APPENDIX – I
APPENDIX - I

SYRIAN CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THE CABINET

A Brief History of Kerala Legislative Council/Assembly

The Travancore Legislative Council came into existence in 1886 as a result of a positive response from the rulers of Travancore to the political aspirations of the state. The Travancore Legislative Council is believed to be the first institution of its kind to have been formed in any native state. This body together with the SreeMoolam Popular Assembly of Travancore conferred an opportunity on the people to bring their grievances to the notice of the state. In 1932 the Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council were formally converted into two chambers of the Legislature with elections from general and special constituencies to the Assembly.

After the Indian independence the state of Travancore and Cochin merged in 1949 and the integrated state came with a new Legislative Assembly drawn from both segments. In 1956, with the merger (Travancore-Cochin) and Malabar a new state known as Kerala was formed and the present Kerala Legislative Assembly came into existence after passing through various stages. The Legislative bodies completed 100 years on 30 March 1988.¹

¹ Website, Information System section, Legislative Assembly of Kerala.
In this chapter we would like to highlight some of the prominent Syrian Christian leaders who made indelible imprint in the political horizon of Kerala right from the dawn of independence till the year 1980. The following leaders contributed heavily for our Motherland by participating in the epoch making freedom struggle of India. They were loyal to the Christian Community and also upheld the Christian values, which inspired them and their community. Politics was centered on caste, religion and community. The Christian leaders were secular in their outlook and they had broad vision about the state as well as to their community. One of the outstanding points that we can learn from these leaders is that although they were loyal to their community, they were secular in their perceptive and outlook. They were all men of high caliber based on patriotism, democratic goals and ideals. Their political activity was not confined to Kerala. It was extended to the whole of India. Here we would like to highlight their bio-data and contribution to their community and to keep alive the spirit of freedom and democracy.

1) Mrs. Accamma Cherian (1909-1982)

Accamma Cherian was a pioneer in the freedom struggle. She hailed from a well known Syrian Catholic family from Kanjirappally in the District of Kottayam in Kerala. She was born on 15 February
1909. In those days especially during the freedom struggle, hardly any women took part in it. Accamma Cherian was a rare phenomenon among the women from the Syrian Catholic community. She joined the freedom struggle by abandoning her lucrative assignment as the Headmistress of St. Mary's High School, Kanjirappally.

She became the President of Travancore State Congress at the age of 29. After assuming the office of the President of Congress she led an agitation march against the Maharaja of Travancore. The Maharaja could not control such a massive agitation for freedom led by this strong woman. She was a patriot and she persuaded ordinary people of Kerala to move against the misrule of the colonial masters and inculcated in them the spirit of freedom for their Motherland India. She was not only a patriot but also a lover of her community. When Sir. C.P. the Diwan (Minister) of Travancore decided to nationalize all the Private Schools she stood with her community and fought against the willful and intolerant nationalization interest of Sir. C.P. She spoke vehemently against the arbitrary actions of the Maharaja and his Minister. She organized her own community and led them against the Maharaja protesting such an inhuman

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2 John, Kachiramattam Sabha Rainangal (Malayalam), Pizhak: Dr. Kachiramattam Foundation, 2001, p.1083.

action. When she led the agitation against the British imperialists she was arrested and imprisoned. But the colonial masters could not suppress Accama Cherian's desire for the freedom of the country. She became a member of Travancore Legislative Assembly in 1948 and subsequently the Travancore-Cochin Assembly in 1949-51. She was the recipient of the covetous Thambra Patra award in 1972. She died on 5 May 1982 at the age of 73.

2) Antony. A.K (1940-)

Mr. A.K. Antony was the Chief Minister of Kerala during 1977-78, 1995-96, and 2001-2004. When he became the Chief Minister in 1977, he was the youngest Chief Minister of the State. Still he holds that record. He was the Leader of Opposition in Kerala Legislative Assembly during 1996 to 2001. Born on 28th December 1940 as the son of Arackaparambil Kurian Pillai and Elikutty at Cherthala in Alappuzha District, he did his primary education in Government High school, Cherthala and took his BA- degree from Maharajas College, Ernakulam and BL from Government Law College, Ernakulam.

