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CHAPTER - VI

BHOGAVATI FACTORY : POLITICAL DIMENSION

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## CHAPTER - 6

### BHOGAVATI FACTORY : POLITICAL DIMENSION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION :

The co-operative movement in Western Maharashtra is deep rooted into the rural areas. The co-operative sugar factories are having strong hold on the political developments. The 'Sugar Lobby' in the political field is having dominance in Maharashtra. Thus the political parties try to keep these factories under their control.

In the present study, the researcher would like to give a brief description about the role of political parties played at this factory.

Shri Dadasaheb Krishnarao Patil Kaulavkar was the promoter and founder of Bhogavati Co-operative Sugar Factory. He was active member of Congress Party. Due to his Party work and other activities in the various fields of life he could pursue the Government to establish the factory at Bhogavati.

#### 2. GOVERNMENT BODY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE FACTORY :

In the beginning from 1955-56 to 1960-61 the first Board of Management and administration of factory was appointed by the Government, as the local leaders and persons from the surrounding area were unknown to the management and administration of a sugar factory. The sugar factory itself was an unique experiment in the life of rural masses.

The first Chairman Shri V.P. Vardhe was appointed by the Government. He was a member of Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank. The Vice-chairman was Shri D.K.Patil Kaulavkar.

The Bhogavati Factory was properly geared and the functioning was gradually improving. With the lapse of time, the persons in the field of factory administration, management were acquainted with the functioning of factory. Alongwith this, the persons from the political field have also got experience regarding management and functioning of the factory. The shareholders became more conscious about their economic interest and gradually the discontent increased regarding the management of Government representatives. The shareholders felt that the management should be in their hands so as to derive maximum benefits out of their crop. Gradually they approached to the Government with their grievances against the Government management and urged to hand over the management to the elective body.

### 3. INITIAL PHASE OF CONGRESS PARTY :

The Government approved the proposal put forth by the shareholders and the elections were declared for Directors to be elected for management of the factory. Accordingly the management of directors was elected by the shareholders during 1961-62. Since 1961-62 to 1972-73 Shri D.K.Patil Kaulavkar was the Chairman of the Board of Directors. It means that Congress Party was dominating the management of the Bhogavati factory.

### 4. POWER SHIFTED TO SHETAKARI KAMGAR PAKSH :

But after this period the dominance of Congress Party in the managing body of sugar factory declined and the winds of new party started blowing. Shetakari Kamgar Paksh (Peasants and Workers Party) has dominated the rural

part of the Bhogavati factory. Hence the Shetakari Kamgar Paksh automatically dominated the Bhogavati factory. Shri Govindrao Tukaram Kalikate of Shetkari Kamgar Paksha became Chairman of Bhogavati factory. Since 1973-74 to 1977-78 he was the Chairman of the Bhogavati factory.

5. REGAINING POWER BY CONGRESS PARTY :

After this period, the political circumstances became more favourable for the Congress Party. Shri D.K.Patil Kaulavkar became the Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1978-79. But due to the death of D.K.Patil, an experienced veteran was disappeared from the political scene of the Bhogavati factory. In place of D.K.Patil, Shri Gopalrao Laxmanrao Hujare became the Chairman of Bhogavati factory. Thus the Congress Party remained in power upto 1983-84.

6. PRESENT POSITION DOMINATED BY SHETAKARI KAMGAR PAKSHA :

The changes took place in the political field and the reputation of Congress started declining. Again the Shetakari Kamgar Paksha came on scene. Shri Govindrao Kalikate became the Chairman of the Bhogavati factory in 1984. Since then he is holding the position till now.

Thus in the co-operative sugar factories the political parties try to secure the support of the share holders and get elected. In the case of Bhogavati the management power has gone from one political party to the other. The other co-operative sugar factories in Kolhapur district are dominated by Congress party since their inception. Bhut Bhogavati is the only factory in Kolhapur district which has experienced such changes in the dominance of political parties for the management of the factory.