CHAPTER-II

COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The constitution of India provides in each State there shall be a legislative Assembly. In some states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh the State Legislature has two houses, whereas the remaining has only one house. Where there are two houses of the legislature of a State, one is known as the legislative council and the other as the legislative Assembly. The legislative Assembly is the representative of the people, as its members are elected directly by the people.

The Legislative Assembly consists of not more than five hundred and not less than sixty members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State. In order to maintain uniformity in the population represented the constituencies are reapportioned every ten years in accordance with the census.

The Assembly at the time of inauguration of the new State of Maharashtra had a strength of 265 Seats. The Second Assembly (1962-67) consisted 265, The Third Assembly (1967-72) 271 Seats, the Fourth Assembly (1972-78) 271 Seats and the Fifth Assembly (1978-80) 289 seats. If the Anglo-Indian community is not represented in the Assembly, Article 333 of the constitution
empowers the Governor to nominate an appropriate number of them. Article 332 of the constitution provides for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Assembly. And it should bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats in the Assembly as the proportion of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in the State, bear to the total population of the State. Till 1978, the members of both the Communities were 15 and 16 and from 1978 it was raised to 16 & 22.

**Vidhan Sabha** — Maharashtra Assembly members sit in the Council Hall at Bombay. This Council Hall was constructed in 1876. In the beginning it was used as "Khalashi Graha". It was taken over by the Government in 1928, and turned into Council Hall. This council Hall, is located near the Gateway of India and Regal Cinema. Again Maharashtra Assembly Members sit in the Council Hall once in a year at Nagpur.

The Vidhan Sabha Chamber has a seating arrangement determined by the Speaker, who occupies his seat on a raised dais at the centre of the Hall.

To the right side of the Speaker, the members of the ruling party take their seats with their Chief. To his left side, the members of the opposition take their seats. At the entrance, the sergeant-at-arms and the
watch and ward take their position and they are assigned duties under the direction of the Speaker.

Under Parliamentary procedure any person, other than the members of the House is a "Stranger" and his admission to the Assembly is regulated in accordance with the rules made by the Speaker, who reserves the right to order the stranger to withdraw from the House.

Visitors Gallery:—There are three galleries for Visitors in the balconies over looking the Chamber. The galleries to the right and left of the Speaker are called the Visitors Gallery. While the one in front of him is known as the "Speakers Gallery". In the balcony above the Speaker is the "Governor's Box" from where the Governor witness the proceeding of the Assembly if he so desires. There are boxes in this balcony for other dignitaries such as the Members of Parliament and State Legislators and others. The total capacity of the Speakers and the Visitor's Galleries of the Legislative Assembly Chamber at Bombay and Nagpur is 170 and 135 respectively.

The space to the right below the Speaker is for officers who are required to supply the information that may be needed by the Ministers. This is known as the "Officers Gallery".
Again there is also press Gallery Admission to the Press Gallery is given by Passes issued by the Secretary of the Assembly under the order of the Speaker.

Assembly Secretariat: The Legislature Secretariat is now for all purpose separate from that of Government Secretariat. However, in States, this independence is being achieved gradually since 1950 or there about. It owes its existence to Article 187 of the constitution. Article 187 states that the house or each house of the Legislature of a State shall have a separate secretarial staff. The legislature of a state may by law regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the Secretarial staff of the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State. The provision for such a Secretariat independent of the Executive and responsible to the speaker alone was made to maintain the independence of the House and keep up the dignity of the Speaker. In the discharge of their duties, the Members of the House need the assistance of the Legislature Secretariat—the assistance in putting their notices of the various motions in proper form.

The staff in the Legislature Secretariats of Maharashtra, consists of a Secretary, 2 Deputy Secretaries, 3 under Secretaries, and 1 Librarian cum-Research and Reference Officer, and other non gazetted personal.
There is a staff of 160 persons on the establishment of this Secretariat\(^9\). Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat has 11 Branches\(^{10}\).

Following 7 are important Branches :-

1) **The Legislation Branch** :- This Branch deals with bills. This branch is also in charge of the business advisory committee and the committee on Private Member's bills and Resolutions. It also looks after the work of the Subordinate Legislation Committee. The Branch also prepares the resume of the work done during each session of the Legislature, Departmental Decisions and the Digest of Acts.

