

**REVIEW OF THE WORKING OF
THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1957-62

SECTION -I

CHAPTER -I

Constitutional Changes Since 1957

Madras is one of the 15 States of the Indian Union. It has an area of 50,132 square miles and a population of 33,650,917. The Legislature in Madras consists of the Governor and the two Houses, viz., the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Constitution provides that the Legislative Assembly of each State shall consist of not more than five hundred and not less than sixty Members. These Members have to be chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies.

The Madras State was divided into 167 territorial constituencies, of which 129 were single-member constituencies and 38 were double-member constituencies. Thirty-seven seats were reserved for the Scheduled Caste and one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Thus after the General Elections of 1957 when the Madras Assembly was constituted, it consisted 205 elected Members. Under Article 333 of the Constitution, the Governor had nominated a Member to represent Anglo-Indian interests.

In 1959, as a result of the adjustment of boundaries between Andhra Pradesh and Madras under the Andhra Pradesh and Madras (Alteration of Boundaries) Act, 1959, one member from the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly was allotted to Madras and consequently the strength of the Madras Assembly increased to 206, exclusive of the nominated Anglo-Indian Member.

The Constitution was amended in 1959 (Constitution (Eighth) Amendment Act, 1959) to provide for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Anglo-Indians for a further period of 10 years, i.e., 20 years from the commencement of the constitution.

By the Two Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, the 38 double-member constituencies have been abolished and an equal number of single-member constituencies have been reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as before. Consequently the number of territorial constituencies in Madras has increased to 206.

CHAPTER II

General Elections, 1957 and Bye-elections

The following programme was fixed for the conduct of the elections.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Last date for making nominations | 29 th January 1957 |
| Scrutiny of nominations | 1 st February 1957 |
| Last date for the withdrawal of candidatures | 4 th February 1957 |
| The date before which the election shall be Completed. | 31 st March 1957 |

For the 205 Assembly seats, 1,276 persons (1,244 men and 32 women) filed their nominations. Of these 210 were members of the Scheduled Castes while seven were members of Scheduled Tribes. The nominations of 22 candidates (21 men and 1 woman) were rejected.

Three hundred and sixty-seven candidates (360 men and 7 women) withdrew their nominations in time. Ninety-seven candidates, all men, retired before the polls.

Three seats (Killiyoor, Vilavancode and Nambiyur) were uncontested and were, therefore, filed without election. In the Vilavancode constituency all candidates except one withdrew before the last date for withdrawal of candidates and in the other two constituencies the candidates 'retired' that is, withdrew ten days before the poll.

The elections were contested in respect of 202 seats.

The number of candidates who contested finally was 787, as detailed below:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Independents | 366 |
| 2. Congress | 201 |
| 3. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam | 100 |
| 4. Communist | 55 |
| 5. Congress Reforms Committee | 35 |
| 6. Praja Socialist Party | 22 |
| 7. Socialist | 4 |
| 8. Forward Bloc | 4 |

Total 787

Out of these 787 contestants 24 were woman of whom, 13 were put up by the Congress Party, 2 by the Praja Socialist Party, one each by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Communist Parties, while the remaining seven were Independents.

On hundred and sixty-eight of the contestants belonged to Scheduled Castes and four contestants belonged to Scheduled Tribes.

The total number of voters was 17,514,998 (i.e.) nearly 17.5 millions, of whom 8,665,815 (i.e.) 8.7 millions were women.

The total number of voters in the contested constituencies was 17,303,784. Of these 49.05 per cent actually voted at the elections, 54-61 per cent of the male voters and 44.27 per cent of the women voters exercised their franchise.

The percentage of voters who participated in the poll varied from 26.00 per cent in Uddanapalli Constituency in Salem district 76.06 per cent in the Nagercoil Constituency in Kanyakumari district. The percentage of male voters who actually voted was lowest in the Theagarayanagar Constituency (33.80 per cent), Madras district and highest in Kanyakumari Constituency (82.90 per cent), Kanyakumari district. Among women voters the percentage was smallest in Hosur constituency (19.00 per cent) of Salem district and highest in Sattur Constituency (74.50 per cent) in Ramanathapuram district.

Of the 790 candidates, who contested 585 were unsuccessful and of the latter 325 forfeited their deposit. Again ninety-seven candidates forfeited their deposits as a result of retirement. Of the 205 who won, 12 were women, of whom 11 were candidates set up by the Congress Party and one set up by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Of the 205 seats, the Congress secured 151 seats, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam 13, Congress Reforms Committee 9, Communist 4, Forward Bloc 3, Praja Socialist Party 2, Socialist 1 and Independents 22.

