
institutions.

Today the institutions has the following educational  
centres in various places.

- 1) Mudhoji High School, Phaltan.
- 2) Mudhoji Prathamik Vidhyamandir, Phaltan.
- 3) Phaltan Vidhyarthi Boarding, Phaltan.
- 4) Phaltan Education Societies Farming Division,  
Phaltan.
- 5) Mudhoji College, Phaltan.
- 6) Bal, Mudhoji Balak Mandir, Phaltan.
- 7) Navcheetany High School, Gondavale.
- 8) Sardar Vallabhbai High School, Sakarwadi.
- 9) Joytirling High School, Pawarwadi - Asu.
- 10) P. E. Society, Mhaswad Muncipal High School,  
Mhasawad.
- 11) Vidhyarthi Boarding, Mahaswad.

- 12) Malojiraje Agriculture High School, Phaltan.
- 13) P. E. Society's ( English Medium ) pre Primary and Primary School.
- 14) P. E. Society's ( English Medium ) High School.

Through all these institutions thousands of students have been able to get educated and they have been able to find employment. Through these institutions Rajesaheb could establish the required support with the public in general, and he took capture political power. Because of his social service he could capture power in the village Panchayat's , Local Co-operative's in School Board, etc. He established the required political linkages through all this social work.<sup>7</sup>

#### THE SHRIRAM CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORY, PHALTAN :

After independence of India, Co-operative Movement gained a great deal of importance in Maharashtra. Before the Sugar Co-operative Movements gained importance the sugar-cane producer processing the sugar-cane with indigeneous methods into jaggery or sending sugar cane to the private factory. But Rajesaheb before independence had also established Jaggery Factory in his state. From 1934 the production of sugar-cane had increased so there was need of a sugar factory. On 1st Feb. 1934 the Phaltan Sugar Factory got established as private



factory owned by Mrs. Apate in Phaltan State. The view of Shrimant was to create industries for the economic development of the state. The private Jaggery Mills purchased jaggery at a very low rates. The producer had to bear the cutting, and transport expenditure, which was exploitation of the farmers. The only solution for all these problems was co-operation. He always felt that sugar co-operative was a great need for the all round progress of the agriculturist which could solve various other problems.

When Rajesaheb was in Ministry of Bombay Government, he thought of starting the Sugar factory in Phaltan Taluka, where sugarcane production had increased. He took this opportunity to establish the sugar factory in Phaltan. During the period Padmshri Vikhe Patil started a Co-operative Sugar Factory at Pravaranagar in Ahemdnagar District. Based on these Rajesaheb took a lead in starting a factory in Phaltan known as Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory. He contributed for a rise of different political atmosphere in Phaltan by starting the new factories like Krushna Co-operative Rethare Budruk, Malegon Co-operative Malegon Bud. Someshwar Co-operative, Someshwar (Nimbut), Chhatrapati Co-operative, Sansar, Shetkari Sahakari Sangli, Yashwant Co-operative Akaluj etc."<sup>8</sup> All these

contributed to socio-economic development of the region. Emence is his contribution in this context. As a Native Chief and as a politician in post-independence period he used both his capacity as Native Chief, and as a politician to the socio-economic development. He was the founder member of various other developments in Phaltan.

The Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory is located on east of Phaltan city. The factory was registered on 24th July 1954. The first crushing year was 1957-58. The sugarcane cultivators got the required good water supply through out the year, because of the Nira Cannal, for cultivation of the sugarcane in Phaltan Taluka.

The aims and objectives of the Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory are as mentioned sixteen, which are mentioned in the bye-laws of the factory. The important aims and objectives may be summed up as follows .

" To increase the agriculture production of member farmers by using the modern methods of agriculture, so that he could get the maximum returns. To encourage co-operative efforts in marketing and processing of the agriculture products in the rural area. The Shriram factory would work as a

nucleus in the co-operative activities in the Phaltan Taluka, assisting the ancillary form of industries started on the principles of co-operation." 9

MEMBERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF SHRIRAM SUGAR FACTORY : ✓

According to the bye-laws of the Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory the membership is divided in four main types :

- 1) Producer membership.
- 2) Ordinary or non-producer membership.
- 3) Nominal membership.
- 4) Beneficiary membership.

The Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory is managed by the Board of Directors, consisting of twenty-three member, fifteen members of Board are elected by the producer members. One director is co-opted as an expert member, one member belonging to the backward class is co-opted and if such a member is not being represented on the Board, two members are nominated by the financing institutions and one member representing the government of Maharashtra is included in the Board. Two member representatives of the workers of the sugar factory are co-opted. The nomini of the financing institution and the State Government and expert member do not possess the right of

voting in the election of Chairman of the Board of Directors. These members also are not entitled to act as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Managing Director of the factory is ex-officio member of the Board. The Board of Directors is a superme managing body possessing immense power in matters of administration and management. The tenure of office of the Managing Board is generally three years." <sup>10</sup>

IMPACT OF SUGAR FACTORY ON PHALTAN TALUKA :

The Phaltan State was a developing state since the establishment of Phaltan Sugar Factory, Sakharwadi. Shriram Sugar Factory made a great contribution in the development of economic-political and cultural life of rural people in the Phaltan Taluka. In the agriculture field it has helped the farmer to change their cultivation pattern of crops. They gave importance to the commercial crops, like cotton, sugar cane. The Government of Maharashtra provided the facilities of irrigation schemes which got implemented, for the supply of water from the cannal. All this was the result of Maloji getting induced in the Kher's Ministry. Government and Shriram Factory provided money, loans for wells, and lift-irrigation schemes. With the help of these schemes many acres of land came under the irrigation. It also contributed to develop agriculture,

sugar factories providing new technology in farming new hybrid seeds. It helped to increase the agricultural products, which was a dire necessity of this area.

Many landless labourers got employed in the factory. Because of his work, Rajesaheb got established as a leader and enjoyed honour. He was admired by all and every one because of his contribution. Though he hailed from a royal family, he was always close to the problems of the masses.

The factory specially established agriculture department under the control of sugar factory. This unit helped the farmers who were in agriculture farming in Phaltan taluka, as well as members of the sugar factory. The factory also arranged to cut the sugarcane timely, and also looked after the transport problems, so that the cut sugar cane crop reached the factory in time. With the help of the above transport, private transports monopoly came to the end. The exploitation of farmers was stopped. This also points to the leadership of Malojiraje ; and his keen interest in studying even the minute problems of the farmers of this region. He possessed the required insight and foresight, because of which he could solve the problems in a very apt way.

The establishment of Co-operative Societies, contributed to political awareness in the people of Phaltan state. All this also created the democratic atmosphere. People in general also took keen interest in the various activities of co-operative societies.

The factory also constructed a recreation hall and conducted various cultural activities and also arranged sports competitions. The factory also organised functions as Shivaji Birth Anniversary, Ganesh Festival. The Shriram Sugar Factory's have also established credit society and consumer store. The workers of Phaltan taluka prefer to work in factory than to work on private land labourers, Co-operative Societies have become instruments for developing economic, social conditions of the poor farmers and poor labourers. The factory has also been encouraging the labourers and poor farmers to start the small scale industries like Dairy and Poultry, which is also a major contribution.

Factory has also established a hospital named as 'Mudhoji Hospital.' The hospital facilities are very useful for the factory workers as well as the citizens of Phaltan Taluka. The factory has its own Ambulance, which is made available to the needy patients in the rural area. " Malojiraje had also opened the ' Mudhoji Maternity Home ' before the independence of India." 11

The Phaltan Taluka Shriram Sakhar Kamgar Union of Sugar Factory workers are affiliated to the Congress party's ( Indian National Trade Union ). The leader of the union Shri R. B. Bhagat was also the Secretary of Rajesaheb, which shows that all the workers were loyal to the Rajesaheb, who rarely opposed the interest of Rajeshab.

