



INDIAN REVOLUTION AND CONTEMPORARY PARALLEL GOVERNMENT -1942

Dr. Littan Sarkar

B-2/ 401, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, 741235

ABSTRACT

After the failure of the Cripps Mission, there was a lot of discontentment in the country. The Congress leaders got convinced that they could not expect anything from the British Government in the near future. Consequently, the All India Congress Committee passed the famous '1942 India' Resolution on August 8, 1942. This Resolution emphasized the necessity of immediate ending of the British rule in India and announced 'the starting of a mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible; scale.' The Government of India arrested all the members of the Working Committee and Mahatma Gandhi. The people of India hit back. In various parts of India, the Government machinery was completely thrown out of gear. The Government used all possible means to crush the revolt. Thousands of people were either mercilessly killed or put behind the bars. The political life of India was completely suspended. The deadlock continued up to 1944 when Mahatma Gandhi was released. The present topics –attempt to the following:

- ◆ *To set up a new outline in this field;*
- ◆ *To propose new way for the freedoms and future etc.*

Key words: future, British rule, people, mass struggle, revolt

INTRODUCTION

The August Revolution was the last Mass Revolution lead by the congress and the last battle of the Indian People. It was indeed the last Battle of the Indian people against the mighty British Raj to throw off the yoke of foreign imperialism, which, since the beginning of the present century, had been showing of its vicious capacity for repression with an increasingly greater ferocity. The extent of the involvement of the common people even in the remotest parts of the country was so large and frequent that it turned the revolution into the fiercest battle ever fought by the India people. The revolution which was intended to be Non-violent ultimately became a violent one. The events of 1942 were a great challenge to the British authorities and paralyzed the organized functioning of the Government administration over a vast area of the country. The high British dignitaries in India including the Viceroy had to be engaged "in meeting by far the most serious rebellion since that of 1857, the gravity and extent of which... have so far (been) concealed from the world for reasons of military security."¹ It was not at all easy time for the Allied forces in the 2nd World War. On the Eastern Front, the Japanese were rapidly advancing in Burma, and it was only after the fall of Rangoon on 8th march, 1942, that the British Government made a conciliatory gesture. Sir Stafford Cripps, a member of the British cabinet, came to India with some proposal; but he could offer nothing definite, excepting a promise of Dominion Status after the war was over. Gandhiji, with his characteristic humor, described the offer as "a post dated cheque on a crushing bank," and neither Congress nor Muslim League could accept it. The Congress was getting ready for a bigger struggle and the workers engaged themselves in strengthening their party bases and getting the people keep abreast of the political situation. On coming out of jail, Satis Chandra also engaged himself in the organizational activities of the Sub divisional Congress.

In August 1942 the All India Congress Committee was holding its session in Bombay, and on 8th of the month, a resolution was adopted for starting a mass struggle on the widest scale and the Britishers were asked to '1942 India'. But before the revolution could be actually started, all the Congress leaders were arrested in the early hours of August 9, and Congress was declared an illegal organization. None of the Congress leaders, from the national to the district level, was left outside to organize or guide the revolution. But the people did not wait for the leaders; they themselves took the reins in their own hands, and a spontaneous outburst of disappointment,

disgust and anger burst out all over India, which gradually took the shape a great rebellion, which has come to be known as ' August Revolution' or Indian Revolution 1942.

"Six Commandments of Gandhi Baba"

[Bapu's (Mahatma Gandhi's) message to the nation at the time of going to jail]

1. Look upon yourself as free.
2. We are free to do anything so long as we remain within the limits of non-violence.
3. Paralyze the administration of Government by means of complete hartals and other non-violence means.
4. A satyagrahi should join the struggle for dying and not in the hope of a remaining alive.
5. Keep the nation alive even at the risk of death.
6. Do or die.

(How should you put into execution this message?)

1. Do not acknowledge any power other than the public.
2. Keep closed all factories, mills, colleges, schools and markets so long as full independence is not achieved.
3. Maintain complete non co operation with Government.
4. Do picketing in Government offices and dislocate Government administration by every means
5. Destroy tram, railway and motor services.
6. Destroy telegraph and telephone wires.
7. Persuade policemen not to carry out Government's orders,
8. Let the people take possession of college and school building and Government administration and keep them closed and in suspension if the British Government does not leave India.
9. Violate all prohibitory orders of Government.
10. Disseminate by every possible means and in very corner the news of the open rebellion against Government (for example, give publicity to this by writing on walls, by leaflets, by

writing on the ground, by word of mouth or by distributing leaflets etc.)

REVOLUTION IN MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT

In Muzaffarpur District, the underground revolution was not confined to a handful of revolutionaries, but had its roots among the masses. Under the leadership of Govind Singh, Ram Bahadur Singh, and Krishna Singh, an effort was made to paralyze the government and to set up a **parallel government**. Many villagers were under the control of the freedom fighters for some days. The following extract from the report submitted by a British government official stationed at Sahebganj, gives an idea of the work of guerrillas in Mazaffarpur District: "The political organization around this district is such that the like of it has never been seen. They have a code of signals by whistle and at night signaling by light, both flash light and oil. The rapidity for the revolution and the operation of them is incredible. I am not an alarmist but the restoration for services both rail and telephone will not be an easy matter. In those districts of Bihar where there was almost a volcanic outburst in August 1942 but which subsided in a fortnight's time, there was a fresh wave of intensive sabotaging activities by guerrillas, backed by the masses. In Bhagalpur, Gaya, Purnia, Mongher and above all in Muzaffarpur, the government was rocked and in some places paralyzed for nearly two months.

