

## RAJAJI AND PROHIBITION MEASURES IN TAMILNADU, 1927-1939

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Preclusion is a law against making and selling of alcoholic mixers. The law relating to restriction on alcohol presented on 1 October 1937 during the organization of C. Rajagopalachari delivered consequences of extensive significance. Dependence on drink, and cocktails, were considered as friendly and otherworldly illnesses. Social reformers and strict heads of the time urged individuals to avoid these wrongs, C. Rajagopalachari pursued a persevering battle against the wrongs of drink. Almost certainly that intoxicants have been there through all ages and in all nations. However, in a nation like Tamil Nadu where many individuals reside beneath the destitution line, hopelessness brought about by dependence on drink is appalling.

### **Early Attempts**

To check the propensity for drinking and the utilization of different intoxicants, the British presented a progression of measures in the nineteenth century. In 1866, the House of Commons passed a goal which denounced the extract organization in India. Moderation pioneers like Hall Caine suggested complete denial and needed a finish to the offer of drink and different alcohols. The battle for opportunity in India, under the authority of Mahatma Gandhi, was not a simple political battle; but rather it additionally focused on the financial recovery of the country. Mahatma Gandhi was a lot of worried about the ethical re-age of the Indian public. Therefore, the Prohibition Policy turned into the foundation of the Congress gathering's political program, In 1927, R.N. Arogyaswami Mudalier, the Minister of Excise and Public Health in Dr. T Subbarayan Ministry, passed the Prohibition Bill. Consequently Rajaji a nearby devotee of Gandhiji gave a handout called Indian Prohibition.<sup>1</sup>

Manual under the protection of the Congress Prohibition Committee in 1931. Public was particularly dazzled by the forbiddance strategy of the Congress and casted a ballot the gathering to control in July 1937. Mahatma Gandhi's appeal to the country gave the genuinely necessary energy to the execution of disallowance. There was hence no question the plan of preclusion would succeed even on its first presentation in the Legislature on first October 1937. Restriction of inebriating drinks was of indispensable significance to the prosperity of thousands of helpless families. Presumably the quick outcome of disallowance was the deficiency of income to the public authority because of shutting of the alcohol shops. In Salem locale alone the misfortune added up to 26 lakhs. In any case, the public authority was not burdened by the thought of loss of income. All things considered, it needed to carry cheer and bliss to a huge number of helpless families as the breadwinners those families were every day squandering their well deserved cash on drinks. Subsequently, the public authority chose to stretch out denial to the entire of the Madras Presidency.<sup>2</sup>

### The Madras Prohibition Bill

The Madras Prohibition Bill on 27 September 1937, the Prohibition Bill was passed. The preclusion bill was acquainted with expand the denial of the production, deal and utilization of Intoxicating alcohols in the region of Madras The bill got blended response from the individuals from the Madras Legislative Assembly. Some of them upheld it though not many others went against something very similar. William Wright, the individual from the Select Committee saw throughout the discussion that "Restriction is definitely not a reasonable approach to be received in any country on the planet including India". To validate his contention he referred to the case of United States of America where the strategy of disallowance end up being a disaster, A. Appadurai Pillai, an individual from the resistance scrutinized the preclusion strategy of Rajaji. He additionally referred to the case of U.S.A. where the disallowance strategy bombed pitifully. The leader of the State of Bhopal attempted to present disallowance in 1924 however several years it end up being unfeasible. Accordingly, it was removed in Bhopal. Rajaji didn't pay any notice to these analysis and presented restriction in the Madras Presidency. To make up the misfortune in the income, the public authority upgraded the expenses. The yearly budgetary income of the Government in 1937 was rupees 1.71 crores. Yet, after the presentation of preclusion it was raised to rupees 4.5 crores by upgraded extra assessments. It carried severe difficulty to the citizens and brought about eager resistance from the vendor local area.

The individuals from the Madras Legislative Assembly like Muttiah Chettiar censured the denial strategy of Rajaji. He fought that the arrangement reduced the opportunity of the people and brought up that in Western nations "drink is certifiably not an insidiousness yet tipsiness is a fiendishness. R.M. Palat needed the Congress Party to convince individuals to quit any pretense of drinking on upright instead of power forbiddance on them. Burning-through of wine in the mass as an image and memory of Jesus Christ for lecturing was considered as blessed obligation of the Christians. The Christians under A.T. Paneerselvam focused on the requirement for the exclusion of mass wine from the preclusion strategy. So, it constrained the public authority to surrender the move. The individuals who upheld the restriction strategy progressed their own reasons. N. Ranga Reddi, an individual from the Legislative Assembly called attention to that in Cuddapah there was a precarious expansion in the crime percentage because of the impact of drink. He admonished the specialists to avoid the malevolent and mentioned the public authority to stretch out restriction to more locale. Rajaji who directed the bill fought that the responses in the papers were supportive of disallowance. The primary goal of the Congress Ministry was to convince the perusers of papers to Co-work with the public authority in regards to the forbiddance strategy. Over the span of the discussion, more individuals stretched out their help to the execution of forbiddance. V.I. Muniswami Pillai, an individual from the Select Committee brought up that keeping away from the drinking of liquor brought about the improvement in the social and financial existence of individuals. After much pondering the bill was passed on 27 September 1937 into Law.