" Shriram Sugar Factory has become a center of social and political changes. The Sugar Co-operative Factory has become an instrument in the process of creating leadership in the rural areas. The Shriram Co-operative Sugar Factory has shown profound influence on the rural farmers and its democratic structure has enabled the rural societies to develop leadership, by opening new avenues for the power in rural area. The sugar factory is the main base of power of the political leadership in the Phaltan Taluka." <sup>12</sup> Of recent it was criticised that " The power of factory's in the hands of one group belonging to the families of Rajesaheb Naik-Nimbalkar and some ' Vatandars ' Maratha families. Some of the opponents of Naik-Nimbalkar complained that Nimbalkars treated the Shriram factory and its resources as their own ' Privy purposes ' <sup>13</sup> The Naik-Nimbalkar made good use of their control of the sugar factory in their assembly campaigns. Many of the Raja's hardest working elite

allies were producer shareholders who were then and now his supporters as the Board of Director although this was not his only link with many of them. He was helped also by the labourers." 14

#### CONTRIBUTION OF MALOJIRAJE - AN ASSESSMENT :

Rajesaheb as a Minister for Local-Self Government, took keen interest in his responsibilities. As a Local-Self Government, Minister he contributed much to the development of Local Boards and Municipal administration. The good example in this context was the Phaltan Municipality and Local Board. He was elected in the 1952 General Election of Bombay Legislative Council with a good margin. The Phaltan constituency was a two member constituency. One seat was for a reserved candidate and the other was open. His colleague Shri G.D. Tapase was given the Congress ticket from the reserved constituency who won the General Election of 1952. He became the Minister for P.W.D. in Bombay State.

Since 1947 it has been the policy of Government both at the Centre and the State to make the country self-sufficient in food. In Bombay State most of the Districts depended upon the unpredictable moonsoons for the growth of their crops. In the event of failure of the moonsoons many hardship used to be



caused to the people of this region and very often Government had to declare Phaltan as drought affected area. Taking this into consideration Malojiraje used his position to develop this region and hence undertook various projects for the development of not only his constituency but in various places. He launched various projects not only for the sake of Phaltan, but for many such areas which were usually affected by the failure of the moonsoons.

1) The Kakrapara Project :

It is in the Surat District. Its expenditure is Rs. 11:01 Crores with the help of this project 6,50,000 acres of land came under irrigation.

2) Gangapur Project :

It is situated in Nasik District and Ahamadnagar District. The cost of this project was Rs. 4 Crores and 45,000 acres land became irrigated.

3) Mahi Project :

It is situated in Kaira District. The cost of this project was Rs. 133 Lakh because of which 1,50,000 acres land came under irrigation.

4) Ranad Tank Project :

It is situated in North Satara District. The expenditure on this tank was Rs. 30:18 Lakh because of which 3500 acres land became irrigated.

5) Kolchi Weir Project :

It was situated in Belgaum District. The expenditure was Rs. 43 Lakhs because of which 3600 acres land became irrigated.

6) Ghataprabha Left Bank Cannal Project :

It is between Belgaum and Bijapur Districts. The expenditure was Rs. 5.45 Lakh and 1,20,000 acres land came irrigated.<sup>15</sup>

He undertook and completed many schemes, mainly for the agricultural development for the beginning itself. It is very interesting to note that before the merger of the state he called the Executive Engineer of Mysore State Sir M. Visvesvarayya for his guidance in the development of Dams ; Tanks mainly useful for the agricultural development. He brought the Nira Right Bank cannal in Phaltan state. The expenditure for the seven dams was Rs. 1,24,000/- because of which 58231 acres land became irrigated. This shows as to how he exploited his position and got some most important works done.

After the merger of the state he again contributed Rs. 65 Lakhs of Phaltan state to Bombay Government on the condition that all this money should be spent towards the welfare of the Phaltan Taluka. The inauguration ceremony of the Banganga Dam (Project) was held under the Presidentship of the Hon. Chief Minister Morarji Desai in Sept. 1953. Because of this project 3000 acres of land came under irrigation. The Koyna Dam Project also was launched during his tenure, when he was the Public Works Department Minister of Bombay State. It was inaugurated by the Hon. Shri Morarji Desai the Chief Minister Bombay State. He then started many other dam schemes for Maharashtra and Phaltan Taluka, Ghodnadi Bridge, Mangitek, Gangapur Bridge, extension of Veer Dam. Budhyal Tisangi percolation tank, Adarki, Salpa percolation tank, was build up. Many tube-wels were started."<sup>16</sup> In this context his postion and contribution can be noted as second to none. Perhaps his beign a Native Chief brought in many limitations in furtherance of his political carrer.