REVOLUTION IN UTTAR PRADESH

In U. P. 1942 India revolution was very powerful in the eastern part in the districts of Varanasi Ballia (in August 1942 for a week—under Chittu Pandey). Azamgarh, Gorakhpur and Allahabad. The students in Benares had formed themselves into different groups. Most of them went off their native places in the different districts in Eastern U.P., aroused the masses and made a determined effort to paralyse the government. From August 1942 to January 1943 in these districts many police chowkes were burnt, more than thirty tehsil offices were captured for some period and communication links in large parts were destroyed, the sabotaging activities were carried on very efficiently for some time and the government found it very difficult to find out centers of guerrilla activities. Army was brought both in U.P and Bihar. At first the brave young men in the underground revolution offered stiff resistance. But owing to ruthless repression many of them were captured either by the police or by the army personnel. Inhuman

atrocities were committed by army particularly on the members of the family of the 'wanted' guerrillas. The zamindars, which for some time, had supported the underground revolution, were terrorized and they withdrew their support. Some of the guerrillas died fighting. Some were arrested and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. With the superior strength of arms, the army and the police mopped up the guerrillas and crushed the mass upsurge north in Bihar and in U.P. The Government of UP and Bihar described these happenings as 'Mutiny'

PARALLEL GOVERNMENT IN BALLIA

The people of Ballia successfully carried into effect the 1942 India revolution of 9 August 1942. The news of the arrest of the Congress leaders at Bombay reached Ballia the same day. The next day all the schools in Ballia were closed and the students went round in batches shouting patriotic slogans. On 11 August, the people and the students took out a procession which ended in a meeting at which the leader called upon the people to accept the challenge of the government and the leader was arrested. On 12 August, a students' procession was taken out to demand the closure of the courts. This was stopped by 100 armed constables and in the ensuing lathi charge many were badly wounded. The same day, in a speech in the British Parliament, the Secretary of state for India alleged that the Congress programmes included action like a general strike in industry and trade, the paralysing of the administration and the courts, cutting of telegraph and telephone wires and boycotting army recruitment centres. This speech triggered off further anti-British action and on 13 August, the Bilthara Road railway station was attacked and the building was burnt. The currency notes found in the safes were not looted but were burnt. The water pump and the water tank were also smashed. A goods train was looted and the engine was smashed and seed stores, police-stations and post-offices were attacked. On 16 August, the Rasta treasury was attacked and two days later the police-station at Bairia was reattached as the station officer had removed the tricolor which the freedom fighters planted there on 15 August, after gaining control of the place. The infuriated mob, numbering about 25,000, raided the police-station and numerous attempts were made to re-host the flag. Men and women of all ages as well as children took active part in the raid, as in other parts of the district, without fearing reprisal by bullets. The police responded with a volley of shots resulting in the death of at least 20 and injuring about a hundred. A young man of 20 reaching his goal to plant the tricolour, was hit by four bullets and died on the spot. Dharam Das Misra (a local leader) and

a boy of 12 years also dropped dead instantaneously while trying to hoist the flag on the police-station. The police kept up the firing for about six hours from about 14 hours. Undeterred by the firing, the deaths and the injuries, people maintained pressure to gain control of the police-station as they were determined to capture the police officer and others responsible for the firing but at dead of night, when it was raining, the police staff slipped away, and the thana was captured the next morning. By this time the freedom fighters had gained control of many other places in the district including the tahsil headquarters of Bansdih, the police-station and the seed store. The indiscriminate firing at the Beira police-station and at other places compelled the people to take up arms, ignoring altogether the spirit of non-violence which had been their guiding principle till then. The district administrators had become nervous as the district was fast going out of their control and as all their talks of arriving at a compromise with the leaders of the freedom fighters in jail had failed as the latter wanted that the officers of the district administration serve faithfully under local Panchayati government after handing over the charge of the district administration to them. To this the district magistrate is reported to have said that in that event they would be hanged and he would be sacked. On 19 August, about 50,000 persons armed with guns, lathies, spears, etc., proceeded towards the jail to free their leaders and other participants. When the (Indian) district magistrate learnt that the people were approaching in thousands to free their comrades in order to attack the government offices and to loot the treasury, he went to the leaders in jail and met Chittu Pandey, a local leader, and others and offered to release them provided they pacified the crowd. But as the leaders did not agree, he suggested that they should at least take the responsibility of seeing that no harm reached the treasury, the prison and government property. As no guarantee was given to him, he had no option but to release the freedom fighters in the faint hope of saving the treasury and other government property. Before their release they assured him that efforts would be made to maintain peace as far as possible. This not only marked the first victory of the freedom struggle but was a symbol in this small and economically backward district of Ballia of the downfall of the British raj. After their release, the leaders addressed a mammoth meeting at the town hall when Chittu Pandey exhorted the people not to indulge in sabotage or similar activities. But there was a difference of opinion and many opposed this point of view as they had witnessed the brutal killing of their companions and their feelings had been roused vehemently, so sabotage activities continued. A police officer who had the students beaten was caught and belabored. The residences of government officers and non-officials who had given support to the government were sacked. Shops selling foreign cloth and

liquor were attacked. The district magistrate, who was by now certain that the treasury would be looted, directed a deputy collector to burn the currency notes after noting down their numbers. These instructions were carried out but lakhs of rupees were pocketed by the police in the process. On 20 August, a police van went round the town firing at passersby indiscriminately contrary to the assurance given to the leaders. In the absence of any planned program, many administrative centers remained to be captured, but they had already ceased to function properly. The freedom fighters constituted separate panchayats for different localities for carrying on the civil administration and Congress volunteers were appointed for the defense of the city, By now the people had acquired complete control of the city so much so much so that they declared 'Independence' for Ballia on 20 August 1942, and a **Parallel Government** was formed with Chittu Pandey as its first head. According to a government report, seven out of ten police-stations of the district were in the hands of the freedom fighters and Congress raj had been proclaimed. On 22 August 1942, Chittu Pandey called a meeting to which he invited the district magistrate who did not appear but sent a notice to be read out at the meeting to the effect that anybody who spread terrorism in the district would be arrested. During the night of 22–23 August, military forces entered Ballia and popular government was overthrown. Then the horrors of the British police and military were let loose upon the people of Ballia, signalized by an orgy of loot and plunder, rape and ravage, beating and shooting, firing and burning.

