

ROLE OF STATE IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF TELANGANA (18TH-19TH CENTURY)

(Abstract)

The Asaf Jahi rulers who ruled Hyderabad state were great patrons of literature, art, architecture, culture, jewellery collection and wonderful cuisine. Seven Nizams ruled Hyderabad from 1724-1948. (1) Mir Kamaruddin (Nizam-ul-Mulk - Asaf Jah I) (A.D.1724-1748), (2) Nasir Jung (A.D. 1748-1751), (3) Muzaffar Jung (A.D.1750-1751), (4) Salabat Jung (A.D.1751-1761), (5) Nizam Ali Khan - Asaf Jah II (A.D.1762-1803), (6) Nizam III Sikandar Jah (A.D.1803-1829), (7) Nizam IV - Nasir-ud-Daula (A.D.1829-1857), (8) Nizam V - Afzal-ud-Daula (A.D.1857-1869), (9) Nizam VI - Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan (A.D.1869-1911), and (10) Nizam VII - Mir Osman Ali Khan (A.D.1911-1948 September). Most of historical works speaks only about their autocratic, feudal rule without bringing into light the Socio-Economic-Cultural transformation they brought about and retrieving the past history and contributions made by Nizams is the need of the hour.

During the Nizam rule Hyderabad state was one of the richest and senior most salute state among the Indian Princely states. The rule of the Nizam brought Socio-Economic- Cultural transformation and this Thesis would highlight the same. Most of the works on Asaf Jahi's criticize them for their autocratic and unbridled feudal exploitation in Telangana that led to the peasant upsurge, and the armed struggle, but on the other front they modernised the state through industrialization and urbanisation which is not highlighted. The study concentrates on the official measures taken by the rulers to encourage systematic administration in the state. Special focus is laid on Civil, Judicial, Police, Revenue, and other Administrative changes made by Nizams. The reforms introduced by Sir Salarjung during his Prime Ministership will be analysed. The role of Jagirdars, Deshmukhs, Deshpandes, Samsthanadars are also discussed. The important rebellions such as Mahipatram, Mubariz-ud-Daula, Alijah and Jagirdars' rebellions are also described. Famines, position of ryots, taxation system and vetti system are discussed. The Salarjung Reforms and their impact on the state economy and polity, Jagirdar crisis

in Telangana and regional aristocracy are also discussed in the present work. The agrarian conditions, Trade and Commerce, Industrialization, Education, Irrigation, Railways are analytically studied and how they transformed the economy are explained. The historical techniques of critical scrutiny and analysis are adopted in this study for drawing information from source materials.

India has no native State so rich, potent and extensive as Hyderabad. The Nizams gave importance to irrigation to improve agricultural yield. They also modernised the state by introducing Railways, Airways, own currency, Electricity, Medical & Health Department, Public works department. It was during their rule state made rapid advance in education and culture. Inspired by Indian civil service the Nizam established the Hyderabad civil services. As prolific builders they created a fusion of European tradition with Hindu and Islamic.

Nizam rulers gave importance to Irrigation to promote agriculture. Irrigational works in Hyderabad was on increase there were 5,362 tanks, 14,494 Kuntas and 1,36,568. Project completed during 1868-84 include Ibrahim Patnam Project, Balkapur Channel. During late 19th C Benoor, Mahabubnagar Projects were started. They completed Tungabhadra, Nizam Sagar and the early work of Nagarjuna Sagar was started during this period. From 1875 to 1940 tank irrigation multiplied nine fold, while total irrigation in Telangana grew by seven fold. In 1920, the tributaries of major rivers were tackled by construction of several medium-sized irrigation projects, the notable among them were Pocharam, Dindi, Palair, Wyra, Manair and anicuts at Ghanpur on Manjira and Khanapur on Godavari. Because of bonafide extension of cultivation, regular assessments and beneficial irrigational schemes agricultural production and market for it increased.