As a P.W.D. Minister he undertook many projects and schemes for the welfare of the Man, Phaltan, and Khandala Talukas. Phaltan, Man, and Khandala Talukas, where his constituency. It was but natural that public opinion became favourable

to the Congress party due to his work. He saw and completed Hingangon, Tambave, Jawali, Dumal-Dara, Miradhe, percolation tanks, for his taluka. One cannot today deny that he was instrumental in developing the grassroot hold of the Congress party in Maharashtra. He was also instrumental in building the Sectarat Building of Bombay and its extentsion part. During his tenure he sanctioned 700 percolation Dams in Satara District, and out of them 20 are located in the Phaltan Taluka,"<sup>17</sup> itself immense has been his service to this drought affected area.

Malojiraje created a good impact in his constituency, and besides got established very well as a dominant Congress leader and besides his work made him to be a well known social worker. All this was challanged and the Communist Party leaders, exploited his fedual remains and attacked him on the grounds of his land holdings. He owed a large amount of agricultural, irrigated lands, and his tenants where instrumental in developing a agitation against him, which the Communist Party, and Leftist Parties exploited this opportunity and launched a movement against him. The movement started in the area's which fell under the jurisdiction of/sugar factories, in Phaltan Taluka. Perhaps this was the last nail in his political carrer which he groomed right form the bottom of his heart.

Under the leadership of Harbhau Nimbalkar with the support of other leaders like Krant~~ishin~~ Nana Patil, Bhai Madhavarao Gaikwad and other Communist leaders from Satara district and Phaltan Taluka contributed much for such risings.

" The conflict arose between Mrs. Apte and the farmers, who demanded the increase in the taxes as per acres from Rs. 35 to 50 or 1/6 part of production or to return their land back." <sup>18</sup>

Many leaders tried to solve this problem but they failed.

Malojiraje took the initiative in this, and formed the " Taluka Khandwad Committee " He took permission of the land owners, Khandkari and Farmers. The committee consisted of 15 members from landlords and farmers. An agreement between Mrs. Apte and the committee member's took place with the mediatory efforts of Malojiraje and the land tax was increased to this effect. He always tried to protect the interests of the farmers, by going to the extent of leading the movement in July 1954. Nana Patil the President of Kisan Sabha and Madhavrao Gaikwad were prohibited to enter Phaltan Taluka. But they broke this order and Rajesaheb took the leading part." <sup>19</sup> This infers to his approach, to solve problems in democratic way.

#### MALOJIRAJE AND SOCIAL REFORM WORKS :

✓ Malojiraje was an active social reformer. He had great faith in Karmveer Bhaurao Patil's educational work. He donated Rs. 5,000/- and 10 acres of land to the Rayat Shikashan Sanstha,

Satara. From the beginning itself he was in favour of the cause of education. He was also for women's education. Shrimant Ranisaheb also started Night Adult Women's Education classes. Rajesaheb sanctioned Rs. 600/- every year to Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve to encourage women's cause. Ranisaheb was the President of Seva Sadan Society Poona. He was a great admirer of Mahatma Phule and other social workers. All this made him to propagate and establish educational institutes for women, girls and he also donated monetary help to many institutes. He was the first to send his daughter to Mudhoji High School with the intention that other parents should follow him. He believed that education would surely help the rural poor and improve their socio-economic life and their development.

In the inauguration ceremony of the Legislative Council of 1935 Act he pointed " That education development should be from the bottom to the top. We should take care of primary education. It is necessary to have co-ordination in education and the Darbar would have control over it."<sup>20</sup> He desired that education should be provided to each and every Child irrespective of sex, caste, religion.

Rajesahab was against caste system and favoured its annihilation. He tried hard in spite of the adverse and sharp

criticism of him in this directions. " Rajesaheb was against caste system not only after independence but from the very beginning. He appointed a member from the Back-ward classes in his Legislative Council right in 1929 itself."<sup>21</sup> The name of member was ' Mahadevo Ahiwale '. He treated the untouchables and back-ward people with equality. At the opening ceremony of Legislative council in 1929; Rajesaheb said that " If God is in the favour of untouchability then I would not like to respect or honour even the God."<sup>22</sup> He never belived in the caste system.