All leaders of the revolution, young and old, were arrested, beaten and tortured. The houses of all those who had helped or were supposed to have helped the fighters, were burnt down. The leaders were made to climb trees and were bayoneted. People arbitrarily imposed and fantastically large amounts were collected. People arrested were first mercilessly beaten, then kept in the lockup and starved. Those prisoners who refused to answer questions were suspended by their legs. More painful and inhuman tortures were inflicted on 'dangerous' prisoners which have few parallels in modern history. The prisons were so crowded with political prisoners that there was not even any space for sitting nor were they provided with any bedding or given other facilities. Instead of the usual jail utensils they were given earthen bowls and once a day were given chapattis made from chaff which caused dysentery. Many contracted diseases by the time they were released but when the Congress was in power in Ballia, government officers were well treated. Between August 1942 and 1944, no one in Ballia dared to wear the Gandhi cap as those found wearing it even as a matter of habit, were shot dead. So great was the terror that no lawyer

dared to come forward to defend the arrested victims, many of whom were awarded 25 to 30 years' imprisonment. The few who did were arrested on some charge or other

REVOLUTION IN GUJARAT

In Gujarat the underground revolution was very ably led by Chhotubhai Purani, Chahdrashankar Bhatt and Meghjee. Chhotubhai Purani in one of his talks to a group of young colleagues in the 1942 India revolution explained the technique of the struggle in a very direct and simple manner. He said, "The British ruled India mainly with the police force." There is a police chowki for about five villages and there are hardly one or two rifles there ...If a group of eight or ten fearless young men would attack a police station, they would be able to capture it. The army would come later on but how long would the army continue to stay in a village? Chhotubhai Purani and his colleagues set up groups of young workers in different villages in Gujarat and successfully adopted this method. The masses had great trust in these underground leaders and lent all support to them.

REVOLUTION IN ANDHRA, MADRAS

This pattern of the underground revolution was very effective in the rural areas of Kannad speaking region and in some parts of Andhra. In this part, besides this programmed, the communication system and the government offices were also the targets of attacks of guerrillas. In Andhra, the underground workers efficiently carried on sabotage activities the cutting of wires, removing of fishplates on the rails, blowing up of bridges and other programmes. Bhirnavaram in West Godavari District was the main center of underground activity. In the military aerodrome at Coimbatore was burnt down completely. In Rajputana, the revolution was confined mainly to cities. In Punjab, Sind and the North West Frontier Province, after the first spontaneous upsurge in some important centers, the underground revolution could not build up. People at many places went in processions to the government offices, offered Satyagraha and courted arrest.

REVOLUTION IN UNDIVIDED BENGAL PROVINCE

In Bengal, the revolutionaries of the Yugantar Group, of the Anusilan Samiti and members of the Forward Block carried on the 1942 India revolution in an undaunted manner. During August 1942, as elsewhere, there was a spontaneous upsurge in Calcutta and in all other districts of Bengal. **In Jamshedpur**, the workers went on a strike and the war effort was hampered. In **Dacca and Chittagong**, the students demonstrated against the arrest of leaders and the police resorted to firing to disperse them. The underground activities such as cutting of telegraph wires blowing up of bridges went on for some time. However the underground revolution was most militant in **Midnapore District. In Tamluk and Kontai Subdivisions.** And also in **Komilla**, the government was completely paralyzed and a parallel government was set up. A graphic description of these happenings has been given in a pamphlet, *The August revolution and two years of National Government in Midnapore* in the following passage: "In huge public meetings held in front of law Courts, government offices and police stations, war was declared on British and each thana was declared independent. People were asked to boycott all Government offices. Tamluk sub-division was in open revolt. A procession of 20,000 strong approached the town of Tamluk to seize its police station where it met with indiscriminate firing resulting in several deaths. A 73 years old lady Mathagini Hazra, who held aloft the national flag, was killed in the firing. In other places people succeeded in capturing government officers. At Satahata Vidyut a local organization of underground workers led a huge procession in which there were about 40,000 people and captured the Thana.

The revolutionaries in Midnapore had a mass following and therefore succeeded in establishing a parallel government which was called **"Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar"** on 17 September 1942, Tamluk Nandigram and Mahishadal were the three important centers from where the revolutionary leaders carried on the parallel government. The government brought the army, raided, any villages, imposed a collective fine of Rs. One lac and ninety thousand on the people. In the meanwhile a cyclone caused havoc in the district. But in spite of all these hardships, the revolutionary leaders of the 1942 India revolution and the brave people of Tamluk, Kontai and other places continued to offer stubborn resistance to the British for nearly two years. **In Assam** the saboteurs derailed near Gauhati, two trains carrying troops, killing 150 soldiers, In Orissa, Swaraj Panchayats were formed in some villages in **Balasore District.**

PARALLEL GOVERNMENT IN TAMLUK (BENGAL)

