



A SHORT HISTORY OF MARSHAL NESAMONY

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Abstract

Marshal Nesamony was also called as “The Father of Kanyakumari District” Marshal Nesamony’s work is essential for the leaders who have succeeded in joining the Kumari District with TamilNadu. So he is called the father of Kumari. He worked as a teacher in Karnool, Andra Pradesh, Trichy and Trivandrum. Later he worked as a lawyer until the end of 1921. He fought for everybody to vote. He was the head of the Lawyers Association. He served as the city father of Nagercoil city from 1943-1946. He started an orphanage centre in Nagercoil. This is the first orphanage centre in Travancore. He started the TamilNadu Congress of Travancore on December 9,1945. In the presence of Sivathanupillai, Chidamparam Pillai, and Abdul Razak on September 8,1947 he converted the Travancore TamilNadu Congress into a political movement. In 1952-1957 he was elected as the Member of Parliament in Loksabha for Nagercoil. He did not want to vote in Nagercoil in 1962-1967, but he was succeeded and elected Member of Parliament. He dedicated by the life of the state, the nation as well as the party of the Congress.

Marshal Nesamony the founder of Kumari District is the tamil people living in the tamil areas of Travancore. Nesamony was born in the 12th of June 1895 to Kesavan Appavu Nadar- Gnanammal couple who lived in Nesarapuram Palliyadi in Vilavancode Taluk, Kanyakumari District. He was educated at Scott Christian High School and then at C.M.S.College in Tirunelveli. He graduated from Maharaja’s College in Thiruvananthapuram and studied at Law College in Thiruvananthapuram.

In 1921 Nesamony Started his career as a lawyer. Nesamony’s name was also included in the list of prominent criminal lawyers in the State of Travancore. In 1943 Nesamony was elected as the President of the Nagercoil Law Association. Then Nesamony began to engage in public service. He was elected to the city council in 1943 by contesting in Nagercoil Municipal Council election. His work for the towns in the short period of time, he worked as a Municipal Chairman made his



reputation. He argued for the oppressed people in the city. He took steps to expand the city of Nagercoil and incorporated the surrounding areas into the city.

In 1943 Kalkulam, Vilavancode meritorious and talented representative of the Travancore Legislative Assembly. Travancore took the rights of the Tamil territories to the luminous legislature, but he also lost sight of the neglect of the language due to the demands of his loyal colleagues in the assembly. The truth is that the Tamils are neglected in the state of Travancore. Travancore realized the fact that Tamil, Tamils are not living except Tamils are connected to TamilNadu. It was during this period that Travancore was a turning point not only in the Tamil area, but also in the life of Nesamony. So a meeting was held in plan Allan Memorial Hall, at Nagercoil, to advise the Tamil Communities to link TamilNadu with TamilNadu, Travancore Congress was created as that meeting. On December 9, 1945, at Neyoor Edwin Memorial Hall, a movement called Travancore TamilNadu Congress was launched under the leadership of Nesamony. Its aim to strive for the rights of oppressed Tamils.

Then came the conference in 1946. Many of the leaders of TamilNadu participated in it. The conference dissolved with the assertion that Kanyakumari, the southern boundary of TamilNadu, would be connected to TamilNadu. The demand for Tamils to be linked with TamilNadu has been propagated among the people of Travancore. The Travancore TamilNadu Congress party was able to fulfill this demand and participated in the election of the people.

In 1948, the leader of the Legislative Assembly, Nesamony was elected to the Vilavancode Legislative Assembly, and served as Chief-Minister of Travancore TamilNadu Congress till 1952. The Travancore Congress party leaders saw the rapid growth of the Kerala Congress leaders, joining it with the National Congress and demanding that the leader Nesamony be appointed minister. But the ideal leader Nesamony did not agree with this. Later it became the Republic of India, in 1952 the First general elections were held across the country. General elections were held in Cochin, Travancore TamilNadu Congress participated in it. Travancore TamilNadu Congress won 7 seats. Nagercoil Parliamentary Constituency was the first Nesamony contested and won over more than 1,50,000 votes and won the Sivathanu Pillai.

He lamented the demands of the Tamil people in Parliament. For the benefit of Tamil people Kerala Congress leaders asked Nesamony to support Congress formation in Cochin. They said they would add a Tamil, he accepted this request. Accordingly Thiru.A. Chidambaranathan was appointed



minister of Tamils, in the Congress cabinet headed by Thiru.A.J. John. But Kerala Congress leaders did not fulfill their pledges later. So the Cochin Assembly was dissolved. In 1954 conducted subdivision election again took place in Cochin. Travancore TamilNadu Congress won 12 seats. So Nesamony's fame has also gained. Thus the Kerala Congress party supported the praja socialist party and was appointed Pattom Thanu Pillai as a minister. Pattom Thanu Pillai government issued 144 injunctions. But he was violated the ban on the right of the people.

Subsequently the Pattom Thanu Pillai government held a six-week jail term claiming that Nesamony had violated the ban. So the fight began, the escalation of police repression increased the intensity of the struggle. Police stormed and shoot at Marthandam, Puthukadai. Many Tamil Peoples have died. In this situation the leader Nesamony was loyal to the victims. Then the Pattom Thanu Pillai cabinet lost influence. After leader Nesamony struggled to connect the Tamil areas to TamilNadu. The State Reorganization Commission came to the TamilNadu areas, Leader Nesamony told the demands of TamilNadu. The great leader Kamarajar supported the Tamil diaspora as a separate district.

The tamil speaking people of Vilavancode, Kalkulam, Thovalai, and Augustheeswaram, wanted to joint with TamilNadu. Under the able leadership of Marshal Nesamony the four Taluks people united together and started and agitations about Travancore. Kamaraj extended his full supported to Marshal Nesamony and the four taluk in together known as Kanyakumari District, merged the TamilNadu on November 1st 1956.

Marshal Nesamony also participated in the Indian Independence movement. He taught people the need for Independence in places where he studied and worked. He was the leader of Gandhian's Non-Cooperation Movement in Travancore. In 1962 Nesamony was elected to Parliament for the second time. In the general election held in 1967, the Congress was defeated in TamilNadu. But in the Kanyakumari Disrict only Congress won 6 out of 7 seats.

This election revealed the confidence of the people of Kumari District Leader Nesamony. The election work of 1967 affected the health of Nesamony. So his health worsened, Later the leader Nesamony died on 01-06-1968. In 1984 the "Christian College" at Marthandam renamed as "Nesamony Memorial Christian College" in honour of Marshal Nesamony. The great leader Nesamony was the crown prince of the Kanyakumari District.



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