

Chapter - VII

PROGRESS OF GOA SINCE LIBERATION

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Major General K.P. Candeth was appointed as Military Governor of Goa, Daman and Diu from December 20, 1961 to January 7, 1962. In fact he took over the reins of Government from the Portuguese Governor-General of Goa, Vassalo da Silva soon after the historic victory of Indian Armed Forces over the Portuguese Tyrannical Rule in Goa. The first administrative Act of the Military Governor was the abolition of the abnoxious Military and Defense Taxes. The defence Tax was levied on those persons whose income exceeded Rs.550/- per month and the rate of taxation varied from 1% to 3% and the net tax-yield was Rs.4,00,000/-. The Military Tax was introduced in 1932 on adults between the ages of 21 to 40 and the rate of taxation varied from 4% to 7% and the net tax-yield was Rs.70,000/-.¹ The people of Goa, Daman and Diu heaved a sigh of relief.

1. Ten Years of Liberation 1961-1971, Published by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

The second administrative Act of the Military Governor was the abolition of identity cards. The Portuguese authorities issued identity cards to foreigners, including Indians, charging Rs.20/- for a Temporary Permit and Rs.50/- for an Annual Permit. The relic of the foreign rule was rightly abolished soon after Goa's liberation.

The Third Administrative Act of the Military Governor was the sanctioning of Rs.10,00,000/- for repairs of private and public buildings. This step was taken on humanitarian grounds.

On December 26, 1961, the Post and Telegraph services and on December 26, 1961 the Railway services started functioning establishing contact between the past enclaves of Portuguese Government and the Indian Union. The first branch of State Bank of India was inaugurated in Panjim by the Military Governor on January 2, 1962 in the former office of Banco Nacional Ultramarino.

Since the liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu, spectacular events have taken place, a brief account

of which is enumerated in the following pages just to give an idea of how social, political and economic changes took place with the change of rulers consequent to the merger of Goa, Daman and Diu with the general stream of political life of the nation.

The outstanding event happens to be the conduct of the First General Elections in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu during 1963, 2 years after its liberation under the Union Territory Act, 1962. This enabled the people of Goa, Daman and Diu for the first time, in their long and chequered history, for direct participation in Government in which they have a vital stake. They were made masters of their own destiny.

The General Elections in Goa, Daman and Diu, gave rise to the multiplication of a number of political parties. Shri S.U. Salelkar in his article in the Navhind Times says : "It is an open secret that quite close on the heels of the Liberation of Goa, representatives of the major political parties

of India had made their hurried and safe-landing in Goa in pursuit of a fresh ground and new sphere to find scope for their activities there. In addition to these major parties, some new parties have sprung up recently like mushrooms after the monsoons, there are yet a few others which are still in the embryo stage to be born in close proximity of the Election Date. While the Dame Nature has been proverbially bountiful to Goa in the matter of bestowing freely upon it scenic beauty and enchanting panorama with green vegetation everywhere and zigzag rivers and streams with silvery water flowing in melody with the tunes of the Nature, it has cast upon the land a 'Curse' of disunity and disharmony amongst its local population as will be observed from the fact that there are now as many as 'eight' political parties in a small land of 'Six lacs and odd' population."²

Shri Suresh G. Amankar in his analytical survey of Elections in Goa speaks of the unhealthy

2. The Navhind Times, November 3, 1963, p.2.

and pernicious communal basis on which the first General Election was contested in Goa.³ The Chief Political parties in the arena were the Congress Party, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, the United Goans Party, the Frente Popular Party. "143 candidates contested for 30 seats in the Goa Legislature and 9 candidates contested for two parliamentary seats. In all but one Assembly constituency, Shiroda, where a Congress candidate is pitted against a Maharashtrawadi Gomantak candidate in a straight fight, the contest will be multi-cornered."⁴

The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party was supported by the P.S.P (Praja Socialist Party) on the issue of merger of Goa with the neighbouring state of Maharashtra. The United Goans Party fought the election demanding for full state-hood to Goa. The Frente Popular Party demanded for nationalisation of

3. Suresh G. Amankar, The Navhind Times, December 19, 1968, p.12.

4. The Times of India, (Editorial) December 4, 1963, p.6.

'idle mines', radical land reforms and an end of the exploitation of man by man, but its stand on the political future of Goa was similar to that of Congress. The Congress Party wanted to maintain the separate identity of Goa as an Union Territory.