Mr. A K Antony entered into politics by organising students of Cherthala Taluk. He came to the public platform leading the student’s movements as an activist of Kerala Student's Union
(KSU). He was the leader of many strikes like "ORU ANA SAMARAM" (Single Penny Strike). He served as the President of KSU, Youth Congress and KPCC before becoming the AICC General Secretary in 1994. When he became the KPCC President he was the youngest person who had been elevated to that post.⁴ He was elected several times to the Kerala Assembly.

3) Chacko, P.T. (1915-1964)

P.T. Chacko was born into a prominent Syrian Catholic family on the 9th April 1915 near Vazhoor in Kottayam district. He joined the State Congress in 1938 and actively participated in the independence struggle. He was elected from Akalakkunnam constituency in the 1948 elections. He was enrolled as an advocate of the Travancore High court in 1941 and was President of the Catholic Youth Congress. He was the first Chief Whip of the Travancore Legislative Congress party and the secretary of the Legislature Congress party in the Travancore-Cochin Assembly.⁵ In the year 1948 Chacko was elected unopposed to the Tirukochi State Assembly from Akalakkunnam constituency.

He was elected to the Indian Constituent Assembly in 1949, to the Lok Sabha from Meenachil Constituency in 1952, and to the

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⁴ Website, op.cit.
⁵ Dr. P.K. Rajasekharan, ed., op.cit.
Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1957 representing Vazhoor constituency. He played a major role in the Liberation Struggle (Vimochana Samaram) of 1959. He was elected to the State Legislative Assembly from Meenachil constituency in the 1960 Assembly elections. He was Home Minister in 1960 coalition Government under the leadership of R. Shankar. Later following a scandal he was forced to resign. Afterwards Congressman loyal to Sri P.T. Chacko joined together and formed a new political party: The Kerala Congress. He died on the 1st of August 1964, in Calicut.

Mr. Chacko was an ardent supporter of the Syrian Catholic community. He was an ardent supporter of his community during the liberation struggle. The liberation struggle was actually sponsored by the Syrian Catholic community in order to protect their educational institutions from the educational policy of the Communist Government in 1958.

4) Chandy, K.M. Professor, (1921-1998)

Professor KM. Chandy was born into a Syrian Catholic family at Palai on 6 August 1921. While he was a student at St.Thomas High School Palai he entered into the freedom struggle responding to the call of Mahatma Gandhi. The Diwan of Travancore (Minister) Sir C.P. Rama Swamy Aiyar decided to nationalize all the private
schools. As a mark of protest he joined hands with the Christian community against the unjust decision of Sir. C.P. The Catholic community under the banner of the Catholic Congress led this movement. Prof. Chandy was a member of the Catholic Congress. The Catholic Congress led a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle of Syrian Christian community at Mylapore near Madras. Chandy was a member of the pilgrimage; it reflected his community spirit as well as his concern for his community. He actively took part in the freedom struggle and was a member of the Kerala state legislature for three consecutive terms that is from 1948 to 1954. He served in various capacities as a College Professor, KPCC General Secretary, President and the Chairman of the Rubber Board and as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. He was a strong supporter of the Christian community especially of the Syrian Catholic community as well as a political leader from Kerala. He died on 7 September 1998.

5) George. K.M (1919-1976)

K.M. George was born on January 18, 1919. He was a Syrian Catholic who joined the Indian National Congress in 1941. He was

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the editor of Deepika, a Syrian Catholic daily, during 1945-48 and was also the editor of 'Pouradhwany', another Malayalam daily from 1948 to 1950. He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1957, 1960, 1965, and 1967. He was the Founder-Chairman of the Kerala Congress from 1964. He was the minister for Transport and health during 1969-70. He was the leader of Kerala Congress Legislature party and also the Minister for Transport in the coalition government of 1970. He died on 11th December 1976.

He became a prominent leader from the Syrian Catholic Community through Kerala Congress. Kerala Congress was a fraction of the Congress Party. Most of the Christians in the Congress joined Kerala Congress. Thus, Kerala Congress became the party mainly supported by the Syrian Christian community. Through Kerala Congress K.M. George could command great respect and support form the Syrian Christian Community especially among the Syrian Catholics of Kerala.

