CHAPTER VI

ELECTORAL POLITICS OF KURNOOL DISTRICT

(1975 - 85)
The Background:

Between 1885 and 1905, the Congress in the Andhra area existed in name only. Except holding the All India Conferences held annually there was no active programme for the Congress in Andhra.

The slogan of separate Andhra was heard as early as 1909. The idea that Telugu language should have special recognition had received publicity only after the Allahabad Congress session. But from 1920 onwards the separate Andhra Movement received a setback due to Prakasam and Venkatappaiah groupism.

Soon discussions for and against a separate Andhra began to find place in the newspapers. First the people from Rayalaseema and Nellore districts opposed the separate Andhra proposal. The rest of the districts were for it.

After the Bapatla Conference in 1913 the committee to propagate the Andhra Province issue was constituted. It consisted of Pattabhi Seetharamaiah, Valluri Suryanarayana, Mutnuri Krishna Rao and Konda Venkatapayya. They undertook a tour of Rayalaseema to strengthen the opinion of the people in favour of separate Andhra Province.
They arrived at consensus in Cuddapah, Anantapur, Penugonda, Gutti, Nandyal, Hindupur and the Chittoor meetings.

The people of Rayalaseema were distrustful of the credibility of the circars. Hence they were unwilling to join them for a separate Andhra. Kasinathuni Nageswara Rao and others tried to patch up the differences between the people of Rayalaseema and the people from other areas. As a result Sribagh Agreement was concluded in Madras (1937). Though Andhras held meetings every year, the people of Rayalaseema were still to be convinced about the need for a separate state.

The Rayalaseema leaders Kadapa Koti Reddy, Kalluri Subba Rao, Pappuri Rama Chari, H. Seetha Ram Reddy and Konda Venkatappayya played an important role for a separate state. The Andhra leaders tried to convince them by allowing concessions in their favour. Rayalaseema could make its demands prevail in deciding the capital city.

A DREAM COME TRUE:

The dream of a separate Andhra had not materialised inspite of innumerable resolutions passed by the Andhra Maha Sabha from 1913 onwards. Potti Sreeramulu started fast unto death on 19th October, 1952. On 58th day of his fast on 15th December, 1952 Srilamulu became a martyr.
Anarchy, chaos followed his death. Fearing the destruction to spread, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru announced in the parliament on 9th December that the question of separate state would be considered if the demand was not made for Madras.

Justice K. Wanchoo, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court was appointed as a Special Officer to report on financial administrative and other implications of the formation of Andhra. On 7th February, 1953 he submitted his report.

Immediately the Rayalaseema legislators under the leadership of Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy demanded that the capital of the new state should be within their region.

The question of capital generated much heat and it once again brought into fore the differences between circars and Rayalaseema. Communists demanded the capital at Vijayawada. The Krishikar Lok Party wanted Tirupathi to be the capital.

Tanguturi Prakasam was asked to suggest a solution to the problem. He decided that Kurnool should be the capital of Andhra. Sanjeeva Reddy exhibited political fore-sightedness in his moves.

To decide the issue legislature met and the Chief Minister of Madras C. Raja Gopalachari suggested that no
member of residency state should take part in voting. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy knew the fact. So he sought and received the support of T. Prakasam. Thus he had a strength of twenty members. Five non-andhra members too voted for Sanjeeva Reddy's choice. Had they followed Chief Minister's advice and refrained from voting, Kurnool would not have become the capital. Finally as per the choice of the majority of the legislators it was decided that Kurnool should be the capital of Andhra.

Later the Congress party agreed to have the ministry headed by T. Prakasam with Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy as Deputy Chief Minister. Sri C.N. Trivedi was the Governor. On October first 1953, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the Andhra state with Kurnool as its capital.

Later on with the merger of Telanganga districts into 'Andhra Pradesh', 'Visala Andhra' came into existence on first November 1956 and the capital was shifted from Kurnool to Hyderabad.
THE PRE-1975 POLITICAL SCENE

General Elections to the House of the People and the Assembly: (2)

In the First General Elections held in 1951-52 to the House of the People, the two seats allotted to this district were won one each by the Congress party and an independent. The Congress party, however, bagged both the seats in the second and third General Elections held in 1957 and 1962. In fourth General Elections the Congress won one seat, while the other went to the Swatantra Party.

Out of the eight seats allotted to this district in the legislative assembly of the erstwhile Madras state, three were won in the first General Elections by the Congress Party, two by Independents and one each by the socialist, the Krishikar and the Communist parties. Consequent on the creation of the Andhra Assembly in 1953 (consisting of members elected to the erstwhile Madras assembly from the areas forming part of Andhra state) a separate ministry was formed. Following a vote of no-confidence, this ministry resigned on the 15th of November, 1954. The Assembly was dissolved by a Presidential proclamation and mid-term elections were conducted in February, 1955.

In these elections, eleven out of the total sixteen seats were won by the Indian National Congress, three by independents and one by each by the Krishakar and the Praja Socialist parties. The second General Elections of 1957 were held in the district only to the House of the People, as the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly constituted under States Reorganisation Act of 1956 was not dissolved by then. The life of this assembly was extended for a period of five years from 31st of March 1957, allowing the members elected in 1955 from Andhra districts to continue as members of the extended Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

In the Third General Elections of 1962, the Congress Party secured only nine seats, of the remaining seven seats, five went to independents and one each to the Communist and Swatantra parties. In the byelection held to Dhone Assembly constituency in 1965, the Congress, however retained the seat.

In the Fourth General Elections, the Congress suffered a diminution in its strength where it could secure only six out of the fifteen seats. Independents obtained four seats, the Swatantra party three and the Communist party two.
POLITICAL PARTIES IN KURNOOL DISTRICT PRIOR TO 1975(3)

The Indian National Congress, the Krishikar Lok party, the Communist party of India, the Kisan Mazdoor Praja party, the Muslim league and the Socialist party were the political organisations that participated in the fourth General Elections besides some independents. Out of 8,14,871 valid votes polled, 44.35 percent was secured by independents and 31.64 percent by the Congress party, while the Krishikar Lok Party, the Communist party, the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the Muslim League and the Socialist Party all put together obtained 24.01 percent. In the mid-term elections conducted to the Andhra State Legislative Assembly in 1955, the Congress party gained 4,32,733 votes out of 10,81,408 valid votes polled. Independents got 3,28,497 (30.37 percent) votes whereas the Communist, the Praja and the Socialist parties secured 3,20,178 (20.30 percent). The Swatantra and the Jana Sangh parties were the new entrants during the third general elections. In these elections the Congress party bagged 5,40,157 (40.64 percent) votes, while the total number of valid votes polled in the district was 10,88,023. Independents secured 3,33,720 (30.66 percent) votes, whereas the Swatantra, the Jana Sangh and the Communist parties, all combined got 2,14,146 valid votes which

constituted 19.68 percent of the total valid votes polled. Out of 14,88,954 valid votes polled in the fourth General elections, the Congress party got the largest number of votes (7,41,216) followed by the Swatantra (3,39,741). Independent (2,48,786) the Communist Marxist (34,098) the Samyukta Socialists (3,196) and the Jana Sangh (2,035).

