
THE POLITICAL COUP AGAINST FARMER ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER N.T.RAMA RAO, IN 1989 AND 1995: A STUDY

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Abstract

Nadamuri Taraka Rama Rao (popularly known as NTR) was-sub registrar- turned- Telugu film actor-turned-entrepreneur-turned-politician who served as the Chief -Minister of Andhra Pradesh for three terms. He was the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh., representing the Telugu Desam Party.(TDP) founded by him in 1982. His first term lasted 1&1/2 years from January 1983 to August 1984. He was ousted in a coup in August 1984, but returned to power a month later, which marked the beginning of his second term. He remained Chief Minister for the next five years, completing his full 5-year term as Chief Minister. In 1989, his party lost in the assembly elections, and it was not until 1994 that he would become Chief Minister again. His third and last term as Chief Minister only lasted nine months, from December 1994 to September 1995, following which his son-in-law Nara Chandrababu Naidu took over the party and became Chief Minister. The political priorities of NTR during all his three terms as Chief Minister were widely debated, with the right-wing parties accusing him of economic populism, the left-wing accusing him of diverting resources away from government employee benefits and his supporters arguing that they were worthwhile investments into infrastructure, human resource development and social net programs

Methodology: By the state of being utilized both secondary sources this paper has been attempted,Political background in the state of Andhra Pradesh of N.T.Rama Rao government from (1989-1995)

Keyword: Ceni Artist In South India, Political Career, N.T.Rama Rao at the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh.Launched the Regional Parties, in (Telugu Desam Party).....

Introduction

The man who would become popularly known as NTR was born in a small village near the coastal city of Machilipatnam (now in Andhra Pradesh) to a poor farming family. He completed a bachelor's degree (BA) from Andhra Christian College in nearby Guntur. After qualifying for the civil service in what was then the Madras Presidency under British India, he took a job as a sub-registrar at Mangalagiri, northeast of Guntur. He soon left that post, however, to pursue a career in acting. NTR's rest in Mana Desam, was released in 1949, and he continued to make movies until 1982, appearing in some 300 lames and directing more than a dozen. He quickly demonstrated enormous popular appeal and soon attained cult-guru peasant some cinema. He often portrayed a Hindu god, particularly Krishna, in his movies, and his adoption of the white or saffron robes of his costumes as his

everyday dress only reinforced his tall picture. In March 1982 he founded the TDP, with the stated objective of protecting the interests of India's Telugu speaking people. P.V.Narasimha Rao. Prime minister then, aptly described NTR as a man of many part a learned and deeply religious person, a very fine and powerful actor who swayed millions people, a forceful orator and above all, a man of the masses'. It was in such a state of annulled that N.T.Rama Rao, who was already 60 years by then, founded the Telugu Desam Party on March 29, 1982. He had abandoned his film career to enter politics.¹

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), founded with the self-respect of the Telugu as its principal slogan and regionalism as its vital force, became a party striving for the welfare of the poor people, according to the popular opinion. NTR's background as a film star came handy in taking this message to the people. Apart from his popular image as the best actor to play mythological roles, the hero image that he had earned by playing the roles of the poor man's savoir and a rebel against injustice, proved to be a boon to him. The TDP placed before the people an alternative pro-Poor agenda with schemes like Rs.2 per kg rice, the midday meal scheme and 30% reservation for women in education and jobs. As a man who had spent three decades in Chennai, NTR was under the influence of Tamil politics, and the same influence had enabled him to steer his party in its initial stages.

All the schemes announced by NTR were already being implemented by the Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu at that time. NTR's name and face were quite familiar to the people of Andhra Pradesh as he had acted in about 290 films. The film glamour combined with the slogan of self-respect of the Telugu people and the pro-poor schemes had catapulted his party the position of an effective alternative to the Congress.¹ The TDP turned out to be highly successful at consolidating voters against the then-ruling Indian National Congress (Congress Party) in the state. Riding on NTR's popularity, TDP-affiliated candidates since the party was still won a large majority of seats in the 1983 elections to the Andhra Pradesh legislative assembly.

The party subsequently formed a government, with NTR as the first non-Congress chief minister since the establishment of the state in 1956. His first term, however, lasted less than two years. In August 1984, while NTR was recovering from heart surgery, the Congress-controlled national government (via the governor of Andhra Pradesh) removed him from office and appointed his Nance minister (and Congress member), Nadendla Bhaskara Rao, as the chief minister. In September, after NTR turned, he mobilized support among the TDP members in the assembly, reclaimed the office of chief minister, and began his second term. Following the TDP's strong performance in the 1984 elections seek a fresh popular mandate in Andhra Pradesh by calling assembly elections in 1985. The TDP won a commanding 202 of 294 seats, and NTR remained as chief minister.²

NTR's rust two administrations were marked by a number of populist initiatives that included clothing subsidies and food and housing for people below the poverty line. He initiated a midday-meal program for schoolchildren and banned the sale of alcohol in the state. Although those measures were intended to expand the TDP's popular base, they instead proved to be detrimental for the state's economy by increasing expenditures and

reducing tax revenue, respectively. That apparent mismanagement was among several factors that contributed to the party's losing power in the 1989 state assembly elections. The TDP won only 74 seats, paving the way for another Congress-led government.