2) **The Question Branch** :- This branch is busy for about 8 weeks before the commencement of the session. They have to prepare a rotation order and supply to the members. This branch deals with starred and unstarred questions. Questions to which supernumeraries arise are starred questions and are replied with 45 day's notice, not about a week before the commencement of a session. Members give notice of a short notice question. It is admitted as such provided the requisite urgency is there. It is then sent to the Department for reply. Then there is notice for Half-an-Hour discussion. It arises out of replies given to question. The Speaker decides whether it is a fit subject for Half-an-Hour
discussion. Not more than two such discussions are held on any one day per week. During off-session period, this Branch prepares Departmental Decisions.

3) Table Office Branch: This branch deals with motions, resolutions etc. This also issues Bulletines, as soon as the session is over. It also deals with, No-confidence motions, Adjournment Motions, Last day Motions, Notices for short Discussions, calling attention notices, Statement by Ministers, Demands for Grants, supplementary Demands and so on. During off-session period they prepare digest of Rulings and supply to all State Legislatures. It also prepares a list of Unparliamentary expressions.

4) The Council Branch: This Branch deals with the same type of work in so far as Council is concerned as is done for Assembly in Legislation, Question and Table office Branches. It is a self-contained Branch. It also looks after the work of Election of President of India, the Members of the Legislative Council and of the Members of the Council of States. It deals with the elections or representatives of Assembly or Council to the courts of Universities. During off-session period, it prepares resume of work done during the session, Rulings of the Chair and completions of Departmental Decisions and Unparliamentary expressions.
5) **The Committee Branch**: This Branch deals with the work of various committees such as Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Assurances Committee and Committee on Public undertakings. This branch also deals with other subjects such as preparation of Legislature Manual, Commonwealth parliamentary association work.

6) **The Reporting Branch**: This branch is manned by a team of efficient reporters. As soon as the Verbatim speach is taken it is transcribed and sent to the members for approval. Only formal corrections are allowed to be made. The Speeches are edited, after they are approved by the Members concerned, and sent to press for printing. Generally, proceedings of one session are ready by the next session. The Chief Reporter is in charge of this branch.

7) **The Library, Research and Reference Branch**: The Librarian-Cum-Research and Reference officer is in charge of this Branch. This branch looks after purchasing, registering, classifying, cataloguing and maintenance of central and State Acts, Gazettes both central and State, Debates of the House of Commons, Indian Parliament and State Legislatures. There is research and Reference Section. This section is
supposed to do important work namely to provide
reference service to members wanting if urgently. This
branch also issues certain publications, for example the
Digest of Articles, List of Selected Articles and
Bibliography on Bills. The Library Committee meets once
or twice in each session and takes decisions about
matters arising in the Library. This committee consists
presiding officers of both the Houses and a few Members
from each House. The remaining four branches of this
Secretariat deals with the work of administrative or
technical type.

Comparative Strength of the Political Parties in the Five
Maha Assemblies: — Political parties of national level as
well as of regional level have had their representation
in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Regional Parties
like Peasants and Workers Party, Shivsena, Maharashtra
Samajwadi Congress and forward block have secured seats
in the legislative Assemblies. The table No. (I) gives the
details of the comparative strength of each national
party at the beginning of each Assembly.

An analysis of table No. (I) reveals that the Congress
was remained always a dominant party in the Assembly.
But in the election of 1978, it lost its unchallenging
position and afterwards split in congress it has lost
its position as ruling party too.
### TABLE I

**PARTY POSITION OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Congress</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>59.10</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>81.44</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>82.22</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>45.93</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>44.72</td>
<td>112</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Janasangh</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>1.85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. C.P.I.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.74</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. C.P.I. (M)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. P.S.P.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10.23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Socialist</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0.38</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Janata</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Independents@</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>27.52</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>30.46</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>14.81</td>
<td>13.70</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16.32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>396</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This includes Congress(I)62 and Congress(U)70.
@ This includes Regional Political Parties also.

Source: Data is compiled from the Maharashtra Legislature Assembly Journals and from Legislature Secretariat.
The table (I) shows that congress party secured the highest number of seats in the Fourth Assembly. 82.3% in 1972 General Election. In the election of 1957 it secured 59.1% seats. And in 1962, 1967, 1972 it secured 81.4%, 78.2% and 48.6% respectively. Judged from the point of view of the percentage of votes polled, its position is also satisfactory. In 1972 it polled highest number of votes 56.36% and in 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972 it polled 48.66%, 28.2%, 47.03% and 25.14% respectively.