KURNOOL DISTRICT - LOK SABHA ELECTIONS AFTER 1975:

The Congress party culture in the Kurnool district is dominated by theoretical and historical complexities. Accordingly we find the extremists and the moderates, Gandhians, socialists, Nehruvian Congressmen, saintly congress souls, political opportunists and other negative elements. But in practical sense it is not a cadre based party with rigid discipline but a loose conglomeration having highly individualistic nature. This in turn resulted in building personality cults. The warring groups and cliques constructed little empires within the same empire. Thus it is beyond all known organisational attributes of a regular political party. The faction-ridden Congress party with its multi-groups and communal bickerings made the organisation a divided house. This had largely affected the political stability of the district particularly during the emergence of a regional party named Telugu Desam Party. The party system during 1971 to 1975 was
one party dominance. The district did not face atrocities of emergency. The administration was running smoothly. Punctuality, sincerity and discipline were maintained by office staff. Corrupt officials were suspended from service. Universities, colleges and schools were free from Bandhs and Hartals. The absence of political agitations in the district enabled people lead peaceful life. The poor and down-trodden were taken care of.

During the 1977 General Elections, the district became unique by allowing a chance to Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy to get elected on behalf of Janata party from Nandyal Constituency. This was the only seat won by Janata party from Andhra Pradesh. The competition was between the two political giants namely the veteran N.Sanjeeva Reddy and Pendekanti Venkata Subbaiah a local stalwart with a long political career and who depended mainly on the charisma of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Caste-wise it was Reddy versus Vysya race' in Nandyal. Besides, a section of Muslims and Christians and 20% of Hindus and unemployed youth supported Janata candidate N. Sanjeeva Reddy. Janta party thus dominated the scene and won the seat in Nandyal. But for N. Sanjeeva Reddy would have not been contestant, the seat would not have gone to the Janata Party. Later he became the President of India.
And the Kurnool Lok Sabha seat went to the Congress with the largest margin of 1,99,356 votes (See Annexure).

During 1980's personal image was fighting a hard battle against the onslaught of political image at Kurnool, the cradle of the Congress since decades. The faction leader Ex-MLC, Mr. K.E. Madanna belonging to a Backward class and his son K.E. Krishnamurthy resigned from the Congress-I and joined the Telugu Desam party. Dissidence has been a hobby of KE's family. They have strong considerable weight in Dhone constituency. Peapully constituency and over a portion of Kurnool town. It is said that KE's family is having a bitter rivalry with Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy's family. During 1984 General Elections they acted in such a way that Mr. K.V. Bhaskar Reddy loose Kurnool seat. As a result E. Ayyapu Reddy, Advocate, Ex-Minister of Law in Congress Government, who contested on the Telugu Desam ticket won the Lok Sabha seat, something which came as a surprise to the people of Kurnool. In the same line a Congress stalwart Madduri Subba Reddy, Ex-Minister for Irrigation and Power in the Congress Government, contested on Telugu Desam ticket and won the Lok Sabha seat from Nandyal. This was the first time that Kurnool, a strong citadel of the Congress lost two Lok Sabha seats and also Eight Assembly seats to Telugu Desam. It was followed by Municipal elections.
At this crucial time neither caste, factions nor money worked. The people opted just for a change because they were not happy with the performance of the congress leaders. No solid work was taken up by the leaders to help the poor and the down-trodden. The Telugu Desam party exploited the situation and swept the polls. For this political change in Kurnool K.E. Krishnamurthy was mainly responsible. He was suitably rewarded by N.T. Rama Rao with a post in the ministry. He became the Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation.

Soon K.E. Krishnamurthy realised that N.T. Rama Rao did not belong to the genre of the hard-boiled politician and the ruling party stood discredited in the eyes of the people. Along with senior colleagues he resigned from Telugu Desam party and started a new party called 'Telugu Nadu' and without loss of much time under the leadership of K.E. Krishnamurthy himself the party merged into Congress (I).

When elections were held to the IX Lok Sabha the Regional party Telugu Desam party stood with its image damaged just because the party was either a helpless onlooker or the author of many unpopular incidents like murder of Congress-I M.L.A. V. Mohan Ranga Rao, removal of 31 ministers, split in the Telugu Desam Party and the alleged dictatorial attitude of N.T. Rama Rao. The dissidence
in the party did have effect in splitting the votes in the 1989 elections.

In 1989 K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy of the Congress-I faced S.V. Subba Reddy of Allagadda on the TDP ticket at Kurnool for the Lok Sabha. Kapileswaraih contested on BJP ticket. Although two independents were in the fray the contest was mainly between Congress-I candidate K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy and Telugu Desam party candidate S.V. Subba Reddy. Upto the last moment there was tension in Kurnool. Because of K.E. Krishnamurthy and Masala Eranna, there was no coordination in the Congress(I) party. It was a neck to neck contest. The Telugu Desam party with the help of KE's family members alleged to have tried for rigging and booth capturing. But this was smelt by authorities and the Central Reserve Police were asked to guard the booths in Kurnool. Even Army was also stationed in Kurnool town. As a result poll went on peacefully and the Congress(I) candidate Sri K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy won the seat by 3,63,955 votes and became Law Minister in the Union cabinet.

