CHAPTER-IV

PRESSURE GROUPS IN INDIA AND
ANDHRA PRADESH
Society comprises of people having various interests and of different homogenic features as well as of various sects of people. Usually people of same homogenic features and of same interests form into group, share views and woes and make collective effort to enjoy and fulfil their needs. They strive and stand collectively to protect their interests. Gradually, these groups have been transformed into pressure groups. Eventually, people of different sects living and working under similar conditions and similar socio-economic standards have also formed into separate groups of their own. Teachers’ interest groups are such type of pressure groups. In this broad conceptual view point the origin and growth of pressure groups in India and Andhra Pradesh are discussed in this chapter.

4.1 Origin and Growth of Pressure Groups in Pre-Independence era:

The introduction of Western education in 1835, determined the pattern of Indian modernization more than any other policy decision. It set up on essential base for the rise of a new Indian elite. The products of the new English education were the first to enter the modern professions of law, medicine and journalism. They founded voluntary organizations based on patterns of interaction resulting from their common experience and education and reflecting new sets of values in society. These organizations, which marked the beginning of modern politics in India, were designed to bring about social, religious, educational and political revitalization of the society.

In the beginning most of the organizational efforts began on a very limited scale. They were confined to small groups of likeminded reformers, educators and students. A majority of them did not freely discuss political issues. The Atmiya Society (1815), the Young Bengal Group (1831), the Dharma Sabha (1830), the Brahma Samaj (1830) etc. were some of the earliest efforts. The Indian Association of Calcutta (1876) which protested against the British control of the Indian press, opposed the abolition of the Indian Tariff system that impeded the
growth of the Indian cotton industry and demanded for a change in governing rules governing for entry into the civil services. Gradually, similar societies with a broader social base were founded in Poona, Bombay, Punjab and other parts of the country.

The Indian National Congress established in 1885 discharged its functions basically as a pressure group. It demanded the abolition of the council of the secretary of state and appealed for the conduct of simultaneous examination for the civil services in England and in India. The congress also demanded reduction in salt tax and forced for the eradication of evils like alcohol and prostitution. To attain these goals it followed the method of submitting petitions and going in deputations to the government.

The All India Muslim League, was established on 30th December, 1906 with the major objectives of protecting the political and other rights of Indian Muslims and placing their requests and aspirations before the government in a temperate language. To countervail the influence of the Muslim league, the All India Hindu Mahasabha was set up in the year in which the league was set up.

In 1920, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was born. Its first president was Lala Lajpat Rai. After 1920, other political groups played an important role in the labour movement.

The All India Kisan Sabha (1936) was established under the presidency of Sardar Patel. In addition to these occupational organisations, the nationalist movement also encouraged the formation of welfare organizations such as women’s organisations, youth and student groups and many religious groups to ensure maximum mobilization of various sections of society in support of the national movement.
Several of Indian national leaders have contributed to the development of different pressure groups, in one way or the other. For example, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had championed the cause of the Harijans so that they may not be exploited by the caste Hindus. Gandhiji's movement in Champaran (in Bihar) against the exploitation of poor workers by Indigo Planters and that of Sardar Patel in Kaira (in Gujarat) against heavy taxes imposed on poor peasants are good examples of the British Government being pressurized by our leaders to take right decisions.4

The freedom struggle which was nourished by Gandhiji, and others had thrown out dynamic and militant type of leaders to lead the pressure groups of all kinds including trade unions. Since the Second World War there had been a rapid growth in the number of pressure groups, not to think of their number after India's independence. The vocational or functional groups are the All India Teachers' Federation, All India Advocates Association, All India Medical Council etc. These pressure groups have come up to protect their own interests and to pressurise the government for the fulfillment of their demands.

4.2 Growth of Pressure Groups in the Post-Independent Era:

After Independence, people of all sects hoped that they would have adequate better opportunities to progress and prosper in their respective spheres of activity and would achieve general welfare. But the people's optimism was got sunk into distress since the measures for economic development had not been taken seriously. Further, adding to this misery the resources with the Government were meager, when the demand for needs were more. It was in that critical conditions a number of pressure groups were formed and extended their activities in order to obtain the maximum benefits for their members from the government by influencing public policy.
The rise in organized demands towards economic development had been the another major reason for the establishment of numerous pressure groups\textsuperscript{5}.