The State imported articles like Fruits, Silk, Cotton Stuffs, Opium, Scents. and drugs, spirit, sugar, minerals, silk and salt etc. The Chief exports include Grains, Oil seeds, cotton seeds, Indigo, Timber, Jaggery, Paper and live stock exports were more compared to imports. Markets played a very important role in trading activities. The

different kinds of markets included regulated markets, unregulated markets, Mandis, Ganja, weekly bazaars, periodical bazaars, Ursus, Melas, Jatra and Cattle Bazaars. The Nizam Government encouraged trade in the state and provided transportation facilities like Railways and buses for Trade. The Government provided protection for traders inside the state and outside the state.

The railway construction work on the Nizam's state Railway began in 1871, and as the work progressed it became increasingly obvious that the State was incapable of coping with the mounting financial burden that had been placed on it. With the consent of the Government of India, the Asaf Jah dynasty entered into an agreement on 27th December, 1883 with the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Company by which the company purchased the railway line from Wadi to Secunderabad and undertook to construct new lines from Secunderabad to Warangal and then to Bezawada (Vijayawada) and Chanda.

The Hyderabad State occupied good position in trade and commerce in India. The State supplied large quantity of articles for different parts of India and abroad. The exports were more to Hyderabad State, when compared to imports. The State occupied a prominent place in trade. The Government encouraged communication facilities in the State. The Nizam-VII took interest for development of Railways in the State. In the State, two gauges were very important. One is Metre gauge and other is Broad gauge. The railway was very important for trade and passengers were carried. In A.D.1935, the Madras-Karachi Air Service was linked with Hyderabad with Hakimpet as landing ground.

Hyderabad has been noted for the cottage and small scale Industry. Warangal was famous for carpet, Bidriware, Karimnagar for Silver filigree, Daulatabad for hand made paper, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Armour and Narayanapet for saris and Mettapalli Khadi were known all over India and even abroad for their exquisite workmanship aesthetic quality and utility. Hyderabad Spinning and weaving mill was established in year 1877. During the last decade of 19th c some Cotton ginning and pressing mills too were

established by 1898. They were around 12 such mills there. Silk industry was also an important industry. Silk cloth of very durable description was produced at Warangal, Narayanapet, Kosgi, Matwada, Hasanparthi. Mashru fabric was manufactured at Hyderabad it was more durable and more expensive than Benaras silk. Himru fabric had been bought by Mughals and it was inherited as a part of colourful cultural heritage of Deccan and it was exclusive to Hyderabad. The Embroidery industry, Blanket industry, Carpet industry, Paper industry. Leather industry were other famous industries. Iron ore was smelted in Warangal, Asifabad, Karimnagar, Bodan, Nalgonda. Iron and Steel Industry could thus produce knives, scissors, swords, guns etc of best quality.

The important industries of Nizam included Singareni Collieries (1921), Nizam Sugar factory (1937). Allwyn metal works (1942), Praga tools (1943) , Sirsilk (1946), Hyderabad Asbestos (1947), Kharkahana Zinda Tillismat (1906), Charminar Cigarette (1925), Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company (1930), Azam Jahi Mills Warangal (1934). All these industries played a vital role in the State economy and provided employment opportunity for the people in Hyderabad State. In addition to textiles, dye, sugar, diamond, Iron, ship-building industries were very popular. After agriculture, it was industry that provided employment to the people. There was industrial stagnation from 1724-1870 and there was development of modern industry from 1870 to 1948. Abundance of mineral resources were a great asset to Hyderabad. Coal, Gold, Iron, Granite, Graphite, Diamond and other mines played a pivotal role in improving state economy. These mines gave production for communication and power etc. In 1883 the Raichur Doab Gold fields also started Gold Mining operations. The Wandalli and Topaldoddi mines produced Gold. The Hatti Gold Mine was an important mine in Nizam Hyderabad state, which exported Gold from Hyderabad state to different places abroad. The state also provided shelter to the employees in different parts of the mines. The Raichur, Gulbarga, Adilabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, Nalgonda and Mahaboobnagar districts played an important role in the mineral resources. The only three coal mines provided employment for 20,000 people.