In Nandyal the tussle was between M. Subba Reddy of the Telugu Desam party and B. Venkata Reddy of the Congress-I. Both rivals had distinguished political record. Both are relatives. But M. Subba Reddy was
known for his straight forwardness and helping nature in public as well as in private life. M. Subba Reddy wanted Assembly ticket from Nandyal. However the Telugu Desam Party Supremo fielded him for the Lok Sabha. But M. Subba Reddy was not willing to spend on his own, whereas B. Venkata Reddy was faction leader and was well known in the constituency right from 1967. Only in 1985 he was elected to the assembly on the Telugu Desam Party ticket, but later joined 'Telugu Nadu' as a protest against N.T. Rama Rao's dictatorial ways along with K.E. 'Telugu Nadu' was subsequently merged into the Congress-I and he won the seat. In 1991 Lok Sabha elections Gangula Pratap Reddy, a faction leader from Allagadda was the Congress (I) candidate. The contest was not on caste lines but on party lines. The Congress-I was holding 19 municipality wards out of 32 while the remaining were held by the Telugu Desam party in Nandyal Municipality. Congress was popular among minorities and harijans while the Telugu Desam party was popular among backward classes. Communal factor played a very little role in the constituency. And the Congress (I) took the seat from the Telugu Desam party during 1989 lok sabha elections. But Gangula Pratap Reddy, the elected Lok Sabha member from Nandyal constituency sacrificed the seat for the sake of the Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.
During the 1991 by-election to Nandyal, Telugu Desam party didn't field its candidate saying that P.V. Narasimha Rao was a Telugu person and so it was considered a courtesy to give him chance to be elected unanimously. But the Bharatiya Janata Party did not agree with the view of the Telugu Desam party and fielded its own candidate. Besides there were number of independents in the fray. And P.V. Narasimha Rao was declared elected with nearly more than 5 lakh majority of votes.

The Nandyal segment of Kurnool district is the only segment in India having the privilege of representing both President and the Ministers of India. The President was Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy (1978-84) and the Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao since 1991. As a reward Nandyal may be given a district status soon and may be called as Rajiv District.
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS - KURNOOL AFTER 1975:

During the life period of the Fifth Assembly, there was an internal emergency from June 1975 to February, 1977. The 42nd amendment to the constitution took place and the term of the Assembly was extended from five to six years.

Many political changes came about during this period. J. Vengal Rao resigned from Chief Ministership. Ministers like P. Ranga Reddy and J. Chokka Rao had joined Janata Party. The Congress was divided into two parts as Congress old and Congress Indira. Dr. Channa Reddy came back to the state by submitting resignation as Governor of Uttar Pradesh and played a prominent role in the Congress (I) party and supported Mrs. Gandhi.

SIXTH ASSEMBLY:

The election campaign was organised on a large scale as each party hoped that it would surely come to power. The Congress-I underwent a transformation from a party of the privileged to a party of masses. Since 1972 there was a dynamic change of support structure in the Congress party. It became a radical party in the eyes of a common people. A large number of seats were given to backward classes and weaker sections (BCs-121, SC&ST-49, Muslims-12, Women-4, Christians-3, for others-100).
There was an unquestioned dominance of the Congress party in the district from the beginning and the Congress had a comfortable majority. From 1962 elections the caste factor gained prominence. From 1980's factionalism developed more in the district politics. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister brought three types of groups within Congress. One is Channa Reddy group, second is anti-Andhra separatist group and third is the weaker section group. Kurnool district M.L.A, Dawood Khan belonged to neither of the groups. In order to play the game of pull and strain between the different groups and factions, Channa Reddy encouraged defections. In two and half years, thirty non-congress (1) members were reduced to three and sixty Janata to sixteen, and party strength has gone up to 194 from 175. (Please see Annexure).

The special feature of this election was that fresh candidates were elected from the district. Therefore people had no role to play. The legislators could detect as and when it was convenient. Election promises were never fulfilled.

POLITICS DURING 1978-83

This was the period when the high command played a havoc with the state politics. The majority party in the legislature was not allowed to make decisions.
The horrible situation came when Congress (I) in Andhra Pradesh was crushed like an empty egg shell. Four Chief Ministers were in and out within two years. The party President was changed five times in thirty months. There were too many Congress leaders bearing the designation as Ex-Minister. Even the choice of Chief Minister was criticised by common man, who observed that T. Anjaiah, Chief Minister was chosen despite he lost 1978 election and Bhavanam Venkat Rami Reddy was chosen though he never faced elections. Finally K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Lok Sabha Member from Kurnool was made as Chief Minister.

T. Anjaiah accommodated three M.L.As., from Kurnool into his cabinet in 1980. E. Ayyapu Reddy was made Minister for Law, D. Munuswamy, Minister for Tourism and K.E. Krishna Murthy was a state Minister for Excise.

B. Venkatarami Reddy, who succeeded T.Anjaiah couldn't provide representation to the district in his cabinet.

K. VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY'S DEFEATIST POLITICS:

"K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy was a Lok Sabha member from Kurnool district when he was selected for Chiefminister ship by Mrs. Indira Gandhi to lead the state. He was the Finance Minister in the state during K. Bramhananda Reddy's regime. Later he opted to be in the Lok Sabha. There was a wide gap between him and the party cadre."
After emergency, he joined hands with Brahmamand Reddy and became the President of the Congress (R) in the state for a short period. Within few months, he joined the Congress (I) and got elected from Kurnool.

K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy could not achieve anything during his four months period from September to December, 1982 as the Chief Minister. D. Munuswamy was taken into cabinet as the Minister for Panchayat Raj. K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy failed to face Mr. N.T. Rama Rao in the election campaign. He announced that rice would be sold at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kilo but that didn't materialise. He vainly attempted to counter N.T. Rama Rao by introducing mid-day meal scheme in schools.

K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy opted to go back to the Lok Sabha since his party was routed and could get only 60 seats in the Assembly. Out of sheer sympathy, Mrs. Indira Gandhi inducted him into her cabinet and offered him the important portfolio of industries.

K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy was trounced in the Lok Sabha elections in 1984 at Kurnool. As a Minister in the centre, he failed to convince the Rayalaseema people that the Congress-I would deliver the goods. He joined the list of former Chief Ministers and defeated M.Ps
who had little or no role to play in the state. Mrs. Gandhi's death ended K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy's contacts at the centre. The ascendancy of Telugu Desam saw his family rivals like K.E. Krishna Murthy establish a healthy lead over him in the politics of Kurnool district and about Bhaskar Reddy's state of mind it was remarked "Mr. Reddy lives in the hope that a miracle might occur yet". (4)

A Regional party 'Telugu Desam' was emerged with efforts of N.T. Rama Rao, the matinee idol and the party came to power within nine months of its birth and entered even into Guinness book for its achievement in 1983.

This period was very crucial and significant in the context of future political change in the district. Telugu Desam party was born to win. The youth of the state participated enthusiastically in the elections. They had taken a considered decision and it was abundantly clear that the youth were behind the victory of the Telugu Desam. This is one of the reasons why Rajiv Gandhi introduced the amendment to the age limit of 18 years for the exercise of the franchise.