6) George Thomas Kottukappally (1901-1970)

George Thomas Kottukappally was a well-known parliamentarian. He was the leader of the Members of parliament from Kerala. He was born into a Syrian Catholic family on 29th

Dr. P. John, John, Coalition Governments in Kerala, Trivandrum: All Rights Reserved Publications 1983, p.207
October 1901 at Palai in Kottayam District in Kerala. He did his
primary education at St. Thomas School Palai, High School
education in St. Eprehem's High school at Mannanam and completed
his higher education in Calcutta. He returned to his native place in
Kerala after completing his High school studies. It was the time of
freedom struggle in Kerala and he was inspired by his elder brother
Joseph and became one of the founding members of Indian National
Congress in Meenachil taluk, his own hometown.8

After independence the first parliamentary election was held
in 1952. He had contested from Meenachil constituency and was
declared elected. In the 1957 parliamentary elections he contested
from Moovattupuzha constituency as a Congress candidate and was
declared elected. This time he was elected as the leader of the
Members of parliament from Kerala. He was one of the members of
the delegation to the U.N.O. led by V.K. Krishna Menon 1957. As a
member of parliament he always stood for the development of
Kerala. The Ernakulam -Kottyam railway line was sanctioned by the
Central Government through the influence of Kottukappally. And
again the Hydro electricity project was sanctioned by the Central
Government through the influence of Kottukappally. He was not
only a politician but also a lover of his community. He was the

8 John, Kachiramattam, Sabha Ratnangal (Malayalam), Pizhak: Dr. Kachiramattam
founding patron of the Catholic Trust in Kerala and also its first treasurer. In every respect he was a patriot and a well wisher of his community. He died on 10th October 1970.

7) Jacob M.M. (1933-)

Shri Mundackal Mathew Jacob was born into a Syrian Catholic family at Ramapuram, Kottayam District, Kerala State to Shri Ulahannan Mathew and Shrimati Rosamma Mundackal. He married Achamma Kunnuthara from Thiruvalla.

Education

He pursued his education in the University College, Trivandrum, Sacred Heart College Thevara, Cochin, Loyola College, Madras, and the Lucknow University. He is a graduate in Law and has a Masters Degree in Political Science. He holds a diploma in Income Tax and Law as well. He did a course in social work in the University of Chicago, U.S.A.

As a student, he held key positions in the college and university student bodies. He is a good orator, both in Malayalam and English. He was also a good athlete participating in sports and games. He was a cadet of the Travancore University Cadet Corps (later called the N.C.C) and the Indian Air Training Corps (I A T C).

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Freedom Movement

As a student, Shri M.M. Jacob took an active part in the Freedom movement. He participated in the meetings and demonstrations for the freedom of India while in school and college. He was elected General Secretary of the College Union, Thevara (Madras University) and later elected offices in student bodies in Madras and Lucknow Universities. As a member of the All India Student Federation (in school) and later in college at Trivandrum, in an independent Student Organization, he took part in various activities connected with the freedom struggle.

As a Lawyer

Shri Jacob enrolled as a lawyer in the High Court of Kerala in 1952 and practiced as a lawyer specializing in Taxation matters at Kottayam.

Youth and Social Worker

Shri Jacob was drawn to social and political movements in the early fifties. When Acharya Vinobha Bhave started to propagate Bhoodan movement in the country to give land to the landless, Shri Jacob joined the movement and organised Youth Leaders training camps for spreading the message of Bhoodan in many parts of Kerala. He also served as the Joint Secretary of the Bhoodan Mobile
Work Squad with Headquarters at Mangamm Asram, Kottayam. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice-President of India, came to Kottayam and blessed the Bhoodan Mobile Work Squad.

Shri Jacob was a delegate from the State to attend the All India Bhoodan Conference and Sarvodaya Sammelan organised at the initiative of Acharya Vinobha Bhave at Bodh Gaya, Bihar in 1954 and blessed by the then Rashtrapati, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He contested from Palai constituency to the Kerala Assembly elections in 1964 and 1967 under Congress party ticket, but lost. He was made a deputy minister for Foreign Affairs under Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the year 1980. Now he is the Governor of Meghalaya.