On the event of the individual Satyagraha Revolution in 1940 the Congress workers had realized that a greater and more in prepared for it and were engaged in strengthening their organizational bases amongst the people through the constructive work programmed. The course of the War was then moving against the allied powers. In the Eastern Front, the Japanese were advancing rapidly towards India and from all indications it was clear that the Britishers were also getting themselves ready for another "successful retreat". The district of Midnapore is skirted by Bay of Bengal in the south, whereby it gained some strategic importance for the British Government. It was apprehended that if the Japanese choose to come by the sea - route, they may select the coastal areas of the district as a most favorable landing ground. Therefore the southern and eastern part of the district, including the Tamluk subdivision was declared as an emergency area and all forms of transports including cycles, motor vehicles, boats off all varieties and descriptions were seized and removed. It is worthwhile to note here the remarks of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, a member of the ruling Fazlul Haque Ministry of Bengal of that time. He had said: The House should recall that long before the civil disobedience revolution had started last year, we had the Denial Policy enforced in many parts of Bengal. So far as Midnapore was concerned, the policy of forcible removal of boats and other conveyances, especially bicycles, went on unabated. The fact remains that nearly 10,000 bicycles were taken away from one district alone and a large number of boats were asked to be surrendered within a very short time and 1942e a few hundreds were forcibly destroyed by the local authorities because the boats were not surrendered within the prescribed time. This has to be borne in mind in order to realize how strong were the feelings in the minds of the local inhabitants of the district."² Besides this, all sorts of food grains including rice and paddy were being procured on an extensive scale and exported outside the subdivision as a part of the Denial policy without any regard being paid to the requirement of the people of the district. Any form of porter's to was prohibited under Defense of India Rules and the overzealous like; agents of the Government in their bid to prove their loyalty to their foreign masters made the situation worse still.

At this unhappy juncture the August Revolution was started all on a sudden. The spontaneous emotional outburst of the people on hearing the news of wholesale arrest of the Congress leasers set the ball rolling which gradually gathered momentum and took the shape of a great revolution. At first there was none of the national or provincial leaders left outside to lead

or organize the revolution. After a few days those of the leader who were still outside jail like Jaiprakash narayan Sucheta Kripalani Aruna Asaf Ali and others, tried to lead the revolution to follow a definite and uniform course of action. In the past Midnapur had always been in the forefront of all national struggles for independence/ In August, 1942, however it did not plunge itself headlong into the revolution, but paused for a moment to ponder over the course of action to be followed. Processions, meetings hartals student-strikes etc, in protest against the heavy-handed action for the Government however went on as usual. Amongst the Congress leaders of the district Sri Kurhar Chandra Jana, president of the district Congress Committee, was taken into custody in the early stages of the revolution. A few days later, Sri Rajani Kanta Pramanik was also arrested. /Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar then decided to move to the villages to organize the revolution amongst the people. Instructions were sent to other leaders also to leave their residences and remain underground to lead the revolution. At this stage on 8th September, 1942 just one month after the August revolution had started and incident happened which quickened the pace of the Revolution. The owners of a Rice Mill, situated at Danipur village on the banks of river Rupnarayan, under Mahisadal Police Station, had been exporting rice and paddy out of the district in collusion with Government. Officials The local people apprehended that if such clandestine deals were allowed to continue, very soon they would have no good grains left in their homes, Thus several thousand villagers assembled near the mill and demanded an assurance from the mill owners to stop further export of food grains. On receiving this information a police party arrived at the mill site and fired several rounds to disperse the unarmed crowd as a result of which three of the villagers were killed. This was the direst shooting incident in the subdivision in 1942. But this bloodshed did not go in vain. The mill owners had to bow down before the determined resistance of the people. They promised to stop export of rice and paddy and paid an agreed amount as compensation to the bereaved families. This incident generated a great reaction amongst the people and their emotions rose to fever heat. They became restless and were eager to start direct action against the government immediately. The main programme of Revolution consisted in capturing the landlords like Satis Chandra Samanta and Ajoy Kumar and under supervision of their able lieutenants and worthy followers worked wonders. On 28th September, 1942 in course of a few hours of the night, all the major roads, including Panskura Tamruk road Midnapur district, especially in Contai and Tamruk subdivisions. The date fixed for such action was 29th September, 1942. It was also decided that on the previous night (i.e. on 28th night), a blockade would be created by cutting roads felling

trees, disconnecting and breaking telegraph and telephone lines and uprooting telegraph posts so that no exchange of communication could be possible with the outside world.

The people of the subdivision under leadership of great generals like Sates Chandra and Ajoy Kumar, and supervision of their able lieutenants and worthy followers worked wonders, On 28th September 1942 in course of a few hours of the night, all the major road were cut deep at several places a number of big trees felled on them and thirty culverts were blown off or rendered unserviceable. Besides this telegraph and telephone lines extending over a length .of 27 miles were cut off or and the postwar uprooted cut pieces and thrown away. All the ferryboats on the Cosset and Halide rivers were sunk or removed. The whole action was completed as if by magic and it took less than six hours from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Every village was allotted definite duties on a particular stretch of road or was entrusted with a particular job. They came in large numbers at the appointed hours at the appointed place and went back long before it was down completing the work assigned to them. The blockade was created with the sole intention that no military or police help should reach the subdivision from outside on the appointed day of 29th September. It may be mentioned here in passing that the workers of the district, from the top to the lowest level were so disciplined and their of secrecy they conserved so magnificently that the Government authorities could not get even a hint about what was going to happen up to the last moment, inspire of the fact that this plan and preparation covered so wide an area and involved so many people. It was only on the morning of 29th September, when they heard the reports about road blockade and disruption of telephone lines so that they could guess the implications of such action and draw their inferences. In the early morning of 29th September, the local officers came to know of the happenings of the previous night and they immediately set themselves to repair the roads and remove the blockades by forcing the neighboring villagers on point of bayonets. Thus with utmost effort effort, they could partially clear the Tamluk Panskura Road and make it passable somehow for military trucks to come to Tamluk ton with additional military force,

As previously arranged at about 2 p.m. large professions each consisting of several thousands of people young and old gents and readies Hindus and Muslims led by Vidyut Bahini a band of trained and disciplined volunteers approached the subdivision and thana head quarters to take possessions of the town from five different directions. By that time additional military forces had reached the town and they took their position at the narrow points of the roads leading

to the town. When the processions approached they fired indiscriminately on the peaceful nonviolent processions at four places and 10 persons laid down their lives on the spot. Of them the story of that grand old lady, Matangini Hazra, popularly known as 'Gandhi Bum' has become legend. With unsurpassed bravery and heroism, that frail old lady of seventy three advanced with firm steps with the National Flag held tight in her hands unmindful of the shower of bullets that had hit her twice. But the third bullet ran right through her forehead and she fell down, with the National Flag still standing straight in the grip and flying unsullied.

