



Babu Jagajivanaram as Parliamentarian

Dr. Dharshana Devi

Assisstant Professor(Pol.Sc.), South Point Degree College
Rattangarh-Baghru, Distt. Sonipat

Abstract

India Is the largest democratic Country in the world. Over the years many great people have been contributing to society to uphold the existence of democracy ever since. Some of the nation's leaders have played an important role as a sailor steering the ship to the right direction.

Babu Jagjivanr

Ram is one of those who devoted themselves to the prosperity of the masses while consistently fighting for meaningful struggle for the fulfillment of the Freedom and Equality Fraternity in national politics. Babu Jagjivan Ram as successful leader, green revolution pioneer, progressive thinkers, social innovators, and integrated India as their field of thought. Babu Jagajivana Ram, who is a great believer in democracy, has shown great interest in the prosperity of the country's daily life. Babu Jagajivana Ram, the great leader of the Pre-Independence and post- independence of India.

Keywords: Social Justice, National, Legacy, constitutional, Modern, Champion, Streamlined.

INTRODUCTION:

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a freedom fighter. His meteoric rise in public life has seen him emerge as if he were an eminent and influential political leader who has devoted all his life to working for the nation's wellbeing. He belonged to the vintage era of modern Indian politics as a national leader and parliamentarian.

Objective of the study: To understand the personality of Babu Jagjivan Ram as a Parliamentarian.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

In this research paper, the secondary sources of data were used from professional magazines, journals, articles, news papers, internet, books etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Harish Kumar Said in his article, "De Babu Jagjivan Ram Role in the Making of Modern India" published by JETIR in 2019 focused on the role of Babu Jagjivan Ram in the making of modern India. The nation building process in India is also emphasised.¹ Peter Friedlander said in his article. "Reassessing and Politics in the Life of Babu Jagjivan Ram" published by MDPI



(Religions) in 2020 discussed about aglivan Ram in relation to Congress Ravidas Movement, Siv Narayani Movement. Tughlaqabad Temple and his opposition to Conversion and Congress.
² Venkatachalapathy Said M. in his article. "The Role of Babu Jagjivan Ram in the Freedom Struggle and Emancipation of Depressed Classes" published by the IJHSS in 2018 dealt in length the role of Babu Jagjivan Ram in the freedom struggle and his efforts towards upliftment of depressed classes.
³ Chanchreek, KL said in his book. "Babu Jogiivan Ram: A Crusader for Social Equality" published by Shree Publishers and Distributors in 2012 analysed the efforts made by Babu Jagjivan Ram to achieve social equality in caste based society of India. ⁴

LIFE HISTORY OF BABU JAGJIVAN RAM:

Babu Jagjivan Ram was born in a small village, Chandwa, in the district of Shahabad, now Bhojpur, on 5 April 1908 in Bihar, to Shobhi Ram and Vasanti Devi. He was married Indrani Devi in 1935. He had two children Mira Kumar and Suresh Kumar.

In 1937 he was elected to the Assembly of Bihar. Babu Jagjivan Ram, a student at the Hindu University of Banaras, where he faced caste prejudice, was instrumental in the establishment of the All-India Depressed Classes League in 1935. He went to jail many times during Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha Movement in 1940 and Quit India Movement in 1942.⁵ S. In 1946, he became the youngest minister in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet and was a prominent figure in the high-profile Indian delegation that attended the International Convention on Labour in 1946 in Geneva. This delegation was headed by AN Sinha, a Gandhian thinker and statesman from Bihar. He was the chief political mentor of Jagjivan Ram, who holds the world record of uninterrupted representation in Parliament for over 40 years from 1946 to 1986.⁶

He also holds the unique record of serving as minister and in the Union Cabinet for 31 years. He founded Congress for democracy in 1977. He remained Deputy Prime minister of India 1977-1979. With his remarkable administrative ability, he not only effectively met the challenges of nation-building, but also streamlined the several ministries he held over the years.

LEGISLATIVE CAREER: A WORLD RECORD. BABUJI WON TEN ELECTIONS FROM THE SAME CONSTITUENCY ON AN ONGOING BASIS:

Babuji became a member of the Bihar Legislative Council in April 1936. Meanwhile, elections were scheduled to be held in 1936-37 under the Government of India Act, 1935. The political acumen of Babuji and his stature were such that no one filed their nomination against him. As a member of the Bhartiya Depressed Classes League (BDCL), his own party, Babuji was elected unopposed to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in December 1936. It also assured the uncontested victory of 14 additional BDCL candidates from reserved constituencies. He was a mere 28 years old then. Afterwards, at the invitation of Congress,



he and his 14 MLAs entered Congress: ⁷ It was in the year 1946 that he assumed the office of the Minister of Labour in the Interim Government at the Centre having been elected unopposed as a Congress candidate. He was the