8) John, A.J. (1893-1957)

A.J. John was born on 5th July 1893, in Vaikom at Thalayolaparamb in Kerala. He was a devoted Syrian Catholic Christian. He was an ardent Congressman. He was elected to the Travancore Princely State Assembly in 1937. He was a prominent leader of the "Abstention Movement" during 1932-34. He was one of the signatories of the Memorandum submitted to the Maharaja of Travancore in 1934 demanding communal representation on the basis of population. He was the first elected president of the

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9 Internet, Loksabha Library Records About 5th and 6th Loksabha.
10 Dr. P. John, John, op.cit., P.207.
Travancore Representative Body, which also functioned as the Legislative Assembly after the elections in 1948 based on adult Franchise. In 1949 he resigned and joined the Council of ministers. He was in-charge of Finance and continued to be so till the first general elections. He was the Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin during 1952-54. He became the Governor of Madras in 1956. He died on October 1, 1957.

He was a strong supporter of the Syrian Catholic community. As a Congress follower he always stood for his party by participating in the Abstention Movement, the freedom struggle, and fighting for the self-rule of the Princely States of Kerala. Besides these he fought against the nationalization of the educational institutions of the Christians by the Diwan Sir C.P of Travancore. As a minister he always tried to protect the interests of his community especially regarding schools of his community.

9) Joseph, P.J. (1942-)

Mr. P.J. Joseph is the leader of Kerala Congress Joseph Group. He is the son of Mr. P.O Joseph, was born into a Syrian Catholic family in Parappuzha near Thodupuzha in Idukki district on 10th June 1942. He did his Primary and High school studies at his

11 Dr. P.K. Rajasekharan, ed., op.cit.186.
native place. He did his College studies at Loyola College Madras and St. Thomas College Trichur and Sacred Heart College Thevara. P.J. Joseph joined the Kerala Congress in 1968. He climbed up the ladder of the party slowly and steadily by taking up many assignments in the party. He became the General Secretary of the Kerala congress in 1976. He was elected to the Kerala University Syndicate in 1976. He was continuously elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1970, 1977, 1980 and 1988 from Thodupuzha constituency. He was the Minister for Home from January 16, 1978 to September 14, 1978.\textsuperscript{12} He is a leading politician. Kerala Congress is a regional party dominated by the Kerala Syrian Christians. When Kerala Congress was split into two groups Joseph became the Chairman of one of the splinter groups and it is known as Kerala Congress Joseph group.

10) **KORA, K. M.(1901-1973)**

Karvelithara Mathew Kora was born on 25\textsuperscript{th} December 1901 into a Syrian Catholic family in Alleppy District in Kerala. He did his primary education at his native place in Pulinkunnu, High School education at St. Bercumens School Changanacherry, College Education at Ernakulam Mahrajas College and Madras Christian

College. During this time he joined the Nivarthanna Prastanam. It was a movement of the Christian Ezhava and Muslim communities because they were not getting due share of jobs in the government services from the part of the Maharaja of Travancore. He was one of the luminaries of that movement. In the meantime he took initiative to start the Travancore state Congress. He was one of the founding fathers of the Travancore state Congress. He was a member of the Travancore state Assembly during 1948-1949 and he was elected from Changanacherry Assembly in Kerala 1948-1949. But he resigned his membership in the Assembly in response to the call of the state Congress party.¹³ Then he took part in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned three times.

When the first Communist Government headed by Sri E.M.S. Namboodiripad, his cabinet colleague Prof. Joseph Mundassery brought the Education Bill in view of nationalizing the Private Schools. The Christian community protested the aggressive nationalization policy of the government. He extended his support to the Christian community and protested against such an action taken by the government.