In the Assembly the next largest national party in 1957 was P.S.P. with 36 seats (9.1%) in 1962 it secured 9 seats (3.4%) where as at the third number was C.P.I. with 13 seats in 1957 and with 6 seats in 1962. But in the General Election of 1967 second position of P.S.P. was lost to C.P.I., which secured 10 seats and former one secured 8 seats. At the fourth position was Janasangh and Socialists with 2/4 seats each. In the General Election of 1972, the national party at the second position was Janasangh with 5 seats. The general election of 1978 was interesting from all respects. Earlier congress was divided into congress (I) and Congress in January 1978. Janata Party was in power at the centre.

In the election of 1978 Janata Party was at the top with 99 seats, congress was 70, congress (I) got 62. After emergency, in 1977, Janasangh, Socialist, Lok Dal, Congress (O), and Congress for Democracy merged in 70
Janta Party. It is clear from the Table(I) that, in the General Election of 1978 not a single party secured majority. Congress and Congress(I) combinedly formed the Government (Ministry), which can not last till the end of Fifth Assembly. Congress party was again divided into two groups, Congress and Maharashtra Legislative Congress party. Purogami Lokshahi Aghadi (Progressive Democratic Front) was formed which includes Maharashtra Legislative Congress, Maharashtra Samajwadi Congress, Janata Party(C.P.I.(M))P.W.P. and others. This Purogami Lokshahi Aghadi come into power, which last till 16 February 1980. Because for the first time in the history of Maharashtra, after independence, the presidents rule under Article 356(1) of the Indian constitution, was imposed on 17th February 1980, and the Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the same day. Again in the history of Maharashtra, for the first time, congress party was out of power, from July 1978 to June 1980. In the month of June 1980, the election was held for Vidhan Sabha and Congress(I) got majority and came into power.

In case of Regional Parties, Peasents and Workers party was strong between 1950-60 as compared with the other regional parties in Maharashtra, but when it slowly lost its position after Y.B. Chavan became the
Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the very basis for which the peasant party was formed.

Duration of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly:—The term of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly is five years from the date of its first meeting convened after the General Elections. India’s constitution lays down that “Every Legislative Assembly of every state, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly. Provided that the said period may, while a proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.”

Organisation of the Assembly:—The organisation of the Assembly comprises of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Panel of Chairmen, Committee and the ordinary Members. After the General Election, the Speaker is elected by the Assembly immediately in its first meeting. Then the Deputy Speaker is elected. The Speaker nominates the panel of Chairman to preside in his and Deputy Speaker’s absence. The members is the primary unit of the Assembly, but at the same time the most important one.
The member is the primary unit in the organisation of the Assembly. He has the deliberative, electoral and legislative obligations. In the Parliamentary process the legislatures are not merely supervisory authorities of the Executive or law-making bodies, but they also reflect the varied interests of the people. It is often observed that "Legislatures are symbolic of diversities in and of cohesion of society. They reflect the feelings, anxieties and passions of the people as well as their collective wisdom and sense of justice." 

Significant viewpoint on any issue and important socio-political tendencies must find expression in the legislature. Hence legislature are the political mirror of the Society. Representatives come from the different shades of socio-economic content, which generate a cross-current and interaction of ideas which are reflected in the enactment of the legislature. Therefore a legislature has not only to represent the problems and aspirations of its constituency but also to correlate them to the principles of his party, to adjust himself to the norms of behaviour and to uphold the constitution and justify himself as a man custodian of the national interest.
Membership Pattern.— In modern times every legislature is heterogeneous in its composition. Members of the legislature differ in their age-group, educational attainment and by prior occupation. No doubt these differences affects the working of the legislature and its qualitative and quantitative output. Taking into consideration this object, the membership content of the Maharashtra legislative Assembly in its five successive terms has been examined here.

A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in the Vidhan Sabha, not less than twenty-five years of age.

An analysis of the age-status members returned to the five Assemblies evinces a great variation. Table No. (II) throws light on this fact.