"While the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and the United Goans Party took diametrically opposite stands on the issue of Goa's political future i.e., merger versus state-hood, the Congress pursued the middle-of-the road approach to this problem."⁵

The First General Election in Goa was thus contested on the issue of Goa's political future i.e., merger versus full state-hood. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party candidates won their seats in predominantly Hindu majority constituencies (New conquests) while the United Goans Party candidates won their seats where Catholic voters were in a majority (Old Conquests). Suresh G. Amonkar called

5. Suresh G. Amonkar, The Navahind Times, December 19, 1963, p.12.

on the leaders in Goa and the rest of India to ponder over this matter. "Are ^{we} going to pursue politics which encourage the evils of communalism, casteism and linguism or are we going to allow sanity to prevail so that good-will between the two communities may be fostered?"

"A new society in Goa is to be built on programmes which will bring out the greatest measure of agreement between the two major communities in Goa. Policies which will whip up rancour, misunderstanding and bad blood between them are to be stopped so that good-will will prevail in all our future political activities."⁶

The outcome of the General Elections in Goa was astonishing. The Congress Party which enjoyed majority support in all the states then was routed in the contest for Assembly seatsⁱⁿ Goa. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party had an edge over the

6. Suresh G. Amonkar, The Navhind Times, December 19, 1963, p.12.

United Goans Party and formed the first popular Ministry in Goa. The Fronte Popular was far from being popular. The results of the subsequent General Elections, those of 1967 and 1972, have been more or less the same. These two Local Political Parties Maharashtrawadi Gomantak and United Goans have retained their stronghold and the United Goans Party has the misfortune of remaining a majority political party upto now. It would be better for that local party to merge with some leading national, political party, namely, the Congress Party, if it wants to succeed in the coming General Elections. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party has enjoyed majority support uninterruptedly since 1963. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party leader Shri D.B. Bandodkar had the unique distinction of serving the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu as its Chief Minister for Ten years from 1963 to 1973. The reins of Government have been taken over by Smt. Shashikala Kakodkar, the daughter of the Ex-Chief Minister since 1973.

The success of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party in the First General Elections held in Goa led

to an illusion of merger of Goa with the state of Maharashtra. The leaders of Maharashtra State pressed the Prime Minister of India for the immediate merger of Goa with the state of Maharashtra. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru resisted such political pressures and desired to retain the position of Goa as a separate political entity in the Indian Union. This was the policy followed all along even before the liberation of Goa. This was the pledge given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the people of Goa before its liberation.⁷ Further, it is wrong to assert that the question of Goa's future was referred to the people of Goa during the First General Elections held there during 1963. The statistical data of the vote's polled by different contesting Political Parties in the said Elections disproves the contention.

1. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party stood for merger into Maharashtra State.	37.4%
2. United Goans Party stood for Separate Statehood	28.44%

7. Prof. G.S.Halappa in his Foreword to 'Spotlight on Goa', A.V. Kowdi, The Lincoln Institute of Social Research and Public Opinion, Dharwar, 1965.

3. Congress Party Stood for Status quo	16.55%
4. Independents Stood for Status quo	10.62%
5. Fronte Popular Stood for Status quo	1.77% ⁸

The Total Number of votes polled was only 74.3% of the total Electorate. An objective study of the pattern of voting in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu suggested that the majority of the people of Goa were against the merger of Goa with the adjoining state of Maharashtra. This being the case, the Central Government yielded to the pressure and held an Opinion Poll over the future of Goa. On January 16, 1967, an unprecedented event took place in the Constitutional History of India. The verdict of the people of Goa, Daman and Diu, which was announced on January 18, 1967, favoured the retention of Goa as a Union Territory⁹ much to the relief of Goans in particular and the people of the rest of India in general. Maharashtra's claims over Goa was nullified once for ever. The retention of Goa as a separate

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8. Spotlight on Goa, The Lincoln Institute of Social Science Research and Public Opinion, 1965, p.22.
9. Twenty Years of Liberation, Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, 1971, p.148.

political entity has remained a fact since then. Further efforts are now being made to press the Central Government to grant full state-hood to Goa inside and outside the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