Soon after independence when the first election was conducted to the Travancore state assembly he had contested from Changanacherry constituency and won. Thus he became a member of the state Legislative Assembly of Travancore. In the election Congress party secured absolute majority and formed the ministry under Pattam Thanu Pallai one of the prominent leaders of the Congress party. In the newly formed ministry under Pattam, Kora was made a minister and assigned the portfolio of food and agriculture. When the new state known as Thiru-Kochi came into existence a new ministry was formed in 1951 under the stewardship of the Congress leader C.Keasavan. In the newly formed ministry headed by C.Keasvan, K.M.Kora was a minister. Here also he was assigned the portfolio of food and agriculture.

In the 1952 elections he contested from Manimala constituency and elected to the Thiru-Kochi state assembly. The Congress party secured absolute majority and formed the ministry under the Congress leader Panampally Govinda Menon, and K.M.Kora was the deputy leader of the Congress party in the state Assembly. During this time the state reunification took place in India on the basis of language. The state reunification decided to cede Kanyakumari District to the Madras province because majority of the people were speaking Tamil. But Kora was against the
linguistic division and he protested vehemently against the ceding of Kanyakumari to Madras state. When the Thiru-Kochi government led by the Congress party under Panampally, objected to this move of the government and resigned as the deputy leader of the Congress party. And he retired from active politics.

He was a member of the All Kerala Catholic Congress (AKCC) and was actively involved in the activities of the Church. Besides he spent most of his time in farming and agriculture. He devoted his time to uplift the Syrain Catholic community. He died on 3rd May 1971.

11) Mani, K. M. (1933-)

K.M. Mani was born at Marangattupally as the Son of Thomas and Aleyamma. Mani practiced as a lawyer before entering into politics as an active member of the Indian National Congress. He was a Founder Member of Kerala Congress and served as General Secretary of the Party. Later he became the Chairman of Kerala Congress (M).

He was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1965 from the Pala Constituency of Kottayam district, and since then he won all the ten elections that followed, he was elected to K.L.A in 1965, 1967, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1996 and

Sri. K.M. Mani made the record of winning 10 times in succession from the same constituency, representing the Palai Constituency of Kottayam district. He first became MLA in 1965 and Minister in 1975. He had handled various portfolios like Home, Finance, Revenue, Electricity, Irrigation, Housing, Law, Public Relations etc. in the former ministries,

**Portfolios:** Land Revenue, Land Reforms, Survey and Land Records, Legal, Metrology, Law, Housing.


Chempakaserril Mathai Stephen popularly known as C.M. Stephen in Indian politics was a well known politician, trade union leader and leader of the opposition party in the parliament. He was born on 23rd December 1918 into a Syrian Christian (Marthomite)

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14 R. Banerjee R. Cyrene, op.cit., p.225.
family at Mavelikkara in Kerala. C.M. Stephen did his school education at Mavelikkara, intermediate at U.C College Alway and Bachelor’s Degree in the University College Trivandrum. But he could not complete his course due to his active involvement in the freedom struggle. Since he could not complete his course he joined Trichur St. Thomas College and completed his Degree course. Then he did his Bachelor of Law at Trivandrum Law Collage.

After completing his course, he started his career as the editor of a magazine published from Bombay. There he could not complete his assignment and returned to Kerala. After returning to Kerala he started practicing as a lawyer in Quilon. There he spent less time for his practice and more time spent for organizing and establishing Congress party’s trade union wing known as INTUC. He became the President of Congress parties Quilon District Unit.

He was a member of Kerala Legislature Assembly in 1960 and 1965. He was elected to the Loksabha in 1971 from Moovattupuzha constituency and in 1977 from Idukki constituency. In 1978 he became the Opposition Leader of Congress (I) in Parliament. He was elected from Gulberga constituency in a bye-election. He became the Information and Broadcasting Minister in 1980 under

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Mrs. Gandhi. In 1982 he became the General Secretary of the Congress Party.

Mr. Stephen was an indomitable leader of the Congress party and a well-known orator in Malayalam. He died on 16th January 1984.

13) Thariath Kunjithomman, Chevalier (1882-1955)

Chevalier Thariath Kunjithomman was born at Kothamangalam in Idukki District on 28th July 1888. He was born into a rich family and focused his attention on agriculture. During this time he was elected to the Prajasabha of the state Legislative Assembly of Cochin Princely state. He continued as a member of the Prajasabha for a long time. When Travancore and Cochin became one state he had contested from Moovatupuzha and became a member of the Prajasabha.

