

S T A T E M E N T

This thesis is an attempt to understand the progressive and liberal policies in three specially selected areas of Raja Sayaji Rao III. An endeavour has also been made to show the ideas and work in these three fields by different classes, workers and reformers of the nineteenth century, to serve as a background.

Generally speaking, Sayaji Rao's progressive ideas are found in almost all the fields that came to his notice. When he came to the throne of Baroda, the State had passed through a period of anarchy and confusion. When he came of age and assumed full powers the atmosphere had been cleared considerably by the Dewan - Regent Sir T. Madhav Rao.

Sayaji Rao studied the needs both of his people and of the State as a whole. Whatever knowledge and information he derived from his travels in India and abroad, he tried to utilize them in improving the administration of his State in carrying out the welfare activities for the people. On the various areas which interested him, his social, economic and

w Sayaji Rao as the product of his age and to see how he as a Maharaja and his urge for reforms synthesised is thought.

The source material relating to three selected areas of thesis was examined in the Baroda Records Office, Baroda. Files and printed material of the different Departments like Revenue, Education, Khangi, Miscellaneous and of the Khangi Office of the former Baroda State, were seen and studied. Material was of confidential and non-confidential type and offered good scope for studying the ideas of Sayaji Rao. In order to examine the political relations of Sayaji Rao with the British Government, I examined the Proceedings (Secret) of the Foreign Secretary, Government of India at the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

During the course of my work, I received co-operation and help in Baroda from the authorities of the Baroda Records Office, Khangi Office (now Shrimant Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad's Mahal Office), Central Library, Smt. Hansa Mehta Library (University of Baroda) and of Sardar Bhavan's Library (Headquarters of the Baroda District Congress). I also made use of the libraries of Shri H.K. Arts College and of Gujarat Sahitya Akademi in Ahmedabad and of the Saurashtra University and Mahila College in Rajkot. I express my thanks to the authorities of all the above institutions. I am highly thankful to my teacher Dr. S. C. Misra who have guided and helped me in carrying out and completing this research work.

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