On October 1, 1974, Mr. Achut Usgaonkar, Minister for Planning and Agriculture, while replying to a question raised by the leader of the opposition Mr. A.N. Naik about the outcome of the Assembly's recommendations of statehood for Goa, said, that the delegation of more powers by the Central Government to the Government of Goa based on the recommendations of the Morarka Committee was the first step towards statehood.¹⁰ It is likely that, in a couple of years, most probably by the time of next General Elections in 1977, this Union Territory will attain the full statehood.¹¹

The foregoing discussion has mainly touched upon political aspects of development in Goa since

10. Times of India, Bombay, (3-10-1974).

11. For popular support to this argument vide Chapter-VIII.

liberation, the Military Governor's Rule for two years, then the establishment of Democratic Institutions under the Union Territories Act, 1963, the Opinion Poll, the demand for full statehood. The account of Goa since liberation would not be complete if the Economic Development and Social Changes that have taken place since the liberation are not referred to.

Since the liberation and with the establishment of popular Government, great economic development has been made undoubtedly.

AGRICULTURE - In the field of Agriculture, with the application of Scientific methods and the use of high yielding variety of seeds, great improvement is made. The Government of Goa is in a position to boast now that nearly 120 coconuts are now available per person in Goa. Small Farmers' Development Agency has been established in 1971 to give greater security and financial assistance even to small farmers. Kumeri Cultivation was abolished to preserve forest wealth of the Territory. Animal Husbandry, Veterinary

Services, Poultry and Piggery Farms have received greater impetus with the establishment of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in 1962, the Milk Pasteurisation Plant at Curti, Ponda in 1971, a Poultry Farm and a Piggery Farm in 1962. Forest area (29% of the total area of the Union Territory) is being enriched with Teak Plantation, Eucalyptus and Rubber plantations. Irrigation of 26,060 Hectares of land is made by Lift Irrigation (160 Hectares); Tank Irrigation (700 Hectares); Salaulim Project (14000 Hectares); Dudh Sagar Falls Project (1200 Hectares and 800 Kws. of Power); and Tilani River Project (10000 Hectares).¹²

INDUSTRY - During Portuguese Rule, there were a few saw-mills, workshops, soap factories, cashew factories, a tyre retreading unit, two canning units, a match factory and rice and flour mills. The Portuguese government was indifferent to industrial progress of Goa, Daman and Diu.

12. Ten Years of Liberation - 1961-1971,
Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, pp.32-40.

Since liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu, the industrial activity has gained a new momentum. "The Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu is now poised for a major break-through in converting the trade oriented economy into an industrial economy.

Fish and Fruit canning units, Printing Presses and workshops have multiplied four times. There were 66 such units at the time of liberation and the number of these units went upto 265 in 1970. Besides this progress, there were 660 small scale industrial units by the end of 1970.

The number of Industrial Establishments has risen from 512 to 788 between 1965 - 1971.

Government of Goa, Daman and Diu has encouraged the establishment of large and medium scale industrial units to offer more employment opportunities to the youths. Pelletisation plant at Pale, a Textile mill, a Steel Re-rolling mill, a Potassium Permanganate factory, Two Breweries and a factory producing

industrial glasses have been established with the total investment of Rs.6.4 Crores. In the large scale sector, a pesticide unit and Rs. 56 Crore Fertilizer project have been established and a Sugar factory and an Aluminium plant are taking shape. 33 medium and large scale industries with a total investment of Rs.100 Crores are likely to be established in the next 5 years of which 9 units have been permitted to set up their plants.¹³

The Industrial Development Corporation which was established in 1966 has set up industrial estates at Corlim and San Jose De Areal and desires to set up an ancillary industrial Estate at Sancoale and Industrial Estates at Daman and at Mapuca. The Union Territory of Goan, Daman and Diu has been declared a backward area in respect of industrial development and as such cheap credit facility can be obtained from the Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Finance Corporation of India.¹⁴

13. Ibid., pp.76-77.

14. Ibid., p.79.

Under a scheme of Planning Commission, Goa District has been selected for intensive development of industries in rural area. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to small scale industries on liberal terms i.e., lower rate of interest and longer period for repayment. The rate of interest is 3% for industrial Entrepreneurs and $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ for Industrial Cooperatives. The loans are to be repaid in 10 equal annual instalments, the first instalment becoming due only in the sixth year.¹⁵

The project has so far provided financial help to the tune of Rs.8,50,000/- to 172 units manufacturing Plastics, Drinking Straws, Candles, Packing Cases, Tiles, Bricks, Ready-made garments etc. Under the Rural Industries project a number of training centres in trades and crafts like tailoring, footwear, coir goods, carpentry, basket making, automobile repair have also been started. About 350 candidates have so far been trained.¹⁶ The Development of handicraft has received greater attention of the government of Goa, Daman and Diu with a view to increase the export potential of Goa.