The number of wounded could not be ascertained. According To previous arrangements, trained volunteers of the Nursing Squad of the Vidyut Bahini removed them immediately to safer zones and seriously wounded ones were transferred to Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, where special arrangements had been made for their treatment. This narration would remain incomplete if the story of other brave women remains untold. At one of these five entrance points of Tamluk town, near Sanwarara Bridge, the police opened fire on the procession coming from southeast directions some of the seriously wounded persons were crying for water, but none could gather the Courage to bring it to them in the face of incessant shower of bullets. At this time, Sm. Savitri, a woman of easy virtue, came forward with a mug of water in one hand and with a vegetable chopper (Banti') on the other. The soldiers standing there asked her to go away but she did not heed them and went on giving water to the wounded. The soldiers fussed and fumed but had not the temerity to lift their rifles at her or to obstruct her in her work. Later on, she had also given shelter to a seriously injured volunteer in her room, while she herself remained sitting outside guarding the entrance. At Mahisadal, about forty thousand people under the leadership of the trained volunteers of "Vidyut Bahani" organized an unprecedented attack. No additional police or military force had reached Mahisadal till then. But the local Zamindars lent the services of their bodyguard, an ex-military man known under the nickname of "G. Sahib ", to the police, along with large quantities of bullets. The armed force, under the command of this "G, Sahib", opened fire indiscriminately on the peaceful processions without provocation. The procession had to retreat for the time being. Sri Sushil kumar Dhara, I.O.C.in C.of Vidyut Bahani, was himself present there directing the operation. Under his guidance, the Vidyut Bahini returned to the attack again, crawling at one time, lying down or retreating on the other and again advancing in accordance with prearranged signals. But it became impossible for them to advance further in the face of heavy and incessant firing, and they had to retreat leaving behind thirteen valuable

lives. It was only the Sutahata Police Station, which could be seized and captured without any loss of blood. The officer in charge of the police Station and the spays stationed there surrendered themselves with their guns and saluted the national Flag. The Govt, could not make any arrangement for protection of this police station and for this reason, two aero planed were sent for bombing the processions. They did drop a-bomb, but unfortunately for them, it dell on a nearby pond and did not cause any damage. At Nandigram, the programmed could not be taken up on the 29th since there had been a police firing there only two days back. On 27th September 1942 police had opened fire at Iswarpur of that Thana area, and had killed four persons. Therefore the attack was planned on the next day i.e. on the 30th September. On that day twenty thousand people marched towards Nandigram police station. But unfortunately military forces had reached there by that time. They opened fire on the procession, and four more lives were lost. One remarkable feature of these encounters is that none the de4ad or injured persons had bullet marks below their belt, which proves that the sole purpose of these firings were to kill these unarmed people. Another notable feature ewes that none of the victims had received bullet marks on their back whit foes to show that none of the great assemblage of persons had turned their back in panic; rather they had faced the situation fearlessly and had laid down their lives or had received grievous injuries \n a face to face encounter.

The British Government itself admitted the conception and planning of this attack and the meticulous care and deep thinking that went behind its execution. In a booklet published under the title 'Some Facts about the Disturbances in India', it had been stated:"1 Midnapur in Bengal the operation of the rebels indicated considerable care and planning an effective warning system had been devised, elementary tactical principles were observed, for instance, encirclement and flanking revolutions clearly on prearranged signals. The forces of disorder were accompanied by doctors and nursing orderlies to attend to casualties and the intelligence system was efficient".³All these have been said to censure or disparage the activities of the so-called 'rebels', but coming as it is from a powerful opponent it also bears testimony to the organizational strength and mental preparedness of the people concerned.

REVOLUTION IN ORISSA

Balabhadra Ghadai of Orissa declared all Congress bodies, their offices and other allied organizations unlawful and the police took possession of those notified places as quickly as

possible. Within two weeks, the arrest of the important leaders of Orissa caused a strong resentment among the people. Local Congress Workers became free to choose their own way of action. Gandhian way of nonviolence was no longer strictly followed. Anguish of the people was at its zenith. It also became difficult on the part of the local leaders to control them. Brutal police atrocities in villages made the people more violent. Large number of people congregated in different places and set the Govt. institution on fire under the leadership of local leaders. The bravery and boldness of the people, who were once very submissive and inert, could prove the success of a Gandhian technique of mass mobilization. The Quit India Movement assumed the character of a formidable mass uprising in the district of Koraput, mostly inhabited by the Adivasis or aborigines. Carrying Congress flags the Satyagrahis circulated inflammatory pamphlets. A daring incident took place at Mathili police station in Koraput district when a mob under the leadership of Laxman Naik tried to capture the police station. But the mob was mercilessly beaten up. During the scuffle, a forest guard was killed and the police opened fire killing five on the spot. Laxman Naik was falsely accused of beating the guard to death. Later on, he was sentenced to death on 29th March 1943 in Berhampur Central Jail. Right upto his very last breath, he was found to have chanted "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai," which reverberated the Jail campus. In the Papadahandi area of Nawarangpur Taluk, police shot dead 15 persons and injured many more. The arrest of veteran leader like Gopabandhu Choudhary and Ramadevi infuriated the people of the Kaipada area of Jajpur. The violent mob crossed the river Baitarani and gathered at Kaipada. In order to disperse the mob the police resorted to firing which resulted in the death of three people on the spot. At Nimapara in the Puri district, police resorted to firing when the public held a meeting on 16th September 1942 and resolved not to pay taxes to Government. Following this, they proceeded towards the police station and persuaded the police personnel to quit Government service and join the movement. Despite the warning of the police, the mob set fire on the police station. Then the police opened fire killing one person and injuring several others. An open field called Chandiaposi, adjacent to the village Lunia, witnessed a police firing on 22nd September, 1942 in which nine people died and five injured. At Tudigadia and Kahiradhia also, two persons were killed and one was injured due to police firing. The most ghastly massacre that took place at Eram in the Balasore district is a memorable event in the history of India's Freedom Struggle and it is befittingly called the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy of Orissa where 28 persons were killed and 56 persons were injured. It is true that nowhere in India, so many people were killed in a single police action during the Quit Movement for which Eram