Mr. Rama Rao after having decided on the means of his political debut, set a few conditions for his party men. Any member of legislative assembly or the council from any party was welcomed to join his party, provided he resigned from the legislative body he was elected to.

Accordingly Mr. Nadendla Bhaskara Rao was the first person to resign from the Legislative Assembly and was admitted to Telugu Desam. He was followed by K.E. Krishna Murthy, Congress M.L.A. of Dhone, B.Vengal Reddy of Atmakur, S.V. Subba Reddy of Koilakuntla, B.V. Mohan Reddy of Yemmiganur, Adiseshaiah of Pattikonda, Mr. Rambhupal Chowdary of Kurnool, Maddur Subba Reddy of Branhanakotkur, Thimma Reddy of Nandikotkur, M. Sikhamani of Kodumur, E. Ayyapu Reddy of Kurnool, M.Farooq of Nandyal, Challaramakrishna Reddy of Panyam. These and many other prominent leaders of the Congress (I) party resigned from Congress party primary membership and joined the Telugu Desam party. As a reward, all important leaders were given assembly tickets to contest on behalf of the Telugu Desam party. K.E. Krishnamurthy from Dhone, B.V. Mohan Reddy from Yemmiganur, V. Rambhupal Chowdary from Kurnool, S.V. Subba Reddy from Koilakuntla, B. Venkat Reddy from Atmakur, were the important personalities who contested on Telugu Desam party ticket and won the seats.
The 1983 Assembly elections not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in the district gave a new turn to Kurnool politics. Since the formation of the state in 1953, the Congress (I) had hardly faced any serious challenge. Therefore, the emergence of a regional party and its climb to political power warranted a review of the Congress party's functioning in the district since 1970s.

The results of 1983 Assembly Elections in the district influenced the Loksabha elections of 1984 and both the Loksabha seats were bagged by the Telugu Desam party. Telugu Desam contested for 237 seats with the alliance of Sanjay Vichar Manch and won 203 seats with the percentage of 46.75% whereas the Congress (I) got 33.56%.

The Telugu Desam party were surprising because of the reason that between 1978 and 1982 the state witnessed four Chief Minister, eventhough the Congress I won 175 seats out of 294 in 1978 elections and further bloated due to defections from the Congress-O and Janata party to over 250 providing solid electoral majority to the ruling party.

N.T. Rama Rao inducted four former Congress (I) members into his cabinet one of them being Nadendla Bhaskar Rao whose desire was probably to become Chief Minister for atleast a day. Therefore when N.T. Rama Rao went to U.S.A. for bypass surgery, N.Bhaskara Rao planned
to topple the Ministry with the help of the Congress. As a result N.T. Rama Rao lost his post of Chief Minister and N. Bhaskara Rao became the Chief Minister. When he formed the cabinet he gave chance to the M.L.A. of Kurnool Mr. Rambhupal Chowdary to become the Minister for Industries. Nandendla Bhaskara Rao's cabinet had a life span of only one month and as he didn't prove his majority on the floor of the Assembly N.T. Rama Rao was again declared the leader of the party and was made the Chief Minister. N.T. Rama Rao retained all the former Ministers who had stayed with him during the crisis and also inducted a few others like K.E. Krishna Murthy of Dhone segment of Kurnool district who was given the Ministry of major irrigation. He however, immediately recommended to dissolve the house and decided to take fresh mandate from the people in 1985.

POLLING STATIONS:

There were 1884 polling stations in Kurnool district of which 508 were for men, 510 were for women and 866 for all voters. 142 polling stations were located in the areas of SC; 6 in the areas of STs, 105 in the areas of BCs, and 1631 for OCs.

1884 Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officers, 3777 other polling personnel and 13 Returning and Assistant Returning officers were appointed with 10% reserve personnel in all categories. (Please see Annexure).
Besides many platoons of police personnel and reserve police were appointed for the smooth voting in the district and to avert factional clashes.

Elections to the state Assembly were held in the first week of March, 1985. The Telugu Desam party in alliance with the Janata party rode back to power with a gigantic majority of 203 out of 294 seats, while Congress (I) could manage to get only 49 seats.

N. Bhaskara Rao's party Democratic Telugu Desam Party couldn't get a single seat. Mr. Rambhupal Chowdary whom won the seat in 1983 on the Telugu Desam ticket had gone to the side of N. Bhaskar Rao in 1984 and in 1985 he resigned from the Telugu Desam Party's primary membership by commenting on the 'facist' behaviour and power politics of the leader, of the party and joined the Congress-I and won the seat with a margin of 13,787 votes.

Nandyal seat was won by a minority community candidate Farooq on Telugu Desam party ticket and became the Minister for Wakfs in the cabinet. Alur SC constituency went to Congress-I candidate M. Eranna. Later when he became ZPP Chairman, the seat has gone to M. Rangaiah of Telugu Desam party in by-election.
Yemmiganur seat was won by B.V. Mohan Reddy of Telugu Desam Party and Atmakur seat went to Telugu Desam party. Whereas Allagadda a faction-ridden segment went to G. Pratap Reddy of Congress-I and Panyam too had gone to K. Rambhupal Reddy of Congress. Nandikotkur seat was won by Thimmra Reddy of Telugu Desam party and Kodumur (SC) constituency was won by M. Shikamani of Telugu Desam party.

Dhone constituency was also a faction-ridden constituency and was dominated by K.E. Madanna and his sons. In the 1983 elections K.E. Krishna Murthy won the seat on the Congress-I ticket and in 1985 he won on the Telugu Desam party ticket. In 1989 again K.E. Krishna Murthy won it on the Congress-I ticket. Voters opted for K.E. only without bothering to which party he belonged. All together Telugu Desam party swept the polls during the 1985 elections in the district.

1989 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS:

The pre-election scene saw the growing factionalism among the rank and file of the Telugu Desam party following the murder of a Kapu Congress-I leader Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga. Thereby Kapu community managed to consolidate its solidarity. Groupism in the Telugu Desam party was still more strengthened when N.T. Rama Rao removed 31 ministers from the cabinet on the ground that the budgetary
secrets were leaked out to the press by them. Still more serious it became when leaders like Vasanta Nageswara Rao, K. Jana Reddy, K.E. Krishnamoorthy resigned from the party to form a "Telugu Nadu" which later merged into Congress (I). Besides, the Telugu Desam Party faced criticism that its rule was N.T. Rama Rao "family rule" and 'Karma' rule. Moreover the fascist attitude of N.T. Rama Rao its leader was unsparingly criticised by all.