The most memorable achievements under Nizam's rule is extending support for education. The administration of education was in the hands of revenue authorities until 1869. However in 1870 a Separate Education Department was setup. The period from 1873 to 1882 was thus a period of experimentation and expansion in the field of education, though the expansion was slow due to inadequacy of budget grants. Christian missionary Schools promoted English education. An English high school at Pathergatti and an Anglo-vernacular Secondary school at Chaderghat were opened in 1870 and 1872. Education became a major Department of Government under Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur and a budget of Rs. 2,29,000 was sanctioned for 1883-84. High schools were opened at the suba head quarters and Middle schools in other important places. The middle school examination was instituted in 1891. A text book committee was established in 1884. The Nizam college became a 1st grade college in 1887. Committees for English scholarships to be awarded to students for the promotion of foreign studies in English were founded in 1895-96. In 1904-05 a Medical school was opened. Thus Nizam Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur has been rightly called the Father of Education in the state. In 1905-06 the expenditure on Education was over Rs. 10,00,000. They promoted Professional and Technical Education. By 1884 there were 2 colleges, 11 secondary and 5 Primary schools to promote girls education. Zenana girls school was opened by the Government in 1887 AD at Nampally. Osmania University was founded 1918 it tried to impart modern system of education. The Nizam was firm to start research facilities in the University. Urdu remained the medium of instruction but the study of English as a compulsory subject was practised. In 1936 OU started Post graduate courses also. Around 11% of budget was spent only on education. Thus there was growth of languages viz Persian, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi etc. There was a spread of technical education not only in the Hyderabad District but also in the erstwhile Nizam's Dominions, that dates back to 1869 AD. When the Nizam's Government established a Civil Engineering College at Hyderabad for encouraging the study of engineering science amongst the people of the princely State of Hyderabad and appointing them to executive posts, when fully qualified, in the Public Works Department. Consequent on the reorganization of the Public Works Department, this college was abolished in 1884-85 AD. A few years later, the industrial school and the engineering school, which were started at Warangal in 1890 AD and 1891

respectively, were transferred to Hyderabad in 1896-97 AD and 1901-02 respectively. The Victoria Memorial Home and Industrial School was established in 1905-06 AD in the Hyderabad State. All these were helpful for development of technical education in Nizam Hyderabad State.

The Nizam gave much importance to Medical and public health service. They established dispensaries, hospitals and other health centers in various parts of the State. In every district headquarters, one district hospital with good accommodation and beds was established. The district hospitals were manned by a Civil Surgeon, two Medical Officers, one Lady Medical Officer, One Nurse, three compounders etc. The small dispensaries were established in each taluq of the State. The finances of the Medical Department were met from two different sources-Diwani and Sarf-I-Khas. The paigahs, Jagirs, and Samasthans were having their own dispensaries. The first medical institution to be opened is the Residency Dispensary (later Known as Sultan Bazar Hospital, this was followed by Hospital for poor (now Gandhi Hospital) this was established in 1851. The Afzal Gunj Hospital (now Osmania General Hospital was opened in 1866 A.D. It trained Medical students. In 1897, Ronald Ross discovered Malaria spreads through mosquitoes he carried out his discovery in an improvised laboratory in Secunderabad. Thus by establishing dispensaries, hospitals Nizams tried to take steps to prevent deaths caused due to cholera, plague, smallpox etc. The number of deaths due to epidemics considerably declined because of these medical services provided.

The Nizams also established PWD Department in 1868. Works in the Districts was supervised by District Engineers who were incharge of construction and repairs of civil buildings and roads. According to Hyderabad Gazetteer 1,614 miles of roads were maintained by department at an annual expenditure of 5,50,000/- rupees while others are in course of construction. Few works taken up by them were, African cavalry guard lines, Jails at Warangal, Aurangabad, Civil barrage, Roads, Bridges, Drainage works, water supply public gardens, police barracks, court at Hanamkonda, dispensaries etc. This led to construction of modern buildings.

The Nizam Government appointed salaried staff, established High court, Munsif courts, session courts and District courts, The Government also appointed Police Superintendent for Districts, and Kothwal for city etc. The Government also appointed Postal Superintendent and started thousands of post offices for best communication purpose.