An analysis of Table No. (II) shows that the percentage of members in the age-group of 25 to 35 years in the First Assembly was 12.10 %. It is increased in the Second Assembly to 15.85 %, but it has gradually decreased from 15.85 % to 10.38 % at the end of the Fifth Assembly. It seems that at the electorate levels maturity of age is given importance. And hence this age-group 25 to 35 seems to have been thought not so mature for taking up the role of legislation.
### TABLE-II

**COMPOSITION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS BY AGE-GROUP (1960-62)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>First Assembly 1960-62</th>
<th>Second Assembly 1962-67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 35</td>
<td>32(5)</td>
<td>12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 45</td>
<td>101(7)</td>
<td>39.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 to 60</td>
<td>93(2)</td>
<td>35.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and above</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

|                | 236(14) | 89.07   | 240(15) | 90.56   |

**Information not available**

|                | 29(2)   | 10.93   | 25(2)   | 9.44    |

**Total number of members**

|                | 265(16) | 100.00  | 265(17) | 100.00  |

**Note:**
1) Figures in brackets indicates Lady Members.
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of lady members.

**Sources:**

1) *Who's Who-Brief introduction of the members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Assembly File)*
2) *Publication of the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, Bombay.*
## TABLE-II

COMPOSITION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS BY AGE GROUP (1960-80).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Third Assembly 1967-72</th>
<th>Fourth Assembly 1972-78</th>
<th>Fifth Assembly 1978-80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 35</td>
<td>38 (5)</td>
<td>14.03</td>
<td>33 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 45</td>
<td>109 (6)</td>
<td>40.22</td>
<td>98 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 to 60</td>
<td>99 (2)</td>
<td>36.82</td>
<td>115 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and above</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>18 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

- 259 (12) 95.58
- 261 (26) 96.34
- 278 (8) 96.16

Information not available.

**Total No. of Members**

- 271 (12) 100.00
- 271 (27) 100.00
- 269 (8) 100.00

**Note:**

1) Figures in brackets indicate Lady Members
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of Lady Members.

**Source:**

In case of Second age-group 36 to 45, it seems that in the First Assembly the percentage of this age group was 38.11%, and it increased in the Second Assembly as it was 40.00% but it has gradually decreased from 40.00% to 34.60% at the end of the Fifth Assembly. No doubt the Second age-group was stronger than that of first age-group. It was dominant in the First three Assemblies.

The Third age-group belongs to the category of 45 to 60 years. It seems that the percentage of this age group in the First and Second Assembly was 35.09% and 30.18% respectively. But it shows increasing trend from 30.18% to 44.95% at the end of the Fifth Assembly. This age group was dominant in the Fourth and Fifth Assembly having percentage of 42.45 and 44.95 respectively.

Fourth age-group is of those members who are above Sixty years. Percentage of this age group was very less, as compared with other age group, though it shows increasing trend from 3.77% in the First Assembly to 6.23% in the Fifth Assembly.

Verticle analysis of Table No. (II) shows that, in the First, Second and Third Assembly, Second age-group of 36-45 years was dominant with 38.11%, 40.00% and 40.20% respectively. But in the Fourth and Fifth...
Assembly the Third age group of 46 to 60 was
dominant which had 42.45 % and 44.95 % respectively.

It seems from the Table No. (II), that the Lady Members
of the First Assembly (1960-62) could be divided into three
age-group. There were in all 16 women members. Five were
between 25 to 35 years, 7 were between 36 to 45 years,
and 2 belonged to the age-group of 46 to 60 years. In the
Second Assembly again there are three groups. There
were 17 women members. Five of them were between 25 to 35
years, Six were between 36 to 45 years, and four were
between 46 to 60 years. In the Third Assembly Lady
Members could be divided into three age group. Out of
12 women members, 5 were belonged to First, 6 were to
Second and, one belonged to the Third age-group. There
were 27 lady members in the Fourth Assembly. Out of them
4 belonged to the First age-group, Ten belonged to both
Second and Third Age-group, and, Two belonged to Fourth
age group. In the Fifth Assembly, there were 8 Lady
Members, and could be divided into two age-group. Four
were between 36 and 45 years and same numbers were in
the age group of 46 to 60 years. An analysis of Table
No. (2) vertically, shows that First, Second and Third
Assembly Lady representative in the age group of 36 to
45 was largest. But in the Fourth and Fifty Assembly
it was equal to the age-group of 46 to 60 years.
In the Fourth Assembly the strength of women
representative was 27, comparatively it was
highest. Minimum strength was only 6 in the Fifth Assembly.

