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Initially, I wanted to focus on the debates on the nationality question in the state during the 1980s since stagnation and underdevelopment of the economy of the state has been the focal concern of Development Studies until early 1990s. Since these debates had taken place in the realm of alternative politics and were linked to the class question, Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty suggested to me to include the class question in the title itself. However, the topic turned out to be rather unwieldy, indeed, a hard nut to crack since I had to draw very broad linkages. And yet, I now feel that my work has greater relevance than if it were confined to the nationality question. Over the long years of my research, I have realised that the class question is immensely more important than the nationality question, at least in the Kerala case and I am thankful to Prof. Mohanty for guiding me in this direction. In an effort to delimit the scope of the topic, I have confined it to an Analytical Political Economy approach, reserving the Chronological Political Economy part to a later project. Nevertheless, choosing a topic like this, I have incurred a heavy opportunity cost since I could see younger scholars working on quite manageable topics making their way up quite early in their lives. I have also had to guard against the temptation to diverge from the topic and take up research on some 'burning issues'. Beena has kept
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