It was a tactical folly to call for simultaneous assembly and parliament poll in Andhra pradesh. The factor which really caused the swing away from the Telugu Desam party was switch over of the youth vote to the Congress (I) side.

The Kurnool total electorate was 1,67,678 for the 1985 elections. The votes polled were 1,06,770 that is 64%. M.A. Gaffoor a Trade Union leader belonging to CPI(M) had an alliance with the Telugu Desam Party and contested from Kurnool. Abdul Khayum, Minorities leader, K. Narayana Setty of Janata party, G. Raghavendra Reddy, Independent, Syed Ahmed Mia, Independent and M.A. Sajld, independent were in the fray. But the actual contest was between the Congress-I candidate K.R. Chowdary and the Telugu Desam party alliance candidate M.A. Gafoor. A Muslim candidate was selected for Kurnool just to split the muslim votes. But M.A. Gafoor belonging to CPI(M) was not liked
In Panayam K. Ramapuapat Reddy of the Republican Party got 4,358 votes and the margin was 2,897 votes. M. V. Mohan Reddy of Telugu Desam Party won with a margin of 3,540, the joint candidate of the Congress and Indian National Congress. The votes polled were 95,131 (66%). The reserved constituency was won by M. Krishna. In all six seats, the Congress-1 candidates won with a margin of 13,737 votes. The votes polled did not cross 1,000 votes. The general of the Telugu Desam Party got 47,341 and the rest were 57,341 and M. V. K. Chowdary of the Congress-1.
Congress-I won with the margin of 15,017 votes. The Atmakur seat was won by B. Vengal Reddy with a margin of 25,021 votes.

Koilakunta, a faction-ridden segment had an electorate of 1,34,288 and votes polled were 95,759 (71%). The number of contestants were five and the seat was won by K. Subba Reddy of the Telugu Desam Party with a margin of 7,819 votes.

The Nandikotkur total electorate was 1,42,463. The votes polled were 1,05,933 (74%). There was a neck to neck contest between B. Sesha Sayana Reddy of the Congress-I and Thimma Reddy of Telugu Desam Party. Congress-I won with 4,128 vote margin.

The Kodumur S.C. constituency consisted of 1,31,082. The votes polled 91,882 (70%). Six candidates were in the fray. M. Madana Gopal, Lecturer in Kurnool Coles Junior College resigned from his post and entered politics for the first time, with the blessings of K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Lok Sabha member of Kurnool. But he couldn't contest on the Congress (I) ticket because he didn't furnish up election particulars in time. Therefore he contested on the symbol of elephant but was supported by the Congress-I. M. Sikhamani the ex-MLA of Telugu Desam Party, D. Muniswamy the nephew of D. Sanjeevaiah besides three independents were in the fray. The Congress-I candidate won the seat
with 1,311 margin. He got the total votes of 42,644 and the Telugu Desam Party candidate got 41,333 votes.

The Nandyal electorate was 1,55,474 and the votes polled were 1,11,082. Four candidates contested. V. Ramanath Reddy of Congress-I got 56,957. M. Farooq of the Telugu Desam Party got 49,957, G. Kondaiah (Independent) got 592 votes and Basi Reddy (Independent) got 446 votes. There were 3,136 invalid votes.

Dhone, a strong constituency of KE's family had a total electorate of 1,25,904. The votes polled were 92,891 (74%). Only three candidates were in the fray. K.E. Krishna Murthy of Congress-I, Challa Ramakrishna Reddy of the Telugu Desam Party and Y. Guru Das (Independent).

Both K.E. Krishna Murthy and Challa Rama Krishna Reddy were very strong faction leaders. Even at the time of filing the nomination there was a tense situation in the Dhone constituency. There was a neck to neck contest between Congress-I and Telugu Desam party. K.E. Krishna-murthy of Congress-I got 50,099. C.Rama Krishna Reddy of the Telugu Desam party got 37,874 votes whereas a constant contestant Y. Gurudas, got 1,024 votes and invalid votes were 3,894. The Congress-I candidate, K.E. Krishna Murthy won with 12,225 margin. The total electorate was 1,25,904 and the votes polled were 92,891 (74%).
The Congress (I) with 182 seats victoriously returned to power, Andhra Pradesh after seven years in wilderness on the crest of an anti-NTR wave that pervaded all the regions of the state as well as the urban and the rural areas. The electorate had delivered a clear and decisive verdict against Telugu Desam party and gave reigns of administration into the hands of the Congress.

PARTY POLITICS DURING 1975-1985:

Factionalism - Kurnool

During the period under review (1975-85) politics in this faction-ridden district had literally run into rough weather not only the blazing sun making a lot of candidates sweat but the additional thrust given to the caste factor had further added to the dimension of the problem.

Factionalism was more pronounced here than elsewhere in the Rayalaseema region. The backward class and upper caste factions were quite strong though the factions tended to be above caste configurations. The constituency has been represented by the Congress candidates seven out of nine times during 1952-89. In 1967 a Swatantra party candidate was elected and in 1984 E. Ayyapu Reddy was elected on the Telugu Desam party ticket.
During 1975-81 in Kurnool district, factionalism ruled the roost not only during election seasons but also during other time for some reason or other. However, factional factor played a lesser role in the Lok Sabha elections than in the Assembly polls, despite the fact that simultaneous polls were held.

The voters in the constituency are took note of the individual reputation and personal record of the candidate for the parliament seat but they were intelligent enough to consider other factors in regard to the candidates in the Assembly election.

"Faction" one knows but doesn't like to discuss. Because people are scared of the factional politics since 1980s. The Superintendent of Police suspended gun licences for a period of one month before elections. All persons owing fire arms were directed to deposit their weapons in the nearest police station. Each contestant was provided with a gunman for security. The rivalry among the factions had reached such heights that the Congress-I M.L.A. from Pattikonda was greeted with 60 bombs when he was proceeding for campaign. But it should be noted that K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy was not used to factional politics in his 40 years of political life. Factional politics have become a routine in Pattikonda, Allagadda, Kollakuntla, Panyam, Atmakur, Nandikotkur, Banaganapalli, Dhone, Peapully, Alur and
Kodumur. Almost all the constituencies in the district had factional politics, except Adoni and Kurnool towns.

During elections also it is not uncommon that incidents of hurling of bombs, throwing stones and snatching away of ballot papers and ballot boxes do occur. Therefore repolling was conducted in many booths of the district.

