Kamaraj as a primary school boy (Second from Right in the Bottom Row)

Kamaraj on his way to Congress Party Campaign (1932) with his friend R. Krishnasamy Naidu
Kamaraj taking oath of office as Chief Minister on 13th April 1954
First Cabinet of Kamaraj, 13th April 1954.

Second Cabinet of Kamaraj, 13th April 1957.

The abandoned New Elementary Education Scheme by Kamaraj in 1954 that had been introduced by Rajaji in 1953
Kamaraj with school students dressed in free school uniforms

Kamaraj with John Kenneth Galbraith, Ambassador of the United States, the latter is donating half million rupees worth of milk powder through CARE for Free Mid-day Meals scheme on August 1961

Kamaraj serving Free Mid-day Meals to school students
Kamaraj distributing documents for free land to the poor (1954)

Kamaraj receiving feedback with the elderly poor

Kamaraj in conversation with school students
Kamaraj distributing plough bulls for the poor farmers

Notice of Kamaraj administration for emphasizing eradication of Untouchability
Colony Houses for Harijans

Free Hostels for Harijan Students

Good quality drinking water for improved rural hygiene
Few Power and Irrigation projects completed by Kamaraj’s Administration

Manimuthar Dam

Vaigai Dam

Kundah Power Scheme

Periyar Power Scheme

Parambikulam Scheme
Few Village Industries and Large Industries developed by Kamaraj’s Administration

Industrial Estate, Guindy

Co-operative Sugar Mills

Spinning Mills

Pot Making

Oil Crushing
Kamaraj with Queen Elizabeth

Kamaraj with Martin Luther King

Kamaraj with Kenneth Keating, Ambassador of the United States
Homage to National Flag cladded Kamaraj’s body

Tribute by multitude at the Kamaraj’s Funeral Procession
Researcher interviewing Mr. Pazha. Nedurmaran, Former President of Madurai Congress Committee, at Vedharanyam, on 22nd July 2012.

Researcher interviewing Mr. Thindivanam K. Ramamoorthy, Former Member of Legislative Assembly, Colleague of K. Kamaraj at Chennai, on 15th July 2012.
Researcher interviewing Mr. Kumari Ananthan, Former President of Tamilnadu Congress Committee and Former Member of Parliament at Chennai, on 17th March, 2012.

Researcher interviewing Dr. K. Veeramani, President, Rationalist Organization, Dravidar Kazhagam at Nagapattinam, on 12th August 2012.
Researcher interviewing Mr. G. Boovaraghan, Former Minister for Publicity and Information in Kamaraj’s Third Cabinet, at Chennai, 15th August, 2012.

Researcher interviewing Mr. Thamizharuvi Manian, Former General Secretary of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, at Tiruvarur, on 30th July, 2012.
Researcher interviewing Mr. Su.Pa. Veerapandiyan, General Secretary, Dravida Iyakka Thamizhar Peravai, at Velankanni, on 19th February, 2013.

Researcher interviewing S.L. Krishnamoorthy (Freedom Fighter), Kanagavel Kamaraj (Grand son younger sister of Kamaraj), Kalyan Ramji (Gandhi’s Personal Secretary), at Chennai on 15th July 2012.
Researcher with Mr. A. Balakrishnan, Director of the Tamil movie ‘Kamaraj’ at Chennai on 20th September 2012.

Researcher with Mr. A. Gopanna, Journalist and Editor of ‘Desiya Murasu’ (Tamil Fortnightly) at Chennai on 22nd September 2012.
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

*. “K. Kamaraj’s Political Ascension – Analysis on Factors for Mass Appeal”
Golden Research Thoughts, Volume 2, Issue 2, August 2012, ISSN :- 2231-5063

**.“Glimpses of Kamaraj’s Rule (1954 – 63 A.D)”
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K.Kamaraj's Political Ascension - Analysis on Factors for Mass Appeal

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Abstract:
Given the facts of having only a primary education, a personality of very simple and non-eloquent way of expressing ideas and no significant political background of family, a self-taught, life-long bachelor, K.Kamaraj (KK), Chief Minister of Madras Presidency from 1934-65, rose from nothing to a nationally acclaimed parliamentarian, efficient national party leader; corrupt free administrator; educational visionary and a man of the masses. This paper performs a cross-sectional analysis on the factors that could have enabled KK for his steep political ascension from the perspective of mass appeal.