Two members of the Scheduled Castes were elected to the General (Unreserved) seat, i.e., Nallur and Coimbatore II.

Classification of the elected members according to age groups is as follows:-

| Age group | Number of members |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 25-34 | 46 |
| 35-44 | 84 |
| 45-54 | 52 |
| 55-64 | 21 |
| 65-74 | 2 |

Sri C.Natarajan (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) aged 25 was the youngest and Sri Sami Sahajananda and Sri Gomathisankara Dikshathar (both Congress) aged 66 were the oldest of the members elected.

Classification of the elected members by economic and social groups and educational qualifications is as follows:-

Livelihood Classes

| | |
|--|------------|
| I. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents | 96 |
| II. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents | 10 |
| III. Cultivating labourers and their Dependents | 2 |
| IV. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents | 19 |
| V. Production other than cultivation | 2 |
| VI. Commerce | 5 |
| VII. Transport | 6 |
| VIII. Other services and miscellaneous sources | 65 |
| Total | 205 |

Social Groups

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Non-Backward Classes | 85 |
| Unscheduled Backward Classes | 80 |
| Scheduled Castes | 80 |
| Scheduled Tribes | 1 |

Educational qualifications

| | |
|---|----|
| Literate | 80 |
| Middle School | 43 |
| Matriculate or Secondary School-Leaving Certificate | 26 |
| Intermediate in Arts or Science | 5 |

Degrees and Diplomas

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Graduates in Arts or Science | 15 |
| Post-Graduate in Arts or Science | 10 |
| Teaching | 1 |
| Engineering | ... |
| Agriculture | |
| Veterinary | 1 |
| Commerce | 2 |
| Legal | 19 |
| Medical | 2 |
| Others | 1 |
| Total | 205 |

Consequent on the addition of one more seat in accordance with the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh and Madras (Alteration of Boundaries) Act 1959, Sri S.Ranganatha Mudaliar, a Congress member in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly till the 31st March 1960 was deemed to have been elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the Tiruttani Constituency with effect from 1st April 1960. He is a member of the legal profession.

The distribution of parties in the Second Madras Legislative Assembly as on the 1st May 1957 after its constitution with effect from 1st April 1957 and on 28th February 1962 before its dissolution on 1st March 1962, are given in Section II – [Table Nos.I and II](#) respectively.

After the General Elections and before the constitution of the Assembly under Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, one member died and another member resigned consequent on his election to the Lok Sabha. Apart from these two vacancies, nine more vacancies occurred during the term of the second Assembly, seven on account of the death of the members, and two on account of the elections having been set aside. Thus there were 11 vacancies during the lifetime of the Assembly, but they actually involved only 10 constituencies, as two vacancies arose in the same constituency, namely, Tuticorin. These 10 seats were held by Congress 6, Independents 3 and Forward Bloc 1. No bye-elections were held for three of the seats held by the Congress Party as they occurred towards the end of the term of the Assembly. For the remaining seven vacancies (Congress 3, Forward Bloc 1 and Independents 3), eight bye-elections were held as two bye-elections were found necessary for the Tuticorin were held as two bye-elections were found necessary for the Tuticorin Constituency. In the two bye-elections for the Tuticorin Constituency, the Congress retained its seat. In the other six bye-elections, the Congress won four seats and Independents two seats. The details regarding the bye-elections are given in Section II [Table No.III](#).

The list of members of the Assembly from 1957 to 1962 together with their constituencies and the changes in the membership are given in Section II-[Table No.IV](#).

CHAPTER III

The Governor

The Constitution of India provides that there shall be a Governor for each State (Article 153). The Governor is appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.

Sri A.J. John who assumed charge as Governor of Madras on 10th December 1956, continued to hold office as Governor till his death on 30th September 1957. On the demise of Sri A.J. John, Sri P.V.Rajamannar, Chief Justice, Madras High Court, was appointed by the President to discharge the functions of the Governor of Madras until a person permanently appointed under Article 155 of the Constitution assumed office. Sri P.V.Rajamannar assumed the office of the Governor on the forenoon of 1st October 1957 and continued to discharge the functions of the Governor till the afternoon of 24th January 1958 when Sri Bisnuram Medhi who was appointed as Governor assumed charge. Sri Bishuram Medhi is continuing as Governor.