has been named as "Rakta Tirtha." At Cuttack Surendra Nath Dwivedi started underground activities. He circulated revolutionary bulletins which recharged the atmosphere with high patriotism. But he was spotted soon and was arrested. In Gadjat States of Orissa the 1942 India revolution had its deep impact. **In Talcher**, the people gave up non-violence and started guerrilla fighting against the ruler's force. In Dhenkanal, the Satyagrahis started armed skirmishes with the police. Jail, Police Station and Institutions were burnt. The people of Nayagarh, Athagarh and Mayurbhanj started agitations. These movements though followed violence, were more or less Gandhian in nature. Gandhiji's photographs were taken out in processions and the war cry was "Mahatma Ghandhi Ki Jai".

REVOLUTION IN MAHARASHTRA

In Maharashtra Shirubhau Limaye, a Socialist leader took the lead in organizing the underground revolution. S. K. Joshi, another Socialist leader was working in close collaboration with Achyutrao Patwardhan, who played an outstanding role in setting in motion a nationwide underground revolution. S. M. Joshi, who could speak Urdu fluently, grew a beard and moved about as Imam Ali. In order to coordinate the work of different groups, he went to Delhi and from there to Peshawar. Achyutrao Patwardhan was known in the underground circle as 'Sahib'. Another Socialist leader, N.G. Goray, who was in Nizam's prison when the 1942 Indian revolution began, was released in December 1942 and immediately joined his colleagues in the underground revolution. Shirubhau Limaye and his young colleagues all over Maharashtra carried on the sabotaging activities very efficiently: They secured the explosives from the ammunition factory near Pune. When one of them, Karnik, was arrested, he was tortured and when he felt that he might break down and give out names, he went to the water closet and¹ committed suicide by taking potassium cyanide. The underground workers in Bombay and Pune soon mastered the technique of using bombs and also learnt to manufacture bombs. The government had a suspicion that many subordinate India officers serving in the Ordnance Factory and Ordnance Depot near Pune were supplying explosives to the underground workers. There were groups of young men working in 'D' squad' (Destruction Squad) who carried on the sabotaging activity very systematically and competently. Upon February 1943 in Maharashtra, the total number of bomb explosions was officially estimated as 375. Annasaheb Sahasrabudhe, a senior Gandhian, played a leading role in the underground revolution. When his house in Pune

was raided, according to the official version, the police discovered 'a veritable arsenal'- bombs, fuse mine contacts, several sticks of T.N.T. and many other explosives. In Colaba (now Raigad) District in konkan, Bhai kotwal, a young Socialist leader organized the farmers of the locality, and was mainly ertgagedin Sabotaging the hydro-electric system. Which would have paralysed the government in that region. On 31 Secember 1942, a party of armed police surrounded his hiding place in the thick jungle near siddhagad. There was a gun battle in which kotwal Goma Patil and hiraji were killed. The police arrested all others and seized many guns, cartridges, and bombs.

PARALLEL GOVERNMENT IN SATARA

However the peak point of the underground of revolution in Maharashtra was the parallel government in Satara District - popularly known as ‘PRATI SARKAR’. This long drawn out resistance revolution was an expression of intense urge of the people to win freedom. It proved the rare organizational abilities of the leaders of the underground revolution int eh rural area. It made the government realize that a mass revolution led by a disciplined cadre of militant workers could not be suppressed by arms. The revolution in Satara in some respects confirmed to the all India pattern during the first month after the arrest of Gandhi and other leaders on 9 August, within a week's time there were on hundred and fifty-one public meetings in all the theisms of Satara District. In these meetings the significance of the 1942 India revolution was explained to the people and the soul-stirring message of Gandhi -karenge to marenge was communicated to them. There' were peaceful processions in towns and in villages. Some leaders were arrested but the demonstrations were masses in a peaceful manner. After ten days, people took huge morchas to tehsil offices. The mammoth morchas at Karad, Tasgaon and patan, created a new wave of enthusiasm in the entire district. But ht government immediately sensed the danger and decided to crush the revolution. Thus on 9 September, when a small morcha of about seven hundred people went to tensile office at Vaduz, the police fired indiscriminately. Seven persons were killed in the firing and many were injured. At Islampur, when the mocha of five thousand people was proceeding peacefully there was firing and twelve persons were killed many were injured and over five hundred people were brutally beaten. The parties of two to three hundred policemen went from village to village, terrorized the people and even molested women in some villages. Collective fine was imposed and was forcibly collected from the people.