At Venkatapuram, Gunmakonda, Pattikonda, Govindapalli and Jillela in Allagadda, Halaharvi in Alur, Kanda in Nandyal repolling was conducted.

Being above factionalism K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy's in his campaign was accompanied by a convoy of cars, jeeps and Maruti Gypsies. He went about meeting village elders, delivering speeches at pre-arranged meetings, promising a bridge here and an irrigation project there and so on. Whereas the Telugu Desam party, presently Congress-I candidate E.Ayyapu Reddy's campaign was modest. Being a legal practitioner, he was cautious about making election promises, whereas the independents' style of campaign was only nominal. The Bharatiya Janata party was having some kind of presence in Kurnool, and in some parts of Adoni and Pattikonda.

The former Chief Minister and member of the Lok Sabha K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy had tough time with his own partymen in this constituency. On one side the Congress-I MLA, from Dhone KE Krishna Murthy was waging a proxy war through
the Telugu Desam party candidate, Mr. S.V. Subba Reddy and on the other the Congress-I ZPP Chairman Masala Eranna had launched a campaign against K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy though he had won the Z.P.P. polls with his help. On the very day of nomination both K.E. Krishnamurthy and Masala Eranna made it obvious to K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy that they were not interested in helping him. Both were not present when K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy filed his nomination. K.E. Krishna Murthy was appointed as AICC-I observer in Kerala. But his brothers K.E. Prathaip and K.E. Prabhakar actively campaigned for Telugu Desam Party candidates.

K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy openly confirmed to the press that "there will be no adverse effect due to the KEK factor". But K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy knew that the K.E.K family had gained support of backward class community even in Reddy's own native Mandal Kodumur. K.E.Krishna Murthy's discontentment stems from the fact that K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy had prevented his becoming a minister from the district for the second time.

K.E. Krishnamurthy organised the birth anniversary celebrations of the late Harijan Chief Minister Damodaram Sanjeevaiah and also the Centenary celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar. He used the occassions as a plank to mobilise the backward classes and the scheduled castes and to reveal
the real picture of Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy whom he portrayed as a 'feudal lord' not interested in the welfare of the oppressed. This occasion further witnessed the differences between the two which visibly survive the much publicised reconciliation between them.

The two talked with each other only through the press with each other. K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy went to the extent of complaining to the party president Rajiv Gandhi. K.E. Krishna Murthy however denied any difference with Reddy and any anti-party activity on his part while indirectly admitted that his family members were supporting the Telugu Desam Party candidate.

The Telugu Desam party candidate S.V. Subba Reddy's political antecedents were a merry mixture of opportunism and defection. He was Power Minister in Nadendla Bhaskar Rao's cabinet. He later defected to the Congress-I only to contest from the Kollakuntla segment in 1989. He lost the election. Thereafter he defected to the Telugu Desam party after getting some assurance from the Telugu Desam party leadership that he would get the ticket for the Kurnool Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr. K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy despite various obstacles won the Lok Sabha seat but with a slender majority. The
role of minorities in the election had a significant effect. The Muslims constitute a solid vote bank of 2.3 lakh votes out of 9.73 lakh voters in Kurnool. Even among some Muslims, there is a strong undercurrent of favour for the Telugu Desam Party candidates because it was through Telugu Desam party that the Law College, Hajira College for Women & Shadi Khana were sanctioned to the Muslims as gifts of Telugu Desam rule. It is however difficult to get at the reality as the minorities were not witnessed to have whole-heartedly participated in any party's campaign. Even the flower vendor is very secretive about his choice.

The district administration had identified sensitive and hyper-sensitive areas and special arrangements were made in such spots to avoid any untoward incidents. The district had been divided into 110 zones and 289 routes fixed for transportation of poll material, a day before the polling day. Altogether 2066 polling stations have been set up for 13 assembly constituencies and 2 Lok Sabha constituencies. The maximum number of votes in each polling booth was not more than 1,250. In some places separate polling booths had been set up for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. 147 polling booths had been set up for Scheduled castes exclusively and 12 for Scheduled Tribes. This was done in order to ensure free polling by the voters of these section, without any pressure from other sections.
Winning of assembly seat or Lok Sabha seat was a cakewalk for either of the parties. Dhone Assembly constituency remained a strong constituency for K.E.'s family irrespective of the party to which it might belong at any given time. In the recent elections Dhone remained an enigma to both the camps. K.E. Krishnamurthy's chances were checkmated by the presence of C.Ramakrishna Reddy, a powerful faction leader belonging to Telugu Desam Party. Therefore K.E., had tough time, but still he won the seat. K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy and K.E. were said to have buried their hatchet long standing feud but their respective supporters do not seem to have reconciled themselves to the new alliance.

Yemmiganur was considered as a safe seat for the Telugu Desam party since 1980's. Its candidate B.V. Mohan Reddy had done excellent work in his constituency. And any Congress-I candidate could be a match to B.V.Mohan Reddy.

Pattikonda, a faction-ridden constituency was for the Congress-I but later the seat has gone to Telugu Desam party candidate M.B. Guptha belonging to the Vysya community. He became a prey to the factional politics later his wife Subbarathnamma contested and won the byelection. Recently, a powerful independent Mr. Venkatappa Naidu had queered the pitch for both the Congress (I) and Telugu Desam party in the Assembly elections.
Adoni, a faction-free segment was a strong bastion of the Congress-I. There was communal politics between the muslims and the Hindus. The Hindu community was dominated by Gujarathis. They had monopoly over business in Adoni. M. Rayachoti Ramaiah won on the Congress-I ticket but the Telugu Desam party too had done well not in Assembly elections but in the Lok Sabha elections.

Alur Segment a scheduled caste reserved one is well noted for its factions. Masala Eranna represented this constituency till he became the ZPP Chairman. In the by-election because of the factions among the Congress I party the Telugu Desam party knocked away the seat and also captured the mandals.

Kodumur the Scheduled Caste reserved constituency had acquired much political importance. The constituency was once represented by Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Ex-Chief Minister and ex-AICC president. The Kurnool district gets the credit for presenting a scheduled caste candidate for the first time in India who was made the Chief Minister and AICC President. Later the constituency was dominated by D. Munuswamy, nephew of D. Sanjeevaiah belonging to the Congress-I. During 1980's Sikhamani won the seat on Telugu Desam party ticket. In the recent elections D. Munuswamy found himself ignored out and the ticket
was given to outsider Madana Gopal. But he couldn't submit 'B' form for allotment of party symbol in time and had been allotted a different symbol 'elephant'. He won the seat because of the full support of K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy. In this constituency also we find factions among the Reddies and among the Scheduled Castes.