NTR led the opposition in the assembly and worked to strengthen the political base of the party. His efforts bore fruit, as the TDP won 216 seats in the 1994 assembly elections, and NTR started his third term as chief minister.

NTR had married Basavatarakam Nandamuri in 1942, but she died in 1985. In 1993 he married Lakshmi Parvathi (or Parvati), whom he then tried to groom to be his successor. His actions, however, provoked dissension in the TDP, predominantly from Nara Chandrababu Naidu, NTR's son-in-law and by then one of the party's highest-ranking members. Over the next several months Naidu located himself to oust NTR from the party leadership, which he successfully skilful. In August 1995 Naidu took over both as leader of the TDP and as chief minister of the state. NTR died of a heart attack early the following year. When the seat adjustment efforts with the TDP failed, the traditional Opposition parties like the two Communist parties, Janata Lok Dal, and the Congress (O) constituted themselves into a front and entered the election arena. But, the people considered the TDP led by NTR as the only alternative to the Congress. That was the reason behind the wave generated by that party in the first ever election it had contested. It captured power by winning 202 seats. The party secured 46.6% of the total votes polled, while the Congress, securing only 33.6% of the total votes, won only 60 seats and became the principal Opposition party. The parties that formed a front like the Communist Party of India, CPI (Marxist), Janata, and the Lok Dal had won only 10 seats. The percentage of votes polled by these parties didn't exceed six. The Lok Dal was unable to secure even a single seat. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with 2.61% votes won three seats, the Independents won 17 seats. This was unparalleled in the history of the States. The entire country, nay the whole world, was astonished at this unexpected development in the politics of Andhra Pradesh.

While capturing power within 9 months of founding the party is an achievement in itself, most winners, including the leader of the party, occupying the seat of power in their very first attempt, is another achievement³. This resulted in a major change not only in politics, but also social equations. In the 1989 Assembly elections, with the TDP winning only 71 seats, the statues of N.T.Rama Rao was released to that of Opposition leader and the Congress which won 180 seats came back to power. As the leader of opposition, NTR was considered as not effective on leading his party on Assembly, even though he was good speaker. During the five years of opposition role. NTR, was helped by his son-in-law, Chandrababu Naidu, and others, during the 1991 Lok Sabha elections, the NTR wave was very much in evidence. But, the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi on May 21 reversed the trend and the Telugu Desam post 24 seats. Congress workers attacked and damaged NTR's properties in Hyderabad. NTR demanded an inquiry into this vandalism and punish the guilty. He began a fast-unto-death on the tank bund, but was forcibly taken to hospital. For a short while NTR went back to celluloid and played hero role in many moves such as Smart

Ashok and Major Chadrakant. On August 7, 1993 Siva Reddy, TDP legislature from Jammalamadugu in Cudapha district, was murdered. NTR protected against the murder and demand an inquiry. He submitted a memorandum to Governor, Krishna Kant. This issue was discussed in the Assembly. Telugu Desam Party legislators walked up to the podium to protests against the Government's inaction. All TDP members, including NTR were suspended from the Assembly. NTR then announced that he was boycotting the House.

After the death of his wife Basavatarakam in 1984, NTR had health problems. It was then that NTR was met by Lakshmi Parvati who wanted to write his biography. She served him when he was ailing and they became close and got married. Members of NTR's family resented the marriage. NTR was voted back to power in the 1994 Assembly elections. It said that the son-in-law of NTR was not given much importance and so they were somewhat dissatisfied with NTR. As NTR's wife, Lakshmi Parvati naturally played a prominent role until his death. NTR was also the chairman of the National Front. He played a major role in rallying the opposition parties against the Congress. After getting absolute majority in the December, 1994 elections to the State Assembly, N.T.Rama Rao constituted his ministry with 32 members. NTR kept his election promise and introduced total prohibition. Another order was issued to give rice to poor people at Rs.Kg.2/- though NTR returned to power with absolute majority; he could not enjoy power for long. Within eight months, he faced an unusual situation. Under the leadership of his son-in-law Nara Chandrababu Naidu, 162 MLAs met. NTR was isolated and lost support in the party. They political game that started on August 24, 1995 ended within a week. With all avenues closes to him, NTR felt forced to resign on August 30, 1995. Chandra Babu Naidu was elected the leader of the Telugu Desam legislature party and became the Chief Minister. The Congress suffered a major shock as elections results from four States began, pouring December 9, 1995. The Congress had held all four State and many politicians saw the polls as a test of Rama Rao's leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, the promises of rice at Rs 2/- kg carried the Telugu Desam (TDP) to winning more than a two-thirds majority in the new House.

