

TAMIL NADU PARLIAMENTARY BY – ELECTION (1973 – 1982)

**P.LEKSHMANAN,
Ph.D. RESEARCH SCHOLAR
Dept. of History and Research
Centre N.M.C.C.**

Marthandam

**Affiliated to Manonmaniam
Sundaranar University
Tirunelveli.**

**Dr.G.M. Sunder Singh
Assistant Professor
Dept. of History and Research
Centre N.M.C.C Marthandam.**

Dindugal Parliamentary By- Election (1973)

Within a period of seven months a new political party participated in a maiden election in the Parliamentary by election and demonstrated its strength as a giant by winning it. The Dindugal Parliamentary constituency by election inaugurated a new epoch in the electoral history of Tamil Nadu. In the Parliamentary election of 1971 Rajangam DMK won from the Dindugal Parliamentary constituency. As he died that necessitated a by-election to that constituency that was held on 20th May, 1973 . MGR who founded the AIADMK just seven months ago treated it an opportunity and decided to demonstrate its strength to the nation.

Therefore he decided to contest in the election independently without forming any alliance with anyone else. This Constituency was dominated by Piranmalai Kallar community . Therefore he wisely picked up Mayathevar from that community and asked him to file the nomination as the AIADMK candidate . At that time DMK, was the ruling party of the state, INC was the ruling party of the nation the Congress (O) also filed their candidates. As a result there were keen four cornered contest.

DMK, the ruling party of the state treated this election as a matter of prestige. It decided to defeat the AIADMK at any cost. Therefore it used its entire man power, muscle power and money power to defeat Mayathavar and to nib AIADMK in the bud itself. But on the other hand the name MGR became a household name among the Tamil people irrespective of age, sex, caste, religion and region. His fame and popularity was as its zenith. In such a situation he released the film Naadodi Mannan which brought anther feather in his cap. In that film he acted the role of a wandering king. His action, songs, stunt created electrifying effect upon the people. As a result the Tamil people were mentally and physically integrated with MGR. in addition no sooner election date was announced he made a whirlwind tour throughout the constituency and addressed several public meetings. The people seeing the film star in real astonished admired and accepted his call. They voted for the AIADMK candidate as directed by their Idaydeivam MGR. when the election result was declared the AIADMK candidate Mayathevar was declared won who secured 52% of votes . Total votes polled 5,05,253 Mayathevar AIADMK Bsecured 2, 60, 930, Congress (O) secured 1, 19, 032, DMK secured only 93, 496 and Congress (I) secured 11, 496 votes . The Congress (O), DMK and the Congress

(INC) secured second, third and fourth places respectively. The ruling parties of the state DMK and at the centre (INC) were thrown to third and fourth places due to the AIADMK hurricane. Thus the AIADMK created history by contesting in a parliamentary Bye election within a period seven months of its origin and defeating the ruling parties of both state and the centre. The election result made the fame and popularity of MGR increased manifold. The leaders of state and centre started to raise their eye brows and looked MGR with wonder. Since then AIADMK started to grow steadily and soon it has grown like a banyan tree to give shade, shelter, and asylum to innumerable people and its fragrance started to flow like jasmine flower in all directions.

Coimbatore Parliamentary and Assembly Bye Elections (1974)

Within less than another one year since the landslide victory it acquired in the Dindugal by-election, the AIADMK secured another opportunity to demonstrate its strength to the nation. Accordingly the sitting member of the Coimbatore Parliamentary constituency who died in place crash. Further the sitting member of the Coimbatore west assembly seat also died earlier. Therefore a Bye-election was scheduled to fill both the vacancies. So the leaders of political parties of the state decided to contest in the election and to win by all means. While the DMK and the Congress (O) preferred to face the election independently whereas the AIADMK preferred to face the election by holding electoral alliance with the CPI. Accordingly it was agreed that the parliamentary seat for Coimbatore was given to the CPI and the assembly seat Coimbatore West was given to the AIADMK.

All the political parties faced the election seriously. The DMK decided to retain the assembly seat by all means and also wished to wrest the parliament seat from the CPI and wished to retain its lost image at any cost. MGR canvassed by making whirlwind tour by camping in both the constituencies. The election was held on 24th February, 1974 and when the election commission declared the result it went in favor of AIADMK combine. Mrs. Parvathi Krishanan of the C.P.I and Mr. C. Aranganayagam of the AIADMK were declared elected as M.P. and M.L.A. respectively . Thus Coimbatore by election became another feather in the cap of AIADMK.