KEYWORDS
K. Kamaraj, Madras Province, TamilNadu Congress, TamilNadu Education, TamilNadu politics

APPROACH
Research approach of this article is based on the hypothesis and argument that it requires, besides many personal traits for and against the common beliefs, two vital aspects for any individual to ascend the political career through a party. First aspect is appeal to the masses while the other is being the recognition from the party that is by its leaders and members. This paper is interested in analyzing the former without any prejudice or orientation. Madras Presidency and TamilNadu are the two terms used interchangeably throughout the work wherever it does not affect the content and arguments of interest significantly.

STRUCTURE
To handle the subject of analysis in line with the approach, this paper has been divided in to two parts, namely Part I and Part II. An understanding of KK’s early life in Part I will form the foundation for in assimilating the subsequent comprehensive analysis in Part II which examines the context of appeal to the masses. In short, the structure of this paper is as follows:

Part I : Early Life
Part II : Appeal to the masses

Part I : Early Life

Though the context and interest of this paper does not deal in details of the growing-up of KK, there is
essentially a need for minimum understanding of his early life in order to form the base from which it is possible to measure the political heights he reached.

KK was born in a southern-most part of the British India, at Virudhupatti, now Virudhunagar, on 15 July 1903 to Kumarsamy Nadar and Sivakami Ammal. His father was a coconut merchant and passed away when KK was six years old. This resulted in his dropping out of school in 1914, at the age of eleven, to support the family by joining as an apprentice in his maternal uncle’s (Karuppiah) timber shop at Trivandrum. It was here, in Vaikom, a small town near Trivandrum, the famous Vaikom Satyagraha made its strong mark on young KK and is also his first participation in Satyagraha.

The freedom struggle had been intensifying with Gandhi on the lead of Congress Party and also with many significant leaders and followers of Gandhi across the country and multitudes attracted as KK grew up to his adulthood. He was not an exemption as young and actively involved as a 'satyagrahi' and subsequently spent long and short periods in prison as a result of participation in many of the Gandhi lead nationwide programs to expel British from India and eventually he served his last term of his prison life in June 30, 1945 from Amroti Jail after a detention of three years.

**Part II : Appeal to the Masses**

This paper identifies the factors listed below for analysis:

1. Literacy of Tamils and Public Relations Medium
2. Wide travelling across TamilNadu and “Gemba” attitude
3. Regional Aspirations and Colloquial Language
4. Anti-Brahminism and Influence of Caste in regional politics
5. Social Development Activities

While analyses of the stated factors were arguably the critical ones but it is not claimed here that the list is complete in any sense.

**1. LITERACY OF TAMILS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS MEDIUM**

For a population of roughly 20 million in 1903, the numbers of educational institutions were 26,771 with 784,000 pupils. As the objective here is to have a grasp of the actual situation and more acute calculation, the simple ratio of the pupils to the total population is about 4%. After passing of a century, literacy rate in 2001 is about 75%. While not rejecting the fact that the 1903 numbers did not mean that the rest of the people were completely illiterate and accepting the fact that 2001 literacy rate is not a one-to-one comparison to 1903 figures, the comparison, grossly, very much serves the purpose of illustrating the significantly inadequate state of the Tamil society in terms of formal education which is instrumental in understanding political concepts of common interest, if not stated in the words of daily life.

