

DEVARAJ URS CONTRIBUTION TO THE TWENTY POINT PROGRAMME IN MYSURU (KARNATAKA)

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ABSTRACT

Devaraj Urs played a major role in implementing many schemes for the poor. Urs had effectively implemented the 20-Point Programme drawn up by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Urs' implementation of land reforms had uplifted the weaker sections of the society. Urs wanted to make the tiller the owner of the land. He wanted the small and marginal farmers working in the fields of landlords to lead a life of dignity. Over three lakh tenant farmers had benefited from the land reforms initiated by Urs in the undivided Udipi district. Urs battled for equality among people. "He pioneered pro-people movements in the State and chalked out many schemes for the socially backward classes, along with providing reservations. His lifetime and the present generation should follow in his footprints, he added.

Key Words: Devaraj Urs, Social Reforms, Administrative Reforms in Karnataka.

INTRODUCTION

Devaraj Urs was the eldest son. Kemparaj Urs was the second. Another child- Puttaraj Urs- died at the age of four. Eminent Kannada writer Chaduranga, (actual name Subrahmanyaraje Urs), also belonged to the Urs family of Kallahalli. After Chaduranga lost his father at an early age, a relative, Padmaraje Urs of Kallahalli, brought him up and his brother Mudduraje Urs. Padmaraje Urs was the father of Devaraj Urs' mother Deveerammani. When Padmaraje Urs died in 1897, his wife Gowrammani invited Devaraj Urs' father to look after the family. The report in the administrative positions to implement radical social economic problem was discussed under the 20 point programme, Sri Devaraj Urs of caste associations belonging to large number

of caste associations of the weaker sections and the minorities came into the existence and mobilize that people for social economic and political benefits and informal configuration of a weaker sections of the scheduled caste Scheduled Tribes and minorities.

Review of Literature

H Anjaneya, “Minister for Social Welfare Government of Karnataka”:

D Devaraj Urs was one of the most illustrious chief ministers of the state. He was known as the harbinger of social justice. He identified communities that had no voice and brought them to the mainstream of society. He was a rare visionary who created a new awakening through the Havanur report. When the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi set out to implement programs to empower Dalits, the suppressed, exploited and backward classes through her 20 Point Program, credit should go to Urs for realising her dream. Karnataka was one of the states that implemented the program in a meaningful way. He eradicated many social evils by making land owners of tillers, banning manual scavenging and bonded labour. His revolutionary actions, his social commitment, and his dreams of improving the lot of the suppressed attracted the attention of the nation. I am fortunate I am minister for the welfare of the backward classes during the birth centenary of such a great leader. We are bringing out a series of books to introduce the life and work of Urs to the people of the state, particularly to the Urs Era and the future generation. Several distinguished writers, thinkers and achievers have written these books. I express my thanks to all writers, editors, officials and personnel of the department who have helped us in bringing out these books

Findings

In praise of Urs

- *Devaraj Urs was the voice of the poor and downtrodden.*
- *Abolition of bonded labour by his Government was remarkable*
- *Implementation of land reforms exemplary*

SCOPE

- D Devaraj Urs was not just a great politician; he was a wonder in himself, an epitome of reassurance and optimism. He led the state on the path of development from 1972
- In 1980. He saw power as an opportunity provided by people for him to improve their lives. The welfare schemes he formulated to provide a life of equality for all in keeping with the aspirations of the Constitution, have immortalised him in the history of the state. His tenure as chief minister was a golden period for the lower classes. His concept of social justice was unique in the entire country. He identified communities exploited for centuries and gave them special opportunities in administration. This made him a visionary statesman

Devaraj Urs in Politics

- In 1972 chief minister Devaraj Urs broke the dominance that lingayats and vokkaligas had exercised over state level politics since independence. Since then, Karnataka's leaders have constructed broad "rainbow" coalitions in which important cabinet posts were given to leaders from every numerically powerful social group. – In 1983, the state's party system changed when the Congress Party lost a state election for the first time. Since then, the alternation of parties at state elections has (with one exception) been the norm. – After 1985, a Janata government generously empowered and funded panchayati raj institutions. – Caste („jati“) has increasingly come to denote "difference" rather than "hierarchy". – Society at the village level has become much less cohesive (discussed in Section V). – After the late 1980s, a boom in software and outsourcing occurred in greater Bangalore.
- Only the first and the third of these changes were the result of leaders' decisions to induce dramatic change – and since 1985, no such decision has occurred. One change which might be included in the list but which has been left out was Devaraj Urs' land reform during the 1970s. It has been omitted because it was radical neither in its intent nor in its impact. As Urs himself recognised, it failed to address the issue of landlessness. It dealt only with tenancy, and that was a far less serious problem here than in other parts of India because owner cultivators constituted a much larger proportion of Karnataka's rural population than in other regions.

Conclusion

Today Devaraj Urs is remembered as the man who ushered in a revolution by closing the vast disparity between the landed gentry and the bonded labour. The Government of Karnataka is celebrating his birth centenary through various programs. They began on August 20, 2015, and will go on for a year. The government is making meaningful efforts to introduce Urs to today's generation. Several of his programs- like the prohibition of manual scavenging, grant of ownership to tillers, reservation of jobs for the backward classes, passing of the loan waiver Act, provision of pensions for the needy and stipends for unemployed youth- were all pioneering programs in the entire country

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