✓  
When Dr. Bhimarao Ambedkar arrived in Phaltan, Rajesaheb accorded him a great wel-come and honoured him with due respect in his palace. Rajesaheb and Dr. Ambedkar had discussions on the social condition of the Phaltan State. DR. Ambedkar left Phaltan with great satisfaction and admiration Dr. Ambedkar also had good regards and respect towards, the R<sub>a</sub>jesaheb " The best example in this context was that of his allowing his daughter Sarojanidevi ( Akkasaheb Maharaj ) to marry Capt. Namjoshi of Poona. This was an inter-caste marriage and the elder son Bapusaheb Maharaj also got married with the permission of Rajesaheb. But Rajesaheb was liberal in his views, because of which he did not oppose his marriage but on the contrary, he welcomed this spontaneously. This marriage was also an inter-caste marriage. Bapusaheb Maharaj married the

daughter of Nanaso Gupte of Poona."<sup>23</sup> In Phaltan State there were all types of caste and religions who lived together peacefully. This showed that Rajesaheb was secular in his outlook.

" As per the census report of 1931 the total population of Phaltan State was 58761, and the caste wise distribution was as follows :

Sr. No.	Caste	Population	Percentage
1)	Hindu	56372	96 %
2)	Muslim	1480	2.5 %
3)	Jain	896	1.3 %
4)	Parsi	2	-
5)	Christan	11	-

In total population 29,492 were Gents and 29,269 were Women. The percentage of population with area was 148 persons per Sq. miles. In the Hindu's there was Maratha Brahmin, Vaisha, Mali etc." <sup>24</sup>

There were no caste conflicts of any type until Rajesaheb remained in power. Rajesaheb stopped the evil of castism, which did prevail in Maratha and Muslim community i.e.



Women were asked to practice ' Ghosha ' or the ' Parda ' which R<sub>a</sub>jesaheb did not like and he banned this practice on 15th November 1917 at the coronation ceremony. Shrimant Laximidevi R<sub>a</sub>nisaheb announced to work for the reform in the function of Muslim women and work against the practices of Paradha system.<sup>25</sup>

" He left no stone unturned to develop cordial relations between Hindus and the Muslims in his state. Even ' Dola ' festival of Muslim was celebrated in his palace with due pomp."<sup>26</sup> He stopped the evil custom of animal sacrifice to God in the Dasara festival in the Rama's temple certainly he was not against God, but opposed evil religious traditions and customs, like animal sacrifices etc.

When Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated the disturbances and commotions erupted in British India and they percolated even in Phaltan. Law and order broke down in some of the villages. The anti-social element tried to exploit the situation and they burnt houses and huts in many villages. " To check and control these agitations, a peace Committee was formed by Rajesaheb of which Shri. S. R. Bhosale was Chairman, Rajesaheb along with the Peace Committee toured from village to village of the state, held meetings, exhorting, and pacifying the wrong-doers and mischief mongers. Hence the Peace Committee efforts along with the influence of Rajesaheb resulted in quelling the disturbance amounting to arson looting and sabotage." <sup>27</sup>

The above work shows that R<sub>a</sub>jesahab had great influence on his people. This was all due to his social work and his outlooks towards the national building activity. He was against caste system so he also formed a "Caste Prohibition Federation" ( Jati Nirmulan Sangh ). He was the President of this organisation which had its Head Quarters in Poona. He never forgot that " First I (he) am (was) the servant of my(his) subject."<sup>28</sup>

SOCIALIST THOUGHT OF MALOJIRAJE :

Though Malojiraje was the Chief of Phaltan State he was known as socialist. He was instrumental in launching the Co-operative Movement in his state. " So he set up Laxmi Central Bank on co-operative basis for the economic development of the Phaltan State. He formed many credit societies in 1917-18. According to him the object of the societies was to provide loan to the needy, and with its help he should be made economically sound."<sup>29</sup>

If we observe the regime of Malojiraje we find that he never behaved like a King or a feudal lord. He proved that he was first the servant of his subject, on many occasions.