The Radio, television was far away in the future, was introduced in British India in 1927 with privately owned transmitters at Bombay and Calcutta. After AIR's Delhi station on 1 January 1936, India in toal had only 9 radio stations a decade later at the time of independence and covered only 20% of total population. There were Tamil dailies like Swadesamitran (became more popular when Subramania Bharti joined in 1904) of which KK was a regular reader and Deshabaktham (started in 1917) in circulation. But the fact of poor literacy and economic status prevented the mass to access the information through print media.

This situation had left one option open for prospecting politicians that is to talk to as many people as they could to convey their intent and also for propaganda. Another very important thing to consider here is the communication is literally one way. There was no mechanism for collecting general feedback from the people and thus to close the loop of communication. This demands the message to be conveyed as simple and correct as possible from the first time. Rumors can easily spread with absence of mass media for clarification and it is difficult to control. This again logically follows that a traveller, who knows the region and the people's occupation well enough to have direct communication and, using simple words is an essential requirement of the time to win the masses.

**2. WIDE TRAVELLING ACROSS TAMILNADU AND “GEMBA” ATTITUDE**

During the periods of climbing the ladders of Congress Party and even after taking charge as Chief Minister of Madras Presidency in 1954, he did not stop his travelling to the length and breadth of TamilNadu to learn
the actual needs and living conditions of people.

In the words of Duncan Forrester from his paper “Kamaraj: A study in percolation of style”:

“He (KK) himself attended the meetings of the assembly and left virtually all the legislative works to other ministers. He attended office erratically, and never moved to an official residence. In short, his life continued very much before: constant touring around Tamilnadu, deep involvement in organizational matters, easy accessibility to all sorts of people at his house when in Madras. He kept in touch with the people and enhanced his personal popularity among them”

This can be analogous to the “Gemba attitude”11, which is part of the World’s number one automotive manufacturer from Japan, of Toyota Production System (TPS) which was developed in 1950s and 60s in Toyota lead by Taiichi Ohno and adapted even by the western world from 1970s under a name of Lean Manufacturing. Gemba, the Japanese word basically means ‘the place’ and in more meaningfully ‘the place where it happens’. The objective of this attitude is, “if the problem exists on the shopfloor then it needs to be understood and solved at the shopfloor”.

The inventor of this idea Taiichi Ohno, even after rising to a member of top level management team of Toyota, ensured that he spend most of his time in the shop floor and not in the office. His logic is simple that the value is created in shopfloor and that is where the management should spend time. Exactly the same technique, at least three decades earlier but for social engineering, has been used by KK for solving the problems of society, after all a bigger shopfloor. In his own words;

“People tell me that I was not educated. I don’t claim that I went to a University. But I do know geography. I know most of the areas of Tamilnad. I know where the rivers are and where the water tanks are I know in which town people make aliving which way. Are these things not geography and only the books which contain straight and curved lines?”

3. REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND COLLOQUIAL LANGUAGE

When KK became the Chief Minister of Madras Presidency in 1954, the world has already seen two World Wars in three decades and a Great Depression during the early 1930s. British India had suffered enough both directly and indirectly to compensate the losses of Great Britain without any choice and Tamilnadu was no exception.

As the mass communication media, especially the radio, has improved and reaching more and more masses and literacy was growing up rapidly, naturally the aspirations of the Tamils for basic amenities like education of children and utilities started to grow strong. Given the fact that almost after 65 years of independence of India, 50% people are still using open spaces to defecate13 and number of villages is yet to be given electricity and water, it is evident, and thus no attempts are made here to statistically quantify what could be the situation just after 7 years of Independence.

In addressing the aspirations, as a Chief Minister, two significant things could be noticed from his public speeches to the masses;

1. Context of the speech is always centered in addressing the immediate and long term concerns of basic amenities
2. Most importantly, arguments and words of speech were colloquial and thus straight to the point which is completely understood by any common man14

An example of his simple language and can be understood from his explanation on Socialism which is as follows;

‘Those who are backward should progress. What is essential for a man’s living must be given: dwelling, job, food and education. That is socialism.’