Most of the Congress leaders in 'stare District Were arrested. But those leasers who had

joined the underground revolution decided to adopt a different strategy. There were about five hundred disciplined workers. They formed themselves in to nine groups and started sabotaging activities in right earnest. During three months, October, November and December 1942, six railway stations were attacked and either destroyed or seriously damaged, seventy seven telegraph poles were uprooted and wires were cut, five bridges were blown up, one Court building was burnt, eight postal vans were looted and three goods trains- one of them carrying petrol- were derailed. The railway traffic was dislocated for over a fortnight. In the jungle near Nagthane, there was a fight between the police and a board of guerrillas and the police had to run away. While this underground revolution gathered momentum the leaders of the revolution went from village to village and addressed huge meetings openly. Two Congress workers -Kisan Veer and Pandu Master escaped from Yeravada Central Prison and joined the underground revolution. Vasantdada Patil of Sangli and his colleagues ran away from the police lick up. In the scuffle that ensued, Anna Patrawale was killed and Vasantdada Patil of suffered a bullet wound. The underground workers needed funds. A group of revolutionaries led by Uttamrao Patil in Khandesh committed a daring dacoity on the money, which was being taken away from Dhule Treasury and collected a few lacs. Rathappa Kumbhar, desh, committed a daring dacoity on the money which was also working in the underground devolution ensured and appropriate utilization of the money from Shule Treasury for revolutionaries led by Uttamarao patil in Khandesh, committed a daring dacoity on the money which was being taken away from Dhule Treasury and collected a few lacs. Ratnappa Kumbhar, a leader of the Praja Parishad, Kolhapur who was also working in the underground revolution ensured an appropriate utilization of the money form Dhule Treasury for revolutionary work. The underground workers in Satara and Kolhapur Districts celebrated the first anniversary of the 1942 India revolution on 9 August 1943, by destroying get thousand telegraph poles on that day. The activities near Sangli were particularly vigorous. The government on 9 August 1943 was celebrated by the underground workers in satara and Kolhapur Districts by destroy in two thousand telegraph poles on those days. The activities near Sangli were particularly vigorous. The government sent to9 arrest the leaders of the underground revolution. The government had announced that handsome rewards would be given to those who would give information and help government in arresting the underground leaders. The leaders took up the challenge, decided to stay in Satara District and carried on the resistance revolution. Nana Patil was the leader of the revolution and Pandu Master, Baburao Charankar, Kasegaonkar Vaidya (Kullarni) Nagnath Naikavadin and a few

others were the leaders of different activist groups. Nana Patil and his colleagues including Yeshwantrao Chavan were in close touch with Achyurao Patwardhan, the Socialist leader who was one of the main leader of the underground revolution in India.

The government in the rural area of Satara District is nearly paralyzed. A parallel authority was set up and was called "Prati Sarkar" parallel government. Some called it Patri Sarkar because of the punishment given to the dacoits in this area by the officers of the parallel government was known as patria marine in Marathi. The leaders of the underground revolution thus fought against the menace of dacoits. The bravery and the sacrifice of these leaders and their integrity won them a place in the hearts of the people. It was the wholehearted support of the people, which enabled the leaders to carry on this parallel government till 1946. This Government set up people's courts and many disputes were amicably solved. The liquor shops were closed down. The moneylenders had grabbed the lands of the peasants in Satara District. The Prati Sarkar officials restored these lands to the farmer's and in some cases imposed heavy fines on moneylenders. From 1944 onwards the leaders of this revolution stopped sabotaging activities and devoted all their energies to the task of building up the organization of the parallel government. The Toophan Sena or the Azad Sena was standing army of the government/Young men full of spirit of adventure and prepared to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of India were admitted to this Azad Sena. The Rashtra Seva Dal, the - Socialist youth organization inculcated in the youths the spirit of patriotism. Bhaurao Patil a great social worker had devoted his life to the cause of spreading education in rural areas. He had under the auspices of the ray at Shikshan Sanstha started a number of primary schools and high schools in Satara district. The teachers in these schools besides teaching actively cooperated with the parallel government in; Satara District. The leaders of this revolution had as their official organ Swatantra Bharat which was published fortnightly. The resistance revolution in Satara was a unique event because in spite of all the efforts of the British government. The parallel government continued its authority in the rural area. The leaders avoided confrontation with the forces of British government and tightly adopted the technique of guerilla warfare. The people of Satara who are very proud of the heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj carried on his tradition of hoodwinking and outwitting the powerful opponents. And of offering a prolonged and determined resistance to a mighty power. Had it not been for the unstinted support and active participation of the masses the guerrilla movement in Satara would not have grown into a parallel government.

In the 1942 India revolution the Congress Socialist leaders did not make a fetish of non-violence. The position of orthodox Gandhians was a little different. But a few of them like J.C.Kumarappa and Acharya Kalelkar defended the destructing of the means of communications while avoiding killing or causing damage to human life. Kumarappa even defended the events after 9 August and wrote that there was nothing wrong if people took away the arms from the police. Sucheta Kriplani, Swami Anand, R.R Diqakar Ananda Chowdhari, Baba Raghavadas, G. Ranmachandra and other Gandhian leaders played a significant role in carrying on the 1942 India Revolution. There was a close co-operation between them and the Socialist leaders till the end of 1942; ideological objections to some underground activities were raised. The Socialist leaders suggested a compromise of carry in on two programmers simultaneously. The compromise was that the Gandhian group should carry on the orthodox Congress programmed and the Socialists would go in for 'a new phase of sabotage'.

Conclusion

The Indian revolution (the middle of 1945, it occupies the same place as do the French Revolution and Russian Revolution in the history of their respective countries) became very strong with the participation of extremists like thousands of people, women, age and sex. They were believed that Indian culture and traditions were superior and drew inspiration from India's past glory. The extremists broadened their base to include the masses. The ordinary man on the street as well as the housewife at home was encouraged to defy the might of the British rule, by simply boycotting foreign sugar, salt and soap. The extremists had played vital role in Indian National Revolution. This revolution gave the British a lot to think about in its short life time. Here was a demonstration of the extent of mobilization possible in the countryside. If any more proof was needed of the unpopularity of the British presence in India, this was it and the British understood that the time to leave was near.