Thus the trend of membership from the point of view of age status is towards an increase of members in the age-group of 45 to 60 years, and next to in the age-group of 35 to 45 years. Membership in the age-group 25 to 35 is showing a downward trend and the age group of sixty above have not considerable strength. From the above table it is clear that electorate has given preference to the age-group 30-45 in the First three successive Assemblies and 40-60 in the latter two Assemblies. It avoids the immaturity of the youth, and the conservatism and lack of energy of the old age. The analysis shows that some how the role of the Legislature is linked with his age.

Educational Background of Legislators: Legislators play a very important role in respect relation to his constituency. Keeping in view his role, it is necessary to take into account the educational and occupational status of the members, because all this have a significant bearing on the efficiency and effectiveness of the members of Assembly. The Legislators main goal is to voice the will of the electorate which sent them to the Assembly. In the relationship between the members and the legislators,
### TABLE-III

**COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE MEMBERS (1960-1967)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>First Assembly 1960-62</th>
<th>Second Assembly 1962-67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Matriculates</td>
<td>85 (4)</td>
<td>33.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under Graduates</td>
<td>42 (4)</td>
<td>15.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>96 (5)</td>
<td>36.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>10 (1)</td>
<td>03.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree OR Other Academic qualification</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>01.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>236 (14)</td>
<td>90.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information not available.</td>
<td>29 (2)</td>
<td>10.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Members</td>
<td>265 (16)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1) Figures in brackets indicates Lady Members.
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of Lady Members.

**Source:** The Table is compiled from
1) Who's Who Brief introduction of the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Publication of Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, Bombay.
2) Though.
### TABLE-III

**COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE MEMBER (1960-80)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>26.43</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>21.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>21.39</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>22.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Matriculates</td>
<td>77(6)</td>
<td>28.43</td>
<td>58(4)</td>
<td>21.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Graduates</td>
<td>53(1)</td>
<td>19.56</td>
<td>53(1)</td>
<td>19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>109(4)</td>
<td>40.22</td>
<td>112(6)</td>
<td>41.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>17(1)</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>36(5)</td>
<td>13.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree or Other academic qualification</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>259(12)</td>
<td>95.58</td>
<td>261(26)</td>
<td>96.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information not available</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>10(1)</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Members</td>
<td>271(12)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>271(27)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1) Figures in brackets indicates Lady Members.
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of Lady Members.

**Source:**
The Table is compiled from
2) *Through*
Dr. Finer Comments, "Institutions and Organisations disappear within notime if they fail to stand for the cause they are elected. In politics any contract drawn or similarities painted between the legislatures and the people would be of no avail, because members, irrespective of their age, education and experience, fail to represent under current. Finer still further adds", A member needs sensitiveness to the life, difficulties, aspirations and further emergency problems of the world cut side the Assembly. He needs not perfect knowledge, but knowledge enough to challenge and criticise the executive officials and opponents and an understanding of, where to go for more information, if the situation requires, any knowledge above this is valuable but excessive."

**Table (III) throws light on the educational standards of the legislators in the all Five Assemblies of Maharashtra. It seems from the Table No. (III), that the percentage of Graduates was always remained highest. In the First Assembly the percentage of Graduates, was 36.22 and it continuously increased till the Fourth Assembly to 41.40. But in the Fifth Assembly it was decreased to 40.44. The Second Educational group in case of strength was of under matriculates. In the First and Second Assembly the**
percentage was 32.09 and 32.46 respectively. But in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Assembly it was 28.43, 21.39 and 22.15 respectively. This group of under matriculates (22.15%) lost its second place position to the group of under graduates (22.49%) in the Fifth Assembly. The Third educational group is of under-graduates, which had increasing percentage from 19.85 in First Assembly to 22.49 percentage in the Fifth Assembly. Same case can be applied to the Fourth educational group of post-graduates (except in Fifth Assembly) which had increasing percentage from 3.78 in the First Assembly to 13.29 in the Fourth Assembly. But it has decreased in the Fifth Assembly to 9.35. Now fifth educational group is of Doctoral degree or other academic qualification holders. Percentage of this educational group is very negligible. In the First and Second Assembly it had 1.13%. In the Third and Fourth Assembly 1.10% and 0.70%, respectively. It had slightly increased to 1.73% in the Fifth Assembly.