This meant a radically strong appeal of the masses for him, not the image, in the traditional sense, of a well-educated and diplomatic politician using his tactics to solve the problems but in real terms of a fellow common man who looks and speaks no different trying to put everything at his disposal for solving the issues.

4. ANTI-BRAHMINSIM AND INFLUENCE OF CASTE IN REGIONAL POLITICS

In 1944, E.V.Ramasamy Naicker (EVR) alias ‘Periyar’ (means the great one), who was becoming more and more a phenomenon among young Tamils mostly for his Atheistic principles, combined the then existed Justice Party and Self-Respect Movement to form Dravidar Kazhagam (DK) which primarily interested in refuting what was claimed as meaningless rituals, Gods and associated Brahmin (the upper most rung in the caste ladder) power.
Congress Party's Tamil Nadu administration of then newly Independent India was typically formed of intellectuals who were also Brahmans by caste. Under these circumstances EVR was also interested in supporting a non-Brahmin candidate (KK by birth belongs to Nadar caste) with his thousands of supporters and DK members. The Harijans (means the children of God, a name was given by Gandhi to those who were considered untouchables by Brahmans because of their caste by birth) were also oriented to support KK and eventually their leader's tool, primarily based on their anti-Brahmin stand which is similar to that of DK.

As an additional enhancement to these two anti-Brahmin masses support, KK also, naturally, got the support of hundreds of thousands of people of Nadar caste he belongs by birth. In KK's early days of political interest, when Town Congress Committee was constituted in 1922 at Virudhunagar, as a part of developing nationwide local organizations by Congress Party, Govindasamy Nadar was the first president and Kamaraj became a member of it.

In the words of Duncan Forrester;

"His relations to his caste were complex and sometimes stormy, but throw light on the dialectic of tradition and modernity both in group politics and in leadership styles. He is poorly educated, but has a political acumen which has often put his more intellectual colleagues to shame.... it seems to me clear that in him there has been a fascinating m eting of political styles, local and cosmopolitan, traditional and modern, resulting in the distinctive mixture which has shown its own blend of strengths and deficiencies in meeting the challenges of political leadership in a time of change." 19

Though these two, DK and Harijans, particular but mass supports of the masses came for KK from anti-Brahminical perspective, through his equal approach to all the castes, he managed a reputation that did not turn him caste oriented under public eyes.

To quote an absolutely relevant example, two veterans of Congress Party, C.Subramaniam, a Brahmin by caste and Bakthavatsalam, Mudaliar (also considered one of the top groups in the caste hierarchy) by caste were appointed as cabinet ministers when KK became the chief minister of Madras Presidency in 1954. What makes it more significant, besides their castes, is the fact that both of them had contested his leadership earlier. They were also part of his next cabinet, in the subsequent 1957 elections, which lasted its complete term until 1962. KK also made Parameswaran, a Harijan (Scheduled caste) by caste, and S.S.Ramasami, Padayachi by caste as cabinet ministers. Though KK remained neutral without any caste bias, as mentioned earlier, for the people from all the castes throughout his life, he also became appealing for all the caste groups.

In hindsight, few techniques have been adopted by KK to keep him at neutral stand between the castes as pointed below;

i)Remained a trustable candidate to represent non-Brahmin and thus gaining the support of EVR and DK
ii)Simultaneously on the other hand, managed the support of Brahmin by keeping C.Subramaniam in the cabinet despite his opposition of KK's regional Congress Party leadership
iii)Retained the representation of his Nadar caste people
iv)Balanced his all three successive cabinets with ministers to represent the different caste groups of Tamil Nadu

In addition, with his Gandhian lifestyle, he attributed time and value to improve the living conditions of the people which attracted neutral people who do not have caste orientation when it comes to politics. It is a 360degree approach by KK, as he could have probably felt that a small negligence in caste matters may turn huge, to lead inclusively.

5. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

KK introduced the Mid-day meal Scheme for school children throughout Tamil Nadu in 1956 for the first time in India. It primarily has two objectives; one is to enroll more and more children while the other is to reduce drop outs and thus reducing wastage in education. This scheme was later enhanced from 1982 by M.G.Ramachandran, late chief minister of Tamil Nadu with additional nutrition. KK's scheme benefitted 2 million children, from the age of 5 to 13, in the first 8 years of their study for 200 days in a year. Almost every village within a radius of one mile with inhabitants of 300 and above was provided with a school.

Six thousand schools closed down by Rajagopachari citing financial constraints were revived and 12000 schools were added.

Besides making a significant impact in the future of the region through education, he laid the
corner stone for agriculture and industrial revolution through electrification. Thousands of villages were
electrified. This rural electrification helped the mass usage of pump sets which increased the period of
cultivation across a year and also reduced the possibility of low yield from the crops by no water supply
situation. Apart from agriculture, the rural electrification, also helped in developing of many small and
large scale industries and associated employment opportunities.24

SUMMARY

K.Kamaraj did manage a steep political ascension through his vivid understanding of educational and
economic status of the people and their aspirations of developing. His communication to the mass has been
clear and simple which has helped the penetration to the depth of society. His caste neutrality and Gandhian
lifestyle attracted the masses desperately longing for such leadership. In the 9 years of his government,
much was achieved to a level even today the political parties promise in their election campaign to revert
Kamaraj’s Rule to get mass appeal.

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GLIMPSES OF KAMARAJ'S RULE (1954-63 A.D)

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Abstract:

This Paper attempts to examine the various steps taken by Kamaraj, the chief minister of Madras state, to improve the Socio-Economic condition of the State during his rule from 1954-63 A.D. Kamaraj was a social reformer, great administrator, freedom fighter and a friend of the poor and downtrodden. His rule as chief minister was hailed as the “Golden Era” of Madras state and the “Decade of reforms and achievements”.

INTRODUCTION:

Kamaraj served as Chief Minister of Madras state for three terms, spread well over nine years from April 13, 1954 to October 2, 1963. He was very bold and clever not only in taking quick decisions, but also in the selection of his colleagues. He never hesitated to include capable and experienced person in to his cabinet. The selection of M. Bakhthavatsalam and A.B. Shetty of Rajaji’s ministry explained the fact that Kamaraj always stood for efficiency and excellence in administration. He always practiced simplicity. He was straightforward and free from corruption.

KAMARAJ AS CHIEF MINISTER:

Kamaraj assumed office as the chief minister of Madras state on April 13, 1954. He decided to keep some of the Ministers of Rajaji, largely to maintain continuity in the administration and give no room for any hostility towards him. Kamaraj as a chief minister had a close contact with the masses at the same time he strove hard in promoting socio-economic and educational progress of Madras State through efficient administration. Several factors contributed to the success of Kamaraj’s administration. The major reason for the success of his administration was the implementation of the First Three Five Year Plans during his tenure as chief minister. He utilized the funds released during the plan periods to the best possible extent.

Kamaraj’s colleagues in the ministry, particularly M. Bakhthavatsalam and C. Subramaniam were experienced administrators. Moreover, he had a fine band of senior civilians who combined experience with efficiency and loyalty. All they helped him in implementing his plans and administrative reforms.

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One of the first steps Kamaraj had taken after assuming office as chief minister was that he set a policy for disposing official files quickly. He was dead against the 'Red Tapism'.

The official files were divided into three categories. The First set of file which had already received the orders of the ministers concerned, and awaiting the signature of the chief minister. The Second set needed detailed consideration of the department, and could wait for the chief ministers approval for a later date. These files would lay aside. The Third set of files needed the chief minister's immediate decision. These files were read out to him and he would discuss with the secretary concerned before putting his signature.