Moreover, the then social scenario which had been getting changed was also at work in the process of economic revival. Besides, the introduction of Western education had brought several changes in the thinking faculties of the people resulting in awareness among them. Consequently remarkable impact was shown on the traditional social order and almost all the sects of people realised the need and importance of fulfilling and achieving their demands and aspirations.

Considerable advancement in technology along with the expansion of communications and unprecedented extension in the scope of governmental activity had contributed to the growth of pressure groups. In those circumstances, people of common interests formed together into groups, to preserve and protect their interests and fulfil their demands. These groups of representative institutions created an environment for the growth of pressure groups.

Inspite of the existence of large number of organised as well as unorganised groups in the country since independence, the articulation of demands by them was still in the infant stage of development and large sections of society still remained unorganised and un-represented. Their development had not been to a considerable extent due to improper and inefficient mobilisation of groups. They were organisationally weak and institutionally poor and with exceptions for a few groups, some of them were closely associated with political parties and lacking functional autonomy. They used to serve more as agents of political mobilisation than as enumerators of group demands.

The emergence and growth of pressure groups in the Indian political system has been a vital factor in the process of its political modernisation, in so far as it represents a response to increasing functional differentiation and to the breakdown of traditional types of authority\textsuperscript{6}.
Yet, as many observers have felt, the course of modernisation in India has so far resulted only in a partial differentiation of the society. After the modernization of political system in India, many voluntary organisations have emerged. One of them has emerged from urban localities. This has been formed from among the small but important section of the urban middle class and industrial workers, who constitute ten per cent of the total population. They comprise prosperous businessmen, bureaucrats and the intellectuals, minor government officials, teachers, journalists, professionals and petty shop-keepers who have been organised into a variety of associations. The urban working class consists of about 22 per cent and one third are organised. The urban middle class and the industrial workers are among the most highly organised groups.

The other group which has emerged from among the rural population constitutes 70 per cent of the rural mass of the Indian peasantry remains fragmented along caste lines within which class differences are only slowly beginning to merge. By and large, social change and the politics of universal franchise have tended to strengthen rather than diminish the role of community associations and ethnic interest groups since independence. The result has been that the most potent interest enunciators have not been the social and economic forces but the community, caste, language and regional groups functioning through a variety of loosely organised non-associational groups. They verbalize their interests, demands, ideals and thoughts.

The development of pressure groups in the country's political system is generally regarded as a vital factor in the process of its political modernisation, in so far as it represents a response to increasing functional differentiation and to the breakdown of traditional types of authority. The expansion of communications transport facilities and increase in the scope of governmental activity also influenced the growth of pressure groups to a great extent.
4.3 Characteristics of Indian Pressure Groups:

Indian society is a developing one and so any study with regard to the public pressure and political response should be made keeping in view the peculiar condition prevailing here. However, it should be in a process that is relevant to the developed society. Then it would be possible to evaluate the characteristic features of the pressure groups aptly in relation to their role in the politics in view of getting fulfilled their demands, interests and aspirations.

Surprisingly, today one finds that a number of pressure groups are struggling and striving hard with conflicts among one another without fixed political allegiances. They appear and disappear on scene depending on the demand for their need and in response to the prevailing conditions. This situation presents a very confusing as well as perplexing picture. A long register of such groups can be enlisted, but such a register cannot be on the basis of clear cut political affiliations as most of them may be found cutting across the boundaries of their real political character. Apart form this, the shifting and diverting affiliations of the groups with political parties and undue penetration of the influence of political leaders into the functioning of these groups add fuel to the fire of crisis. However a generalised statement that a certain group is associated with a certain political party, can be applicable only to a few cases. In most of the cases, the role of ‘outsiders’ predominantly determines all conclusion of a serious study. Yet, it can be presumed that the political loyalties of business groups may generally be towards the ruling party whether sincerely or otherwise, as have to be on the right side of the government. However, the same cannot be applied in the case of labour groups.

