Chapter-V

SRI.MALLIKARJUN.M.KHARGE’S CONTRIBUTION AS A HOME WATER RESOURCE AND TRANSPORTATION MINISTER OF KARNATAKA

5.1. Sri. Mallikarjun.M.Kharge’s Contribution as a Home Minister

Sri. Kharge has served in various capacities and held many ministers since his entry into politics. One such is the Ministry of Home affairs. The Ministry of Home affairs is the second only to the office of the Chief Minister. The Ministry is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining internal and external security. As a minister for Home Affairs, Sri.Kharge worked hard to remove the loop holes of the ministry. During his tenure as home minister he introduced new and innovative programmes for the upliftment of dalits, backward classes, downtrodden and minorities.

As a result of industrialization and urbanization, there was a drasting increase in the population of cities like Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Hubli, Gulbarga and many other. However along with the increase in population, the problems associated with it also increased. During his period Sri.Kharge tried hard to handle and reduce such criminal activities. Sri.Kharge also worked for the development of rural areas. Keeping in view the security of rural people he established many police stations in rural areas. As a result many of their problems were reduced.

“Another challenging issue during his tenure as a Home Minister was the incident of “Serial Bomb Blast”. Some communalists in the name of
religion tried to create disharmony. Bomb blast at two churches in Bangalore, Hubbli and in Wadi, (Gulbarga district). This incident created a lot of disturbance among the christen community. The situation was efficiently handled by Sri.Kharge. He took a brave step and transferred the case from Police Department and handed over to “C.O.D”, which undertook investigation and finally the criminals were arrested”1.

Shri.Kharge also introduced laws for protection of women and children. He established a number of women police stations to take up the cases of harassment and exploitation of women and also created a number of posts for women to serve in police department. This contributed significantly for the empowerment of women.

Another case during his tenure as home minister was the caste clashes claiming dalit lives. “Seven persons including three women, were burnt alive and another was stabbed to death following a caste clash between Dalits and Vokkaligas at Kambalapalli village in Chintamani taluk of Kolar district”2. Kharge efficiently solved the issue by convincing all the villagers. Sri. Kharge, the then Home Minister, had announced that a compensation of Rs. One lakh would be paid to each of the families of the eight persons who were killed in the violence, and also provided for the rehabilitation of the families whose dwellings were set ablaze. All those guilty in the case were arrested and punished during his tenure itself which is appreciable.

The achievements of Sri. Kharge as a home minister is historic. Yet another achievement was the case of “Kidnapping of Dr. Rajkumar, Kannada
film actor popularly known as “Varanata”, Rajkumar was kidnapped by the forest brigand Veerappan on July 30, 2000. The kidnapping resulted in a situation of unrest among the fans and followers of Dr.Rajkumar”\(^3\), thus following the foot prints of Dr.Ambedkar who rightly said, “Whenever there are social evils, the health of the body politic requires that they shall be removed before they become the symbols of suffering and injustice”.\(^4\) He ordered the police department to undertake rescue operations and this made every effort to release Dr. Rajkumar.

“Sri. Kharge also contributed for the modernization of the Police department with an expenditure of Rs.480 crore. He undertook the project for modernization of all the district police headquarters of the state”\(^5\). The classic example is the Gulbarga Police Bhavan which is one of the first gold-rated green buildings in the country. The first green building in Government sector, which was a revolutionary concept-it was environment friendly, profitable, colour and a healthier place to work. Apart from this Hubli-Dharwad Police commissioner Office was also established.

Earlier Police training centre was only at Mysore. As a result the candidates from all over the state had to go to Mysore which was a problem for those hailing from Northern Parts of Karnataka. “Sri.Kharge realized this problem and was instrumental in establishing a police training school in Gulbarga at Naganahalli, with an area of 72 acres and the project costing 16.55 crores”\(^6\).
### POLICE TRAINING CENTRE, NAGANAHALLI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Cost in Crores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Training and administrative block</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Police Staff Residence</td>
<td>3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Staff mess</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Police officers residence</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Police officers mess</td>
<td>0.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Principal’s residence</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Police staff residence Model B and C</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Compound</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Electric works and control room</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Inside roads and street lights</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Training ground</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16.55</strong></td>
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At the training centre, training is given to Dy.S.P., sub inspectors, police constables training includes the following:-

1. Investigation
2. Enquiry
3. Crimes related to destruction of wildlife and forest
4. Controlling Naxalite and underworld activities.
5. Controlling Gangwars
6. Kidnapping
7. Protection of Human rights
8. Maintaining Communal Harmony
9. Debatable issues etc.