Kamaraj gave importance to the effective implementation of government policies for the benefit of the people. He believed that "rules existed for the public not the public for the rules". He never allowed any laws, rules and regulations to stand in the way of doing the right thing.

**FORMATION OF STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

A very important innovation in the administration of Kamaraj was the setting up of a "State Development Committee", consisting of all the ministers, secretaries and Heads of Departments. This committee met once in three months to review the progress of government schemes and projects. It also analysed the performance of different departments in relation to the Five-year plan targets.

At these meetings, Monthly reports relating to every project or departments were considered and reasons for the failures or Poor Performance in any sphere were examined. All these efforts helped the government to remove the delays due to bureaucratic Red tape.

**EDUCATIONAL REFORMS:**

It is on the expansion of education that Kamaraj had set his heart as administrator and the achievement in this sphere is striking. Education is one of most important instruments for removal of Illiteracy, Poverty and economic inequalities.

First of all, Kamaraj removed the vocation based hereditary education policy introduced by Rajaji. He reopened the 6000 Schools closed by Rajaji's government for financial reasons and also opened 12,000 new schools.

Kamaraj gave topmost priority to education. He decided to impart compulsory and free education for all children till they completed 14 years of age. This system was implemented from the Academic year 1955 onwards.

Kamaraj wanted to open schools in all villages with a population of 500 and above. Later in 1962-1963 he decided to provide schools in villages with a population of 300 and above. Against 16,037 primary schools in 1951, these were 27,108 in 1964. The number of Pupils on the rolls in elementary schools increased from 1.852 million in 1951 to 3.558 million in 1961.

For the promotion of Adult literacy, 736 Adult literacy centres were started during the year 1959-60. Apart from increasing number of schools, steps were taken to improve the standard of education. Number of school working days were increased from 180 to 200. Unnecessary holidays were reduced.

**MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME:**

One of the revolutionary reform scheme implemented by Kamaraj was the Mid-Day meals scheme. This scheme was in existence only in Harijan welfare schools and schools run by the corporation of Madras, as part of welfare Programme.

Under Kamaraj's chief ministership the scheme made a start in all over the state. It was first started unofficially in an organised form on a voluntary measure in July 1956. In November 1957, Kamaraj placed the entire scheme on regular basis and subsidized it as part of the state education plan. For this scheme 40% of the total cost was borne by the local public and 60% of the total cost was government's.
scheme. -16

From the year 1961-62, the scheme came to be assisted by the American International Voluntary organization, CARE and this enabled him to extend the scheme to urban centres also. -17 By the end of 1963, about 4 lakhs of Children in urban areas and 13 lakhs of Children all over the state were benefitted by this scheme. -18

The Mid-Day Meals scheme was one of the noteworthy reform schemes implemented during the chiefministership of Kamaraj. He also introduced free school uniforms to weed out caste, creed and class distinctions among young minds. In 1961, over 3, 60,000 children received free uniforms. -19

With the free uniforms, textbooks, stationary items, note books were also distributed to the children freely. Kamaraj deserves the pride of introducing these welfare schemes first in Madras State, among the states in all over India.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:

In February 1958, for the first time this scheme was tried as an experiment at Kadamapathur Village in Chengalput district. -22 Under this scheme, the local people actively took part by contributing money, clothes, materials for Mid-Day Meals, gift of lands, buildings, equipment for school, supply of books to the library, etc.,. -21 By 1963, nearly 160 school improvement conferences were held covering about 24,565 schools. -22

This scheme had enabled the authorities to collect in all cash and materials worth over 80 million rupees. The success of this scheme made the then prime minister Nehru to congratulate the authorities for organising such a scheme with a good response from the public. He recommended this scheme to introduce in other states of India also.