As a member of the Prajasabha he looks part in the abstention movement sponsored by Christians, Ezhavas and other supported by Congress party. He fought for the equality of Christians as well as backward communities for the reservation of jobs. He demanded that the Christian community especially Syrian and Latin Catholic communities should be given special reservation in jobs. As a member of the State Legislative Assembly he clamoured for giving
reservation for the Christian community to get jobs in the princely state of Thiru-Kochi.

He was a lover of his Community and stood firmly to protect its rights and privileges as a member of the Assembly. As a member of the Prajasabha (member of the State Assembly), he was committed to the uplift of his community from socio political and economic backwardness. He was highly respected among the Syrian Catholic Community and the head of the Catholic Church the Pope gave him the honorary title Defender of the Church, popularly known as Chevalier. He was to the Syrian Catholic Church what Daniel Okkanol to the Irish Catholic Church and Charles Mondalanambart to the French Catholic Church.16

14) Thomas P.J. MA, Ph.D (Oxford), D Lit (1893-1965)

Dr P.J. Thomas was one of the luminaries of the Syrian Catholic community. He was born on 25th February 1893 at Kuravilangad in Kottayam Dt, in Kerala. He did his schooling in St. Eprehem’s High School Mannanam and intermediate studies at C.M.S. College Kottayam. After completing his studies, he joined St Joseph's College Trichy. There he successfully completed his B A (honours). He secured first rank from Madras University for B.A.

16 M.O. Joseph, Nedumkunnam, op.cit, p.244.
Then he went abroad for higher studies at Balliol College that is affiliated to Oxford University, There he successfully completed his B.Lit and D.Phil. His doctoral thesis was Mercantilism and East India trade.

He joined Ceylon University College as a lecturer in the year 1922. After a few Years of service in Ceylon, he joined as the Professor of Economics in Madras University. His scholarliness was not confined to the classrooms. He went around villages and studied their way life. He wrote articles in India as well as International journals about the backwardness of Indian Villages and put forward his on solutions for the poor conditions of the villages in India. His contribution was well accepted by the Madras Government. He was appointed as the adviser to the Chief Minister of Madras. He was one of the members of the Indian delegation to the first of the U.N meeting held at Sanfranscico in U.S.A. After returning to India he was appointed the economic adviser to the Government of India. He retired from service on 25th February 1948. In 1957 the Communist Government led by Sri. E.M.S. Namboodiripad nominated him as a member of the Rajyasabha.

He was one of the luminaries among the Syrian Catholic community. He was a great lover of his community. He was the Chairperson of the AKCC (All Kerala Catholic Conference) meeting.
held at Kainakari in Alleppy, Dt. in 1942. He wrote many articles and books about economics, about St.Thomas the Apostle and the Syrian Christian community. He spent most of his time for the socio-economic and educational progress of his community. He took initiative as well as spent money for starting cottage industries in view of empowering women. He was a scholar, writer, economist and a church historian and above all he was a great son of the Syrian Christian community. This great son of the Syrian Christian Catholic community died on July 26, 1965.

15) Thomas R.V. (1899-1955)

He was born in 1899 into a well known Syrian Catholic family in Palai. After completing his law, he began his career as an advocate. During this time he took part actively in the freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi. He became a member of the Travancore State Assembly in 1934 and was one of the leading figures of the founding of State Congress. He fought against the educational nationalization of schools by the Dewan of Travancore. He strongly supported the Christian community to defend their schools against the arbitrary and ruthless attitude of C.P. to nationalize private schools.

17 M.O. Joseph Nedumkunnam, op.cit, p.215.  
18 John Kachiramattam,op.cit,op.cit, p.351  

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He was the leader of the Congress and led an agitation against the nationalization of private schools by the Dewan of Travancore, Sir. C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar. Soon after independence he had contested to the first state legislative elections from Meenachil and won the election and became a member of the Assembly. He was elected as the speaker of the Assembly. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly. Besides this he was a member of the public service commission in the former Thiru-Kochi state. He died on 22nd January 1956. He was a man of high ideals and principles. He was a devout son of the Syrian Christian community as well a great freedom fighter.