16. Ibid., p.80.

From the accounts furnished above, it is clear that the Union Territory of Goa has made rapid progress in the field of industry both quantitatively and qualitatively.

MINING - The Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, is richly endowed with Industrial minerals like Iron Ore, Manganese ore, Bauxite, Limestone and Dolomite. In addition, there are deposits of refractory clays, ilmenite sand, silica sand, Quartz, Graphite etc.

Among these, Iron, Manganese, Bauxite, high magnesia, limestone and clay are the chief minerals of economic importance.

Mining operation in Goa began as early as 1905 but stopped during Ist World War and the regular mining industry started again in 1947. Just before liberation in 1960, the production of iron ore amounted to 59,26,000 tonnes and of manganese ore 2,55,400 tonnes.

The indicators of Socio-Economic Development of Goa, Daman and Diu, since liberation point out the fact that the ore exports have increased remarkably since liberation, that too after the implementation of plans in Goa. The Iron Ore exports by 1970 had reached 83,67,870 tonnes the value of which amounted to 397 crores of Rupees. The export of manganese ore similarly reached 61,737 tonnes fetching an amount of 64 crores of rupees. The Ferro-manganese ore was exported to the extent of 58,851 tonnes fetching 44 crores of Rupees.¹⁷ With the improvement of harbour facilities at Mormaogoa and mechanisation of ore industry in general will naturally increase the export potential of Goa.

TOURISM - Goa is the centre of tourism attracting thousands of tourists from home and abroad. The number of hotels and lodgings have nearly doubled

17. Indicators of Socio-Economic Development of Goa, Daman and Diu, The General Statistics Department; Government of Goa, Daman & Diu, Panaji, 1972.

since liberation and the number of beds for guests has nearly multiplied into seventeen times and the number of tourists per annum has increased from 1439 to 88086 persons. It clearly shows that the tourist industry is in a flux due to the encouragement given by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

ELECTRICITY - Power is necessary both for Domestic and Industrial consumption. Goa is fast progressing in the Industrial sphere requiring greater power to hasten the progress of the area. The per capita consumption of Electricity was 1.25 Units in 1960 and it has increased upto 80 Units by 1971. Only 13 Towns were electrified before 1961. Now 69 villages and towns are electrified. Goa needs 521.85 Klakhs of KWH. of electricity at present. It heavily relies on the Government of Karnataka for meeting the demands of electric power.

CO-OPERATIVES AND BANKING - It is surprising to note that there was not a single Co-operative

society in Goa before liberation. By 1970 there were 369 Co-operative societies and 179 Service Co-operative societies with the total membership of 62,450 citizens of Goa, Daman and Diu.

There were only 8 Banks functioning in Goa before liberation transacting a business of Rs.1287 Lakhs. By 1970 the number of Bank Offices have increased to 44 transacting Rs.3983 lakhs. Through banks the people of Goa got the credit facilities of Rs.1.3 lakhs during Portuguese rule whereas the people of Goa by 1970 got the credit facility to the tune of Rs.1453 lakhs.¹⁸ This fact explains the service attitude of the present administration in accelerating the rate of economic progress in Goa. If the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu has progressed rapidly since liberation, it is because of such benefits given by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

18. Ibid.,

EDUCATION - In the field of education, there has been great qualitative and quantitative growth. The number of Primary Schools increased from 476 in 1961 to 1,048 in 1971 and the number of Secondary Education Schools increased from 119 in 1961 to 391 in 1971. The same trend is to be noticed in the case of Vocational and Technical Education and Teachers Training Schools and Colleges. There was not a single University College before liberation. There were 11 University Colleges by 1971 itself.¹⁹

There are attempts being made by the leaders of Goa to establish an University for the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. This attempt is likely to meet with success in the nearest future.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION - Within Ten years of liberation the number of Post & Telegraph Offices increased upto 123 with the assistance of the Union Government bringing the people of Goa, Daman and Diu closer.