Always, there is a conflict between tradition or convention and modernity. The same is the case with the behaviour of pressure groups, which indicates a political bi-culturalism. Although most of these groups try to employ modern and
developed techniques in the process of preserving and promoting their distinguished interests, they themselves can not be free from the shackles of those primordial loyalties which are latent in every individual, for this reason that the functioning of a group is greatly influenced by its loyalty to a particular religion, caste, or a regional issue rather than by any considerations of ideology or national interest.

Though the organised groups, play vital role in the politics of the country, they lack definite and perfect political commitment as they often tend to shift their political loyalties, consequently their political stance becomes unstable and staggering. And thus their attitude towards political parties as well as their faith in strategies and techniques lacks pure, perfect and definite commitment. Therefore, the political allegiance of pressure groups in precise terms, may not be conveniently characterised.

The pressure groups in India are different from other modern societies. They are peculiar since they have neither independent existence nor an autonomous status of their role in the politics of the nation. Their apprehensions are such that they refrain openly from supporting or opposing those political parties with which they are not identified. Except the groups of workers and students who directly and openly draw their strength from certain political parties, most of the pressure groups prefer to survive under the protective shield of political parties, though they do not come out openly. This provides an impression that they are neutral in political matters. But basically, they are opportunistic.

A study on Indian politics, from the conceptual view point of group theory, reveals that our society is a blend of different groups of distinguished features, so our government is a blend of various groups. The latter which are organised on the basis of some specific interests, respond and adapt themselves to the structure of power in the political system. Indian system of government, being
an open system, it can also be said that (Indian) our government, like the functions as an adjusting agent of the overall group struggles occur in the society, and so mediates different interest groups with their peculiar features and tries to comprise them in their conflicts.

4.4 Classification of Indian pressure groups:

After independence a number of pressure groups have come into existence. Various scholars in political science have classified these groups differently. For illustration they have been categorized into following two broad groups based on the interests articulated by them.

- Special interest organisations such as Business Groups, Labour Groups, Peasant Groups and Student Groups.
- Primordial organisations such as Caste, Tribe, Language and Religious Groups.

Indian Pressure Groups as classified by different Political Science Scientists are given here.

4.4.1 H.S. Fartyal11 has divided Indian pressure groups as display in the following chart:

Chart No. 4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>H.S. Fartyal Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal and religious groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste, language and regional groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups based on Gandhian ideology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4.2 Hans Raj\textsuperscript{12} has divided Indian pressure groups as display in the following chart:

\begin{center}
\textbf{Chart No. 4.2}
\end{center}

```
\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node[draw, rounded corners] {Hans Raj Classification}
    child {node {Business Groups}}
    child {node {Trade Unions}}
    child {node {Student Organisations}}
    child {node {Peasant Organisations}}
    child {node {Religious Groups}}
    child {node {Caste, Language, Gandhian Groups and Anomic Pressure Groups}};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

4.4.3 Goyal\textsuperscript{13} divided Indian pressure groups as display in the following chart:

\begin{center}
\textbf{Chart No. 4.3}
\end{center}