16) Varghese, T. M (1885-1961)

T.M. Varghese was born on 21st April 1885, in Pallikal near Kayamkulam. He belonged to the Marthoma Church. Marthoma Church is one among the Syrian Christian Churches. He was a planter who built the Rajagiri and Skinnerpuram rubber plantations. He was a teacher. Then he took his law degrees and began to practice at Quilon. He was an active leader of the Abstention Movement. T.M. Varghese, A.J. John, Vayala Idiculla, and other Christian leaders took an active part in the struggle against the repressive rule of Sir. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar (Dewan or Prime Minster of Travancore) and for self-rule. Under these leaders the
Syrian Christian community played an important role to achieve responsible government for the states of Travancore and Cochin within the framework of the Indian Union.\textsuperscript{19} He was a member of the Travancore Sreemoolam Maharajas Assembly from 1937-1944. The first Travancore state Legislative elections were held in 1948. In this election T.M. Varghese contested from Pathanapuram constituency as a Congress party member and won the election. When the interim government was formed on March 24, 1948, Pattam Thanu Pillai was Chief Minister T. M. Varghese and C. Keasavan were ministers. T. M. Varghese was the first speaker of the Travancore-Cochin Assembly from 1949-1951. He was the Home Minister in the 1952 coalition Government headed by Pattam Thanu Pillai. He died on 31\textsuperscript{st} December 1961. In the 1952 Travancore State Legislative Assembly election he was elected from the Ranni constituency as a Congress candidate. Again in the 1954 Travancore-Cochin State Legislative Assembly elections he was elected from Ezhamattur constituency as a Congress candidate.

He was a prominent Congress leader from the Syrian Christian community. The Syrian Christian community especially the Marthoma Church always supported him. He was one of the prominent leaders of Congress belonging to the triumvirate

consisting of Pattam representing the Nair community and C. Kesavan representing the Ezhava community. During his time these three communities such as the Syrian Christian, Nair and the Ezhava community dominated Congress. And these three leaders representing their community led it.

CONCLUSION

The Indian Christian community as a whole did not take an active part in the freedom struggle. Responsible Christian leaders freely admit this. Bishop A.J. Appaswamy says: But apart from a man here and there, the vast majority of our Christian people stood aloof from the national struggle. It is quite necessary to face and to recognize that in the fight for the independence of India, Christians as a whole had little or no share. Educated Christians on the whole supported the national movement. In the youth’s Christian Council of Action protested against the infavourable stand the bishops and the church leaders took against the movement for responsible government in Travancore.

Syrian Christians, as we have seen, were mostly focused in the former native states of Travancore and Cochin. Partly because of this, the community did not (with a few exceptions) provide national

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leadership in the freedom movement. But in the state of Travancore and Cochin they were among the foremost leaders of the freedom movement to achieve social justice and self rule. Of course, as in other parts of India, many Syrian Christians favoured British rule in India. But large number of Syrian Christians actively supported the freedom movement. The nationalist agitation for responsible government and political freedom became active in Travancore and Cochin only in the late thirties and early forties of this century.\(^{22}\) In the joint political Congress that was formed around 1932 and in the state Congress (affiliated with the Indian national Congress), into which the former merged, Syrian Christians were among the foremost leaders.\(^{23}\) T.M. Varghese, A.J. John Vayala Idikula, R.V. Thomas, P.T. Chacko, Mrs. Accamma Cherian took an active part in the freedom struggle. They were the members of Travancore-Cochin Paja Sabha (Legislative Assembly). The Syrian Christian Community played an important role to achieve responsible government for the States of Travancore and Cochin, within the framework of the Indian Union.\(^{24}\) The above analysis manifested in this chapter magnifies the role played by the Syrian Christian leaders in the freedom struggle. And they allied the Congress party in this humble endeavor. As

\(^{22}\) C.P. Mathew and M.M. Thomas, The Indian Church of St. Thomas, Bangalore I.S.P.C.K., 1967, pp.144-146.