Thanjavur and Nagapattinam Parliamentary by-Elections (1979)

S.D. Somasundaram Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) representing Thanjavur constituency was inducted in the Tamil Nadu council of ministers as minister for revenue and therefore he resigned his M.P. post and the death of S.G. Murugasan, Member Parliamentary representing the Nagapattinam Constituency lead to the by-election to both the constituencies that was scheduled to be held on 17th June, 1979 .

During the time certain new developments took place that strained the electoral understanding between the AIADMK and Congress. This situation was treated it as opportunity by the DMK by delinking the AIADMK from Congress Front and forged it alliance with Congress. Shrimathi Indira Gandhi who was defeated by Raj Narain at Raibareli (U.P) in the general election to parliament held in 1977. But she wished to earn in to Parliament by contesting in a by-election and

winning it. Therefore she contested in the Sigmagalur parliamentary constituency by-election and won and become M.P. But her M.P. post was cancelled by Prime Minister Morarji Desai through a resolution in the Parliament charging the excess committed during the emergency period. However she did not get frustrated and wish to enter the Parliament again to regain her lost glory. So she wished to contest in the election caused by the resignation of S.D Somasundaram to Thanjavur parliamentary constituency. But Prime Minister Morarji desai did not like Srimathi Indira Gandhi to become a M.P. again. So he gave pressure to MGR insisting him not to allow her to contest from Thanjavur. MGR did not wish to embarrass the Prime Minister and so MGR told Indira Gandhi that if she contest from Thanjavur it will be very difficult for him to control the law and order problem that may arise in Tamil Nadu. Therefore as she did not get concrete support from MGR, Indira Gandhi dropped the idea of contesting from Thanjavur and thereafter the cordiality between Mrs. Gandhi and MGR strained. However Congress candidate Singaravadivel won the Thanjavur Parliamentary constituency and Murugaiyan of the CPI won the Nagapattinam Parliamentary seat in the by-election with a thin majority .

Mr. M. Karunanidhi was very much restless since MGR became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He wished to wrest the Chief Minister –ship from MGR at any cost even by compromising with his enemies. Following the Machiavellian principle of making enemies enemy friend he wished to compromise with his erstwhile enemy Congress by taking use of the strained relations of Congress with AIADMK. He wrongly calculated that if he dislocated the AIADMK – Congress alliance, and there by maintaining alliance with Congress he can achieve his goal.

Therefore he went to Delhi met Mrs. Indira Gandhi and pleaded for DMK – Congress alliance. Mrs. Gandhi also believed the sugar coated words of Mr. M. Karunanidhi and accepted the plea of Mr. M. Karunanidhi and thus the Congress DMK alliances blossomed.

Periakulam Parliamentary Constituency by-Election (1982)

Cumban Natarajan (DMK) representing Periakulam Parliamentary constituency died. Therefore a by – election was ordered that was held on 26th September, 1982. While the DMK wanted to retain the seat at any cost, the Congress (I) also interested to have the seat for it and the AIADMK wanted to prove its might by wresting the seat from the DMK. Therefore they all field their own candidates and seriously canvassed. MGR himself went to Periakulam and had a busy schedule. The result went in favor of AIADMK and its candidate STK Jakkayan won the election with a thumping majority.

REFERENCE

1. O2a, D.K., Report on the seventh General Elections to Lok Saba Madras, 1980, p.14
2. Thandavan. Rand Krishnamurthi. G, Electoral Participation of Dravidian Parties, The Dravidian Movement (ed), Thandavan. R, The Academy of public Affairs, Chennai, 2001, p.164.
3. Thandavan. R, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Political Dynamic in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Academy of Political Science, Madras, 1987, p.125.

4. Thandavan. R and Krishnamurthi. G, op.cit, p.164.
5. THandavan. R, op.cit, p.126.
6. Daily Thanthi, Tamil Dily, Varalarru Suvadugal, 2010, p.595.
7. This list is prepared from a scrutiny of the AIADMK party newspaper Anna, dated May and June 1977.
8. “The Problem”, Seminar NO: 159, November 1980, p.14
9. The Indian Express, English Daily, Dated on 25th February, 1974, p.1.
- 10.The Indian Express, English Daily, Dated on 25th February, 1974, p.3.
- 11.Thandavan. R, op.cit, p.127.
- 12.I bid, p.135.
- 13.The Hindu dated March 6, 1983.
- 14.Times of India, dated December 27, 1980.
- 15.I bid.
- 16.Oza, D.K., Op.Cit. p.157
- 17.I bid.
- 18.The Indian Express, dated November 23, 1982