```
\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node[draw, rounded corners] {Goyal Classification}
    child {node {Business Groups}}
    child {node {Peasant Groups}}
    child {node {Community Associations}}
    child {node {Trade Unions}}
    child {node {Student Groups}}
    child {node {Caste Associations}};
\end{tikzpicture}
```
4.4.4 Fadia\textsuperscript{14} divided Indian pressure groups as display in the following Chart:

![Chart No. 4.4]

4.4.5 Hanson and Dauglas\textsuperscript{15} classified Indian pressure groups as:

- The modern pressure groups- those which spring from the modern centers of society such as business, labour and the universities.
- The traditional pressure groups- those that are based on traditional social structure associated with religion, caste, tribe or language.

4.4.6 Almond and Powell's\textsuperscript{16} classification of Indian pressure groups as display in the following chart:

![Chart No. 4.5]
4.5 Pressure groups in the contemporary Indian society:

India, being a democratic nation is a land of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cultural people, also comprises innumerable pressure groups operating in it. The sheer size of its population, its geographical features and its multi-faceted economy further enhances the chance of emergence of a multitude of pressure groups. Indeed, India today, boasts of myriad pressure groups operating within its jurisdiction. Broadly, the pressure groups operating in India can be classified into six categories. They are:

Chart No. 4.6

General Classification of Indian Pressure Groups

- Economic Groups
- Communal Groups
- Social and Cultural Groups
- Service Groups

- Professional Groups
- Working-Class Groups

These categories can be explained further, as they contain several sub-categories. Every one of these sub-categories. Several may consist of one pressure group which functions independently for its own interests or may consist of several pressure groups functioning for collective action. To acquire a comprehensive understanding and obtain an indepth analysis, an effort has been made to study these six categories of pressure groups.
♦ Economic groups:

The Economic category of groups includes
(a) The Chambers of Commerce, (b) Manufacturers' Associations, (c) Exports Associations, (d) Merchants Associations, (e) Cooperative Societies, (f) Contractors Associations etc. These along with the workers groups can be classified under this category but as the workers belong to a different class they are put in a separate category.

♦ Professional groups:

This category includes various organisations of professions and associations like (a) Engineers, (b) Doctors, (c) Chartered Accountants, (d) Teachers at various levels, (e) Lawyers etc. The professionals in various individual fields and in various sections of the society may come together and form associations which function as pressure groups. There are several such groups functioning in India now. Common interests and common identity prompt them to come together and operate as pressure groups to secure better prospects and recognition or better working conditions and benefits in the present socio-economic set up.

♦ Communal groups:

They are generally based on their religious background and they attract people on the basis of their communal sentiments. They try to influence the state to formulate policies and take decisions favourable to them. There are several religious organisations of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jain and Buddhist in India.
♦ Social and Cultural groups:

Various groups have come into existence in India to forge the people basing on their social identity and promise to protect their interests vis-à-vis other sections of the society and the state. Associations or societies formed on the basis of castes come under this category. Groups for the protection of various arts, groups for the protection of the rights of women, groups of linguistic minorities etc., can also be included in this category.

♦ Working-Class groups:

They are that part of the economic category of groups which pertain to the proletariat section. They are represented by various groups such as: a) Trade Unions, b) Workers Associations in industrial and un-organised sectors respectively. While most of the trade unions like Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) etc., are linked to recognized political parties, the lesser known Rikshaw- Pullers Associations, Taxi, Auto Drivers’ Unions etc., are more or less independent of the political parties but are politically very significant in their own right.

♦ Service groups:

These are associations of employees working in government offices, employees working in various quasi-government, public-sector undertakings etc., organized groups belonging to various service sectors and even small service-related groups may also come into this category. Groups belonging to this category are generally well organized and they are becoming more popular these days in India.
All the six categories of groups mentioned above fulfil the basic characteristics of pressure groups or interest groups. They have emerged because people of similar identity come together to promote their interests in the face or competition from several other groups and sections of the state. All the above mentioned categories consist of well organized groups and all of them have formal structures. However, the configurations of their strength, influence, importance etc., vastly differ because they belong to different walks of life representing heterogeneous claims and interests.

4.6 Pressure Groups in Andhra Pradesh:

This portion, gives glimpses of origin and growth of pressure groups in Andhra Pradesh. The growth of pressure groups in Andhra Pradesh has been uneven. The political environments in the two regions of the state, viz., Telangana and Andhra are different from each other with their peculiar geographical, socio-economic features and so the growth of pressure groups has not been uniform. Until 1953 the Andhra region, was a part of the then Madras Province. The people of this region had a measure of freedom to form associations and to articulate their grievances and demands as well as special interests for redressal and fulfilment. The administration had also responded favourably and, at times, even rationally sympathetic. Conditions were, therefore, quite favourable and thus a suitable environment was there for the formation of interest groups in the Andhra region.