Kamaraj was very keen on promoting the welfare of the teachers. For the first time in Asia, the govt. of Madras implemented the Triple benefit schemes of Pension, Provident fund and Insurance for teachers from 1-4-1955. -23

FORMATON OF TAMIL RESEARCH COUNCIL:

Another noteworthy reform of Kamaraj was the constitution of the Tamil Research council in 1958. It was established to improve the use of Tamil and to implement the Official Language Act which made Tamil the Administrative Language. -24

Tamil typewriters were also put into official use from January 14, 1958. In the same year and on the same day Tamil became the official language of the state. -25 A Tamil encyclopaedia was also published during this period. It was during the rule of Kamaraj that Tamil was introduced as a medium of instruction in colleges from the year 1961. -26

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

Next to education Kamaraj paid more attention towards improvement of agriculture. -27 He also paid special attention to the energy sector and electricity which reached almost all villages in Tamil Nadu. In the opinion of Kamaraj, electrification and irrigation would raise not only agricultural production but also the industrial output of the state. -28 By inducting colleagues like R.Venkataraman and C.Subramaniam in his ministry, he paved the way for the growth of agricultural and industrial sectors in Madras state.

During the First five Year Plan (1951-56), nine irrigation schemes were taken up, among which Lower Bhavani Project and Mettur Canal Scheme were important. Lower Bhavani Project was planned at a cost of Rs. 10 crores, with the aim of providing irrigation for 2,07,000 acres of lands. Mettur Canal scheme was again a part of the first five Year plan to provide irrigational facilities for about 45,000 acres of lands in the Salam and Coimbatore district. -29

The other seven schemes were, the Cauvery Delta Drainage Improvement Scheme, Manimuthar, Arani River, Amaravathi, Vaigai, Sathanur and Krishanagiri. All these schemes were completed before the commencement of the Second five Year Plan. All they put together cost of Rs. 29 crores with extended
irrigation facilities for about 3,34,000 acres of lands in various districts. -30

During the Second Five year Plan (1956-61) four major and two minor irrigation schemes were taken up. Of these New Kattalai High Level Canal Scheme and Pullambadi Canal Scheme were completed in two years time i.e. by the middle of September 1959. -31

Parambikulam and Neyyaru Dams were also constructed during this period. Parambukulam- Aliyar scheme was completed in 1961 and it was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru. -32 With the completion of projects under the first two five years Plans, nearly 90% of the Potentialities of the rivers in the state had been availed of -33.

Between 1957-61, 1,628 tanks were desilted. Under small irrigation scheme 2000 wells were dug with outlets. Long term loans with 25% subsidy were given to farmers. Apart from farmers who are having dry lands were given oil engines, electric pump sets on instalments basis. Thus, 150 Lakhs of caress of lands were cultivated during Karamraj’s Peroid. -34

During the year 1958-59, 2324 wells were constructed and 3833 old wells were renovated. -35 Plant protection and soil erosion preventive measures were also under taken Agricultural exhibition were conducted during the Farmers day and also at the time of big festivals.

POWER GENERATION PROJECTS:

Among the power generation projects, the Periyar Hydel Project was the biggest and major one. It was carried out at a cost Rs. 10.09 crores and was completed during the second Five Year Plan. It increased Power generation considerably. -36

The second Major scheme which helped the process of Power generation in the state was the Kundah Hydel Power Project. It was taken up during the Second Five Year Plan in Kundah Hill Basin of Nilgris district. -37 With such clear Planning, the state could achieve rural electrification at a greater speed.

At the beginning of the First Five Year Plan 1813 village had the advantages of electrifications. By the close of Third Five Year Plan in 1966 nearly 22,103 villages had the benefit of electricity. -38

During the same period Tamilnadu witnessed rapid increase in the number of pumpsets receiving electricity for agricultural purposes. It was roughly 14,626 Pumpsets in the beginning and it rose marally 75,193 pumpsets in the second plan period. -39 Thus, Tamilnadu occupied the Third Place in utilizing electricity for agricultural purposes.

