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Annie Mascarane ; A burning fire ball An Analyser

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Introduction

Annie mascarene was an Indian Independence activist ,politician and lawyer Thiruvananthapuram ,Kerala.She was a member of the constitution assembly of India as representative of state of Travancore Cochin .In 1952 she became the first women from Kerala to be elected as a member of parliament.

Family and Education

Annie Mascarene was born in Thiruvananthapuram in June 1902 in a Latin catholic family.Her father Gabriel Mascarene was a government official of the Travancore state .She attended the Maharaja's college Thiruvananthapuram ,earning double M A in History and Economics in 1925 .She went on to earn a degree in law at the Law collage Thiruvananthapuram, following her return from a teaching student I Coylon

Freedom Fighter and Early politics

A long with Akkamma cherian and Pattom Thanu pillai, Mascarene was one of the leaders of the mevements for independence and Integration of the princely states within the Indian nation. In February 1938,when the political party Travancore state congress was formed ,she became one of the first women to join. The party's goal was to establish a responsible government for Travancore and it was led by Pattom Thanu pillai as President under whom served K T Thomas and P S Nataraja pillai,as secretaries ,and M R Mathava warrier,as treasurer Mascarene was appointed to the working communittee and also served on the party's publicity committee.One of the first acts of the working committee was the send a memorandum to the Maharaja sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama varma to demand the termination of the appointment of sir C P Ramaswami iyer and establish an enquiry into his administration appointments ,and financial affairs in his role as Dewan Iyerand his supporters retaliated for the attack on his administration.

In a statewide propaganda tour undertaken with party president Pillai

,Mascarene was outspoken in her criticism of the level of participation allowed in the legislature of the dewan and the government. Her statements led to assault by a police officer as well as her home being broken into and her property being stolen she published an account of the incident, angering the police. Iyer spoke to the Maharaja against her, alleging that Mascarene was making speeches defaming the government of and encouraging non payment of taxes. The police commissioner also reported that she was dangerous and fomenting discontent

.Her activism led to numerous arrests and imprisonment for various periods from 1939-1947

In 1938 and 1939 Mascarene served on the Economic Development board of the Travancore government. During her time in the state legislature, she became powerful speaker and enjoyed policymaking. In 1942 Mascarene joined the Quit India movement and two years later was elected as secretary of the Travancore state congress. On 21 February 1946 Mahatma Gandhi wrote regarding a speech she had delivered in Bombay. Gandhi also wrote a colleague in the state congress, Pillai hoping to relieve Mascarene of her ministerial role in the government.

Parliamentary career

In 1946, Mascarene became one of the 15 women who were elected to 299 member constituent Assembly's select committee that looked into the Hindu code Bill. When the Independence Act 1947 was passed by the British parliament

,the constitutional Assembly became, on 15 August the parliament of the Dominion of India. In 1948 she was re-elected to the Travancore Cochin legislative Assembly and served until 1952. In 1949, she became the first woman post independence to serve as a minister in the state, when she was appointed minister in charge of Health and power in the Paravur T K Narayana Pillai ministry

Mascarene was elected to the first Lok Sabha as an independent candidate from the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency in the 1951 Indian general election. She was the first woman MP from Kerala and one of only 10 women elected to the parliament in those elections. In the second general elections of 1957, she was elected in Thiruvananthapuram by S Easwaran Iyer, coming forth in a contest that also featured her erstwhile colleague in the Travancore state congress, Pattom Thanu Pillai

Annie Mascarene died in 1963 and her grave lies at the Pattoor cemetery in

TVM.

In September 2013, a bronze statue of Annie Mascarene was unveiled by Hamid Ansari, the then vice president of India at the Annie Mascarene square, Vazhuthacaud Thiruvananthapuram

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