But at times, the situation in the Telangana region was different. It was under the regime of the Nizam and the scope for formation of associations was quite difficult due to precariousness of oppressing political environment of the autocratic political system. Civil liberties were utterly denied and freedom of press was panic with its complete absence of freedom. In the words of Pandit
Jawaharlal Nehru, "The people of Telangana were quite unaware of political meetings or even did not know about them and religious gatherings were looked upon with suspicion"18.

Even the cultural organisations were permitted to be formed, keeping eagle's eye of the government on its activities. As the government was neither responsive nor sympathetic to heed the grievances of the people, they could express and explore their grievances only through submission of petitions19. People were not permitted and were not given opportunity to articulate their demands. The Nizam's government completely banned the political discussions. Even the discussions on social and cultural matters were objected20.

In those critical circumstances, the Andhra Mahasabha, a literary and cultural association shoulder the task of articulating people's problems and in due course, emerged more as pressure group21. Later under its guidance, farmer's movement in Telangana was started. The Andhra Mahasabha discussed on the problems and grievances being experienced by agriculturists like reduction of taxes on both wet and dry lands, protection of farmers from exploitation by the Jagirdars, etc and passed resolutions to protect and preserve the rights of agriculturalists. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth annual sessions of the Andhra Mahasabha were notable with a special significance as the major discussions pertaining to the problems of the farmers were discussed elaborately22.

With regard to Andhra Region no Telugu candidate had represented to the Hyderabad State Legislature for a long time and so there was no scope to articulate the problems of the people of Andhra region in the state legislature23. The constitutional reforms introduced in the 1930s were nothing but fascist laws which denied the privileged common people proportionate seats, while the landlords and other sections were provided with increased number of seats to represent state legislature.
It was only in 1952 after the Police Action and, more particularly, after the establishment/formation of a popular government and with the consequent general elections, the conditions in the political environment became suitable and favourable to the formation of interest groups in the Telangana region. Even then, the growth of pressure groups had not been progressive because of the lack of political consciousness among the people coupled with, low literacy and ignorance. Moreover the efforts of people to form such organisations were not conducive. It was therefore only after the formation of the enlarged State of Andhra Pradesh that there was a spurt in the formation of pressure groups for 'articulation' of the special interests of various sections of the people.

However, a significant proliferation of pressure groups during the mid-sixties in the state was found. People had become more consciously aware of their demands and their consciousness attributed to the remarkable growth of political consciousness among the people. Consequently, a large number of pressure groups were formed among various sections of people to articulate their different interests of and to fulfil their demands.

Today, more than one hundred pressure groups are functioning at the state level, representing diverse interests of different sections of people. For instance, even the physically handicapped have formed themselves into a pressure group to articulate their demands such as, enhancement of pensions, firm reservations in educational institutions, including professional courses and reservation in recruitments of government establishments and public sector undertakings. However, of the many groups operating in the state, some are quite inactive. They have come into existence and have disappeared after a short while. Many are noticed only in the press but none hears about them or feels their presence at all.
There are also a number of pressure groups which operate at regional, district, city/town, office and unit levels to articulate diversified interests of different groups, such as business, labour, caste, community, professions, students, agrarian, etc.

In recent years so many factors have caused for the proliferation of pressure groups in the state. The first and the foremost important factor is the prominent fundamental right, that is the freedom of association and expression which is the hallmark of the democratic system. Secondly, the constitutional provision of universal adult franchise has provided means to the common man to aware of his needs and understand better his interests, as well as, various ways through which he can work for their protection. Thirdly, the introduction of the system of democratic decentralisation, namely, Panchayati Raj, has further improved the political awareness and strengthened the bargaining power of the common man. Fourthly, the advanced media of mass communication have improved the people's awareness and understanding related to the process of government, which in turn has encouraged interest articulation. Fifthly, being the representative form of government, the administration is more responsive to the problems of the people and has to shoulder the responsibility to free the people from problems in the political system. Having been encouraged by the tendency existing in the political system, a large number of organised groups have emerged into existence to claim the system on the demands. Hence, the group activity in the state has ever been on the increase. All this has to be considered in the conceptual view of welfare and the constitutional responsiveness to take into consideration the demands being made and act favourably to take remedial measures to the problems and to achieve required goal.

Thus, the organised interest groups have rapidly increased to a larger number and are functioning in the state. Of such organised interest groups, the 'Teachers' Interest Groups' known as Teachers' Unions are the ones. A detailed study on the origin and growth of Teachers' Unions in India, Andhra Pradesh and Krishna District is presented in the following Chapter V.
REFERENCES:


23. Ibid, pp. 21-23.