The State Police Department was lacking of many facilities. The police officers (SIs) were not provided with any kind of vehicle facilities which was an obstacle to work efficiently and reach the crime spot on time. Again Sri. Kharge provided them with all such facilities required to fulfill their duties efficiently and provide necessary service as and when required. “Police officials were provided with Jeeps, sub-inspectors with motor bikes and all officers and staff were provided with ‘Walkie-talkie’. To strengthen the police department he also undertook a recruitment drive which also was a relief for a number of unemployed youth. 7000 police constables, 500 police sub-inspectors were newly recruited and the process of recruitment to be transparent he had reduced the interview marks from 100 to 10, which to a wide extent reduced fraudulent activities in the process of recruitment”8.

Further nearly 62% of police staff did not own a home, realizing their problems he undertook a project in association with HUDCO & HDFC which provided financial assistance for the construction of nearly 11,000 houses and established a separate police residential colony. Also more than 200 police stations were upgraded, additional staff were appointed, police stations were computerized, and many such reforms were made9.
With his unique style of administration he made a number of contributions. Thus Sri. Kharge actively undertook many activities and served efficiently as a home minister of the state, and the ministry of home affairs grew to great heights during his tenure.

5.2. Sri. Mallikarju M.Khare’s Contribution as a Minister of Water Resource and Transportation

Karge has served as Minister for water resources and transport minister in Dharmasingh led coalition government in 2004. With in 20 months of Dharmasingh Government he played very significant role in the portfolios by introducing various changes.

Sri. Kharge soon after assuming of the portfolio of water resources he undertook a programme to remove silt from 338 tanks across the state in order to increase the level of ground water in rural areas. This prudent initiative of kharge helped to increase the ground water level.

Sri. Kharge took major initiative to complete irrigation projects of Bennethora, Bheema Eta Niravari Amarja, karanja Gandori Nala, these are main resources of irrigation which are in stagant for long period, but kharge provide new dimension to all these projects. By offering short term tender to contractor in order to complete these project with in short period eventually he achieved this goal. These projects are also in stagant state due to lack of financial resources Kharge has played a pivotal role as water resources minister to provide a separate share in Karnataka budget of 2004-2005.
In 2004-2006 farmers of Krishna River Basin faced severe shortage of water to their crops. Due to the illegal use of Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh farmers by installing illegal pumpset but this problem was amicable resolved by his leadership with DharamSingh he rise the question this in “Krishna River authority” under Prime Minister Residency thus he provide justice to Karnataka farmers.

He also resolved the problems of water sharing between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil nadu.

With in his 20 months ministership, he was initiated a programme to supply the water to every house through peipline to the people of rural areas through the Gram panchayats.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge as a State Transport Minister. Sri. Kharge was entrusted state transport ministry in addition to water resources portfolio. He was introduced unprocedent changes in this department in order to provide new shape.

“Under his ministership he purchased 250 luxury bus with high relaxable seats, in addition that he has modernized transport department and ensure modernized facilities to people of Karnataka state to make it as passenger friendly. By his effort all government buses availed such facilities which are already existed in private luxurious buses”.

“The department of State Transport is continuously subject to loss, some time it is not in position to incur of salaries of the employee of the department due to the heavy corruption in the department, but he take all such preventive
actions to ensure profit in the department, inorder to convert it as a profitable institutions”.

“Kharge takes the step to increase the incentive of drivers and conductors to ensure efficiency in department. He also established “Labour court” to conduct inquiry of irregularity in the department”.

“Before Mallikarjun Kharge there was corruption, during recruitment. Sri. Kharge take the steps to prevent irregularities by introducing new system of recruitment through common entrance test with practice test with direct recruitment appointed 2500 staff”.

Thus he converted the department as a profitable institution of government with in 20 months by taking action against the corruption in department.
NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Devindrappa Badiyal – Karmayogi – Magazine – P.188.

2. Ibid., Pg.189.


4. Dr.Jathava: Social Philosophy of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, ABD Publisher, Jaipur, P.86.


7. Ibid

8. Shivu Kalebags – Kannada Nadin Kanmani (Kannada) P.164.

9. Ibid 166

10. Sadhane 30 (Kannada Magazine), Karnataka Peoples Education Society, 2011, P.23.


12. Ibid

13. Ibid