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The second half of the 19th century was historic as many great sons of India were born during this period, and had made significant contributions to the Freedom Struggle through their self-sacrifice, dedication, courage and dauntless fight against British Imperialism. Amongst the galaxy of these great leaders and freedom fighters, Sri Biswanath Das took his rightful place and played an important role in the process of Nation-building and State-building in India.

Sri Biswanath Das started his public life and he gave up his legal profession when he saw the miserable plight of poor peasants of the Ganjam district. His fight against the exploitation of the peasants by the zamindars was started in 1920, when he organised the Ganjam District Royat Association the first ever peasant organisation and movement in the country. He took a dynamic and leading part among the Oriya leaders of Ganjam and Koraput district, which was then under Madras Presidency. He got the direct opportunity to serve the interest of Oriyas, who were usually neglected when he became the President of Ganjam Talug Board in 1919. At that time he officially joined the National Congress Party and entered into the arena of national as well as state
The first legislative life of Sri Biswanath Das started in 1921, when he was elected to Madras Legislative Council. There he continued upto 1931. Then he resigned and joined the Salt Satyagraha Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. During this period of nine years of his membership in the Madras Legislative Council he supported the National Movement for freedom of the country from British Imperialism. At the same time, he tried to articulate and put forth the genuine demands of the Oriyas before the Madras Legislative Council. The Legislative experience during this period, and his association with great leaders of Indian Freedom Movement, made him a seasoned legislator in his later career. As a Councillor, Sri Das had voiced his protest against the British attitude towards 'Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy' and supported the Khilafat Movement as well as the Non-cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi. On the basis of directive issued by the Congress Working Committee he had resigned from the membership of the Madras Legislative Council and joined the Salt Satyagraha Movement at 'Huma' in Ganjam district. He was then imprisoned for joining the Movement.

During the British rule, the Oriya speaking areas like, Ganjam, Koraput were under Madras Presidency. Balasore with Bengal and
Sambalpur was merged with Central Provinces. The Oriya speaking feudatory states were also divided and kept under the administration of different provinces. Hence, the Oriya speaking people had no separate identity. They faced identity crisis and the language and culture of Oriya faced the danger of extinction. All the leading personalities of Orissa, despite their political and ideological differences, extended their whole hearted support to this Oriya Unification Movement and for the creation of a separate province for the Oriyas. To this great cause, Sri Biswanath Das although was a disciplined congressman, had extended his full support and cooperation. He had organised Oriyas of Ganjam and Koraput districts for putting pressure on the government for their merger with Orissa. Finally, Orissa was given an independent administrative status as a province, under section 289 (1) (b) of the Government of India Act of 1935. Sir John Austin Hubback was sworn in as the first Governor of the province. Congress party won majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly and elected Sri Biswanath Das as the leader of the Orissa Provincial Congress Legislative Party. Sri Das was a non controversial Congress leader having reputation of a good legislator in the Madras Legislative Council for almost one decade and due to his contribution in the Oriya Movement for creation of a separate province for Orissa he was the natural choice among the partymen to lead the Government. But his
party could not form the Government, in accordance with the directives issued by All India Congress Committee, asking the Governor to give an assurance that he would not use his special power of interference on the Ministry. The Governor when refused to give such assurance, Sri Biswanath Das had to resign from his office. Ultimately in June 1937, the Governor was forced to back out his earlier stand to avoid the constitutional crisis and invited the Congress Government headed by Sri Biswanath Das to form the Ministry. This was the first constitutional victory of Sri Biswanath Das Ministry against the British government. Biswanath Das ably succeeded in providing a stable, competent and public welfare oriented Government to the newly created Orissa Province. He effectively resisted the Governor's moves to help the princely rulers of the Garjat States of Orissa in supressing the popular Prajamandal Movements going on in those states then. As the Prime Minister of the province, he asserted the fact that the people's elected representatives of such state legislatures and not the princely rulers were the real Government. He got several legislative measures passed such as Orissa Money Lenders Act, Orissa Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank Act, Hindu Religious Endowment Act and the Orissa Prevention of Adulteration and Control of Sale of Food Act. He was a keen supporter of prohibition of opium and liquor (wine). He remained all along a staunch champion of the cause of peasants against feudal
exploitation and tyranny. Despite the mounting financial strigency, that his Government had faced, he succeeded in undertaking several public welfare measures and programmes. He finally resigned from the office on 4 November 1939, at the direction of the Indian National Congress. At the call of Gandhiji he joined the Civil Disobdience Movement in 1939. He also had taken active part in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and gave financial and legal help to many people who were involved in it.

Sri Biswanath Das was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India from 17th July 1946 and continued till 1952. Sri Biswanath Das was the member of Union Powers Committee, which was enthused with the task of distributing lists of power to the Centre and to the states in the draft constitution. When the provisions of the Draft Constitution were being presented before the Assembly for discussion, Sri Biswanath Das had expressed his views, which exhibit his clarity of understanding on the issues and the depth of his legislative knowledge. He had participated in the discussion by way of giving suggestions on the draft resolutions like Fundamental Rights, Election Commission, Protection of Interests of Minorites, Election of the President, Adult Suffrage and Education of Voters etc. This shows his alertness of mind to the implications of the provisions made in the
Sri Biswanath Das was a parliamentarian from 1952, when he was elected as a Member of Rajya Sabha. There also he displayed his legislative skill by participating in so many important issues, that were brought before the House for consideration. His views on Enhancement of Export Duty on Tea, Railway Budget, Inter State Water Dispute Bill, Report on the State Reorganisation Commission, Minimum Wages Bill, Mines and Minerals Bill, Report on the University Grants Commission and Land Reforms Programmes Bill, reflect his legislative skill in presenting facts in detail and starting the demands and needs of the people in the House with great skill.