The political decision Manifesto of the Congress Party gave just before the 1937 races upheld absolute denial. At the point when the Congress Party shaped the Ministry on

fourteenth July 1937, it chose to carry out its ideal and passed the forbiddance bill. In the first place, the public authority chose to present the restriction strategy in Salem locale from first October 1937 onwards, on an exploratory premise. The chief point of the Government was to stop the deal and utilization of alcohol in and around the area. The execution of disallowance in Salem locale was endowed at the outset to the Police. In this way Special Prohibition Committees were shaped to help the police. Stamping of the trees in the Salem locale for the tapping of matured drink for adjoining regions was surrendered. All alcohol shops in Salem region were shut from first October 1937. The gatherer and the forbiddance official accountable for the area comprised disallowance boards in each taluk. The individuals from the Prohibition Committee were needed to outfit data to the police. The Prohibition Officer or Magistrate had the ability to capture the suspects. The Working of Prohibition in Salem District The presentation of denial turned into an embraced the truth when Rajaji shaped the Congress Ministry. A.F.W. Dixon, the Collector of Salem stretched out his full co-activity to the denial strategy of the Rajaji's Congress Ministry. Subsequently, the public authority disallowed the offer of packaged alcohol in certain predetermined regions. Notwithstanding, the bonafide explorers were permitted to have packaged alcohol upto three units for their own utilization, in the restricted region. The specialists conceded grant to priest and clerics to purchase wine for strict purposes.<sup>3</sup>

### **Presentation of Prohibition**

In Salem locale an extraordinary watch was kept on transports utilizing in the towns to distinguish the vehicle of booty alcohol. Steps were likewise taken to check the transports conveying individuals from Salem area to forestall the pirating of alcohol. Because of the execution of Prohibition in Salem locale a District Intelligence Bureau was made. The Forest Department authorities were engaged to deal with offenses associated, with forbiddance submitted in timberland regions. The Government looked for the assistance of the town officials for upholding the arrangements of the Act. Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees engaged the Government to expand its co-activity in such manner. Because of the presentation of denial in Salem area 726 drink shops, were shut. <sup>4</sup>

### **Working of Prohibition Measures**

The Working of Prohibition between October 1937 and October 1939 in the Madras Presidency The execution part of the denial strategy called for most extreme respect and 'stubbornness' with respect to the organization since they needed to manage the unschooled and unskilled masses of the wide open who were uninformed about the material, good and moral qualities included. Police needed to stringently implement the law, the social specialists to teach the uninformed masses by setting genuine models. The political initiative needed to stay focused on the arrangement. The presentation of Prohibition from 1 October 1937 in Salem locale was the initial step received by Rajaji's Congress Ministry against the social malevolence. A District Superintendent of Police was named to uphold the arrangement. To help him, Sub-Inspectors, Prohibition Police, the District Intelligence Bureau and Taluk Prohibition Committees were made. The District Superintendent of Police, presented a month to month report to the Collector in regards to the working of

disallowance. To redirect the consideration of the Public, the 'Tea Cess Committee' suggested utilization of tea. Looking at the palmyrah and coconut trees and checking the transports were the essential obligations of the police division. In the period of March 1938 the police analyzed 20,651 trees for recognizing cases which disregarded the arrangements of the Act. In May 1938, in Salem locale alone the police checked 20,956 trees because of which thirteen cases were enlisted. Essentially, around the same time in North Arcot District belt region the police authorities paid 94 visits to drink and arrack shops and led 53 street checks. They visited 232 towns of the North Arcot District to identify illegal production of alcohol. Insight with wilderness cops on six events and met 110 Village Vigilance Committees. The Village Vigilance Committee individuals stretched out their full co-activity to keep away from the illegal assembling of arrack and drink all through Salem locale and in the belt regions. <sup>5</sup>