An analysis of the Table (III), taking in view the educational background of the lady members, shows that, in the First Assembly the strength of the under matriculates was 4, but decreased in the Second Assembly to 2. And in the Third Assembly it was 6, again it was decreased to 4 in the Fourth Assembly.
It has decreased to 2 in the Fifth Assembly. In case of undergraduates, the strength (eleven) was highest in the Fourth Assembly. In other Assemblies it was 4, 5, 1 and 1 in the First, Second, Third and Fifth Assemblies respectively. The Third group is of graduates, which had highest, 7 in the Second Assembly and 5, 4, 6 and 2 in the First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Assembly respectively. The largest strength of post-graduates was in the Fourth Assembly that is 5, and in the First, Second, Third and Fifth Assembly it was 1, 1, 1 and 3 respectively. No lady member had a qualification of Fifth group, that is of Doctoral Degree or other academic qualification, in any Assembly. Vertical analysis of the Table No. (III) shows that in the First Assembly the first two groups had the same strength that was 6 but the group of Graduates was at the top that was 5. In Second Assembly the group of graduates that was 7 women members was at the top, while in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Assemblies, under Matriculates (6), Under graduates (11) and Post graduates (3) was at the top respectively.

Occupational Background of the Assembly Members: Members elected to the Assembly represent their respective constituencies. Occupational background of the legislator and the assembly establishes a harmonious relation between the legislator and the electorates. The members of the Assembly comes from
## TABLE IV

**Composition of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly**

**Occupational Background of the Members (1960-80)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>First Assembly 1960-62</th>
<th>Second Assembly 1962-67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percent age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cultivators and Landlords</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>33.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Political and Social Workers</td>
<td>44(8)</td>
<td>16.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lawyers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Traders and Industrials</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Teachers and Educationalist</td>
<td>4(1)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Medical Practitioners</td>
<td>8(2)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Others</td>
<td>24(3)</td>
<td>9.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>236(14)</td>
<td>89.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information not Available</strong></td>
<td>29(2)</td>
<td>10.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of Members</strong></td>
<td>265(16)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1) Figures in brackets indicate Lady Members.
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of Lady Members.

**Source:** This Table is compiled from
1) *Who's Who-Brief Introduction to the Members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly*.
   Publication of the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, Bombay.
### TABLE IV

**COMPOSITION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE MEMBERS (1960–80)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>First Third Assembly 1967-72</th>
<th>Fourth Assembly 1972-78</th>
<th>Fifth Assembly 1978-80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>No. of Members</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cultivators and Landlords</td>
<td>117(5)</td>
<td>43.17</td>
<td>120(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Political and Social workers</td>
<td>32(4)</td>
<td>11.60</td>
<td>32(14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lawyers</td>
<td>57(1)</td>
<td>30.76</td>
<td>49(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Traders and Educationists Industrialists</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.32</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Teachers and Educationists</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>12(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Medical Practitioners</td>
<td>9(2)</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>12(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Others</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>12(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>259(12)</td>
<td>95.59</td>
<td>261(26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information Not available.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No. of members.</strong></td>
<td>271(12)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>271(27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1) Figures in brackets indicates Lady members.
2) Figures outside brackets are inclusive of Lady members.

**Sources:**
- This Table is compiled from—
different occupations. The Table No.(IV) gives a classification of members according to their various occupations.

An analysis of Table No.(IV) throws light on the fact that in the First Assembly the percentage of agriculturists has been 33.20. But it has increased in successive Assemblies 36.00% in Second, 43.17% in the Third, 43.23% in the Fourth and 48.44% in the Fifth Assembly. It is clear that this group shows upward trend.

The second occupational group was of Political and Social workers. Its percentage has been successively decreased from 16.60% in First Assembly to 11.42% at the end of the Fifth Assembly. It shows downward trend.

According to the serial number the Third group was of Lawyers. The strength of this group has been successively increased from 18.16 in the First Assembly to 21.03% in the Third Assembly. But in the Fourth and Fifth Assembly, it has decreased to 18.02% and 15.55% respectively. This group shows upward trend till the end of the Third Assembly and downward trend afterwards.