As the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 1962-1967, Sri Biswanath Das had performed his constitutional function with great sincerity and without any controversy. He had taken steps for the development of the state. The inaugural speeches of Sri Biswanath Das as the Governor to the both Houses of the State Legislature of Uttar Pradesh show his great concern for the security of the country which had got challenges from China and Pakistan as border states of India at that time. He had encouraged the Government to develop a defence base for the State as well as for the country strongly and at the same time strengthen the economy of the State to face effectively the conditions of emergency.
During this time he had made extensive tour to the underdeveloped areas of the State inside India on the one hand, and Tibet and Nepal on the other, to study the conditions of people there. He had taken special interest to develop the backward regions of the State including Uttar Khand Sub-division and had taken initiative for adopting governmental measures for the development of these people. He had also taken special interest for the development of education with special emphasis on women's and technical education in the state. His views on developing a World State based on the principles of peace, tranquility and cooperation dragged the attention of intellectuals. He extended the patronage for the propagation of Vedic values, and Indian culture and development of Sanskrit language.

In 1971, Sri Biswanath Das again became the Chief Minister of Orissa for a second term. In 1971 elections to the State Assembly no political party could secure the requisite majority. Swatantra and Utkal Congress wanted to form a Coalition Government but could not arrive at a consensus on the leadership issue. Both the Parties approached Sri Das to head the Coalition Government. Though Sri Das was initially reluctant, he ultimately became the Chief Minister on 30th April, 1971. At the time of assuming the Office as Chief Minister, he was not a Member of the State Assembly. However subsequently in September
1971, he was elected from the Rourkela Constituency in a bye-election. But from the very beginning he was not very happy with the style of functioning of the coalition partners. He resigned from office on 9th June, 1972.

The Budget (1971-72) Speech of Sri Biswanath Das as the Minister in charge of Finance, clearly indicates the priority areas of the Government headed by him. It reflects his concern for the common man and all round development of the rural sector with the maximum utilisation of the available resources. His plea for a strong Central government with strong states is clearly enunciated from his statement in the Assembly while moving the Budget on 5th July, 1971.

The spirit of nationalism is reflected in the action of Sri Biswanath Das during his legislative career. Even while he was heading the non-Congress Coalition Government in the State in 1971, when Congress was in power at centre, he never allowed his Government to oppose the policies of Union Government on vital issues of national interest, though he was at the same time meticulous in safeguarding the interest of the State. Sri Biswanath Das approach to the settlement of Bangladesh refugee in the border areas of Orissa reflects his strong sense of nationalism.
To conclude, it can be said that there is little difference between the expected role and the actual role of a legislator in case of Sri Biswanath Das. He very well understood the role-set of a legislator and he performed his functions accordingly. With him, there was little gap between legislative norms institutions and behaviour. Whatever political positions he had occupied, he had made significant contributions there.

From the analysis made through all the chapters in the dissertation, it can be inferred well that Sri Biswanath Das, though occupied a number of political positions in life, he never hankered after these. He never played the game of nasty power politics. The evils of power had not touched him. He was a man of integrity, courage and strong convictions. He had very successfully combined his ideology, convictions and secular attitude with his statesmanship and legislative capability. He enjoyed political power in Gandhian era. However, he proved himself as a link-bridge between these two periods. With his brief span of Chief Ministership, he tried to eliminate corruption and establish moral value in public life. He successfully transmitted the political values of one generation to another. His honesty and dedication in social work for the cause of the common man, poor and dalits are reflected in his role performance through out his political career. To him, service to the people is the first step to climb to the power and the
citadel of power is to be utilised for the welfare of the common people.

Sri Biswanath Das was out and out a nationalist and lover of indigenous culture and civilization. Through out his life, he utilized his position to fight against British imperialism and western culture and to enrich Indian civilization and heritage.

Sri Biswanath Das was a very pragmatic and progressive legislator. He had a pragmatic approach towards the nation building and state building and at the same time, he took several progressive measure for the development of the state and of the people of Orissa. Rightly speaking, he was a champion of the development of the poor, common man, Dalits and the under priviledged sections of the people.

His role-performance was the by product of his style of functioning as a legislator. He was a true leader and he knew the style of functioning of a leader. He had started of having the practice of an informal meeting of the Council of Ministers before any formal meeting of the Cabinet. As a true legislator, he was very strong in his ideas, alert in gauging the situation and effective in putting forth the demands and motivating the other members of the legislature by convincing them. He always acted as a true representative of the people. He was
at the same time, a crisis-manager and he tried to resolve a numbers of crises during his period of legislative leadership. His participation in several debates - Madras Legislative Council, Constituent Assembly and Orissa Legislative Assembly, as well as his speeches as Governor indicate his political acumen, statesmanship, robust common sense and concern for the general welfare of the people. Hence, the role-performance of Sri Biswanath Das as a legislator is a milestone in the growth, development and functioning of legislative system in Orissa for making public policies for the welfare of the people of the state.