

Quadrant II - Notes

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Module Name: Legislative Leadership & Decision Making

Module No: 19

Legislative Leadership

- Chief Minister Dayanand Bandodkar did not improve much on his legislative leadership in the second term and failed to establish himself as a distinguished Parliamentarian. His absence from the Assembly though not frequent, continued.
- Secondly he failed once again to lead from the front, in replies to supplementaries during Question Hour. In the second term, He relied on two cabinet ministers, and minister of state to reply to budget and other discussions. He himself would often prevaricate.
- Sometimes the replies to the Opposition on Starred questions were given just before the Question Hour. At times Bandodkar appeared either unmindful or unaware of legislative procedure. Sometimes the MGP government was prone to treat the Opposition with scant respect and behave as if it did not exist.

Ministers Anthony D'Souza and Gopal Mayenkar seemed to be fairly well versed in legislative procedure and tended to be explanatory rather than defensive and often well prepared.

On the floor of the House, Bandodkar was able to control his MLAs and bills were passed and resolutions voted with the stable majority of 18: 12, with the help of two independents.

A general tone of rebellion was noticeable in the legislative behaviour of MLAs Chopdekar and Patil who eventually rebelled and joined the Nav MGP.

Chopdekar would deliberately put questions to Bandodkar in English, in order to embarrass him. In the run-up to the 1972 elections, Bandodkar's legislative leadership was threatened.

Pratap Bakal resigned and withdrew support to Bandodkar. Shaba Desai also withdrew support to Bandodkar. The reasons put forward for withdrawing support were:

(i) Bandodkar's style of decision making and functioning was personalised and centralised.

(ii) Bandodkar's utterances had alienated the Bhandari Samaj which formed 30 % of the total population.

iii) He had neglected the socio-economic development of the Union territory.

Subsequently Bandodkar won the confidence vote as Pratap Bakal rejoined him.

Decision Making:

Decision making in the Second Bandodkar Cabinet was firmly centered around chief minister for strategic as well as operational decisions. His style of decision making showed an increasingly tough and purposeful line, in keeping with his personalised style.

The historic moment in decision making, came when due to changed circumstances the Goa Assembly voted for the resolution calling on the Centre to grant statehood to Goa. The passing of the historic resolution was an indication that Bandodkar had lost the initiative in decision making.

The Centre continued to be a decisive power in decision making. The power of the Centre was evident by the fact that it was able to prevent Bandodkar from expanding his ministry.