Today we have attained Swaraj, the long cherished dream of thousands and thousands of freedom fighters, irrespective of age and sex. We often forget that Swaraj did not come in a natural course, but it had to be achieved through hard toil, tears and bloodshed. We also do not know how the people of India dared to fight such an unequal struggle in face of serious odds and in couplet isolation. Most of us even do not know how many of our mothers and sisters lost their husbands, sons and brothers and they themselves being subjected to tortures of the most savage type including rape, molestation and imprisonment. But the Government torture and repression

could not put an end to the revolution of the masses. People were highly inspired by the ideas of freedom and were determined to win it at any cost including sacrifice of person and property. Open revolutionary activities came to a halt with the cyclone that engulfed But neither the ravages of the cyclone and the tidal bore nor the inhuman atrocities committed by the administration of the country could crush their unconquerable spirit which continued to live in the masses and bailed the rising sun of freedom in August 1947.

References

I. Primary sources.

1. Linlithgow in a letter to Mr. Curchill Quoted in P.N. Chopra (ed.), 1942 India Revolution-British Secret Report, p. 1
2. Extract from the speech delivered by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on the floor of Bengal Legislative Assembly on 15 February 1943 in connection with an adjournment motion on Midnapur.
3. 'Some facts about disturbances in India - 1942 - 43, compiled by an Indian journalist from materials supplied by Government' - p. 12

II. Secondary sources.

- Azad, A. K. India Wins Freedom. Orient Longman, Calcutta, 1959
- Basu, Prabodh Chandra, Bhagwanpur Thanar Itibritta (in Bengali), Quality Publishers, Calcutta, 1976.
- Bhattacharyya, Tarundeve, Medinipur (in Bengali) Firma K.L.M. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta, 1979.
- Bhattacharyya, Buddhadeva, Satyagrahas in Bengal – 1921-39, Calcutta, 1979.
- Chandra Tara, History of the Freedom Revolution in India, vol. IV, Publications Division, Government of India, New Delhi, 1983.
- Chandra Bipan, The Rise and Growth of Economic Nationalism in India, People's Publishing house, New Delhi, 1969.
- Mudholkar, R. N. The Economic Condition of people of India, 'Indian Politics', G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras, 1898.
- Naoroji, Dadabhai, Speeches and Writings G. A. Natesan & Co, 2nd edn., Madras,

- 1971.
- Essays, Speeches, Addresses and writings, edited by C.L, Parekh, Caxton Printing works, Bombay,1887.
 - Panigrahi, Tarasankar, The British Rule and the Economy of Rural Bengal, Marwah Publications, New Delhi, 1982.
 - Pattavi, Sitaramayya, The History of the Indian National Congress, vol II, padma Publications Ltd., Bombay, 1947.
 - Phillips, C.H., The Evolution of India and Pakistan (1858 -1947)-Select Documents, Oxford University Press, London, 1962.
 - Samanta, Satish. ET. Al, August Revolution and Two Years of National Government in Midnapur, Orient book Company, Calcutta, 1946.
 - Sarkar, Sumit modern India - 1885 -1947, Macmillan India Limited, New Delhi, 1983.
 - Sasmal, Birendrra Nath Srotear Tarina (in Bengali), Deshapran Smritiraksha Samiti, Calcutta, 2nd Edition, 1972.
 - Sinha, N. K. &Banerjee, A.C. History of India, A Mukherjee & Co, Calcutta, 1967.
 - Tendulkar,D.G, Mahatma : Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, vol. VI, The Publications Division, Government of India New Delhi, 1967.
 - Tripathy, Amales, the Extremist Challenge, Orient Longman, Calcutta, 1967.
 - Chopra,P.N. (ed), 1942 India revolution: British Secret Report, Thomson Press (India) Ltd., Faridabad, Haryana, 1976.
 - Das, Basanta Kumar, Swadhinata Sangrame Medinipur (in Bengali), vols. I & II, Medinipur Swadhinata Sangram itihis Samiti, Calcutta, 1980 & 1984.
 - Medinipure Swadhinatar Ganasangram Khejuri Tahna (in Bengali) khejuri Tahna Swadhinata Samiti, Ajanbari, Khejuri, 1975.
 - Das, Chittaranjan, Medinipurer Baiplabik itihis (in Bengali) Midnapure itihis Rachana Samiti, Midnapur, 1964.
 - Das Narendra, history of Midanpur m vol. I, midnapur Itihis Rachana Samiti, Midanpur, 1956
 - Das Durga, India from Curzon to Nehru and After Collins London, 1946.
 - Diwakar, R. R, Satyagraha: its Technique and History, Hind Kitabs; Bombay,

1946

- Guha, Ranajit, *Subaltern Studies I*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1982
- .Majumdar, R.C.,. *History of the Freedom Revolution in India*, vol-III,.Firma K.L. M. Pvt Ltd., Calcutta, 1977.
- (ed) *The history And Culture of the Indian People- British Paramountcy and Indian Reaissance*, vol IX, Part I, Bharitya Vidya Bhawan, Bombay, 1963.
- ◆ H. V. Hodson, *The Great Divide* (London, 1969).
- ◆ Maulana Azad, *India Wins Freedom* (Bombay, 1959).
- ◆ Pyarelal, *Mahatma: The Last Phase*, 2 vols. (Ahmedabad, 1956-58).
- ◆ Sudhir Ghosh, *Gandhi's Emissary* (London, 1967).
- ◆ N. K. Bose, *My Days with Gandhi* (Calcutta 1953).
- ◆ Ghadai Balabhadra, Principal of M.K. Collage, Khiching, Mayurbhanj Orissa. Page-10-11

III. Periodicals.

- a) Nihar, Bengali weekly published form Contai.
- b) Swadhin Bharat, bulletin published by the Sub-divisional War Council, Contai, 1942-43.
- c) Congress Bulletin, published by the B. P. C.C., Calcutta, 1942.