PREFACE

In a parliamentary system, opposition has a significant role to play. Efficient functioning of democracy demands in addition to the party in power, at least another party to sit in opposition. The opposition in the legislature exposes and criticises such measures of Government which are against public interest. An effective opposition implies that the party should be in a position to form an alternative government when the party in power goes out of office. In the absence of strong and effective opposition, the party system cannot function democratically.

The ventilation of public grievances inside and outside the legislature is one of the main tasks of parliamentary opposition and the opposition exposes the mistakes and wrong doing of the ruling party by adopting different methods. Some specified in legislative procedure and some conventionally accepted.

In Maharashtra congress party enjoyed monopoly of power since the formation of state of maharashtra in 1962 to 1990 election. During this period congress enjoyed dominant position in the state politics. During this period opposition could not pose any serious threat before successive congress government. But one thing was happening, congress party because of monopoly of power caste orientation and factionalism in the party, neglected the public at large which resulted in the development of anti congressism in the state and reducing the strength of congress from election to election. In 1990 election the strength of the congress reduced to 141, it could not secure even a simple majority to form the government on its own strength. Congress party with the support of the independent candidates was able to retain power. This time the strength of opposition increased to 132, even after defection encouraged by Congress in Shivsena, it remained 120 throughout the period. Thus
opposition was in a position to create a problem before the Congress party. B.J.P. was recognised as a opposition party with 42 members and its leader, was recognised as leader of the opposition the strength of Shiv Sena B.J.P. election partner combine was 82. In 1990 Assembly the left oriented parties secured 38 seats.

The present study of the role of opposition in Maharashtra is mainly concerned to 1990 Assembly and for the period of 1990 to 1994. The chief objective of selecting the theme of the present study has been the analysis of the fascinating and changing role of opposition in Maharashtra with special reference to Baratiya Janta Party.

The study is divided into seven chapters. Chapter one presents an analysis of the importance of opposition in parliamentary system of government chapter two provides a historical background of politics in Maharashtra since 1960. Chapter three refers to the composition of the 1990 Maharashtra legislature Assembly, strength of the different political parties in legislative Assembly Socio-Political orientation of the opposition members, which cumulatively had significant bearings on the efficiency and effectiveness of opposition members. Chapter four presents discussion on the role of opposition in respect of question-hour calling attention motions. Adjournment motions other methods used by opposition to ventilate the public grievances in the legislative assembly. Chapter fifth analysis the role of opposition outside the legislature in ventilating public grievances through press conferences press statements, Bandh, processions, Rasta Roco etc.

Chapter sixth presents self assessment of opposition members of eight legislative assembly about their role in different capacities and their feeling about parliamentary process and practices. Last chapter summarises the main findings of the study.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. S.K. Bhogle, Reader and head Post Graduate Department
of Political Science, Vivekanand college Aurangabad under whose supervision and
guidance. I have carried out this work His scholarly guidance and way of analysing
the problem gave me necessary perspective and direction to the study.
I have had the opportunity to interview some leading figures of Maharashtra politics
belonging to various opposition political parties.
In this connection, I must express my thanks to all of them for sparing their time
for discussions.
I do not have words to express of gratitude to my life partner Dr. B.B.Deshmukh,
whose constant inspiration and support enabled me to complete this work.