Party president N.T.Rama Rao is to become the Chief Minister again after a break of five years. The Janata Dal, another leading member with TDP of the National Front, is to form the government Karnataka with a bare majority of seats. The Congress, which had an overwhelming majority in the previous House, as barely ahead of BJP⁴. The early result in gave the alliance comprising the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, the Shiva Sana and BJP the edge but the Congress is the largest single political entity. Having taken power in Sikkim just a few months earlier following a split in former Chief Minister Nar Bhandari's Sikkim Sangram Parishad (SSP), the Congress got a defeat there too, while the one-and-a-half year old Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) went ahead. Congress campaign committee chief Pranab Mukherjee made it clear that the simply shattering verdict was on local issues and the economic reforms programmes is an ongoing process. BJP retained its bases as ascend force in Karnataka but fared very poorly in Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim and did not help MGP(Maharashtra Gomantaka Party) in call for as much as it had hoped. Similar parties like BSP, which had worked hard in Andhra thought the year, fared very badly.

The National Front victories in the south do not mean more backward caste oriented policies since neither Rama Rao nor Chief Minister aspirants in Karnataka Dave Gowda or Ramakrishna Hedge, is committed to that kind of the only real backward victory was Pavan Kumar Charmin's in Sikkim. The Four State repeated the trend, evident in recent elections, of ousting incumbent governments.⁴

The particularity sharp reversal in Andhra Pradesh was due to the immense response among the rural poor all castes to Rama Rao's promised of cheap rice and electricity at a slab rate for agriculture rather than a vote against Rama Rao's it is said. The results nevertheless mean that Rao's year-long holiday is over. The comfort the results of last November's round of elections brought the Prime Minister is gone and he faces another year of the kind of political buffering he weathered during the first half of his term. The Front alliance will have a strong claim to being the chief alternative in 1996, particularly if BJP fares badly in Gujarat and Maharashtra. BJP leaders will, however, draw encouragement from the fact that they have not fared as badly in Karnataka as many jihad predicted. The party retains its small base in the south. Though NF has stolen a march, neither TDP nor JD are likely to be stable in the long run. Dave Gowda was sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka, Dec, 11 1994. In Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desam Party Leader N.T. Rama Rao was sworn in as Chief Minister, December 12, 1994, by Governor Krishna Kanth. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.⁵

Chandrababu Naidu government during its first tenure (1995-99) could make a exit from the regime of NTR. The change initiated by Naidu symbolizes a shift away from populism if NTR towards a pro liberalization regime, and is marked by a perceptible distance from the style and symbols associated with NTR. The shifts and fault lines that development in the social coalition, forged and sustained during NTR's tenure, under Chandrababu Naidu's rule was because of this change. It may be suggested that the TDP (N) faced a considerable crisis of identity and other difficulties to sustain the traditional social support of the TDP. The 1996 and 1998 elections amply demonstrate this. Analysis of these two elections would be helpful to appreciate the change in state politics and more importantly the context of the 1999 elections.

N.T.Rama Rao Death.1996

On 20 August 1995, NTR addressed a rally in Parviti puram. After this, as he was walking to the helicopter, a youth sitting in VIP enclosure caught hold of his feet by way of showing respect. NTR lost his balance, tripped and fell. He bled from the nose as the steel frame of his spectacles pierced through his nose. Lakshmi Parvati was a few steps behind him. N.T. Rama Rao Chairman of the National Front and Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh died in Hyderabad, January 18 after a massive heart attack. A week-long official mourning, including a two-day holiday, was announced by the government after the Cabinet met to condole Rama Rao's death. He is survived by six sons and four daughters. Rama Rao woke up as usual at 3.30 am. Soon after, he complained of chest pain and asked his wife Ms Lakshmi Parvati to call the doctors⁶. Their family physicians examined him, but Rama Rao

breathed his last cardiologist arrived. Rama Rao underwent a by-pass surgery in 1984 in US. In recent past, he was being treadles for high blood pressures and diabetes. His body was kept at the Lal Bahadur Stadium for the public pay their respects. He had been sworn in Chief Minister three occasions in January 1983, then December 1994 March 1995 and finally in. A news of N.T.Rama Rao death spread the sends thronged his Bangara Hills residence.⁶

Cocclusions

In the period of political crisis NTR has exhibited only rather than acting timely and cleverly. Hence, he got defeated though he brought many reforms in the period of five years. Thought he got defeated once, gained power, but lost his positions in meantime. The reason being was not acting timely according to the situations and could not overcome selfishness. He behaved with dedication, determination, patience and could become successful in his endeavour. There is one argument that because Chandrababu was someone in law of NTR it was possible for him. An actor and director, NTR will be remembered for his roles and for his talent as a film-Maker. If versatility is the true hallmark of a great actor, NTR stands the tallest among all the actors in the world.

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