\(^{24}\) D.E. Smith, ed.,op.cit.p.188.
representatives in the Kerala State Assembly the inspiration drawn from the national movement highlights that they have given priority to enkindle the democratic ideals and to make a strong India. They were all good Christians and they were loyal to the Christian community but they were broad minded in their outlook and vision rather than confining to the corridors of their respective community.
### APPENDIX-II

#### A. RELIGION POPULATION PERCENTAGE

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<tr>
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<th>RELIGION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>17883449</td>
<td>56.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Muslims</td>
<td>7863842</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>6057427</td>
<td>19.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>36656</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total population</strong></td>
<td><strong>318413742</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


#### B. Approximate number of the members of various Syrian Christian churches

1. Syrian Catholics
   a) Syro- Malabar Church -2,200,000
   b) Syro-Malankara Church -3,00,000

2. Syrian Orthodox Church (Methran Kakshi) -1,100,000

3. Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church (Bava kakshi) -1,000,000

4. Independent Jacobites (Thozhiyur) -9,000

5. Church of the East (Nestorians/surais) -100,000

Sources: (Home / Christianity In India), Http://members.Tripod-com/Berchmans/orthodox.html.
C. LITERACY RATE OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN KERALA

1. Christians: 83.4%
2. Hindus: 78.7%
3. Muslims: 73.4%

Source: Kerala Census 2001 (percentage)

D. DISTRICT WISE POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>HINDUS</th>
<th>MUSLIMS</th>
<th>CHRISTIANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Kasaragod</td>
<td>58.57</td>
<td>34.31</td>
<td>6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kannur</td>
<td>61.47</td>
<td>27.63</td>
<td>10.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wayanad</td>
<td>50.23</td>
<td>26.87</td>
<td>22.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Calicut</td>
<td>57.97</td>
<td>37.47</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Malapuras</td>
<td>29.17</td>
<td>68.53</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Palakkad</td>
<td>68.87</td>
<td>26.88</td>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Trichur</td>
<td>59.24</td>
<td>16.43</td>
<td>24.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ernakulam</td>
<td>46.53</td>
<td>14.55</td>
<td>38.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Idukhi</td>
<td>50.19</td>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Kottayam</td>
<td>49.32</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>44.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Alleppy</td>
<td>69.09</td>
<td>9.86</td>
<td>20.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>56.28</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>39.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Quilon</td>
<td>65.18</td>
<td>18.34</td>
<td>16.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Trivandrum</td>
<td>68.09</td>
<td>13.34</td>
<td>18.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDIX—III
# APPENDIX-III

## DURATION/GOVERNMENTS IN KERALA FROM 1947-1980

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chief Ministers</th>
<th>Period of Ministry</th>
<th>FROM</th>
<th>TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pattamthanu Pillai</td>
<td>March 24, 1948</td>
<td>October 17, 1948</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. T.K. Narayana Pillai</td>
<td>October 22, 1948</td>
<td>February 24, 1951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. C. Kesavan</td>
<td>February 28, 1951</td>
<td>February 10, 1952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A.J. Jhon</td>
<td>March 12, 1952</td>
<td>September 23, 1953</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Panampally Govindha Menon</td>
<td>February 14, 1955</td>
<td>March 12, 1956</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. E.M.S. Namboodiripad</td>
<td>April 5, 1957</td>
<td>July 31, 1959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. R. Sankar</td>
<td>September 26, 1962</td>
<td>September 8, 1964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. E.M.S. Namboodiripad</td>
<td>March 6, 1967</td>
<td>October 24, 1969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. C. Achutha Menon</td>
<td>November 1, 1969</td>
<td>August 1, 1970</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. C. Achutha Menon</td>
<td>October 4, 1970</td>
<td>March 22, 1977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. P.K Vasudevan Nair</td>
<td>October 20, 1978</td>
<td>October 7, 1979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. C.H. Muhammed Koya</td>
<td>October 11, 1979</td>
<td>October 1, 1979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


‘No stability for Travancore- Cochin’ The Economical and Political weekly March 18, 1954, P. 301.