Thus, there was development of Communication, Commerce and trade and industries, and the exploitation of Mineral resources. All this, inturn, served as a great help of Hyderabad in solving the problems of unemployment to some extent. A large majority of people availed themselves of the facilities provided in the state. The important trade centres were Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Mattewada, Hasanparthi, Karimnagar, Peddapally, Jagtial, Korutla, Sirpur, Nirmal, Bodhan, Kamareddy, Vikarabad, Pangal, Koilkonda, Ghanpur, Makthal, Narayanpet, Gadwal, Bhongir, Aurangabad, Nanded, Parbhani, Hingoli, Parli, Shorapur, Koppal, Latur, Raichur, Seram, Shahabad, Siddipet, Indur, Kerkeli, Khammammet, Edlabad, etc.

They were great architects and constructed Prolific buildings like Chowmahalla palace, Purani Haveli, Panch Mahal, King Koti Palace, Hyderabad House, Mahaboob Mansion, Faluknama palace, Bellavista, Hill fort palace, Chiran palace, Saifabad palace, Unani Hospital, City College, High court, Jubilee Hall, Asafia library, Medical college, Nizam V, constructed Afzal Gung Bridge at Nayapul as people experienced miserable situation, sometimes many families ended up because of starving during floods. The Modern era of the development of twin cities began after the flood of river Musi in 1908 A.D. This necessitated the planned development of the city in a phased manner. Sri. M. Vishweshwarrayya the great engineer of Mysore was specially invited to suggest measures for flood control and improvement in City. Osman sagar and Himayat Sagar were thus constructed in 1917. These two dams not only controlled floods but also supplied drinking water to city. City improvement Board was established in 1912, which paid attention to construction of roads, markets, housing cities, shopping centres, and thus slums were replaced with planned colonies. The expense involved in these constructions

was tremendous. The town Hall cost was rupees 19,00,000. The Osmania Hospital cost rupees 20,00,000, the City High School 9,00,000 and the High Court rupees 21,00,000.

Electricity was commissioned in AD 1923. Hussain Sagar Thermal Power Station was built in 1920 during the time of VII Nizam. It was the first thermal Plant in entire south to improve the financial status of the state. Nizam Osman Ali started his bank called Hyderabad State Bank. Nizam was responsible for starting earliest public sector undertaking such as Nizam Sugar Factories which started in 1937 and Singareni Collieries started in 1921. The bus service was started in the city in year 1932. The Nizam owned his own airways.

In 1920 a farman was issued for the constitutional reforms and provisions it granted are

- 1 Human rights to citizens
- 2 Direct franchise
- 3 Protection of the rights of Minorities
- 4 Eligibility for Voting.

Judiciary was separated from executive and legislature and an independent High Court was established by Nizams. The High Court stands on the south bank of the river Musi. This is one of the finest buildings in the city, built in red and white stones in Sarcenic Style, by VII Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan. The plan of the High Court was drawn up by Shankar Lal of Jaipur and the local engineer who executed the design was Mehar Ali Fazil. The construction started on 15 April 1915 and was completed on 31 March 1919. On 20 April 1920 the High Court building was inaugurated by Nizam VII Mir Osman Ali Khan. The main building of the High Court was constructed in the year 1919 by the then Nizam's Government accommodating Six Judges besides accommodation for the Office Staff, record rooms and Advocates' Hall.

Nizam promoted jewellery works. Mr. Osman Ali collection of pearls alone could fill upon Olympic size swimming pool. He gained the famous Jacob diamond 400 carat

diamond, double the size of Kohinoor and the world's fifth largest. The Diamond was purchased by Govt. Of India in 1995. The seventh Nizam found the duck-egg sized diamond hidden in his father's slippers and he used it as paper weight. One example of wealth of Nizam rule is the Jewels of Nizams, which is an international tourist attraction occasionally displayed in Salarjung Musuem.