The Traders and Industrialists has 7.55% in the First Assembly, gradually increased to 11.32% at the end of the Third Assembly, but later on shows
downward trend, 6.00% in the Fourth and again upward trend, 6.92% in the Fifth Assembly.

The group of Teachers and Educationists shows increasing trend from 1.5% in the First Assembly to 6.23% at the end of the Fifth Assembly, except in the Second Assembly (1.00%).

Medical Practitioners group shows upward trend, from 3% in the First Assembly to 4.84% at the end of the Fifth Assembly. Other occupational groups were very minor in their strength and could not have so influence on the legislation process.

The vertical analysis of the Table No. (IV), shows that, the largest group in the First Assembly was that of Agriculturists 33.20% followed by the group of Lawyers 16.16% and at the Third position was that of Political and Social workers 16.60. But also in the Second Assembly the picture was same. Agriculturists again formed the dominant group (with 36%) followed by the group of Lawyers (21%) and Political and Social workers (12%). In the Third Assembly again the group of Agriculturists was at the top with 43.17% followed by the group of Lawyers 21.03% and Political and Social Workers with 11.80%. In the Fourth Assembly the Group of Agriculturists was dominant 43.23% followed by lawyers 18.02% and Political and Social workers 11.80% And finally in the Fifth Assembly the group of Agriculturists
Agriculturists was again dominant 46.44 % and, at the second position, was the group of lawyers with 15.58% and at the Third Position was Political and Social workers group with 11.42 %.

In case of Lady members, most of them belonged to the group of Political and Social workers. As it was 8, 12, 4, 14, and 3 from First to Fifth Assembly. In the First and Second Assembly Lady members belongs to the group of Medical Practitioners forms second largest group in case of strength. And in the Third and Fourth Assembly lady members from the Agriculturists class was at the second position in case of Strength.

Vidhan Sabha - Power Structure :- The powers of the Legislature are exercised by its members, the parties, the party leaders, the committees and the Speaker.

The very important position in this power structure is that of the Speaker. The Speaker has very wide powers within his sphere. He has inherent powers to regulate the proceedings of the House, to prevent obstruction in the proceedings of the House. The Speaker can adjourn or even suspend the sitting of the House in the event of grave disorder arising in the House. He can order the arrest of any Member or Stranger within the precincts of the House and can commit him to his prison. Of course these powers are
rarely used, but they are there. But what is most significant is that his influence is wider than what his wider powers would indicate, for a suggestion by the Speaker as to the conduct of business is generally accepted by the House.

The Committees constitute another power group in the House. They are, in fact, legislatures in miniature. Recommendations of these committees are generally honoured by the House. Since bills need to be carefully studied in depth, in a calmer atmosphere, analysed and modified to subserve public interest, it becomes inevitable for legislature to appoint committees from amongst its own members to perform these vital functions. Among these committees the Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee are significant.

The Member, as a primary unit take part in the discussion and has a power to move resolutions and bills and may influence the decision making and law-making process.

All major decisions spring from the ruling party. It acts as the anchor-sheets for the Government. So it enjoys real power. However, the powers of the ruling party can be counteracted by the opposition parties, by raising questions, motions, resolutions and bills.
And hence it can influence the decision making and law-making process. It also helps in building up the public opinion. To build up a favorable public opinion is one of the most important aims of the opposition parties.

Leaders of the ruling and opposition parties exercise a lot of powers on behalf of their parties. In a democratic setup, the party delegates its powers to its leaders. The majority party forms the Government and its leaders become the Skeleton of the team that is formed as cabinet. The cabinet is invested with policy-making power and running the Government. The leader of the opposition is enabled to discharge his functions and responsibilities with the help of his party whips who constitute the "usual Channels" for smooth transaction of legislative business.

As all these agencies in some or the other way are the parties in exercising powers of the legislature, the functioning of each agency have been discussed in the successive chapters.
REFERENCES:


2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.


5. "Who is Who" a brief introduction of the Assembly Members, Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, Bombay.


9. Ibid.

10. Ibid p. 239.


15. Ibid, Rule 8, p. 10.


18. The Constitution of India, Ministry of Law, Government of India, Delhi, Article 173, Clause-B.


20. Ibid.