NANDYAL:

Nandyal too was a faction-ridden Lok Sabha constituency of Kurnool district. It has been a congress stronghold for a long time, though Communists too wielded influence in some pockets.

In 1977 Lok Sabha elections Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Ex-President of India contested on the Janata ticket and won the seat. All the other 41 seats of the Andhra Pradesh state were retained by Congress in those polls.

According to 1991 census it had a population of 1,18,766. The constituency was represented by the Congress for seven out of ten times during 1952-91. In 1952 an independent had won the seat and in 1977 N. Sanjeeva Reddy, Ex-President won on Janata ticket. In the latest Lok Sabha poll, P.V. Narasimha Rao won seat with more than five lakh majority on the Congress-I ticket, within six months after becoming the Prime Minister of India. The Nandyal segment is the only segment in the country which was once represented
by an ex-president and now by the present Prime Minister. In 1984 M. Subba Reddy of the Telugu Desam Party had won the seat. Out of ten times the seat was retained by the Congress-I for seven times.

Maddur Subba Reddy, enjoys a reputation for bearing a clear personal record. He held various positions in his long political career in the district. He is a Congress stalwart from that constituency. He is related to the Congress-I candidate Bojja Venkata Reddy, who is also Kurnool DCC-I President and well known in the constituency. Though Bojja Venkata Reddy doesn't have any faction with M. Subba Reddy, he is a faction leader and has been in the political scene right from 1967 onwards. He was elected to the state Assembly as an Independent in 1967 defeating E. Ayyapu Reddy, Ex-Law Minister and Ex-M.P. of Kurnool from Panyam. He was elected again in 1972 and 1978 and 1985. He was elected from Atmakur on the Telugu Desam party ticket but later joined the Telugu Nadu party along with K.E. Krishnamurthy and recently joined the Congress-I and won the Loksabha seat from Nandyal in 1989 against M.Subba Reddy, a Telugu Desam party candidate. The Nandyal area is dominated by his faction irrespective of his political affiliations. He has the support of some local Telugu Desam party leaders. He has good base in three out of six mandals of Atmakur.
Byreddy Seshasayana Reddy, M.L.A., of Nandikotkur Constituency, is a faction leader. He is an accused in the murder of Damagatla Sarpanch, D. Pulla Reddy. His campaigning was largely on factional lines. He was elected to the Assembly in 1978 and was a Minister for Housing. Later he was elected to the Assembly as an Independent in 1983 merely because of the dominance of his faction. In 1985 he was defeated by I. Thimma Reddy of Telugu Desam party by a margin of 4,724 votes.

The Congress-I candidate S.V. Subba Reddy was elected as an independent from Allagadda constituency (Bombula Gadda - a place of bombs) earlier. He joined the Telugu Desam party in 1983 and was elected from Allagadda by defeating the Congress-I rival Mr. G. Pratap Reddy by a margin of 1,400 votes. S.V. Subba Reddy joined again the Congress-I in 1987. He later defected to the Congress-I only to contest from the Kollakuntla segment in 1989. He lost the election. Thereafter he defected to the Telugu Desam party once again with the assurance of getting ticket for the Lok Sabha from Kurnool in 1989. He contested against K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy of the Congress-I but was defeated.

Gangula Pratap Reddy, Congress-I candidate from Allagadda contested for Nandyal Loksabha in 1989 and won but sacrificed the seat for P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister.
Gangula Pratap Reddy the Rajya Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh too is a factional leader. He participated in Hunger strike by the Rayalaseema Vimochana Samithi seeking completion of various pending projects in the region. He also took part in the agitation for Potireddypadu Head Regulator and Bankacharla Cross Regulator.

Allagadda segment is known for its own style of factionalism. Leaders cannot rely upon the voters. People are least concerned about the factions of the leaders. They choose their own way for voting. But they never disappoint leaders. Alternatively, they see that leaders win the seat that is, if they give chance to the Congress (I) in one election, next time they opt for Telugu Desam party. The third chance will go to an independent. But the factions are intra-caste factions. They manufacture country bombs in Allagadda itself. All the faction leaders are having highly sophisticated guns apparently maintained for their personal safety. Leaders maintain their own security men. They are well trained in using guns and are ready to sacrifice their own lives for the sake of their leader. Many times in the factional fights the security men lost their lives. But the maintenance of their family would be gladly taken up by the leaders concerned.

Sometimes the factional leaders themselves make their followers to contest elections against them as Independents.
This is so arranged just to avoid neck to neck contests and to make it appear as if there are so many in the fray. Sometimes the faction leaders pl., gimmicks regarding the names and misguide the voters. Sometimes the name of the opposite candidates and the name of the followers are the same except for the surname. They make their contest as independents, so that because of the same name the voters will be confused and there is every possibility to lose some votes by the candidate of the same name. Sometimes if there is no chance of winning, opposite faction will not hesitate to murder the contesting independent candidate. As a result there is possibility of changing the trend and the election will be countermanded. Upto last moment one cannot predict whether election would take place in Allagadda or not. 'd factionalism became intense in 1980's because of the emergence of the Telugu Desam party.

CONGRESS (I) POSITION - AFTER 1985:

The Congress-I has emerged as a powerful force in the district as a result of the 1989 elections. Besides winning both the Lok Sabha seats from the Telugu Desam party the Congress-I has also won ten assembly seats, including one independent supported by it. The Telugu Desam party which had won nine assembly seats in the last election, won only three seats this time. It was evident
that the District Congress-I leaders had taken the 1987 elections as a challenge and therefore wrestled through politically with distinction.

The efforts of a former Chief Minister and Union Minister K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy were fruitful. The return of K.E. Krishna Murthy to the Congress-I told strengthened the party to a large extent. The entry of another influential leader of Atmakur B. Vengal Reddy into Congress-I further strengthened the party.

Though the reapproachment between K.E. Krishna Murthy and K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy is likely to end factional rivalries to a large extent, the understanding between the two leaders does not seem to have percolated to the grass roots. Both prominent leaders talk to each other through press.

