

## **E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Saptamunni Government In Kerala**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*E.M.S. Namboodiripad, the prolific and prominent dialectician in India deserves special attention. He ranks among the top Indian political leaders. Namboodiripad, the Namboodiri Brahmin who became Kerala's First Chief Minister and India's leading Left communist led his party to power by promising Kerala's impoverished and landless electorate that he would do something to them. E.M.S. Namboodiripad was the first top congress leader from Kerala who played an important role in nurturing the national moment at the national level. He mobilized the normal people and led them through the path of scientific socialism. He was a role model to all revolutionaries. He played an integral part towards the growth of communist movement in the country. Namboodiripad led a life of hardships and sufferings, ignoring the barriers of caste and religion. In 1957 he was elected as the first Chief Minister of Kerala and then again in 1967.*

### **KEYWORDS:**

*Communist, deserves, impoverished, prolific, platform, vimochanasamaram.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 1957 Kerala legislative assembly election was held and E.M.S. Namboodiripad was elected and appointed as the first chief minister of Kerala. This was one of the democratically elected communist government in the world and was dismissed in 1959 by the central government which invoked the controversial Article 356 of the Indian constitution following the liberation struggle (Vimochana Samaram). In February 1960 new election was held to the Kerala legislature. In this election communist party was defeated by a triple alliance and a coalition ministry was formed under Pattam A. Thanupillai as Chief minister.

In 1962 Pattam A. Thanupillai was appointed as the governor of Punjab and R. Shankar, the leader of Congress party, became the Chief Minister. P. S. P. gradually left the alliance due to their differences

with Muslim league. The ministry under R. Shankar resigned from power on 10th September 1964. Thus once again Kerala was brought under president's rule.

## **1965 MIDTERM ELECTION AND FORMATION OF SAPTAMUNNANY GOVERNMENT:**

In 1965 midterm election happened in Kerala. In this election each political parties faced the election independently. Hence none of the parties secured a clear majority. Newly elected legislative assembly was dissolved by the president of India on March 24th 1965. The result of the election and the subsequent dissolution of newly elected state legislature was an eye opener to all opposition parties. The communist saw that the 1965 line of a left united front with adjustment of a few seats with MLA's was inadequate what was exactly needed was to have united front it all those who were ready to join in defeating the congress and forming a non congress coalition government. With this aim in view the communist party called for the unity of all those opposition parties who were prepared to accept a minimum programme.

Several opposition parties including including two communists CPI(M), CPI, SSP, ML, RSP, KTP, and, KSP, formed a non congress united front under the leadership of EMS Namboodiripad.

## **MAJOR REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF UNITED FRONT:**

One reason was just to reduce the strengthening influence of the congress and to the formation of rebel congress party.

To stop president's rule, political situation of 1965, food shortage and rise of prices of commodities were the major problems which helped the formation of a united front emergence. The leaders of the opposition especially Namboodiripad wanted to include Muslim league in the front as against the congress. The united front was a matter of survival of the communist party. So it abandoned its original political stand and accepted Muslim league as a partner in the united front and determined to play a role for the unification of other opposition under general leadership of CPI.

After the settlement of alliance problem and electoral policy, the leaders of united front concentrated their attention in drawing upon outline of minimum program and distribution of seats to respective parties. The leaders of the party argue for the distribution of seats on the basis of votes secured by each party in the 1965 midterm election. But EMS Namboodiripad not agreed with that demand. Any how 1966 November an agreement was reached to the effect that united front could contest all the 133 assembly seats. In this election saptamunnanygot a thumping majority of 117seats out of 133. The result of 1967 election showed the effectiveness it united front tactics in the political setup of Kerala. Soon after the success of united front EMS was elected as the leader of united front.

United front faced a serious problem of forming a cabinet. Each party in the united front wanted more seats in the cabinet than actually they deserved. It produced some dilemma. But he very tactfully handled his portfolio, giving representation to all groups, on the basis of their representation in the Legislative Assembly. Thus in March 6th 1967 united front ministry under EMS Namboodiripad assumed office and

the long president's rule came to an end. Cabinet included 13 ministers including EMS Namboodiripad. He himself took the portfolio of General Administration-Home, planning, police, election, presentation of curroptions, informationand publicity etc.He placed suitable persons in the other portfolios.

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