The Nizam had his own currency "Osmania sikka" and Mint. 100 rupee note was introduced in 1918. The attempts to issue paper currency proved abortive, in the wake of British resistance to Indian States issuing paper currency. The exigency of the First World War, the Indian and Hyderabad contributions to British war effort, there was acute shortage of silver on the subcontinent led the Dominion to get its way in 1918 and paper currency was issued under the Hyderabad Currency Act. Notes were issued in denominations of Rupees 100 and Rs 10. The currency was designated the Osmania Sicca and the notes were printed by Messrs Water low and Sons. Rupee One and Rupees Five notes were issued subsequently in 1919 and Rupees One Thousand notes were issued in 1926. After the setting up of the India Currency Notes Press at Nasik, Hyderabad notes came to be printed there for reasons of economy and security. Hyderabad acceded to the Indian Union after police action. The Osmania Sicca was demonetized in 1959.

Hyderabad was the first state in India to make tribal policy, Hyderabad was the first government to declare scheduled areas, village panchayats etc. Many Lambada schools were established during the Nizam rule; no state in the country in those times had government run buses.

Thus the rule of Nizam transformed society, economy and brought cultural accomplishments. There was remarkable growth in industry, modernisation, educational prosperity. Undoubtedly all this made Mir Osman Ali Khan one of the world's richest men in 1937. According to Forbes All time wealthiest list of 2008, Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan is the 5th richest man ever with on estimated worth of US \$ 210.8 billion. Mir Osman Ali Khan Siddqi Bahadur donated to many institutions in India and abroad. Recipients included educational institutions such as the Jamia Nizamia, the Darul Uloom

Deoband, Banaras Hindu University and Aligarh Muslim University. This shows his secular attitude. The social relations, development of infrastructure, language and literature, education and learning both on economic and social terms represented the quintessence of cultural traditions of his domain. Much credit goes to Mir Osman Ali for raising the status of Hyderabad State. VII Nizam continued to rule Hyderabad until the Union of India in 1948.

The Government of India implemented the Stand Still Agreement and withdrew the Indian Army from Hyderabad. But Nizam wanted to assert his independence. In April 1948, Nizam rejected the suggestion of India, to hold plebiscite in Hyderabad to test the will of the people on the issue of accession. Sardar Patel warned that India would never agree to Hyderabad's independence. The Indian Government also noticed that the activities of the Rajakars grew in intensity and violence and border incidents assumed grave proportions. The Indian troops were posted on the Indian boundary to prevent the import of Pathans and Muslims into the State. In an endeavour to convert the minority into majority in the State, Muslims were encouraged to emigrate and Hindus were terrorized to migrate from the State. There was a complete breakdown of Law and Order. On 7th September 1948, the Indian Government requested Nizam to take immediate steps to disband the Razakars who were involved in murder, rape, arson and pillage and had created wide spread anarchy within Hyderabad. When Nizam's Government blamed India for the activities of Razakars, a decision on 9th September 1948 was taken to send Indian troops into Hyderabad to restore peace. An ultimatum was delivered by Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary to the Ministry of States to the Nizam on 10th September 1948 and Police action was launched and having no alternative Nizam forces surrendered.

Hyderabad, under the Nizam's, was the largest princely state in India. Area wise it was as big as England and Scotland put together. The State had its own currency, mint, railways, and postal system. There was no income tax. During the Asaf Jahi period, Persian, Urdu, Telugu and Marathi developed simultaneously. Persian was the official language up to 1893 and then Urdu up to 1948. The Nizam is also accused of autocracy; if that was true then why he would constitute committees for different purposes such as to

establish a university committee. The Nizam is also accused of lacking in vision, if this was true then he would have not separated legislature, executive and judiciary which happened in way back 1920s itself. In fact, the people of Telangana were not fighting against the Nizam but were against village Zamindars, landlords, Jagirdars and most of them were Hindus. From 1930s Banjaras fought against these local landlords very openly. There was no communism but the communities were fighting. One has to take into account the person and his time, but not only the person as an individual while writing history. The whole idea to blame Nizams for Telangana backwardness must be rethought and definitely Socio-economic-cultural transformation took place under Nizams.