Aftereffects of the Working of Prohibition Policy somewhere in the range of 1937 and 1939 The authorization of the disallowance was the preeminent among the strategies of the Congress. It brought about significant changes in the existences of individuals, and yet the Government thought that it was undeniably challenging to hold over the monetary misfortune. Somewhere in the range of 1937 and 1939 restriction strategy was presented in stages in Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot regions. In Salem District the misfortune added up to sixteen lakhs of rupees each year. The complete loss of income for the years 1938-39 was assessed to be rupees 25,22,000. Thus, denial was gone against not just on the ground that it decreased the Government's income yet additionally it required new tax assessment which end up being a significant weight on individuals. Further, the implementation of the Prohibition Act Salem made strains in the highway connection among Madras and Mysore. The Madras Government presented an absolute restriction from 1 October 1937 onwards in Salem region. Be that as it may, the leaseholders of Mysore were not able to stop the tapping till the expiry of their licenses. The Madras Government educated the authorities of the Mysore State to quickly stop the tapping of trees in the region. The Government of Mysore brought up that the program would bring about extraordinary misfortune to their income. Hence, they requested sufficient remuneration to the leaseholders for the misfortune in the wiping out of the plan. The Madras Government consented to pay for tenants and mentioned them to surrender drink tapping and the Mysore leaseholders obliged. They suspended the tapping work in Salem region. A similar issue happened when disallowance was presented in Chittoor and Cuddapah locale on first October 1938. The Hyderabad Government neglected to co-work with the Madras Government. In this manner, illegal refining was boundless in the northern pieces of Madras Presidency and spread to Vizagapatnam, Kurnool, Anantapur, Bellary, Coimbatore and Malabar regions. To stop illegal refining the Congress volunteers, restriction knowledge Bureau and the town carefulness councils expanded their full help for the requirement of the Prohibition Act. A.F.W, Dixon, the Collector of Salem who embraced the perspective on the officials associated with implementation expressed that disallowance brought about the overall improvement in the way of life and diminished obligation with respect to poor

people. Socially it came about “in better home life, a superior out look on life, steadier and more steady person”.<sup>6</sup>

After the execution of denial the connection between the industrialist and the laborers improved extensively. Most likely the cancelation of drink shops brought about joblessness according to the perspective of the drink tappers. Notwithstanding, the Act permitted tapping of sweet squeeze from the trees and attempted to limit the degree of joblessness. This, be that as it may, gave just a halfway arrangement. According to the insights accessible as on 1 October 1937, 2,699 grown-ups stayed without business. Around 23,109 took to agrarian occupations and 1,717 grown-ups moved to different locale looking for work. To discover an answer for the joblessness issue among the ex-drink tappers, agreeable social orders and Land Development Banks were begun. This profited the provincial populace to a significant degree. Among them the three co-employable deals social orders at Salem, Rasipuram and Tiruchengode together offered cotton and groundnuts to the tune of six lakhs of rupees each year. This profited the agriculturalists of the area. Meanwhile three more co-employable social orders were begun in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Kelamangalam all in the Salem region. These social orders delivered worthy assistance for the government assistance of individuals. The Government additionally requested the development of some co-employable social orders and jaggery producing deals social orders. The Development divisions of the Government led exhibits and showed the agriculturalists the technique for making unrivaled nature of palrayrah jaggery, coconut and palm jaggery. It ought to likewise be conceded that the pay of the tappers tumbled from rupees fifteen for each mensem to a simple rupees nine for every mensem. Tapping of sweet squeeze was likewise unfruitful. Individuals of Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot locale stretched out their earnest help to the forbiddance strategy.<sup>7</sup> The accomplishment of the arrangement drew the consideration of different states.

At the point when the Congress accepted force in 1937, Rajaji executed disallowance first in Salem. A plot he composed on disallowance in 1931 makes for intriguing perusing, as it typifies the good (and clinical) contentions against drinking. By 1949, Madras territory had carried out an arrangement of all out preclusion. The Congress Ministries before long presented forbiddance in Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Central territories and North West Frontier areas. Consequently the fantasy, of presenting restriction on alcohol in Madras Presidency emerged uniquely during the organization of C. Rajagopalachari. It achieved significant changes in the financial state of the average person. Burglaries, murders, assaults, cheating and other enemy of social exercises likewise step by step diminished. Discovering the result helpful to the oppressed the Congress Government stretched out the plan to different regions of Tamil Nadu. Lamentably the renunciation of Rajaji's Ministry on 26 October 1939 managed a hit to the approach of forbiddance on alcohol. The time frame somewhere in the range of 1939 and 1946 came to be known as the dim time of disallowance strategy. In April 1946, T. Prakasam shaped the Congress Ministry. He once again introduced the restriction strategy on alcohol and stretched out something similar to the entire of Madras Presidency.

**End Notes**

1. B.S. Baliga, *Compendium on Temperance and Prohibition in Madras*, Madras, 1960, p.1.
2. C.V. Radhakrishnana, *The Social and Political Philosophy of Rajaji*, Madras, 1979, p.63.
3. G.O No.2846, Board of Revenue, 3 November 1938, p.23
4. G.O No.78, Legal Department, 28 January 1939, p.8.
5. G.O No. 4013, Home Department, 16 August, 1938, pp.5-18.
6. G.O 2846, Board of Revenue, 3 November 1938, p.23.
7. K.C. Chaudhry, *Congress in Free India*, New Delhi, 1980, p. 15.