Industrial consumption of electric power has increased from 187 million units to 14,66 Million units to 14,66 Million units. The power consumption in agriculture has risen from 44 million units to 786 million units. -40

Due to the extended electrification in the rural side, the agricultural production reached new heights and the state could boast of a surplus food produce by the time Kamaraj quit the office in 1963. Having provided the necessary means to improve agricultural production through irrigation and electrification, Kamaraj's ministry concentrated on improving the condition of agricultural labourers.

The Madras cultivating Tenants Act of 1956, ensured the government to fix a ceiling on agricultural land. It also helped the government to grab excess lands from big landlords and distribute the same to the landless. -41

The community development schemes proposed through Panchayat Unions paved the way for greater development of the rural areas. Much was done to protect the interest of the women and to improve the condition of women labourers.

Such combined measures and plan of action enabled Kamaraj's ministry to achieve the target of self sufficiency in food within a short duration of a decade. Kamaraj's tenure as chief minister witnessed remarkable progress in various fields in Madras State.
GROWTH OF INDUSTRY

In tune with the National Policy, Kamaraj gave importance to industrial development. During the second Five Year Plan 'Industrial Estates' were established at different centres to promote small scale industries.

Industrial estates were established at Guindy and Virudhunagar in the first instance. Under this scheme small scale industry received much encouragement. Similar Industrial Estates were established in the Third and Fourth Plan periods also at the place such as Ambuttur in Madras and Ranipet in North Arcot. -42

Industries with huge invests in crores of Rupees were started during this period. Important among them are the Neyveli Lignite Corporation at Neyveli (1956), Raw Photo Film Industry at Ooty, Heavy Vehicles Factory as Avadi, Surgical Instruments Factory and Tele Printers Factory at Guindy, Atomic Energy Plant at Kalpakkam, Railway Coach Factory at Perambur, Seshasayee Paper Mills at Pallipalayam, Sugar Factories at Tirupathur, Vellore, Ambur, Mathuranthagam, and Alanganallur, BHEL at Trichy, Manali Refinery Ltd, at Manali were started during the Period of Kamaraj. -43

Industries like manufacture of Rail Coaches, Goods wagons cars, Scooters, motor cycles, Batteries, were also developed. Kamaraj and Sri Bishnumur Medhi, the then Governor of Madras state, took efforts to start the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai in 1959. -44

All these helped for the industrial growth and economic growth of Madras State. The industrial progress of the state was remarkable during the nine years rule of Kamaraj. In 1963, the total number of small scale units alone touched the figure of 4,500 in the state. -45 In the all India ranking Tamil Nadu was second to Maharashtra and West Bengal. -46 Thus, the Madras state was placed in the third position in the All India Industrial Map.

Among all Administrative measures, Kamaraj emphasized on literacy and education to rural population. He understood that educational backwardness was largely responsible for socio-economic imbalance, and communal fictions.

Kamaraj served as chief minister of Madras state for three terms, spread over 9 years from 1954 to 1963. It was indeed the largest period for any Chief minister in Free India until then. His administration, in Madras state became a model for other states. He was not only a great administrator but also a strong organizer.

Kamaraj's rule as Chief minister was hailed as the "Golden Era" of Madras state and the 'Decade of Reforms and Achievements'.-47

CONCLUSION:-

Kamaraj was not only the undisputed and unchallenged leader in the state but he was also the King maker in the state politics. He was more a practical man than an idealist. He was not only dutiful but also loyal to his mentors.

Actually, it was only Kamaraj's rule that laid the foundation for the socio, Economic and educational growth of Madras state. His period may be rightly described as the "Golden Age" in the contemporary history of Tamilnadu. He was the most Successful Chief minister of Tamilnadu. This was openly acknowledged by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime minister of India.

Under kamaraj's Chiefministership Madras state, substantially made progress not only fields of food and agriculture, power and industry but also in the fields of education and social welfare at all levels.

END NOTES

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