19. Ibid.

The number of passengers travelling by Waterways nearly doubled and reached the figure of 60,55,000 by 1971. The Cargo carried by Waterways also doubled and reached the figure of 6,000 tonnes by 1971. With the development of Marma-Goa harbour and improvement in the waterways, there is every possibility of developing river navigation in Goa to the maximum extent.

The length of the surface roads increased from 1152 Kilometres to 1971 Kilometres by 1971. The number of motor vehicles reached the figure of 8975 by 1971, which is quite high as compared to other States. There are 1,382 motor vehicles per one Lakh of population in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. Besides these transport and communication facilities the Railways are stretched in the middle part upto Sambhaji Nagar, (Vasco-da-Gama). These Transport and Communication facilities have helped the people of Goa, Daman and Diu to progress economically and to unite socially and politically.

HEALTH SERVICES - By 1971 there were 26 Government Hospitals with 1,838 beds. Further 51 Health Centres and 64 Family Planning Clinics were established by that time. Besides these efforts, the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu established 15 'Dai' Centres and 57 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. As a result of these steps taken by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu the birth rate is reduced from 31.99 to 28.76 and death rate is likewise reduced from 13.39 to 11.34 and Infant Mortality Rate also was reduced from 69.77 to 62.84.²⁰ The figures speak volumes about the efforts made by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu to render better health services to the people of Goa, Daman and Diu.

STATE FINANCE - By 1961 the Receipts and Expenditure of Goa Government stood at 7 Crores of Rupees and 6.08 Crores of Rupees respectively. By 1971 the corresponding figures reached 17.21 Crores of Rupees and 16.60 Crores of Rupees respectively.

20. Ibid.

The figures clearly show the Economic advancement made by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu since liberation within a short period.

A look at the Budgetary estimates of State income can give an idea about the efforts made by Government to accelerate the economic growth of the area.

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Estimates of State Income of Goa, Daman & Diu

S.No. Particulars	1967-68 (Rupees in Lakhs)	1968-69
1. Primary (Agri., Forests, Fishing etc.)	1938-89(37.6%)	1757-78(36.5%)
2. Secondary (Mining Ind., Elec. etc.)	1102-90(23.8%)	1198-00(25%)
3. Tertiary of Service (Trade, Transport, Banking, Tourism, Administration etc.)	1783-82(38.6%)	1854-49(38.5%)
Net Domestic Product :-	4625-61(100%)	4810-27(100%)
Per Capita Income :-	Rs.694/-	Rs.715/-

21. Ibid.

COMMUNIDADES - They are co-operative associations of land owners known as Gaonkars. Comunidades were created by the new settlers from across the Sahyadri Ghats. They were functioning as autonomous bodies even before the advent of Kadambas in Goa. They provided for civic amenities, construction and repairs of bunds and sluice gates. They met the expenses of religious festivals. The nett profits were distributed among Gaonkars. Kadambas levied a tax called Coxí Vorod (voluntary tax) on them in 1054 A.D. in return for the protection offered to them. The Portuguese Government made this tax compulsory. The Portuguese created a new class of share holders called Kuntokares by issuing a series of decrees since 1526. This step spoiled the structure and character of Comunidades.

By 1971, there were 222 Comunidades owning 11.18% of land. Especially their ownership of paddy land amounts to 23% of the total paddy land in Goa. Since liberation, with the democratization of Government, Comunidades have become stagnant.

This anachronistic institution is going to be abolished soon.²²

Since liberation, the people of Goa, Daman and Diu enjoy the benefit of direct participation in Government in which they have a stake and they have become the masters of their own destiny. They are living under conditions of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity now. The administrative machinery, instead of acting as an instrument of oppression, is functioning to promote the welfare of all sections of the people including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Government of the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, discarding the earlier laissez faire policy, is looking after very seriously the economic, social, cultural, physical and intellectual well-being of the people. The present administration has given new exciting opportunities to the people of Goa, Daman and Diu to secure conditions of peace and plenty. As a result of which rapid progress has been made in Goa since liberation.

22. Ten Years of Liberation, Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, 1971, pp.53-54.