- youngest member in the two interim governments. In the post-independence India, he won all the Lok Sabha elections-1952, 1957 (Unopposed), 1962, 1967, 1971, 1977, 1980, 1984 from the same constituency of Sasaram. His uninterrupted half-a-century parliamentary career was a world record from 1936 until his death in 1986.⁸ History of the Indian Parliament, Jagjivan Ram has had the distinction of being the longest serving minister.⁹
- A man of old world political morality, before and after Freedom, he had mass followers in his own right. In his role as a member of Parliament, where he was mainly a minister, he tried to resolve many of the country's long-term socio- economic problems by influencing public opinion, strategy and consensus. Jagjivan Ram was renowned for his professional management of parliamentary business. He introduced several Bills in the Lok Sabha as a Union Minister and piloted their passage in Parliament. For the ruling party, he was one of the strongest image-builders. In providing a responsible and sensitive Executive, he was a down to earth, unassuming leader who showed outstanding political realism and accommodative spirit. He had a tremendous understanding of Indian political conditions, the country's problems and proposed realistic solutions to the many challenges. He was one of those parliamentarians who, through his mature and dignified participation, enriched the parliamentary democracy of the nation. Jagjivan Ram played his role in an exceptionally impressive way, almost always as a minister and on the Treasury bench. He had his points sent out seamlessly through the different parts of the house. In Parliament, he never followed an evasive strategy and wasted no effort to keep members happy with thorough and detailed answers and speeches.¹⁰
- Since his young days, Babu Jagjivan Ram has been a successful debater and his oratory has been well- recognized and respected in Parliament. Even in the stormiest moments of the house, he is still remembered for his cool and composed demeanour. He had immense persuasive power and rational arguments that supported him to bring his points home. With equal ease and eloquence, he spoke both Hindi and English. Parliament had many outstanding parliamentarians with exceptional debating abilities during those days and many of them were renowned for their ability to put the heat on the ministers.

One of the sterling virtues of Babuji was that he was not easily provoked by attacks by the opposition.¹¹

Equipped with facts and statistics, with dignified faith, he faced the House, particularly the Opposition benches, and when the occasion demanded, he showed the Opposition his resilience and even a pinch of sarcasm. Shri V.C. Shukla said about Babu Jagjivan Ram,



"His imperturbability is a great quality of Babu Jagjivan Ram, one that immediately placed him anywhere among the select few. He remains his unruffled, serene self, no matter what storm might rage around.

Many would have no doubt had the opportunity to see the deft, assured way in which he deals with even the most stormy debates on the floor of Parliament. On such an occasion, it appears that the unruffled, unhurried, even polite man is also capable of harshly retorting. And woe to the member who tried to underestimate Shri Jagjivan Ram's ability."

He was known to the House for his unfailing courtesy, taking due notice of the views of all parts of the House, and was also an influential government "pokesperson" on the House floor. Sardar Hukam Singh, former Speaker, Lok Sabha, recounting from his memory of Jagjivan Ram said, "He would make out his case convincingly, taking criticism calmly, and give back with force and redoubled vigour, without offending anybody. He is not a dry bore. On the other hand, he can utilize wit and introduce humour at suitable occasion"

Even in the most trying situations, Jagjivan Ram was known for his calmness and composure. He would sit completely in charge of himself in the House. Composed and attentive, listening with rapt attention to the debate. Dr. L.M. Singhvi, a popular parliamentarian who was very pleased with the parliamentary success of Babuji said, "I had the pleasure of seeing Babu Jagjivan Ram working on the floor of the Lok Sabha as well as in the committees and other meetings. I have always had the impression that Shri Jagjivan Ram is one of our greatest eminent parliamentarians in tact, as well as in talent, abilities as well as performance, visibility and eloquence and in elaborate answers as well as in casual repartee."

Babu Jagjivan Ram, one of the most influential parliamentarians, has made important contributions to improving our nation's parliamentary institutions. The successive Prime Ministers put unflinching confidence in his talent and knowledge. The party, government and parliament were offered their best by Jagjivan Ram. He was part of the political elite that formed and reinforced the functioning of the country's parliamentary institutions and ensured the confidence of the people. Babu Jagjivan Ram's respect, goodwill and image and his wealth of experience combined to make him a unique leader. The former Union Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh, remembers the parliamentary days of Jagjivan Ram in the following words,

"Over the last 10 years I have been in Parliament. I had occasions to witness at close quarters Babu Jagjivan Ramji's performance in Parliament. His tremendous grasp over his portfolio in particular and national affairs in general, his imperturbability in the face of provocation and his effective delivery, both in English and Hindi, combined to make him one of our ablest Parliamentarians."



Conclusion:

He belonged to the vintage era of modern politics in India. He had a towering presence and played a long innings spanning half a century in Indian politics as national leader, parliamentarian, Union Minister and champion of the depressed classes. His enduring and quintessentially twentieth-century political legacy reminds us of India's political leadership's fervor, idealism and indomitable spirit that not only fought and earned independence for the nation. The firm framework for a new, democratic political structure was also laid. Babu Jagjivan Ram played a major role in scripting the political and constitutional growth and social change of our country, blessed with a flair for political leadership and moved by the values and goals of the socio-political events that enveloped the country. He enjoyed tremendous respect from all quarters as a passionate leader committed to public life.

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