As pointed earlier<sup>in</sup> the merger movement of Sardar Vallbh-bhai Patel, Malojiraje merged his State with Rs. 65 Lakh treasury to Bombay government, but laid down a condition that the money

should be spent on the development of his state. Because it was Phaltan's subjects money. It should be utilized for themselves. When Rājasaheb became the Minister he took keen interest in Co-operative movement. He gave impetus to set up a new Co-operative Sugar Factory and other industries. He established two sugar factories in his own state, one of them is Phaltan Sugar Factory which was established before the independence of India and second Shri. Ram Sugar Factory Phaltan Ltd. after the independence.

Before independence of India he declared the plan of ' Collective Farming ' in his State. He thought it would increase agriculture production and encourage cultivation. He had great faith in farmers, as he himself was a son of Kunbi Marathā. On the inauguration ceremony of Legislative Council of Phaltan State in 1935. He pointed " First the farmers have the right on the increased income of state and then the trader's ".<sup>30</sup>

Further he also pointed that the excise, income-tax etc. should be imposed on the rich instead of on the poor.

Malojiraje established, Collective Farming experiment at ' Pimparad ' for inspiring the farmers. He helped established a village Reform Department. He deputed qualified Agricultural

Degree holders for the success of this programme. He also established the Farming Reform Fund " for the development of agriculture. He always had personal discussions with many specialist and experienced people, farmers and others and developed a blue print for agricultural development.

MALOJIRAJE VIEW ON FARMING :

He was well known for his views on farming. He had his own plan of action in this regard which can be summed up as follows :

- 1) To provide or create permanent water supply scheme for the agriculture with the help of the permanent water supply scheme by which the production will be stable.
- 2) Sufficient capital should be supplied to the farmers or irrigated land.
- 3) " Reconstruction of land, provide high qualities seeds, provide bullocks, fertilizers, and agriculture instrument. He brought the bulldozers in his state which were the first in Asia for reconstruction of land." 31

- 4) The surplus production of farmer's crops should be given to them and not to any other traders.
- 5) The union of agriculturalist for the taxation of rate in agriculture market was to check the capitalist tendencies if any.
- 6) To establish agricultural educational institutions for the farmers education, so that farmers would use modern agriculture methods and be acquainted with modern agriculture.
- 7) " To give the required knowledge to farmers about ' Dairy and Poultry ' etc. All these above mentioned plans it can be infered that Malojiraje wanted that every one form his state should be economically sound." <sup>32</sup> Because of which Malojiraje was solely

responsible for the development of Phaltan State. We ruled as per the need of public opinion. He ruled his state as per Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Trusteeship. <sup>33</sup> Perhaps he was much influenced by Gandhism. At meeting held in Kolhapur of the Congress Committee on 2nd June 1959, Malojiraje pointed that " without co-operative forming, the farmer would not progress. We should make this experiment for the economic development and increase the agriculture output." <sup>34</sup>

LAND DONATION MOVEMENT AND MALOJIRAJE :

After independence of India Hon. Acharya Vinobaji Bhave launched his Bhoodan Movement in India. The aim of this movement was that the excess land should be given to landless people. With this movement the gap between rich and the poor would be minimized. The fraternity would be increased and economic and social conflict would come to an end. So in Maharashtra Shankarrao Devo, Annasaheb Sahasrabudhy, Appaso Patwardhan, Acharya Bhaui Dharmadikari, Shri M. B. Gandhi from Phaltan met Malojiraje and had discussion on land donation. Rajesaheb readily agreed with their views. But he put forward one condition that " he would not donate land to them who were his (Kul) tenants. The tenants should not become landless by donating lands. He would donate a (nine) acres of land to each tenant. Rajesaheb inaugurated the land donation programme at Phaltan under the Presidentship of Shankarrao Devo and he donated 1200 ( Twelve Hundred ) acres of land, when Acharya Bhave arranged the ' Padyatra ' in Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nippani, Sawantwadi, Rajesaheb was one of the participants."<sup>35</sup> This shows of his socialist thinking, and he was always in the front line in any context which was benefitting the farmers, down trodders, economic development etc. He never allowed his interests as a Native Chief to come in the way of democratic progress. Rajesaheb hence it may be pointed was a rare combination of a Native Chief, a popular leader and a democratic politician. He has set an example of himself which has rare comparison.

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