At the same time bickerings among Telugu Desam party leaders and their lack of co-ordination effort to win elections helped the Congress (I) to win elections in the district. Besides the Congress-I leadership in Kurnool had been consistently building its organisation after its rout in the earlier elections. The party put up a grand show both in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
TELUGU DESAM PARTY POSITION AFTER 1985:

During the 1989 elections the Telugu Desam party organisation failed to discipline its erring members in many cases. There was lack of understanding in the selection of candidates. B.V. Mohan Reddy of Yennuganur was kept incharge of Kurnool district. E. Ayyapu Reddy, Ex-M.P. from Kurnool resigned his Telugu Desam party membership and supported Congress (I) party. There was hardly any understanding or co-ordination between the important leaders of the party B.V. Mohan Reddy, and M. Subba Reddy. It was also learnt that atleast three TDP Mandal president in Dhone constituency supported the Congress-I candidate, K.E. Krishna Murthy.

According to political observers, the reasons for the debacle of the Telugu Desam party in the Kurnool district was mainly due to lack of co-ordination among its leaders. B.V. Mohan Reddy couldn't command discipline and was also not that politically experienced when compared with the Congress-I leaders of the district. It was also evident that leaders mostly confined themselves to their respective areas before and during the elections. They didn't care to improve the party image in all parts of the district coupled with this was the antipathy of various sections of people towards the Telugu Desam party Government. This state of affairs was successfully exploited by the Congress-I in the district.
In 1983 elections the Congress-I was routed by the Telugu Desam which fought alone without alliance and achieved victory with a voting tally of 46.6%. In 1985, the Telugu Desam party had alliance with the CPI(M), Janata, BJP & Congress (S) and secured a grand victory with a voting tally of 54.5%. But in Kurnool it lost the seat for V.Ramabhupal Chowdary of Congress-I. In 1989 with alliance the Telugu Desam party faced defeat.

Thus the wheel of political fortune turned full circle and the party of N.T. Rama Rao who had ridden to power in 1983 and 1985 on a massive anti-Congress I wave had to face a difficult situation.

THE IMPACT OF CASTE ON THE ELECTORAL POLITICS OF KURNOOL DISTRICT:

Since 1975, the new forces dominated the district politics of Kurnool and the role of oldguards is made secondary. The party was relying upon the youth for its substantial strength. Besides much source of energy and strength came from backward classes and minorities. The split of the Congress after emergency crisis did not effect the profile of the Kurnool district. People still believed in the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi. Though she was not in power, people still believed that she was the Prime Minister of India and the only Goddess who could uplift the poor. It was this faith that enabled them to sail
comfortably. The oldest major virtue after 1986's was their sense of pragmatism and willingness to co-operate with the heterogeneous elements of the society.

Another feature of the caste politics in Andhra Pradesh was its blending with the regional politics. The people of a particular caste living predominantly in a particular region imitated caste-cum-regional colour to the issue. Therefore the regional claims in Andhra were often only a disguise for caste claims.

During the period of this study, in Kurnool caste associations became more vocal and politically conscious. They were demanding more economic facilities and better social standing in politics. In this process of change and development numerous communities became politically self-conscious. The political parties, while professing to be secular in theory, were in practice, caste-ridden and had their base at the local level mainly in caste.

In allotting its tickets, any party's main consideration was only the winning chance of the candidates. Reddies dominated the scene since independence. The Congress (I) party or any other party used to choose only Reddy candidates to contest. Therefore, competition was among the reddis only. Inspite of the fact that the Reddis had been a dominant force in the politics of Kurnool,
they were not a numerically dominant caste. Their dominance lies in their economic background. Besides, some reddy families were rulers or the Jagirdars. By nature they were bold and dominating in society. These were the reasons for the domination of the Reddy caste in the district. And factional politics were rampant only among the Reddies. Backward class supports either one or the other faction group. This trend was only seen particularly at the village level.

Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes were not concentrated at one place. Scheduled castes were more populated in Alur and Kodumur segments. Therefore both were reserved constituencies for SCs. Here among the scheduled caste there were two sects - 'Malas' whose occupation was agriculture or they work as servants in the landlords houses, 'Madigas' - whose occupation was shoe making and they worked as menials. Malas always thought themselves as superior to Madigas. And from the beginning Malas had been dominating the Madigas. D. Sanjeevaiah belonged to mala community and his nephew D. Munuswamy continued to represent Kodumur on behalf of Congress-I. After 1980s due to the emergence of Telugu Desam party the clash between two sects became severe and the Telugu DESam party had given ticket to Sikhamani belonging to the Madiga community.
and he won Kodumur seat, just because the population of Madigas was more in the area and Malas who supported the Congress (I) naturally voted for their own candidate. But in 1989 the Congress (I) changed its strategy and it selected a Madiga candidate, Madana Gopal to contest and he won the seat from Kodumur.

In Alur constituency, the candidate of any party was selected according to the numerical strength of the caste, usually a person from the Mala community would be selected. Masala Eranna was representing the segment. Later after he became the ZPP Chairman, Rangaiah won the seat on the Telugu Desam party ticket.

The two scheduled castes 'Mala' and 'Madigas' are called 'Harijans'. But both do not mix with each other. Most of these sects settled in Kurnool town and embraced Christianity. They became educated and with the help of foreign christian missionaries they established schools, colleges and hostels. These people are generally for Congress-I party. They were never bothered about the caste to which the candidate belonged. Their vote is always for the Congress-I only.

The Muslim community is in numerical strength in Kurnool, Bananganapalli, Owk, Nandyal, Dhone and in other places. Because of their strength usually local bodies
are represented only by Muslim community both in Kurnool and Nandyal. Recently during the Telugu Desam party regime Kurnool Municipality and Zilla Parishad is reserved for SCs. Thus at present the local bodies are represented by the SC candidates.

The Muslim community during the Telugu Desam party rule supported E. Ayyapu Reddy for the Loksabha and Rambhupal Chowdary for the Assembly seats. As a reward Muslim community was given a Law college, a Women's college and a Shadikhana.

Traditionally, the Minorities of the District that is the Christians and the orthodox Muslims have been Congress supporters. They never interfere in the faction politics of the district. Therefore all the parties try to capture their vote bank because of their strength.

The Backward classes put together are represented by K.E. Krishnamurthy, a backward community, M.L.A. of Dhone constituency. He belongs to Ediga to Gowd community and on this plea also he was given Ministry of Major Irrigation in the Telugu Desam Party government. He is having sway over Dhone, Peapully and parts of Kurnool and is a faction leader. Therefore irrespective of the party to which he belongs a ticket is invariably given to him for every election.
The caste has become important in politics because politics is highly competitive. If politics exploit caste organisation, caste also gets an opportunity to assert its identity and its position. Above all it is factions among leaders which play an important role in the politics of Kurnool district. Factions mostly confined to the Reddy community but backward classes and scheduled castes too have their own factions.